



UPSChub Current Affairs Today

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Current Xpress

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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 29, 2025)

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

INDIA - NATIONAL NEWS

1. Gaganyaan Mission: TV-D1 Test Flight Success

Headline: ISRO Achieves Key Milestone with Successful Gaganyaan Test Vehicle (TV-D1) Mission; Crew Escape System Validated.

Key Developments/Details:

- Mission: Test Vehicle Development Flight (TV-D1) – 1st test for Gaganyaan.
- Launch: Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- Objective: Validate Crew Escape System (CES) for emergency crew ejection.
- Test: Simulated abort at ~17 km altitude → CES separated Crew Module (CM) → Moved CM to a safe distance.
- Recovery: CM parachutes deployed → Soft splashdown in Bay of Bengal (~10km off coast) → Successfully recovered by the Indian Navy.
- Significance: This test is a crucial step towards India's ambition of sending astronauts to space by 2025. It demonstrates the reliability of a critical safety system.



Significance/Implications:

- Validates a critical life-saving technology for the Gaganyaan mission.
- Boosts confidence in India's indigenous human spaceflight capabilities.
- Paves the way for further uncrewed and eventually crewed missions.
- Enhances India's stature in the global space arena.

UPSC Relevance:

- Prelims: Gaganyaan Mission, Crew Escape System (CES), ISRO, TV-D1, launch vehicles.

- GS Paper 3: Science and Technology – developments and their applications; Achievements of Indians in S&T; Indigenization of technology; Awareness in the fields of Space.
- Essay: India's journey in space exploration; Science and technology as a driver of national pride.

2. PM Modi Addresses Inaugural Session of India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023

Headline: PM Modi at IMC 2023: Pitches India as a Global Hub for Telecom R&D and Manufacturing; Emphasizes 6G Vision.

Key Developments/Details:

- Event: India Mobile Congress, Asia's largest digital technology forum, held in New Delhi.
- PM's Address Highlights:
 - Showcased India's rapid strides in 5G rollout (fastest in the world).
 - Stressed the need for India to take a lead in 6G technology development and standardization.
 - Called for making India a 'semiconductor hub' and a leader in telecom equipment manufacturing.
 - Emphasized democratizing technology and ensuring its benefits reach all sections of society.
 - Highlighted initiatives like the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) to promote indigenous R&D.
- Exhibitions: The event featured exhibitions on 5G, 6G, AI, IoT, and other emerging technologies. Many companies showcased 'Made in India' telecom solutions.



Significance/Implications:

- Reinforces government's focus on transforming India into a technology leader and manufacturing powerhouse.
- Signals proactive approach towards future technologies like 6G.
- Aims to reduce import dependence in telecom sector and boost exports.
- Potential for job creation and economic growth.

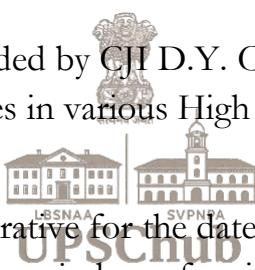
UPSC Relevance:

- Prelims: India Mobile Congress, 6G technology, Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF), semiconductor mission.
- GS Paper 2: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors (Telecom, Manufacturing).
- GS Paper 3: Indian Economy (Manufacturing sector, Make in India), Science and Technology (Communication technology, emerging tech), Infrastructure (Digital).
- Essay: India's digital transformation; Role of technology in achieving 'Viksit Bharat'.

3. Supreme Court Collegium Recommendations: Focus on Judicial Vacancies

Headline: Supreme Court Collegium Recommends Names for Appointment/Transfer of High Court Judges; Addresses Rising Vacancies.

Key Developments/Details:

- Context: The SC Collegium, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, has been actively making recommendations to fill vacancies in various High Courts and for elevations to the Supreme Court.

- Recent Recommendations (Illustrative for the date): Likely recommended several names for appointment as Chief Justices or judges of various High Courts, and possibly transfers.
- Process: Recommendations are sent to the Union Law Ministry for processing and Presidential assent.
- Issue of Vacancies: High judicial vacancies impact timely justice delivery and lead to a large pendency of cases.
- Government-Collegium Dynamics: The process of judicial appointments has often seen friction between the judiciary (collegium system) and the executive over delays in appointments and differing views on candidates. The Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointments is a recurring point of discussion.

