



## UPSChub Current Affairs Today

# UPSChub



DT. – 27 / 05 / 2025 [ TUESDAY ]

### What's Inside

- ◆ **Top National & International News**

Stay updated with the most relevant headlines shaping India and the world.

- ◆ **Economy, Environment, Science Updates**

Key developments across sectors that matter for UPSC and beyond.

- ◆ **Editorial Summaries & Analysis**

Sharp insights from major newspapers & magazines, distilled for you.

- ◆ **Exam-Relevant Facts & Data**

Numbers, reports, and schemes that you *must* remember for Prelims & Mains.

- ◆ **Quick Revision Capsules**

Short, crisp recaps for last-minute brushing up.

# Comprehensive Current Affairs Digest for UPSC (May 27, 2025)

(Structured for Prelims, Mains GS-I to GS-IV, and Essay Perspectives)

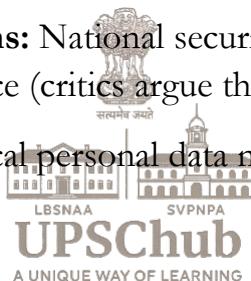
## 1. Indian Polity & Governance

### A. Legislative Developments

#### 1. Digital Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2025

- Key Provisions:

- Enhanced Penalties: Data breaches may attract fines up to ₹500 crore or 4% of global turnover.
- Government Exemptions: National security, public order, and research purposes exempted from compliance (critics argue this dilutes privacy rights).
- Data Localization: Critical personal data must be stored in India; mirror copies allowed abroad.



- Criticism:

- Lack of Independence: Data Protection Board (DPB) members appointed by Central Govt. (no judicial oversight).
- Surveillance Risks: Broad exemptions may enable state overreach (compared to EU's GDPR).

#### 2. Labour Code (Social Security) Amendment

- Coverage Expansion:

- Gig workers (e.g., Swiggy, Uber) included under ESIC and EPFO.
- Platform companies mandated to contribute 1-2% of payroll.

- Challenges:

- Enforcement: No clear mechanism to track employer contributions in informal sector.

- **Unemployment Stipend:** No provision for urban poor (street vendors, domestic workers).

### 3. Agricultural Subsidy Rationalization Bill

- **Pilot States:** Punjab, Haryana, Telangana (high MSP dependence).
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):**
  - ₹6,000/acre/year to replace MSP for wheat, rice.
  - **Controversy:** Farmers fear dismantling of APMC mandis.

## B. Judicial Interventions

### 1. Delhi Water Crisis

- **SC Order:** Haryana directed to release 150 cusecs to Delhi (Interstate Water Dispute Act, 1956 invoked).
- **Underlying Issues:**
  - **Leakage:** 40% water loss in Delhi's pipeline network.
  - **Groundwater Depletion:** NCR water table dropped 2 meters/year (CGWB report).



### 2. Same-Sex Marriage Review Petition

- **Government Stand:**
  - "Marriage is a sacrament under Hindu, Muslim personal laws."
  - Cites **Shafin Jahan vs Ashokan KM (2018)** on religious autonomy.
- **Activists' Argument:**
  - **Right to Equality (Article 14):** Discrimination based on sexual orientation violates Constitution.
  - **KS Puttaswamy (2017):** Privacy includes right to choose partner.

## 2. Economy & Infrastructure

### A. Monetary Policy & Fiscal Trends

#### 1. RBI's Upcoming Policy (May 28)

- **Inflation Concerns:**

- CPI at 5.1% (above 4% target); food inflation at 7.8% (tomatoes, pulses).
- **Neutral Stance Likely:** Rate cuts deferred till Q4 2025.
- **Liquidity Measures:**
  - Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auctions to manage ₹2.5 lakh crore surplus.

## 2. GST Council Agenda

- **Tax Rationalization:**
  - Online gaming tax may reduce from 28% to 18%.
  - Cancer drugs, solar panels likely exempted.
- **Revenue Trends:**
  - FY25 average monthly collection: ₹1.8 lakh crore (15% YoY growth).

## B. Industrial & Energy Sector

### 1. Semiconductor Push

- **Tata-AVX JV:** India's first lithium-ion plant in Gujarat (₹7,000 cr investment).
- **Critical Minerals Auction:**
  - 5 blocks in Rajasthan (lithium, graphite).
  - **Strategic Importance:** Reduces reliance on China (85% of global supply).



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### 2. Renewable Energy

- **Solar Manufacturing:**
  - PLI scheme boosts domestic production (8 GW capacity added in 2024).
  - **US Tariff Impact:** Indian solar exports may rise due to China restrictions.

