

# Weekly Current Affairs

May 2026 — Week 3 (17–23 May)

Exam Revision Notes

APPSC · AP DSC · AP TET · AP Police SI

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<b>55+</b> Topics	<b>13</b> Sections	<b>~32 min</b> Read Time	<b>May 2026</b> Week 3
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<b>7. Environment</b>	India's first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle (Nilssononia gangetica) released in Kaziranga
<b>8. Defence</b>	INS Sunayna returns from IOS SAGAR (16 nations, SAGAR & MAHASAGAR visions), Exercise PRAGATI 2026 in Meghalaya (12 nations)
<b>9. Awards &amp; Honours</b>	PM Modi — Grand Cross of Norwegian Order of Merit + FAO Agricola Medal 2026; International Booker Prize 2026 — Taiwan Travelogue (Yang Shuang-zi, Lin King); first Mandarin work to win
<b>10. Committees &amp; Conferences</b>	79th World Health Assembly (Geneva, India as Pharmacy of World, 1.85L Ayushman Arogya Mandirs), 68th APO Governing Body Session (Bharat Mandapam, India founding member, HQ Tokyo)
<b>11. Person in News</b>	B.C. Khanduri passes away at 91 — former Uttarakhand CM, Union Minister, Golden Quadrilateral project

<b>12. Important Days</b>	World Metrology Day (20 May, 151st Metre Convention anniversary, theme: Building Trust in Policy Making; India 13th OIML country; One Nation One Time initiative)
<b>13. Miscellaneous</b>	Saurabh Vijay as UIDAI CEO, Ayush Anudan Portal, Indian War Memorial Seoul, CBSE On-Screen Marking (98L sheets), JEEVAN App + SHATAYU Dashboard for senior citizens, Operation Navjeevan (27 Maoists), Chand Tara at Cannes

## 1) International Current Affairs

### Ali al-Zaidi Sworn in as Prime Minister of Iraq

Ali al-Zaidi officially assumed office as the **Prime Minister of Iraq on May 16**, after being formally confirmed and sworn in by the Iraqi Parliament.

### PM Modi Visits Netherlands – India's First Front-End Semiconductor Fab; Chola Copper Plates Returned

PM Modi and Dutch PM **Rob Jetten** witnessed the **Tata Electronics–ASML agreement** — creating India's **first front-end semiconductor fabrication (Fab) facility at Dholera**. (ASML supplies advanced lithography machines essential for chip manufacturing.)

#### Other Key Outcomes:

**Chola Copper Plates returned:** Leiden University Library returned 11th-century Chola Copper Plates — royal charters documenting donation of Anaimangalam village to a Buddhist vihara in Nagapattinam; inscriptions in Tamil and Sanskrit.

Both leaders visited the **Afsluitdijk** (32-km Dutch flood-control dam); signed a **Letter of Intent for the Kalpasar Project in Gujarat** — a major freshwater reservoir-cum-tidal power project across the Gulf of Khambhat.

Establishment of **Indo-Dutch Centre of Excellence for Flowers** in West Tripura announced.

### PM Modi Visits Norway – Green Strategic Partnership; Norway Joins IPOI

#### Key Outcomes:

Elevated bilateral ties to a **Green Strategic Partnership**; goal to double trade by 2030.

Cooperation in offshore wind, Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), and clean energy.

**Norway joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).**

Norway supported India's **permanent membership in a reformed UNSC**.

**About Norway:** Capital: Oslo | Currency: NOK | PM: Jonas Gahr Store | Constitutional Monarchy | NATO member.

### PM Modi Visits Sweden – Strategic Partnership; India-Sweden Joint Action Plan 2026–2030

#### Four Pillars of the Strategic Partnership:

1. Strategic Dialogue for Stability and Security
2. Next-Generation Economic Partnership
3. Emerging Technologies and Trusted Connectivity
4. People, Planet, Health and Resilience

