

**Weekly One Liners 11th to 17th May, 2026****PM Modi's UAE Visit: India and UAE Sign 7 Major Strategic Agreements**

Honorable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has paid the visit to United Arab Emirates (UAE), both countries have significantly strengthened the bilateral ties between the both nations. This high level meetings between both nations has featured several outcomes with the signing of seven major agreements in the sectors like, over energy security, defense cooperation, artificial intelligence, maritime infrastructure, workforce development and large scale investments.

**List of Agreements Signed****1. Major Energy Security with Strategic Petroleum Reserve Partnership**

One of the most important agreements involves the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

This partnership is strategically important because it will strengthens the India's long-term energy resilience.

The collaboration is expected to support the strategic petroleum reserve cooperation, stronger crude oil energy security, potential collaboration in LNG infrastructure and also focus on future LPG infrastructure expansion.

As India is heavily depends on imported energy, this strategic reserve partnerships are crucial during the global supply disruptions.

**2. Long-Term LPG Supply Agreement**

India and the UAE also signed the dedicated agreement for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supply.

This is important because LPG remains a key household and industrial fuel source in country.

A stable long term supply arrangement helps to,

- Reduce the supply uncertainty
- Also strengthen household fuel security
- Improve energy planning predictability
- And support the India's growing energy demand

**3. India-UAE Strategic Defence Partnership**

A major highlight of the visit is the Strategic Defence Partnership framework agreement.

This agreement will expands bilateral defense cooperation.

The agreement covers the,

- Defence manufacturing
- Military innovation
- Armed forces training
- Maritime security cooperation
- Cyber defence collaboration
- Secure communications systems

This reflects the shift from purely economic ties toward deeper security alignment.

**4. Gujarat's Vadinar Set for Major Maritime Infrastructure Project**

Also a proposed ship repair and maritime infrastructure cluster at Vadinar, Gujarat forms the another major outcome.

This aligns with the India's Make in India industrial ambitions.

The project could help the India to strengthen its maritime industrial ecosystem through the,

- Ship repair infrastructure
- Marine engineering growth
- Port-linked industrial activity
- Global maritime service competitiveness

**5. Skill Development Push for India's Maritime Workforce**

Also a dedicated arrangement on ship repair skill development was also announced.

This focuses on the workforce capacity building.

The main objective is to make India a stronger hub for the,

- Shipbuilding professionals
- Ship repair specialists
- Maritime engineering talent
- Industrial marine services

This agreement is vital because infrastructure growth without the skilled labor limits competitiveness.

**6. India-UAE AI Partnership: 8 Exaflop Supercomputer Cluster Announced**

One of the most futuristic announcements was the plan to establish the eight Exaflop supercomputer cluster.

This project will involve the collaboration between Centre for Development of Advanced Computing and G42.

This will be major AI and computing milestone.

Exaflop scale computing is associated with the extremely advanced computational capacity and it is useful in,

- Artificial intelligence
- Weather modelling
- Defence simulations
- Scientific research
- Large-scale data analytics
- Advanced computing innovation

**7. UAE Commits \$5 Billion Investment in India**

The UAE also committed the \$5 billion in investments across Indian infrastructure and financial institutions.

This could support sectors such as the,

- Transport infrastructure
- Urban development
- Logistics
- Industrial expansion
- Financial ecosystem strengthening

Also the large sovereign and strategic investments are often improve long-term economic confidence.

**National Affairs**

- The Somnath Temple marks **75 years** of its reopening and **1000 years** since the first recorded invasion in **1026**, celebrated nationwide through **Somnath Swabhiman Parv**.
- Revered as the first of the **12 Jyotirlingas** of **Lord Shiva**, the temple symbolizes India's **spiritual heritage**, resilience, and cultural continuity despite repeated invasions and reconstructions over centuries.
- Key figures like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, and Narendra Modi played major roles in the temple's reconstruction, revival, and modern development.
- Known for its grand architecture, including the **150-foot Shikhar**, **gold-plated Kalash**, and scenic Arabian Sea location, Somnath remains a powerful symbol of **faith**, **national pride**, and **civilisational continuity**.
- On **11 May 2026**, two female cheetahs from Botswana were released into the open forest of Kuno National Park under India's **Project Cheetah**, marking a key step in wildlife restoration.
- The animals had completed **quarantine and acclimatization**, adapting to India's climate, prey base, and forest ecosystem after being brought earlier in 2026.
- Launched in 2022, the **cheetah reintroduction programme** has involved relocations from Namibia, South Africa, and Botswana, with India's population now rising to around **57 cheetahs including cubs**.
- The project aims to rebuild a **self-sustaining wild cheetah population**, strengthen biodiversity, and expand habitats across sanctuaries like **Kuno, Gandhi Sagar, and Nauradehi**.
- Narendra Modi urged citizens to save **fuel** and avoid unnecessary **foreign travel** because India imports nearly **85% of its crude oil**, making the economy highly sensitive to rising global oil prices and geopolitical tensions. Higher **crude oil prices** increase the cost of **petrol, diesel, transport, groceries, flights, and daily essentials**, which raises **inflation** and puts pressure on household budgets and the Indian economy. Reducing unnecessary fuel use can help lower **oil imports**, protect **foreign exchange reserves**, support the **rupee**, and improve overall **economic stability** during periods of global uncertainty. Simple steps like **carpooling, public transport, smooth driving, and avoiding fuel wastage** can reduce personal expenses while also strengthening India's long-term **energy security** and economic resilience.
- A recent ruling by the Supreme Court of India on **Section 498A** highlighted the need to balance protection for women with preventing the false implication of entire families in **dowry harassment** cases. The court allowed proceedings against the husband to continue but quashed charges against the in-laws, stating that the allegations lacked **specific evidence** and were too general. Introduced in **1983**, Section 498A protects married women from **cruelty**,

- **domestic abuse, and dowry-related harassment**, but courts have increasingly stressed the importance of **individual accountability and evidence-based investigations**. The judgment reinforces that while **genuine victims** must receive strong legal protection, criminal proceedings against relatives should rely on clear proof, promoting fairness and greater **legal awareness** in family disputes.
- On **11 May 2026**, India launched the **Sehat Mission** in New Delhi under the leadership of Narendra Modi, aiming to link **agriculture, nutrition, and healthcare** into a unified national strategy. The mission is a joint initiative of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Indian Council of Medical Research, focusing on shifting India from a **disease-treatment model** to a **prevention and nutrition-based healthcare system**. It addresses key challenges like **malnutrition, micronutrient deficiency, diabetes, and other lifestyle diseases** by promoting **bio-fortified crops, millets, integrated farming systems, and "food as medicine" principles**. Through a **One Health approach** combining human, animal, and environmental health, the mission aims to improve **public health, farmer income, and sustainable food systems** across the country.
- The Government of India has announced the rollout of the **Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-G RAM G Act)**, which will replace the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) from 1 July 2026**, marking a major shift in rural employment policy.
- Under the new framework, eligible rural households will receive a **legal guarantee of 125 days of wage employment annually**, along with continued unemployment allowance and stronger livelihood support mechanisms. The program has a record budget allocation of about **₹95,692 crore for 2026-27**, aiming to boost **rural infrastructure, job creation, and village-level economic development** through enhanced spending and asset creation. With continued **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**, upgraded job cards, and a stronger role for **Gram Panchayats**, the reform focuses on transparency, faster wage payments, and decentralized rural governance.



