

## National & International News

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the official talks held between India and Italy in Rome on May 20, 2026:**

1. The bilateral relationship between India and Italy was elevated to the level of a 'Special Strategic Partnership'.
2. Both countries agreed to designate the year 2027 as the "Year of Culture and Tourism between India and Italy".

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 20, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni held comprehensive bilateral talks in Rome. The two leaders formally decided to elevate the India-Italy Strategic Partnership to a **Special Strategic Partnership**. To deepen people-to-people ties, they announced that **2027** will be celebrated as the "Year of Culture and Tourism between India and Italy."

**Q2. India recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Italy for the institutional recruitment and mobility of which of the following professionals?**

- A) Semiconductor Engineers
- B) Professional Nurses
- C) Merchant Navy Officers
- D) Agricultural Scientists

**Answer: B) Professional Nurses**

**Explanation:** Alongside upgrading their diplomatic ties, India and Italy signed a crucial migration and mobility framework MoU specifically focusing on the structured **recruitment of professional nurses** from India to work in the Italian healthcare system.

**Q3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was recently conferred with the 'Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit'. This represents which number of international civilian honors received by him from foreign nations?**

- A) 28th
- B) 30th
- C) 32nd
- D) 35th

**Answer: C) 32nd**

**Explanation:** During his historic transit to Oslo—marking the first visit by a sitting Indian Prime Minister to Norway in 43 years—PM Narendra Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit, which is the **32nd international honor** bestowed upon him by a foreign country.

**Q4. The 3rd India–Nordic Summit, held in May 2026, was hosted in which of the following cities?**

- A) Stockholm
- B) Copenhagen
- C) Helsinki
- D) Oslo

**Answer: D) Oslo**

**Explanation:** The 3rd India-Nordic Summit took place in **Oslo, Norway** in May 2026, bringing together India and the leaders of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The

previous two iterations were held in Stockholm (2018) and Copenhagen (2022).

**Q5. India and Norway announced a new bilateral pact in May 2026 aimed at fostering socio-economic growth in developing countries. What is the name of this cooperation model?**

- A) India-Norway Polar Alliance
- B) India-Norway Triangular Development Cooperation Pact
- C) Nordic-Bharat Sustainable Grid Project
- D) Blue Economy Green Corridor Initiative

**Answer: B) India-Norway Triangular Development Cooperation Pact**

**Explanation:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Norwegian counterpart announced the **India-Norway Triangular Development Cooperation Pact**. This mechanism is explicitly geared toward joint development funding and project execution across the Global South.

**Q6. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the 'Lion' Species Spotlight Event ahead of the IBCA Summit 2026. Where was this event held?**

- A) Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh
- B) Sasan Gir, Gujarat
- C) Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan
- D) Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand

**Answer: B) Sasan Gir, Gujarat**

**Explanation:** The 'Lion' Species Spotlight Event was inaugurated at **Sasan Gir, Gujarat**, as part of the pre-summit activities driving up to the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit 2026. The event put a global spotlight on the Asiatic Lion conservation paradigm.

**Q7. Assistant Protocol Officer Naren Dhar, an Indian diplomat who tragically passed away**

**inside the diplomatic mission premises on May 20, 2026, was posted in which city?**

- A) Colombo, Sri Lanka
- B) Kathmandu, Nepal
- C) Chattogram, Bangladesh
- D) Male, Maldives

**Answer: C) Chattogram, Bangladesh**

**Explanation:** Naren Dhar, an Assistant Protocol Officer serving at the Indian mission in **Chattogram, Bangladesh**, was found dead inside the old visa centre building of the diplomatic mission.

**Q8. According to a report released by the Parliamentary Budget Officer on May 20, 2026, hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup will cost taxpayers over \$1 Billion (\$82 Million per game) in which country?**

- A) United States
- B) Canada
- C) Mexico
- D) Brazil

**Answer: B) Canada**

**Explanation:** Canada's Parliamentary Budget Officer released an assessment indicating that hosting matches for the **2026 FIFA World Cup** will cost Canadian taxpayers north of \$1 billion, sparking localized public policy debates regarding expenditure justification.

