

The week from 19 May 2025 to 25 May 2025

Banu Mushtaq, Kannada author and activist, has won the International Booker Prize 2025 for her short story collection *Heart Lamp*, translated into English by Deepa Bhashti. Established in the year 2005, this recognition is awarded annually by the Booker Prize Foundation, UK, honouring the best translated work of fiction into English from any language.

The Chief Minister of Mizoram officially declared the state as fully literate. With this, Mizoram has become the first state in India to achieve complete literacy. Earlier in 2024, Ladakh became the first administrative unit to declare full literacy. A state is considered fully literate when its literacy rate exceeds 95%, as per the benchmark defined under the ULLAS scheme.

The Indian Navy formally inducted INSV Kaundinya, a stitched sail ship inspired by 5th-century Ajanta cave paintings, at Karwar Naval Base. The ship will undertake a transoceanic voyage from Gujarat to Oman later this year, reviving India's ancient maritime heritage. This ship was reconstructed using iconographic extrapolation and built using stitched plank technique.

The BrahMos-NG (Next Generation) missile is nearing flight testing, with an extended range extended of 800 km. Jointly developed by India's DRDO and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya, it is a smaller, lighter, and more versatile supersonic cruise missile designed to offer stealthier, and more agile missile system capable of engaging land and sea-based targets with ultra-precision.

Algeria has officially joined the New Development Bank (NDB), becoming a full member on May 19, 2025. NDB is a multilateral development bank established by BRICS nations to mobilise funds for infrastructure and sustainable development aimed for functioning as an alternative to Western-dominated institutions like the World Bank and IMF.

Prime Minister inaugurated 103 Amrit Bharat railway stations across 86 districts in 18 States/UTs via video conference from Deshnoke, Rajasthan. Launched in 2022 by the Ministry of Railways, to redevelop 1,275 railway stations across India, it aims to enhance passenger experience through improved infrastructure and integrate stations into multimodal urban mobility hubs.

ISRO's 101st launch using PSLV-C61 failed mid-flight, due to a chamber pressure drop during the third stage. The mission aimed to place EOS-09 in Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit. The PSLV-C61 was the 63rd flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and the 27th in the PSLV-XL configuration.

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