

National & International News

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the 3rd India-Nordic Summit held in May 2026:

1. The summit was hosted in Copenhagen, Denmark, co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
2. All five Nordic nations officially reaffirmed their support for India's permanent membership in a reformed United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
3. The summit focused heavily on the operationalization of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

Which of the statements given above are correct? A) 1 and 2 only

B) 2 and 3 only

C) 1 and 3 only

D) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: B) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The 3rd India-Nordic Summit was held in **Oslo, Norway**, not Copenhagen. It was co-chaired by PM Narendra Modi along with the heads of government of the five Nordic nations (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden). The previous summits were held in Stockholm (2018) and Copenhagen (2022).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In a major diplomatic win, all five Nordic nations explicitly backed India's bid for a permanent seat in the UNSC and endorsed India's application for the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The summit marked a key milestone in operationalizing the India-EFTA TEPA, which targets \$100 billion in investments and the creation of 1 million direct jobs in India. Norway and Iceland are key members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

Q2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bilateral visit to Italy in May 2026 culminated in elevating ties to a "Special Strategic Partnership". Which of the following initiatives was launched to accelerate tech startups between both nations?

A) ITA-IND Start-up Corridor

B) INNOVIT India Hub

C) Elettra Tech Initiative

D) Mare-Nostrum Digital Alliance

Answer: B) INNOVIT India Hub

Explanation:

During PM Modi's bilateral summit with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in Rome, the ties were formally upgraded. To boost cutting-edge deep tech cooperation, they announced the **INNOVIT India Hub**, a dedicated innovation center designed to accelerate startups in Artificial Intelligence (AI), quantum computing, fintech, and semiconductors. Additionally, Italy signed a Letter of Intent granting Indian researchers direct access to the elite *Elettra Sincrotrone* facility in Trieste.

Q3. Why did the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) officially postpone the India-Africa Forum Summit-IV (IAFS-IV) that was scheduled for late May 2026?

A) Disagreements over trade tariff lines

B) Geopolitical tensions in the Red Sea

C) Evolving Ebola virus outbreak in parts of Africa

D) Unavailability of key African Union leaders

Answer: C) Evolving Ebola virus outbreak in parts of Africa

Explanation:

The Ministry of External Affairs announced the postponement of the 4th India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV), which was originally scheduled to take place from May 28–31, 2026. The MEA cited the "evolving health situation in parts of Africa" following an active public health emergency caused by an Ebola virus outbreak on the continent.

Q4. During his European tour in May 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Netherlands. Which historical artifact was officially restituted to India by the Leiden University Library during this visit?

- A) 11th-century Chola Copper Plates
- B) 9th-century Pala Dynasty bronze Buddha
- C) 4th-century Gupta Empire gold coins
- D) 12th-century Hoysala stone inscriptions

Answer: A) 11th-century Chola Copper Plates

Explanation:

In a major cultural diplomacy breakthrough, the Leiden University Library of the Netherlands restituted 11th-century Chola-era Copper Plates to the Government of India. The handover took place in the presence of PM Narendra Modi and Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten, highlighting growing bilateral cooperation in preserving and restoring heritage artifacts.

Q5. In May 2026, the newly formed coalition government in Tamil Nadu expanded its cabinet to 33 ministers. This expansion is historically significant because the Indian National

Congress (INC) joined the state cabinet after a gap of how many years?

- A) 35 years
- B) 42 years
- C) 50 years
- D) 59 years

Answer: D) 59 years

Explanation:

The cabinet led by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay expanded from 10 to 33 members, establishing the state's first coalition government in decades. With the swearing-in of two Congress MLAs as ministers by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, the Congress party officially joined a Tamil Nadu state government after a hiatus of 59 years (having last been in power in the state in 1967).

Q6. The Space Weather Satellite named "SMILE", which was highlighted in joint international space cooperation news in May 2026, is a collaborative mission between which two agencies?