**About Sweden:** Capital: Stockholm | Currency: SEK | PM: Ulf Kristersson | King: Carl XVI Gustaf | EU member.

### 3rd India-Nordic Summit (Oslo) – Finland, Iceland, Denmark

Country / PM	Key Outcomes
Iceland – Kristrún Frostadóttir	Geothermal energy, fisheries, Arctic research, tourism; India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) opportunities discussed

Finland – Petteri Orpo	Double bilateral trade by 2030; AI, 5G/6G, quantum, renewable energy, circular economy; India & Finland to jointly host World Circular Economy Forum 2026 in Gandhinagar (September 2026)
Denmark – Mette Frederiksen	Reviewed India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership; climate action, green tech, defence, AI; highlighted Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers initiative in Varanasi

## PM Modi Visits Italy – Special Strategic Partnership; INNOVIT India Hub Launched

### Key Highlights:

Elevated to **Special Strategic Partnership**; bilateral trade target: **€20 billion by 2029**.

Launch of **INNOVIT India** — innovation hub for startup, AI, semiconductor, and research collaboration.

Reaffirmed cooperation on **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**.

MoUs in critical minerals, agriculture, and maritime transport.

Italy supported the **India-EU Free Trade Agreement** (negotiations concluded).

**2027 declared "Year of Culture and Tourism"** between India and Italy.

## Cyprus President's Visit – India-Cyprus Strategic Partnership; First India-Cyprus Space Day

### Key Outcomes:

India–Cyprus elevated to **Strategic Partnership**.

**Cyprus joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)** — under "Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport" pillar.

India gifted a **BHISHM Cube** to Cyprus — a portable emergency medical assistance system for disaster response.

**First-ever India-Cyprus Space Day** celebrated on May 18, 2026.

**Defence Cooperation Roadmap 2026–2031** signed; Cyprus to open a Cyprus Trade Center in Mumbai.

## 2) National Current Affairs

### MP High Court Declares Bhojshala a Temple – Quashes 2003 Friday Prayer Order

A Division Bench of the MP High Court (Justices Vinay Kumar Shukla and Alok Awasthi) ruled that the **Bhojshala–Kamal Maula complex in Dhar** is a temple dedicated to goddess **Saraswati (Vagdevi)**. The court quashed the 2003 ASI order permitting Friday prayers. The ASI survey used carbon dating, palaeography, XRF spot analysis, and material composition testing. The Union Government was directed to retrieve the Saraswati idol from a London museum. The site remains protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

### Operation RAGEPILL – NCB Seizes Captagon; India's First-Ever Haul of This Drug

The **NCB launched Operation RAGEPILL**, busting a network smuggling **Captagon** — **India's first-ever seizure** of this drug. Captagon contains **Fenetylline and Amphetamine** — psychotropic substances under the NDPS Act, often called the "**Jihadi Drug**" due to its reported misuse in Middle East conflict zones.

### 'Coffees of Nagaland' Mission – Rs 175 Crore for Premium Speciality Coffee

Union Minister Scindia launched the "**Coffees of Nagaland**" Cluster-based Coffee Value Chain Mission on May 18 with an outlay of **Rs 175 crore** under "Viksit North East." **Tuophema village (Kohima)** selected for Arabica; **Ghotovi village (Niuland)** for Robusta coffee.

### V.D. Satheesan Sworn in as Chief Minister of Kerala

**V.D. Satheesan** was sworn in as Kerala CM at Central Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram by Governor **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**, along with 20 Ministers. The **Congress-led UDF won 102 of 140 seats**, defeating the LDF.

### Arunachal Kiwi Mission – Rs 167 Crore for Global Kiwi Brand by FY 2028

Union Minister Scindia launched the "**Arunachal Kiwi**" mission with **~Rs 167 crore**. Arunachal Pradesh contributes **50%+ of India's kiwi production**. Target: "Arunachal Organic Kiwi" as a **premium global brand by FY 2028**. The state's November–January harvest coincides with New Zealand's off-season — providing a natural export window.