- Supreme Court of India launched the **'One Case One Data' initiative** to digitally integrate judicial records across **Supreme Court**, High Courts, district and taluka courts. The reform aims to improve **case tracking**, document verification, inter-court coordination and faster access to judicial information through a unified digital system. Alongside this, the AI-powered chatbot **'Su-Sahayak'**, developed by the National Informatics Centre, was introduced to assist litigants, lawyers and citizens with court-related services. The initiative reflects India's push toward **AI-driven judicial modernization**, improving efficiency, transparency and digital accessibility in the justice delivery system.
- The Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified a **1% construction welfare cess** to support welfare schemes for construction workers across India from **May 1, 2026**. The cess will be charged on the **total construction cost** excluding land and compensation expenses, with funds managed by **state welfare boards** for worker benefits.
- The initiative aims to strengthen **healthcare, education assistance, insurance, and social security** for workers in the informal construction sector. The reform is part of India's new **labour codes**, while concerns remain over nearly **₹49,800 crore unutilised welfare funds** due to registration gaps and administrative delays.
- Surya Kant announced the formation of a **Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee** to modernize court infrastructure and improve India's justice delivery system. The high-powered committee, headed by Justice Aravind Kumar, will prepare a national roadmap to address issues like **outdated court buildings, digital gaps, overcrowding** and delays in case management across High Courts and district courts. Key focus areas include strengthening the **e-Courts initiative**, expanding digital filing, virtual hearings, case tracking systems and creating technology-enabled, citizen-friendly court complexes. The reform aims to improve judicial efficiency, reduce case backlogs and provide better facilities for litigants and lawyers as India pushes toward a more modern and accessible judiciary system.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the **Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)-Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Line Rail Project**, marking India's **first semi high-speed railway corridor** developed with indigenous technology. The ₹20,667 crore project, approved under the leadership of Narendra Modi, will add around **134 km** to the railway network and is expected to be completed by **FY 2030–31**. The corridor will strengthen connectivity between Ahmedabad, the Dholera Special Investment Region, the upcoming Dholera International Airport and the Lothal National Maritime Heritage Complex, boosting industrial growth, logistics and tourism. Planned under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, the project is expected to support **multi-modal connectivity, regional economic expansion, employment generation and India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision**.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, has approved a **₹37,500 crore scheme** to promote **surface coal and lignite gasification projects** across the country. The initiative aims to gasify nearly **75 million tonnes of coal and lignite** and supports India's larger target of achieving **100 million tonnes of coal gasification by 2030**. Coal gasification converts coal into **syngas (synthesis gas)**, which can be used to produce products such as **methanol, ammonia, urea, synthetic natural gas (SNG), and industrial chemicals**, helping reduce India's heavy dependence on imports. The scheme offers incentives of up to **20% of plant and machinery costs**, along with **30-year coal linkage support**, to encourage large-scale industrial investment under the visions of **Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India**.
- Piyush Goyal announced India's ambitious goal of achieving **\$1 trillion in exports** during the current financial year while releasing the LEADS 2025 Report and presenting the LEAPS 2025 Awards in New Delhi. India recorded a historic **\$863 billion in exports in FY 2025–26**, despite global challenges such as geopolitical tensions, slower economic growth and trade uncertainties, while services exports grew by nearly **8.5–9%**. The minister highlighted that India now has trade coverage with **38 developed economies** through multiple Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), with ongoing negotiations involving regions such as the GCC, Canada, Mexico and Mercosur. The LEADS 2025 report recognized top logistics performers including Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram and Delhi, while the LEAPS 2025 Awards honoured companies like FedEx Express, Safexpress and Delhivery for excellence in logistics and supply chain operations.
- India has imposed an immediate **ban on sugar exports** until **30 September 2026**, shifting policy from **"restricted" to "prohibited"**, according to the **DGFT (Ministry of Commerce and Industry)**. The restriction covers **raw, white, and refined sugar**, aiming to ensure **domestic supply stability** and control **inflation risks**. Limited exemptions apply for shipments already in transit or pre-cleared, and select exports under government approval and tariff quotas (EU, US) will continue. The decision comes as India, the **world's second-largest sugar producer**, faces tighter **domestic balance estimates**, with concerns over low **closing stocks** and rising **food inflation pressures**.
- India's ethanol programme has entered a major transition phase as **maize** emerged as the country's largest ethanol feedstock for the first time during the first half of **Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025-26**. According to estimates compiled by the All India Distillers Association, maize contributed around **182 crore litres** of ethanol, overtaking other feedstocks such as surplus rice and damaged food grains. India's cumulative ethanol supply crossed **515 crore litres** in the first six months of ESY 2025-26, reflecting strong momentum in the country's **clean fuel and ethanol blending programme**. Industry experts say maize is becoming the preferred feedstock because it offers **year-round availability, lower water consumption compared to sugarcane, and better long-term scalability** for higher ethanol blending targets beyond E20. Despite this shift, **sugarcane-based ethanol** continues to remain a major contributor to India's biofuel ecosystem.

- The “Algae Tree” installed in Bhopal is **not a real tree** but a **solar-powered bio-engineering device** using microalgae to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and release oxygen. It is claimed to perform like **25 natural trees**, reducing pollution in urban areas. It works as a **liquid, vertical air-purifying system**, designed for cities where space for planting trees is limited. Developers say it can improve air quality and reduce particulate matter locally, but experts note it is a **supplement, not a replacement for real forests**. Overall, it is a **green-tech innovation**, not an actual tree, aimed at boosting urban air quality.
- India is planning a **₹40,000 crore subsea gas pipeline** connecting Oman to Gujarat to strengthen long-term **energy security** after the 2026 Strait of Hormuz crisis disrupted global oil and LNG flows. The proposed **2,000-km deep-sea pipeline** will bypass the vulnerable Strait of Hormuz route and directly transport natural gas from Oman to India. The project is expected to take **5–7 years** after approval and may become operational between **2033 and 2035**. Major Indian PSUs involved include GAIL, Engineers India Limited, and Indian Oil Corporation. GAIL will lead feasibility planning and pipeline operations. The move comes after India reportedly suffered massive losses during the Hormuz disruption, exposing heavy dependence on a single maritime energy corridor. The pipeline is expected to reduce LNG import risks, improve supply stability, support industrial growth, and strengthen India’s strategic energy infrastructure.
- Bhupender Yadav launched the Lion Species Spotlight Programme at Sasan Gir ahead of the International Big Cat Alliance Summit 2026. The programme highlighted India’s commitment to biodiversity conservation, lion protection, and international cooperation among lion-range countries through educational events, films, and expert discussions. Bhupendra Patel described Gir as a model where wildlife conservation and economic development coexist successfully with strong community participation. India’s Asiatic lion population reportedly reached **891 in 2025**, showing a **32% increase since 2020**, making it a major global conservation success story.
- India will host the first IBCA Summit in New Delhi on June 1–2, 2026. The alliance focuses on conserving seven major big cat species, including lions, tigers, leopards, snow leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, and pumas. The government’s Project Lion, launched in 2020, supports habitat expansion, scientific monitoring, and ecological resilience to ensure the long-term survival of the Asiatic lion.
- The Election Commission of India (Election Commission of India) has launched **Phase III of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** across **16 states and 3 Union Territories**, covering around **36.73 crore electors**. The exercise aims to ensure accurate voter rolls through **house-to-house verification**, addition of new voters, deletion of duplicates, and correction of records to strengthen electoral transparency and democracy. The revision process involves nearly **3.94 lakh Booth Level Officers (BLOs)** and **3.42 lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs)**, who will conduct field verification and ensure political oversight. Key stages include draft roll publication, claims and objections, and final electoral roll release between **July and December 2026**. This large-scale exercise covers major states including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Odisha, Delhi, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, and several Northeast states, making it one of India’s most extensive voter list updates.
- The Centre launched the **₹189.79 crore Mizoram Ginger Mission** to transform Mizoram ginger into a globally recognized premium product. Backed by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, the mission focuses on farmer income growth, processing infrastructure, export readiness, and international branding. The initiative was launched by Jyotiraditya Scindia and Lalduhoma. Mizo ginger is gaining attention due to its high **6–8% oleoresin content**, much higher than the global average, making it valuable for food, pharma, cosmetics, and herbal industries. The mission is built on four pillars — **value addition, branding, market integration, and convergence** — and will establish processing hubs while connecting nearly **20,000 farming households**. GI-tagged varieties like **Thingpui Ginger** and **Thinglaidum Ginger** are expected to strengthen global branding and export potential.
- National Highways Authority of India launched **Project Saksham** in partnership with Vertis Foundation to promote **skill development and employment opportunities for rural women**. The initiative focuses on providing **industry-relevant training, career guidance, and job placement support** to help women achieve financial independence. Under the program, **12 training centres** have been established across India, training over **6,000 youth** and enabling more than **4,000 job placements**, with women making up nearly **80% of beneficiaries**. Project Saksham also connects infrastructure growth with local livelihoods by creating economic opportunities for communities living near national highways.
- Narendra Modi visited the United Arab Emirates on 15 May 2026, where both nations signed major agreements to strengthen **India’s energy security**. A key outcome was the strategic petroleum reserve partnership between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, allowing storage of up to **30 million barrels of ADNOC crude oil** in India. The cooperation includes facilities in **Visakhapatnam** and proposed infrastructure in **Odisha**, along with possible reciprocal storage in Fujairah. Both countries also signed a long-term **LPG supply agreement**, aimed at ensuring stable fuel availability amid rising geopolitical tensions and global energy uncertainties.