## Economics & Banking

**Q9. TVS Venu Group recently acquired a 9.9% strategic stake in which of the following financial institutions for ₹193.3 Crore?**

- A) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- B) Equitas Small Finance Bank

- C) Jana Small Finance Bank  
D) Capital Small Finance Bank

**Answer: C) Jana Small Finance Bank**

**Explanation:** Market regulators confirmed that the **TVS Venu Group** successfully executed an equity acquisition of a **9.9% stake in Jana Small Finance Bank** via an off-market block deal valued at ₹193.3 crore.

**Q10. Which Indian banking giant collaborated with Visa to launch India's first USD-Denominated Debit Card for NRIs at GIFT City, Gujarat?**

- A) State Bank of India  
B) HDFC Bank  
C) ICICI Bank  
D) Axis Bank

**Answer: C) ICICI Bank**

**Explanation:** **ICICI Bank**, in strategic alignment with Visa, announced the launch of India's very first **USD-denominated debit card** specifically tailored for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) accounts managed at its IFSC Banking Unit in GIFT City, Gandhinagar.

**Q11. Following the relaxation allowing 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under the automatic route in the insurance sector, Prudential plc announced an agreement to acquire a 75% stake in which company?**

- A) Max Life Insurance  
B) Bharti Life Insurance  
C) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance  
D) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance

**Answer: B) Bharti Life Insurance Company Ltd**

**Explanation:** Taking immediate advantage of India's updated structural parameters allowing

**100% FDI in insurance intermediaries and insurance companies**, global asset giant **Prudential plc** moved to acquire a controlling 75% stake in **Bharti Life Insurance Company Ltd**.

**Q12. India's official merchandise trade deficit data compiled for April 2026 widened sharply due to balance of payment concerns. What was the registered trade deficit?**

- A) \$15.2 billion  
B) \$20.7 billion  
C) \$28.4 billion  
D) \$35.1 billion

**Answer: C) \$28.4 billion**

**Explanation:** Financial tracking on May 20 highlighted growing macroeconomic vulnerabilities as India's merchandise trade deficit widened significantly to **\$28.4 billion** for April 2026, climbing steeply from the \$20.7 billion deficit recorded in March.

**Q13. Wall Street analysts are intensely auditing Elon Musk's plans to launch an Initial Public Offering (IPO) for SpaceX. What is the target valuation drawing skepticism?**

- A) \$500 Billion  
B) \$1 Trillion  
C) \$1.75 Trillion  
D) \$2.5 Trillion

**Answer: C) \$1.75 Trillion**

**Explanation:** Market reports on May 20, 2026, revealed that institutional desks on Wall Street are closely analyzing the financial metrics of SpaceX, as Elon Musk aims for a public market debut targeting a valuation close to **\$1.75 trillion**, heavily driven by its Starlink revenue architecture.

## Appointments

**Q14. Who has been appointed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the new Executive Director (ED) to head the Department of Payment and Settlement Systems?**

- A) Gunveer Singh
- B) Vasudevan P.
- C) Michael Patra
- D) T. Rabi Sankar

**Answer: A) Gunveer Singh**

**Explanation:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) formally designated **Gunveer Singh as its new Executive Director (ED)**. His primary portfolio will entail steering the strategically vital Department of Payment and Settlement Systems.

**Q15. Consider the following statements regarding the statutory history of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI):**

1. The RBI was originally established based on the recommendations of the Hilton Young Commission.
2. The first Indian-origin Governor of the RBI was Sir Osborne Smith.

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: A) 1 only**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct; RBI was set up via the **Hilton Young Commission**. Statement 2 is incorrect because the *first overall Governor*

was Sir Osborne Smith (an Australian), whereas the *first Indian-origin Governor* was **C.D. Deshmukh**. Sanjay Malhotra currently serves as the 26th Governor.

**Q16. Global technology services major Capgemini SE announced structural updates during its Shareholders' Meeting on May 20, 2026. Who was reappointed as the Chairman of the Board?**

- A) Aiman Ezzat
- B) Paul Hermelin
- C) Patrick Pouyanné
- D) Kurt Sievers

**Answer: B) Paul Hermelin**

**Explanation:** Capgemini SE held its annual Shareholders' Meeting in Paris on May 20, 2026, confirming the separation of the Chairman and CEO roles. **Paul Hermelin was reappointed as the Chairman of the Board**, while Aiman Ezzat continues as the Chief Executive Officer.

