

May 2025 Current Affairs

This document provides a summarized version of the news for the complete month of May, covering categories such as Important Days, Appointments, Awards, Obituaries, Books, National News, State News, Science & Technology, Defense, International, Index & Report Ranking, and Sports.

Important Days

- **International Day of Plant Health:** Observed on May 12th by the United Nations. The theme for this year is "Plant Health in One Health." The year 2020 was declared the International Year of Plant Health.
- **International Day of UN Peacekeepers:** Observed on May 29th. The theme for 2025 was "The Future of Peacekeeping." The UN General Assembly has been observing this day since 2003. The first UN peacekeeping mission was in May 1948 in the Middle East. UN Peacekeepers who lose their lives are posthumously awarded the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal.
- **Ayurveda Day:** From this year, Ayurveda Day will be observed on September 23rd. Previously, it was observed on Dhanteras (the 13th day of the Krishna Paksha in the Kartik month). The Ministry of AYUSH observes this day to promote awareness about the scientific and practical aspects of traditional medicine.

List of Important Days in May with Themes:

- **May 1:** International Labor Day. Also, Gujarat and Maharashtra Statehood Day.
- **May 3:** World Press Freedom Day.
- **May 4:** Coal Miners' Day & International Firefighters' Day.
- **May 7:** World Athletics Day.
- **May 8:** World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.
- **May 8:** World Thalassemia Day (Theme: "Together for Thalassemia: Uniting Communities, Prioritizing Patients").
- **May 10:** World Migratory Bird Day (Observed on the second Saturday of May and October. Theme: "Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities").
- **May 11:** National Technology Day (Observed due to the successful Pokhran nuclear test. Theme: "Yantra Yugantar for Advancing New Technology Research and Excellence").
- **May 11:** International Mothers' Day (Observed on the second Sunday of May).
- **May 12:** International Day of Plant Health (Theme: "The Importance of Plant Health in One Health").
- **May 12:** International Nurses Day (Observed on Florence Nightingale's birth anniversary. Theme: "Our Nurses Our Future: Caring for Nurses, Strengthening Economies").
- **May 12-18:** UN Global Road Safety Week.
- **May 15:** International Day of Families (Theme: "Family-Oriented Policies for Sustainable Development Towards the Second World Summit for Social Development").
- **May 16:** International Day of Light (Theme: "Light Innovations Society").
- **May 16:** National Dengue Day.
- **May 16:** Sikkim Day.

- **May 16:** National Day of Endangered Species (Observed on the third Friday of May).
- **May 17:** World Hypertension Day (Theme: "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer").
- **May 17:** World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (Theme: "Gender Equality and Digital Transformation").
- **May 18:** International Museum Day (Theme: "The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities").
- **May 18:** World AIDS Vaccine Awareness Day.
- **May 20:** World Bee Day (Theme: "Bee Inspired by Nature to Nourish Us All").
- **May 20:** World Metrology Day (Theme: "Measurements for All Times, for All People").
- **May 21:** International Tea Day.
- **May 21:** Anti-Terrorism Day.
- **May 22:** International Day for Biological Diversity (Theme: "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development").
- **May 23:** World Turtle Day (Theme: "Dancing Turtles Rock Good").
- **May 24:** National Brothers Day.
- **May 25:** Africa Day (Theme: "Revisiting Our History, Shaping Our Future").
- **May 25:** World Thyroid Day.
- **May 28:** Menstrual Hygiene Day.
- **May 28:** World Dugong Day.
- **May 28:** World Hunger Day.
- **May 29:** International Day of UN Peacekeepers (Theme: "The Future of Peacekeeping").
- **May 29:** International Everest Day.
- **May 30:** Hindi Journalism Day.
- **May 30:** International Day of Potato (Theme: "Shaping History, Feeding the Future").
- **May 31:** No Tobacco Day (Theme: "Unmasking the Appeal: Exposing Industry Tactics on Tobacco and Nicotine Products").

Appointments

- **Justice B.R. Gavai:** Appointed as the 52nd Chief Justice of India. He is the first Buddhist Chief Justice of India, with a tenure of around six months, retiring on November 23, 2025. His father, Ramkrishna Suryabhan Gavai, was a former Governor of Bihar and a Dalit leader.
 - **CJI Qualifications:** Must be a senior-most Supreme Court judge. To be a Supreme Court judge, one must be an Indian citizen, have served as a High Court judge for at least five years, or as a High Court advocate for at least 10 years, or be a distinguished jurist in the President's opinion.
 - **Appointment:** Article 124 Clause 2 of the Constitution states the President appoints the CJI. The outgoing CJI recommends the next CJI.
 - **Removal:** Article 124 Clause 4 discusses removal through impeachment by special majority in Parliament, requiring proof of misbehavior or incapacity.
- **Praveen Sood:** The existing Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) received a one-year extension.
 - **CBI Background:** India's premier investigation agency. Not a constitutional or statutory body, but an executive body. Derives powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act 1946. Established on April 1, 1963, based on the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee. Administratively controlled by the

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension.

