

NEWSLETTER

(BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS ON INDIA AND INDIA-BELARUS RELATIONS)



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BHARAT SANDESH

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PRESIDENT OF INDIA HOSTS PRESIDENT OF VIETNAM



The President of India, H.E. Mrs. Droupadi Murmu received H.E. Mr. To Lam, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at Rashtrapati Bhavan (May 6, 2026). She also hosted a banquet in his honour. Welcoming President Lam on his first State Visit to India, the President said that India and Viet Nam share a deep friendship rooted in historical, civilizational, and cultural ties.

The President noted that in recent years, India-Viet Nam bilateral relations have expanded across high-level exchanges, defence and security cooperation, development partnership, and sectors such as trade, health, science & technology, and tourism. She was happy to note that during this visit, agreements and announcements had been made in important areas such as rare earth minerals, digital and financial technology, culture, and education. The President was happy to note that India and Viet Nam have decided to further strengthen relations through the “Joint Statement on Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.”

The two leaders agreed that close cooperation between India and Viet Nam can bring immense benefits to our people. The President expressed confidence that under the leadership of President To Lam, the India-Viet Nam relations will grow even stronger.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2258570®=48&lang=1>

PRESIDENT OF INDIA HOSTS PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS



The President of India, H.E. Mrs. Droupadi Murmu received H.E. Mr. Nikos Christodoulides, President of the Republic of Cyprus at Rashtrapati Bhavan (May 22, 2026). She also hosted a banquet in his honour. Welcoming President Nikos Christodoulides and his delegation to India, the President said that India and Cyprus share close relations based on trust and goodwill. Our bilateral relations have been elevated to the level of a Strategic Partnership, which reflects the growing maturity, depth and mutual trust in the India-Cyprus relationship.

The President was happy to note that India-Cyprus relations are entering a new phase, with expanding cooperation in priority sectors such as defence and security, technology, financial services, connectivity, and maritime cooperation. The President said that Cyprus continues to be among the major sources of Foreign Direct Investment in India. Companies from Cyprus are showing increasing interest in expanding trade and investment ties with India.

The President said that technology and innovation have emerged as some of the most forward-looking areas of the India-Cyprus relationship. India's young talent, technological capabilities, and start-up ecosystem can complement Cyprus' innovation ecosystem. The President said that during its Presidency of the European Union Council, Cyprus can play an important role in further expanding economic cooperation between India and Europe, particularly after the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement. The two leaders agreed that the close cooperation between India and Cyprus can bring immense benefits to our peoples.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2264373®=48&lang=1>

HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER MR. NARENDRA MODI VISITS UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the United Arab Emirates. He was received at the airport by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and accorded a ceremonial welcome.

The two Leaders held a series of detailed discussions, during which Prime Minister reaffirmed India's strong condemnation of the attacks on the UAE, as well as its solidarity with leadership and the people of the UAE. Prime Minister also conveyed India's clear position in favour of ensuring safe transit passage and unimpeded navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, which is vital for enduring regional peace and stability, as well as energy and food security. The Leaders also reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and welcomed the deepening of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership across multiple sectors, including energy, trade, investment, defense, security, fintech, infrastructure, education, culture and people to people ties. They acknowledged the success of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which has led to bilateral trade scaling new heights.

The two Leaders welcomed the announcement of USD 5 billion in investment into India by UAE entities. This includes investment of USD 3 billion by the Emirates NBD in the RBL Bank of India, USD 1 billion by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) with the National Infrastructure & Investment Fund of India (NIIF) in priority infrastructure projects in India, and USD 1 billion by the International Holding Company in Sammaan Capital of India. These investments underscore UAE's sustained and long-term commitment to India's growth story, while strengthening the bilateral strategic investment partnership. The Leaders acknowledged the steady and strong bilateral defence cooperation as an important pillar of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2261393®=48&lang=1>

HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER MR. NARENDRA MODI VISITS NETHERLANDS



At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Mr. Rob Jetten, Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the Netherlands on 16-17 May 2026. This marked Prime Minister Modi's second visit to Netherlands.