## Defense News

**Q17. Who has created history by becoming the first-ever woman Category-A (Cat-A) Flying Instructor in the Indian Air Force (IAF)?**

- A) Squadron Leader Saanya
- B) Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth
- C) Squadron Leader Avani Chaturvedi
- D) Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh

**Answer: A) Squadron Leader Saanya**

**Explanation:** In a historic milestone for gender parity and tactical evolution within the armed forces, **Squadron Leader Saanya** graduated to become the **first-ever woman Category-A Flying Instructor** in the history of the Indian Air Force.

**Q18. The Indian Navy has awarded a strategically vital contract under the ADITI 3.0 scheme to Tonbo Imaging for the domestic development of which technology?**

- A) Quantum Encryption Modules
- B) High Power Microwave (HPM) systems
- C) Autonomous Underwater Swarm Drones
- D) Active Phased Array Sonar Arrays

**Answer: B) High Power Microwave (HPM) systems**

**Explanation:** Under the ADITI 3.0 initiative (Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX), the Indian Navy signed a defense manufacturing contract with Tonbo Imaging to design and manufacture **High Power Microwave (HPM) systems**, which are key directed-energy assets.

**Q19. Global aerospace manufacturing titan GE Aerospace announced an additional investment of ₹100 crore on May 20, 2026, expanding its total baseline investment footprint to over ₹510 crore in which Indian city?**

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Pune
- C) Hyderabad
- D) Chennai

**Answer: B) Pune**

**Explanation:** GE Aerospace declared an injection of ₹100 crore into its advanced multi-modal manufacturing facility located in **Pune, Maharashtra**, scaling its absolute asset commitments in the Pune plant past the ₹510 crore mark.

## Government Schemes & MoUs

**Q20. India and Italy signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on May 20, 2026, to actively cooperate on the structural and academic development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC). Where is the NMHC being constructed?**

- A) Vizag, Andhra Pradesh
- B) Kochi, Kerala
- C) Lothal, Gujarat
- D) Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu

**Answer: C) Lothal, Gujarat**

**Explanation:** As part of the Special Strategic Partnership outcomes signed in Rome, India and Italy inked an institutional MoU to share historical, archaeological, and engineering expertise for the development of the **National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat**.

**Q21. Consider the historical context of the coastal city hosting the National Maritime Heritage Complex:**

1. Lothal was the prominent maritime dockyard of the Indus Valley Civilization.
2. It is hydrologically connected to the ancient Sabarmati river channel near the Gulf of Khambhat.

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:** Both statements are correct from an Indian history/geography standpoint. Lothal is globally celebrated as the world's earliest known engineered dockyard belonging to the Harappan civilization, connected dynamically to the ancient flow of the **Bhogavo and Sabarmati rivers** in Gujarat.

## Sports

**Q22. Former Test Captain MJK Smith, who passed away at the age of 92, was a legendary sports figure from which country?**

- A) Australia
- B) England
- C) New Zealand
- D) South Africa

**Answer: B) England**

**Explanation:** Former **England Test Captain Mike Smith (MJK Smith)** passed away at the age of 92. He played 50 Test matches for England, captaining them in 25, and was notably a dual-sport international athlete who also repped England in Rugby Union.

## Awards & Honors

**Q23. The film titled "Boong", which recently secured an international accolade at the BAFTA 2026 ceremonies, primarily traces its cultural and linguistic origin to which Indian state?**

- A) Assam
- B) Manipur
- C) Mizoram
- D) Nagaland

**Answer: B) Manipur**

**Explanation:** Tracking Indian cinematic achievements globally, the Manipuri film "**Boong**" achieved critical acclaim by clinching

honors at the BAFTA 2026 awards, spotlighting independent cinema from Northeast India.

