

CURRENT AFFAIRS: 03.05.2026

Operation Mule Hunt 1.0

Recently, **Gujarat Police** uncovered cyber fraud worth **₹2,289 crore** and took action against **913 mule bank accounts** under a Statewide crackdown called **Operation Mule Hunt 1.0**.

- **Data Sources:** Gujarat Police compiled data from the **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), Coordination Portal and the 1930 cybercrime helpline.
- **Risk-Scoring System:** To make action against mule accounts more efficient and proactive, the **Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC)** is implementing an AI-based risk-scoring system under **Reserve Bank of India(RBI)** guidelines.
- **Transaction Classification:** Under this system, each transaction will be classified as low risk, medium risk or high risk so that suspicious accounts can be identified and banks can take necessary action.
- **Information Sharing:** IDPIC has been made the **nodal agency**, and a **registry called mulehunter.ai** has been created to share information about suspicious accounts among banks.

Mule Account

- **About:** A mule account is a bank account used to **facilitate illegal activities**.
 - A money mule is someone who **transfers or moves illegally acquired money** on **behalf** of someone else.
- **Banking Vulnerability:** Transnational cybercriminals use accounts of **shell companies** and individuals as **mule accounts**, exploiting the **bulk payout facility** provided by banks
- **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre:** I4C is a national-level coordination centre for addressing cybercrime issues.
 - It is an initiative by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, approved in 2018 and dedicated to the nation in 2020. Its headquarters are in **New Delhi**.
 - It provides a coordinated and comprehensive framework for law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to tackle cybercrimes.

Index of Industrial Production and Revision of Base Year

India's **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** growth slowed to **4.9% in April 2026** from **5.8% in April 2025**, while the government introduced a revised **IIP series with 2022-23 as the new base year, replacing 2011-12**.

- **Sectoral Performance (April 2026):** The manufacturing sector, which dominates with about 76% weight in the IIP basket, grew by 6.2%.
 - Conversely, the mining and quarrying sector experienced a sharp contraction of over 5%.
- **Use-Based Classification Trends (April 2026):** Growth accelerated in Capital goods (16%) and Infrastructure/Construction goods (7.1%). However, growth moderated in primary goods, consumer durables, and consumer non-durables.

Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- **About:** Published monthly by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), it serves as a reliable barometer for the overall health of the industrial sector.
 - It is a **macroeconomic indicator** that measures the short-term changes in the **volume of industrial production in an economy** over a specific period.
- **Base Year Revision:** The IIP base year has been officially updated from 2011-12 to 2022-23, making it the latest major macroeconomic indicator to be revised in 2026 alongside the **GDP**.
 - The index value for the base year is always set to 100, and current production is measured as a percentage against it.
- **Expanded Product Basket:** The revised index now tracks a larger basket consisting of 1,042 products mapped to 463 item groups (up from 839 items and 407 groups).
 - Furthermore, the weights assigned to each sector and industry have been revised in alignment with the updated **Gross Value Added (GVA) 2022-23 series**.
- **Broadened Sectoral Coverage:** The new IIP series expands its traditional scope by incorporating **gas supply, water supply, sewerage, and waste management** activities alongside the existing core categories of mining and quarrying, manufacturing, and electricity.
 - Electricity generation is now cleanly split **between renewable and non-renewable sources**, offering a sharper view of the country's green energy transition.
- **Significance:** IIP is a key high-frequency indicator of economic activity, as GDP data is released only quarterly.
 - It serves as an **early measure of industrial performance**, helping policymakers, the **RBI**, and analysts assess **economic momentum**, monitor sectoral demand trends, formulate policies, and **forecast future GDP growth**.

Delhi HC Recognises Right To Be Forgotten

The **Delhi High Court** has recognized the 'Right to Be Forgotten' (RTBF) as an intrinsic component of the **Right to Privacy** under Article 21 of the Constitution.

- **Right to be Forgotten (RTBF):** It allows individuals to seek removal of personal information from digital platforms when it becomes outdated, irrelevant, or infringes upon privacy.
 - The right was recognized by the **Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)** in the **2014 Google Spain case**, which held that search engines must remove information that is no longer relevant or excessive upon request.
- **Constitutional Source:** The court ruled that the **RTBF** empowers citizens to seek the removal of personal data from the public digital domain when its continuous availability no longer serves a legitimate public interest.
- **Enforceability Without Statutes:** The court explicitly observed that **even in the absence of a comprehensive statutory framework** in India explicitly governing the RTBF, **constitutional courts have the power to recognize and enforce this right**.
- **Mandated Action for Digital Intermediaries:** The court ordered authorities, search engine operators (like Google), and legal databases to **mask personal identifiers and disable "name-based search functionality"** for specified cases, ruling that these **de-indexing directions will operate globally**.
- **Balancing "Open Justice" vs. Dignity:** While acknowledging that the **principle of open justice** demands court proceedings stay accessible, it **does not mandate that a private citizen's name must act as a permanent, searchable key via commercial search engines**.

- Open justice ensures transparency, not the perpetual amplification of an individual's personal or legal struggles.
- **Scope of Digital Restoration:** Individuals who are acquitted, discharged, or whose cases are quashed or settled have the right to have these outcomes accurately reflected online.
- The Court said personal identifiers may be masked in publicly accessible judgments, but the legal reasoning, findings and conclusions must remain intact, with unredacted records preserved for legitimate legal purposes.
- **Exemptions:** The Right to Be Forgotten is **not absolute**, and relief may be denied in serious cases such as convictions for offences against **women or children and offences** involving breach of public trust by public servants, elected representatives or persons in fiduciary positions.

1. Consider the following statements regarding Public Interest Litigation (PIL):

1. PIL originated in Indian jurisprudence during the 1950s.
2. PIL relaxed the traditional rule of *Locus Standi*.
3. Article 39A provides the moral foundation for PILs in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

2. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), consider the following statements:

1. PMUY was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
2. LPG connections under PMUY are issued in the name of the adult male member of the household.
3. Ujjwala 2.0 allows migrants to apply using self-declaration as proof of address.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 3 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1 and 2 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

3. The Komagata Maru incident of 1914 is associated with:

- (A) Protest against the Rowlatt Act
- (B) Challenge to Canada's Continuous Journey Regulation
- (C) Formation of the Indian National Army
- (D) Opposition to the Partition of Bengal

4. Which of the following is NOT an unwritten convention regarding the election of the United Nations Secretary-General?

- (A) Regional rotation among UN regional groups
- (B) Two-term convention for the Secretary-General
- (C) Citizen of a P5 country cannot become Secretary-General
- (D) Election by direct vote of all citizens of member countries

Q. No.	Answer	Explanation
1	B	PIL relaxed the rule of <i>Locus Standi</i> and derives moral support from Article 39A. It did not originate in India.
2	A	PMUY was launched in 2016 by MoPNG and Ujjwala 2.0 allows self-declaration for migrants. LPG connection is issued in the name of the adult woman.
3	B	Komagata Maru challenged Canada's discriminatory Continuous Journey Regulation, which restricted Indian immigration.
4	D	The UN Secretary-General is not elected by direct voting of world citizens. Appointment is made by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council.