

## Part 1: International & National News

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the drone strike on the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant reported on May 17, 2026:**

1. The Barakah Nuclear Power Plant is located in the emirate of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
  2. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed that radiation levels remained normal following the incident. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2** **Explanation:** On May 17, 2026, the Emirati Defense Ministry and the Abu Dhabi Media Office confirmed that three drones targeted the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant located in the Al Dhafra Region of Abu Dhabi, UAE. Air defenses intercepted two drones, while one struck an electrical generator outside the inner perimeter, triggering a fire. Crucially, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and local authorities confirmed that there were no casualties and that local radiation levels remained completely unaffected and normal.

**Q2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi toured the iconic Afsluitdijk Dam on May 17, 2026, to explore deeper cooperation in climate-resilient infrastructure. In which country is this dam located?**

- (a) Sweden
- (b) Netherlands

- (c) Denmark
- (d) Germany

**Answer: (b) Netherlands** **Explanation:** During his European visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi toured the historic and globally renowned **Afsluitdijk Dam** alongside Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten on May 17, 2026. The visit was focused on bilateral cooperation in water management, delta technology, and climate-resilient coastal infrastructure. The Netherlands is globally acclaimed for its engineering marvels in reclaiming land and managing water tables.

**Q3. In mid-May 2026, which Indian state became the first in the country to fully complete all priority areas identified under Deregulation Phase-I and Phase-II reforms to enhance the Ease of Doing Business?**

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Tripura
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

**Answer: (b) Tripura** **Explanation:** The Government of Tripura made national headlines by becoming the first state in India to complete all priority reforms designated under Deregulation Phase-I and Phase-II. These initiatives are directed by the Central Government to remove archaic compliance burdens, digitize regulatory approvals, and drastically reduce the compliance costs for setting up and operating businesses.

**Q4. Following the May 2026 State Assembly Elections, V.D. Satheesan was appointed as the new Chief Minister of which Indian state?**

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Kerala
- (c) West Bengal

- (d) Odisha

**Answer: (b)** Kerala **Explanation:** Following a decisive victory in the 2026 Kerala Assembly elections, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) secured 102 out of 140 seats. Senior leader **V.D. Satheesan** was officially appointed as the Chief Minister of Kerala, bringing an end to the consecutive terms of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government led by Pinarayi Vijayan. Satheesan is a veteran leader who also won his sixth consecutive term as an MLA from the Paravur constituency.

**Q5. The controversial Great Nicobar Island Development Project faced heavy political and environmental scrutiny on May 17, 2026. Which of the following is a primary ecological concern cited by its opponents?**

- (a) Destabilization of the Western Ghats ecosystem
- (b) Impact on the nesting grounds of the Giant Leatherback Turtle
- (c) Deforestation of the Himalayan dry deciduous forests
- (d) Siltation of the Chilika Lagoon

**Answer: (b)** Impact on the nesting grounds of the Giant Leatherback Turtle **Explanation:** On May 17, 2026, senior leaders lodged formal objections with the Defence Ministry regarding the Great Nicobar Island Development Project. Opponents label the mega-project a recipe for "ecological disaster" because it threatens pristine tropical rainforests, indigenous tribal communities (like the Shompen and Nicobarese), and critical nesting beaches of the globally endangered Giant Leatherback Turtle. The Central government maintains that the project is indispensable for India's strategic and naval positioning in the Indo-Pacific.

**Q6. The disputed Bhojshala Complex, which was recently declared a temple dedicated to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati) by a High Court ruling, is located in which district of Madhya Pradesh?**

- (a) Ujjain
- (b) Dhar
- (c) Vidisha
- (d) Mandu

**Answer: (b)** Dhar **Explanation:** The Madhya Pradesh High Court ruled on a long-standing historical dispute, declaring that the Bhojshala Complex-Kamal Maula Mosque site located in the **Dhar district** of Madhya Pradesh is legally a temple dedicated to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati). This legal milestone significantly impacts the preservation, archaeological study, and community access rights of the 11th-century monument.

## Part 2: Economics, Banking & Corporate Affairs

**Q7. Which foreign banking entity officially inaugurated its first Indian branch at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in May 2026?**

- (a) DBS Bank (Singapore)
- (b) CTBC Bank (Taiwan)
- (c) Emirates NBD (UAE)
- (d) Kookmin Bank (South Korea)

**Answer: (b)** CTBC Bank (Taiwan) **Explanation:** CTBC Bank of Taiwan expanded its footprint into India by setting up its first branch at GIFT City, Gujarat. The branch is strategically aimed at enhancing cross-border financing, boosting supply chain investments between Taiwan and India (especially in electronic

manufacturing), and offering comprehensive trade and treasury services.