## Science & Environment

**Q24. On the evening of May 19–20, 2026, skywatchers across India witnessed a clear visual astronomical alignment where a crescent Moon appeared alongside which exceptionally bright celestial body?**

- A) Mars
- B) Venus
- C) Saturn
- D) Mercury

**Answer: B) Venus**

**Explanation:** A spectacular planetary conjunction between the thin crescent Moon and Venus (the Evening Star) occurred across the night skies of India. It was clearly visible to the naked eye looking low toward the western horizon right after sunset.

**Q25. Which international organization or panel recently inducted Indian academic scholar Professor B. Ravindran to its advisory ranks to help structure global regulatory frameworks?**

- A) UN Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence
- B) International Renewable Energy Council
- C) World Bank Climate Tech Division
- D) WTO Intellectual Property Council

**Answer: A) UN Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence**

**Explanation:** Indian academic and technology scholar **Professor B. Ravindran** was appointed to the United Nations (UN) high-level advisory panel on Artificial Intelligence, elevating Indian representation in establishing safe global AI governance structures.

## Important Days

**Q26. World Bee Day is globally observed every year on which of the following dates?**

- A) May 18
- B) May 19
- C) May 20
- D) May 21

**Answer: C) May 20**

**Explanation:** World Bee Day is celebrated worldwide on **May 20** to raise public awareness about the essential role that bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, matching the birth anniversary of pioneering apiculture expert Anton Janša.

**Q27. International HR Day is formally commemorated on May 20 every year. What is the central purpose behind celebrating this day?**

- A) To standardise global corporate minimum wages
- B) To recognise the role of Human Resources professionals in workplace culture and talent management
- C) To audit human trafficking indices globally
- D) To promote vocational training programs under the UN

**Answer: B) To recognise the role of Human Resources professionals in workplace culture and talent management**

**Explanation:** International HR Day is observed annually on **May 20** to recognize, appreciate, and cast light upon the positive impacts brought about by Human Resource professionals in

fostering workplace culture, employee well-being, and structured organizational growth.

**Q28. World Metrology Day is celebrated globally on May 20. What historical milestone does this day commemorate?**

- A) The creation of the Greenwich Meridian Line
- B) The signing of the Metre Convention in 1875
- C) The launch of the first weather satellite
- D) The establishment of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in Geneva

**Answer: B) The signing of the Metre Convention in 1875**

**Explanation:** World Metrology Day is an annual celebration of the signature of the **Metre Convention on 20 May 1875** by representatives of seventeen nations. The convention set the framework for global collaboration in the science of measurement and its industrial applications.

## Comprehensive Static GA linked to May 20 News

**Q29. On May 20, 1873, Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis were granted a U.S. Patent for an invention that laid the foundation for global casual wear. What did they invent?**

- A) The Zipper mechanism
- B) Blue jeans with copper rivets
- C) Waterproof trench coats
- D) Synthetic nylon fabric

**Answer: B) Blue jeans with copper rivets**

**Explanation:** May 20 marks the birth of **modern denim blue jeans**. On this day in 1873, Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis received a patent for their method of fixing pocket openings using

copper rivets, creating durable workwear that evolved into the iconic Levi's 501 brand.

**Q30. The "Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme", which was reviewed in recent current affairs modules, is a flagship state government scheme aimed at providing financial/unemployment assistance in which state?**

- A) Odisha
- B) West Bengal
- C) Tripura
- D) Jharkhand

**Answer: B) West Bengal**

**Explanation:** The Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme is a distinct, localized socio-economic state government program run by West Bengal designed to extend financial handholding and self-employment skill aids to the state's unemployed youth demographics.

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| Category | Key Highlight from May 20, 2026   |
| Defense  | Squadron Leader Saanya becomes the first-ever woman Cat-A Flying Instructor in the IAF. |
| Days     | May 20 marks World Bee Day, World Metrology Day, and International HR Day.              |

**Quick Reference Summary Table**

| Category  | Key Highlight from May 20, 2026  |
|-----------|--|
| Bilateral | India-Italy ties upgraded to <b>Special Strategic Partnership</b> ; 2027 is Year of Culture & Tourism. |
| Awards    | PM Modi gets Norway's civilian honor: <b>Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit</b> .       |
| Banking   | <b>ICICI Bank + Visa</b> launch India's first USD Debit Card for NRIs at GIFT City.                    |

