

CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAY 2025

WEEK - 1

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Weekly Current Affairs - May 2025: Week 1

April 30, 2025

Green Municipal Bond (GMB) - India's First Certified Issue

Context: Under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban initiative, Ghaziabad has achieved a significant milestone by issuing India's first Certified Green Municipal Bond, successfully raising ₹50 crore for constructing a state-of-the-art Tertiary Sewage Treatment Plant (TSTP).

Understanding Municipal Bonds

Municipal Bonds are **debt instruments** issued by urban local bodies (ULBs) or municipal corporations to finance essential infrastructure and public service projects. These financial instruments serve as crucial tools for urban development and public welfare initiatives.

What are Green Municipal Bonds?

Green Municipal Bonds represent a specialized subset of municipal bonds designed exclusively to fund environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure projects. These projects typically include:

- Renewable energy installations
- Water treatment facilities
- Waste management systems
- Climate adaptation infrastructure

Constitutional Framework

Article 243W of the Indian Constitution empowers Urban Local Bodies with specific functions including water supply, sanitation, and waste management. This constitutional provision makes ULBs eligible to raise bonds for these essential services.

Significance of Green Municipal Bonds

■ Sustainable Development Impact

- Aligns with ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) investing principles
- Supports global investors' sustainable investment strategies
- Contributes to climate change mitigation efforts



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■ Financial Benefits

- Provides cost-effective, long-term financing options
- Often offers more affordable rates compared to commercial bank loans
- Reduces dependency on traditional banking systems

■ Market Expansion

- Attracts institutional and international investors
- Broadens the investor base beyond domestic markets
- Reduces over-reliance on conventional funding sources

■ Infrastructure Development

- Ideal for urban capacity building initiatives
- Supports critical sectors like water treatment, sanitation, and waste management
- Enables scalable environmental solutions

Gyan Post - Democratizing Educational Access

Context: Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia announced the launch of Gyan Post, a transformative India Post Service initiative.

About Gyan Post

Gyan Post represents a revolutionary approach to educational accessibility, designed to provide **affordable delivery** of educational, social, cultural, and religious books across the entire country. This service utilizes trackable surface transport to maintain cost-effectiveness while ensuring nationwide accessibility.

Key Features and Eligibility

- **Material Scope:** Only printed materials with clearly marked publishers or printers are eligible
- **Transport Method:** Uses cost-effective surface transport with tracking capabilities
- **Coverage:** Nationwide reach including remote areas



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Strategic Objectives

■ **Public Service Enhancement**

- Reinforces India Post's traditional role in public service delivery
- Supports education empowerment at the grassroots level

■ **Educational Accessibility**

- Enhances access to learning materials, especially in remote and underserved areas
- Bridges educational gaps regardless of geographical location or economic status

■ **Policy Alignment**

- Supports the implementation goals of India's New Education Policy
- Ensures educational content reaches every corner of the country
- Promotes inclusive education development

India's First Aquaculture Insurance Scheme

Context: The Union Government has launched a groundbreaking aquaculture insurance scheme, marking a significant step in supporting the fisheries sector.

Scheme Framework

This insurance initiative operates under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), which functions as a sub-scheme of the larger Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

Primary Objectives

- Provide comprehensive **risk mitigation for fish farmers**
- Ensure financial security for marginalized aquaculture practitioners
- Support sustainable fisheries development

Beneficiary Categories

- Registered aquafarmers across the country
- Various entities operating within the fisheries value chain
- Small-scale and marginalized fish farming communities



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Insurance Options

■ Basic Insurance Coverage

- Protects against natural calamities
- Covers weather-related losses
- Provides fundamental risk protection

■ Comprehensive Insurance Coverage

- Includes all basic coverage elements
- Additional protection against disease outbreaks
- Comprehensive risk mitigation approach

■ Policy Structure

- Each policy covers one complete crop cycle
- Tailored to aquaculture production patterns
- Flexible coverage periods

Related Government Initiatives

■ 5th Marine Fisheries Census (MFC)

- Comprehensive documentation of marine fisher families
- Detailed mapping of fishing villages and infrastructure
- First-time use of geo-referenced, app-based digital system
- Utilizes 'VyAS-NAV' mobile app developed by ICAR-CMFRI
- Real-time data collection and validation capabilities
- Coverage of 1.2 million fisher households across 3,500 villages
- Gathering of demographic, socio-economic, and livelihood data

■ PMMSY Project Investments

- Projects worth ₹255 crore inaugurated
- Coverage across seven coastal states and Union Territories
- Comprehensive fisheries infrastructure development



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Caste Census - Historic Policy Decision

Context: The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA), under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, has made the landmark decision to include caste enumeration in the upcoming Census exercise.