**States in the News**

- Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first operational PM MITRA Park in **Warangal**, developed at a cost of over **₹1,695 crore** to strengthen India's **textile manufacturing** and export ecosystem. Spread across **1,327 acres**, the park is expected to attract investments of over **₹6,000 crore** and create around **24,400 jobs**, especially boosting employment opportunities for **women**. Built under the **PM MITRA Scheme**, the project follows the government's **5F vision — Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign** — integrating the complete textile value chain in one location. With strong connectivity, modern infrastructure, and investor support, Warangal is emerging as a major **textile hub**, enhancing India's global competitiveness in **textile exports**, manufacturing, and industrial growth.
- C. Joseph Vijay was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on **10 May 2026** at Chennai's Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, marking a historic shift in the state's political landscape. His party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, emerged as the largest party in the 2026 Assembly elections and formed a coalition government with support from parties like Congress, CPI, CPI(M), VCK, and IUML. Vijay's victory ended nearly **six decades of dominance** by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in Tamil Nadu politics. His rise from cinema superstar to Chief Minister reflects Tamil Nadu's long tradition of **film personalities entering politics**, similar to leaders like M. G. Ramachandran and J. Jayalalithaa.
- **Suvendu Adhikari** was sworn in as **Chief Minister of West Bengal**, with BJP forming new state government. The cabinet includes **Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Nisith Pramanik** and others handling key departments like panchayat, welfare and development. First cabinet meeting at **Nabanna** reportedly approved Ayushman Bharat rollout, BSF land transfer, and job-age relaxation measures. The transition is seen as a major political shift after TMC dominance, reshaping West Bengal governance priorities according to reported political developments in 2026 state.
- **Himanta Biswa Sarma** took oath as **Chief Minister of Assam** for a second consecutive term, marking the NDA government's third straight victory since 2016. The grand ceremony in **Guwahati** was attended by **PM Narendra Modi**, Union Ministers and several BJP-NDA Chief Ministers and leaders. Along with him, **Rameswar Teli, Atul Bora, Charan Boro, and Ajanta Neog** took oath as ministers in the new cabinet. The **NDA alliance** secured a two-thirds majority in Assam Assembly elections, while **Ranjeet Kumar Dass** was nominated as the new Assembly Speaker.
- Karnataka has introduced the **Kartavya-KAAMS App (Karnataka Advanced Attendance Management System)** to modernize attendance tracking in government institutions from the **2026–27 academic year**. The system replaces

traditional biometric attendance with **AI-based facial recognition, geo-fencing**, and HRMS integration to ensure accurate and transparent workforce monitoring for teachers, headmasters, and staff. Developed by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, the app requires employees to mark **"In Time" and "Out Time" attendance daily** and links with systems like HRMS and student performance tracking platforms. The rollout aims to cover over **20 lakh government employees**, improving **efficiency, accountability, and digital governance** across Karnataka's public sector.

- Pune is set to introduce India's first **Low Emission Zone (LEZ)** in the **Shivajinagar area**, marking a significant step toward urban air quality control and sustainable mobility. The project is being developed by the Pune Municipal Corporation with support from ITDP India and aligns with the Maharashtra Electric Vehicle Policy 2021 to promote cleaner transport systems. The LEZ will restrict or regulate high-emission vehicles, especially older vehicles below **Bharat Stage-III norms** and pre-2011 registrations, within about **7–10% of Pune's central business district**, using pollution charges and penalties for compliance. Enforcement will rely on **Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)** systems.
- Rajasthan has expanded its **newborn nutrition and breast milk donation initiative** through the **Yashoda Mothers programme** and state-run **human milk banks** to support infants who lack access to maternal breast milk. The initiative includes key facilities such as the **Mother Milk Bank at Barmer District Hospital, Jeevan Dhara Milk Bank, and the Aanchal Mother Milk Bank**, which collect, screen, and safely store donated breast milk for neonatal care. These human milk banks follow strict medical protocols including **infection screening (HIV testing)** and storage at controlled temperatures (around **-19°C**), ensuring safe distribution to newborns in NICUs and reducing infant mortality risks. The programme, supported under the **Norway-India Partnership Initiative**, promotes lactating mothers as **"Yashoda Mothers"** and has significantly strengthened neonatal healthcare and nutrition support across the state.
- N. Ranganasamy was sworn in as **Chief Minister of Puducherry** for a record **fifth term** on **13 May 2026**, following the **AINRC-led NDA alliance's victory** in the Union Territory elections. The oath of office was administered by K. Kailashnathan, marking the continuation of NDA governance in the Union Territory. Along with the Chief Minister, **Malladi Krishna Rao** and **A. Namassivayam** were also sworn in as ministers, reflecting the alliance balance between the AINRC and BJP within the cabinet. The election outcome, in which the NDA retained power, further strengthens Ranganasamy's position as one of Puducherry's most influential political leaders and highlights the coalition's continued mandate in the region.