- **Justice Surya Kant:** Appointed as the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), succeeding B.R. Gavai.
 - **NALSA Background:** A statutory body constituted in 1995 under the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987. Ensures free legal aid and advice to the impoverished and underprivileged, organizes Lok Adalats, and promotes legal awareness.
- **Anurag Bhushan:** Appointed as India's next Ambassador to Sweden. He was previously Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. Sweden's capital is Stockholm, and its currency is Swedish Krona.
- **Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor:** Appointed Chief of South Western Air Command, headquartered in Gandhinagar. He replaced Narmdeshwar Tiwari.
- **Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari:** Appointed new Vice Chief of Air Staff of the Indian Air Force.
- **Air Marshal Tejinder Singh:** Took charge as Chief of Indian Air Force Training Command, headquartered in Bengaluru.
- **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit:** Took charge as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC). CISC coordinates between the Army, Navy, and Air Force, working under the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- **Major General Lisama P.V.:** Appointed Additional Director General, Military Nursing Services.

Other Important Appointments (Headlines):

- **Air Marshal S.P. Dharkar:** Retired as Vice Chief of Air Staff.
- **Ajay Kumar:** Former Defence Secretary, appointed Chairman of UPSC.
- **Amitesh Kumar Sinha:** Appointed CEO of India Semiconductor Mission.
- **Prakash Magdum:** New MD of National Film Development Corporation.
- **R.P. Gupta:** Terminated as CMD of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).
- **Tapan Kumar Deka:** Intelligence Bureau Chief, received a one-year extension.
- **Greg Abel:** To succeed Warren Buffett as CEO of Berkshire Hathaway on January 1st.
- **Parameswaran Iyer:** World Bank Executive Director, to represent India at the IMF Board.
- **Harvansh Chawla:** Appointed Chairman of BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- **Justice Kampaiya Somashekar:** Appointed Chief Justice of Manipur High Court.
- **Vikas Singh:** Senior Advocate, won elections for President of Supreme Court Bar Council Association.
- **Dr. Samir V. Kamat:** Received a one-year extension as Secretary of Defence R&D and Chairman of DRDO.

Books

- **"Janata Ki Kahani Meri Aatmakatha" (The Story of the People, My Autobiography):** Authored by Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, originally in Telugu, translated into Hindi. Released by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.
- **"Divya Ratnakar Nighantu" & "Dravya Namakar Nighantu":** Two rare Ayurvedic manuscripts being revived by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences. "Divya Ratnakar Nighantu" was written by Mudgal Pandit, and "Dravya Namakaran Nighantu" by Bhishma Vaidya.
- **"The Johnson & Johnson Files: Indian Secrets of a Global Giant":** Authored by Indian Express journalist Ponniyan Sherif.

- **"PMO: Prime Minister's Office Through the Years":** Authored by Himanshu Roy.
- **"Chunautiyan Mujhe Pasand Hain" (I Like Challenges):** Authored by Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel.
- **"Indira Gandhi and the Years That Transformed India":** Authored by Srinath Raghavan.
- **"White Lilies":** Authored by Vidya Krishnan.
- **"Tested":** Authored by Pat Cummins.
- **"Original Sin":** Authored by Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson.
- **"Diary of a Cricketer's Wife":** Authored by Puja Pujara.
- **"Heart Lamp":** Authored by Bhanu Mustaq (International Booker Prize 2025 winner, originally in Kannada, translated by Deepa Bhasthi). It is the first Kannada title to win the International Booker Prize.
- **"Fire Navel":** Tamil novel by Perumal Murugan, longlisted for the International Booker Prize.

Awards

- **Pulitzer Prize for Public Service 2025:** Awarded to ProPublica. The Pulitzer Prizes, administered by Columbia University, have been awarded since 1917 for achievements in journalism and arts. The Public Service category receives a gold medal instead of prize money. New York Times received four Pulitzer Prizes this year.
- **World Food Prize 2025:** Awarded to Brazilian scientist Mariangela Hungria for sustainable farming innovations. The prize money is \$500,000 USD. The prize was initiated by Norman Borlaug. The first World Food Prize was awarded to M.S. Swaminathan (India) in 1987.
- **Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics 2025:** Awarded to major experimental teams at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) for findings related to Large Hadron Collider Run 2 data. This prize is also known as the "Oscars of Science" and carries a prize money of \$3 million.
- **78th Cannes Film Festival:**
 - Robert De Niro received the Honorary Palme d'Or Lifetime Achievement Award.
 - Iranian director Jafar Panahi received the Palme d'Or for Best Director for "Unsimple Accident."
 - The Palme d'Or for Short Film went to "I'm Glad You Are Dead Now."
 - The Last Cinéfondation Prize went to "First Summer" (South Korea).
 - India's entries included Satyajit Ray's "Aranyer Din Ratri" (Classic Section) and "A Doll Made Up of Clay" (Last Cinéfondation Section), "Homebound" by Neeraj Ghaywan (Un Certain Regard section), and Anupam Kher's directorial debut "Tanvi The Great."

