

## Part 1: National & International News

**Q1. India recently elevated its bilateral relations to a "Strategic Partnership" during the May 2026 state visit of the President of which Eastern Mediterranean nation?**

- A) Greece
- B) Cyprus
- C) Egypt
- D) Malta

**Answer: B) Cyprus**

- **Explanation:** During the official state visit of the President of Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Nikos Christodoulides, to India (May 20–23, 2026), both nations officially elevated their ties to a **Strategic Partnership**. The upgraded framework focuses on defence industrial collaboration, maritime connectivity via the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) footprint, and cybersecurity. Cyprus also joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) under the Trade, Connectivity, and Maritime Transport pillar.

**Q2. What is the theme of the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA79) held in Geneva, Switzerland, in May 2026?**

- A) Health for All, All for Health
- B) Reshaping Global Health: A Shared Responsibility
- C) Universal Health Coverage in the Digital Age
- D) Combatting Antimicrobial Resistance Together

**Answer: B) Reshaping Global Health: A Shared Responsibility**

- **Explanation:** The World Health Organization (WHO) organized the 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva from May 18–23, 2026, under the theme "**Reshaping Global Health: A Shared Responsibility**". Member states adopted over 20 structural decisions and 13 major resolutions addressing public health emergencies, stroke protocols, tuberculosis, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

**Q3. In May 2026, India released its first-ever national report on the implementation of which international treaty concerning biodiversity and the Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) mechanism?**

- A) Cartagena Protocol
- B) Nagoya Protocol
- C) Vienna Convention
- D) Kyoto Protocol

**Answer: B) Nagoya Protocol**

- **Explanation:** India published its first comprehensive national report on the **Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization**. The report highlighted the collection of ₹216.31 crore under the ABS mechanism by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), with over ₹139.69 crore directly disbursed down to local community claimers and grassroots field conservers.

**Q4. To enhance border security through civil-military-community integration, the Government of India has proposed which new security framework model in May 2026?**

- A) Integrated Theatre Command Grid
- B) Four-Dimensional Grid Model
- C) Smart Border Surveillance Matrix

D) Vibrant Border Bastion Protocol

**Answer: B) Four-Dimensional Grid Model**

- **Explanation:** The Union Government proposed the **Four-Dimensional Grid Border Security Model**. This model integrates infrastructure development, strategic border technological surveillance, local border-community economic empowerment, and deep civil-military coordination to insulate India's borders effectively.

**Q5. Russia recently deployed a new nuclear-capable hypersonic intermediate-range ballistic missile system in its ongoing geopolitical conflict. What is the name of this system?**

- A) Avangard
- B) Kinzhal
- C) Oreshnik
- D) Zircon

**Answer: C) Oreshnik**

- **Explanation:** Russia recently introduced and used its **Oreshnik** hypersonic missile system, a precision long-range strike platform designed to target hardened command centers, air bases, and deeply buried military infrastructure, which sparked fresh debates on global strategic escalation and counter-hypersonic air-defence networks.

## Part 2: Government Schemes & Initiatives

**Q6. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recently released detailed operational guidelines for the implementation of the BHAVYA Scheme. What does "BHAVYA" stand for?**

- A) Bharat High-speed Advanced Vehicle Yojana

B) Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna

C) Biopolymer Herbal Advanced Vikas Yojana

D) Business Hubs and Value-added Yards Association

**Answer: B) Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna**

- **Explanation:** DPIIT released the guidelines for **BHAVYA (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna)**, which focuses on creating "investment-ready" industrial ecosystems with plug-and-play manufacturing infrastructure. The scheme mandates a minimum land size of 100 acres for non-hilly states, selected through a challenge-based competitive framework.

**Q7. The Union Government announced that the landmark Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) framework will be completely replaced from July 1, 2026, by which new mission?**

- A) Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mission
- B) Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (VB-GRAMG)
- C) Rashtriya Rural Rozgar Mission (RRRM)
- D) Atmanirbhar Livelihood Guarantee Scheme

**Answer: B) Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (VB-GRAMG)**

- **Explanation:** Under the draft rules issued in late May 2026, the **VB-GRAMG Act, 2025** will replace MGNREGA on July 1, 2026. Key structural changes include increasing guaranteed rural wage employment from 100 to **125 days annually** and moving from centralized funding to a **60:40 Centre-State sharing ratio** (90:10 for Himalayan/NE states).

