

National & International News

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Sweden in May 2026:

1. PM Modi held extensive bilateral talks with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson in Gothenburg.
2. During the visit, PM Modi was conferred with the "Royal Order of the Polar Star" (Degree Commander Grand Cross), making it his 31st international honor.
3. Sweden confirmed the inclusion of a specialized Swedish scientific payload on India's upcoming Venus Orbiter Mission (Shukrayaan).

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:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** As part of his five-nation European tour, PM Modi visited Gothenburg, Sweden, to hold talks with Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson and co-host the European Round Table for Industry alongside European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In recognition of his leadership in strengthening bilateral relations and clean-energy partnerships, the Swedish Government honored PM Modi with the *Royal Order of the Polar Star* (Degree Commander Grand Cross).

This stands as his 31st international civilian award.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** A major scientific outcome of the visit was Sweden's formal commitment to flying a Swedish space payload on ISRO's newly approved Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM), reinforcing deep-tech ties.

Q2. In May 2026, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced the official postponement of the first-ever International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit. Which of the following statements explains the correct structural reason for this delay?

- A) Financial shortfalls within the executing conservation bodies
B) A diplomatic boycott by South American jaguar-range nations
C) An evolving Ebola virus outbreak in parts of Africa preventing state-level participation
D) Legal challenges regarding the trans-boundary relocation of cheetahs

Answer: C) An evolving Ebola virus outbreak in parts of Africa preventing state-level participation

Explanation:

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in coordination with the MEA, deferred the first IBCA Summit (originally scheduled for June 1–2, 2026, in New Delhi). The summit was structurally tied to the 4th India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV). Due to an active, evolving public health emergency caused by the Ebola virus in several African nations, the decisions were taken in consultation with the African Union Commission to ensure full, safe representation later. The IBCA was formally launched by India on March 12, 2024, to protect

7 major big cats (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma).

Q3. The Ministry of External Affairs officially announced that India will host the high-profile Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting on May 26, 2026. In which city will this summit take place?

- A) Mumbai
- B) New Delhi
- C) Gandhinagar
- D) Bengaluru

Answer: B) New Delhi

Explanation:

The MEA confirmed that the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting will be hosted in New Delhi on May 22–26, 2026. The Foreign Ministers of Australia and Japan, alongside the United States Secretary of State, will converge in the capital to advance Quad cooperation across the Indo-Pacific region, review critical maritime security protocols, and call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Q4. Which historical eco-tourism destination, run jointly by a state Forest Department and local resorts to train and care for captive elephants, was extensively highlighted in wildlife conservation reports in May 2026?

- A) Dubare Elephant Camp, Karnataka
- B) Punnaoor Elephant Yard, Kerala
- C) Anamalai Elephant Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu
- D) Kaziranga Transit Facility, Assam

Answer: A) Dubare Elephant Camp, Karnataka

Explanation:

The Dubare Elephant Camp, located on the banks of the river Cauvery in Karnataka, gained media attention due to structural audits on

captive elephant welfare and logging camp transitions. It is a highly specialized eco-tourism site operated by the Karnataka Forest Department and Jungle Lodges & Resorts (JLR) to scientifically house, rehabilitate, and care for elephants alongside dedicated mahouts.

Q5. India recently hosted the prestigious annual session of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in mid-May 2026. What is the primary operational mandate of the APO?

- A) Managing currency exchange liquidity across East Asia
- B) Strengthening industrial, agricultural, and service sector productivity in the Asia-Pacific
- C) Formulating maritime anti-piracy patrolling codes
- D) Supervising international labor wage uniformity

Answer: B) Strengthening industrial, agricultural, and service sector productivity in the Asia-Pacific

Explanation:

The Asian Productivity Organization (APO) is an intergovernmental body established to drive sustainable socio-economic development in the Asia-Pacific region. By hosting its institutional sessions, India seeks to align national manufacturing initiatives with the APO's updated frameworks for climate-resilient farming, digital industrial transitions, and innovation-led regional competitiveness.

Q6. Gunmen recently carried out coordinated, tragic ambushes that claimed the lives of 25 individuals—including six police officers. In which Central American country did this major international security incident occur on May 22, 2026?

