

Daily Current Affairs 21 May 2026: Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri | ISRO | Panjatnath

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National News

01 Passing of Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri

Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Major General Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri passed away at the age of 91. He had served as a Major General in the Indian Army.

- He served as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand twice, between 2007-2009 and 2011-2012.
- During Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure, he handled responsibilities as the Minister of Road Transport and Highways.

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- Uttarakhand was established on 9 November 2000, becoming the 27th state of India.
- For competitive exams, it is always helpful to keep track of the current Governor and Chief Minister of the state.

02 Driverless Air Train at Delhi Airport

India is set to launch its first automated driverless air train, also known as the Automated People Mover, at Indira Gandhi International Airport.

- The project spans 7.7 kilometers in length.
- It aims to connect various terminals, Cargo City, and Aerocity for smoother passenger movement.

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- The IGI Airport in Delhi stands as one of the world's busiest airports.
- It is managed by DIAL (Delhi International Airport Limited).

03 Panjatnath Spring Conservation Festival

Celebrated in Panjat village, Anantnag district, Jammu and Kashmir, this festival focuses on preserving natural water springs.

- Local participants took part in cleaning the water source and enjoyed fishing competitions.
- The spring is historically documented as 'Panchahasta' in Kalhana's Rajatarangini.

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- Rajatarangini is considered the most reliable ancient record of Kashmir's history.
- It was written by the poet Kalhana in the 12th century.

International and Scientific News

04 ISRO's Shukrayaan-1 Mission

ISRO is gearing up to launch the 'Shukrayaan-1' mission in 2028 to study the planet Venus.

- The mission will incorporate a 'Venusian Neutrals Analyzer' provided by the Swedish Institute of Space Physics.
- With a budget of approximately 1236 crore rupees, the mission will be launched using the LVM3 rocket.

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- The headquarters of ISRO is located in Bengaluru.
- LVM3 is recognized as one of India's most powerful heavy-lift launch vehicles.

05 Pragati 2026 Military Exercise

The multilateral military exercise 'Pragati 2026' has officially commenced at the Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya.

- Troops from India and 12 other nations in the Indian Ocean Region are participating.
- The exercise places significant emphasis on counter-terrorism operations.

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- Meghalaya is a northeastern state of India, widely celebrated for its natural beauty.
- Umroi Military Station serves as a strategic base for the Indian Army.

06 World Metrology Day

World Metrology Day is observed every year on 20 May.

- The theme for 2026 is "Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making".
- The date marks the signing of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875.

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- The Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) is located in Sèvres, France.

Other Important News

- NADA has imposed a 3-year ban on two athletes for the use of Meldonium.
- Gunveer Singh has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the RBI.
- New Delhi is currently hosting the 68th annual meeting of the Asian Productivity Organization.
- Indian-origin golfer Aaron Roy has won the 108th USPGA Championship.

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