Historical Context of Caste Enumeration

■ **British Era Documentation**

- Last comprehensive caste-based enumeration conducted in 1931
- Recorded 4,147 distinct castes across India
- 1941 caste data collected but never published due to World War II outbreak

■ **Post-Independence Approach**

- Only Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) counted in decennial Census
- 1961 Government directive authorized states to conduct independent OBC surveys
- 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census attempted comprehensive community data collection

Constitutional and Legal Framework

■ **Constitutional Authority**

- **Article 246:** Establishes Census as a Union subject
- **Seventh Schedule:** Lists Census under Union List
- Ensures uniform and transparent framework across the country

■ **Legal Foundation**

- **Census Act, 1948:** Provides comprehensive legal framework for population censuses
- Outlines detailed procedures, duties, and penalties for census operations



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- Establishes standardized methodology for data collection

Significance of the Decision

This historic decision represents a major shift in India's approach to demographic data collection, potentially providing crucial insights for policy formulation and social justice initiatives.

Chlorpyrifos Controversy - International Environmental Debate

Context: At the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions meetings in Switzerland, India opposed the inclusion of insecticide Chlorpyrifos under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), citing food security concerns.

Understanding Chlorpyrifos

■ Chemical Properties and Health Impact

- Insecticide with documented links to neurodevelopmental adverse effects
- Associated with reduced birth size and increased cancer risks (lung and prostate)
- Chronic exposure leads to significant health complications
- WHO classification: Moderately hazardous pesticide

■ Mechanism of Action

- Inhibits acetyl cholinesterase enzyme
- Results in adverse nervous system effects
- Impacts neurological function and development

India's Position and Usage

■ Historical Usage Pattern

- Registered in India since 1977
- Most widely used insecticide in the country during 2016-17
- Critical for agricultural pest control and urban pest management

■ Agricultural Importance

- Essential for crop protection and food security



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- Controls various agricultural pests effectively
- Supports India's agricultural productivity goals

■ **Urban Applications**

- Controls urban pests including cockroaches and termites
- Important for vector-borne disease control programs
- Public health pest management applications

Research Findings and Concerns

■ **Contamination Studies**

- 2024 study detected Chlorpyrifos in 33% of tested food samples
- Widespread presence in Indian food chain
- Potential health implications for consumers

■ **Expert Committee Review**

- **Anupam Verma Committee (2013):** Constituted to review 66 pesticides
- Mandate: Examine pesticides banned/restricted in other countries but used in India
- **2015 Report:** Recognized Chlorpyrifos toxicity to fish and bees
- Environmental impact documentation

Stockholm Convention Framework

■ **Convention Overview**

- Adopted: May 2001 in Stockholm, Sweden
- Entry into Force: May 17, 2004 (after 50th ratification)
- Objective: Protect human health and environment from persistent organic pollutants

■ **Institutional Structure**

- Establishes Conference of the Parties mechanism
- Provides arbitration and conciliation procedures
- Resolves disputes between member countries

■ **Chemical Classification System**



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- **Annex A:** Chemicals designated for elimination
- **Annex B:** Chemicals requiring restriction
- **Annex C:** Chemicals requiring minimized unintentional production and release

Shiv Shakti Point - Lunar Discovery Significance

Context: India's Chandrayaan-3 mission has made groundbreaking discoveries of primitive lunar mantle materials at the Moon's Shiv Shakti Point.

Scientific Significance

The discoveries at Shiv Shakti Point provide critical insights into lunar evolution, particularly regarding the timing of lava crystallization and volatile distribution during the Moon's early developmental phases.