- A) El Salvador

- B) Honduras
- C) Guatemala
- D) Costa Rica

Answer: B) Honduras

Explanation:

Honduras witnessed severe domestic instability when armed cartel forces executed two separate coordinated ambushes targeting regional transport corridors and law enforcement outposts. The attacks killed 25 people, including 6 on-duty police officers, prompting the Honduran government to declare a localized state of emergency.

Economics & Banking

Q7. The National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) marked a historic milestone in May 2026 by launching India's first exchange-traded weather derivatives contract. What is the official market name of this contract?

- A) METRO-RAIN
- B) CLIM-INDEX
- C) RAINMUMBAI
- D) MONSOON-X

Answer: C) RAINMUMBAI

Explanation:

In a major step toward building corporate climate resilience, NCDEX launched India's first exchange-traded weather derivatives contract named "RAINMUMBAI". This introduces a regulated market framework in India for trading weather-linked risks, allowing corporations, insurance grids, and logistics firms to hedge against financial vulnerabilities caused by extreme or erratic rainfall patterns in the commercial capital.

Q8. In its updated May 2026 mid-year mid-cycle release of the "World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026" report, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY27 to what percentage?

- A) 6.2%
- B) 6.4%
- C) 6.6%
- D) 6.8%

Answer: B) 6.4%

Explanation:

UNDESA revised down India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for the Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27) to **6.4%**, down from its January projection of 6.6%. The report cited minor constraints in global export demand and tight domestic monetary cycles, while concurrently projecting India's baseline consumer inflation to sit comfortably within the RBI's target zone at 4.9%.

Q9. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Limited launched a next-generation health insurance product in May 2026 offering modular add-ons and massive sum-insured caps up to ₹5 crore. What is the name of this plan?

- A) My Health Care Plan Edge+
- B) Lifeline Maximizer Pro
- C) Optima Secure Infinite
- D) Health Shield Quantum

Answer: A) My Health Care Plan Edge+

Explanation:

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance introduced 'My Health Care Plan Edge+' (MHCP EDGE+). This health indemnity product targets premium retail consumers, offering scalable



configurations, unlimited reinstatement of the base sum insured, cross-border global treatment access, and customized wellness-integrated premium discount pathways.

Q10. A report tabled on the "Ease of Doing Research & Development (R&D) in India" highlighted that the country's Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) needs aggressive expansion. What is India's current GERD expressed as a percentage of GDP?

- A) 0.45%
- B) 0.65%
- C) 0.85%
- D) 1.15%

Answer: B) 0.65%

Explanation:

The high-level policy brief issued by NITI Aayog noted that India's Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) hovers around **0.65% of GDP**. This is significantly lower than leading global economies like the US, South Korea, or Israel, which spend 2% to 4.5% of their GDP on research. The report recommends streamlining bureaucratic clearance pipelines and boosting private-sector R&D funding injections.

Q11. Which premier general insurance firm witnessed a major corporate restructuring news event when US-based giant Liberty Mutual Group systematically moved to raise its equity stake up to 100%?

- A) Cholamandalam MS General Insurance
- B) Liberty General Insurance Limited
- C) Shriram General Insurance
- D) Universal Sampo General Insurance

Answer: B) Liberty General Insurance Limited

Explanation:

Liberty Mutual Insurance Group initiated formal corporate filings with regulatory watchdogs (IRDAI and CCI) to increase its ownership stake in Liberty General Insurance Limited. This move signals long-term international capital confidence in India's expanding non-life insurance penetration fields.

Q12. In the context of economic loss and ongoing constitutional debates, a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) draft note on "One Nation One Election" estimated that transitioning permanently to simultaneous polls across India could save the national exchequer approximately how much money per cycle?

- A) ₹3,500 crore
- B) ₹5,000 crore
- C) ₹7,000 crore
- D) ₹10,000 crore

Answer: C) ₹7,000 crore

Explanation:

The draft assessments circulating within the JPC examining simultaneous elections concluded that implementing the "One Nation One Election" structural model would save approximately **₹7,000 crore** per standard electoral cycle. This saving stems from cutting back on the repetitive deployment of central security forces, optimizing temporary polling stations, and containing the massive operational expenditures incurred by the Election Commission during scattered state assembly polls.

Sports

Q13. The global sports governance bodies for track and field athletics announced strict new Anti-Doping Violation updates in May 2026. Which country unfortunately topped the global charts for the highest number of active doping violations for the consecutive third year?