- The V. D. Satheesan has been chosen by the Indian National Congress to lead the new government in Kerala after the United Democratic Front secured a massive victory in the 2026 Assembly elections. The announcement ends days of leadership speculation involving senior leaders like K. C. Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala. The UDF reportedly won **102 seats** in the 140-member Assembly, defeating the Left Democratic Front led by Pinarayi Vijayan and ending a decade of Left rule in the state. A practicing lawyer and six-time MLA from Paravur, Satheesan previously served as the **Leader of Opposition** and is now set to become Kerala's next Chief Minister for the first time.
- The Assam Cabinet led by Himanta Biswa Sarma has approved the draft **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill**, which is expected to be introduced in the State Assembly on May 26. The proposed law aims to create a common civil framework covering matters such as **marriage, divorce, property succession, live-in relationships, compulsory marriage registration, and divorce registration**. A **Uniform Civil Code** refers to a common set of civil laws applicable to all citizens regardless of religion, replacing religion-based personal laws in certain civil matters. The Assam government said the move promotes **legal uniformity, equality before law, and transparency**. The state has clarified that **tribal communities, religious rituals, traditional customs, and cultural practices** will remain exempt from the proposed law. Assam now joins states like Goa and Uttarakhand in advancing discussions around state-level UCC implementation.
- Vinai Kumar Saxena inaugurated the **Mahey Tokpo-Raldho irrigation canal** in the high-altitude Changthang region of Ladakh. Built at an altitude of over **14,000 feet**, the **2.10 km canal** is designed to carry water from Yaya Lake to farmland in Mahey, improving irrigation in one of India's harshest and most remote regions. The project is expected to support around **100 acres of agricultural land**, helping farmers who earlier depended on seasonal glacier melt and unpredictable water sources. Its completion marks a significant engineering achievement in extreme Himalayan conditions, with reinforced structures to withstand low oxygen, freezing temperatures, and difficult terrain. Alongside the inauguration, a **15,000-tree plantation drive** was launched to support soil conservation, slope stability, and ecological restoration in the fragile Changthang ecosystem.
- Rathindra Bose was elected unopposed as the Speaker of the 18th West Bengal Legislative Assembly, becoming the first legislator from north Bengal to hold the post in post-Independence history. His name was proposed in the Assembly by Suvendu Adhikari, after which pro tem Speaker Tapas Roy conducted a voice vote. All 207 BJP legislators supported Bose's candidature, while the All India Trinamool

Congress did not field any candidate. Bose, MLA from Cooch Behar Dakshin, was widely expected to win due to the BJP's strong majority in the 294-member House following the recent Assembly elections. His appointment is also seen as a significant political message toward north Bengal, a region that has become an important support base for the BJP in the state.

- Rajasthan launched its first **semiconductor cluster** in Bhiwadi, marking the state's entry into India's rapidly growing **electronics and semiconductor manufacturing sector**. The project was inaugurated by Bhajan Lal Sharma, while Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that the cluster has already attracted nearly **₹1,200 crore in investments** and is expected to generate around **2,500 jobs**. Semiconductors are critical for technologies like **AI, smartphones, EVs, telecom, and defence systems**, making the project strategically important. The initiative supports Rajasthan's broader **"Developed Rajasthan 2047"** vision and strengthens its advanced manufacturing ecosystem.

### International Affairs

- **India** will host the **4th India-Africa Forum Summit 2026** in **New Delhi** on **31 May**, bringing together African leaders to strengthen cooperation in **trade, defense, technology, energy, healthcare, and climate action**.
- The summit highlights India's growing partnership with **Africa**, focusing on **economic ties, digital cooperation, maritime security, and renewable energy** under **Vision 2047** and **Agenda 2063**.
- Current **India-Africa trade** stands at nearly **\$85 billion**, with India supporting African nations through **Lines of Credit**, development projects, and investments across multiple sectors.
- The event will also promote **South-South cooperation, climate justice**, and cultural exchanges, reinforcing the strategic and geopolitical importance of the **India-Africa partnership** in the **Global South**.
- Saudi Arabia is set to join the International Big Cat Alliance as its **26th member country**, strengthening India-led global efforts for **big cat conservation** and biodiversity protection. Launched by India, the alliance focuses on protecting seven major big cat species including **tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, pumas, and snow leopards** through international cooperation and habitat conservation. The IBCA currently includes **25 member nations** and **5 observer countries**, promoting collaboration in **research, ecosystem management, climate resilience, and wildlife protection** across regions. Saudi Arabia's inclusion is expected to enhance **financial support, regional partnerships, and conservation diplomacy**, while reinforcing India's growing leadership in global environmental and wildlife initiatives.

- Shehbaz Sharif announced that **May 10** will be observed annually as “**Marka-e-Haq Day**”, meaning “**Battle for Truth**” or “**Battle for Justice**,” highlighting themes of national pride, unity, and political identity in Pakistan. Such symbolic national observances are often used to strengthen **collective memory, patriotism, and political narratives**, especially during periods of regional tension and geopolitical sensitivity. The announcement comes amid continuing **India-Pakistan tensions**, where symbolism and historical narratives frequently influence **public opinion, media debates, and diplomatic messaging** across South Asia. The development shows how **symbolic politics** can shape national identity, emotional public discourse, and international perceptions, even without directly changing government policies or regional relations.
- Kevin Warsh has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate to a **14-year term on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors**, positioning him as the likely next Chair of the Federal Reserve. The Senate approved his nomination in a **51–45 vote**, while a separate confirmation vote is still required for him to officially replace Jerome Powell as Fed Chair. Warsh previously served at the Federal Reserve during the **2008 global financial crisis** and is regarded as an influential voice on monetary policy, inflation control and financial market reforms. His appointment comes at a crucial time as the U.S. economy faces **inflation pressures, political scrutiny over interest rates, and global market uncertainty**, making the Fed leadership transition closely watched worldwide.
- The **BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting 2026** began on 14 May in **New Delhi**, chaired by **S. Jaishankar**, marking an important step ahead of India’s **BRICS Chairmanship 2026**. The two-day meeting includes discussions on **global geopolitics, regional security, economic cooperation, and multilateral reforms**. A key focus is **BRICS@20**, emphasizing **resilience, innovation, and sustainable development** as the grouping approaches its 20-year milestone. Leaders also discussed reform of **global governance institutions** like the **UN** and financial systems to improve **representation for developing countries**. The event strengthens India’s role in **Global South leadership** and international diplomacy under **Narendra Modi’s government**.
- Yoweri Museveni has been sworn in for a **seventh term** as President of Uganda, extending one of the longest political tenures in modern African history. The 81-year-old leader, who first came to power in **1986**, took the oath in the capital city of Kampala after securing victory in the **January 2026 presidential election** with **71.65% of the vote**, according to Uganda’s Electoral Commission. His main challenger, Bobi Wine, received **24.72%** of the votes. Supporters credit Museveni with stabilizing Uganda, improving infrastructure and strengthening regional security, while critics argue that his prolonged rule has weakened democratic institutions. Museveni’s continued presidency was enabled by constitutional amendments that removed both **presidential term limits** and **age restrictions**, allowing him to remain eligible for office after nearly four decades in power.
- The Taliban administration in Afghanistan has signed a **\$46 million agreement** with Indian company **TCRC** to develop customs laboratory infrastructure across the country. The five-year project will establish laboratory centres in Kabul and nine customs facilities, along with installing advanced testing equipment and upgrading existing systems. The project aims to improve Afghanistan’s **trade quality control, product testing, and certification capabilities**. It will also strengthen the Afghanistan Standards and Quality Authority, helping exports meet international standards and improving the country’s trade credibility. The agreement includes training programs for Afghan technical staff, collaboration with foreign experts, and efforts to obtain International Organization for Standardization certification standards. For India, the deal reflects continued economic engagement with Afghanistan through private-sector participation, while for Afghanistan it supports long-term trade infrastructure and economic development.
- India has assumed the **Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB)** for the **2026–28 term**, following a decision at the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA) Meeting held in Tokyo. The move highlights India’s growing influence in shaping global **cybersecurity and IT security standards**. The Common Criteria Development Board is the technical body that develops and updates international standards for evaluating the security of IT products. It supports the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement, a global agreement that allows member countries to mutually recognize cybersecurity certifications, reducing the need for repeated testing across nations. India has been part of the CCRA since 2013 through the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and its certification body STQC Directorate. This leadership role strengthens India’s position in global digital trust, secure technology certification, and international cybersecurity cooperation.
- The **European Union (European Union)** has included **India** in its updated list of countries eligible to export **marine products**, ensuring that Indian seafood exports will continue beyond **September 2026**. This decision prevents a potential trade disruption and strengthens India’s access to a high-value global market, as the EU accounts for about **19% of India’s seafood exports**. Earlier, India risked exclusion due to stricter EU norms on **antimicrobial residues** and compliance standards, but it was retained after demonstrating improved monitoring systems and food safety compliance. The approval reflects growing global trust in India’s export quality framework. India’s marine exports reached around **\$8.43 billion in FY26**, growing by about **14% year-on-year**, making seafood a key contributor to the country’s export economy and coastal livelihoods.

