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TODAY'S EDITION (MAY 27, 2026):

Two major Supreme Court verdicts (ECI's Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls; 28% GST on online money gaming), Cabinet approval of the ₹25,530 crore **SARTHAK-PDS** modernisation scheme, India climbing to the **2nd-largest data centre market in Asia-Pacific** (Cushman & Wakefield 2026 report), DRDO's **GaN MMIC breakthrough** placing India in a 7-nation club, the **rediscovery of the Long-tailed Duskhawker dragonfly** in Namdapha after 110 years, and the **62nd death anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**.

AT A GLANCE

#	HEADLINE	GS PAPER	READ MORE
1	SC upholds ECI's SIR of electoral rolls	GS2	Read
2	SC upholds 28% GST on online money gaming	GS3	Read
3	Cabinet approves SARTHAK-PDS scheme — ₹25,530 crore	GS2/GS3	Read
4	India 2nd in APAC data centre capacity	GS3	Read
5	India becomes 7th nation with GaN MMIC tech	GS3	Read
6	Long-tailed Duskhawker rediscovered after 110 years	GS3	Read
7	Nehru — 62nd death anniversary	GS1	Read

1. SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS ECI'S SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION (SIR)

GS Paper 2 — Polity: A Supreme Court bench led by **CJI Surya Kant** (with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi) upheld the ECI's **Special Intensive Revision** of electoral rolls in Bihar and other states. The Court held that maintaining the “**purity, integrity, and accuracy**” of electoral rolls is a constitutional duty under **Article 324**, while emphasising that the exercise must remain fair, inclusive, and non-arbitrary

with safeguards (reasoned notice + hearing + appellate remedies). The Court also held that the **ECI can examine citizenship** in the context of voter registration. The Bihar SIR (2025) triggered the litigation amid allegations of mass disenfranchisement of poor and minority voters.

2. SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS 28% GST ON ONLINE MONEY GAMING

GS Paper 3 — Economy: A bench of Justices **J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan** upheld the **28% GST levy** on the **full face value** of bets placed on online money gaming, fantasy sports, casinos and horse racing. The Court ruled that the **skill-vs-chance distinction is irrelevant** once money is staked on an uncertain outcome — validating tax demands exceeding **₹1 lakh crore** (industry exposure: ~₹2.5 lakh crore). The amended regime (**CGST Amendment Act, 2023**) has been effective since **October 1, 2023**; the verdict closes long-pending litigation including the **₹21,000 crore Gameskraft notice (2022)**.

3. CABINET APPROVES SARTHAK-PDS SCHEME — ₹25,530 CRORE

GS Paper 2/3 — Schemes & Food Security: The Union Cabinet approved the “**Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling — Income with Automation in PDS (SARTHAK-PDS)**” with a central outlay of **₹25,530 crore** for **April 2026 – March 2031**. It merges the **Intra-State Movement of Foodgrains scheme** with SMART-PDS, and deploys **AI, ML, NLP and Blockchain** to modernise the PDS — promising a **15–50% reduction** in foodgrain travel distances and tighter chain-of-custody. The scheme operates under the **National Food Security Act, 2013** umbrella, which entitles ~81 crore Indians to subsidised foodgrains (currently **free** under PMGKAY through December 31, 2028).

4. INDIA 2ND IN APAC DATA CENTRE CAPACITY — CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD

GS Paper 3 — S&T/Economy: As per **Cushman & Wakefield’s Global Data Center Market Comparison 2026**, India is the **2nd largest data centre market in Asia-Pacific** with **1.6 GW** operational capacity, behind only mainland China. Another **3.1 GW** is under construction or planned. **Mumbai** is set to cross **1 GW** operational by end-2026 — India’s first gigawatt-scale DC hub. The six key markets are **Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune**. With population-per-MW at ~9.43 lakh, India remains structurally underpenetrated — and AI workloads (40–100+ kW per rack) are accelerating capacity builds.

5. INDIA BECOMES 7TH NATION WITH GAN MMIC CAPABILITY

GS Paper 3 — S&T/Defence: DRDO’s **Solid State Physics Laboratory (SSPL), Delhi** has indigenously developed **Gallium Nitride Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuits (GaN MMICs)**, placing India in a select **7-nation club** (USA, France, Russia, Germany, South Korea, China, India). The breakthrough — driven by **France’s earlier refusal** to transfer GaN under the Rafale 2016 offset clause — enables indigenous

AESA radars, electronic warfare suites, satellite communications and naval radars. GaN is a **wide-bandgap semiconductor** (3.4 eV vs Silicon's 1.1 eV) with high power density and switching speed; commercial applications span 5G/6G base stations, EV chargers and data centres.

