

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS WING (RAW)



Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)

- It is India's external intelligence agency.
- It plays a crucial role in counter-terrorism, counter-proliferation, cybersecurity, and monitoring threats from outside the country.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- **Formation:**
 - Until 1968, the Intelligence Bureau (IB), which is responsible for India's internal intelligence, also handled external intelligence.
 - However, after the 1962 China-India war and the Indo-Pakistani war in 1965, India established a separate and distinct external intelligence organization—the R&AW.
 - Rameshwar Nath Kao was the first chief of R&AW.
 - Since its inception, RAW is credited with providing intelligence support to many significant operations on foreign soil.
- **Working mechanism:**
 - It collects military, economic, scientific, and political intelligence through covert and overt operations.
 - The agency is also charged with monitoring terrorist elements and smuggling rings that transport weapons and ammunition into India.
 - Indian officials rely on the intelligence collected by RAW to shift national security policy, revise foreign policy, and to influence international public opinion.
- **Authority:**
 - It directly comes under the prime ministerial office of India.
 - The Agency reports directly to the prime minister of India and not to anyone other than the PMO.

- Because R&AW is a necessarily **secretive organization**, many of its **activities remain classified**.
- The agency is **not liable to answer any questions in the Parliament** and the parliamentarians do not have the authority to raise questions on the funds which are allocated to the agency.

WHAT IS THE ABHAY SYSTEM?



ABHAY **System**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) recently launched an AI-based helpbot called “Abhay” for authentication of CBI notices.

- ABHAY (AI-Based Helpbot for Authentication of Your Notice) is an AI-powered notice verification system launched by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- **Purpose:** It is designed to help citizens identify fake CBI notices and protect themselves from rising “digital arrest” scams.
- It is **India’s first real-time notice verification system** developed specifically to combat **cyber-enabled fraud** and impersonation scams.
- The platform was created as fraudsters increasingly use fake law enforcement notices, AI-generated content, and deepfake technology to intimidate victims.

How does the System Work?

- Users receiving notices in the name of the CBI can **upload scanned copies** of the documents on the platform after completing OTP verification.
- The **AI-based system** then checks the authenticity of the notice and **flags it as either genuine or potentially fraudulent**.
- The ABHAY system is **available round-the-clock** through the **official CBI website** and the **dedicated verification portal, the ABHAY Verification Platform**.

WHAT IS EBOLA?



- It is a severe and often **deadly viral disease** caused by a group of viruses known as **orthoebolaviruses** (formerly ebolavirus).
- It is a **severe contagious disease affecting humans and non-human primates.**
- Ebola, **first identified in 1976 in southern Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, primarily affects remote villages in Central and West Africa.**
- It is known as a **hemorrhagic fever virus** because it can **cause problems with the clotting system** of the body and **lead to internal bleeding** as blood leaks from small blood vessels.
- **Transmission:**
 - The virus is **transmitted to people from wild animals** (such as fruit bats, porcupines, and non-human primates).
 - It then **spreads in the human population through direct contact** with the blood, secretions, organs, or other **bodily fluids** of infected people and with **surfaces and materials contaminated with these fluids.**
 - Ebola **cannot be transmitted by air.**
- **Infectious period:**
 - **Infected individuals are not contagious during the incubation period** and become infectious once they begin to develop symptoms.
 - They **remain infectious as long as the virus is present in the blood.**
- **Treatment:**
 - There is **no known cure** for Ebola.
 - There are **no approved drugs or vaccines** available to treat EVD, although **experimental vaccines and therapeutics are being tested.**
 - Chances of survival can be improved with **early supportive care.**

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 16 May 2026

- Recovery seems to depend in part on how much virus a person was initially exposed to, how early treatment is started, and on the patient's age and immune response.
- Current therapy consists of **maintenance of fluid and electrolyte balance** and the **administration of blood and plasma to control bleeding**.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



International Telecommunication Union

- It is the **United Nations specialized agency** for information and communication technologies.
 - It was established in 1865 as the **International Telegraph Union**.
 - **In 1947** the ITU became a specialized **agency of the United Nations**.
- It is an intergovernmental organization that **coordinates between governments and private sector bodies** with respect to **global telecommunication and information communication technology (ICT)** services.
- **Member countries:** It has a membership of **194 countries** and more than 1000 companies, universities and international and regional organizations.
- **India and ITU:** India has been an **active member of the ITU since 1869** and has been a regular member of the ITU Council since 1952.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Functions of International Telecommunication Union:**
 - Allocate global radio spectrum and satellite orbits
 - Coordination and setting of technical standards related to telecommunication/ICT;
 - Work to improve access to ICTs in underserved communities worldwide;
- **Governance:**
 - **ITU Council:** It acts as the governing body of the ITU and comprises **48 elected Member States**.
 - India has been a **member of the ITU Council since 1952**.

INDIA-UAE RELATIONS - STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP DEEPENS AMID WEST ASIA CRISIS

- The Indian Prime Minister (PM) **visited** the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during his multi-nation European tour and held talks with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi.
- The visit took place against the backdrop of escalating tensions in West Asia, including Iranian missile and drone attacks on the UAE and concerns over **disruptions** in global energy supplies through the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- India and the UAE signed several major agreements (key highlights below), and the UAE also announced **investments** worth **USD 5 billion** in India.
- **India-UAE Relations:**
 - India and the UAE established diplomatic relations in 1972. These relations gained a new momentum to a new Comprehensive and Strategic partnership when the Indian PM visited UAE in 2015.
 - UAE is India's third largest trading partner after China and US, while UAE is the second largest export destination of India (after the US).
 - Both nations cooperate in multilateral groups like **I2U2** (India, Israel, UAE, US) and are key stakeholders in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (**IMEC**).
 - The UAE hosts the largest Indian diaspora (**3.5 million**) and is a primary source of India's foreign remittances.
- **Strategic significance:** Growing Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and Gulf outreach under India's "**Link West Policy**".

