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DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 08/05/2026

1. Rusty-spotted Cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosus*):

Recent - Researchers sighted the rusty-spotted cat breeding in the Aravallis.

It is the world's smallest wild cat species and is often called the "hummingbird of the cat world."

Primarily nocturnal, solitary, and terrestrial, it climbs trees to evade predators and is a fierce, swift hunter.

Habitat: Deciduous forests, rocky outcrops, and grasslands across India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.

Distribution: Endemic to the Indian subcontinent, with India hosting ~80% of its global population.

IUCN: Near Threatened; WPA: Sch I; CITES: Appendix I for Indian populations & Appendix II elsewhere.

2. Geocell:

Recent - CSIR-Central Road Research Institute has used technical textile geocell made from end-of-life plastic in road construction technology.

Geocells are three-dimensional honeycomb-like structures used in civil engineering to stabilise soil and improve load-bearing capacity.

Function: They confine soil and aggregates, preventing erosion and enhancing the structural strength of roads.

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Applications: Widely used in road construction, slope protection, embankments, & erosion control.

Advantages: Provide high durability, improved load distribution, & reduced maintenance costs.

3. Extragalactic Jets

Recent - A recent study found that the shape and stability of extragalactic jets depend on the plasma composition underlying them.

Extragalactic jets are powerful near-light-speed plasma beams emitted from regions around supermassive black holes. They emit radiation across the electromagnetic spectrum, from radio waves to gamma rays.

They are launched through the Blandford–Znajek process, where spinning black holes twist magnetic fields to accelerate ionised matter; a galaxy with a jet directed toward Earth is called a blazar.

4. Twin-Sun (Circumbinary) Planets:

Recent - Astronomers identified 27 potential circumbinary (twin-sun) planets using data from Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS).

Twin-sun or circumbinary planets are planets that orbit around two stars instead of one.

Formation: They form in protoplanetary disks around binary stars, though their orbits are more complex due to gravitational interactions.

Conditions: Such planets may experience extreme climates, but some can exist in a habitable zone.

The first real circumbinary (twin-sun) planet was discovered in 2005.

TESS was launched in 2018 by NASA to detect planets outside the solar system, especially those orbiting nearby, bright stars. Uses the transit method—observes tiny dips in a star's brightness when a planet passes in front of it.

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5. IR – BRICS Employment Working Group Meeting:

The 2nd EWG meeting under India's BRICS Presidency 2026 was held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Countries shared best practices such as India's e-Shram & NCS, UAE's Wage Protection System, and Brazil's Equal Pay Law.

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