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Weekly Current Affairs

English

National

## 1. Honduras Inaugurates Its Embassy in New Delhi

On May 16, 2025, Honduras inaugurated its embassy in New Delhi, marking a significant step in strengthening India-Honduras relations. The move aims to boost cooperation in trade, technology, development, and climate resilience. India has supported Honduras through humanitarian aid and developmental assistance, including an IT Centre and irrigation projects. Bilateral trade reached USD 288.77 million in 2022–23, with Indian firms like Bajaj and TVS active in the region. This diplomatic milestone enhances India's outreach to Central America and promotes South-South cooperation.



## 2. Amit Shah Unveils Enhanced Rs. 500 Crore MAC to Strengthen Anti-Terrorism Efforts

On May 16, 2025, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the revamped Multi Agency Centre (MAC), an AI-powered intelligence platform under the Intelligence Bureau.

Developed at a cost of Rs. 500 crore, the upgraded MAC connects 28 key security agencies, including RAW, armed forces, and state police, enabling real-time data sharing. Equipped with AI, ML, and GIS, it enhances predictive analysis and coordination to tackle terrorism, cyber threats, left-wing extremism, and organised crime, strengthening India's national security framework.

## 3. India's Inaugural Manned Deep-Sea Mission Scheduled for Launch in 2026

India's first manned deep ocean mission, *Samudrayaan*, is set for launch in 2026 using the indigenous submersible *MATSYA 6000*, capable of reaching 6,000 meters depth. Part of the Deep Ocean Mission, it aims to explore marine biodiversity, geology, and mineral resources while showcasing advanced underwater technology. Led by NIOT, the mission strengthens India's ocean research, resource potential, and strategic maritime position, joining a select group of nations with deep-sea exploration capabilities.

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#### 4. India Advances Research on Human Sustainability in Space through BioE3 Policy

India will conduct its first biological experiments in space aboard the AXIOM-4 mission to the ISS, focusing on microalgae and cyanobacteria behaviour in microgravity. Led by ISRO and the Department of Biotechnology under the BioE3 Policy, these studies aim to develop sustainable food sources and support human life in space. The experiments enhance India's space biosciences capabilities, aid future human spaceflight missions like Gaganyaan, and promote biotech innovation aligned with economic and environmental goals.



#### 5. IIFT to Launch First Foreign Campus in Dubai

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) is set to inaugurate its first international campus in Dubai, marking a significant milestone in its global expansion. This initiative aligns with the National Education Policy 2020's emphasis on internationalization. The Dubai campus, located at Expo City, will offer full-time and executive programs in international business and trade. The establishment has received approvals from India's Ministry of Education, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, and the University Grants Commission. Operations are expected to commence soon, pending final clearances from UAE authorities.



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## 9. India Allows Private Players into Nuclear Energy Sector Following Liability Reform

In a landmark policy shift, India plans to allow private companies to operate nuclear power plants, aiming to boost clean energy capacity and attract investment. To encourage participation, the government may amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, to limit private operators' liability. This follows the U.S. decision to let its firms collaborate with India on nuclear technology, marking a new phase in Indo-U.S. cooperation. The move supports India's goal of reaching 22 GW nuclear capacity by 2031.



## 10. Gyan Bharatam Mission

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the revamped National Manuscripts Mission as the 'Gyan Bharatam Mission' on June 9, 2025, with a budget boost from Rs. 3.5 crore to Rs. 60 crore. The mission aims to survey, document, digitise, and conserve over one crore manuscripts across India, including private collections. Making the mission autonomous will improve efficiency and access. This initiative seeks to preserve India's rich manuscript heritage, enhance digital access, and promote cultural research and global outreach.



## 11. Union Minister Inaugurates Rs. 42.4 Crore Integrated Aquapark Project in Tripura Under PMMSY

On May 18, 2025, Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh laid the foundation for a ₹42.4 crore Integrated Aquapark in Kailashahar, Tripura, under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The project aims to boost fish production using modern technology and sustainable practices, targeting Tripura's transformation into a "fish surplus state" with export potential. Alongside, a Fish Festival showcased local aquatic biodiversity. The initiative supports fish

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## 18. Home Minister Amit Shah Launches Revamped OCI Portal

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the revamped Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) portal on May 19, 2025, to simplify and digitise services for over 5 million OCI cardholders and applicants. The new portal features a modern, user-friendly interface and enhanced security to improve application processing. Introduced under the Citizenship Act amendment in 2005, the OCI scheme supports persons of Indian origin. This upgrade modernises the 2013 system, promoting seamless access and strengthening ties with the global Indian diaspora.



