

The week from 11 May 2026 to 17 May 2026

Suvendu Adhikari was sworn in as Chief Minister of West Bengal on 9 May 2026, after the Bharatiya Janata Party secured 207 seats in the Assembly, ending the All India Trinamool Congress's 15-year rule. The oath ceremony in Kolkata was attended by Narendra Modi and senior NDA leaders, marking the state's first BJP-led government.

Saudi Arabia is now the 26th member of the India-led Big Cat Alliance, expanding international cooperation for the protection of seven major big cat species, including tigers, lions, leopards, snow leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, and pumas. The alliance focuses on habitat conservation, research, capacity building, knowledge sharing, and climate-resilient ecosystem management.

China has developed a room-temperature electrochemical method to convert nitrate wastewater into ammonia fertiliser using an AI-optimised dual-atom catalyst. The process is nearly three times more efficient than earlier techniques and offers a cleaner alternative to the energy-intensive Haber-Bosch process, while also helping address wastewater pollution and nutrient recycling.

India has launched the \$1.5 billion Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool) to strengthen domestic maritime insurance and reduce reliance on foreign insurers. Backed by a \$1.4 billion sovereign guarantee, the initiative provides global coverage for Indian vessels, lowers conflict-related insurance risks, and enhances national control over maritime trade and shipping security.

Yoweri Museveni was sworn in for a seventh term in Uganda after winning the 2026 election with 71.65% of the vote against opposition leader Bobi Wine. In power since 1986, Museveni remains one of Africa's longest-serving leaders, credited with stability and reforms while facing criticism over weakening democratic institutions.

Assam has approved a draft Uniform Civil Code Bill under Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, covering marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships while mandating the registration of marriages and divorces. The proposed law seeks legal uniformity and equality before the law, though tribal communities and traditional cultural and religious practices are fully exempted.

N. S. Raja Subramani has been appointed India's next Chief of Defence Staff and will assume office on 30 May 2026, succeeding Anil Chauhan. A former Vice Chief of the Army Staff and current Military Adviser to the NSAB, Subramani brings extensive operational experience along India's western and northern borders.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the ₹20,667-crore Ahmedabad-Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Line project, India's first indigenous semi-high-speed rail corridor designed for 220 km/h. The 134 km line in Gujarat will connect Ahmedabad, Dholera SIR, the upcoming Dholera Airport, and Lothal, reducing travel time to 48 minutes and boosting multimodal connectivity under PM Gati Shakti.



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