- India's passport slipped to **78th position** in the latest Henley & Partners Passport Index 2026, falling three places from its earlier rank of 75. According to the index, Indian passport holders currently have access to **56 destinations** through visa-free, visa-on-arrival, or e-visa facilities. The International Air Transport Association data-based ranking evaluates global passports by travel freedom. Despite the recent decline, India's long-term position has improved from **90th rank in 2021** and **85th in 2025**, indicating gradual progress in global mobility.
- Indian travellers continue to enjoy easier access to countries such as Bhutan, Nepal, Malaysia, Maldives, and Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, Singapore retained the world's strongest passport ranking with access to 192 destinations.
- India successfully hosted the Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026 in Mumbai under the leadership of Piyush Goyal, focusing on **transparency, governance, and ethical diamond trade**. The meeting brought together governments, industry leaders, and civil society to strengthen the **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)** and prevent **conflict diamonds** from entering global markets. India promoted its **3C Vision — Credibility, Compliance, and Consumer Confidence** — while emphasizing responsible sourcing and monitoring reforms. As the world's largest **diamond cutting and polishing hub**, India reinforced its leadership role in the global diamond industry and laid the foundation for further discussions at the upcoming KP Plenary in New Delhi.
- Donald Trump visited China and held high-level talks with Xi Jinping in Beijing, with both leaders describing the discussions as "historic" and "successful." The summit focused on **trade, tariffs, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and market access**, although no major formal agreements were officially confirmed. Trump claimed China could purchase **200 Boeing aircraft** and billions of dollars in U.S. agricultural products, but Beijing did not publicly verify these announcements. Technology cooperation and AI safety were key discussion areas, with participation from business leaders like Elon Musk and Jensen Huang, highlighting the strategic importance of U.S.-China relations for global trade and technology.

### Agreements/MoUs Signed

- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre signed an MoU with the Reserve Bank of India to strengthen cyber fraud prevention and tackle the growing threat of **mule accounts** in India's banking system. The partnership aims to improve **fraud-risk intelligence sharing**, enhance coordination between agencies and use **AI-driven systems** to detect suspicious financial transactions in real time. Mule accounts, often used in **online scams, phishing attacks and money laundering**, have become a major challenge in controlling cybercrime and digital payment fraud. The initiative will

integrate data from the **I4C Suspect Registry** and deploy advanced analytics to quickly identify and block fraudulent accounts, improving security in India's digital payments ecosystem.

### Books and Authors

- Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced his upcoming book *Apnapan*, based on his **35-year association** with Narendra Modi. The book will offer personal insights into PM Modi's leadership style, governance approach, political strategy, and personal values. According to Chouhan, the book is more than a political memoir and reflects experiences from organizational politics, state governance, and national leadership. One important section recalls the 1991 Ekta Yatra, where Chouhan says Modi viewed the movement as a mission to inspire national unity and patriotism among youth. The book also highlights Modi's qualities such as strategic thinking, technology-driven governance, discipline, and emotional sensitivity toward citizens and party workers. The official launch of *Apnapan* will take place on **May 26, 2026**, at the **NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi**, in the presence of leaders including M. Venkaiah Naidu and H. D. Deve Gowda.

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India has proposed a major reform called the **GARUDA mechanism (Green-Channel: AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement)** to speed up the launch process of Alternative Investment Funds and improve ease of doing business in India's fast-growing investment ecosystem. Currently, AIF schemes take around **30 days** after filing a placement memorandum, but under GARUDA, eligible schemes may launch in as little as **10 working days**, significantly improving **capital deployment speed and efficiency**. The reform also simplifies processes for **accredited investor-only funds and angel funds**, allowing direct filings and reduced compliance requirements while still maintaining regulatory oversight through post-review checks. With AIF commitments reaching **₹15.74 lakh crore**, SEBI's proposal aims to boost **startups, private equity, infrastructure funding, and investor confidence**, while strengthening India's alternative investment market.
- BSE** has launched **F&O contracts** on the **Focused IT Index**, becoming India's first exchange to offer **IT sector-specific derivatives** for trading and hedging. The index tracks **14 major IT companies** and aims to improve **risk management** amid global factors like **currency fluctuations** and **AI-driven trends**. On launch day, it recorded **172 participants** and about **₹148 crore turnover**, showing strong investor interest. The product enables **sectoral trading**, enhances **price discovery**, and supports **institutional portfolio hedging** in the volatile **IT sector**.

- Rolls-Royce plc has announced a major expansion in India across **defence, civil aviation, and energy**, including fighter jet engines and nuclear power solutions, aligning with India's industrial and defence modernisation goals. In defence, the company plans to co-develop a **120 kN-class next-generation fighter engine** to support India's indigenous fifth-generation programme, the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**, along with deep localisation and potential technology transfer. The expansion also focuses on strengthening Indian supply chains, boosting local manufacturing, and expanding support for the Army, Navy and Coast Guard with advanced propulsion systems, while exploring nuclear and industrial energy solutions.
- Moody's Ratings has lowered India's **GDP growth forecast for 2026 to 6%**, citing weak consumption, slower investments, declining industrial activity and rising energy costs. According to the **Moody's Global Macro Outlook May 2026 Update**, growth projections for both **2026 and 2027** were revised downward, indicating moderation after India's strong post-pandemic recovery. A major concern highlighted is India's heavy dependence on imported energy, with rising crude oil prices and global supply disruptions increasing risks related to inflation, government spending and industrial production. Moody's also warned that **geopolitical tensions**, global shipping risks and energy supply uncertainties could impact India's investment climate, corporate profits and overall economic growth momentum.
- India's **CPI-based retail inflation** rose slightly to **3.48% in April 2026**, up from **3.4% in March**, mainly driven by higher **food prices**, according to recent data trends. Despite the increase, inflation remains **below the Reserve Bank of India's 4% target**, though new risks are emerging from **global crude oil price rises, geopolitical tensions in West Asia**, and a **weaker Indian rupee**. Food inflation climbed to **4.20%**, with sharp volatility in vegetables—**tomato prices surged 35.28%**, while **potato and onion prices fell significantly**, showing uneven price pressures across essential goods. Economists warn that rising import costs and energy prices could keep inflationary pressure elevated in the coming months, even though current levels remain within the RBI's tolerance band of **2%–6%**.
- India has launched the **\$1.5 billion Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)** to strengthen the country's shipping and trade ecosystem and reduce dependence on foreign insurers. The initiative, backed by a **\$1.4 billion sovereign guarantee**, aims to provide stable and continuous insurance coverage for vessels operating to and from India, including global maritime routes and high-risk regions. The pool offers comprehensive coverage such as **Hull & Machinery, cargo insurance, protection & indemnity (P&I)**, and **war risk insurance**, ensuring protection across all stages of international shipping. Approved by the **Union Cabinet in April 2026**, the BMI Pool is designed to lower insurance costs, improve risk management, and safeguard India's maritime trade during global disruptions and geopolitical uncertainties.
- India's **public sector banks (PSBs)** have reported their strongest-ever performance, posting a record **₹1.98 lakh crore net profit in FY 2025–26**, marking the **fourth consecutive year of profitability**. According to the Ministry of Finance, the combined **operating profit rose to ₹3.21 lakh crore**, supported by strong credit growth, improved asset quality and higher income levels across banks. PSBs also showed robust expansion, with total business reaching **₹283.3 lakh crore**, deposits at **₹156.3 lakh crore**, and gross advances growing **15.7% year-on-year**, reflecting strong demand for credit. Asset quality improved significantly, with gross NPAs falling to **1.93%** and net NPAs to **0.39%**, while strong recoveries and provisioning strength highlight a major turnaround in India's public banking sector and its role in supporting economic growth.
- India has raised the **import duty on gold and silver to 15%**, a move aimed at strengthening **foreign exchange reserves** and reducing pressure on the **Indian rupee** amid global economic uncertainty. The revised structure under the Ministry of Finance includes **10% Basic Customs Duty (BCD)** and **5% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC)**, pushing the effective duty from 6% to 15% for gold and silver, and 15.4% for platinum. The decision comes as India faces rising import pressures from **crude oil costs, geopolitical tensions in West Asia, and global market volatility**, which are widening the current account deficit. Economists expect the higher duty to reduce gold demand by 10–15%, making jewellery and investment purchases more expensive while helping curb non-essential foreign exchange outflows.
- The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the banking licence of Sarvodaya Cooperative Bank with immediate effect, citing weak financial health, poor earnings potential and risks to depositors' interests. Following the order, the bank can no longer accept deposits, allow withdrawals, issue loans or conduct regular banking operations, effectively freezing customer accounts after May 12, 2026. The RBI clarified that around **98.36% of depositors** are protected under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) insurance framework, which covers deposits up to **₹5 lakh per depositor per bank**, including savings accounts, fixed deposits and accrued interest. However, depositors with balances above ₹5 lakh may face delays and uncertainty, as recovery beyond the insured limit will depend on the liquidation process, sale of bank assets and claims settlement overseen by the appointed liquidator.

