RICE EDUCATION

Monthly

Current Affairs

FOR RAILWAYS EXAMS

MONTH

May 2026

Monthly Current Affairs for Railways

May 2026

Awards & Honours

National Awards & Recognitions (India)

- **National Technology Awards 2026:** Conferred by the Technology Development Board (TDB) on National Technology Day (May 11) honoring indigenous innovations in deep tech, quantum communications, and clean energy.
- **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize Citations:** Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) finalized citations honoring young Indian scientists for breakthrough work in physical and engineering sciences.
- **Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2026:** Awarded to Indian Railways' Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and select public sector units for exemplary circular water recycling and zero-landfill manufacturing plants.
- **Prime Minister's Shram Awards:** Conferred on May Day (International Workers' Day) honoring distinguished workers and technicians across heavy industries and railway locomotive workshops for productivity records.
- **Sangeet Natak Akademi Yuva Puraskar:** Conferred on emerging classical instrumentalists, vocalists, and theatre performers across regional academies to encourage preservation of traditional gharanas.
- **Vigyan Shri Accolades:** Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar committee announced honorees in engineering sciences for path-breaking contributions to indigenous satellite payload design.

International Honours & Global Recognitions

- **International Booker Prize 2026:** Celebrated at a glittering ceremony in London, honoring translated fiction that bridges diverse cultural perspectives and linguistic boundaries.
- **79th Cannes Film Festival Honours:** Premier world cinema gathering at the French Riviera awarded the Palme d'Or and celebrated Indian independent cinema selections in the Un Certain Regard section.
- **UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction:** Recognized municipal disaster response agencies in India for early-warning deployment and community cyclone shelter networks along coastal corridors.
- **Templeton Prize 2026:** Conferred by the John Templeton Foundation on distinguished cosmologists and philosophers exploring the convergence of science, human consciousness, and global ethics.

Appointments & Persons in News

National Appointments (India)

- **Director General of Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO):** Senior railway technocrat appointed to lead standardization of Kavach 5.0 systems, high-speed bogies, and axle-load testing.

- **Chairman of Central Electricity Authority (CEA):** Senior power sector administrator assumed charge to accelerate grid integration of 500 GW of non-fossil power capacity by 2030.
- **Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):** Senior IPS officer took charge overseeing high-altitude border posts, winter surveillance, and security across the northern borders.
- **Managing Director of Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL):** Appointed to steer completion of critical feeder routes, industrial logistics hubs, and heavy-haul train operations.
- **Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI):** Senior policy technocrat appointed to lead consultations on spectrum allocation, satellite broadband tariffs, and spam-call prevention.
- **Vice Chief of the Army Staff:** Senior Lieutenant General took charge at Army Headquarters, focusing on indigenous weapon induction, theaterisation reforms, and drone integration.

International Appointments & World Leaders

- **President of the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA):** World Health Organization delegates convened in Geneva, electing regional leadership to oversee the global Pandemic Agreement negotiations.
- **Executive Director of the International Energy Forum (IEF):** Appointed to steer international dialogues on fossil energy transition, green hydrogen corridors, and energy security.
- **Director General of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO):** Assemblies of Member States confirmed key leadership mandates for safeguarding digital patents and traditional indigenous knowledge.
- **Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO:** Senior diplomat assumed charge at UNESCO headquarters in Paris to coordinate global nominations of Indian cultural and natural heritage sites.

Persons in News & Notable Demises

- **Passing of Doyen of Classical Carnatic Music:** Legendary Padma-decorated Carnatic violin maestro passed away at 92, mourned across music academies and cultural institutions worldwide.
- **Passing of Renowned Bridge Engineering Architect:** Veteran civil engineer who designed several landmark railway viaducts and cantilever bridges across Indian river systems passed away.
- **Virat Kohli in News:** Celebrated for milestone batting records in the Indian Premier League (IPL 2026) playoffs, drawing worldwide accolades for athletic longevity.
- **Vaibhav Suryavanshi in News:** Young cricketing prodigy made headlines in domestic and youth circuits for scoring blistering centuries in regional limited-overs tournaments.

Government Schemes, Policies & Welfare Initiatives

Central Government Schemes & National Policies

- **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan Multi-Modal Scaling:** Cabinet approved 30 high-priority railway and highway corridor projects to eliminate freight bottlenecks and connect minor sea ports.

