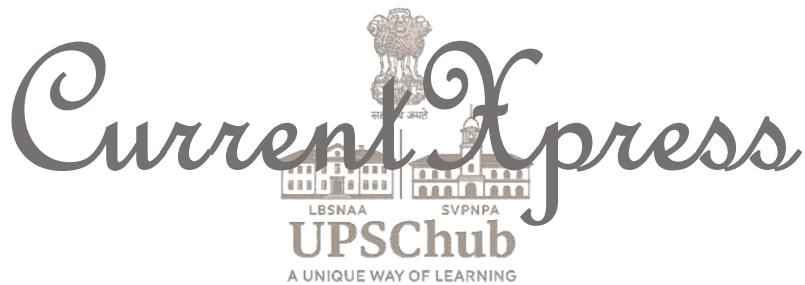




UPSChub Current Affairs Today

UPSChub



DT. – 28 / 05 / 2025 [WEDNESDAY]

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 28, 2025)

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

INDIA - NATIONAL NEWS

1. PM Modi Inaugurates 37th National Games in Goa:

- **Headline:** PM Modi champions India's sporting future at 37th National Games opening in Goa, highlights infrastructure boom and 'Nation First' spirit.
- **Key Developments/Details:**
 - **Venue:** Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Margao, Goa.
 - **PM's Address:**
 - Emphasized government's commitment to developing world-class sports infrastructure. Cited increased sports budget (3x increase in 9 years).
 - Linked sports to national development, youth empowerment, character building, and fostering a "Nation First" spirit.
 - Mentioned initiatives like Khelo India (School, Youth, University, Para Games) and TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme) for nurturing talent.
 - Highlighted India's recent success in international sporting events (e.g., Asian Games).
 - **Games Details:** Over 10,000 athletes from 28 states and 8 UTs participating in a record 43 sports disciplines.
 - **New Sports:** Several new medal sports introduced, including beach football, roll ball, golf, sepaktakraw, sqay martial arts, kalaripayattu, and pencak silat, promoting indigenous sports.
 - **Motto:** "Get Set Goa."
- **Significance/Implications:**

- Reinforces government focus on sports as a soft power and tool for youth engagement.
 - Showcases state capabilities in hosting large-scale events.
 - Platform for scouting new talent.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
 - **GS Paper 2:** Government policies and interventions (Sports, Youth Affairs), Federalism (Centre-State cooperation).
 - **GS Paper 3:** Infrastructure development.
 - **Essay:** Role of sports in nation-building, India's sporting potential.
 - **Prelims:** National Games facts, host state, new sports added, Khelo India, TOPS.

2. Supreme Court Agrees to Consider Listing Review Petitions on Same-Sex Marriage Verdict:

- **Headline:** Supreme Court to examine requests for early listing of review petitions challenging its judgment denying legal recognition to same-sex marriages.
- **Key Developments/Details:**


LBSNAA SVPNPA
UPSChub
A UNIQUE WAY OF LEARNING

 - Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, responding to mentions by advocates, stated the Court would "look into" the pleas for listing review petitions.
 - The original 3:2 majority verdict (October 17, 2023) had declined to grant legal recognition to same-sex unions under the Special Marriage Act, stating it was within the domain of Parliament to enact such legislation.
 - The judgment, however, recognized queer couples' rights against discrimination and directed the government to form a committee to examine granting them certain rights and benefits.
 - Review petitions are typically decided in chambers by the same bench, unless a plea for an open court hearing is allowed.
- **Background/Context:** The original petitions sought legal recognition of same-sex marriage, citing fundamental rights to equality, dignity, and life.
- **Significance/Implications:** Keeps the legal discourse on marriage equality active. The outcome of review petitions could either reaffirm the SC's stance or, rarely, lead to a reconsideration.

- **UPSC Relevance:**
 - **GS Paper 2:** Judiciary (powers, review jurisdiction), Fundamental Rights (Art 14, 15, 19, 21), Separation of Powers, role of Parliament vs. Judiciary in law-making.
 - **GS Paper 1:** Social empowerment, diversity, changing social norms.
 - **Ethics (GS 4):** Ethical dimensions of social inclusion and legal rights.

