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Today in History on 26 MAY

➤ 1926 – Lebanon adopts constitution

In 1926, Lebanon adopted its constitution, which was drafted during French rule. This constitution was designed to accommodate religious communities and is said to be inspired by the French Third Republic. Allocating the presidency to a Maronite Christian, the prime minister to a Sunni Muslim and the speaker of the House to a Shia Muslim.



➤ 1969 - Apollo 10 astronauts return to Earth

In 1969, the Apollo 10 astronauts returned to Earth on May 26. Apollo 10 was launched as a dress rehearsal for Apollo 11, testing the lunar module and practicing the procedure for landing on the lunar surface. The three astronauts on Apollo 10 were Thomas Stafford, John Young, and Eugene Cernan. They spent 8 days, 23 minutes, and 23 seconds in

space. Apollo 10 completed 31 orbits around Earth, traveling 829,437.5 miles.



➤ 1999 - ISRO successfully placed three satellites of India, Germany and South Korea in orbit

In 1999, ISRO successfully placed three satellites of India, Germany and South Korea in orbit in space through PSLV-C2 rocket. The main purpose of PSLV-C2 was to place these three satellites in Sun-synchronous Low Earth Orbit (S-TLE).



➤ 2007 - Defense agreement concluded between India and Germany





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In year 2007, India and Germany concluded an agreement on Mutual Protection of Classified Information, a key component of their defense cooperation. This agreement, signed alongside the 2006 Bilateral Defence Cooperation Agreement, provided a framework for bilateral defense ties and enhanced the defense industry and cooperation between the two countries.



Important NEWS on 26 MAY



➤ **1937 - Manorama, famous comic actress of South Indian cinema, was born**

In 1937, Gopishantha was born, who later came to be known as Manorama. Manorama was a famous South Indian actress, known mainly for comic roles in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam films. Manorama showed her talent in comedy roles and made her mark as a popular artist in the Tamil film industry. She was also included in the Guinness Book of World Records as she acted in more than 1000 films.

➤ **Indian Tea Industry Charts New Growth Path at Vanijya Bhawan Convention**

The International Tea Day Convention 2025 in New Delhi celebrated the cultural, economic, and strategic significance of Indian tea. With vibrant participation from stakeholders, the event emphasized the need for branding, youth engagement, organic innovation, and expanding export potential.



➤ Spurs Beat Manchester United to Clinch Europa League Title

Tottenham Hotspur created history by winning the 2025 UEFA Europa League Final against Manchester United with a 1-0 victory. Brennan Johnson scored the decisive goal, while a stunning goal-line clearance by Micky van de Ven and crucial saves from goalkeeper Vicario sealed the win. After 17 years without a trophy, Spurs have now secured a spot in next season's Champions League.



➤ Arunachal Pradesh welcomes new butterfly species: Euthalia malaccana recorded for the first time

The butterfly species Euthalia malaccana has been documented recently after extensive fieldwork and scientific verification in Arunachal Pradesh, India. The discovery extends its known range from Southeast Asia to India and contributes significantly to understanding butterfly biodiversity in the Northeast. The study also highlights the role of citizen scientists in advancing ecological knowledge.



➤ FSSAI Launches Crackdown on Illegal Fruit Ripening Practices

The FSSAI has directed all states to take strict action against the use of calcium carbide, an illegal fruit ripening agent, especially in mango markets. The chemical is known to be carcinogenic and causes mouth ulcers. The regulator has called for enhanced inspections, public awareness, and the promotion of safe alternatives like ethylene gas.



➤ Supreme Court Mandates Three Years of Legal Practice for Judicial Service Entry

The Supreme Court of India, in a pivotal ruling dated May, 2025, mandated that candidates must have a

minimum of three years of legal practice to apply for entry-level judicial posts such as Civil Judge (Junior Division). The ruling comes after widespread evidence revealed that appointing fresh law graduates without court experience led to inefficiencies in justice delivery.



➤ Kantar Brandz 2025 report

Kantar, the world's leading marketing data and analytics company, launches its 20th edition of BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands. Apple retains its top position for the fourth year with a brand value of \$1.3 trillion. It is followed by Google, Microsoft, Amazon and Nvidia.