Prime Minister Jetten and Prime Minister Modi met for restricted and delegation level talks, followed by a dinner in the evening of May 16. Both Prime Ministers recalled the longstanding and historical trade linkages, deep rooted people-to-people ties and robust bilateral relations between the two countries and expressed their desire for further expanding and deepening this multifaceted relationship. In this context, the two leaders noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in recent years across various cooperation programmes through regular interactions, including at the highest political level and through the fruitful collaboration during India's Presidency of the G20 in 2023 and the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi in February 2026. Acknowledging the strong momentum in the relationship and the growing convergences between the two countries, the two leaders decided to elevate the relations between India and the Netherlands to a 'Strategic Partnership'. In this context, they welcomed the adoption of a Strategic Partnership Roadmap under which both sides agreed to work through regular and structured cooperation in all areas, including political, trade and investment, defence & security cooperation, cyber security, critical & emerging technologies including semiconductors, space, AI & quantum system, science & innovation, sustainability, health, sustainable agriculture and food systems, water management, climate change and energy transition, sustainable transport, maritime development, education, culture and people-to-people ties. The two sides also agreed to explore exchanges in the domain of policy planning.

For more details:<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2261884®=48&lang=1>

HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER MR. NARENDRA MODI ADDRESSES THE EUROPEAN ROUND TABLE FOR INDUSTRY



Honble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi addressed the European Round Table for Industry (ERT) in Gothenburg on 17 May 2026. Prime Minister of Sweden, H.E. Mr. Ulf Kristersson, President of the European Commission H.E. Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, senior European industry leaders, and representatives from leading European and Indian companies participated in the interaction hosted by the Volvo Group.

In his keynote address, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the growing strategic convergence between India and Europe and underscored the importance of trusted partnerships in an increasingly complex and uncertain global environment. Prime Minister Modi welcomed the growing momentum in India-EU relations, including the successful conclusion of negotiations of the landmark India-EU Free Trade Agreement. He described the agreement as a transformative economic partnership that would create new opportunities in trade, technology, manufacturing, services and resilient supply chains. He also noted that connectivity projects such as India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) add new value to India-Europe business partnership. Prime Minister underlined that India today represents one of the world's most attractive destinations for investment, innovation and manufacturing. He highlighted India's rapid economic growth, next generation economic reforms, ease of doing business focus in governance, expanding digital public infrastructure, vibrant manufacturing ecosystem and rapidly transforming infrastructure sector. He reiterated India's vision of "Design for India, Make in India and Export from India" and invited European companies to deepen their engagement with India as a trusted and reliable economic partner.

Prime Minister highlighted India's ambitious infrastructure and energy transformation, including large-scale investments in transport, logistics, renewable energy, green hydrogen and nuclear power. He invited European industry leaders to partner with India in areas such as telecom and digital infrastructure; AI, semiconductors, electronics, and deep tech manufacturing; green transition and clean energy; infrastructure, mobility and urban transformation; and healthcare and life sciences.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2262097®=48&lang=1>

HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER MR. NARENDRA MODI ATTENDS THE INDIA-NORWAY BUSINESS AND RESEARCH SUMMIT



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi attended the India-Norway Business and Research Summit at Oslo. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon and the Prime Minister of Norway, H.E. Jonas Gahr Støre also participated in the Summit.

The Summit was attended by CEOs of over 50 companies and more than 250 participants from the Norwegian and Indian business and research communities. The Summit marked the growing momentum in bilateral economic cooperation following the coming into force of India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement. In his address, Prime Minister Modi appreciated the growth in bilateral trade and investments following the entry into force of TEPA. He underlined that stakeholders on both sides should make efforts to achieve the investment target of USD 100 billion under TEPA and consequent creation of one million jobs in India.