- Uber has partnered with the **Adani Group** to build its **first data centre in India**, marking a major expansion of its **digital infrastructure** in one of its key global markets. The announcement followed a meeting between **Dara Khosrowshahi** and **Gautam Adani** in **Ahmedabad**. The facility will strengthen Uber's ability to **test, scale, and deploy technology** for global operations, leveraging India's strong **engineering talent, digital economy, and growing AI and cloud ecosystem**. Data centres support **real-time app services, AI systems, and payment infrastructure**. The move also aligns with Adani's push into **AI-ready, green-powered digital infrastructure** development.
- FinBox has launched **Atlas**, an AI-native lending platform to speed up loan processing and reduce borrower drop-offs in India's digital lending ecosystem. The platform automates onboarding and document handling through two modules— **Atlas Flow** and **Atlas Origin**, using conversational and AI-driven verification tools.
- It reduces loan approval time from nearly **21 days to 24 hours**, with reported improvements like **85% application completion** and fewer manual errors. Powered by **agentic AI**, Atlas helps banks and NBFCs streamline underwriting and fraud detection, supporting faster, more efficient, and scalable credit delivery.
- India's **Wholesale Price Index (Wholesale Price Index)** surged to **8.3% in April 2026**, its highest level in nearly **3.5 years**, mainly driven by a sharp rise in **fuel and energy prices** due to West Asia tensions and global crude oil disruptions. The **fuel & power segment** saw inflation jump to **24.71%**, with major spikes in **petrol (32.40%), diesel (25.19%), and LPG (10.92%)**, reflecting rising global crude costs and supply uncertainty. **Primary articles inflation** also rose to **9.17%**, while **manufactured products inflation** increased to **4.62%**, showing broad-based price pressures across the economy. Since WPI tracks producer-level costs, sustained high inflation may eventually pass through to consumers, raising retail prices and increasing pressure on India's overall inflation outlook.
- HDB Financial Services has appointed Natarajan Srinivasan as its **Independent Director and Non-Executive Chairman**. The appointment comes as the company expands operations and focuses on its long-term growth strategy. Srinivasan brings extensive leadership experience from the Murugappa Group, where he held several senior management roles. Meanwhile, Capri Global Capital announced that its lending arm, **Capri Loans**, has crossed **1,000 gold loan branches** across India. The expansion strengthens access to quick and transparent gold-backed credit in urban, semi-urban, and rural markets. Since launching its gold loan business in 2022, Capri Loans has grown rapidly, with assets under management (AUM) exceeding **₹16,960 crore**, supporting the company's broader financial inclusion goals.
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority has relaxed the annuity exit rules under the National Pension System, allowing limited surrender of annuity plans in specific hardship situations. The revised framework mainly benefits retirees facing **critical medical emergencies** or those holding older annuity policies that already included surrender provisions. Earlier, once retirees used their NPS corpus to purchase an annuity, exiting the plan was almost impossible except during the short "free look" cancellation period. Under the updated rules, Annuity Service Providers (ASPs) may now permit surrender if the annuitant or a family member suffers from a critical illness. Certain pre-October 24, 2024 annuity plans with existing surrender clauses may also qualify.

### Appointments/Resignations

- Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda has taken charge as the **Chairman & Managing Director** of Steel Authority of India Limited, marking a key leadership transition in one of India's largest public sector steel companies. With over **three decades of experience** in SAIL, he began as a **Management Trainee in 1992** and later held senior roles including **Director (Finance)** and **Director (Commercial)**, showcasing strong internal leadership growth. During his tenure, he focused on improving **operational efficiency, product mix, sales volumes, net sales realisation, inventory management, and strategic market alignment** across the organization. His vision for SAIL includes expanding capacity to **35 MTPA**, strengthening **safety, raw material security, branding, and market growth**, supporting India's broader goal of becoming a global leader in **steel production and infrastructure development**.
- Prashant Pise has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to the Oman by the Ministry of External Affairs.



- A 1995-batch **Indian Foreign Service (IFS)** officer, he currently serves as **Additional Secretary (Emigration Policy and Welfare)** and will replace Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas in Muscat. Prashant Pise has extensive diplomatic experience, including postings in **Cairo, Tripoli**, and roles related to **Russia, Central Asia, CIS affairs, and UN economic matters**, along with leadership in international migration and labour diplomacy. His appointment is strategically significant as Oman remains a key Indian partner in the Gulf region for **energy security, maritime cooperation, trade, and welfare of the large Indian diaspora**.
- R Mukundan has assumed office as President of the Confederation of Indian Industry for the **2026–27 term**, succeeding Rajiv Memani. A senior Tata Group executive with over **three decades of leadership experience**, Mukundan has worked across sectors including **chemicals, automotive, hospitality, and corporate strategy**, and currently leads Tata Chemicals. The CII also announced Suchitra K Ella as President-Designate and Shashwat Goenka as Vice-President for 2026–27. As one of India's most influential industry bodies, CII plays a key role in **economic reforms, policy advocacy, investment promotion, manufacturing competitiveness, and public-private dialogue**.
- Susan Elias has been appointed as the **first female Principal** of St Stephen's College, marking a historic milestone in the institution's **145-year history**. She will assume office as the **14th principal from 1 June 2026**, succeeding John Varghese. A seasoned academic with over **three decades of experience**, Elias has worked in teaching, research and university administration, and previously served as **Pro Vice Chancellor (Research)** at Chandigarh University Uttar Pradesh. Her vision includes preserving the college's legacy while introducing **modern, future-ready courses** in areas such as **artificial intelligence and quantum computing**, aligning the institution with emerging global education trends.