**Q8. RBL Bank received regulatory clearance for a massive strategic investment worth nearly \$3 billion (₹26,850 crore) from which international banking conglomerate?**

- (a) First Abu Dhabi Bank
- (b) Emirates NBD
- (c) Qatar National Bank
- (d) Standard Chartered

**Answer: (b) Emirates NBD Explanation:** In a major banking consolidation event, RBL Bank received final government and regulatory nods for a \$3 billion (₹26,850 crore) investment from Dubai's **Emirates NBD**. Emirates NBD will subscribe to roughly 959 million equity shares via a preferential issue at ₹280 per share, granting it a dominant 60% post-issue stake in the Indian private sector lender.

**Q9. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's data released in May 2026, which region/country emerged as India's third-largest seafood export market in FY26?**

- (a) United States
- (b) China
- (c) European Union (EU)
- (d) Japan

**Answer: (c) European Union (EU) Explanation:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that the **European Union (EU)** secured its position as India's third-largest seafood export destination in Financial Year 2025–26, trailing only behind the US and China. India's seafood exports to the EU fetched USD 1.593 billion, accounting for 18.94% of India's total global seafood export value. This growth was sustained after India proved compliance

with stringent EU anti-microbial and residue testing guidelines.

**Q10. The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, released the 'LEADS 2025 Report' in New Delhi. What does the acronym "LEADS" stand for?**

- (a) Logistics Ease Across Different States
- (b) Logistics Efficiency and Development System
- (c) Linkage of Economies and Digital Services
- (d) Local Employment and Agricultural Development Scheme

**Answer: (a) Logistics Ease Across Different States Explanation:** The **LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States)** index is a highly crucial report published by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It evaluates and ranks Indian states and Union Territories based on their logistics infrastructure, regulatory efficiency, and ease of freight movement. Under the 2025 report, West Bengal (Coastal) and Rajasthan (Landlocked) were categorized among the top performing or foundational "Growth-Seekers."

**Q11. FinBox launched an Artificial Intelligence-native lending infrastructure suite in mid-May 2026, aiming to cut commercial loan processing times down from three weeks to 24 hours. What is the name of this AI suite?**

- (a) FinLeap
- (b) Atlas
- (c) KredX
- (d) Aegis

**Answer: (b) Atlas Explanation:** FinBox introduced its AI-native digital lending infrastructure suite called **Atlas**. The engine automates traditional underwriting, document

verification, and risk analysis processes, enabling institutional lenders to collapse legacy corporate loan processing turnaround times from 21 days down to just 24 hours.

**Q12. American ride-hailing giant Uber partnered with which Indian conglomerate to establish its very first localized data center in India by the end of 2026?**

- (a) Reliance Industries
- (b) Adani Group
- (c) Tata Communications
- (d) Bharti Airtel

**Answer: (b) Adani Group** **Explanation:** Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi and Gautam Adani concluded a strategic technology-infrastructure pact under which Uber will lease its first dedicated Indian data center facility from the **Adani Group** in Ahmedabad. The data architecture will run on renewable-energy infrastructure, supporting Uber's computing expansion and matching Adani's targets of deploying AI-ready green data centers.

### Part 3: Sports News

**Q13. Consider the following statements regarding international sports developments in May 2026:**

1. FIFA officially finalized the bidding evaluation framework for the 2030 World Cup host venues.
  2. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) approved the inclusion of coastal rowing in the upcoming multi-sport formats. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2

- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (c)** Both 1 and 2 **Explanation:** Mid-May 2026 sports rosters featured two major structural updates: FIFA concluded its comprehensive regulatory assessment for the joint centennial 2030 FIFA World Cup stadium allocations across Europe and South America. Concurrently, the IOC finalized operational designs for newer formats, confirming the expanding competitive footprints of disciplines like coastal rowing and urban sports.

**Q14. In May 2026, which country hosted the BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals, showcasing world-class badminton action?**

- (a) India
- (b) China
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Malaysia

**Answer: (c)** Indonesia **Explanation:** The premier badminton team championships—the BWF Thomas Cup (Men) and Uber Cup (Women) Finals—wrapped up intense elite rounds in Jakarta, **Indonesia** during May 2026. The tournaments are vital for tracking global seedings ahead of major international games.

**Q15. Who won the Formula 1 Emilia Romagna Grand Prix held in May 2026?**

- (a) Lewis Hamilton
- (b) Max Verstappen
- (c) Lando Norris
- (d) Charles Leclerc

**Answer: (b)** Max Verstappen **Explanation:** Red Bull Racing's **Max Verstappen** claimed victory at the 2026 Emilia Romagna Grand Prix at Imola, fending off intense pressure from McLaren and Ferrari drivers. This victory

consolidated his lead in the 2026 Formula 1 World Drivers' Championship standings.