## 19. India Poised to Become the World's Leading Potato Producer by 2050

India is set to become the world's top potato producer by 2050, surpassing China, with production expected to reach 100 million tonnes, up from the current 60 million tonnes. This growth is supported by a 50-year partnership with the International Potato Center (CIP), government investment in research and innovation, and focus on climate-resilient tuber crops. Experts emphasise the role of private sector involvement, women's empowerment, and collaborative research to boost food security, rural development, and economic growth through tuber cultivation.

## 20. Government Introduces e-Zero FIR Initiative to Expedite Cybercrime Case Processing

The Ministry of Home Affairs launched the e-Zero FIR initiative on May 20, 2025, to expedite FIR registration for high-value cyber financial frauds above Rs. 10 lakh. Initially piloted in Delhi, complaints filed via the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal or helpline 1930 will automatically convert into Zero FIRs, speeding investigations. Complainants must visit cybercrime police stations within three days to formalise the FIR. This move enhances accountability, coordination, and public trust, strengthening India's cybercrime response framework.

## 21. Gujarat's lion population has increased by 32% since 2020

The Gujarat Forest Department reported a 32% rise in Asiatic lion numbers, reaching 891 in 2025, reflecting successful



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## 28. Assam Launches 'Ankita,' India's First AI News Anchor in a Regional Language

Assam launched 'Ankita,' India's first regional language AI news anchor, unveiled by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on May 15, 2025. Ankita delivers Assam Cabinet meeting highlights in Assamese, promoting efficient e-governance and transparency. The initiative highlights Assam's digital innovation in public communication. While widely praised for embracing technology, it also sparked concerns over potential job losses and the lack of human empathy in AI presentations. This marks a significant step in integrating AI into regional governance communication.



International

## 1. Yala Glacier in Nepal Declared 'Dead,' Sparking Local Mourning Over Its Loss

Nepal's Yala Glacier in Langtang was declared "dead" on May 12, 2025, marking it as Asia's first glacier memorialized for climate loss. The glacier has lost 66% of its mass and retreated 784 meters since the 1970s. The

ceremony, coordinated by ICIMOD, highlighted the severe impact of global warming on Himalayan glaciers, threatening regional water security. Yala Glacier's demise underscores accelerating glacial retreat, with consequences for South Asia's ecology and the global climate crisis.

## 2. First Personalized Gene Editing Therapy Used to Cure Rare Genetic Illness

In a historic medical breakthrough, a nine-month-old baby named KJ Muldoon has become the first person successfully treated with a personalized CRISPR gene-editing therapy. Born with severe carbamoyl phosphate synthetase 1 (CPS1) deficiency—a rare and often fatal metabolic disorder—KJ received a bespoke treatment developed by researchers at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania. The therapy corrected a specific gene mutation in his liver cells, leading to significant health improvements without serious side effects. This case marks a significant advancement in precision medicine, offering hope for treating other ultra-rare genetic diseases.

## 3. Defence Minister Raises Concerns Over Pakistan's Nuclear Safety Oversight

On May 15, 2025, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh raised serious concerns about the safety of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, labeling the country a 'rogue nation' and advocating for its nuclear weapons to be placed under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This statement came in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, India's military response to

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the Pahalgam terror attack, and amidst heightened tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. Singh questioned the security of nuclear weapons in Pakistan's hands, suggesting that international oversight is necessary to ensure regional stability. Pakistan strongly condemned Singh's remarks, calling them irresponsible and reaffirming the security of its nuclear assets. The IAEA has not officially responded to Singh's proposal.



#### 4. Miss Estonia Makes History by Winning the Miss World 2025 Sports Challenge in Hyderabad

Miss Estonia Eliise Randmaa won the gold medal at the Miss World 2025 Sports Challenge held on May 17 at Hyderabad's Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, marking Estonia's first advancement to the Miss World quarter-finals since 1999. The event featured 108 contestants competing in fitness and mental agility events like badminton, chess, and sprints, alongside vibrant cultural performances. As a fast-track competition, Randmaa's victory secured her direct entry into the Top 40, highlighting athleticism and global cultural exchange.