### 3) Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs ★ Priority Section

#### ACCHA Project – Improving Anganwadi Education Across 55,746 Centres

AP government launched the **Andhralo Chinnarula Chaduvulu (ACCHA)** project to improve early childhood education quality through **play-based learning, skill enhancement of Anganwadi workers, and improved enrolment**. AP currently has **55,746 Anganwadi centres** with **~8.5 lakh children enrolled**. First piloted in **Kuppam**.

#### 'Pillale Sampada' Policy – AP Plans Incentives for a Third and Fourth Child

AP is planning the **Pillale Sampada (Children are Wealth)** policy to tackle its declining fertility rate.

##### Why It's Needed and Proposed Incentives:

AP's **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** has declined to **1.50** — below the national average of 1.9 and far below the replacement level of 2.1.

Continued decline risks workforce shortages, demographic imbalance, and long-term economic slowdown.

**Proposed Incentives:** Rs 30,000 for the birth of a third child | Rs 40,000 for the birth of a fourth child.

#### Matsyakarula Sevalo Scheme – Rs 261.59 Crore Disbursed to 1.3 Lakh Fishermen Families

CM Chandrababu Naidu deposited **Rs 261.59 crore** to **~1.3 lakh fishermen families** at a programme in SPSR Nellore. Each family receives **Rs 20,000** during the annual fishing ban (**April 15 – June 15**) to support fish breeding and marine conservation.

##### Additional Support:

**Diesel subsidy:** Rs 9 per litre for mechanised fishing boats.

**AP allocated Rs 50 crore** for diesel subsidy in FY 2026-27.

CM emphasised strict action against illegal intrusion by Tamil Nadu and Puducherry fishermen into AP territorial waters.

#### Andhra Model of Education – 100% Enrolment, Chromebooks, Star-Rating for Schools

AP HRD Minister Nara Lokesh announced the **Andhra Model of Education** with: **100% school enrolment target, Clicker technology and Chromebooks for Class IX students, a star-rating system for government schools**, expansion of **smart kitchens statewide within two years**, and focus on value-based education, yoga, sports, and foundational literacy.

#### 'Amaravati Amma Vanta' – Women-Led Food Entrepreneurship in the Capital Region

**APCRDA** is promoting women-led entrepreneurship through **Amaravati Amma Vanta** — providing skill training, branding, packaging, and market access to women's SHGs and micro-entrepreneurs for traditional food products including millet-based foods, traditional snacks, pickles, and sweets. Also preserves AP's culinary heritage.

#### Visakhapatnam Heritage – Static GK for APPSC

Topic	Key Facts
Thotlakonda Buddhist Complex	2nd century BCE – 3rd century CE; atop a hill overlooking the sea near Vizag
Dutch Settlement Bheemunipatnam	– Dutch East India Company trading post, 17th century; Dutch cemetery at Kummaripalem (1661) — among the oldest European burial grounds on India's eastern coast

Vizag Sepoy Uprising (1780)	Led by Shaik Mohammad Khan, October 3, 1780 — 77 years before the 1857 Revolt; one of India's earliest sepoy rebellions; rebels briefly captured the town and Company treasury
Hindustan Shipyard (1941)	India's first greenfield shipyard, established by Walchand Hirachand; foundation stone by Rajendra Prasad (June 21, 1941); vessel Jal Usha launched by Nehru in 1948; later became Hindustan Shipyard Limited
WWII – Japanese Air Raid	April 6, 1942 — Japanese warplanes from aircraft carrier Ryujo attacked Visakhapatnam harbour; occurred after Japanese advances across Southeast Asia

## 4) Polity & Governance

### Judges Inquiry Committee – Yashwant Varma Case; Constitutional Process for Judge Removal

A **Judges Inquiry Committee** under the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968** submitted its report on allegations against Justice Yashwant Varma to Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** on May 18, 2026. The panel was headed by Justice Aravind Kumar.

#### How a Judges Inquiry Committee Works:

**Constituted by:** Lok Sabha Speaker or Rajya Sabha Chairman after a removal motion is admitted in Parliament.

**Composition:** One sitting SC Judge + One HC Chief Justice + One distinguished jurist.

**Process:** Frames charges; gives judge opportunity for written and oral defence; operates like a civil court on principles of natural justice.