**Q8. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "PM-AJAY" aims at the welfare and infrastructure**

development of Scheduled Caste (SC) dominated villages. PM-AJAY was formed by consolidating which three erstwhile schemes?

- A) PMAGY, SCA to SCSP, and BJRCY
- B) PMJDY, PMJJBY, and PMSBY
- C) STEP, PMMVY, and PM-SVAidhi
- D) DAY-NRLM, DDU-GKY, and PM-KVY

**Answer: A) PMAGY, SCA to SCSP, and BJRCY**

- **Explanation:** Pradhan Mantri Anshusit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) was created by merging three separate schemes: Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP), and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY) to eliminate administrative fragmentation.

Q9. Which Union Ministry unveiled the nationwide "Maritime Reform Utsav" in New Delhi in May 2026 to celebrate 12 years of structural maritime sector reforms?

- A) Ministry of Defence
- B) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- C) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D) Ministry of External Affairs

**Answer: B) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**

- **Explanation:** Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), unveiled the "Maritime Reform Utsav" during a high-level review meeting to mark 12 years of comprehensive policy, port digitization, and infrastructure upgrades under the Sagarmala footprint.

### Part 3: Economics, Banking & Finance

Q10. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated a uniform cooling-off period of how many years for directors of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and Rural Co-operative Banks (RCBs) who complete 10 years of continuous tenure?

- A) 1 year
- B) 2 years
- C) 3 years
- D) 5 years

**Answer: C) 3 years**

- **Explanation:** To improve corporate governance in co-operative banking networks, the RBI issued final amendment directions mandating a **three-year cooling-off period** for any director who has served a continuous tenure of 10 years on the board of a UCB or RCB. During this period, they cannot be reappointed or associated with the bank in any managerial capacity.

Q11. Which premier financial institution launched a series of strategic web portals, including the "RRB Co-Lending Portal" and the "MoRE Programme", on its 37th Foundation Day in Mumbai?

- A) NABARD
- B) SIDBI
- C) EXIM Bank
- D) NHB

**Answer: B) SIDBI**

- **Explanation:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched several digital initiatives for the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) on its

**37th Foundation Day** in Mumbai. These portals aim to automate obsolete manual assembly lines for rural MSMEs and optimize co-lending data transparently between Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and commercial financial institutions.

**Q12. According to recent financial data from May 2026, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions now account for approximately what percentage of India's total digital payment volume?**

- A) 55.5%
- B) 72.0%
- C) 85.5%
- D) 94.2%

**Answer: C) 85.5%**

- **Explanation:** Financial reports released in May 2026 confirm that UPI accounts for **85.5% of the total digital payment volume** in India, reinforcing its status as the world's most dominant retail real-time payment network.

#### Part 4: MoUs and Partnerships

**Q13. The Spices Board of India signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which entity in May 2026 to launch the global "Spice and Heal" healthcare initiative?**

- A) FSSAI
- B) AYUSHEXCIL
- C) APEDA
- D) CSIR-CFTRI

**Answer: B) AYUSHEXCIL**

- **Explanation:** The Ayush Export Promotion Council (AYUSHEXCIL) and the Spices Board

**of India** signed an MoU to execute the "Spice and Heal" initiative. The partnership promotes international trade in Ayush products and medicinal spices like turmeric and ashwagandha, creating new export channels for Indian farmers and herbal entrepreneurs.

**Q14. The Department of Posts (DoP) signed an agreement with which major e-commerce player in May 2026 to optimize parcel delivery networks and enhance technology-led warehouse integration?**

- A) Amazon India
- B) Flipkart India
- C) JioMart
- D) Tata CLIQ

**Answer: B) Flipkart India**

- **Explanation:** The Department of Posts partnered with **Flipkart India Private Limited** to leverage India Post's vast rural and semi-urban last-mile network, driving faster deliveries, structured electronic tracking, and modern automated logistics.

**Q15. The Ladakh administration recently approved a 5-year extension of its MoU with which public sector undertaking to develop India's first pilot Geothermal Power Project?**

- A) NTPC
- B) ONGC
- C) NHPC
- D) OIL

**Answer: B) ONGC**

- **Explanation:** UT Ladakh extended its MoU with the **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** for five years to build India's first and highest geothermal power plant (at

14,000 feet) in the **Puga Valley** of Eastern Ladakh. The pilot plant will have a capacity of 1 MegaWatt electric (MWe).

