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1. Successful Test of Long-Range 'Kusha' Missile

- i. The long-range surface-to-air missile 'Kusha' was successfully tested from the launch facility at Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Defence. The test was conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ii. The missile is capable of intercepting and neutralizing aerial threats such as missiles, drones, and fighter aircraft launched by hostile nations.
- iii. All components of the Kusha weapon system, including radars, command and control centers, and associated equipment, have been developed by DRDO and its laboratories.

2. Ebola Death Toll Crosses 1,000 in Congo

- i. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the death toll from the Ebola outbreak has reached 1,031.
- ii. Since the outbreak began on May 15, a total of 2,473 infections have been confirmed. The currently spreading Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus has no approved treatment, resulting in an unprecedented number of deaths within a short period.

3. Massive Wildfires in Southwestern France

- i. As wildfires continue to spread rapidly across southwestern France, around 20,000 people have been evacuated from tourist destinations and residential areas along the Atlantic coast.
- ii. The fire, spreading through forest areas around Lège-Cap-Ferret, southwest of Bordeaux, has already destroyed about 2,400 hectares (5,900 acres) of land.
- iii. Government data show that more than 12,500 wildfire incidents have been recorded in France this year, affecting approximately 44,000 hectares of land.

4. 2027 World Test Championship Final at The Oval

- i. The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that the 2027 World Test Championship (WTC) Final will be held at The Oval, London, from June 9 to June 13.
- ii. This will be the second time The Oval hosts a WTC Final. In the 2023 final, Australia defeated India by 209 runs to become champions.
- iii. England secured the rights last year to host the next three WTC finals. Accordingly, the finals of 2027, 2029, and 2031 will all be held in England. The previous editions in 2021, 2023, and 2025 were also hosted there.

5. 23rd Commonwealth Games Open in Glasgow

- i. The 23rd Commonwealth Games began with a grand opening ceremony in Glasgow, Scotland.
- ii. The ceremony, held at Glasgow's OVO Hydro Arena, featured Scottish music and cultural performances. Athletes from 74 participating nations marched in the parade.
- iii. Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu carried the national flag during the march-past, while boxer Lovlina Borgohain carried the Commonwealth Games baton.
- iv. Britain's King Charles III, accompanied by Queen Camilla, officially declared the Games open.

6. Assam Flood Death Toll Rises to 41

- i. The death toll due to floods and heavy rains in Assam has risen to 41 after ten more fatalities were reported.
- ii. Torrential rains, including cloudbursts, have caused severe flooding in several major rivers across the state.
- iii. More than 653,000 people have been affected across 11 districts, including Sivasagar, Charaideo, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Hojai, Kamrup, Karbi Anglong, and Nagaon.
- iv. Sivasagar district is the worst affected, with nearly 400,000 people impacted. The Desang and Dikhow rivers are flowing above danger levels.
- v. In Golaghat district, a breach along the Dhansiri River caused floodwaters to enter nearby villages, prompting intensified rescue operations.

7. Over 96,000 Cases Pending in Supreme Court

- i. The Central Government informed Parliament that more than 96,000 cases are pending before the Supreme Court of India.
- ii. Responding to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal cited data from the National Judicial Data Grid.
- iii. Key figures include:
 - More than 56.4 million (5.64 crore) cases are pending across courts in India.
 - Over 80,660 cases have remained pending in High Courts for more than 30 years.
 - In the Supreme Court, over 96,000 cases are pending.
 - Of these, 26 cases have been pending for more than 30 years.
 - 558 cases have been pending for over 20 years.
 - More than 10,000 cases have remained under consideration for over 10 years.

8. President Droupadi Murmu Visits Romania

- i. President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Romania, becoming the first Indian President to visit the country in the past 30 years.
- ii. She is expected to hold discussions on bilateral relations with Romanian President Nicusor Dan and Interim Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan.
- iii. She will also interact with the Romania–India Parliamentary Friendship Group, business leaders, and members of the Indian diaspora.
- iv. Romania, the largest country in Southeastern Europe, shares borders with Ukraine, Moldova, Hungary, Serbia, and Bulgaria.
- v. Around 13,000 Indians, including 10,000 workers, reside in Romania.
- vi. During the first leg of her three-nation visit, Murmu visited Moldova on July 19–20 and met President Maia Sandu.
- vii. She stated that India and Moldova agreed to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, and supply chains.
- viii. Later, on July 21–22, she visited North Macedonia and, along with President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova, unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi.

9. India Records 5.13 Lakh Road Accidents in 2025

- i. The Central Government informed Parliament that 513,000 road accidents occurred in India in 2025, resulting in 183,000 deaths.
- ii. On average, 21 people die every hour in road accidents.
- iii. According to a written reply by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari:
 - An average of 59 road accidents occur every hour.
 - About 21 people die every hour in these accidents.
 - In total, 5.13 lakh accidents and 1.83 lakh deaths were recorded in 2025.

Tamil Nadu Records Highest Number of Accidents

- iv. Among all states, Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of road accidents, with 71,387 cases.
- v. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of fatalities, with 27,550 deaths.
- vi. Preventive Measures
- vii. The Government has adopted a road safety policy based on four pillars:
 - Education
 - Engineering (roads and vehicles)
 - Enforcement
 - Emergency Care

Ethanol-Blended Petrol Does Not Harm Engines

- viii. The Government stated that claims on social media that ethanol-blended petrol damages engines or significantly reduces mileage are not supported by evidence.
 - E15+ petrol has been in use for over 3.5 years.
 - E19–E20 petrol has been in use for over 2.5 years.
 - The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme was launched after extensive testing.
 - Brazil and several other countries have used ethanol-blended fuel for many years.
 - India introduced the EBP programme on a pilot basis in 2001.
 - E5 petrol was introduced in 2006.
 - Ethanol blending stood at 1.53% during 2013–14 and has since been increased gradually.

Highway Development

ix. Across the country:

- 4,809 km of highways have been completed.
- Highway construction covering 5,580 km is currently underway.