Significance/Implications:

- Crucial for maintaining judicial strength and efficiency.
- Impacts the justice delivery system and pendency of cases.

- Highlights the ongoing debate on the collegium system vs. a potential National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) or other reforms.

UPSC Relevance:

- Prelims: Collegium System, Appointment of judges (Art 124, 217), Memorandum of Procedure (MoP).
- GS Paper 2: Judiciary (Structure, organization, appointment), Separation of Powers, Issues with judicial appointments and reforms.
- Essay: Judicial reforms in India; Ensuring timely justice.

4. Concerns Over Dip in Female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in Certain Sectors/Regions (Based on Periodic Reports)

Headline: Latest PLFS Data (or other relevant report) Indicates Stagnation/Dip in Female LFPR in [Specific Sector/Region], Raising Policy Concerns.

Key Developments/Details:

- Data Source: Typically, data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) by the National Statistical Office (NSO) or other reputable studies.
- Findings (Illustrative): While overall female LFPR might show some improvement nationally over a longer period, specific disaggregated data might reveal:
 - A dip or stagnation in urban female LFPR compared to rural.
 - Lower participation in certain age groups or educational levels.
 - Sectoral concentration (e.g., high in agriculture, low in manufacturing/formal services).
 - Impact of social norms, care responsibilities, safety concerns, and lack of suitable job opportunities.
- Policy Focus: Need for targeted interventions like skilling programs, safe transportation, affordable childcare, flexible work arrangements, and promoting women's entrepreneurship.

Significance/Implications:

- Impacts economic growth potential (untapped demographic dividend).
- Reflects gender inequality and social barriers.

- Crucial for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality).

UPSC Relevance:

- Prelims: Female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), NSO.
- GS Paper 1: Role of women and women's organization, Social empowerment.
- GS Paper 2: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Human Resources; Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections.
- GS Paper 3: Indian Economy (Employment, Inclusive growth, Demographic dividend).
- Essay: Women empowerment; Gender equality and economic development.

WORLD - INTERNATIONAL NEWS



1. Israel-Hamas Conflict: Ground Incursions Escalate; Humanitarian Situation Worsens in Gaza



Headline: Israeli Forces Expand Ground Operations in Northern Gaza; Intense Bombardment Continues; UN Warns of Unprecedented Humanitarian Catastrophe.

Key Developments/Details:

- Military Operations: Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) reported further expansion of ground activities inside the Gaza Strip, involving tanks, infantry, and engineering units, supported by heavy air and artillery bombardment. Clashes with Hamas militants reported.
- Communication Blackout: Reports of near-total communications and internet blackout in Gaza, hampering information flow and coordination of humanitarian aid.
- Casualties: Significant rise in Palestinian casualties reported by the Hamas-run Health Ministry in Gaza. Israeli casualties also reported from ongoing rocket fire from Gaza and clashes.
- Humanitarian Crisis:
 - UN agencies (UNRWA, WFP, WHO, UNICEF) described the situation as catastrophic, with severe shortages of water, food, fuel, and medical supplies. Hospitals overwhelmed and on the verge of collapse due to lack of fuel for generators.

- Limited aid convoys entering through Rafah crossing are deemed grossly insufficient.
- Calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire or pause from UN Secretary-General and many nations.
- UN General Assembly Vote (Previous Day): The UNGA adopted a non-binding resolution calling for an "immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce." The US and Israel voted against it. India abstained, citing the resolution's failure to condemn the October 7 Hamas attacks.
- Regional Spillover Concerns: Continued fears of the conflict widening, with skirmishes on the Israel-Lebanon border (Hezbollah) and attacks on US bases in Iraq and Syria by Iran-backed militias.

Significance/Implications:

- Deepening humanitarian crisis with immense civilian suffering.
- Growing international divisions on how to address the conflict.
- High risk of regional escalation involving other state and non-state actors.
- Long-term implications for Israeli-Palestinian peace prospects and regional stability.

UPSC Relevance:



- Prelims: Locations (Gaza, Rafah, West Bank, Lebanon border), Key actors (IDF, Hamas, Hezbollah, UNRWA), International Humanitarian Law.
- GS Paper 1: World History (Roots of Israel-Palestine conflict).
- GS Paper 2: International Relations; Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests; Important international institutions (UN, UNSC, UNGA); Regional conflicts and their impact.
- GS Paper 4 (Ethics): Ethical dilemmas in warfare, civilian protection, proportionality, humanitarian intervention.
- Essay: The challenge of global peace and security; Humanitarian crises in the 21st century.