**If charges not proved:** Proceedings dropped. **If proved:** Report laid before both Houses of Parliament.

**Impeachment:** Requires special majority in both Houses; final removal order issued by the President of India.

### CAA Rules Amended – Applicants Must Declare Pakistani, Afghan, or Bangladeshi Passports

MHA amended CAA 2019 rules requiring applicants to declare any **valid or expired passport from Pakistan, Afghanistan, or Bangladesh**, provide passport details, and **surrender such passports within 15 days after citizenship approval**. The CAA provides a citizenship pathway for **six non-Muslim communities** (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, Christians) who migrated from these countries before December 31, 2014. Particularly significant for the **Matua community in West Bengal**.

## 5) Economy

### Rupee Depreciation – Causes, Effects, and Solutions

Rupee depreciation occurs when the rupee's value falls against foreign currencies — more rupees are needed to buy one US dollar. (Example: Rs 80/USD earlier → Rs 97/USD now.)

Cause of Depreciation	Explanation
Higher Imports Than Exports (CAD)	India imports crude oil, electronics, machinery, and gold heavily; excess imports create a Current Account Deficit, raising dollar demand and weakening the rupee
Rising Crude Oil Prices	Higher global oil prices increase dollar demand for purchases, putting direct pressure on the rupee
Foreign Capital Outflow	When foreign investors withdraw from Indian markets seeking safer returns elsewhere, dollar demand increases
Higher US Interest Rates	When the US Federal Reserve raises interest rates, investors prefer US markets — capital outflows from India cause rupee depreciation
Global Economic Uncertainty	Wars, inflation, and financial crises push investors towards stronger currencies like the US dollar

#### Positive Effects

#### Negative Effects

Indian exports become cheaper in global markets	Import costs rise; petrol/diesel prices increase
IT companies and exporters earn higher profits	Inflation rises; burden of foreign loans increases
Foreign tourists find India cheaper to visit	Foreign education and travel become expensive for Indians

**RBI's Role:** The Reserve Bank of India can sell US dollars from its foreign exchange reserves to stabilise the rupee when depreciation is sharp.

## 6) Science & Technology

### WHO Declares Ebola Outbreak in Congo and Uganda a PHEIC

WHO declared the Ebola outbreak in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)**. Caused by the rare **Bundibugyo virus** strain. Ebola spreads through contact with bodily fluids and can be fatal.

### SMILE Mission – ESA & China to Study Solar Winds; First-Ever X-Ray Observations of Earth's Magnetic Field

**SMILE (Solar Wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer)** — a joint **ESA–Chinese Academy of Sciences** mission to study how Earth's magnetic field interacts with solar winds. It will make the **first-ever X-ray observations of Earth's magnetic field**. Launch vehicle: **Vega-C** | Launch site: **Kourou**.

#### Why It Matters:

Solar storms (Coronal Mass Ejections/CMEs) can damage satellites, disrupt communications, and threaten power grids.

SMILE will observe the **magnetopause** — the boundary where Earth's magnetic field deflects solar particles.

When solar wind particles interact with atmospheric gases near the poles, they create **Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights)** in the Northern Hemisphere and **Aurora Australis (Southern Lights)** in the Southern Hemisphere.

## 7) Environment

### India's First Satellite-Tagged Ganges Soft-Shell Turtle Released in Kaziranga

India's **first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle** was released along the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River at **Kaziranga National Park, Assam** — led by the **Wildlife Institute of India**, funded by the National Geographic Society.

#### Species Profile:

**Species:** Ganges soft-shell turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*).

**IUCN Status:** Endangered | **Protection:** Schedule I, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Recognised by its distinctive arrowhead-shaped head markings.

**Purpose of tagging:** Study seasonal movement patterns, home range, nesting, and breeding habitats in the Brahmaputra River Basin.