## 3. International Relations

### A. Geopolitical Dynamics

#### 1. US-China Trade War Escalation

- **US Actions:**
  - 100% tariff on Chinese EVs; 50% on semiconductors.
  - **Impact on India:** Potential beneficiary in electronics, pharma exports.

- **China's Retaliation:**

- Rare earth export bans target US defense firms.

## 2. Russia-Ukraine Conflict

- **Kharkiv Offensive:**

- Russia captures 12 villages; NATO debates ATACMS missiles for Ukraine.

- **India's Position:**

- **Neutrality:** Calls for diplomacy at G7.

- **Economic Ties:** Rupee-Ruble trade at \$5 billion (bypassing SWIFT).

## B. Global Governance

### 1. World Bank Report

- **South Asia Growth Forecast:**

- India: 6.8% (↓ from 7.2% due to monsoon risks).

- Sri Lanka: 3.5% recovery post-debt restructuring.



### 2. COP29 Preparations

- **Azerbaijan's Agenda:**

- "Green Energy Corridor" for EU-Caspian renewable integration.

- India pushes for operationalizing Loss & Damage Fund.

## 4. Science & Technology

### A. Space & Defense

#### 1. Gaganyaan Mission

- **Progress:**

- TV-D1 test validates Crew Escape System.

- **Next Steps:** Unmanned flight (Q3 2025), human flight (2026).

- **Global Context:**

- Only 4th nation after US, Russia, China to launch humans.

#### 2. AI Regulation Draft

- **Key Clauses:**
  - Govt approval required for AI deployment in critical sectors.
  - Deepfake creators face jail (3 years) + fines.
- **Debate:**
  - **NASSCOM:** Overregulation may stifle innovation.

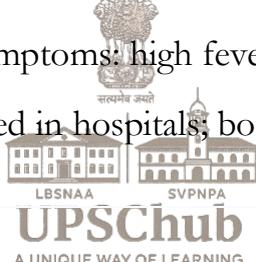
## B. Health & Environment

### 1. Heatwave Management

- **IMD Alerts:**
  - Rajasthan (Churu: 48°C), Delhi (46°C) under red alert.
- **Agricultural Impact:**
  - Wheat yield drop by 12%; power demand peaks at 250 GW.

### 2. COVID Subvariant JN.1.5

- **Kerala Outbreak:** 200 cases (symptoms: high fever, breathlessness).
- **Govt Response:** Masks mandated in hospitals; booster drives.



## 5. Editorials & Policy Analyses

### A. Data Privacy vs. National Security

- **The Hindu Editorial:**
  - Critiques DPDP Bill's exemptions for govt agencies.
  - Suggests **independent Data Protection Board** (like UK's ICO).

### B. Informal Labor Reforms

- **Indian Express Analysis:**
  - Highlights exclusion of **street vendors, domestic workers** from social security.
  - Advocates **universal minimum income** pilot.

### C. Semiconductor Self-Reliance

- **Livemint Opinion:**
  - Emphasizes **R&D investment** (like China's 2000s push).

- Suggests **tax incentives** for fab units.

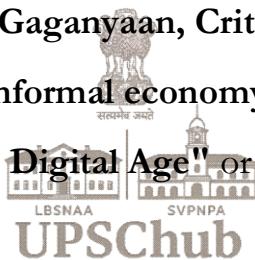
## 6. Reports & Indices

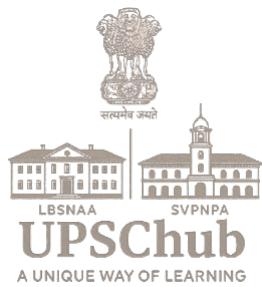
Report	Key Findings	India's Rank
<b>World Happiness Report</b>	Decline due to inequality, unemployment	125th (↓3)
<b>Press Freedom Index</b>	Pegasus 2.0 allegations cited	161st (↓5)
<b>UN E-Governance Index</b>	Aadhaar, DigiLocker boost ranking	72nd (↑8)

## 7. Key Takeaways for UPSC

- Prelims: Focus on **DPDP Bill, Gaganyaan, Critical Minerals**.
- Mains: Link **labor reforms** to **informal economy**, AI regulation to ethics.
- Essay: Themes like "**Privacy in Digital Age**" or "**India's Semiconductor Ambitions**".

Sources: PRS India, RBI Bulletins, ISRO, World Bank, UN Reports.





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UPSChub CurrentXpress is a specially crafted daily PDF series designed to deliver high-quality, exam-relevant current affairs to UPSC aspirants.

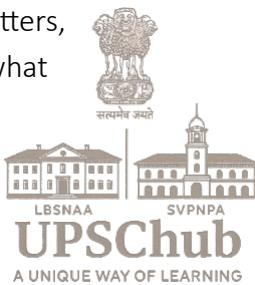
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