2. US-China Relations: High-Level Talks Aim to Stabilize Ties Ahead of Potential Xi-Biden Meet

Headline: US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan Meets Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi; Discussions Focus on Managing Competition and APEC Summit.

Key Developments/Details:

- Meeting Context: Part of ongoing efforts by both Washington and Beijing to maintain open lines of communication and manage intense competition to prevent it from veering into conflict.
- Agenda Items (Likely):
 - Taiwan, South China Sea, trade and technology restrictions (US export controls on chips).
 - Global issues like Russia-Ukraine war, North Korea, climate change.
 - Preparations for a potential meeting between President Joe Biden and President Xi Jinping at the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) summit in San Francisco in November.
- Stated Goals: To responsibly manage the relationship, explore areas of cooperation, and address differences candidly.

Significance/Implications:

- Attempts to put a "floor" under the deteriorating US-China relationship.
- A potential Biden-Xi meeting would be significant for global stability, though major breakthroughs are unlikely.
- Impacts the geopolitical landscape in the Indo-Pacific and globally.
- India closely watches these dynamics due to its own relations with both countries.

UPSC Relevance:

- Prelims: APEC.
- GS Paper 2: International Relations; Bilateral relations involving major powers; Effect of policies of developed countries on India's interests; India's foreign policy in a multipolar world.

3. European Central Bank (ECB) Holds Interest Rates Steady Amid Economic Slowdown Concerns

Headline: ECB Pauses Rate Hike Cycle After 10 Consecutive Increases; Cites Easing Inflation and Weakening Eurozone Economy.

Key Developments/Details:

- Decision: The European Central Bank kept its key interest rates unchanged, marking the first pause after a sustained period of monetary tightening to combat high inflation.
- Rationale:
 - Inflation in the Eurozone has been falling, though still above the ECB's 2% target.
 - Economic indicators suggest a significant slowdown in the Eurozone economy, with some major economies (like Germany) facing recession risks.
 - ECB stated that current rates, if maintained, would significantly contribute to returning inflation to target.
- Future Outlook: ECB President Christine Lagarde indicated that future decisions would remain data-dependent, not ruling out further hikes if necessary.

Significance/Implications:

- Signals a potential peak in the global interest rate hiking cycle by major central banks.
- Reflects the difficult balancing act for central banks between controlling inflation and supporting economic growth.
- Impacts global financial markets, currency exchange rates, and borrowing costs.
- Relevant for India's monetary policy stance and economic outlook (global demand).

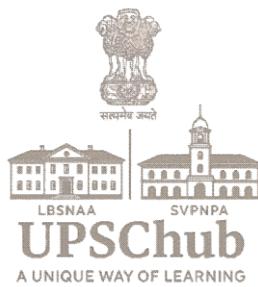
UPSC Relevance:

- Prelims: European Central Bank (ECB), Eurozone, Inflation targeting.
- GS Paper 3: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development (impact of global monetary policy); Effects of liberalization on the economy.

Key Themes for UPSC Analysis (for Oct 27, 2023 - Illustrative):

- Technological Advancement & National Ambition: (Gaganyaan, India Mobile Congress - 6G, Semiconductors) – India's push for self-reliance and global leadership in S&T.
- Judicial Processes & Constitutional Governance: (SC Collegium, Judicial Vacancies) – Efficiency and transparency in the justice system.
- Socio-Economic Development Challenges: (Female LFPR) – Inclusivity and leveraging demographic potential.

- International Conflict & Humanitarian Imperatives: (Israel-Hamas War) – The role of international law, multilateral institutions, and the ethics of warfare.
- Great Power Dynamics & Global Stability: (US-China talks) – Managing competition and its impact on the world order.
- Global Economic Management: (ECB rate decision) – Central bank policies in a complex inflationary and growth environment.



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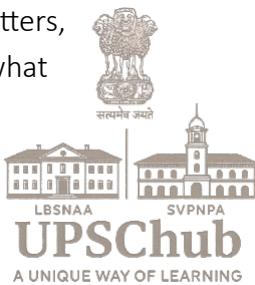
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