

The week from 27 April 2026 to 3 May 2026

Chief of Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, was inducted into the US Army War College International Hall of Fame. He is the third Indian Army Chief to receive this honour, following V.K. Singh and Bikram Singh. This recognition underscores India's rising global military stature and deepening defence ties with the US, particularly in the Indo-Pacific.

India and New Zealand signed a historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on 27 April 2026. Negotiated in less than a year, the pact provides Indian exporters with 100% duty-free access to New Zealand markets, benefiting sectors such as textiles, gems, and pharmaceuticals. In return, India will reduce tariffs on 95% of New Zealand imports, including dairy and wood.

Iconic photojournalist Raghu Rai, passed away aged 83. Born in pre-Partition Punjab, he abandoned engineering for photography and became the country's foremost visual chronicler. Renowned for documenting the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy and the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, Rai immortalised India's political and social journey through his lens.

France has unveiled a comprehensive roadmap to eliminate fossil fuels by 2050, setting firm targets for coal by 2030, oil by 2045, and gas by 2050. The strategy includes ending domestic fossil fuel production, boosting electrification in transport and heating, and cutting greenhouse emissions by 5% annually until 2028, while retaining nuclear energy as a key pillar.

NITI Aayog has unveiled 'DPI@2047: The Roadmap to Prosperity,' a two-phase Digital Public Infrastructure strategy aimed at transforming India into a \$30 trillion economy by 2047. DPI 2.0 will expand digital access and citizen empowerment, while DPI 3.0 will drive innovation, global integration, and sectoral transformation through secure, interoperable digital systems.

Finland has become Europe's first nation to establish a fully integrated lithium value chain, from mining to refining. The €783 million Keliber project near Kokkola will produce 15,000 tonnes of battery-grade lithium hydroxide annually, meeting nearly 10% of Europe's demand while boosting EV battery production and energy security, as well as creating 300 jobs.

Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu has been elected as Chair of the Athletes' Commission and has now assumed a full voting role on the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Council. This marks a rare achievement for an active elite athlete to gain direct influence in global badminton governance. Sindhu made her first appearance at the BWF Annual General Meeting in Horsens.

A study by Project CETI suggests sperm whale communication may share structural similarities with human language. Researchers found that whale codas—rapid click sequences—display organised rhythms and tempo variations. Using AI analysis, scientists believe these patterns form a layered communication system that helps maintain complex social bonds within whale family groups.



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