### Defence News

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully tested a **scramjet combustor** in **Hyderabad**, achieving a runtime of over **1,200 seconds**, boosting India's **hypersonic cruise missile** program and aerospace capabilities. Developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory, the system uses **indigenous technology**, including Indian-made fuel, advanced coatings, and modern manufacturing methods for high-temperature operations. The **scramjet engine** enables missiles to travel above **Mach 5**, using atmospheric oxygen for lighter and more efficient **hypersonic propulsion** compared to conventional rocket systems.
- This achievement strengthens India's position in **next-generation defense technology**, reducing foreign

dependence while advancing capabilities in **missile defense evasion, high-speed warfare**, and strategic security.

- India's first **privately manufactured military aircraft**, the Airbus C-295, is nearing final rollout from the Tata-Airbus facility in Vadodara. Built through a partnership between Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems, the project marks a major milestone for India's **Make in India** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** defence goals. Under the 2021 defence deal, India will receive **56 C-295 aircraft**, with **16 imported from Spain** and **40 manufactured in India**. The final assembly line in Gujarat was inaugurated in 2024 by Narendra Modi and Pedro Sánchez.
- The C-295 is a medium tactical transport aircraft used for **troop transport, cargo movement, medical evacuation, and special operations**. It can operate from short and rugged airstrips and carry over **9,000 kg payload** or around **71 personnel**. The project is expected to strengthen India's aerospace ecosystem, expand private-sector defence manufacturing, reduce import dependence, and build advanced domestic supply chains.
- India achieved a major defence innovation milestone with the AI-powered combat aircraft '**Kaal Bhairava**', developed by Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace, set to be manufactured in Portugal. It is India's first overseas production of an autonomous combat aircraft and part of the broader **Operation 777** initiative. The **MALE (Medium Altitude Long Endurance)** aircraft features a **3,000 km range, 30+ hours endurance**, AI-based target recognition, swarm coordination, and secure encrypted communication systems. It is designed for surveillance, intelligence gathering, and precision combat missions in modern warfare. Production in Portugal will take place through a partnership with SKETCHPIXEL LDA, while FWDA will handle design and autonomous systems. Operation 777 aims to expand Indian defence manufacturing across **77 countries and 7 continents**, strengthening India's global defence technology presence.
- Rajnath Singh and N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the **₹15,803 crore Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project** in the Sri Sathya Sai district. The project is a major step toward India's goal of developing an indigenous **fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft**. The AMCA programme is being led by the Aeronautical Development Agency under the Defence Research and Development Organisation. The aircraft will feature advanced stealth technology, next-generation avionics, high survivability, and modern combat capabilities, placing India among a select group of nations with advanced fighter aircraft development expertise. The facility, spread across nearly **650 acres in Puttaparthi**, will include an **Aircraft Integration and Advanced Flight Testing Centre** for assembly, systems testing, flight validation, and prototype evaluation. The project is also expected to generate around **7,500 jobs** and strengthen India's aerospace manufacturing ecosystem.

### Awards and Recognitions

- Droupadi Murmu presented the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026** at Rashtrapati Bhavan on **International Nurses Day**. The awards, instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, honor outstanding nursing professionals for their dedication, compassion and healthcare service. Awardees included **Kulwinder Parhi, Ujwala Mahadev Soyam, Lalenthangi Hnamte, Gita Karmakar** and **Maj Gen Lissamma PV** from various states and institutions across India. The 2026 theme, **“Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives,”** highlights better working conditions, leadership opportunities and quality training for nurses nationwide.

### Sports News

- On **10 May 2026**, Urvil Patel of Chennai Super Kings smashed a record-equalling **13-ball fifty** against **Lucknow Super Giants**, joining the fastest IPL half-century list. He now shares the top spot with Yashasvi Jaiswal, who first achieved the feat in **IPL 2023** for **Rajasthan Royals** against Kolkata Knight Riders. The IPL fastest fifty chart has evolved rapidly, with players like KL Rahul, Yusuf Pathan, Nicholas Pooran, and others contributing explosive innings over the years. In **IPL 2026**, young talents like **Vaibhav Suryavanshi** also made headlines, highlighting the league’s growing trend of ultra-fast scoring and power hitting in modern T20 cricket.
- On **Sardinia World Chess Festival 2026** in Italy, Faustino Oro became the **second youngest Grandmaster in history** at just **12 years, 6 months, 26 days**, completing his final GM norm and cementing his rise in elite chess.
- Nicknamed the **“Messi of Chess”**, he follows only Abhimanyu Mishra, who holds the youngest-ever record, and joins an exclusive group of prodigies including players like **D Gukesh** and **R Praggnanandhaa**.
- Born in **Buenos Aires**, Oro gained global attention after defeating top-level opponents and showing exceptional **positional skill, maturity, and fearless attacking style** at a very young age.
- His achievement highlights the growing dominance of **teen chess prodigies worldwide** and marks a major milestone in modern **competitive chess history** governed by FIDE.
- At the **Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai**, the Indian women’s recurve team of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, and Kumkum Mohod won a dramatic **gold medal**, defeating host nation **China** in a tense shoot-off final. The match was closely fought, ending level after four sets before India edged out China **28–26**, with Deepika Kumari sealing victory with a crucial **nine-point arrow**. The win also included a major semifinal upset over **South Korea**, a dominant force in Olympic archery, highlighting India’s growing strength in **recurve archery**. This is India’s **first Archery World Cup gold since 2021**, marking a major boost in confidence, consistency, and international competitiveness for the women’s team.

- Rahul Dravid has become the owner of the **Dublin Guardians** franchise in the upcoming European T20 Premier League, Europe’s first ICC-sanctioned multi-country T20 competition. The ETPL is being launched in partnership with Cricket Ireland, Cricket Scotland and the Royal Dutch Cricket Association to promote cricket growth across Europe. Dravid’s involvement is considered significant due to his reputation as a former India captain, World Cup-winning coach and mentor in youth cricket development, giving the league strong global credibility. The league also features star-studded franchise ownership involving Chris Gayle, Glenn Maxwell, Steve Waugh and Faf du Plessis, with major international players expected to participate in ETPL 2026.
- India delivered an outstanding performance at the Asian Boxing U15 Championships 2026, finishing with a total of **27 medals**, including **9 gold medals**. The achievement highlights the rise of India’s young boxing talent on the international stage. The **U-15 girls team** emerged as the biggest contributor, winning **7 gold, 2 silver, and 5 bronze medals**. Gold medal winners included Anzee (37kg), Soniya (40kg), Tanvi (43kg), Hanshika Attri (46kg), Sunaina (58kg), Bhumika (61kg), and Angel (70kg). The **U-15 boys team** added **2 gold, 4 silver, and 7 bronze medals**, with Yash Kumar (33kg) and Mohd Yasser (58kg) securing gold medals. India ended the championship with **9 gold, 6 silver, and 12 bronze medals overall**.