## Part 5: Defence and Space News

**Q16. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently inaugurated a private defence manufacturing complex and flagged off India's first 300-km Universal Rocket Launching System named \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Pinaka-M3
- B) Suryastra
- C) Agni-Prime
- D) Pralay-II

**Answer: B) Suryastra**

- **Explanation:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the NIBE Group's private defence production plant in Shirdi, Maharashtra, and flagged off "**Suryastra**"—India's first completely indigenous **300-km Universal Rocket Launching System**, a major milestone for private-sector defense manufacturing.

**Q17. The Indian Army recently launched which integrated digital software application to streamline its logistics, inventory tracking, and supply chain management across diverse operational terrains?**

- A) AAGNEY
- B) Q-FORCE
- C) ARMAAN
- D) NIRBHAY-LOG

**Answer: B) Q-FORCE**

- **Explanation:** The Indian Army deployed 'Q-FORCE', an integrated logistics management application. The digital tool coordinates

real-time ammunition distribution, rationalizes inventory platforms, and addresses supply chain challenges in high-altitude and desert battlefields.

**Q18. The Department of Space (DoS) approved the setup of two new Common Technical Facilities (CTFs) to support the space sector ecosystem. In which two Indian states are these being established?**

- A) Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka
- B) Gujarat and Tamil Nadu
- C) Maharashtra and Kerala
- D) Odisha and Telangana

**Answer: B) Gujarat and Tamil Nadu**

- **Explanation:** The DoS approved CTFs in **Gujarat** (a Space Manufacturing Park at Khoraj near Ahmedabad for spacecraft payloads) and **Tamil Nadu** (a Space Vehicles Cluster at Thoothukudi, near the upcoming Kulasekharapatnam Small Launch Vehicle complex).

## Part 6: Sports, Appointments & Awards

**Q19. In May 2026, which prominent leader was formally conferred with Norway's highest civilian honor for exceptional contributions to global renewable energy ties and green diplomacy?**

- A) S. Jaishankar
- B) Narendra Modi
- C) Droupadi Murmu
- D) Amit Shah

**Answer: B) Narendra Modi**

- **Explanation:** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was conferred with **Norway's highest**

civilian honor during bilateral talks that elevated India-Norway ties to a *Green Strategic Partnership*, recognizing his leadership in driving the International Solar Alliance and global climate adaptation.

**Q20. Who was appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of India, succeeding the incumbent admiral in mid-2026?**

- A) Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan
- B) Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi
- C) Lt Gen N S Raja Subramani
- D) Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh

**Answer: A) Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**

- **Explanation:** Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan was cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) to take over as the next **Chief of the Naval Staff**, bringing a wealth of operational experience from commanding key western fleet assets.

**Q21. Who won the prestigious Women's Singles title at the Italian Open 2026 tennis tournament held in Rome?**

- A) Iga Swiatek
- B) Aryna Sabalenka
- C) Elina Svitolina
- D) Coco Gauff

**Answer: C) Elina Svitolina**

- **Explanation:** Ukrainian tennis star **Elina Svitolina** clinched the **Italian Open 2026 Women's Singles title** after an intense final matching, marking a triumphant return to peak form in the clay-court season.

## Part 7: Science, Environment & Technology

**Q22. The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) amended the Legal Metrology Rules, 2013 in May 2026 to include which new alternative fuel systems under Government Approved Test Centres (GATC) verification?**

- A) Methanol and Ethanol blends
- B) CNG, LNG, and Hydrogen dispensers
- C) Electric Vehicle (EV) Fast DC chargers
- D) Bio-CNG and Biodiesel pipelines

**Answer: B) CNG, LNG, and Hydrogen dispensers**

- **Explanation:** The Legal Metrology (GATC) Amendment Rules, 2026 expanded the categories of weights and measures from 18 to 23. It officially covers **CNG, LNG, and Hydrogen dispensing systems** to ensure exact transaction transparency, standard consumer metrics, and uniform nationwide fuel-delivery verification.

