

The week from 18 May 2026 to 24 May 2026

PM Narendra Modi has been awarded the Royal Order of the Polar Star, Sweden's highest honour for a Head of Government, during his official visit to Sweden. Established in 1748 by King Frederick I, the award recognises exceptional public service and international co-operation, honouring Modi's role in strengthening India-Sweden bilateral relations.

The National Highways Authority of India has launched 'Project Saksham' with the Vertis Foundation to empower rural women through skills training, career guidance, and employment support. The initiative has established 12 training centres, trained over 6,000 young people, and facilitated more than 4,000 job placements, with women comprising 80% of the beneficiaries.

Kerala has become the first state to create a dedicated AI portfolio at the cabinet level, assigning it to senior IUMI leader P. K. Kunhalikutty. Integrated under the Industries and Commerce Department, the initiative aims to drive innovation, industrial modernisation, startup growth, and AI-led transformation in sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, and governance.

Google has partnered with Blackstone to launch a \$5 billion AI cloud infrastructure venture focused on compute-as-a-service. Powered by Google's custom Tensor Processing Units (TPUs), the project will support AI model training and large language models, with Blackstone funding the first phase of nearly 500 megawatts of data centre capacity.

The Indian national boxing team delivered an outstanding performance at the Asian Boxing U15 Championships 2026, winning 27 medals including nine gold. The girls' team led the charge with seven gold medals, while the boys added two more through Yash Kumar and Mohd Yasser, underlining India's growing strength in youth boxing.

Kami Rita Sherpa scaled Mount Everest for a record 32nd time on 17 May 2026, further cementing his legacy as one of the greatest high-altitude climbers in history. The veteran Sherpa guide, who first summited Everest in 1994, also holds the record for the most ascents of peaks above 8,000 metres.

The Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region has launched the ₹167-crore 'Arunachal Kiwi' Mission to strengthen cluster-based kiwi cultivation and value-chain development in Arunachal Pradesh. The initiative aims to boost post-harvest infrastructure, improve farmer incomes, and position Arunachal Pradesh as a premium organic kiwi exporter.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Linked to the Bundibugyo virus strain, the outbreak has spread from eastern DRC's conflict-hit, mining-rich, Ituri province to Uganda, prompting calls for a coordinated global response.



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