3. India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise 'Harimau Shakti 2023' Commences:

- **Headline:** 'Harimau Shakti 2023': Indian and Malaysian armies kick off joint exercise in Umroi, Meghalaya to bolster counter-terrorism and jungle warfare synergy.
- **Key Developments/Details:**
 - **Location:** Umroi Cantonment, Meghalaya, India.
 - **Participants:** Indian Army contingent (Rajput Regiment) and Malaysian Army personnel.
 - **Focus:** Enhancing military capability for multi-domain operations in sub-conventional scenarios. This includes training in jungle warfare, counter-terrorism operations, intelligence collection, and tactical drills.
 - **Activities:** Establishment of a joint command post, joint surveillance centre, sharing of expertise in employment of drones/UAVs, casualty management, and logistics.
 - **Aim:** To improve interoperability and mutual understanding between the two armies.
- **Significance/Implications:**
 - Strengthens defence cooperation between India and Malaysia, key partners in the Indo-Pacific.
 - Enhances India's 'Act East' policy.
 - Improves preparedness for regional security challenges.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
 - **GS Paper 2:** Bilateral relations (India-Malaysia), India's foreign policy (Act East), regional security cooperation.

- **GS Paper 3:** Defence and security, joint military exercises, counter-terrorism.
 - **Prelims:** Names of joint exercises and participating countries.
4. **Cabinet Approves Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) Rates for Rabi Season 2023-24:**
- **Headline:** Cabinet greenlights Nutrient-Based Subsidy rates for P&K fertilizers for Rabi 2023-24, allocating ₹22,303 crore to ensure farmer welfare.
 - **Key Developments/Details:**
 - **Subsidy Allocation:** ₹22,303 crore approved for Phosphatic (P) and Potassic (K) fertilizers for the Rabi season (October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024).
 - **Objective:** To ensure availability of fertilizers to farmers at affordable prices, support agricultural productivity, rationalize subsidy burden, and promote balanced use of fertilizers.
 - **NBS Scheme:** Under NBS, a fixed amount of subsidy, decided annually, is provided on each grade of subsidized P&K fertilizers, depending on their nutrient content (N, P, K, S). Urea is currently outside the NBS scheme.
 - **Expected Impact:** Government states this will help farmers access essential nutrients, ensure food security, and contribute to agricultural sector stability.
 - **Significance/Implications:**
 - Crucial for Rabi crop sowing and agricultural output.
 - Reflects government's continued support to the agriculture sector despite fiscal pressures.
 - Ongoing debate about moving urea to NBS and reforming fertilizer subsidies.
 - **UPSC Relevance:**
 - **GS Paper 3:** Agricultural subsidies (direct/indirect), agricultural pricing, food security, issues related to farm inputs, government budgeting, fiscal policy.
 - **Prelims:** NBS scheme, types of fertilizers, Rabi crops.

5. **Delhi-NCR Air Quality Worsens; GRAP Stage II/III Invoked in Parts:**

- **Headline:** Delhi's air quality plunges to 'Severe' in some areas, 'Very Poor' overall; GRAP Stage II fully invoked, Stage III measures considered/partially invoked.
- **Key Developments/Details:**
 - **AQI Levels:** Air Quality Index (AQI) breached the 400 mark ('Severe') in several parts of Delhi and NCR, while the overall average remained in 'Very Poor' (301-400).
 - **Contributing Factors:** Increased stubble burning in neighboring states (Punjab, Haryana), unfavorable meteorological conditions (low wind speed, falling temperatures), local vehicular and industrial emissions.
 - **GRAP Implementation:**
 - **Stage II (Very Poor AQI 201-300, now fully active):** Increased parking fees, increased frequency of CNG/electric buses, mechanized sweeping, water sprinkling.
 - **Stage III (Severe AQI 401-450, invoked in hotspots/being actively considered for wider NCR):** Ban on construction and demolition (C&D) activities (except essential projects), ban on BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar. States may opt for discontinuing physical classes in schools for younger children.
 - **CAQM Role:** The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) is directing states to implement these measures stringently.
- **Significance/Implications:**
 - Severe public health crisis, especially for vulnerable populations.
 - Economic impact due to restrictions and health issues.
 - Highlights challenges in inter-state coordination and long-term pollution control.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
 - **GS Paper 3:** Environmental pollution and degradation, conservation, climate change.
 - **GS Paper 2:** Government policies and interventions, role of statutory bodies (CAQM), issues relating to health.