Other Important Awards (Headlines):

- **58th Jnanpith Award:** Conferred upon Jagadguru Rambhadracharya (for Sanskrit) and Gulzar (for Urdu).
- **UNESCO Press Freedom Prize:** Awarded to the newspaper La Prensa.
- **Bhuvan Ribhu:** First Indian lawyer to receive the Medal of Honor from the World Jurist Association.
- **LIC:** Received a Guinness World Record for selling the highest number of life insurance policies in 24 hours.
- **Defence Investiture Ceremony Phase One:** President handed over six Kirti Chakras

(four posthumous) and 33 Shaurya Chakras (seven posthumous).

- **National Florence Nightingale Award 2025:** Awarded to 15 nurses by the President of India.
- **Dag Hammarskjöld Medal:** Awarded posthumously to two Indian peacekeepers, Brigadier General Amitabh Jha and Havildar Sanjay Singh, on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.
- **National Award for e-Governance:** 19 projects and initiatives selected across six award categories, including a new Panchayat category.
- **Adille Sumariwalla:** Vice President of World Athletics, received the Asian Athletics Leadership Gold Pin.
- **Serena Williams:** Former tennis player, awarded the Princess of Asturias for Sports 2025.

Obituaries

- **Padma Shri K.V. Rabia:** Renowned as an ambassador of the literacy movement in Kerala, passed away. She received the Padma Shri in 2022.
- **Padma Shri Dr. Subanna Ayyappan:** Former Chief of ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research), passed away. He was honored for his contribution to aquaculture and played a crucial role in the Blue Revolution. He received the Padma Shri in 2022.
- **Dr. M.R. Srinivasan:** Former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy, passed away. He was honored with Padma Vibhushan in 2015 for his contributions to India's nuclear program, including the development of India's first nuclear research reactor, Apsara, and the first atomic power station in Tarapur. He was also the founding chairman of NPCIL.

Other Important Obituaries (Headlines):

- **Jayant Narlikar:** Noted astrophysicist, passed away.
- **Girija Vyas:** Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister, passed away.
- **Vikram Gaikwad:** National Award-winning makeup artist (worked on movies like '83, 'Uri', 'Ponniyan Selvan'), passed away.
- **José Mujica:** Former President of Uruguay, known as one of the poorest presidents and a rebel icon, passed away.

National News

- **Vibrant Villages Program Phase 2:** Cabinet approved Phase 2 as a Central Sector Scheme (100% central funding). It's a transformative initiative to make border villages self-reliant and vibrant. Phase 2 is approved for 2024-25 to 2028-29. It will be implemented in all bordering states and UTs (Arunachal, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, J&K, Ladakh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland). Key provisions include infrastructure development, value chain development, community engagement, education infrastructure, tourism circuits, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- **10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog:** Theme was "Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat @ 2047." Chaired by PM Modi, focusing on Central-State cooperation. NITI Aayog is India's policy-framing body, established on January 1, 2015, replacing the Planning Commission. Current Vice Chairman is Suman Bery, and CEO is B.V.R. Subrahmanyam.
- **Operation Sindoor:** Indian Armed Forces launched this operation targeting nine terrorist infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to a

terrorist episode in Pahalgam. Targeted areas included Bahawalpur, Mudrike, Muzaffarabad, and Kotli.