- A) ISRO and NASA
- B) European Space Agency (ESA) and Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)
- C) JAXA and Roscosmos
- D) ISRO and European Space Agency (ESA)

Answer: B) European Space Agency (ESA) and Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)

Explanation:

The Solar Wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer (SMILE) is a joint science mission between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). It aims to build a deeper understanding of the connection between the solar wind and Earth's

magnetosphere. It was highlighted due to the release of its final pre-launch mission payloads and system alignment benchmarks in May 2026.

Q7. Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari announced a strict new state policy of "Detect, Delete, and Deport" targeted at illegal infiltrators not covered under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). Which state government issued this policy?

- A) Assam
- B) West Bengal
- C) Tripura
- D) Meghalaya

Answer: B) West Bengal

Explanation:

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari announced that the state government will aggressively implement a "detect, delete, and deport" protocol against illegal infiltrators. Under this policy, individuals who fail to qualify for citizenship protections under the CAA will be arrested by the state police and handed over to the Border Security Force (BSF) for repatriation talks with Border Guards Bangladesh (BDR).

Economics & Banking

Q8. In May 2026, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) notified new fuel specifications under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. What is the maximum limit of ethanol blending approved under these newly notified norms?

- A) Up to 22%
- B) Up to 25%
- C) Up to 30%
- D) Up to 35%

Answer: C) Up to 30%

Explanation:

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) officially notified specifications for E22, E25, E27, and E30 fuel blends. This updates the regulatory framework to allow petrol to be blended with up to 30% ethanol, pushing past the previous standard E20 targets. This move supports India's ethanol blending roadmap to lower crude oil import dependencies and reduce vehicular carbon emissions.

Q9. Which multinational bank collaborated with Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) in May 2026 to launch India's first sustainability-linked "Green Dealer Financing Scheme" in the automotive sector?

- A) HSBC India
- B) DBS Bank India
- C) Citibank India
- D) Standard Chartered India

Answer: B) DBS Bank India

Explanation:

Mahindra & Mahindra signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DBS Bank India to roll out the country's first sustainability-linked dealer financing scheme for cars and commercial vehicles. Under this framework, dealerships that successfully achieve predefined Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) parameters alongside retail targets will receive specialized commercial concessions and lower interest rates on their inventory acquisition procurement loans.

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding the draft guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in May 2026:

1. The RBI proposed rules allowing limited phone and telecommunication access restrictions on loan defaulters to pressure recoveries.
2. The RBI withdrew the Interest Rate Future (IRF) mandatory maintenance requirements for banks handling market risk capital.
3. The RBI imposed strict operational restrictions on the Etawah-based Nagar Sahakari Bank for a period of six months.

Which of the statements given above are correct? A) 1 and 2 only

B) 2 and 3 only

C) 1 and 3 only

D) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: B) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The draft rules issued by the RBI actually seek to **restrict and penalize** aggressive tele-calling and phone harassment by recovery agents; they do *not* allow banks to restrict a user's personal phone service.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The RBI issued a notification withdrawing the specific mandatory incremental requirements for banks maintaining market risk capital relative to certain market instruments, simplifying liquidity management.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Due to declining financial health and capital adequacy issues, the RBI exercised its powers under the Banking Regulation Act to place the Nagar Sahakari Bank, based in Etawah, under operational restrictions for six months.

Q11. Which fintech platform received official certification from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in May 2026 to operate as a certified business-to-business (B2B) payment aggregator?

A) RazorpayX

B) Cashfree Business

C) Viyona Fintech

D) Pine Labs Pro

Answer: C) Viyona Fintech

Explanation:

Viyona Fintech secured formal certification from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). This compliance certification enables the platform to integrate directly with unified immediate payment architectures and scale its product offerings as a certified merchant payment aggregator under NPCI's updated 2026 structural security guidelines.

Q12. According to data highlighted by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and energy ministries on May 21, 2026, what emerging structural issue is causing the highest strain on State Electricity Discoms during peak summer?