- A) Russia
- B) India
- C) Kenya
- D) Belarus

Answer: B) India

Explanation:

According to reports highlighting global compliance audits by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and Athletics Integrity bodies, India recorded the highest number of active anti-doping rule violations (ADRVs) globally for the third consecutive year. The data underlines an urgent need for the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) to strengthen grassroots educational awareness, intensify domestic testing protocols, and weed out institutionalized performance-enhancing drug abuse among junior and sub-junior athletes.

Appointments & Resignations

Q14. Who was selected to assume a vital administrative role as the Lead Flight Test Engineer and Executive Director within the core design and development ecosystem of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)?

- A) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
- B) K.K. Venugopal (IAF Veteran)
- C) Air Commodore Rohit Bhasin
- D) Dr. Girish S. Deodhare

Answer: B) K.K. Venugopal (IAF Veteran)

Explanation:

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) integrated veteran fighter pilot and test specialist K.K. Venugopal into its design leadership grid. Commissioned into the IAF stream in 1989, he logged extensive flight hours testing experimental weapon configurations before joining HAL's indigenization wings to oversee next-generation aircraft flight certifications.

Awards & Honors

Q15. A note of gratitude was issued by corporate think tanks commemorating the foundational legacy of Mr. N. Vaghul, who passed away recently. He was highly celebrated for his pioneering role as the architect and first long-term Chairman of which major financial institution?

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) IDBI Bank
- D) Axis Bank

Answer: B) ICICI Bank

Explanation:

Mr. Narayanan Vaghul, an iconic titan of Indian banking, passed away recently, drawing rich tributes from the financial fraternity. He is widely revered as the visionary architect who transformed ICICI from a standard government-controlled development financial institution into a modern, tech-savvy commercial banking giant during his legendary tenure as Chairman from 1985 to 1996.

Science & Technology

Q16. In May 2026, scientists at the ICAR-Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI) achieved a world-first biological breakthrough by developing a platform named "Plant-OpenCRISPR1" (POC1). What makes this platform revolutionary?

- A) It uses satellite remote sensing to track crop root moisture.
- B) It is the world's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-designed genome-editing platform for plants.
- C) It is a nanotech liquid fertilizer that triples crop yields.
- D) It uses blockchain to secure international seed bank patents.

Answer: B) It is the world's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-designed genome-editing platform for plants.

Explanation:

Led by Dr. Kutubuddin Ali Molla at ICAR-CRRI, agricultural scientists successfully engineered and validated **Plant-OpenCRISPR1 (POC1)** using rice as a biological model. Rather than relying on traditional biological discovery, the team used advanced deep-learning AI architectures to design completely new, highly precise gene-editing tools from scratch. This breakthrough promises to drastically accelerate the creation of climate-resilient, drought-resistant crop varieties.

Q17. Medical journals and public health ministries flagged a concerning rise in severe, drug-resistant cases of a fungal infection across multiple Indian states. Which common skin infection is showing these high-resistance mutations?

- A) Ringworm (Tinea)

- B) Leishmaniasis

- C) Psoriasis

- D) Eczema

Answer: A) Ringworm (Tinea)

Explanation:

Epidemiological bulletins highlighted that India is confronting a public health challenge with a massive surge in chronic, recalcitrant, and drug-resistant *Tinea* (commonly known as Ringworm) infections. Due to the rampant over-the-counter misuse of irrational steroid-cocktail creams, the underlying fungi have developed high resistance to frontline antifungal medications like Itraconazole, necessitating strict new dermatological prescription guidelines.

Q18. NASA finalized a comprehensive institutional infrastructure blueprint detailing the requirement of 81 heavy rocket launches. What is the ultimate objective of this specific multi-launch sequence?

- A) Establishing a permanent human habitat base on the Moon

- B) Executing a manned landing on the surface of Venus

- C) Deploying a deep-space shield against cosmic asteroids

- D) Launching a fleet of 500 new weather forecasting satellites

Answer: A) Establishing a permanent human habitat base on the Moon

Explanation:

NASA's released blueprint maps out the heavy-lift launch architectures needed over the next two decades to support the Artemis program and its long-term extensions. The roadmap details 81 coordinated rocket launches to

transport surface infrastructure, human habitation modules, pressurized rovers, and life-support modules to build a self-sustaining human lunar base camp.