### Schemes and Committees News

- India plans to launch the **Made in India Brand Scheme** to strengthen **domestic manufacturing** and reduce dependence on imports across key industrial sectors. The government may identify nearly **100 products**, including **automobile axles** and motorcycle components, to boost local production and global competitiveness. The scheme will likely introduce a **Made in India certification**, quality benchmarks and a dedicated logo to improve trust in Indian-made products. The initiative supports larger programs like **Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, PLI schemes**, and India’s strategy to expand exports through global **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)**.
- Suvendu Adhikari announced the **Annapurna Bhandaar Scheme**, offering **₹3,000 monthly financial assistance** to eligible women across West Bengal through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**. The scheme, expected to begin from **June 1, 2026**, aims to strengthen **women’s financial independence** and replace the earlier **Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme** with higher uniform benefits. The new government also approved **free bus travel for women** and announced implementation of central schemes like **Ayushman Bharat, PM Vishwakarma**, and **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**. Additional cabinet decisions included **BSF land transfer for border fencing**, welfare initiatives like **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**, and expanded social security measures in the state.

- Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology launched a dedicated **weather and climate startup incubation centre** during the **WISE 2026** innovation meet in Pune. Developed under **NEAT** and the Ministry of Earth Sciences' **Mission Mausam**, the centre aims to support startups working in **climate analytics, forecasting, resilience tools, and weather technology**. The event connected scientists, entrepreneurs, researchers, and institutions to transform **climate intelligence into practical business solutions**. Backed by organizations like India Meteorological Department and leading research institutes, the initiative strengthens India's vision of becoming a **weather-ready and climate-smart nation** through innovation, collaboration, and advanced climate technologies.
- India released its first **satellite-tagged** Ganges softshell turtle in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve on **Endangered Species Day**, marking a major wildlife conservation milestone. The project aims to track the turtle's **movement, breeding sites, and habitat use** to improve conservation planning in the Brahmaputra basin. Supported by the Wildlife Institute of India, Assam Forest Department, and National Geographic Society, the initiative highlights Assam's biodiversity efforts. The endangered turtle plays a key ecological role as a **natural scavenger**, helping maintain freshwater ecosystem health and river cleanliness.

### Science and Technology News

- Kuljeet Kaur Marhas from Physical Research Laboratory became the **first Indian woman** elected Fellow of the prestigious Meteorological Society for her groundbreaking work in **meteorites, isotopes, and planetary science**.
- Her research explores the origins of the **Solar System** through studies on **pre-solar grains, CAIs, chondrules, and short-lived radionuclides**, helping scientists understand planetary formation over four billion years ago.
- Using advanced technologies like **SIMS** and **nanoSIMS**, she has analyzed samples from major missions including **Stardust, Hayabusa**, and the Apollo Program.



- This recognition highlights India's growing strength in **space research, cosmochemistry, and planetary material analysis**, while inspiring greater participation of women in advanced scientific research.

### Important Days News

- India celebrates **National Technology Day** on **May 11** to commemorate the 1998 **Pokhran nuclear tests**, but in 2026 technology has become central to **jobs, education, AI, healthcare, startups, cybersecurity, and economic growth**. Today, technologies like **UPI payments, artificial intelligence, digital services, cloud computing, and automation** are transforming everyday life and reshaping industries across India. India is rapidly investing in **semiconductors, defence technology, digital infrastructure, renewable energy, and space innovation** to emerge as a global technology leader and reduce dependence on foreign systems. The day also highlights the need for **digital literacy, future-ready skills, and equal access to technology**, as innovation increasingly determines employability, national security, and long-term economic competitiveness.
- International Nurses Day 2026** was celebrated worldwide on **May 12** to honor the dedication, sacrifice and service of nurses in global healthcare systems. The 2026 theme, **"Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives,"** highlights the need for better training, safety, leadership and mental health support. The day marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, known as **"The Lady with the Lamp"** for her work during the **Crimean War**. Celebrated in over 130 countries, the occasion recognizes nurses' frontline role during pandemics, disasters and healthcare emergencies while promoting respect for the nursing profession.
- Mental Health Awareness Week 2026** is being observed from **11-17 May** with the theme **"Action"**, promoting practical steps to improve mental wellbeing. Organized by the Mental Health Foundation and supported by the **NHS** and **Mind**, the campaign focuses on hope, prevention and human connection. The initiative encourages activities like **physical exercise, mindfulness, emotional support, volunteering and participating in Wear it Green Day** to raise awareness. Experts highlight that early support, reducing workplace stress, emotional education and stronger community connections are essential for improving global **mental health** outcomes.
- International Day of Plant Health is observed every year on **12 May** to raise global awareness about protecting plants from **pests, diseases and environmental threats**, under the guidance of the Food and Agriculture Organization. The 2026 theme, **"Plant Biosecurity for Food Security,"** highlights the need to safeguard crops and ecosystems to ensure **global food security, sustainable agriculture and biodiversity protection**. Plants are critical to life as they provide most of the world's food and a major share of oxygen, making **plant health essential for human survival, economic stability and environmental balance**. The observance also supports the **One Health approach**, linking **human, animal, plant and environmental health**, with key global coordination by FAO and the **International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)**.

- The **International Day of Families 2026** is observed on **15 May** to highlight the role of families in society and promote policies that strengthen **family wellbeing** worldwide. The theme **“Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing”** focuses on how rising **income inequality**, limited access to **healthcare and education**, and lack of **social protection** affect children’s development. It calls for stronger support systems such as **childcare, parental leave, and poverty reduction measures**. The day, established by the **United Nations**, encourages global discussions on building more inclusive societies and is linked to the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, especially in areas of **health, education, and reduced inequalities**.
- Sikkim celebrated its **51st Statehood Day** on 16 May 2026, commemorating its historic integration into India in 1975. Formerly a Himalayan kingdom ruled by the **Namgyal dynasty**, Sikkim became India’s 22nd state after a public referendum and the **36th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1975**. The occasion symbolizes **democracy, peaceful political transition, and cultural preservation**. Known for its

rich traditions, Buddhist heritage, and ecological leadership, Sikkim remains India’s **first fully organic state** and home to Kangchenjunga, the world’s third-highest mountain. Celebrations included cultural events, educational activities, and official ceremonies across the state.

### Obituaries News

- Swapan Sadhan Bose, popularly known as **“Tutu Bose,”** passed away at the age of 79 in Kolkata after suffering a cardiac arrest. A highly respected football administrator, Tutu Bose remained associated with Mohun Bagan Super Giant for over three decades and served the club in major roles including **secretary and president**. He played a crucial role in modernizing the club’s administration and became an influential figure in Kolkata’s football culture and Indian football management. His mortal remains will be kept at the Mohun Bagan club tent for fans to pay tribute before the cremation, while family members and sports personalities remembered him as a pillar of support and leadership in Indian football.

### Static Takeaways

Aspect	Details
Rajasthan	CM: Bhajanlal Sharma Governor: Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde Capital: Jaipur
West Bengal	CM: Suwendu Adhikari Governor: RN Ravi Capital: Kolkata
Tamil Nadu	CM: Vijay Joseph Governor: Rajendran Arlekar Capital: Chennai
Assam	CM: Himanta Sarma Governor: Laxman Prasad Capital: Dispur
Ladakh	Lt. Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena
Keralam	CM: V D Satheeshan Governor: Rajendran Arlekar Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
USA	President: Donald Trump Capital: Washington D.C.
CHINA	President: Xi Jinping Capital: Beijing
Russia	President: Vladimir Putin Capital: Moscow
Netherlands	President: Rob Jetten Capital: Amsterdam
UAE	President: Mohamed Al Bin Nahyan Capital: Abu Dhabi
Chief Election Commissioner	Gyanesh Kumar
Union Environment Minister	Bhupendra Yadav
Union Agriculture Minister	Shivraj Singh Chouhan
European Union	Ursula von der Leyen - President
SEBI	Tuhin Kanta Pandey - Chairman
RBI	Sanjay Malhotra - Governor
Supreme Court of India	CJI - Justice Surya Kant