A) Lack of raw coal grid supply

B) Sharp spike in "Warm Nights" increasing nighttime power demand

C) Sudden complete failure of grid transmission lines

D) Complete shutdown of atomic power plants

Answer: B) Sharp spike in "Warm Nights" increasing nighttime power demand

Explanation:

Analysis from think tanks and the IMD revealed that "Warm Nights"—where nighttime minimum temperatures remain exceptionally

high—are posing a massive health and infrastructure risk. Because solar energy generation drops to zero after sunset, the surging demand for air conditioning during hot summer nights creates a second daily electricity consumption peak. This strains state distribution networks that lack heavy Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) or Pumped Hydro Storage (PHS).

Sports

Q13. Who was re-elected unopposed as the Chairman of the Commonwealth Chess Association (CCA) during its assembly in May 2026?

- A) Viswanathan Anand
- B) Bharat Singh Chauhan
- C) D.V. Sundar
- D) Sanjay Kapoor

Answer: B) Bharat Singh Chauhan

Explanation:

Veteran Indian chess administrator Bharat Singh Chauhan was re-elected as the Chairman of the Commonwealth Chess Association (CCA). His re-election underscores India's growing administrative influence within global chess bodies, following the successful execution of multiple international grandmaster tournaments and chess development programs across Commonwealth nations.

Q14. The 2026 French open build-up matches in May highlighted remarkable Indian tennis statistics. Who is currently leading India's singles charge in international ranking charts following the ATP clay-court updates?

- A) Sumit Nagal
- B) Ramkumar Ramanathan

- C) Yuki Bhambri
- D) Rohan Bopanna

Answer: A) Sumit Nagal

Explanation:

Sumit Nagal continues to headline India's men's singles tennis presence on the international circuit. His performances throughout the early 2026 ATP clay-court season solidified his direct entry qualifications for major grand slams, cementing his position as India's top-ranked singles player.

Appointments & Resignations

Q15. Which Member of Parliament (MP) was appointed as the Chairperson of the high-profile Parliamentary Panel on IT and Communications in May 2026?

- A) Shashi Tharoor
- B) Medha Kulkarni
- C) Mahua Moitra
- D) Anurag Thakur

Answer: B) Medha Kulkarni

Explanation:

BJP Member of Parliament Medha Kulkarni was officially appointed as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Panel. The panel is slated to review critical policies regarding digital personal data protection rules, AI deployment guardrails, and upcoming updates to national telecom safety regulations.

Q16. Who was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General to serve as a key member of the high-level UN Advisory Panel on Artificial Intelligence, representing Indian computer science academia?

- A) Professor Abhiram Ranade

- B) Professor B. Ravindran
- C) Dr. V. Kamakoti
- D) Professor Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay

Answer: B) Professor B. Ravindran

Explanation:

Professor B. Ravindran, a renowned data science and AI pioneer from IIT Madras, was selected for the United Nations Advisory Panel on AI. His role involves shaping global frameworks for open-source AI governance, risk mitigation, and ensuring human-centric computing architectures, a topic that was also a focus during the India-Nordic summit bilateral meets.

Awards & Honors

Q17. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the prestigious "Agricola Medal" in May 2026 for his leadership in agricultural modernization and rural food security programs. Which international organization awards this medal?

- A) World Bank
- B) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- C) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- D) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Answer: C) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Explanation:

The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** awarded the *Agricola Medal* to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2026. This award honors global leaders who have made outstanding contributions to sustainable food security, poverty alleviation, and agricultural

modernization. PM Modi is only the second Indian leader to receive this specific medal, following Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2008.

Q18. Five exceptional women scientists were honored with the prestigious UNESCO-L'Oréal "For Women in Science" International Awards for 2026. In which foundational field are these annual awards globally distributed?

- A) Geopolitical Research and Defense Tech
- B) Life and Environmental Sciences / Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Computer Science
- C) Aerospace Engineering and Rocket Propulsion
- D) Economics and Econometric Modeling

Answer: B) Life and Environmental Sciences / Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Computer Science

Explanation:

The UNESCO-L'Oréal "For Women in Science" International Awards recognize five outstanding women scientists from different regions of the world every year. The awards alternate annually between Life/Environmental Sciences and Physical Sciences/Mathematics/Computer Science to promote gender parity and highlight breakthrough discoveries in STEM.

Q19. The Indian feature film titled "Boong" recently secured a historic win at the BAFTA 2026 awards. Which state's unique cultural backdrop and localized cinematic narrative are depicted in this film?