#### 5. China and Cambodia have jointly launched the Golden Dragon 2025

China and Cambodia launched the "Golden Dragon-2025" joint military exercise in mid-May 2025, marking the seventh edition of their annual defence cooperation. Held in Cambodia, including Port Ream, the drill features advanced unmanned combat systems and covers land, sea, and air operations. It focuses on counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief, enhancing joint tactical coordination. The exercise showcases deepening military trust, integrates mixed-unit training, and strengthens China's strategic presence in Southeast Asia through defence diplomacy and cultural exchange.

#### 6. Trump Unveils USD 175 Billion 'Golden Dome'



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On May 20, 2025, US President Donald Trump unveiled the 'Golden Dome,' a USD 175 billion missile defense system aiming to protect the US from ballistic, hypersonic, and space-based missile threats. Inspired by Reagan's 'Star Wars' program, it features space-based interceptors and orbital lasers for multi-layered defense across all missile flight phases. Despite an initial USD 25 billion budget, costs may exceed USD 500 billion. The plan faces technological, financial, and geopolitical challenges, with China and Russia condemning it as destabilizing.

## 7. India Assumes Chairmanship of the Asian Productivity Organisation for 2025–26

India has assumed the Chairmanship of the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) for 2025–26 during its 67th Governing Body Meeting in Jakarta. Led by Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia, India aims to strengthen APO Vision 2030, promote Green Productivity 2.0, and foster cooperation in digital transformation, innovation, and sustainability. As a founding member, India supports capacity-building through the National Productivity Council. This leadership role enhances India's influence in regional governance and aligns with its goal of becoming a global productivity and innovation hub.



## 8. India Welcomes UK's Decision to Return the Chagos Islands

The UK has agreed to transfer sovereignty of the Chagos Islands, including Diego Garcia, to Mauritius, ending a long-standing colonial dispute. India welcomed the decision, affirming its support for Mauritius's legitimate claim based on decolonisation and international law. While the UK retains security responsibility over Diego Garcia, the transfer aligns with UN and ICJ rulings. This landmark agreement strengthens regional cooperation and supports India's commitment to maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

## Sports

### 1.A stand named after Rohit Sharma has been inaugurated at the Wankhede Stadium

On May 16, 2025, the Mumbai Cricket Association renamed four sections of Wankhede Stadium to honour cricket legends. The Rohit Sharma Stand, formerly Divecha Pavilion Level 3, celebrates India's 2024 T20 World Cup and 2025 Champions Trophy.

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## 5. India Secures SAFF U-19 Title Following Thrilling Penalty Shootout Victory Over Bangladesh

India's U-19 football team won the SAFF U-19 Championship 2025 by defeating Bangladesh 4-3 in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw at Golden Jubilee Stadium, Yupia. Captain Shami Singamayum scored early, but Bangladesh equalised in the 61st minute. This victory marks India's second SAFF U-19 title since 2023, showcasing the country's growing youth football strength. The tournament promotes regional youth football, offering exposure and talent development for future senior national teams in South Asia.



## 6. Spurs Triumph Over Manchester United to Win Europa League Title

Tottenham Hotspur won the UEFA Europa League final on May 21, 2025, defeating Manchester United 1-0 at Estadio de San Mamés, Bilbao. Brennan Johnson scored the decisive goal, securing Spurs' first major trophy in 17 years and their first European title since 1984. Despite a poor Premier League season, this victory qualifies them for the 2025–26 Champions League, boosting team morale and restoring club prestige. Manager Ange Postecoglou's tactics gained validation, marking a major comeback for the north London club.



## 7. Joe Root Becomes the Quickest Cricketer to Reach 13,000 Test Runs

Joe Root became the fastest cricketer to reach 13,000 Test runs, achieving this milestone in 153 matches during England's Test against Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge on May 22, 2025. Surpassing Jacques Kallis' record of 159 matches, Root's 34-run innings highlights his consistency and skill. Since debuting in 2012, Root has been a key figure for England, serving as captain and scoring over 30 centuries. His achievement reinforces his legacy as a modern Test great and inspires future cricketers worldwide.



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## Ranks/Reports/Indices

### 1. PRS Legislative Research Highlights Decline in State Assemblies' Performance

PRS Legislative Research has highlighted a concerning decline in the performance of India's state legislative assemblies. The report reveals that many assemblies convene for only a few days annually, with some passing multiple bills in a single day without thorough debate or committee review. Budget discussions are often rushed, with several states approving budgets in just one day. This trend raises serious questions about legislative accountability and the robustness of democratic processes at the state level.



## Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

### 1. India Proposes Five-Point Global Strategy for Mountain Ecosystem Conservation

India has unveiled a five-point global strategy to safeguard fragile mountain ecosystems, particularly in the Himalayas, at the inaugural Sagarmatha Sambaad summit in Kathmandu. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav emphasized the disproportionate impact of climate change on South Asia, despite its minimal contribution to global emissions. The strategy calls for enhanced scientific cooperation, climate resilience building, community empowerment, provision of green finance, and recognition of mountain perspectives in global forums. India also highlighted initiatives like Project Snow Leopard and the Secure Himalaya Project to bolster conservation efforts.

### 2. IPPB and Aditya Birla Capital Partner to Expand Nationwide Loan Accessibility

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL) have partnered to expand digital loan access across India, focusing on rural and underbanked areas. Through a referral-based model, IPPB facilitates access to ABCL's personal, business, and property loans via digital platforms, ensuring fast approvals and minimal documentation. This initiative leverages IPPB's vast postal network and ABCL's digital expertise to promote financial inclusion, support entrepreneurship, and align with Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat missions.

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#### 4. NASA's GRAIL Mission Uncovers the Cause Behind the Moon's Asymmetry

A NASA study using GRAIL mission data has explained why the Moon's nearside differs from its farside. Gravitational pull from Earth and internal heat caused the nearside to have a thinner crust, higher mantle temperatures, and more volcanic activity, creating basaltic plains. The farside's thicker crust resulted in a rugged, cratered surface with less volcanism. This discovery resolves a decades-old mystery, advances knowledge of lunar geology, and aids future Moon exploration and mission planning.

#### 5. India Charts Alternate Sea Route to North-East Through Myanmar, Bypassing Bangladesh

India has approved a Rs. 22,864 crore high-speed four-lane highway from Shillong to Silchar to enhance North-East connectivity via Myanmar, bypassing Bangladesh. Spanning 166.8 km, the project links to the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project and is expected to be completed by 2030. Strategically vital, it reduces reliance on the Siliguri Corridor and supports the Act East

policy. Equipped with advanced engineering features, it addresses regional tensions and promotes trade, defence, and maritime access to Kolkata and Visakhapatnam through an alternative sea route.



#### 6. New Butterfly Species Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

The confirmed sighting of *Euthalia malaccana* in Arunachal Pradesh's Leparada district marks its first verified presence in India, extending its known range beyond Southeast Asia. Discovered by citizen scientists Roshan Upadhaya and Taslima Sheikh, this butterfly species was documented through fieldwork and published in an international journal. Identified by distinct wing patterns, its discovery enriches India's butterfly biodiversity and highlights the importance of citizen science in conservation and ecological research, especially in the biologically rich northeastern region.





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## Miscellaneous

### 1. Coffee Table Book on PMAY-U Launched in Kohima to Showcase Urban Housing Achievements

On May 16, 2025, Nagaland released a Coffee Table Book titled *"Transforming Lives: A Glance of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Mission in Nagaland"* at Hotel Vivor, Kohima. Released by Zhaleo Rio, the book highlights the PMAY-U scheme's impact on affordable housing, urban development, and socio-economic upliftment in Nagaland. It features beneficiary stories and urban transformation visuals, showcasing the mission's role in empowering the urban poor, boosting employment, and improving living standards across the state.

### 2. After 12 Years, Pushkar Kumbh Festival Returns to Keshav Prayag

The Pushkar Kumbh began on May 16, 2025, at Keshav Prayag in Mana village, Uttarakhand, after a 12-year gap. Celebrated when Jupiter enters Gemini, it attracts mainly Vaishnavite devotees, especially from South India. The event is considered spiritually auspicious for river bathing and prayers at the Alaknanda and Saraswati confluence. District authorities enhanced infrastructure and crowd management. The festival boosts religious tourism, local economy, and cultural ties between North and South India, while revitalising traditional heritage in the region.



### 3. Nepal Declares Himalayan Gala Glacier Deceased

Nepal has declared the Yala Glacier in Langtang Valley 'dead,' marking it as Asia's first and the world's third glacier to be officially recognized as deceased. The glacier has lost 66% of its surface area and retreated 784 meters since the 1970s. A memorial ceremony was held with Buddhist rituals and plaques to honor the glacier and raise awareness about climate change. This event highlights the urgent risks to water security and increased natural disasters in the Himalayan region due to glacier melt.