## 8) Defence

## INS Sunayna Returns After IOS SAGAR Deployment – 16-Nation Maritime Mission

The Indian Navy's **IOS SAGAR Deployment** concluded with **INS Sunayna returning to Kochi on May 20, 2026**. Flagged off from Mumbai on April 2, 2026; port calls at Malé, Phuket, Jakarta, Singapore, Yangon, Chattogram, and Colombo.

### India's Maritime Visions Behind the Mission:

**SAGAR:** Security and Growth for All in the Region.

**MAHASAGAR:** Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

**16 Participating Countries:** Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, UAE.

Focus on non-traditional maritime threats: piracy, illegal fishing, arms trafficking, and smuggling.

## Exercise PRAGATI 2026 – 12-Nation Multilateral Exercise in Meghalaya

**Exercise PRAGATI 2026** commenced in Meghalaya. **PRAGATI = Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region**. 12 participating nations: Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. Two-week exercise focused on counter-terrorism in semi-mountainous and jungle terrain.

## 9) Awards & Honours

### PM Modi Receives Norway's Highest Honour and FAO Agricola Medal 2026

Award	Details
Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit	Norway's highest honour for foreign Heads of Government; presented in Oslo during PM Modi's visit
FAO Agricola Medal 2026	Prestigious UN Food and Agriculture Organization award; presented at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy

### International Booker Prize 2026 – First Mandarin Chinese Work to Win

Taiwanese writer **Yang Shuang-zi** and translator **Lin King** won the **International Booker Prize 2026** for the novel *Taiwan Travelogue*, announced at Tate Modern, London on May 19, 2026. Originally in **Mandarin Chinese**, this is the **first Mandarin Chinese work to win the International Booker Prize**. The £50,000 prize is shared equally between author and translator.

## 10) Committees & Conferences

### 79th World Health Assembly – India as "Pharmacy of the World"

Union Health Minister Nadda addressed the plenary of the **79th World Health Assembly in Geneva** on the theme "*Reshaping Global Health: A Shared Responsibility*." Key points: over **1.85 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs** established; India advancing Universal Health Coverage; India reaffirmed as the "**Pharmacy of the World**" through affordable generic medicines and vaccines.

### 68th APO Governing Body Session – India Hosting; Founding Member Since 1961

India hosted the **68th Session of the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) Governing Body** at **Bharat Mandapam** (May 20-22, 2026). India assumed APO Governing Body Chairmanship at the **67th session in 2025**.

#### About APO:

**Established:** 1961 | **HQ:** Tokyo, Japan | **Members:** 21 Asia-Pacific economies.

**India is a founding member** of APO.

APO is non-political, non-profit, and non-discriminatory — focused on improving productivity and sustainable socioeconomic development.

## 11) Person in News

### Former Uttarakhand CM B.C. Khanduri Passes Away at 91

Former Union Minister and former Uttarakhand CM **B.C. Khanduri** passed away in Dehradun at 91. He served as **Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways under PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, played a key role in India's **Golden Quadrilateral Project**, and served **twice as Uttarakhand Chief Minister**.

## 12) Important Days

### World Metrology Day – 20 May | Theme: 'Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making'

World Metrology Day is observed every **May 20** — marking the **151st anniversary of the Metre Convention** signed in Paris in 1875.

#### India's Key Metrology Milestones in 2026:

40 Government Approved Test Centre (GATC) certificates issued to private entities.

**e-Maap Portal** launched for Legal Metrology registration and enforcement.

Minor offences under the Legal Metrology Act decriminalised under Jan Vishwas reforms.

India became the **13th country** authorised to issue OIML pattern approval certificates.

"**One Nation, One Time**" initiative with ISRO and National Physical Laboratory for precise Indian Standard Time (IST).

India will host the **61st Meeting of the International Committee of Legal Metrology** in New Delhi, October 2026.