Defense News & MoUs

Q19. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and South Korean Minister Kwon Oh-eul jointly inaugurated the Indian War Memorial at Imjingak Park near Seoul on May 21-22, 2026. This memorial honors which famous historic unit of the Indian Army?

- A) 1st Rajputana Rifles
- B) 60 Para Field Ambulance
- C) 5th Gorkha Rifles
- D) 17th Poona Horse

Answer: B) 60 Para Field Ambulance

Explanation:

The newly inaugurated Indian War Memorial at Imjingak Park, located near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in South Korea, marks the 75th anniversary of the Korean War (1950-53). It honors the legendary service of India's **60 Para Field Ambulance** (affectionately nicknamed the "Maroon Angels") and the Custodian Force of India. Commanded by legendary Lt. Col. AG Rangaraj (Maha Vir Chakra), the airborne medical unit treated over 222,000 patients under brutal combat conditions without firing a single shot, embodying humanitarian valor.

Q20. Which advanced domestic defense tech firm secured a contract from the Indian Navy in May 2026 under the high-priority ADITI 3.0 innovation framework?

- A) Tonbo Imaging
- B) IdeaForge Tactical
- C) Zen Technologies

D) Solar Industries India

Answer: A) Tonbo Imaging

Explanation:

Defence tech manufacturer **Tonbo Imaging** bagged a landmark contract under the Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI 3.0) framework. The firm will integrate and commission advanced indigenous High Power Microwave (HPM) systems onto frontline naval warships. HPM systems represent next-generation directed-energy weapons designed to disable the electronic guidance arrays of incoming enemy anti-ship missiles and swarms of hostile drones.

Q21. Multinational Military Command Exercise "PRAGATI 2026", a joint tri-services preparedness drill involving integrated electronic and simulated asset operations, formally commenced in which Indian state?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Uttarakhand
- D) Goa

Answer: B) Meghalaya

Explanation:

The joint military operational exercise "**PRAGATI 2026**" officially kicked off at the specialized training facilities in Umroi, Meghalaya. The drill centers around practicing multi-domain responses, incorporating space-asset coordination, tactical cyber-warfare scenarios, and interoperability protocols among specialized wings of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Q22. India and which Southeast Asian nation signed a far-reaching Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in May 2026 to engage in

joint development of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Technology frameworks for maritime security?

- A) Indonesia
- B) Vietnam
- C) Singapore
- D) Philippines

Answer: B) Vietnam

Explanation:

Expanding its Act East strategic alignment, India exchanged a comprehensive tech MoU with Vietnam. The bilateral pact lays down deep channels for knowledge sharing, building secure edge-computing architectures, and deploying quantum-encrypted communication nets across partner naval monitoring centers to preserve geopolitical stability in the South China Sea.

Q23. India and South Korea formalized an defense industrial roadmap during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit. Which cutting-edge tactical system did both nations agree to co-develop?

- A) Nuclear-powered stealth submarines
- B) Laser Weapons and Next-Gen Air Defense Systems
- C) Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles
- D) Railgun weapon arrays

Answer: B) Laser Weapons and Next-Gen Air Defense Systems

Explanation:

Moving past traditional buyer-seller relations, India and the Republic of Korea (South Korea) agreed to jointly develop and manufacture **Directed Energy Weapons (Laser Weapons)** and next-generation, rapid-reaction short-range air defense systems. The systems are designed to

intercept high-speed tactical loitering munitions and cruise missiles, fortifying both nations' frontline defense readiness.

Government Schemes

Q24. Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launched a dedicated, cluster-based cultivation and value chain development mission titled "Mission Arunachal Kiwi". Which central ministry is executing this livelihood project?

- A) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- B) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDoNER)
- C) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- D) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer: B) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDoNER)

Explanation:

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia officially rolled out the mission titled "**Arunachal Kiwi: The USP of Arunachal Pradesh**". Executed directly under MoDoNER, this cluster-based infrastructure mission provides cold-chain logistics, processing hubs, and direct financial support to local farmers in Arunachal Pradesh. The goal is to establish the state's organic kiwi varieties as a premium global export brand.

Q25. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued an extensive national advisory in May 2026. Which marginalized group's legal, educational, healthcare, and property ownership rights are explicitly addressed in this advisory?