About Shiv Shakti Point

■ Official Recognition

- Internationally recognized landing site of Chandrayaan-3
- Located at the Moon's South Pole region
- Represents India's historic lunar exploration achievement

■ Planetary Nomenclature System

- Similar to geographical naming conventions on Earth
- Facilitates identification and communication about specific planetary features
- Managed by International Astronomical Union (IAU) since 1919
- Comprehensive naming system for planets, moons, and ring systems

Research Implications

The site's value for sampling primitive mantle materials could provide unprecedented insights into lunar formation and early solar system evolution, making it a crucial location for future lunar research missions.



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World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025

Context: The inaugural WAVES Summit 2025 in Mumbai highlighted the creative economy as a critical driver for India's future GDP growth, innovation, and inclusive development.

Summit Highlights and Announcements

■ **Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT)**

- Launched as a National Centre of Excellence
- Focus on youth upskilling and innovation
- Specializations: Media, animation, gaming, and content creation
- Partnership between Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, FICCI, and CII

■ **Economic Targets**

- Ambitious goal to unlock a \$50 billion market by 2029
- Expansion of India's footprint in global entertainment economy
- Strategic positioning in international creative markets

Understanding the Creative Economy (Orange Economy)

- **Definition and Scope** The Creative Economy encompasses industries that leverage individual creativity, skill, and intellectual property (IP) to generate substantial economic value.

■ **Industry Categories**

Cultural Industries

- Music production and distribution
- Film and cinema
- Theatre and performing arts
- Dance and choreography
- Traditional crafts and artisans
- Literature and publishing



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Creative Industries

- Advertising and marketing
- Fashion design and retail
- Industrial and graphic design
- Architecture and urban planning

Digital Creative Sectors

- Animation and visual effects (VFX)
- Gaming and interactive entertainment
- Extended Reality (XR) technologies
- Over-the-top (OTT) platforms
- YouTube content creation and podcasting
- Influencer marketing and content

Economic Impact and Statistics

As of 2025, India's creative economy contributes approximately \$30 billion to the national GDP while employing about 8% of the total workforce, demonstrating its significant economic importance.

Historical Context

- **John Howkins:** Credited with popularizing the term "creative economy"
- **"Orange Economy" Origins:** Coined by former Colombian President Iván Duque and Minister Felipe Buitrago

Vizhinjam International Seaport - Maritime Infrastructure Milestone

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned the Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala, representing a transformative investment of ₹8,867 crore in India's maritime infrastructure.

Project Structure and Development

- **Public-Private Partnership Model**



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- Collaboration between Kerala government and Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd (APSEZ)
- Demonstrates successful PPP implementation in infrastructure development
- Strategic partnership for long-term operational efficiency

Revolutionary Features and Capabilities

■ Automation and Technology Leadership

- India's first dedicated transshipment port
- Country's first semi-automated port facility
- Fully automated yard cranes for efficient operations
- Remotely operated ship-to-shore cranes
- Advanced cargo handling capabilities

■ Indigenous Technology Integration

- India's first home-built, AI-powered Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS)
- Demonstrates technological self-reliance in maritime infrastructure
- Advanced traffic monitoring and management capabilities

Infrastructure and Connectivity

■ Multi-Modal Hub Development

- Direct road access to National Highway 66
- Kerala's first cloverleaf interchange
- Designed to handle future cargo growth projections
- Integrated transportation network

■ Strategic Geographic Advantage

- Located just 10 nautical miles from key international shipping route
- Minimal deviation required for transshipment operations
- Strategic positioning for global maritime trade hub
- Optimal location for international shipping networks



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Economic and Strategic Significance

The port represents India's commitment to becoming a major player in global maritime trade, with potential to significantly boost trade volumes and establish India as a key transshipment hub in the region.

National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) Reconstitution

Context: The government has reconstituted the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) with former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Alok Joshi appointed as the new chairman.