- **Kartarpur Corridor Agreement:** India and Pakistan extended the agreement until 2029. The corridor connects Dera Baba Nanak in India and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Pakistan. It's a visa-free corridor. Inaugurated on November 9, 2019, during Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550th birth anniversary.
- **e-Passport Initiative:** India is developing a chip-based e-Passport initiative in collaboration with India Security Press, Nashik, to be rolled out nationwide from May 2025 for secure international travel and faster immigration.
- **Revised Shakti Scheme (Window 2):** Coal is allocated to power plants through auction at a premium price. The scheme, "Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koya (Coal) Transparently in India," was launched in 2018. Window 1 allocates coal at a fixed notified price to central, state, and joint venture power plants, while Window 2 uses auctions for private plants or those without long-term electricity contracts.
- **India's Coastline Length:** According to updated data by Survey of India, the new official length is 11,98.81 km, an increase from 7561.60 km due to changes in calculation methodology and the use of geo-spatial technologies.
- **Census in India:** Cabinet approved including caste count in the next census, with the report expected by March 2027. The census is a Union Subject under Article 246 of the Indian Constitution and is conducted every 10 years. The first synchronized nationwide census was in 1881. The Office of Registrar General and Census Commissioner, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, is responsible.
- **President's Advisory Opinion on Constitutional Matters:** President Murmu sought the Supreme Court's advisory opinion under Article 143 regarding the time frame for Governors and the President to act on bills (Articles 200 and 201). She also questioned the scope of Article 142 (Supreme Court's special power to do complete justice) and whether states can challenge gubernatorial delays under Article 32 instead of Article 131.
- **Bharat Forecasting System (BFS):** Developed by IITM Pune, India is set to become the first country with its own high-resolution global weather forecasting system, providing 6 km high-definition forecasts. It uses the "Arka" supercomputer at the IITM campus.

Other National News (Headlines):

- **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs:** Approved Fair and Remunerative Price for Sugarcane at ₹355 per quintal.
- **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw:** Inaugurated India's first 3-nanometer chip design center in Noida and Bengaluru.
- **Election Commission of India:** Announced the development of ECI Net, a unified digital platform for election-related services.
- **National Commission for Women:** Launched Campus Calling Program to spread awareness on gender equality and cyber security among women.
- **Union Minister Manohar Lal:** Inaugurated Bharat Bodh Kendra to celebrate India's cultural legacy.
- **Ministry of Culture:** Launched "Ek Desh Ek Dharkan" to celebrate brave hearts of the nation under "One Mission One Message One Bharat."
- **Seven All-Party Delegations:** Formed to visit friendly countries and seek cooperation against terrorism.
- **Certificate of Elimination of Trachoma:** India awarded this certificate by WHO at the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva. Trachoma affects the eyes.
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh:** Inaugurated Sagar Bhawan and Polar Bhawan at NCPOR (National

Centre for Polar and Ocean Research) in Goa.

- **Illinois Tech:** First American university to receive UGC approval for degree-related campus programs in India.
- **Supreme Court:** Upheld One Rank One Pension for all retired High Court judges.
- **Ayush Suraksha Portal:** Launched by the Ministry of AYUSH to take action against misleading advertisements and adverse drug reactions related to Ayurvedic medicines.
- **Supreme Court:** Reinstated the rule requiring a minimum of three years of legal practice for civil judge positions.
- **Vice President of India:** Inaugurated statues of Acharya Charak and Sage Sushruta at Raj Bhavan in Goa.
- **Amit Shah:** Announced the G-0 FIR system for cybercrimes and financial fraud above ₹1 lakh, allowing direct e-FIR reporting via 1930 helpline.

State News

- **Navakalevara Ritual:** A ritual in the Jagannath Dham in Puri where new wooden idols are made, and the divine energy (Brahma Padartha) is transferred from old idols. It occurs every 12 to 19 years when there are two Ashadha months (Adhik Maas). Recently in news due to a controversy regarding a Jagannath Temple in Digha, West Bengal, claiming to use leftover wood from Puri.
- **Lakundi Group of Monuments:** Located in Gadag District, Karnataka, proposed for UNESCO's Tentative List. These are 10th-12th century temples and sites from the Western Chalukya (Kalyani Chalukyas) rule.
- **Thrissur Pooram Festival:** Kerala's largest temple festival, celebrated in April-May during the Malayalam month of Medam. Initiated by Raja Rama Varma (also known as Sakthan Thampuran). Features a procession of decorated elephants.
- **Kozhikode (Calicut):** Recently inducted into the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities for its efforts to support the elderly.
- **Kair Sangri Dish:** Associated with Rajasthan's culinary heritage, recently received a GI tag. It's a delicacy made from the beans of the Sangri (from the Khejri tree, Rajasthan's state tree) and round Kair berries.
- **Pushkar Kumbh:** Held in Uttarakhand at Keshav Prayag (near Mana village, Badrinath Dham, confluence of Alaknanda and Saraswati rivers) every 12 years when the planet Jupiter enters the Gemini zodiac sign.
- **Madhya Pradesh Cultural Traditions:** Three traditions added to India's Intangible Cultural Heritage List (maintained by Sangeet Natak Akademi): Bhagoria Dance, Gond Painting, and Narmada Parikrama.
 - **Gond Painting:** Made by the Gond tribal community of Central India, inspired by nature, animals, trees, and mythological figures.
 - **Narmada Parikrama:** A 3500 km pilgrimage around the Narmada River, often undertaken on foot. The Narmada River flows from the Maikal Mountains (Amarkantak Hills) in MP, through Maharashtra and Gujarat, into the Gulf of Khambhat (Arabian Sea). It's a west-flowing river.
 - **Bhagoria Dance Festival:** Celebrated by Bhil and Bhilala tribes in West Nimar and Jhabua districts of MP before Holi, where young boys and girls choose partners by applying gulal.
- **Uttar Pradesh:** Launched India's first-of-its-kind Vistadome coach service connecting wildlife reserves (Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary to Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and Pilibhit).