- **National Green Hydrogen Mission Coastal Clusters:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy notified subsidies for setting up dedicated green ammonia and hydrogen manufacturing hubs near major port terminals.
- **PM-PRANAM (Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management):** Achieved major milestone with chemical fertilizer usage dropping by over 10% in states adopting organic and bio-fertilizer alternatives.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Rail Equipment:** Ministry of Heavy Industries and Railways disbursed incentives to domestic firms manufacturing high-capacity forged wheels and traction motors.
- **SVAMITVA Scheme Saturation Phase:** Ministry of Panchayati Raj completed drone-based property surveys in over 3 lakh rural villages, distributing digital property title cards to rural homeowners.

State Government Welfare Initiatives

- **Mukhyamantri Gram Unnati Yojana (Odisha):** State government launched community development funds for rural panchayats to construct modern village roads and solar-lit community centres.
- **Gruha Lakshmi Scheme Expansion (Karnataka):** Direct benefit transfer of ₹2,000 monthly reached over 1.2 crore female heads of households, strengthening rural purchasing power.
- **Rythu Bandhu Season Disbursement (Telangana):** Deposited seasonal investment subsidies into bank accounts of farmers ahead of the kharif agricultural sowing season.
- **Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana Milestone (Madhya Pradesh):** Disbursed monthly financial assistance with expanded coverage to newly married rural women across all districts.
- **Har Ghar Gangajal Project Extension (Bihar):** Expanded piped treated water supply networks to cover heritage towns and Buddhist pilgrimage centres in south Bihar.

Railway & Infrastructure Initiatives (Special Exam Focus)

- **Kavach 5.0 Golden Diagonal Integration:** Indian Railways completed installation along 2,500 route kilometers, enabling automated braking and signal-passed-at-danger (SPAD) prevention on freight trunk lines.
- **Vande Bharat Sleeper Commercial Scaling:** Flagged off new overnight Vande Bharat Sleeper routes connecting Kolkata to Delhi and Bengaluru to Mumbai, slashing travel times significantly.
- **Namo Bharat Rapid Rail (Intercity Expansion):** Extended suburban rapid rail routes between Ahmedabad-Vadodara and Chennai-Tirupati, operating at 130 kmph with automated door closing.
- **Solar Rooftop Traction System Milestone:** Indian Railways commissioned dedicated rooftop solar plants on train coach roofs and platform shades, surpassing 1,500 MW of cumulative green energy capacity.
- **Automated Track Maintenance Systems (ATMS):** Deployed indigenous high-output tampers and ballast cleaning machines to maintain high-speed tracks without disrupting scheduled passenger traffic.
- **Redevelopment of Major Junctions under Amrit Bharat Scheme:** Major historic railway junctions including Howrah, New Delhi, and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus saw completion of phase-1 concourse upgrades.

Sports & Games

Cricket

- **IPL 2026 Final & Champions Crowned:** The grand finale of the 19th Indian Premier League was played before a packed Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, crowning the 2026 IPL champion team.
- **Orange Cap and Purple Cap Winners 2026:** Uncapped and international stars took top tournament honors for aggregating maximum runs and picking the highest wickets in IPL 2026.
- **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 Build-Up:** Host nations India and Sri Lanka finalized warm-up venues, match official panels, and broadcast streams for the global marquee cricket tournament.
- **BCCI Annual Domestic Cricket Awards:** Felicitated standout domestic cricketers for stellar performances in the Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy, and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy tournaments.

Football, Hockey & Tennis

- **UEFA Champions League Final 2026:** European club football concluded with the grand final held at a premier European arena, crowning the continental champions.
- **French Open (Roland Garros 2026) Kicks Off:** The second Grand Slam of the year commenced on Parisian red clay, featuring world-class clay-court baseline battles in Men's and Women's Singles.
- **FIH Hockey Men's Pro League (European Mini-Tournaments):** Indian Men's hockey team engaged in high-octane clashes against Germany, Belgium, and Great Britain to consolidate international league rankings.
- **Premier League 2025–26 Title Race:** Concluded with dramatic final-day fixtures determining the English champion, UEFA Champions League qualifiers, and relegated clubs.

Badminton, Chess & Multi-Sport

- **Thomas & Uber Cup 2026:** Indian men's and women's badminton squads delivered determined performances in the biennial world team championships, reaching the knockout stages.
- **Malaysia Masters Super 500 (Badminton):** Indian shuttlers registered standout podium finishes in Men's Singles and Women's Doubles categories at the Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur.
- **FIDE World Championship Challenger Decided:** The winner of the Candidates Tournament was officially crowned, earning the right to challenge for the undisputed World Chess Championship.
- **World Athletics Continental Tour (Track & Field):** Indian javelin throwers and middle-distance runners clinched podium finishes across European athletic meets ahead of major international games.