- A) Assam
- B) Manipur
- C) Nagaland
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: B) Manipur

Explanation:

The critically acclaimed film "Boong", directed by Lakshmipriya Devi, won accolades at international film forums, including the BAFTA celebrations. Set entirely against the cultural and social landscape of Manipur, the movie received high praise for its nuanced storytelling and authentic representation of Northeast India on the global cinematic stage.

Defense News & MoUs

Q20. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully completed the final phase of flight testing for the "ULPGM-V3". What category of weapon system is the ULPGM-V3?

- A) Surface-to-Air Long Range Defense Missile
- B) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile
- C) Anti-Submarine Heavy Weight Torpedo
- D) Hypersonic Cruise Cruise Missile

Answer: B) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile

Explanation:

The ULPGM-V3 stands for **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile (Version 3)**. Developed indigenously by DRDO, this lightweight, high-precision missile system is designed to be deployed from tactical drones and unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs). Its successful validation trials mark a major step forward for stand-off target strike capabilities.

Q21. Which defense manufacturer signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh government in May 2026 to establish India's first private-sector Marine Gas Turbine (MGT) Repair and Overhaul Complex?

- A) Tata Advanced Systems
- B) Larsen & Toubro Hydrocarbons
- C) Bharat Forge Limited
- D) Mahindra Defence Systems

Answer: C) Bharat Forge Limited

Explanation:

Bharat Forge Limited (BFL), through its aerospace division, inked a landmark MoU with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up India's first private-sector Marine Gas Turbine (MGT) Repair, Overhaul, and Indigenous Development Complex in Visakhapatnam. Spanning 80 acres within the state's defense manufacturing corridor, the facility will be co-located near the Eastern Naval Command Headquarters to support Indian Navy warships.

Q22. The Indian Armed Forces initiated a joint domestic command readiness exercise named "Exercise PRAGATI 2026". What is the primary tactical focus of this exercise?

- A) Amphibious beach assault tactics
- B) Cyber-warfare defense and satellite asset protection
- C) High-altitude cold weather combat simulation
- D) Urban anti-terror hostage rescue

Answer: B) Cyber-warfare defense and satellite asset protection

Explanation:

Exercise PRAGATI 2026 is a joint tri-services command exercise centered around modern non-kinetic warfare domains. It evaluates the integration of India's space assets, artificial intelligence helper nodes, and cyber-defense systems against simulated state-sponsored

digital grid shutdowns and electronic warfare jamming.

Government Schemes

Q23. Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav launched the "Ayush Anudan Portal" in New Delhi. This digital portal was developed as an integrated application under which national digital architecture initiative?

- A) Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
- B) Ayush Grid Initiative
- C) National Digital Health Stack
- D) Digi-Ayurveda Mission

Answer: B) Ayush Grid Initiative

Explanation:

The *Ayush Anudan Portal* was rolled out under the overarching **Ayush Grid Initiative** of the Ministry of AYUSH. The portal streamlines digital governance by allowing NGOs, research academic bodies, and hospitals to submit funding proposals completely online. This eliminates manual paperwork and integrates directly with the NITI Aayog's NGO Darpan Portal for rapid statutory verification.

Q24. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) launched an advanced AI-driven helpbot named "ABHAY". What is the primary function of this digital platform for citizens?

- A) Direct filing of anonymous anti-corruption complaints
- B) Real-time verification of official notices to identify fake CBI letters
- C) Tracking the live status of passport verification applications
- D) Legal assistance for cyberbullying victims

Answer: B) Real-time verification of official notices to identify fake CBI letters

Explanation:

To counter the rise of deepfakes and fraudulent digital extortion scams where criminals issue fake notices using the CBI logo, the agency launched **ABHAY**. It serves as India's first real-time notice verification platform, allowing citizens to instantly check the authenticity of any summon or legal notice issued in the name of the CBI via its official website.