#### Part 4: Appointments, Nominations & Chairpersons

**Q16. On May 17, 2026, Yoweri Museveni was officially sworn in for a historic seventh presidential term. He is the President of which African nation?**

- (a) Kenya
- (b) Uganda
- (c) Rwanda
- (d) Tanzania

**Answer: (b) Uganda** **Explanation:** Veteran African leader **Yoweri Museveni** was sworn into office for his seventh term as the President of Uganda in Kampala. Museveni has been in power since 1986, making him one of Africa's longest-serving heads of state. The official languages of Uganda are Swahili and English, and its currency is the Ugandan Shilling.

**Q17. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla officially reconstituted the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Empowerment of Women for the 2026–27 tenure. Who has been appointed as its Chairperson?**

- (a) Smriti Irani
- (b) Daggubati Purandeswari
- (c) Kanimozhi Karunanidhi
- (d) Mahua Moitra

**Answer: (b) Daggubati Purandeswari** **Explanation:** Senior Lok Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) **Daggubati Purandeswari** was appointed by Speaker Om Birla to chair the prestigious Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women for 2026–27. The panel is a Joint Parliamentary Committee that

reviews central welfare programs, gender-budgeting, and legislative protective mechanisms across states and UTs.

**Q18. Who was appointed as the Special Representative for the People's Republic of China (PRC) affairs by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on May 17, 2026?**

- (a) Mohammad Javad Zarif
- (b) Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf
- (c) Ali Bagheri Kani
- (d) Hossein Amir-Abdollahian

**Answer: (b) Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf** **Explanation:** On May 17, 2026, Iranian Parliament Speaker **Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf** was officially designated as Iran's Special Representative for China Affairs. The appointment was proposed by President Masoud Pezeshkian and endorsed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, highlighting the strategic economic, energy, and military axis between Tehran and Beijing amidst the ongoing West Asian geopolitical crises.

#### Part 5: Awards & Honors

**Q19. On May 17, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the "Royal Order of the Polar Star, Commander Grand Cross." This is the highest civilian/state honor of which country?**

- (a) Norway
- (b) Sweden
- (c) Finland
- (d) Iceland

**Answer: (b) Sweden** **Explanation:** In a major diplomatic event on May 17, 2026, in Gothenburg, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was decorated with the **Royal Order of the Polar Star (Commander Grand Cross)**, which is the highest

honor Sweden bestows upon foreign heads of government. This award marked the 31st international honor received by PM Modi since 2014. The historic order was originally established in 1748 by King Frederick I of Sweden.

**Q20. According to the 2026 'Sunday Times Rich List' published in mid-May, which family retained the top spot as the wealthiest family in the United Kingdom for the fifth consecutive year?**

- (a) Reuben Family
- (b) Hinduja Family
- (c) Lakshmi Mittal Family
- (d) Weston Family

**Answer: (b) Hinduja Family Explanation:** The Hinduja Family (led by Sanjay and Dheeraj Hinduja) retained the absolute pole position as the UK's richest entity in the 2026 Sunday Times Rich List for the fifth year running. Their aggregate net worth is valued at an astronomical £38 billion, driven by global holdings across automotive, banking, chemicals, and healthcare sectors.

### Part 6: Books & Authors

**Q21. The analytical book titled "Productivity, Not Just Growth: India's Path to Viksit Bharat 2047" was heavily discussed in academic circles in mid-May 2026. This monograph focuses primarily on which economic index?**

- (a) Human Development Index (HDI)
- (b) Total Factor Productivity (TFP)
- (c) Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- (d) Gross National Happiness (GNH)

**Answer: (b) Total Factor Productivity (TFP) Explanation:** The publication "*Productivity, Not*

*Just Growth: India's Path to Viksit Bharat 2047*" argues that for India to transition into a fully developed economy by 2047, it cannot rely merely on public infrastructure capital spending. Instead, it must drastically boost its **Total Factor Productivity (TFP)**, resolve labor-market rigidities, and eliminate industrial skill mismatches.

**Q22. The historical biographical volume "The Polar Star: A History of Scandinavian Chivalry" was re-released with new annotations in May 2026. Who is the author of this work?**

- (a) Anders Rydberg
- (b) Dr. Henrik Larsson
- (c) Dr. Lennart Nilsson
- (d) Signe Johansen

**Answer: (c) Dr. Lennart Nilsson Explanation:** Written by Nordic historian Dr. Lennart Nilsson, this book gained renewed international spotlight in mid-May 2026 due to the public presentation ceremonies surrounding the Royal Order of the Polar Star awards. It details the geopolitical evolution of Scandinavian knightly orders since the mid-18th century.