- A) Migrant brick-kiln laborers
- B) Transgender Persons
- C) Nomadic Scheduled Tribes
- D) Senior citizens in urban settings

Answer: B) Transgender Persons

Explanation:

The NHRC released a comprehensive advisory directed at all State and Union Territory governments, demanding systemic overhauls to secure the fundamental rights of transgender individuals. The advisory sets binding guidelines for creating trans-inclusive healthcare wards, validating independent ancestral property inheritance, establishing anti-discrimination cells across universities, and creating simplified pathways to issue updated gender identities on legal records.

Q26. The Supreme Court of India issued a definitive ruling in May 2026 regarding public safety and animal welfare. The apex court refused to recall its earlier directions allowing local authorities to take what strict action?

- A) Complete ban on importing exotic bird species
- B) Euthanasia of rabid and terminally dangerous stray dogs from public spaces
- C) Commercial sealing of unregistered dairy farms
- D) Absolute prohibition of elephants in temple festivals

Answer: B) Euthanasia of rabid and terminally dangerous stray dogs from public spaces

Explanation:

Addressing a series of petitions, the Supreme Court stood firm on its previous directives aimed at managing the rising stray dog crisis in municipal zones. The apex court clarified that while humane treatment is standard, local bodies maintain the full legal authority to humanely euthanize rabid, incurably injured, or highly aggressive stray dogs that pose an

immediate physical threat to citizens, especially around schools and hospitals.

Books & Authors

Q27. A newly discovered historical reptile species found in the rich bio-geographic zones of Mizoram was officially named after a pioneering local herpetologist. What is the name of this new species?

- A) Ahaetulla mizoramensis
- B) Herpetoreas laltluangiana
- C) Smithophis lalthanzarai
- D) Oligodon mizo

Answer: C) Smithophis lalthanzarai

Explanation:

In taxonomic research papers published in mid-May 2026, a new species of worm-eating snake discovered in Mizoram was named *Smithophis lalthanzarai*. The name honors prominent Mizoram scholar and herpetologist Dr. Lalthanzara, celebrating his extensive academic contributions toward mapping the rich, endemic reptilian and amphibian biodiversity across Northeast India.

Important Days & Themes

Q28. The International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated globally every year on May 22. What is the official international theme designated for the year 2026?

- A) From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity
- B) Be Part of the Plan
- C) Our Solutions are in Nature
- D) Safeguarding the Web of Life for All

Answer: B) Be Part of the Plan

Explanation:

The United Nations celebrates the International Day for Biological Diversity on **May 22** to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The designated theme for 2026 is **"Be Part of the Plan"**, which serves as an urgent call to action for governments, indigenous communities, scientists, and corporations to collaborate in actively halting and reversing biodiversity loss by implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Q29. Which fragile high-altitude geographic zone was focalized under a major national environment conservation mapping project in May 2026 to regulate unchecked commercial concrete construction?

- A) Bhagirathi Eco-sensitive Zone
- B) Western Ghats Silent Valley Corridor
- C) Nubra Valley Cold Desert Zone
- D) Loktak Lake Floating Ecosystem

Answer: A) Bhagirathi Eco-sensitive Zone

Explanation:

The Bhagirathi Eco-sensitive Zone in Uttarakhand was heavily featured in policy debates due to fresh scientific alerts regarding landslide vulnerability and river siltation. The Ministry of Environment re-verified strict zoning maps to restrict commercial riverbed mining and stop high-impact hotel construction within this watershed to safeguard the primary catchment sources of the river Ganga.

Q30. The UN-Habitat issued its landmark "World Cities Report 2026". What is the central focal theme of this globally discussed urban development document?

- A) The Global Housing Crisis: Pathways to Action

- B) Digital Twins in Mega-City Layouts
- C) Net-Zero Public Mass Transit Networks
- D) Pandemic Resiliency in Urban Slums

Answer: A) The Global Housing Crisis: Pathways to Action

Explanation:

The UN-Habitat's **World Cities Report 2026**, titled *"The Global Housing Crisis: Pathways to Action"*, addresses the staggering global deficit in affordable urban housing. The report details how pervasive housing informality, soaring real estate costs, and climate displacements are pushing millions into sub-standard housing conditions. It provides a toolkit for policymakers to scale public-private social housing ventures and integrate sustainable urban infrastructure.