➤ Annual Credit Plan for 2025-26

The Annual Credit Plan of ₹9,00,181 crore has been fixed under priority sector lending in Tamilnadu. This is an estimated growth of 21.12% over 2024-25. The credit-deposit ratio of 126% in the State is one of the best in the country. The priority sector advances increased from ₹6,63,993.27 crore as of March 2024 to ₹7,43,194.33 crore as of March 2025.



Current affairs MCQS on 26 MAY

Q.1. Recently, which state government has announced to give ₹1 lakh incentive to Divyang couples for marrying each other?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (b) Telangana

The Telangana government has decided to increase the marriage incentive award to Rs one lakh for marriages between two differently abled persons. The cash benefit will be given in the name of the wife, and a government order to this effect has been issued. Earlier, the incentive was given only if only one person was differently abled. Now, it has been decided to give the award for marriages between two differently abled persons as well.



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Q.2. Recently, who was elected as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association for the fourth time for the term 2025-26?

- (a) Prashant Bhushan
- (b) Kapil Sibal
- (c) Vikas Singh
- (d) Abhishek Manu Singhvi

Answer: (c) Vikas Singh

Senior advocate Vikas Singh has won the election for the post of President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for the term 2025-26. This is the fourth time he is being elected as the President of SCBA. Singh defeated other contenders senior advocates Pradeep Rai and Adish Aggarwal. Singh had also won the elections in 2022-2023, 2017-2018, 2021-2022. Last year, senior advocate Kapil Sibal won the election for the post of President of SCBA.

Q.3. Recently, what percentage of reservation was announced for Divyang persons in the allotment of residential buildings of the Central Government?

- (a) 2%
- (b) 3%
- (c) 4%
- (d) 5%

Answer: (c) 4%

The government announced four per cent reservation in allotment of central government housing to persons with disabilities, a significant step towards equality, respect and accessibility in public services. Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal took this historic step as a step towards inclusive growth. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs informed in a statement that it has issued an office memorandum to ensure reasonable access to central government residential accommodation for persons with disabilities. It said that this initiative reflects the government's dedication towards the empowerment of every citizen and also strengthens the foundation of an inclusive and accessible India.

Q.4. Recently, which IIT signed MoU with CRCL to strengthen scientific capabilities and promote trade facilitation?

- (a) IIT Bombay
- (b) IIT Madras
- (c) IIT Delhi
- (d) IIT Kanpur

Answer: (c) IIT Delhi

Central Revenue Control Laboratory (CRCL), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate business and improve ease of doing business. The MoU aims to accelerate research and development, innovation and scientific excellence at CRCL, promote ease of doing business and regulatory efficiency.

Q.5. Which country recently became the Chair of the Asian Productivity Organization for the 2025-26 session?

- (a) Japan
- (b) India
- (c) China
- (d) South Korea

Answer: (b) India

India has assumed the prestigious Chairmanship of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) for 2025-26 at the 67th Governing Body Meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Indian delegation is led by Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary, DPIIT and APO Director for India. The leadership change signals India's growing influence in the regional productivity and innovation agenda.

Q.6. Where was the 24th Indian Ocean Rim Association Ministerial Meeting held recently?

- (a) Sri Lanka
- (b) Maldives
- (c) Mauritius
- (d) Seychelles

Answer: (a) Sri Lanka





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The 24th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers (COM) meeting was held virtually, hosted by IORA Chair Sri Lanka. The theme of the meeting was: "Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations". Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, P. Kumaran led the Indian delegation at the 24th IORA COM meeting.

Q.7. Where were the Dhruv Bhawan and Sagar Bhawan centers inaugurated recently?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Goa
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: (b) Goa

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the "Sagar Bhawan" and "Polar Bhawan" at the "National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research" (NCPOR), Goa, two first of their kind facilities in India and only a few in the world.

Q.8. According to a recent report, which country will have the largest oil and gas reserves in 2025?