Q25. Consider the following newly launched state-level schemes highlighted in mid-2026 current affairs:

1. The *Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme* provides structural unemployment allowances and skill training linkages in West Bengal.
2. The *Meri Rasoi Yojana* is a heavily subsidized community nutrition scheme rolled out across Punjab.
3. The *Shaheed Veer Gundadhur Seva Dera* project is an integrated public utility citizen service center network launched in Chhattisgarh.

Which of the statements given above are correct? A) 1 and 2 only

- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: D) 1, 2, and 3

Explanation:

All three statements accurately reflect contemporary welfare rollouts:

- **Banglar Yuva Sathi** provides financial aid and skill mapping to registered unemployed youths in West Bengal.

- **Meri Rasoi Yojana** ensures hot, nutritious meals are accessible to marginalized labor groups in Punjab for nominal single-digit costs.
- **Shaheed Veer Gundadhur Seva Dera Jan Suvidha Kendras** serve as single-window citizen kiosks in Chhattisgarh's tribal belts to simplify access to direct benefit transfer (DBT) welfare schemes.

Books & Authors

Q26. The biographical book titled "The Sentinel of Kumaon", which was discussed extensively in national news circles in May 2026, chronicles the life, military leadership, and administrative legacy of which late leader?

- A) General Bipin Rawat
- B) Former Uttarakhand CM B.C. Khanduri
- C) Nar Bahadur Bhandari
- D) Kalyan Singh

Answer: B) Former Uttarakhand CM B.C. Khanduri

Explanation:

The book was highlighted following the passing of Major General (Retd) B.C. Khanduri, the former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. He served with distinction in the Indian Army (awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 1982) before transitioning into public service, where he built a reputation for institutional transparency and infrastructure development in the Himalayan state.

Important Days & Themes

Q27. The International Museum Day (IMD) was celebrated globally in May 2026. The official poster and design theme for IMD 2026 were developed in partnership with which

international body, following a newly signed MoU with UNESCO?

- A) International Council of Museums (ICOM)
- B) Smithsonian Institution
- C) International Centre for the Study of the Preservation of Cultural Property (ICCROM)
- D) Council of Europe Heritage Commission

Answer: A) International Council of Museums (ICOM)

Explanation:

International Museum Day (celebrated annually in mid-May) featured a high-profile design collaboration with French artists under the aegis of the **International Council of Museums (ICOM)**. UNESCO and ICOM executed a special MoU during the 2026 cycle to strengthen joint heritage protection in conflict zones and maximize digital access to global archival assets.

Q28. Every year, May 21 is observed globally as the "World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development". Which international body initially sanctioned this day following the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas in 2001?

- A) UN Security Council
- B) UN General Assembly (UNGA)
- C) World Economic Forum
- D) International Court of Justice

Answer: B) UN General Assembly (UNGA)

Explanation:

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared May 21 as the *World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development* via resolution 57/249. This followed UNESCO's 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, which recognized the urgent need to

protect cultural pluralism, especially after the tragic destruction of the historic Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan.

Q29. May 21 is celebrated globally as "International Tea Day". Which country originally proposed the formal institutionalization of this UN-recognized day during the FAO Intergovernmental Group meetings?

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Kenya

Answer: B) India

Explanation:

While tea-producing nations celebrated an unofficial day on December 15 for years, **India** proposed expanding the observance through the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Intergovernmental Group on Tea. The UN General Assembly subsequently adopted it, moving the official International Tea Day to May 21 to align with the start of the prime spring tea production season across major Asian agrarian economies.

Q30. Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) was observed on Thursday, May 21, 2026. What is the fundamental objective behind this annual global event?

- A) Expanding physical road infrastructure in rural villages
- B) Building awareness around digital access and inclusion for people with disabilities
- C) Auditing international shipping container ports
- D) Streamlining international passport and visa issuance processing

Answer: B) Building awareness around digital access and inclusion for people with disabilities

Explanation:

Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) is observed on the third Thursday of May each year (which fell on May 21 in 2026). Its primary goal is to encourage software developers, designers, corporations, and governments to focus on digital accessibility—ensuring that web infrastructure, mobile applications, and digital platforms are inclusive and fully usable by individuals with visual, auditory, motor, or cognitive disabilities.