## 13) Miscellaneous

### Key Appointments, Portals & Events

<b>Saurabh Vijay – UIDAI CEO</b>	Senior IAS officer Saurabh Vijay assumed charge as CEO of UIDAI on May 18, 2026.
<b>Ayush Anudan Portal</b>	Streamlines grant submission and monitoring for Ministry of Ayush schemes; integrates with NGO Darpan Portal and MAISP; promotes paperless Ayush governance.
<b>Indian War Memorial – Seoul</b>	Rajnath Singh and South Korea's minister jointly inaugurated the Indian War Memorial at Imjingak Park, Seoul (May 21, 2026), honouring 60 Para Field Ambulance and Custodian Force of India (CFI) during the Korean War.
<b>CBSE On-Screen Marking (OSM)</b>	CBSE introduced OSM for Class 12 evaluation — examiners assess digitally scanned answer sheets; ~98 lakh sheets scanned; enables evaluation beyond geographic limits.
<b>JEEVAN App &amp; SHATAYU Dashboard</b>	Ministry of Social Justice launched JEEVAN (Joint Elderly Empowerment & Virtual Assistance Network) for senior citizen safety and healthcare; SHATAYU dashboard shows district-wise availability of geriatric caregivers.
<b>Operation Navjeevan – Jharkhand</b>	27 Maoists surrendered before Jharkhand Police under Operation Navjeevan — rehabilitation and reintegration initiative for Left-Wing Extremists.
<b>Chand Tara – Cannes 2026</b>	Film by Mohammad Ali Baig on Hyderabad's Qutub Shahi heritage selected for trailer screening at Cannes Film Festival 2026.

## Quick Revision Table — May 2026 Week 3

**Toppers' Strategy:** AP rows highlighted in blue (★). Selected high-relevance topics only. One complete sentence per row. Rewrite weekly in your notebook.

Topic	One-Line Summary
★ AP – ACCHA Project	Andhralo Chinnarula Chaduvulu (ACCHA) project launched to improve early childhood education through play-based learning across AP's 55,746 Anganwadi centres (8.5 lakh children enrolled); first piloted in Kuppam.
★ AP – Pillale Sampada Policy	AP's Pillale Sampada (Children are Wealth) policy proposes Rs 30,000 for a third child and Rs 40,000 for a fourth child to address TFR of 1.50 — below national average of 1.9 and replacement level of 2.1.
★ AP – Matsyakarula Sevalo	Rs 261.59 crore disbursed to ~1.3 lakh fishermen families at Rs 20,000 each during the annual fishing ban (April 15–June 15); diesel subsidy Rs 9/litre; Rs 50 crore allocated for diesel subsidy in FY 2026-27.
★ AP – Andhra Model of Education	AP announced 100% school enrolment target, Clicker technology and Chromebooks for Class IX, star-rating for government schools, and smart kitchens expansion statewide within two years under the Andhra Model of Education.
★ AP – Amaravati Amma Vanta	APCRDA's Amaravati Amma Vanta initiative promotes women-led food entrepreneurship through skill training, branding, packaging, and market access for millet-based foods, traditional snacks, pickles, and sweets.
★ AP – Visakhapatnam Heritage	Thotlakonda Buddhist Complex (2nd century BCE–3rd century CE); Dutch cemetery Kummaripalem (1661, oldest European burial ground on east coast); Vizag Sepoy Uprising Oct 3, 1780 (77 years before 1857); Hindustan Shipyard founded 1941 by Walchand Hirachand, foundation stone by Rajendra Prasad June 21, 1941.
PM Modi – Netherlands	Tata-ASML agreement creates India's first front-end semiconductor Fab at Dholera; Leiden University returned 11th-century Chola Copper Plates; Letter of Intent for Kalpasar Project (Gujarat); Indo-Dutch Centre of Excellence for Flowers in West Tripura.
India–Norway: Green Strategic Partnership	India-Norway elevated to Green Strategic Partnership (Oslo, May 18); Norway joined IPOI; Norway supported India's UNSC permanent membership; cooperation in offshore wind, CCUS, clean energy.
India–Sweden: Strategic Partnership	India-Sweden elevated to Strategic Partnership (Gothenburg, May 18) with Joint Action Plan 2026-2030 on 4 pillars: Strategic Dialogue, Next-Gen Economic Partnership, Emerging Technologies, and People-Planet-Health-Resilience.
India-Nordic Summit (Finland)	India and Finland will jointly host the World Circular Economy Forum 2026 in Gandhinagar (September 2026); target to double bilateral trade; cooperation in AI, 5G/6G, quantum, renewable energy.
India–Italy: Special Strategic Partnership	Elevated to Special Strategic Partnership; trade target €20 billion by 2029; INNOVIT India hub launched; Italy supported India-EU FTA; 2027 declared "Year of Culture and Tourism"; cooperation in critical minerals, IMEC reaffirmed.
India–Cyprus: Strategic Partnership	India-Cyprus Strategic Partnership announced; Cyprus joined IPOI (Trade, Connectivity & Maritime pillar); first India-Cyprus Space Day May 18, 2026; India gifted BHISHM Cube (portable emergency medical kit); Defence Roadmap 2026-2031 signed.