About National Security Advisory Board

■ Historical Background

- Established in 1998 as an advisory body
- Comprises eminent persons from outside government
- Mandate to provide expert advice on national security issues

■ Composition and Structure

- Headed by a Chairperson (currently Alok Joshi)
- Includes eminent personalities from diverse fields
- Members drawn from industry, media, civil society, and academia
- Multi-disciplinary approach to security analysis

Key Functions and Responsibilities

■ Policy Advisory Role

- Advises the National Security Council (NSC) on policy matters
- Provides strategic guidance on security-related issues
- Facilitates expert input into national security decision-making

■ Strategic Analysis and Recommendations

- Suggests measures and policy options on internal security
- Provides insights on external security challenges
- Addresses strategic and technological challenges



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- Offers comprehensive security assessment and recommendations

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Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) - Medical Technology Breakthrough

Context: Researchers from the University of California have developed an innovative brain-computer interface that enables movement capabilities for paralyzed individuals, representing a significant advancement in medical technology.

Understanding Brain-Computer Interface Technology

- **Definition and Core Concept** A Brain-Computer Interface establishes a direct communication pathway between the brain's electrical activity and external devices, enabling seamless interaction between human neural signals and technological systems.
- **Primary Applications**
 - Assist individuals with cognitive or sensory-motor impairments
 - Augment human capabilities through technological integration
 - Repair damaged neural pathways and functions

Technical Mechanism

The BCI system records signals from the brain's motor cortex (the region responsible for movement control) and utilizes artificial intelligence algorithms to decode these signals, enabling operation of robotic limbs and other external devices.

Types of Brain-Computer Interfaces

- **Invasive BCI Systems**
 - **Implementation:** Surgically implanted directly into brain tissue
 - **Functionality:** Direct interaction with the nervous system
 - **Signal Quality:** Most accurate signal transmission
 - **Applications:** Paralysis treatment, locked-in syndrome management
 - **Example:** Neuralink's Blindsight technology



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■ Partially Invasive BCI Systems

- **Implementation:** Implanted within skull but outside brain tissue
- **Positioning:** Typically placed on dura mater (brain membrane)
- **Technology:** Electrocorticography (ECoG) for surface signal recording
- **Advantages:** Balance between accuracy and invasiveness

■ Non-Invasive BCI Systems

- **Implementation:** External sensors without surgical procedures
- **Technology:** EEG electrodes for brain signal detection
- **Advantages:** Safer, more accessible than invasive alternatives
- **Applications:** General computer interaction, assistive devices

Applications Across Sectors

Medical and Rehabilitation Applications

Assistive Device Control

- Wheelchair operation through thought control
- Robotic arm manipulation for daily activities
- Computer cursor control for communication

Neurorehabilitation Programs

- Post-stroke motor recovery training
- Brain pathway reconstruction through targeted exercises
- Neural plasticity enhancement

Prosthetic Integration

- Artificial limb control via brain signals
- Natural movement replication
- Sensory feedback integration

Educational and Training Applications

Attention and Engagement Monitoring

- Classroom student engagement tracking



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- Learning effectiveness assessment
- Personalized education approaches

Skill Development Enhancement

- Focus feedback during complex task learning
- Brain activity optimization for skill acquisition
- Performance monitoring and improvement

Industrial and Automation Applications

Human-Robot Collaboration

- Enhanced collaborative robots in manufacturing
- Intuitive human-machine interaction
- Improved industrial efficiency

Hazardous Work Environment Applications

- Hands-free control systems for miners
- Chemical plant worker safety systems
- Remote operation capabilities in dangerous conditions

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award Recognition

Context: Olympic badminton champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty received India's highest sporting honor, the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

About the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

■ Award Significance

- India's highest sporting honor and recognition
- Named after legendary Indian hockey player Major Dhyan Chand (1905-1979)
- Established in 1991-92 for outstanding sporting achievements

■ Selection Criteria

- Outstanding performance in sports spanning four years



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- Exceptional contribution to Indian sports
- International recognition and achievement

■ Award Components

- Commemorative medallion
- Official certificate of recognition
- Cash prize for recipients

Notable Past Recipients

■ The award has honored legendary sports figures including:

- MC Mary Kom (Boxing)
- S. Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifting)
- PV Sindhu (Badminton)
- Saina Nehwal (Badminton)
- Vijender Singh (Boxing)
- Sachin Tendulkar (Cricket)
- Virat Kohli (Cricket)

About Major Dhyan Chand - The Hockey Legend

■ Career Achievements

- Central figure in India's pre-World War II hockey dominance
- Key contributor to three consecutive Olympic gold medals (1928, 1932, 1936)
- Exceptional ball control and game mastery

■ Legacy and Recognition

- Earned epithets "Hockey Wizard" and "The Magician"
- Revolutionized hockey playing techniques
- Inspired generations of Indian hockey players
- Symbol of sporting excellence and dedication

May 4, 2025



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ECINET - Election Commission's Digital Integration Platform

Context: The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the launch of ECINET, a comprehensive single-point application designed to serve voters and electoral stakeholders including election officials, political parties, and civil society organizations.