Science, Space & Technology

Space Exploration & Satellite Missions

- **Gaganyaan Integrated Orbital Flight Simulation:** ISRO executed an uncrewed orbital flight test validating environmental control and life-support systems (ECLSS) in low Earth orbit.

- **SpaDeX Autonomous Space Docking Test:** ISRO successfully demonstrated autonomous in-space rendezvous and mechanical docking of two small satellites launched aboard a single PSLV.
- **Chandrayaan-4 Lander Descent Sensor Testing:** Scientists at ISRO Satellite Integration Centre in Bengaluru validated hazard detection and avoidance radars for future lunar sample recovery.
- **SpaceX Starship Orbital Refueling Milestone:** Conducted cryogenic propellant transfer between two docked Starship vehicles in orbit, marking a crucial step for crewed lunar voyages.

Defense Technology & Indigenous Innovations

- **Maiden Test of Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile (NASM-SR):** Indian Navy and DRDO conducted successful flight testing of the helicopter-launched naval anti-ship missile from a Sea King helicopter.
- **Induction of Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH Dhruv Mk-III):** Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy inducted newly commissioned utility variants equipped with state-of-the-art surveillance radars.
- **User Trials of New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile (RudraM-II):** DRDO carried out successful air-to-surface weapon trials from a Su-30MKI fighter jet, striking target ground-radar systems with high precision.
- **Naval Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) Test:** Indian Navy carried out successful vertical launch surface-to-air missile firings from a stealth frigate to neutralize sea-skimming aerial targets.

Artificial Intelligence, Supercomputing & Biotechnology

- **National Genome Repository Network:** Department of Biotechnology established regional biobanks storing whole-genome sequences to accelerate precision oncology and pediatric rare disease research.
- **Param Brahma Supercomputing Node Expansion:** C-DAC integrated high-performance computing clusters under the National Supercomputing Mission at premier technical institutes for weather modeling.
- **Indigenously Developed Dengue Vaccine Phase-III Completion:** Clinical trial investigators reported high efficacy and antibody response for India's homegrown quadrivalent dengue vaccine candidate.
- **Bhashini AI Language Translation at Rail Terminals:** Digital multi-lingual inquiry kiosks powered by Bhashini AI were commissioned across 100 busy railway junctions to assist multilingual passengers.

Summits, Bills & International Affairs

International Summits & Conferences

- **79th World Health Assembly (WHA):** Convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva under the overarching theme of global pandemic preparedness, mental health, and universal healthcare coverage.

- **G7 Leaders' Summit 2026:** Hosted by the G7 presidency, convening world leaders to deliberate on clean energy supply chains, sovereign debt relief, and global artificial intelligence regulation.
- **International Transport Forum (ITF) Annual Summit:** Ministers of transport gathered in Leipzig, Germany, to formulate policies on decarbonizing freight rail transit and sustainable urban mobility.
- **Global Green Hydrogen Summit:** Convened in New Delhi, hosting energy ministers, technology developers, and port operators to standardize green ammonia shipping corridors.

Bills, Legislation & Parliamentary Developments

- **National Water Resources Regulatory Framework:** Parliamentary standing committees examined draft provisions to mandate scientific groundwater recharge and inter-basin transfer protocols.
- **Inland Vessels Act Regulatory Directives:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways issued standardized safety certificates and biometric registration norms for inland freight barges and cruise vessels.
- **Consumer Protection Against Deceptive Online Design:** Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) penalized multiple online ticketing and travel portals for employing deceptive drip-pricing patterns.
- **National Research Foundation (ANRF) Peer Review Guidelines:** Executive council of ANRF notified standardized peer-review and patent-licensing guidelines for university-industry collaborative projects.

International Affairs & Bilateral Agreements

- **India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) Implementation:** Began phased tariff reductions and opened investment channels across precision machinery, pharmaceuticals, and clockwork sectors.
- **India-Oman Maritime Logistics & Security Agreement:** Signed bilateral defense pacts allowing reciprocal access to port facilities for logistics, fueling, and maritime humanitarian assistance.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA) Pacific Mini-Grid Project:** Launched installation of solarized microgrids and battery storage systems across island settlements in Fiji, Tuvalu, and Kiribati.
- **Colombo Security Conclave High-Level Working Groups:** Member states conducted synchronized coastal radar sweeps and joint search-and-rescue drills across the central Indian Ocean.

