

Daily Current Affairs

20 May 2026

World Bee Day 2026

- On 20th May every year, World Bee Day is observed all around the world. This day being observed to raise awareness about the crucial role of bees and other pollinators in maintaining food security, biodiversity and ecological balance.
- Bees are responsible for pollinating a large share of the crops which produce fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds consumed globally.
- The official theme for World Bee Day 2026 is **'Bee together for people and the planet – A partnership that sustains us all.'**



Om Birla Constitutes Committee on Empowerment of Women

- Lok Sabha Speaker Shri. Om Birla has constituted the Committee on Empowerment of Women. This committee focused on focused on women centric policy oversight and the welfare initiatives. This newly formed committee will be chaired by the BJP MP Dr Daggubati Purandeswari.
- Their main functions to reviewing government policies and implementation concerning women. The formation of the committee comes as part of regular parliamentary institutional processes.
- The committee consists of a total of 28 members. Out of these, 18 women members are from the Lok Sabha.

- The remaining 10 members are from the Rajya Sabha.
- This bicameral composition will ensure the representation from both Houses of Parliament.



World Fair Play Day 2026

- International Fair Play Day is an annual celebration that highlights the importance of fair play, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior in sports. This day is observed around the world to promote the values of honesty, respect, and fairness in all sporting events.
- It calls on athletes, teams, coaches, and spectators to prioritize integrity over winning at any cost, celebrating the true spirit of sporting competition.
- International Fair Play Day was established by the International Fair Play Committee (CIFP) to honor and promote the values of fair play in sports. The day was first observed in 2014 and has since become an important occasion within the global sports community.



India & Norway Elevate Ties to Green Strategic Partnership

- India and Norway have taken their diplomatic relationship to the next level. Both the countries have announced the elevation of bilateral ties to a Green Strategic Partnership during the PM Narendra Modi's first ever official visit to the Norway.
- This The partnership will focuses on the clean energy, climate action, blue economy, digital innovation, artificial intelligence and strategic cooperation.
- The new Green Strategic Partnership is designed to strengthen the cooperation in future focused sectors and it also reflects a shared vision for the sustainable growth and technology-driven development.
- Clean energy has emerged as one of the most important outcomes of the visit. India and Norway will deepen the collaboration in renewable energy and green technology. As both the nations are looking at long term cooperation in sustainable industrial solutions.



PM Modi Receives Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit

- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi conferred with the Norway's highest civilian honor which is the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit during his official visit to Oslo. With this recognition, it marks the 32nd international honor.
- PM Narendra Modi has received the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit on the May 18 during his official visit to Norway.
- This award is considered as the highest grade of Norway's Royal Norwegian Order of Merit.
- This visit is politically significant for another reason. As it marks the Prime Minister Modi's first ever visit to Norway.
- It is also the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the Norway in 43 years.
- The trip is also seen as the major step in deepening India-Norway bilateral engagement.



WHO Declares Ebola Global Health Emergency

- The WHO declared the Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) for the latest Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda. This decision comes after a surge in the suspected infections and deaths in the respected country. However, the WHO clarified that this is not a pandemic emergency like COVID-19.
- WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has announced the emergency declaration after the outbreak showed signs of regional spread.
- Around more than 300 suspected cases and 88 deaths have raised the major concern among global health agencies.
- WHO has also said that international border closures are not necessary at this stage.
- Ebola is a highly dangerous viral disease which causes severe haemorrhagic fever in humans.
- It belongs to the Orthoebolavirus family.
- The current outbreak is linked to the Bundibugyo virus strain which is a rare form of Ebola.



IAS Officer Saurabh Vijay Takes Charge as CEO of UIDAI

- Senior IAS officer Saurabh Vijay has officially assumed the charge as the new CEO of the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**. He is a 1998 batch Maharashtra cadre officer and will bring extensive administrative experience from both the state and central government roles.
- Shri. Saurabh Vijay took the charge as the new CRO of UIDAI on 18th of May, 2026.
- He will take the India's most crucial digital governance leadership roles
- UIDAI manages the Aadhaar which is the world's largest biometric identity program.



India Receives Fourth S-400 Air Defence System

- India is set to receive the fourth squadron of the Russian-origin S-400 air defence missile system by the end of the week of 19 May 2026. The system

forms part of a \$5.43 billion agreement signed in 2018 for five S-400 squadrons from Russia.

- The S-400 Triumf is a long-range surface-to-air missile system developed by Russia. It is designed to engage aircraft, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles at different ranges and altitudes. The system is operated by the Indian Air Force for air defence deployment.
- India signed the contract for five S-400 systems in 2018. The original delivery schedule aimed for completion by 2023, but the timeline faced delays linked to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and disruptions in Russian defence supply chains. The fourth unit was inspected by IAF personnel in Russia by mid-April 2026 and was shipped by sea and air transport.
- The fourth S-400 unit is expected to be deployed in Rajasthan for long-range air defence coverage along the western frontier. The fifth and final squadron under the original contract is expected by November 2026 and is likely to be positioned along India's northern border with China. In late March 2026, the Defence Acquisition Council approved a new batch of five additional S-400 missile systems.



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REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Fair Play Day is mainly celebrated to promote which values?
A) Industrial growth
B) Fair play and sportsmanship

- C) Space research
- D) Military training

Answer: B) Fair play and sportsmanship

2. International Fair Play Day was first observed in which year?
- A) 2008
 - B) 2010
 - C) 2014
 - D) 2018

Answer: C) 2014

3. India elevated its bilateral ties to a Green Strategic Partnership with which country?
- A) Sweden
 - B) Norway
 - C) Denmark
 - D) Finland

Answer: B) Norway

4. Which Indian Prime Minister received the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit in 2026?
- A) Manmohan Singh
 - B) Narendra Modi
 - C) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
 - D) Rajnath Singh

Answer: B) Narendra Modi

5. The Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit is:
- A) Norway's military medal
 - B) Norway's highest civilian honour
 - C) A sports award
 - D) A scientific award

Answer: B) Norway's highest civilian honour

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6. Which organisation declared the Ebola outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)?
- A) UNICEF
 - B) Red Cross
 - C) WHO
 - D) UNESCO

Answer: C) WHO

7. The current Ebola outbreak mentioned in the article is linked to which strain?
- A) Zaire strain
 - B) Sudan strain
 - C) Reston strain
 - D) Bundibugyo strain

Answer: D) Bundibugyo strain

8. Who has taken charge as the new CEO of UIDAI in 2026?
- A) Amit Agarwal
 - B) Saurabh Vijay
 - C) T.V. Somanathan
 - D) Rajesh Kumar

Answer: B) Saurabh Vijay

9. UIDAI is responsible for managing which major identity programme in India?
- A) DigiLocker
 - B) PAN Card
 - C) Aadhaar
 - D) Passport Seva

Answer: C) Aadhaar

10. The S-400 Triumf missile system was developed by which country?
- A) United States
 - B) France

C) Russia

D) Israel

Answer: C) Russia



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EXAMS