About ECINET Platform

■ **Comprehensive Integration**

- Consolidates over 40 existing EC mobile and web applications
- Single, user-friendly platform eliminating multiple login requirements
- Streamlined navigation for all electoral services
- Enhanced user experience through unified interface

■ **Data Accuracy and Security**

- Data entry restricted to authorized EC officials only
- Ensures maximum data accuracy and reliability
- Secure platform with controlled access mechanisms
- Real-time data validation and verification

Key Applications Being Integrated

■ The platform merges several critical applications with over 5.5 crore total downloads:

- **Voter Helpline:** Citizen services and support
- **Voter Turnout:** Real-time election participation data
- **cVIGIL:** Election code violation reporting
- **Suvidha 2.0:** Candidate and party services
- **ESMS:** Election management systems
- **Saksham:** Accessibility features for differently-abled voters
- **KYC:** Know Your Candidate information

■ **Development and Leadership**

- Envisioned by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar
- Represents technological advancement in electoral processes
- Demonstrates commitment to digital governance



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■ *Impact and Benefits*

- Expected to benefit nearly 100 crore electors
- Comprehensive support for entire electoral administration
- Enhanced efficiency in election management
- Improved citizen engagement with electoral processes

Chenab River - Strategic Water Resource

Context: India restricted water flow from the Chenab River at Baglihar and Salal hydro-electric dams in Jammu and Kashmir following Indus Treaty suspension.

Geographical Profile of Chenab River

■ **Origin and Formation**

- Formed by confluence of Chandra and Bhaga rivers
- Confluence point: Tandi in Lahaul and Spiti district, Himachal Pradesh
- Known as Chandra-Bhaga in upper reaches
- Becomes Chenab in downstream sections

■ **River Course and Journey**

- Flows through Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir
- Joins Sutlej River to form Panjnad in Pakistan
- Ultimate destination: Indus River at Mithankot
- Significant cross-border water resource

Tributary System

■ **Right Bank Tributaries**

- **Marusudar:** Largest tributary of Chenab
- **Miyar Nalla:** Important seasonal tributary
- **Bhut Nalla:** Regional water contributor
- **Kalnai:** Local tributary system

■ **Left Bank Tributaries**



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- **Niru:** Significant water contributor
- **Tawi:** Major tributary flowing through Jammu
- **Neeru:** Regional water source
- **Lidrar:** Local tributary network

Major Hydroelectric Infrastructure

■ **Salal Hydroelectric Project**

- Location: Reasi district
- Significant power generation capacity
- Strategic infrastructure for regional development

■ **Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project**

- Location: Ramban district
- Major power generation facility
- Critical for regional energy security

■ **Dul Hasti Hydroelectric Plant**

- Location: Kishtwar district
- Important renewable energy source
- Regional development catalyst

■ **Ratle Hydroelectric Plant**

- Location: Drabshalla, Kishtwar district
- Future power generation capacity
- Planned infrastructure development

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) - Engineering Challenge

Context: India's National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) reported "irreparable damage" to structures of three barrages in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), highlighting significant engineering challenges.



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Project Overview and Significance

■ Global Recognition

- World's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project
- Located on the Godavari River system
- Represents ambitious water management engineering

■ Lift Irrigation Technology

- Water transportation without gravity dependence
- Utilizes pumps and surge pools for water lifting
- Main delivery chamber at highest project point
- Distribution system for agricultural irrigation

Project Objectives and Scope

■ Primary Goals

- Utilize Godavari River waters including tributaries
- Support irrigation across multiple districts
- Facilitate industrial water supply
- Multiple-purpose water resource development

■ Geographic Coverage

- Spans 500 kilometers through 13 districts
- Extensive canal network exceeding 1,800 kilometers
- Comprehensive water distribution system
- Regional agricultural transformation