<b>Bhojshala Ruling – MP HC</b>	MP High Court declared Bhojshala-Kamal Maula complex (Dhar) a temple dedicated to Saraswati (Vagdevi); quashed 2003 ASI order permitting Friday prayers; accepted ASI survey using carbon dating and XRF analysis; directed govt to retrieve Saraswati idol from London.
<b>Arunachal Kiwi Mission</b>	Rs 167 crore Arunachal Kiwi Mission to establish "Arunachal Organic Kiwi" as a global brand by FY 2028; AP contributes 50%+ of India's kiwi; November-January harvest coincides with New Zealand's off-season.
<b>Judges Inquiry Committee</b>	Under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, a committee of 1 SC judge + 1 HC Chief Justice + 1 distinguished jurist is constituted by the Lok Sabha Speaker/Rajya Sabha Chairman after a removal motion; impeachment requires special majority in both Houses; removal by President.
<b>CAA Rules Amended</b>	MHA amended CAA 2019 rules requiring applicants to declare Pakistani/Afghan/Bangladeshi passports and surrender them within 15 days after citizenship approval; particularly significant for the Matua community in West Bengal.
<b>Ebola PHEIC – Congo &amp; Uganda</b>	WHO declared Ebola outbreak in DRC and Uganda a PHEIC; caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus strain of Ebola; spreads via bodily fluids and can be fatal.
<b>SMILE Mission (ESA-China)</b>	Solar Wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer (SMILE) — joint ESA-Chinese Academy of Sciences mission on Vega-C from Kourou; will make the first-ever X-ray observations of Earth's magnetic field and study magnetopause-solar wind interactions.
<b>Ganges Soft-Shell Turtle – Satellite Tagged</b>	India's first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle ( <i>Nilssonina gangetica</i> — IUCN Endangered, Schedule I) released in Kaziranga by the Wildlife Institute of India to study movement, nesting, and breeding habits in the Brahmaputra Basin.
<b>IOS SAGAR &amp; PRAGATI 2026</b>	INS Sunayna completed IOS SAGAR deployment (16 nations, April 2 – May 20, 2026) under SAGAR and MAHASAGAR maritime visions; Exercise PRAGATI 2026 (PRAGATI = Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region) held in Meghalaya with 12 nations.
<b>PM Modi Awards</b>	PM Modi received Norway's highest honour — Grand Cross of Royal Norwegian Order of Merit — in Oslo, and the FAO Agricola Medal 2026 in Rome.
<b>International Booker Prize 2026</b>	Yang Shuang-zi and translator Lin King won the International Booker Prize 2026 for Taiwan Travelogue (Mandarin Chinese) — announced at Tate Modern, London, May 19; first Mandarin work to win; £50,000 prize shared equally.
<b>World Metrology Day – 20 May</b>	Observed May 20 (151st anniversary of Metre Convention, 1875); 2026 theme "Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making"; India became the 13th country to issue OIML certificates; "One Nation, One Time" initiative with ISRO for Indian Standard Time.
<b>Indian War Memorial – Seoul</b>	Rajnath Singh inaugurated Indian War Memorial at Imjingak Park, Seoul (May 21, 2026), honouring 60 Para Field Ambulance and Custodian Force of India during the Korean War; part of 75th anniversary commemorations.