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MAGAZINE NOTES

Science Reporter May 2026 - Artemis II and India's Nuclear Stage 2

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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Science Reporter May 2026 - Artemis II and India's Nuclear Stage 2



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Science Reporter

CSIR · Monthly

EDITION

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MAINS:

GS Paper 3

Science Reporter's May 2026 issue (CSIR-NIScPR, Vol 63), a National Technology Day special, leads with **“Artemis II: A Mission that Rewired Human Aspiration for Extraplanetary Conquest”** by Biju Dharmapalan, and carries the issue's highest-yield UPSC material: India's fast breeder reactor milestone and two features on the green hydrogen economy.

ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Artemis II** (cover story) - NASA's first crewed Artemis mission and the new lunar race
- 2 **Stage 2 Success: Inside the Nuclear Milestone that Changes India's Future** - the PFBR's first criticality at Kalpakkam
- 3 **India's National Green Hydrogen Mission: Powering the Sustainable Future** - SIGHT, targets and electrolyser economics
- 4 **The Hydrogen Journey Transforming India's Energy Landscape** - the production-to-use chain
- 5 **The Self-Learning Revolution in India: From MOOCs to Smart MOOCs** - AI-era online learning
- 6 **Anyons: New quasiparticles with 'memory'** - the building blocks of topological quantum computing
- 7 **Plasma: Not just a Fourth State of Matter** - plasma science applications
- 8 **Plus:** CSIR-NIScPR as India's ISSN custodian, creative thinking in children, lakes of India and biodiversity-day quizzes

KEY CONCEPTS

TERM	MEANING
PFBR	Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor, 500 MWe, Kalpakkam; operated by BHAVINI
Three-stage programme	Bhabha's plan: PHWRs, fast breeders, then thorium reactors
MOX fuel	Mixed oxide of uranium and plutonium, the PFBR's fuel
Green hydrogen	Hydrogen from renewables-powered electrolysis (vs grey from gas, blue with CCS)
SIGHT	Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition; the mission's incentive arm
Anyon	2D quasiparticle whose "memory" underpins topological quantum computing
Artemis II	NASA's first crewed Artemis mission, a lunar flyby

PRELIMS POINTERS

- PFBR first criticality: April 6, 2026, Kalpakkam; sodium-cooled, 500 MWe, BHAVINI-operated
- India holds about 25 percent of global thorium reserves but only 1-2 percent of uranium
- National Green Hydrogen Mission: January 2023; Rs 19,744 crore; 5 MMT/year by 2030
- National Technology Day: May 11 (Pokhran-II, 1998)
- International Day for Biological Diversity: May 22
- CSIR-NIScPR is India's national ISSN centre

UPSC GS RELEVANCE

- **GS3 (dominant):** nuclear energy, green hydrogen, space, quantum frontier

1 Chapters in this Edition

1

Stage 2 Success and the Hydrogen Journey: India's Twin Energy Bets



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[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/magazines/2026/science-reporter-may-2026/>

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