

16/05/2026 Daily Current News

1. PM Visit to UAE:

Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the United Arab Emirates.

List of major outcomes:

S.No.	MoU / Agreement	Objective
1	MoU on Strategic Collaboration between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)	Cooperation for crude oil storage in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves, including facilities at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Chandikol (Odisha), along with collaboration in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) storage.
2	Strategic Collaboration Agreement between Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)	Explore long-term supply, sale, and purchase opportunities for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).
3	Framework for the Strategic Defence Partnership	Strengthen defence cooperation in defence industry, advanced technology, training, maritime security, cyber defence, interoperability, and secure communications.
4	MoU between Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and Drydocks World (DDW)	Establish a Ship Repair Cluster at Vadinar, including offshore fabrication facilities under the Maritime Development Fund Scheme.
5	MoU between Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Drydocks World (DDW) and Centre of Excellence in Maritime & Shipbuilding (CEMS)	Develop skilled maritime workforce through training and employment in shipbuilding and ship repair sectors.
6	Term Sheet between Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) and Group 42 (G42), United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Set up an 8 Exaflop Supercomputing Cluster under the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Mission India initiative.

2. Commonwealth Games 2026:

Context: Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya chaired a high-level review meeting to assess India's preparations for the Commonwealth Games 2026 scheduled to be held in Glasgow, Scotland.

About Commonwealth Games 2026:

- ❖ The Commonwealth Games (CWG) is the world's second-largest multi-sport event after the Olympic Games.
- ❖ It brings together athletes from 71 Commonwealth nations and territories.
- ❖ The first CWG was held in 1930 at Hamilton in Canada as the British Empire Games.
- ❖ In 1954, the event was renamed the British Empire and Commonwealth Games.
- ❖ Since 1978, it has officially been known as the Commonwealth Games.
- ❖ The Commonwealth Games Federation governs and manages the Games.
- ❖ The Commonwealth Games are conducted once every four years.
- ❖ The event is popularly called the "Friendly Games."
- ❖ The Games are based on the values of Humanity, Equality, and Destiny.
- ❖ The CWG promotes sports, education, recreation, and Commonwealth cultural diversity.
- ❖ All 74 Commonwealth Games Associations are expected to participate in the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Gabon and Togo are expected to make their debuts since joining the Commonwealth of Nations in June 2022.
- ❖ The 2026 Commonwealth Games will feature only 10 sports due to limited preparation time and urgency in organising the event.
- ❖ This is the first Commonwealth Games since 1994 to have such a reduced sports programme.
- ❖ For the first time, the Games will include only two compulsory sports.
- ❖ The two compulsory sports are Athletics and Swimming.

3. *Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface (MAITRI):*

Context: India and UAE leaders welcomed the operationalisation of the Virtual Trade Corridor using MAITRI (Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface interface). This digital framework, connecting customs and port authorities on both sides, will streamline cargo movement and reduce both costs and transit time, thereby enabling more efficient trade flows.

About MAITRI:

- ❖ The MAITRI Platform aims to digitize international trade documentation and regulatory processes.
- ❖ It seeks to reduce processing time and improve trade efficiency.
- ❖ The platform is designed to optimize trade flows and support sustainable development.
- ❖ MAITRI enables the Virtual Trade Corridor (VTC) between India and the United Arab Emirates under the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
- ❖ The platform aims to expand connectivity to BIMSTEC and ASEAN countries.
- ❖ MAITRI uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Blockchain technology to improve efficiency and security in trade operations.

4. *Thucydides Trap:*

Context: The Chinese President raised the “Thucydides Trap” and Peloponnesian War in talks with the US president in Beijing.

About Thucydides Trap:

- ❖ The term “Thucydides Trap” was coined by Graham Allison.
- ❖ The concept is named after the ancient Greek historian Thucydides.
- ❖ Thucydides chronicled the Peloponnesian War.
- ❖ The Peloponnesian War began in 431 BC between Athens and Sparta.
- ❖ Thucydides Trap refers to the risk of conflict when a rising power challenges an existing dominant power.
- ❖ The concept explains how power transitions can increase geopolitical tensions and chances of war.
- ❖ In modern geopolitics, it is commonly used to analyze relations between the United States and China.
- ❖ In this context, the United States is viewed as the established power, while China is seen as the rising power.

5. *TATP (Triacetone Triperoxide):*

Context: National Investigation Agency (NIA) highlights the use of rare explosive mixture TATP in the 2025 Red Fort blast.

About Triacetone Triperoxide:

- ❖ Triacetone Triperoxide (TATP) is also known as the “Mother of Satan” and acetone peroxide.
- ❖ TATP is a semi-stable crystalline explosive compound.
- ❖ It belongs to the class of organic peroxide explosives.
- ❖ TATP is considered attractive for terrorist use because it is relatively easy to prepare.
- ❖ The explosive is extremely sensitive to impact, friction, static electricity, and heat.
- ❖ Even small quantities of TATP, around 1 gram, can cause serious injury and damage.
- ❖ TATP has been used in major terrorist attacks such as the Paris attacks, 2016 Brussels bombings, and Manchester Arena bombing.