Vistadome coaches have large glass windows for panoramic views.

- **Jenu Kuruba Tribe:** Recently returned to Nagarhole Tiger Reserve in Karnataka after 40 years of displacement. They are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) mainly honey collectors, found in Kodagu and Mysuru districts.
- **Tanot Mata Temple:** Located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, near the Indo-Pak border. Known for surviving bombings during wars (1965, 1971) without damage. Managed by BSF. A Tanot Museum and Vijay Stambh (Victory Pillar) have been built at the temple premises.
- **Mizoram:** Became the first fully literate state under the ULLAS Scheme (Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram). Goa is the second, and Ladakh is the first UT. ULLAS aims to make individuals aged 15 and above functionally literate.
- **Nagshankar Temple:** Located in Biswanath District, Assam, designated as a model temple for turtle conservation.
- **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand:** First community radio station, "Panchshul Pulse," inaugurated here, connecting border communities and providing weather updates. Its tagline is "Hill se Dil Tak."

Other State News (Headlines):

- **Kerala:** Launched "Jyoti Scheme" to educate migrant children.
- **PM Modi:** Dedicated the Vizhinjam International Deep Sea Multipurpose Deep Water Multipurpose Seaport to the nation in Kerala.
- **Telangana:** Hosted the 72nd Miss World Pageant.
- **Tripura:** Rangchera village became the state's first green village, fully powered by solar energy.
- **Arunachal Pradesh:** India's first geothermal production well drilled in Dirang, West Kameng District.
- **Andhra Pradesh:** Partnered with Creative Land Asia to create "Creator Land," the country's first trans-media entertainment city.
- **Maharashtra Government:** Successfully reclaimed an 18th-century ceremonial sword of Raghoji Bhonsle I from London. Launched "Adishakti Abhiyan" for women empowerment. Approved the merger of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited with Indian Railways.
- **Jharkhand High Court:** Banned sale and consumption of meat and liquor around Marangburu (Parasnath Hill).
- **Chhattisgarh High Court:** Decided to closely monitor the development of Madku Dweep (an island with historical and cultural value).
- **Delhi Directorate of Education:** Launched "Prashast App" to detect learning disabilities in children early.
- **Delhi Police:** Launched "Nayi Disha: A Path Back to Learning" to bring school dropouts back into the system.
- **Cabinet:** Approved the setup of the sixth semiconductor unit near Jewar Airport in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Haryana Government:** Launched "Pandit Lakshmichand Kalakar Samajik Samman Yojana" to honor and support artists.
- **Bihar Government:** Renamed Gaya City as "Gaya Ji."
- **Madhya Pradesh Government:** Rolled out "Rahveer Yojana" (Central Government scheme) to provide ₹25,000 to those who take road accident victims to the hospital within the golden hour.
- **Odisha CM:** Directed officials to include widowed women in the "Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana."
- **Telangana CM:** Launched "Indira Sora Giri Jal Vikasam" scheme to provide free solar

pumps to tribal farmers.

- **Andhra Pradesh Government:** Launched "One Family One Entrepreneur" flagship program to motivate one person per family to learn AI and pursue entrepreneurship.
- **Odisha Government:** Launched "Ankur," a strategic initiative for urban sustainable growth.
- **Telangana Government:** Notified "Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve" as a critical tiger corridor between Kawal Tiger Reserve (Telangana) and Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra).
- **Central Government:** Designated an Eco-Sensitive Zone near Tral Wildlife Sanctuary in Pulwama District, Jammu & Kashmir (known for snow leopards).