- **Prelims:** GRAP stages, AQI categories, CAQM, National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), pollutants (PM2.5, PM10).

6. MeitY Secretary Outlines IndiaAI Mission Components:

- **Headline:** IndiaAI mission to focus on GPU-based compute infrastructure, National Data Management Office, and specialized AI degree programs, says MeitY Secretary.
- **Key Developments/Details:**
 - Speaking at a Nasscom event, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary S. Krishnan detailed key pillars of the upcoming IndiaAI mission.
 - **Compute Infrastructure:** Emphasis on creating significant Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)-based compute capacity, potentially through public-private partnerships, for AI development and research.
 - **India Datasets Platform:** Establishment of a National Data Management Office (NDMO) to create and manage a platform for anonymized non-personal datasets, crucial for training AI models.
 - **Skilling & Research:** Focus on Centres of Excellence, design and manufacturing of AI chips, and specialized undergraduate and graduate programs in AI.
 - **Application Focus:** Developing AI applications in sectors like healthcare, agriculture, and governance.
- **Significance/Implications:**
 - Signals India's ambition to become a global hub for Artificial Intelligence.
 - Addresses critical infrastructure and data gaps for AI development.
 - Aims to create a skilled workforce for the AI industry.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
 - **GS Paper 3:** Science and Technology – developments and their applications (AI), IT and Computers, Indigenization of technology, Indian economy (role of new technologies).
 - **GS Paper 2:** Government policies and interventions for development, e-governance.
 - **Prelims:** IndiaAI Mission, NDMO, GPU technology.

WORLD - INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Israel-Hamas Conflict: Intensified Ground Raids, Rising Casualties, UN Vote:

- **Headline:** Israeli forces conduct larger ground raid into northern Gaza; Gaza Health Ministry reports over 7,000 deaths; UN General Assembly to vote on humanitarian truce resolution.
- **Key Developments/Details:**
 - **Israeli Operations:** Israeli military confirmed its forces (tanks, infantry) conducted another "targeted raid" in northern Gaza overnight, striking "numerous terrorist cells, infrastructure, and anti-tank missile launch posts." This is seen as preparation for a potential larger ground offensive. IDF spokesperson stated ground offensive will happen when conditions are optimal.
 - **Casualties in Gaza:** The Hamas-run Health Ministry in Gaza reported the death toll has surpassed 7,000, including nearly 3,000 children, due to Israeli airstrikes since October 7. (Note: These figures are from Hamas and cannot be independently verified by all international bodies immediately, but are widely cited by UN agencies).
 - **Humanitarian Crisis:** Dire situation continues. UNRWA (UN agency for Palestine refugees) warns it may have to halt operations due to fuel shortages. Hospitals are on the verge of collapse. Limited aid trucks (around 60-70 so far) have entered via Rafah crossing, deemed insufficient.
 - **UN General Assembly (UNGA):** The UNGA is set to vote on a draft resolution, proposed by Arab states, calling for an "immediate humanitarian truce." Unlike Security Council resolutions, UNGA resolutions are not legally binding but carry significant political weight. This follows multiple failed attempts at the UNSC to pass a resolution.
 - **Hostage Situation:** Qatar reportedly continues mediation efforts for hostage release. Hamas claims nearly 50 hostages killed in Israeli strikes (unverified).
 - **Regional Tensions:** Continued cross-border fire between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. US has deployed additional military assets to the region as a deterrent.
- **Significance/Implications:**