Challenges and Concerns:

- **India's energy dependence:** Heavy reliance on Gulf imports exposes India to geopolitical shocks.

- **Regional instability in West Asia:** Escalating Iran-UAE tensions threaten energy supply chains. Risk of disruption in the Strait of Hormuz. Attacks on shipping routes and energy infrastructure can destabilise global trade.
- **Balancing regional diplomacy:** India must maintain balanced relations with UAE, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Israel, without compromising strategic interests.

Way Forward:

- **Diversify:** Energy sources and suppliers.
- **Expand:** Strategic petroleum reserves.
- **Accelerate:** Renewable energy transition.
- **Improve:** Maritime domain awareness.
- **Promote:** Joint production and defence technology transfer.
- **Improve:** Logistics integration through digital corridors and port modernisation.
- **Continue:** Strategic engagement with all major regional powers.

India's Strong Support to UAE Amid West Asia Conflict:

- The Indian PM strongly **condemned** the attacks on the UAE and reaffirmed India's solidarity with the Emirates.
- **Major diplomatic messages:**
 - India emphasised the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in resolving the West Asia conflict.
 - India reiterated support for restoring peace and stability in the region, by stressing that the Strait of Hormuz must remain "free, open and safe".

Conclusion:

- The latest India-UAE agreements reflect the **transformation** of India-UAE ties from a traditional energy relationship into a multidimensional strategic partnership.
- This will have significant implications for regional stability, economic growth and India's global strategic positioning.

CHAPRALA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Chaprala Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located in the Gadchiroli district of **Maharashtra**.
- It is located on the bank of the **confluence of the Wardha and Wainganga rivers**.
- The **Pranhita River** flows along its **western boundary**.
- During the monsoons, river water swells and enters the sanctuary.
- Additionally, several water bodies, including the **Murgikunta, Raikonta, and Komatkunta tanks**, further contribute to the sanctuary's biodiversity.
- It is also home to the indigenous **Gond tribal community**.
- **Vegetation:** It is dominated by **southern tropical dry deciduous forests interspersed with grasslands**.
- **Flora:** The dominant tree species include **teak, arjun, salai, mahua, bel, dhawada, tendu, sissoo, and semal**.
- **Fauna:**
 - It is inhabited by **Tiger, Leopard, Wild boar, Sloth bear, Wild dogs, Langurs, Blackbuck, Spotted Deer, Sambar, Jackal, Mongoose, etc.**
 - The sanctuary also features a distinctive **riparian ecosystem** that supports a diverse **aquatic fauna, including fish, prawns, and turtles**.

Key Facts about Pranhita River:

- It is a significant **tributary of the Godavari River, formed by the confluence of the Wardha and Wainganga rivers**.
- It flows through the states of **Maharashtra and Telangana**.
- The **river course** is principally through the **dense forests, which are rich in Sagwan or timber trees**.
- By virtue of its **extensive network of tributaries**, the river **drains all of the Vidharba region** as well as the **southern slopes of the Satpura Ranges**.

WHAT IS COMMON BRONZEBACK?



- It is a **non-venomous** species of **tree snake** found in **South and Southeast Asia**.
- Scientific Name: *Dendrelaphis tristis*
- **Other Names: Indian Bronzeback Tree Snake and Daudin's Bronzeback**
- **Habitat and Distribution:**
 - They are found in **Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Bhutan**.
 - They inhabit **dry forests, wet montane forests, and the Himalayan foothills**.
 - They can also occur in **rural and urban areas**, in gardens and parks.
 - They are **arboreal** and prefer the treetops to life on the ground.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - IUCN Red List: **Least Concern**

HANTAVIRUS AS A WARNING: WHY ZONOTIC OUTBREAKS MAY BECOME MORE COMMON

- Hantaviruses are RNA viruses primarily transmitted through contact with infected rodents, their urine, saliva or droppings, causing severe respiratory or haemorrhagic syndromes in humans.

Zoonotic Diseases

- Zoonoses are infectious diseases that naturally transmit from vertebrate animals to humans; examples include **COVID-19, Ebola, Nipah, Avian Influenza, Rabies and Hantavirus**.

India's Relevance

High Biodiversity and Dense Population

- India's ecological diversity and close human-animal interactions create conditions conducive to zoonotic emergence.

Recent Zoonotic Outbreaks

- India has faced repeated outbreaks of **Nipah virus, Avian Influenza, Kyasanur Forest Disease and Scrub Typhus.**

National One Health Mission

- India has initiated cross-sectoral surveillance involving health, veterinary and environmental institutions to strengthen preparedness.

Challenges

Fragmented Institutional Coordination

- Public health, veterinary and wildlife systems often function in silos with limited data interoperability.

Weak Local Capacity

- Many high-risk regions lack diagnostic laboratories and trained epidemiological personnel.

Environmental Degradation

- Continued deforestation and biodiversity loss intensify human-wildlife contact.

Funding Constraints

- Preventive surveillance receives far less investment than curative healthcare.

Way Forward

- Expand One Health surveillance across districts and ecosystems.
- Strengthen wildlife and veterinary laboratories.
- Integrate climate and disease forecasting.
- Regulate high-risk livestock systems and wildlife trade.
- Invest in local public health capacity and genomic surveillance.
- Conserve forests and biodiversity as preventive health infrastructure.