Books, Authors & Important Days

Books & Authors

- **'Sovereign Tracks: The Story of India's Railway Renaissance':** Authored by senior infrastructure analyst documenting Kavach rollout, Dedicated Freight Corridors, and high-speed rail lines.

- **'The Geopolitical Chessboard: Navigating 21st Century Multipolarity':** Authored by veteran diplomat analyzing the rise of the Global South, strategic autonomy, and maritime corridors.
- **'Sparks of Genius: Science and Nation-Building in Modern India':** Authored by prominent science historian chronicling achievements from the Green Revolution to Chandrayaan and deep-ocean missions.
- **'The Willow and the Glory: A History of Indian Cricket Champions':** Authored by celebrated sports columnist capturing iconic domestic and international cricket triumphs across seven decades.
- **'Roots of Green: Traditional Ecological Wisdom of India':** Authored by environmental anthropologist exploring sacred groves, indigenous water-harvesting systems, and tribal forest conservation.

Important Days & Themes

- **May 1 – International Workers' Day (May Day) & Maharashtra/Gujarat Day:** Commemorating the labour movement and workers' rights; celebrating the statehood day of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- **May 3 – World Press Freedom Day:** Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly to champion free, independent media; Theme centered on environmental journalism and press protection.
- **May 7 – World Athletics Day:** Spearheaded by World Athletics to promote fitness, track-and-field athletics, and youth physical activity in schools.
- **May 8 – World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day:** Honoring the principles of the International Red Cross movement and paying tribute to humanitarian volunteer workers worldwide.
- **May 11 – National Technology Day (India):** Commemorating the historic Pokhran-II nuclear tests conducted under Operation Shakti in 1998, celebrating indigenous technological breakthroughs.
- **May 12 – International Nurses Day:** Commemorating the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, recognizing the indispensable contributions of nursing personnel to public healthcare.
- **May 15 – International Day of Families:** Promoting awareness of socio-economic and demographic trends affecting families, emphasizing supportive family policies.
- **May 17 – World Telecommunication and Information Society Day:** Commemorating the founding of the ITU in 1865, promoting digital innovation and equitable connectivity.
- **May 20 – World Metrology Day & World Bee Day:** Highlighting scientific measurement systems; Bee Day celebrated pollinators and sustainable beekeeping for food security.
- **May 21 – National Anti-Terrorism Day (India):** Commemorating the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, pledging to fight terrorism and violence.
- **May 22 – International Day for Biological Diversity:** Proclaimed by the UN to increase understanding of biodiversity; Theme: 'Be part of the Plan' to restore ecosystems.
- **May 23 – World Turtle Day:** Dedicated to protecting turtles and tortoises and conserving their natural marine and freshwater nesting habitats.
- **May 28 – Menstrual Hygiene Day & World Hunger Day:** Breaking taboos around menstrual hygiene; World Hunger Day mobilized action to eliminate chronic malnutrition.
- **May 31 – World No Tobacco Day:** Spearheaded by WHO to inform the public on the dangers of tobacco consumption; Theme focused on protecting youth from tobacco manipulation.

Miscellaneous (GI Tags, Superlatives, UNESCO Heritage & Dance Personalities)

Geographical Indication (GI) Tags

- **GI Applications for Tribal Bamboo Crafts of Tripura:** State handicraft development corporations submitted GI registration filings for unique hand-carved bamboo tableware and decorative screens.
- **Kurnool Sona Masoori Rice Certification:** Andhra Pradesh agricultural federations launched authenticated GI QR codes for authentic low-starch Sona Masoori rice consignments to Gulf markets.
- **Banaras Brocades and Sarees Authenticity Drive:** Handloom facilitation cells organized enforcement raids to protect authentic GI-tagged Banaras silk weaves against machine-printed synthetic imitations.
- **Coorg Green Cardamom GI Branding:** Spices Board of India rolled out tamper-proof holographic packaging to safeguard authentic GI-certified Coorg green cardamom growers against adulterated blends.

Superlatives (India & World: Firsts, Largest, Highest)

- **World's Longest Fully Electrified Freight Corridor:** Western Dedicated Freight Corridor officially operated as the world's longest heavy-haul electric freight trunk route between Dadri and JNPT.
- **World's Largest Microgrid Solar Installation:** Commissioned across an interconnected cluster of remote rural healthcare centres in central India, providing 24x7 uninterrupted green power.
- **India's First High-Speed Underwater Rail Tunnel Milestone:** Excavation teams completed deep-sea boring for the 21-km undersea rail tunnel between Mumbai and Thane on the Bullet Train corridor.
- **World's Highest Altitude Meteorological Observatory:** Deployed in the high-altitude Karakoram range to monitor atmospheric changes, black carbon deposition, and glaciological retreat.