Godavari River - The Dakshin Ganga

■ Geographic Significance

- Also called "Dakshin Ganga" or "Ganga of the South"
- Longest river in Peninsular India
- Origin: Western Ghats in Nashik district, Maharashtra
- Destination: Bay of Bengal through eastward flow



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■ Regional Impact

- Major water source for peninsular India
- Supports agriculture across multiple states
- Critical for regional water security
- Significant cultural and economic importance

National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA)

■ Legal Framework

- Statutory body under National Dam Safety Act, 2021
- Comprehensive dam safety regulation authority
- Coordination mechanism for safety standards

■ Core Functions

- Dam safety regulation and monitoring
- Inter-state coordination for dam safety
- Disaster resilience planning and implementation
- Technical standards development and enforcement

May 5, 2025

Igla-S Missiles - Defense Capability Enhancement

Context: *The Indian Army has received fresh supplies of Russian-made Igla-S missiles, strengthening the country's air defense capabilities.*

Technical Specifications of Igla-S Missiles

■ System Classification

- Russian-manufactured man-portable air-defense system (MANPADS)
- Shoulder-fired, individual soldier operation capability
- Highly mobile and deployable defense system



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■ Target Engagement Capabilities

- Low-flying aircraft interception
- Helicopter engagement systems
- Drone and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) targeting
- Cruise missile interception capabilities

Advanced Technical Features

■ Guidance System

- Infrared (IR) homing technology
- Heat signature target locking mechanism
- Dual-band IR seeker for enhanced accuracy

■ Countermeasure Resistance

- Enhanced anti-jamming capabilities
- Improved resistance to decoy flares
- Advanced electronic countermeasure protection

■ Performance Parameters

- **Engagement Range:** Up to 6 kilometers
- **Altitude Coverage:** Up to 3.5 kilometers
- **Target Speed:** High-velocity aerial targets

System Evolution and Development

■ Historical Context

- Advanced version of original Igla missile system
- Igla system in service since 1990s
- Continuous technological improvement and upgrades

■ Strategic Importance

- Critical component of layered air defense
- Protection for strategic installations
- Mobile defense for forward positions



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- Counter-drone warfare capabilities

Khelo India Youth Games - Sporting Excellence Initiative

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 7th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games, reinforcing India's commitment to youth sports development.

Khelo India Program Overview

■ Program Launch and Vision

- Launched: October 14, 2017
- Comprehensive sports development initiative
- Government of India flagship program

■ Twin Objectives

- **Mass Participation:** Encouraging widespread sports participation
- **Excellence Promotion:** Nurturing elite sporting talent
- Balanced approach to sports development

Success Stories and Impact

- Multiple Khelo India athletes representing India internationally
- Olympic Games participation by program alumni
- Asian Games representation through program development
- Measurable contribution to India's sporting success

Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2025 Specifications

■ Event Details

- **Duration:** May 4-15, 2025
- **Host State:** Bihar
- **Host Cities:** Patna, Rajgir, Gaya, Bhagalpur, and Begusarai
- **Additional Venue:** New Delhi (shooting, gymnastics, track cycling)

■ Mascot and Cultural Significance

- **Mascot:** "Gajsimha"



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- **Symbolism:** Elephant's power combined with lion's heart
- **Inspiration:** Pala dynasty historical carvings
- **Cultural Integration:** Regional heritage representation

Sports and Innovation Features

■ **Sport Categories**

- **Total Sports:** 27 different sporting disciplines
- **New Addition:** Esports as demonstration sport (first time inclusion)
- **Medal Sport Addition:** Sepaktakraw (first time as medal sport)
- **Comprehensive Coverage:** Traditional and modern sports

Khelo India Games Categories

■ **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)**

- Target: School and junior-level athletes
- Age-appropriate competition categories
- Talent identification and development

■ **Khelo India University Games (KIUG)**

- Target: University-level athletes
- Higher education sports integration
- Academic-athletic balance promotion

■ **Khelo India Para Games (KIPG)**

- Target: Para-athletes and differently-abled sportspersons
- Inclusive sports development
- Accessibility and participation focus

■ **Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG)**

- Target: Winter sports enthusiasts
- Seasonal sport development
- Regional climate-specific activities



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May 6, 2025

NAMASTE Scheme - Sanitation Worker Dignity Initiative

Context: A NAMASTE scheme event in Budaun, Uttar Pradesh honored sanitation workers, highlighting the government's commitment to worker safety and dignity.

About NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem)

■ Program Launch and Framework

- **Launch Date:** July 2023
- **Implementing Ministries:** Social Justice and Empowerment (lead), Housing and Urban Affairs (collaboration)
- **Scheme Type:** Central Sector Scheme
- **Target:** Comprehensive sanitation worker support

Core Objectives and Vision

■ Primary Goals

- Ensure complete safety of sanitation workers
- Maintain dignity in sanitation work
- Comprehensive rehabilitation of sanitation workers
- Eliminate hazardous manual cleaning practices

■ Mechanization Focus

- Promote mechanized sanitation practices
- Ensure safe working conditions
- Develop skilled sanitation workforce
- Technology integration in sanitation work

Comprehensive Program Components

■ Worker Profiling and Documentation

- Complete profiling of Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs)
- Database creation for targeted support



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- Identity verification and registration

■ Health Security Measures

- Health insurance coverage under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)
- Comprehensive medical coverage
- Preventive healthcare access

■ Skill Development and Training

- Occupational safety training programs for SSWs
- Technical skill enhancement
- Safety protocol education

■ Financial Support Mechanisms

- Upfront capital subsidy for sanitation vehicle procurement
- Equipment acquisition support
- Technology upgrade assistance

■ Safety Equipment Provision

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits for SSWs
- Safety devices for Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs)
- Comprehensive protective gear distribution

■ Awareness and Communication

- Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns
- Safety and dignity awareness programs
- Community sensitization initiatives

Program Expansion and Inclusivity

■ 2024 Enhancement

- Waste pickers added under scheme coverage
- Expanded beneficiary base
- Comprehensive waste management worker support



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■ Support Framework

- Safe livelihood promotion
- Dignified working condition establishment
- Sustainable livelihood opportunities

OPEC and OPEC+ - Global Oil Market Dynamics

Context: Oil prices experienced significant decline to multi-year lows as OPEC+ announced plans to accelerate production increases, impacting global energy markets.

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

■ Historical Background

- **Establishment:** 1960 at Baghdad Conference
- **Founding Members:** Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela, Kuwait, and Iraq
- **Intergovernmental Organization:** Sovereign state cooperation

■ Current Membership OPEC comprises 12 member nations:

- Algeria
- Congo
- Equatorial Guinea
- Gabon
- Iran
- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Libya
- Nigeria
- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates
- Venezuela

■ Organizational Structure

- **Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria (non-member state)



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- **Decision-Making:** Consensus-based approach
- **Coordination:** Regular ministerial meetings

OPEC Objectives and Functions

■ **Primary Objectives**

- Coordinate petroleum policies among member states
- Ensure fair and stable oil prices
- Maintain steady income for oil-producing countries
- Balance petroleum supply and demand dynamics

■ **Market Influence**

- Significant global oil supply control
- Price stabilization mechanisms
- Market intervention capabilities
- Strategic reserve management

OPEC+ Formation and Expansion

■ **Extended Partnership Structure**

- **Total Members:** 22 countries
- **OPEC Members:** 12 original member states
- **Non-OPEC Partners:** 10 major oil-producing countries

■ **Non-OPEC+ Partners**

- Russia (largest non-OPEC partner)
- Kazakhstan
- Azerbaijan
- Brunei
- Bahrain
- Mexico
- Oman
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Malaysia



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OPEC+ Historical Development

■ **Formation Timeline**

- **September 2016:** Algiers Accord adoption by OPEC countries
- **November 2016:** Vienna Agreement signing between OPEC and non-OPEC producers
- **2016 Formation:** Response to sharply falling oil prices

■ **Market Context**

- Addressed surge in U.S. shale oil production
- Responded to global oil price volatility
- Established coordinated production management
- Created enhanced market stability mechanisms

Current Market Implications

The recent decision to accelerate production increases reflects complex market dynamics including global economic conditions, energy transition pressures, and strategic positioning in the evolving global energy landscape.

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