Prime Minister Modi also underscored India's ambitious green transition agenda, emphasizing the country's scale, growing energy demands, climate commitments, and rapid expansion in renewable energy, grid infrastructure, green hydrogen, and clean energy. Prime Minister urged the business communities of both countries to forge new partnerships, identify emerging areas of collaboration, and strengthen economic cooperation.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2262583®=48&lang=1>

HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER MR. NARENDRA MODI MEETS WITH PRIME MINISTER OF ITALY



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi held official talks with Prime Minister of the Italian Republic, H.E. Ms. Giorgia Meloni in Rome on May 20, 2026.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the strong momentum of high-level exchanges and excellent growth and diversification of bilateral cooperation. They decided to elevate the India -Italy Strategic Partnership to the level of Special Strategic Partnership. They also agreed to hold annual meetings of leaders, including on the sidelines of multilateral events, as well as regular Ministerial and institutional-level meetings. Both leaders agreed to further expand collaboration in trade and investment, defence and security, science and technology, research and innovation, space, energy, AI and critical technologies, education, culture and people-to-people ties.

The leaders expressed satisfaction on growing engagements between researchers and scientific institutions from both countries. They welcomed ongoing collaboration between the Italian Space Agency and the Indian Space Research Organisation, and efforts to strengthen commercial space collaboration. They also called for greater collaboration in the fields of AI, Semiconductors, critical minerals and other cutting-edge technologies, synergising India's talented workforce and Italy's technological prowess.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2263395®=48&lang=1>

HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER WRITES AN OPED ON VISIT TO SOMNATH



At the start of 2026, I had gone to Somnath for the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, marking a thousand years since the first attack on the Somnath Temple. Now, I will be back in Somnath on 11th May to mark 75 years since the inauguration of the restored Temple by the then President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. In less than half a year, it is a privilege to be attending two important milestones relating to Somnath and its journey from ruin to renewal or what we describe as from Vidhvans to Srijan.

Somnath gives us a civilisational message. The vast sea before it evokes timelessness. The waves tell us...that no matter how fierce the storms are or how turbulent the tides are, one can always rise again with dignity and strength. The waves return to the shore, as though reminding every generation that the spirit of the people can never be subdued for long. Our ancient scriptures say: प्रभासं च परिक्रम्य पृथिवीक्रमसंभवम्. It means, a Pradakshina of the divine Prabhasa (Somnath) is equal to a Pradakshina of the whole earth itself! While people have come here to pray, they have also experienced the remarkable continuity of a civilisation whose flame could never be extinguished. Empires rose and fell, tides changed, history moved through conquest and upheaval, yet Somnath continued to endure in our consciousness.

It is time to remember the countless greats who stood firm in the face of tyranny. There were Lakulisha and Soma Sarman, who transformed Prabhasa into a great centre of philosophy. Chakravarti Maharaja Dharasena IV of Vallabhi built the Second Temple there centuries ago.

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Bhima Deva, Jayapala and Anandapala will always be remembered for defending civilisational honour against invasions. It is said that Raja Bhoja too helped with the reconstruction. Karna Deva and Siddharaja Jayasimha played a vital role in restoring Gujarat's political and cultural strength. Bhava Brihaspati, Kumarapala Solanki and the Pashupata Acharyas rebuilt and sustained the shrine as a great centre of worship and learning. Vishaladeva Vaghela and Tripurantaka protected its intellectual and spiritual traditions. Mahipaladeva and Ra Khangar were instrumental in reviving worship after destruction. Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar, whose 300th birth centenary is being marked, ensured the continuity of devotion in the most difficult of times. There were the Gaekwads of Baroda, who safeguarded the rights of pilgrims. And of course, our soil is blessed to have nurtured brave personalities like Veer Hamirji Gohil and Veer Vegdaji Bhil, whose sacrifice and courage have become a part of Somnath's living memory.

In the 1940s, when the spirit of freedom swept across India and the foundations of a new republic were being laid under the leadership of towering figures like Sardar Patel, one thing continued to trouble him deeply... the condition of Somnath. On 13th November 1947, during Diwali time, he stood next to the dilapidated ruins of the temple with sea-water in his hands and said, "On this auspicious day of the (Gujarati) New Year, we have decided that Somnath should be reconstructed. You, people of Saurashtra, should do your best. This is a holy task in which all should participate." On one clarion call of Sardar Patel, it was not only the people of Gujarat but also the people of the whole of India that responded enthusiastically.