**Q23. What is "Ensitreivir", which was frequently highlighted in global medical research and health journals in May 2026?**

- A) A new gene-editing tool for Sickle Cell Anemia
- B) An advanced oral antiviral drug for treating COVID-19
- C) A therapeutic vaccine against Dengue
- D) A biopolymer used in cardiac stents

**Answer: B) An advanced oral antiviral drug for treating COVID-19**

- **Explanation:** **Ensitreivir** is an oral antiviral drug that targets and blocks the SARS-CoV-2 main protease (3C-like protease/Mpro), stopping the virus from replicating. It is notable for providing highly effective post-

exposure protection without needing secondary booster drugs like ritonavir.

governance models and cultural practices during the Chola dynasty.

**Q24. In May 2026, which Indian state government announced plans to declare the Asiatic honey bee (*Apis cerana*) as its official state insect and the Malabar Tree Toad as its official state amphibian?**

- A) Kerala
- B) Karnataka
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Goa

**Answer: B) Karnataka**

- **Explanation:** The Karnataka government approved plans to designate the Asiatic honey bee (*Apis cerana*) as the state insect and the rare Malabar Tree Toad (endemic to the Western Ghats canopy) as the state amphibian to boost local biodiversity conservation awareness.

## Part 8: Art, Culture, Festivals & Important Days

**Q25. The historic Chola-era copper plates detailing medieval village grants and temple administrative rights were recently returned to India by which European nation?**

- A) United Kingdom
- B) France
- C) Netherlands
- D) Portugal

**Answer: C) Netherlands**

- **Explanation:** In a major diplomatic cultural repatriation victory, the Netherlands formally returned ancient Chola copper plates to India. The artifact is highly valued by historians for understanding local

**Q26. On May 18, 2026, India celebrated a dedicated bilateral space science anniversary with its Eastern Mediterranean strategic partner. What was the name of this celebrated day?**

- A) India-Cyprus Space Day
- B) Indo-Hellenic Cosmic Conclave
- C) India-Egypt Astronomy Meet
- D) Mediterranean Satellite Day

**Answer: A) India-Cyprus Space Day**

- **Explanation:** As part of the bilateral announcements between PM Narendra Modi and President Nikos Christodoulides, May 18, 2026, was officially marked as the inaugural India-Cyprus Space Day to promote joint satellite tracking, remote sensing, and aerospace engineering student exchanges.

**Q27. Every year, India observes National Anti-Terrorism Day on May 21. This day marks the death anniversary of which former Prime Minister of India?**

- A) Indira Gandhi
- B) Rajiv Gandhi
- C) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- D) Jawaharlal Nehru

**Answer: B) Rajiv Gandhi**

- **Explanation:** National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed annually on May 21 to commemorate the death anniversary of India's youngest Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated on this day in 1991 at Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. The

day spreads messages of peace and harmony while rejecting violence.

Raman discovered the *Raman Effect*, earning Asia its first Nobel Prize in science.

## Part 9: Books, Authors & Anniversaries

**Q28.** May 27 marks the death anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister. In which year did he pass away while still in office?

- A) 1962
- B) 1964
- C) 1966
- D) 1968

**Answer: B) 1964**

- **Explanation:** Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru passed away on **May 27, 1964**. He served as Prime Minister from independence in 1947 until his death in 1964. He is remembered as the architect of modern India's democratic institutions, public industrial sector, and non-aligned foreign policy framework.

**Q29.** The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), Kolkata, was featured in national news in May 2026 for celebrating its monumental legacy. How many years of establishment did it mark?

- A) 100 years
- B) 125 years
- C) 150 years
- D) 175 years

**Answer: C) 150 years**

- **Explanation:** Science current affairs highlighted the **150-year legacy of IACS, Kolkata**, founded in 1876 by Dr. Mahendralal Sircar. It is India's oldest premier research institute and the historic site where Sir C.V.

**Q30.** A highly discussed book released in mid-2026 titled "*The Indo-Pacific Horizon: Navigating the New Strategic Theatre*" outlines India's balancing act against the growing Turkey-Pakistan-China axes. Who is the author?

- A) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- B) Shashi Tharoor
- C) Vikram Sood
- D) C. Raja Mohan

**Answer: A) Dr. S. Jaishankar**

- **Explanation:** External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar's** latest analytical book, "*The Indo-Pacific Horizon: Navigating the New Strategic Theatre*", covers India's proactive foreign policy outreach, detailing strategic deployments from the Quad to Mediterranean footholds like Cyprus.