### Part 7: Defense News & Security

**Q23. Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA) announced in May 2026 that India's first AI-powered Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV) will be manufactured at its new overseas plant in Portugal. What is the name of this combat drone?**

- (a) Rudra
- (b) Kaal Bhairava
- (c) Agni Neer
- (d) Ghatak AI

**Answer: (b)** Kaal Bhairava **Explanation:** Deep-tech defense firm Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA) revealed that its cutting-edge, AI-powered Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance (MALE) autonomous combat aircraft, **Kaal Bhairava**, will be built at its new facility in Portugal under 'Operation 777'. Developed alongside European simulation expert SKETCHPIXEL, the combat drone boasts an operational range of 3,000 km, over 30 hours of flight endurance, AI target recognition, and advanced swarm coordination capabilities.

**Q24. In May 2026, which two wings of the Indian Armed Forces signed a historic Memorandum of Association (MoA) on Affiliation to boost jointness, operational cohesion, and inter-service integration?**

- (a) Indian Army and Indian Air Force
- (b) Indian Army and Indian Navy
- (c) Indian Navy and Indian Air Force
- (d) Indian Army and Indian Coast Guard

**Answer: (b)** Indian Army and Indian Navy **Explanation:** To strengthen inter-service integration and joint battlefield operations, the **Indian Army and the Indian Navy** signed an official MoA on Affiliation in New Delhi. This institutional framework streamlines shared tactical doctrines, coordinates joint amphibious and coastal warfare exercises, and sets explicit blueprints for future inter-service personnel postings.

## Part 8: Government Schemes & MoUs

**Q25. The Ministry of Ayush signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which flagship government digital initiative to enhance multilingual access to traditional healthcare services?**

- (a) Digital India Bhashini (BHASHINI)
- (b) DigiLocker
- (c) Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)
- (d) Umang

**Answer: (a)** Digital India Bhashini (BHASHINI) **Explanation:** The Ministry of Ayush teamed up with **BHASHINI** (the government's flagship AI-powered language translation platform) under the "BHASHINI Rajyam" framework. This MoU ensures that ancient and traditional healthcare systems, medical advice, and Ayush services are available seamlessly across internet applications in multiple vernacular Indian languages.

**Q26. The Central Government approved a financial outlay of ₹2,432 crore under the "Amended BharatNet Programme" in mid-May 2026. Which state signed the direct multilateral implementation agreement for this phase?**

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: (b)** Andhra Pradesh **Explanation:** The Government of Andhra Pradesh signed a comprehensive delivery pact with the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), Department of Telecommunications, BSNL, and state telecom assets to execute the **Amended BharatNet Programme**. Backed by a ₹2,432 crore central grant, the project will lay optical fiber networks to connect 13,426 Gram Panchayats and provide over 5 lakh high-speed rural home fiber connections across the state.

**Q27. The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a ₹20,667 crore Semi High-Speed Double-Line railway**

**project spanning 134 km. Which two economic centers will this project connect?**

- (a) Mumbai and Pune
- (b) Ahmedabad (Sarkhej) and Dholera
- (c) Delhi and Meerut
- (d) Bengaluru and Mysore

**Answer: (b)** Ahmedabad (Sarkhej) and Dholera **Explanation:** The CCEA, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved the capital intensive **Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)-Dholera Semi High-Speed Double-Line railway project** (134 km) in Gujarat. Notably, this is the first Indian Railways project utilizing completely indigenous semi-high-speed rolling stock and engineering standards to link a major metropolitan hub with a Special Investment Region (SIR).

## Part 9: Important Days & Themes

**Q28. The International Day of Light is celebrated globally every year on which date?**

- (a) May 15
- (b) May 16
- (c) May 17
- (d) May 18

**Answer: (b)** May 16 **Explanation:** The **International Day of Light** is observed annually on **May 16** to celebrate the vital role light plays in science, culture, art, education, and sustainable development. The date marks the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman.

**Q29. What was the designated global theme for the "International Day of Living Together in Peace," observed on May 16, 2026?**

- (a) Climate Peace and Global Harmony
- (b) Building Trust through Dialogue, Inclusion and Reconciliation
- (c) Digital Ethics for Global Peace
- (d) Unity in Diversity for Sustainable Tomorrows

**Answer: (b)** Building Trust through Dialogue, Inclusion and Reconciliation **Explanation:** Celebrated worldwide on May 16, the UN-declared **International Day of Living Together in Peace** emphasizes the elimination of systemic discrimination and intolerance. The official theme chosen for the year 2026 was "*Building Trust through Dialogue, Inclusion and Reconciliation.*"

**Q30. Armed Forces Day in the United States is traditionally observed on the third Saturday of May. On which date did it fall in the year 2026?**

- (a) May 15, 2026
- (b) May 16, 2026
- (c) May 17, 2026
- (d) May 18, 2026

**Answer: (b)** May 16, 2026 **Explanation:** **Armed Forces Day** is a prominent military appreciation event celebrated on the third Saturday of May each year to pay tribute to the men and women serving in the armed forces. In 2026, the third Saturday of the month fell exactly on **May 16**.