6. *Bhojshala temple complex:*

Context: The Madhya Pradesh High Court, Indore Bench, declared the Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex in Dhar district a temple on 15 May 2026.

About Bhojshala temple complex:

- ❖ It is located in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh, India.
- ❖ It was established by Raja Bhoj, the greatest ruler of the Parmar dynasty, as an educational institute.
- ❖ It was originally known for Goddess Wagdevi (Saraswati temple), later converted into Kamal Maulana Mosque by Muslim rulers.

- ❖ Notable features: Large open courtyard (Mahaāyata), Verandah with decorated pillars (Sthāpanā), Prayer hall with intricately carved ceilings (Shikharākāra).

7. ***Ganges soft-shell turtle:***

Context: India released its first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam on 15 May 2026.

About Ganges soft-shell turtle:

- ❖ The Indian Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonia gangetica*), also called the Ganges Softshell Turtle, is one of the world's largest freshwater turtle species.
- ❖ It has a round-to-oval green carapace (upper shell) with a yellow border, along with a long neck and tube-like snout for breathing above water.
- ❖ Its compressed shell helps it move quickly, making it an excellent and fast swimmer.
- ❖ The species inhabits deep rivers, streams, canals, lakes, and ponds with sandy or muddy bottoms, often remaining buried under sand in turbid waters.
- ❖ It is distributed across India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, mainly in the Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra, Yamuna, Narmada, Meghna, and Mahanadi river basins.
- ❖ Indian Softshell Turtles are omnivorous and feed on fish, amphibians, mollusks, insects, carrion, and aquatic plants; their breeding season is from February to April.
- ❖ The turtles are considered sacred in parts of Odisha and are often protected in temple ponds.
- ❖ Major threats include habitat destruction, agricultural expansion, poaching, illegal trade, and commercial exploitation; the species is listed as Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

8. ***Ebola disease:***

Context: Africa's top public health agency said on Friday that there was a confirmed Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo's Ituri province, with 65 deaths out of 246 suspected cases so far.

About Ebola disease:

- ❖ Ebola Virus Disease is a severe and often deadly viral disease caused by orthoebolaviruses.
- ❖ First discovered in 1976 in Democratic Republic of the Congo near the Ebola River.
- ❖ Mainly found in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ Called a hemorrhagic fever because it damages blood clotting and can cause internal bleeding.
- ❖ Six species of the virus are identified; four can infect humans.
- ❖ Affects humans and other primates like gorillas, monkeys, and chimpanzees.
- ❖ Transmitted from wild animals such as fruit bats, porcupines, and non-human primates to humans.
- ❖ Human-to-human spread occurs through direct contact with blood, body fluids, organs, or contaminated materials.
- ❖ Ebola is not airborne.
- ❖ Symptoms include fever, diarrhea, vomiting, bleeding, weakness, and sometimes death.
- ❖ Average fatality rate is about 50%, varying from 25% to 90% in outbreaks.
- ❖ No fully approved cure is available; experimental treatments are being used.

- ❖ Treatment mainly includes fluid and electrolyte balance, supportive care, and blood/plasma administration to control bleeding.
- ❖ Early treatment, lower viral exposure, strong immunity, and patient age influence recovery chances.

9. *Living wage under Article 43:*

Context: State's duty is to ensure living wages for workers, not label them as 'terrorists', says SC reminding the State of its obligation to provide a "living wage" to workers, in accordance with the Constitution's Directive Principles of State Policy.

About Article 43:

- ❖ The State should ensure employment opportunities for all workers.
- ❖ Workers should receive a living wage for a decent life.
- ❖ Proper working conditions and decent standards of living must be ensured.
- ❖ Workers should get leisure, social, and cultural opportunities.
- ❖ The State should promote cottage industries in rural areas.
- ❖ Cottage industries should be encouraged on individual and cooperative bases.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Kimberley Process Intersessional 2026 Concludes in Mumbai Under India's Chairship with Focus on Future of Natural Diamond Sector.
- ☐ The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), officially inaugurated its dedicated Incubation Center for Startups in Weather and Climate today. The landmark event was marked by a one-day national meet titled 'Weather and Climate Innovation Meet for Startups and Entrepreneurs (WISE-2026)', signaling a new era of private-sector integration in India's meteorological services.
- ☐ Rajasthan gets its first Semiconductor Plant India's first SME-led Semiconductor facility by Sahasra Semiconductors inaugurated at Bhiwadi.
- ☐ World Health Statistics Report 2026 Released by WHO. It is annual compilation of health and health-related indicators, been published by World Health Organization (WHO) since 2005.
- ☐ The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) will begin India's first hydrogen-powered shuttle bus service in Delhi's Central Vista area on 15 May 2026.
- ☐ Etor Gidi is an agro-based traditional festival of the Adi community in Arunachal Pradesh. It is celebrated at the beginning of the farming season (generally falls in Mid May) and is associated with agricultural rituals, communal participation, and village-level customs.
- ☐ The CBI has launched an AI-based helpbot called "Abhay" for authentication of CBI notices, a system designed to protect citizens from the growing menace of digital arrest scams.

-----The END-----