6. GYNACANTHA KHASIACA — LONG-TAILED DUSKHAWKER REDISCOVERED AFTER 110 YEARS

GS Paper 3 — Environment: The **Long-tailed Duskhawker dragonfly** (*Gynacantha khasiaca*) — last recorded in Arunachal Pradesh during the **1914 Abor Expedition** — has been **rediscovered in Namdapha Tiger Reserve** during an **October 2024** biodiversity survey along the **Miao–Vijaynagar road**. The publication appeared in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa* in **May 2026**. The species, described by **McLachlan in 1896** from the Khasi Hills, is **IUCN Data Deficient**. Namdapha — declared a **National Park and Tiger Reserve in 1983** — is the only Indian PA hosting **all four big cats** (tiger, common leopard, clouded leopard, snow leopard). The rediscovery underscores how India's invertebrate inventory remains massively under-documented in the Eastern Himalaya biodiversity hotspot.

7. NEHRU — 62ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

GS Paper 1 — Modern History: **May 27** marks the 62nd death anniversary of **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** (1889–1964), India's first Prime Minister (tenure **August 15, 1947 – May 27, 1964**, 16 years 286 days — the longest unbroken PM tenure). Tributes were paid at **Shantivan**, his memorial on the Yamuna. Nehru's institution-building legacy includes the **Planning Commission (1950)**, **IIT Kharagpur (1951)**, **Atomic Energy Commission (1948)** with Homi Bhabha, **AIIMS Delhi (1956)**, **Panchsheel (1954)**, **Non-Aligned Movement (1961, Belgrade)**, the **Hindu Code Bills (1955–56)**, and the foundational **Objectives Resolution (December 13, 1946)** that became the basis of the Preamble. His phrase "**scientific temper**" later became a **Fundamental Duty (Article 51A(h), 42nd Amendment, 1976)**. He received the **Bharat Ratna in 1955** while in office.

BRIEF — OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

West Bengal — Annapurna Bhandar Yojana Application Opens

The **Government of West Bengal** opened applications on **May 27, 2026** for the **Annapurna Bhandar Yojana**, providing eligible women **₹3,000/month via Aadhaar-linked DBT** starting **June 1, 2026**. The scheme **replaces the Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme**; existing beneficiaries are migrated automatically. Decided at the new WB Cabinet's first meeting on **May 11, 2026** and notified on **May 19, 2026**. Implementing department: **WB Integrated Child Development Services (WBICDS)**. *Significance:* part of the rising trend of state-level unconditional cash transfers to women — fiscal sustainability questions are increasingly acute across states.

Andhra Pradesh — “Farm-to-Home” Strategy

Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu unveiled a “Farm-to-Home” agricultural strategy mandating direct delivery of **fruits and vegetables** from farmers to consumer doorsteps via **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)** — bypassing middlemen. *Significance:* AP joins states pushing FPO-led disintermediation; the Centre’s **10,000 FPOs scheme (2020)** is the underlying enabler. *Watchpoints:* cold-chain logistics, FPO governance capacity, demand aggregation at city level.

UPSC CONNECT — TODAY’S THEMES

THEME	PAPER	WHY IT MATTERS
ECI’s institutional autonomy + Article 324	GS2	Recurring Mains theme on constitutional bodies
GST architecture and Article 246A	GS3	Federal fiscal design; digital economy taxation
Welfare delivery via technology (PDS)	GS2/GS3	Plug-leakage vs inclusion trade-off
Data centres + AI compute sovereignty	GS3	Digital infrastructure as critical infrastructure
Compound semiconductors (GaN/SiC)	GS3	Indigenisation in strategic technologies
Biodiversity in Eastern Himalaya	GS3	Hotspot conservation + bio-indicators
Nehruvian institution-building	GS1/GS2	Post-independence consolidation

Watch for follow-ups on the SC SIR judgment (state-wise SIR rollouts), GST Council reactions, and PIB releases on SARTHAK-PDS operational guidelines.

Sources: *The Hindu*, *Indian Express*, *LiveMint*, *PIB*, *Bar and Bench*

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