- Escalating conflict with severe humanitarian consequences.
 - Growing international pressure for a ceasefire or humanitarian pause.
 - Risk of wider regional conflagration remains high.
 - Tests the efficacy and unity of international bodies like the UN.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
 - **GS Paper 2:** International relations, effect of policies of developed/developing countries on India's interests, important international institutions (UN, UNRWA, UNSC, UNGA), regional conflicts.
 - **GS Paper 1:** World History (Israel-Palestine conflict origins).
 - **Ethics (GS 4):** Just war theory, humanitarian ethics, civilian casualties in conflict.
 - **Prelims:** Locations (Gaza Strip, Rafah crossing, West Bank), involved groups (Hamas, Hezbollah).

2. Former Chinese Premier Li Keqiang Dies:

- **Headline:** Li Keqiang, China's former Premier and advocate for economic reform, dies at 68.
- **Key Developments/Details:**


UPSChub
A UNIQUE WAY OF LEARNING

 - Died of a sudden heart attack in Shanghai.
 - Served as Premier from 2013 to March 2023 under President Xi Jinping.
 - Was once considered a potential top leader but was increasingly seen as sidelined by Xi Jinping's consolidation of power.
 - Known as an economist who favored more market-oriented reforms and private enterprise, sometimes seen as a more moderate voice within the Chinese Communist Party leadership. His economic philosophy was often dubbed "Likonomics."
- **Significance/Implications:**
 - His death marks the passing of a key figure from a period of China's rapid economic growth.
 - Unlikely to cause immediate political instability or major policy shifts, given Xi Jinping's firm control.

- May evoke nostalgia among some for a different approach to economic management.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
 - **GS Paper 2:** India and its neighborhood (China), contemporary world politics, political systems in other countries.
 - **Prelims:** Important international personalities, Chinese political structure.

3. US Economy Posts Strong Q3 GDP Growth at 4.9%:

- **Headline:** US economy defies recession fears, surges at 4.9% annualized GDP growth in Q3, fueled by robust consumer spending.
- **Key Developments/Details:**
 - The Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that the US Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at an annualized rate of 4.9% in the third quarter of 2023. This is the fastest pace in nearly two years.
 - **Drivers:** Strong consumer spending (especially on services and goods), increased private inventory investment, and government spending.
 - **Context:** Growth occurred despite aggressive interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve aimed at curbing inflation.
- **Significance/Implications:**
 - May complicate the Federal Reserve's decision on future interest rate hikes – strong growth could suggest the economy can handle higher rates, but it could also fuel inflation.
 - Positive for global economic outlook if US avoids recession, but could also mean prolonged period of high US interest rates affecting global capital flows.
 - Could impact demand for exports from countries like India.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
 - **GS Paper 3:** Indian Economy (impact of global economic trends), growth and development.
 - **GS Paper 2:** Effect of policies of developed countries (US monetary policy) on India's interests.

4. European Union Leaders Summit Addresses Ukraine, Middle East, Budget:

- **Headline:** EU summit grapples with sustained Ukraine aid, Middle East crisis response, and contentious budget review.
- **Key Developments/Details:**
 - **Ukraine Support:** Leaders discussing a proposed €50 billion financial aid package for Ukraine over the next four years. Hungary has expressed reservations, potentially blocking unanimous approval. Continued military support also on agenda.
 - **Middle East Conflict:** Debating a unified EU stance on the Israel-Hamas war, focusing on humanitarian aid for Gaza, preventing regional escalation, and condemning Hamas's attack while affirming Israel's right to self-defense within international law.
 - **EU Budget Review (Multiannual Financial Framework - MFF):** Discussions on revising the EU's long-term budget (2021-2027) to allocate more funds for Ukraine, migration management, and interest payments on joint EU debt. This is proving contentious among member states.
- **Significance/Implications:**
 - Tests EU unity and its ability to act decisively on major geopolitical and financial challenges.
 - Outcome will impact long-term support for Ukraine and EU's role in the Middle East.
 - Budget decisions will shape EU spending priorities for years to come.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
 - **GS Paper 2:** Important international institutions and regional groupings (EU), effect of global events on regional blocs.