Defense

- **Defense Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs):** Defence Minister granted Mini Ratna Category-I status to three DPSUs: Munitions India Limited, Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited, and India Optel Limited. This status allows them to make capital investments up to ₹500 crore or their net worth independently.
 - **Mini Ratna Category-I Criteria:** Profitable for the last three consecutive years, pre-tax profit of at least ₹30 crore in one of the last three years, and positive net worth.
- **Exercise Nomadic Elephant:** A joint military exercise between the Indian Army and Mongolian Armed Forces. The 17th edition is ongoing from May 31st to June 13th in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. It's an annual event, hosted alternately by India and Mongolia.
- **SCALP (Storm Shadow) Missile:** An air-launched cruise missile used in Operation Sindoor. Developed by UK and France (Matra and British Aerospace). Long-range, all-weather, low-altitude, stealth missile for fixed targets.
- **INS Tamal:** India is set to receive INS Tamal, the second advanced stealth frigate built by Russia under the Krivak III class deal (signed in 2016). It is built by Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia, and is a sister ship to INS Tushil. Two more frigates will be built in Goa with technology transfer.
- **BrahMos Missile:** A supersonic cruise missile (Mach 3 speed), long-range, nuclear-capable. Jointly developed by India and Russia (BrahMos Aerospace). Can be launched from land, sea, or air.
- **HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range):** Munitions compatible with Indian Air Force's Rafale aircraft. Designed by French company Safran Electronics & Defense. All-weather glide bombs for accurate targeting and deep strike missions.
- **S-400 Triumf Missile System:** Indian Air Force activated this long-range surface-to-air missile system, also known as "Sudharshan Chakra" in the IAF. Developed by Russia's Almaz-Antey. India signed a deal in October 2018 to procure them. It provides 360-degree surveillance and can engage 36 targets simultaneously.
- **Stratospheric Airship Platform:** India conducted maiden flight trials of this platform in the stratosphere from Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh. Developed by Aerial Delivery Research & Development Establishment (Agra) for military surveillance.
- **Territorial Army of India:** The Central Government authorized the Army Chief to seek support from the Territorial Army under Rule 33 of the Territorial Army Rules of 1948. The Territorial Army is composed of civilians with regular jobs who are trained for national service during emergencies. It was inaugurated on October 9, 1949, by C. Rajagopalachari, which is also observed as Territorial Army Day.

- **HAROP (Harpy) Loitering Munition:** A "kamikaze drone" or "suicide drone" capable of autonomous target engagement, developed by Israel Aerospace Industries. Used in Operation Sindoor.

Other Defense News (Headlines):

- **Indian Army:** Completed "Teesta Prahar" exercise at Teesta Firing Range, West Bengal.
- **Indian Army & NDRF:** Conducted "Exercise Rahat" to simulate humanitarian assistance during natural disasters.
- **Iran & Azerbaijan:** Conducted "Exercise Aras 2025."
- **Cambodia & China:** Launched their biggest military drill, "Golden Dragon 2025."
- **Israeli PM Netanyahu:** Announced "Gideon's Chariot" operation in Gaza Strip to release hostages.
- **Pakistan:** Successfully launched training of "Abdali Weapon System."
- **Indian Army:** Launched "Operation Kalar" (counter-terrorism) in Shopian, J&K.
- **Operation Black Forest & Mission Sankalp:** Anti-Naxal operations launched on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border.
- **Rajnath Singh & Yogi Adityanath:** Inaugurated BrahMos Aerospace Plant in Lucknow for integration and testing of BrahMos missiles.
- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE):** Announced delivery of INS Arnala, the first of eight anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft.
- **ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police):** Successfully summited Mount Makalu (world's fifth highest peak), becoming the first Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) to do so.
- **Sabal:** Sixth 25-ton Bollard Pull Tug, launched by Titagarh Rail Systems, Kolkata.

Science & Technology

- **Quantum Gravity Gradiometer:** NASA is launching the Quantum Gravity Gradiometer Pathfinder Mission to precisely measure Earth's gravity distribution, which can help in identifying underground water sources, changes in glaciers, and studying gravity on other planets.
- **Genome Edited Rice Varieties:** India developed its first two genome-edited rice varieties, DRR Dhan 100 Kamala and Pusa DST Rice One, using CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing technology. This makes India the first country to develop such varieties.
- **PSLV C61 Mission:** Aimed to launch the EOS-09 (RISAT-1B) satellite (Earth Observation Satellite) into Sun-Synchronous Orbit, but the launch on May 18th failed. The satellite was a radar imaging satellite for high-definition images for civilian and military purposes.
- **Asiatic Lion Census 2025:** The 16th census recorded 891 Asiatic lions, a 32% increase from the last count of 674 in 2020. The census is conducted every five years, primarily in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, including Gir National Park. Asiatic lions (*Panthera leo persica*) are smaller than African lions and are listed as "Vulnerable" by IUCN.
- **Gene Edited Sheep:** India developed its first gene-edited sheep in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences. The editing of the Myostatin gene resulted in a 30% increase in muscle mass, without introducing foreign DNA. This research was sponsored by ICAR. The CRISPR-Cas9 technology used won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2020 (discovered by Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna).

Other Science & Environment News (Headlines):

- **Scientists:** Created the first-ever pan-genome of Asian rice (*Oryza sativa* L.).
- **Sarvam:** Indian AI startup, unveiled its latest AI model, "Bulbul V2."