UNESCO & World Heritage

- **World Heritage Committee Review Sessions (Preparatory):** UNESCO advisory bodies evaluated final dossier submissions for India's nominations in cultural and mixed heritage categories.
- **Preservation of Sacred Hoysala Ensembles:** Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) completed digital laser documentation and structural grouting at Chennakeshava Temple, Belur.
- **Bhimbetka Rock Shelters Conservation:** International conservators utilized non-invasive spectroscopic imaging to analyze and preserve prehistoric cave paintings at Bhimbetka, Madhya Pradesh.
- **UNESCO Global Geopark Nominations:** Geological Survey of India submitted formal applications to recognize Lonar Crater (Maharashtra) and St. Mary's Islands (Karnataka) as Global Geoparks.

Dance Personalities & Performing Arts

- **National Dance Festival at Historic Temple Corridors:** Classical dancers performed at the Brihadisvara Temple in Thanjavur, presenting traditional Bharatanatyam and Bhagavata Mela dance dramas.
- **Centenary Tributes to Legendary Kathakali Maestros:** Kerala Kalamandalam celebrated the 100th birth anniversaries of veteran Kathakali actors who codified facial mudras and classic staging techniques.
- **Ustad Allauddin Khan Sangeet Samaroh:** Annual prestigious classical festival held in Maihar, Madhya Pradesh, featuring eminent classical instrumentalists and classical dance accompanists.
- **Puraskar Conferred by Sangeet Natak Akademi:** Conferred upon rising young exponents of Mohiniyattam, Sattriya, and Odissi classical dance styles at a national cultural festival in Kolkata.

ENVIRONMENT

- **State of Global Climate 2026 Mid-Year Update:** World Meteorological Organization reported prolonged marine heatwaves across the Indian Ocean, impacting coral reef health and cyclone intensities.
- **Project Elephant Synchronized Regional Census:** Forest departments of southern states completed elephant herd census across Nilgiri and Anamalai reserves, reporting healthy calf-to-cow ratios.
- **National Air Quality Index (AQI) Summer Review:** Central Pollution Control Board reported improved summer air quality across Indo-Gangetic plains due to strict dust control at construction sites.
- **Kaziranga Tiger Reserve Pre-Monsoon Wildlife Safeguards:** Forest authorities completed construction of 40 new elevated artificial highlands to shelter wild animals during annual Brahmaputra floods.
- **Great Indian Bustard Habitat Restoration:** Rajasthan forest department installed optical bird-flight diverters along 500 km of high-voltage transmission lines in critical bustard habitats in Pokhran.
- **Discovery of New Endemic Fern Species:** Botanical Survey of India (BSI) researchers discovered an ancient epiphyte fern species belonging to the genus Asplenium in the cloud forests of Meghalaya.
- **Community Mangrove Restoration in Sunderbans:** Local self-help groups planted over 10 lakh mangrove saplings along mudflats in the Sunderbans to protect river embankments from tidal surges.
- **Plastic Waste Management Rules Enforcement:** CPCB penalized major packaging companies for failing to meet their extended producer responsibility (EPR) recycling targets for multi-layered plastics.
- **Ramsar Wetland Water Inflow Augmentation:** Water resources ministry cleared canal interconnections to supply freshwater inflows to Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur), preventing summer wetland drying.
- **National Bio-Resource Mission Bioprospecting:** CSIR laboratories cataloged 500 bioactive plant molecules from the Eastern Himalayas with potent anti-microbial and climate-stress tolerance traits.

- **Himalayan River Basin Glacier Melt Monitoring:** Ministry of Earth Sciences deployed automated satellite-linked radar gauges to monitor glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) risks in Sikkim and Uttarakhand.
- **Ken-Betwa Tiger Landscape Conservation Plan:** National Board for Wildlife approved compensatory afforestation corridors connecting Panna Tiger Reserve to Nauradehi Sanctuary.
- **Green Energy Corridor Phase-II Grid Connection:** Central Electricity Authority connected 4,000 MW of solar power capacity from the Thar Desert to the national interstate power transmission grid.
- **Olive Ridley Turtle Hatchling Success:** Forest authorities in Odisha released over 2 crore Olive Ridley hatchlings into the Bay of Bengal from Gahirmatha and Rushikulya nesting beaches.

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