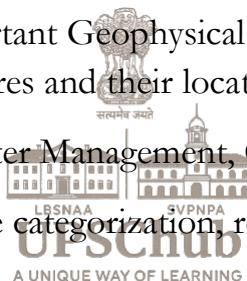
5. Hurricane Otis Devastates Acapulco, Mexico:

- **Headline:** Hurricane Otis slams Acapulco as catastrophic Category 5 storm, causing widespread destruction and fatalities.
- **Key Developments/Details:**
 - Otis rapidly intensified from a tropical storm to a Category 5 hurricane in just 12 hours before making landfall near Acapulco on Mexico's Pacific coast.

- Caused extensive damage: flooding, collapsed buildings, power outages, and communication disruptions.
 - Death toll is rising as rescue efforts continue. The resort city of Acapulco is severely affected.
 - The rapid intensification is a phenomenon scientists link to warmer ocean waters, potentially exacerbated by climate change.
- **Significance/Implications:**
- Highlights the increasing intensity and rapid development of tropical cyclones.
 - Poses significant challenges for disaster preparedness and early warning systems.
 - Economic impact on tourism-dependent regions.

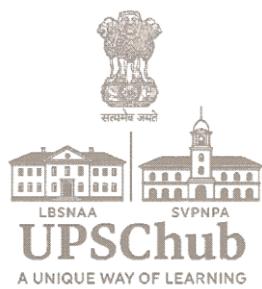
- **UPSC Relevance:**

- **GS Paper 1:** Important Geophysical phenomena (Tropical Cyclones), Geographical features and their location.
- **GS Paper 3:** Disaster Management, Climate Change and its impact.
- **Prelims:** Hurricane categorization, recent major disasters, locations in news.



Key Themes for UPSC Analysis Today:

- **Role of Government in Socio-Economic Development:** (Sports, Subsidies, AI Mission)
- **Judiciary and Social Change:** (Same-Sex Marriage Review)
- **Environmental Challenges and Governance:** (Air Pollution, Climate Change & Hurricanes)
- **International Conflicts and Humanitarian Concerns:** (Israel-Hamas)
- **Global Economic Interdependence and National Policies:** (US GDP, EU Budget)
- **Bilateral and Multilateral Defence Cooperation:** (India-Malaysia Exercise)



About UPSChub CurrentXpress

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

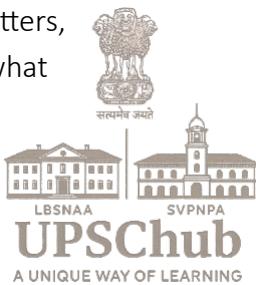
In today's fast-paced preparation journey, staying updated with the right information — not just more information — is the key to cracking competitive exams.

This series goes beyond mere news headlines. It offers curated, well-structured insights that connect daily happenings to the UPSC syllabus, ensuring you understand why something matters, how it can appear in Prelims or Mains, and what core facts you must retain.

★ Why You Should Follow CurrentXpress

Whether you are a beginner looking to build a strong foundation or an advanced aspirant refining your daily prep, CurrentXpress gives you a competitive edge by saving time, improving retention, and sharpening your answer-writing with daily practice material.

Stay ahead. Stay sharp. Stay exam-ready — with UPSChub CurrentXpress.



★ What Makes CurrentXpress Special?

- ✓ Daily Consistency — Get your current affairs updated every single day without fail.
- ✓ Exam-Focused Selection — Only topics relevant to UPSC; no clutter, no distractions.
- ✓ Integrated Analysis — With editorial picks, government reports, economic indicators, and science updates, you gain a 360-degree perspective on issues.
- ✓ Quick Revision Friendly — Designed in a capsule format so you can revise fast before exams or interviews.
- ✓ Expert Touch — Carefully compiled by the UPSChub team under the guidance of Pratyush Swain, ensuring authenticity and reliability.