- **Marfan Syndrome:** A rare genetic condition affecting the body's connective tissues.
- **WHO:** Declared a wild polio virus outbreak in Papua New Guinea.
- **Indian Coast Guard:** Launched "Operation Olivia" off the Odisha coast to protect Olive Ridley turtles during nesting.
- **Wildlife Corridor Project:** To be developed between Rajasthan and MP for re-introduced cheetahs (between Palpur Kuno National Park, Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary, and Mukundra Tiger Hill Reserve).
- **Karnataka State Government:** Notified "Hesaraghatta Grassland Conservation Reserve" near Bengaluru.
- **Himachal Pradesh:** Notified "Sarpichu Conservation Reserve," India's largest conservation reserve (1585 sq km).
- **World's Longest Banana Inflorescence:** Discovered in the Andaman forests.
- **International Team of Scientists:** Successfully mapped the genome of the Saola (a mammal discovered in 1990, also called the "unicorn mammal," found near Vietnam).
- **Perito Moreno Glacier:** Argentina's famous glacier, is crumbling.
- **Northern Green Anaconda:** World's largest snake, discovered in the Amazon rainforest.
- **IIT Bombay Researchers:** Developed semi-transparent solar cells using perovskite material.
- **Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister:** Held a meeting with e-commerce stakeholders to address "dark patterns" (deceptive website designs that induce purchases).

Index & Reports

- **World Press Freedom Index 2025:** India ranked 151st out of 180 countries, an improvement of 8 places from last year (159th). Released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Norway topped the index.
- **Human Development Index (HDI) 2023:** India ranked 130th out of 193 countries. Released by UNDP in the Human Development Report 2025, titled "A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI." Iceland topped the index, followed by Norway and Switzerland. South Sudan was at the bottom. HDI parameters include life expectancy at birth, average years of schooling, and gross national income.

Other Index & Reports (Headlines):

- **NITI Aayog:** Released a report titled "Enhancing Competitiveness of MSMEs in India."
- **The Himalayan Clean Up 2024 Report:** Showed that 70% of plastic waste in the Indian Himalayan Region is non-recyclable, with single-use food and beverage packaging being the dominant source.
- **Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR):** Declined by 37 points, from 130 per lakh live births in 2014-16 to 93 in 2019. Data from Sample Registration System Report by Registrar General of India.
- **6G Technology Patents:** India ranks among the top six patent filers.
- **Forbes List of Highest Paid Athletes:** Cristiano Ronaldo topped the list for the third consecutive time.
- **Time Magazine's 2025 List of 100 Most Influential People in Philanthropy:** Included four Indians: Mukesh Ambani, Nita Ambani, Azim Premji, and Nikhil Kamath.

Finance

- **Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam:** Issued India's first certified Green Municipal Bond, raising ₹150 crore for a tertiary sewage treatment plant. Green Municipal Bonds are debt instruments issued by urban local bodies to raise funds for green projects.
- **Orange Economy:** PM Modi mentioned it at the World Audiovisual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 in Mumbai. It refers to the creative economy, encompassing economic benefits from creative work (actors, writers, influencers, etc.).
- **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups:** Government notified its expansion, increasing the guarantee limit from ₹10 crore to ₹20 crore and reducing guarantee fees for "champion sectors."
- **Get E:** Received RBI approval to operate as an online payment aggregator.

International

- **UN Charter Article 51:** Acknowledges a country's right to self-defense if attacked. Pakistan cited this article after India's Operation Sindoor, claiming India violated it.
- **Diego Garcia:** The largest of the Chagos Islands, currently hosts a military base operated by the United States. The UK recently signed a deal to hand over the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, but the Diego Garcia base will remain under UK-US control. The Chagos Archipelago was originally Mauritian territory but was separated by Britain in 1965.
- **New Development Bank (NDB):** Algeria recently became a new member of the NDB, the BRICS bank. The NDB was established in July 2015 at the BRICS Fortaleza Summit and is headquartered in Shanghai, China. Founding members are BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). New members include Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, Indonesia, and Algeria.
- **Interpol Color-Coded Notices:** Interpol issues nine types of color-coded notices for different international policing purposes. India recently issued its first Silver Notice (to trace illicit assets) in the context of Shubham Shaukin. Other notices include Red (wanted person), Yellow (missing person), Blue (additional info), Black (unidentified body), Green (warning/intelligence), Orange (imminent threat), Purple (modus operandi), and Interpol-UN Security Council Special Notice. Interpol is the world's largest international police organization, headquartered in Lyon, France. India joined in 1949.
- **Shield Volcanoes:** Kilauea volcano in Hawaii is an example of a shield volcano and is one of the world's most active volcanoes. Mauna Loa, also in Hawaii, is the largest active shield volcano on Earth by volume. Shield volcanoes have gentle slopes due to highly fluid lava. Kilauea recently erupted, spewing lava.