- (a) Saudi Arabia
- (b) Venezuela
- (c) Iran
- (d) Russia

Answer: (b) Venezuela

According to some recent reports, Venezuela will have the largest oil reserves and Russia the largest natural gas reserves in 2025. Venezuela is estimated to have over 300 billion barrels of proven crude oil reserves. Russia has 1,300 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves, the largest in the world.

Q.9. Recently, in which state, the population of Asiatic lions increased from 674 to 891 in five years?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Madhya Pradesh

(c) Gujarat

(d) Maharashtra

Answer: (c) Gujarat

According to the 16th Lion Census, the population of Asiatic lions in Gujarat is projected to increase from 674 in 2020 to 891 in 2025. Spread over 35,000 square kilometres, the census saw thousands of participants and used advanced technology such as the e-GujForest app and AI-powered software for accurate data collection. Conservation efforts supported by Prime Minister Modi have now extended to the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary.

Q.10. Recently, which Indian shooter won the gold medal in the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025?

- (a) Manu Bhaker
- (b) Kanak
- (c) Saurabh Chaudhary
- (d) Anish Bhanwala

Answer: (b) Kanak

Shooter Kanak has given India its first gold medal in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup being held in Suhl, Germany. Kanak, who won a silver medal in the Junior World Championship in Lima last year, won the yellow medal by scoring 239 points in the final of the women's 10 meter air pistol event.

Q.11. Recently, who released the book "Ready, Relevant and Dissident: A Blueprint for the Transformation of India's Military"?

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Nitin Gadkari
- (c) Rajnath Singh
- (d) Jagdeep Dhankhar

Answer: (c) Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the book, "Ready, Relevant and Resurgent: A Blueprint for the Transformation of India's Military", authored by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan. The Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) said the book provides deep insights into the ongoing transformation of the Indian Armed Forces driven





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by jointness, integration and self-reliance to meet the demands of 21st century warfare and secure national interests.

Q.12. Recently, which state government notified the aggregator policy for app-based cab services?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Delhi
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (b) Maharashtra

The Maharashtra government has notified its much-awaited aggregator policy for app-based cab services like Ola and Uber. The policy includes rules for fares, driver training, EV adoption as well as financial penalties for cancellations. A government resolution approved by the state Cabinet outlines a regulatory framework aimed at ensuring fair practices and a seamless experience for riders and drivers. As per the guidelines, if an Uber/Ola driver cancels a booking without a valid reason, the driver will be fined 10 per cent of the fare or Rs 100 - whichever is lower.

Q.13. Where was the sixth meeting of the National Traders Welfare Board held recently?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Kolkata

Answer: (c) New Delhi

The 6th meeting of the National Traders Welfare Board (NTWB) was held at Vanijya Bhavan, New Delhi. During the meeting, Shri Sanjeev, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) highlighted the significant contribution of the retail trade sector to the Indian economy. He called upon the Board members to give constructive and inclusive suggestions for the formulation of a National Retail Trade Policy, with special emphasis on participation from the grassroots level.

Q.14. What was the growth rate of India's Core Industries Index in April 2025?

- (a) 0.5%
- (b) 1.2%
- (c) 0.8%
- (d) 1.5%

Answer: (a) 0.5%

India's key infrastructure sectors witnessed a sharp slowdown in April 2025, with growth falling to a mere 0.5% - the lowest in eight months. The decline was led by key sectors such as refinery products, fertilizers and crude oil. Only the coal and natural gas sectors saw marginal positive growth. The current figure also looks relatively weak given the high base growth of 6.9% in April 2024.

Q.15. Recently, Britain suspended trade talks with which country due to the deteriorating situation in Gaza?

- (a) Israel
- (b) Palestine
- (c) Jordan
- (d) Egypt

Answer: (a) Israel

Britain has suspended trade talks with Israel over the deteriorating situation in Gaza, summoned the Israeli ambassador and imposed new sanctions on settlers in the West Bank. Foreign Secretary David Lammy described Israel's military action in Gaza as "morally unjustifiable" and said the country's blockade of aid had created a major humanitarian crisis. Britain has imposed sanctions on three individuals and four companies linked to settler violence, freezing their assets and banning them from travel.