### 4. President Murmu Bestows India's Highest Literary Honour on Gulzar and Rambhadracharya

On May 17, 2025, President Droupadi Murmu presented the 58th Jnanpith Award to Gulzar and Rambhadracharya at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. Gulzar was honoured for his lyrical poetry and contributions to cinema, while Rambhadracharya was recognised for his Sanskrit epics and educational work for the visually impaired. The award celebrates both modern and traditional Indian literature. Instituted in 1961, the Jnanpith Award is India's highest literary honour, reflecting the

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country's rich linguistic and cultural heritage.



## 5. India Declares Trachoma Eliminated as a Public Health Concern

At the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva, India received the WHO Certificate of Elimination of Trachoma as a Public Health Problem on May 19, 2025. This milestone highlights India's successful public health initiatives, including mass drug administration, hygiene promotion, and the SAFE strategy. Led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the achievement reflects strong inter-ministerial coordination. Trachoma, a major cause of preventable blindness, was eliminated through sustained efforts, reinforcing India's commitment to global health and tackling neglected tropical diseases.

## 6. Om Birla Unveils New Initiative to Provide Assistive Devices for Persons with Disabilities

On May 20, 2025, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra (PMDK) in Kota, Rajasthan, to empower persons with disabilities (PwDs). The centre distributes assistive devices like

electric scooters and prosthetics, promotes vocational training, and enhances independence. Managed by ALIMCO under the Ministry of Social Justice, PMDK Kota focuses on the visually impaired and employment. This initiative aligns with India's target of 100 PMDKs by June 2025, supporting inclusive development and UN SDG Goal 10.



## 7. Renowned Astrophysicist and Padma Vibhushan Awardee Jayant Narlikar Passes Away

Renowned astrophysicist Dr. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, a Padma Vibhushan awardee, passed away at 87 in Pune. Born in 1938, he excelled at Cambridge before transforming Indian astrophysics at TIFR. He founded IUCAA, Pune, advancing research and



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On May 20, 2025, the WHO adopted the world's first global pandemic treaty, with 124 countries supporting it and 11 abstaining. The treaty aims to ensure equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments, strengthen global health coordination, and promote a One Health approach. It respects national sovereignty while establishing a new fund for pandemic preparedness. The agreement addresses issues like intellectual property and pathogen sharing, marking a major step toward global cooperation and equity in future pandemic responses despite the absence of the United States.

### 11. Spanish football legend Pepe Reina, known for his time at Liverpool, is to retire at age 42

Pepe Reina, former Spain and Liverpool goalkeeper, announced his retirement at the end of the 2024–25 season, concluding a 25-year career with over 1,000 competitive matches. Currently with Como in Serie A, Reina is celebrated for his reflexes, leadership, and consistency. He won the 2010 FIFA World Cup and UEFA Euros in 2008 and 2012 with Spain, and achieved multiple titles with Liverpool, including three Premier League Golden Gloves. Reina described his career as “very beautiful” and felt it was the right time to retire.

### 12. First CISF Officer to Climb Mount Everest

CISF Sub-Inspector Geeta Samota became the first officer from the Central Industrial Security Force to summit Mount Everest on May 19, 2025. Originating from Rajasthan, she transitioned from a hockey career to

mountaineering after joining CISF in 2011. She completed key mountaineering courses and scaled several major peaks, including four continental summits in record time. Her historic achievement highlights the rising role of Indian women in adventure sports, CAPF's diverse contributions, and promotes youth empowerment and mountaineering in India.

### 13. Sudan Names Kamil Idris as Its First Prime Minister Since the 2023 Civil War

On May 19, 2025, Sudan's army chief, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan appointed Kamil al-Taib Idris as Sudan's first prime minister since the 2023 civil war began. This follows the military's recapture of Khartoum from the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and aims to stabilise the country and form a transitional government. Idris, a neutral legal expert and diplomat, is expected to help restore civilian rule amid severe humanitarian crises, widespread displacement, and international pressure for political legitimacy.

### 14. Justice K. Somashekar has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court

Justice Kempaiah Somashekar has been appointed Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court, succeeding Justice D. Krishnakumar, who retires on May 21, 2025. Appointed by the President of India following a Supreme Court collegium recommendation, Justice Somashekar brings over 30 years of legal experience. His career spans civil and criminal law, district judgeship, and tenure as a Karnataka High Court judge. His elevation ensures experienced judicial leadership in Manipur, supporting effective legal