Other International News (Headlines):

- **Robert Prevost:** American prelate, named new Pope of Vatican.
- **Anthony Albanese:** Re-elected as Australia's Prime Minister.
- **Lawrence Wong:** Elected Prime Minister of Singapore.
- **Frederic Merz:** Conservative leader, elected Chancellor of Germany.
- **Anita Anand:** Appointed Foreign Minister by Canadian PM Mark Carney.
- **Mike Watts:** Nominated by President Trump as US Ambassador to the United Nations.
- **Lt. Gen. Mohammad Asim Malik:** Appointed Pakistan's new National Security Advisor and Spy Chief.
- **Kashish Chaudhary:** First Pakistani Hindu woman from a minority community to be appointed Assistant Commissioner in Balochistan.
- **Taliban:** Suspended chess in Afghanistan, calling it against Sharia law.
- **UAE:** Launched a 10-year Blue Residency Visa for environmental sustainability projects.

- **President Donald Trump:** Signed a proclamation to observe May 8th as Victory Day for World War II (marking Nazi Germany's surrender).
- **Kasar Al Watan:** UAE's presidential palace, where President Donald Trump was welcomed. Al Ayyala dance was performed.
- **Bhutan:** Launched the world's first national-level cryptocurrency tourism payment system.
- **Ahmed Al Khateeb:** Saudi Arabia's Minister of Tourism, launched the "To Rise" platform to promote tourism.
- **Yala Glacier:** Declared dead in Nepal, with a mourning ceremony held.
- **India:** Became Chairman of the Asian Productivity Organization for the 2025-26 term.
- **Donald Trump:** Planning "Golden Dome" to counter long-range missile air attacks.
- **Dr. Abdullah Khalil:** Maldives Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited India.
- **Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA):** Took responsibility for 71 coordinated attacks on Pakistan under "Operation Haroof."

Sports

- **Sudirman Cup:** Associated with Badminton. China beat South Korea to win their 14th Sudirman Cup title. It is the World Mixed Team Badminton Championship, organized by the Badminton World Federation.
- **Italian Open 2025:**
 - Men's Singles: Carlos Alcaraz won, defeating Jannik Sinner.
 - Women's Singles: Jasmine Paolini won, defeating Coco Gauff.
- **7th Khelo India Youth Games 2025:** Held in Bihar. Maharashtra topped the medal tally with 158 medals (58 gold), followed by Haryana and Rajasthan. The mascot was "Gajsimh."
- **Chess Grandmasters:** P. Shyam Nikhil of Tamil Nadu became India's 85th Chess Grandmaster. L.R. Sri Hari became India's 86th Grandmaster. R. Praggnanandhaa won the Superbet Chess Classic in Romania.
 - **First Grandmaster (India):** Viswanathan Anand (1988).
 - **First Female Grandmaster (highest title, open to all genders):** Koneru Humpy (2002).
 - **First Woman Grandmaster (specific women's title):** Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi (2001).
- **Khelo India Beach Games 2025:** Held for the first time in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu. Manipur topped the medal tally (based on silver medals due to equal golds), followed by Maharashtra and Nagaland. The mascot is a dolphin named "Pearl."

Other Sports News (Headlines):

- **Virat Kohli & Rohit Sharma:** Announced retirement from Test Cricket in May.
- **Ankur Bhattacharya & Abhinand Pradevathi (Table Tennis):** Won the U19 Boys Doubles title at the World Table Tennis Youth Star Contender in Bengaluru.
- **Sushil Bose:** Named Men's Player of the Year at the All India Football Federation Awards 2025.
- **Indian Boxers:** Finished second at the inaugural Asian U15 and U17 Championship in Amman, Jordan.
- **Kush Maini:** First Indian to win F2 Monaco Grand Prix Sprint.
- **Barcelona (Football):** Won their 28th La Liga title.
- **Liverpool Football Club:** Won the 2024-25 English Premier League.
- **SAFF U19 Championship:** Indian Football Team won the title, defeating Bangladesh.

- **Neeraj Chopra:** Finished second in Men's Javelin Throw at Doha Diamond League, crossing the 90m mark.
- **Pankaj Advani:** Won the 2025 CCI Billiards Classic title in Mumbai.
- **Joe Root (England Cricket):** Became fastest to complete 13,000 Test runs.
- **Novak Djokovic:** Achieved his 100th career singles title at the Geneva Open.
- **Tottenham Hotspur:** Won Europa Football League, defeating Manchester United.
- **Arsenal:** Won Women's Champions League, defeating Barcelona.
- **McLaren Lando Norris:** Won F1 Monaco Grand Prix.
- **Mahendra Gurjar (Para Athlete):** Set a new world record in Men's Javelin F42 category (61.17m).
- **Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul (Thailand):** New President of the World Badminton Federation.