Unfortunately, fate did not allow Sardar Patel to witness the fulfilment of the dream he had so passionately championed. Before the restored Somnath Temple could open its doors to devotees, he had departed from this world. Yet, his impact continued to be felt over the sacred shores of Prabhas Patan. His vision was championed by Shri KM Munshi, ably supported by the Jamsaheb of Nawanagar. In 1951, when the Temple was complete, it was decided to call the President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, for the ceremony. Overcoming strong objections from the then Prime Minister Pandit Nehru, Dr. Prasad graced the ceremony, thus making it even more special and historic.

My mind also goes back to October 2001, when I had just taken over as Chief Minister. On 31st October 2001, the Jayanti of Sardar Patel, the Gujarat Government had the honour of organising a programme to mark 50 years since the Somnath Temple opened its doors. It also coincided with the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Patel. The then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the then Home Minister Shri LK Advani attended the programme.

During his speech on 11th May 1951, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said that the Somnath Temple proclaims to the world that anything with unparalleled faith and love cannot be destroyed. He expressed hope that this Temple will live in the hearts of people. He also said that the restoration of the Temple was a fulfilment of Sardar Patel's dream, but taking that spirit forward, it is important that we restore prosperity to the lives of people. These are important and inspiring messages he gave.

I urge my fellow Indians to travel to Somnath in this special time. When you stand on the shores of Somnath, let its ancient echoes speak to you. You will not only be overwhelmed by devotion but will also feel the strong pulse of a civilisational spirit that refuses to fade, that is unbroken and unyielding. You will experience Bharat's unconquerable spirit and understand why, despite every effort, our culture remained undefeated and you will have the opportunity to behold the vision of eternal triumph. It will surely be unforgettable.

Jai Somnath.

Link for full article: <https://www.narendramodi.in/somnath-and-bharat-s-unconquerable-spirit-605118>

HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER MR NARENDRA MODI PARTICIPATES IN THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE ART OF LIVING



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, participated in the 45th Anniversary Celebrations of The Art of Living in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Reflecting on the auspiciousness of the occasion, the Prime Minister described the uniqueness of the morning enriched by the welcome through Vedic mantras by children, the darshan of Lord Ganesha, Shri Shri Ravi Shankar Ji's 70th year, and Art of Living's 45th anniversary celebrations. "These are moments that will always remain in my memories," remarked Mr. Modi.

Marking the inauguration of the divine and grand Meditation Temple, the Prime Minister affirmed the importance of such dedicated institutions and extended best wishes to the Art of Living family for their newest sanctuary. "When resolve is clear and work is done with the spirit of service, then every effort yields pleasant results," Mr. Modi asserted. Appreciating the distinct ambience of Bengaluru, the Prime Minister highlighted how the city is globally recognized not only for software and services but also for elevating India's cultural identity and spiritual consciousness. "Spirituality and spiritual consciousness too have been given new heights by this city," observed Mr. Modi.

Drawing inspiration from these ancient spiritual values, the Prime Minister recalled how Mr. Shri Ravi Shankar Ji sowed the seed of Art of Living 45 years ago, which has now grown into a huge banyan tree. "Today it stands before us as a huge banyan tree whose thousands of branches are touching the lives of countless people across the world," remarked Mr. Modi.

Link for full address:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2259513®=48&lang=1>

CABINET DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DURING THE MONTH OF MAY 2026



1. Cabinet approves “Mission for Cotton Productivity” with Rs.5659.22 crore Outlay for Self-Sufficiency in Cotton and Competitiveness in Global Textile Markets by 2030-31
2. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0. The scheme aims to provide credit guarantee coverage of 100% for MSMEs and 90% for non-MSMEs as well as airline sector
3. Cabinet approves two more semiconductor manufacturing units with cumulative investment of more than Rs. 3,900 crore.
4. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today has approved the proposal for introducing The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 in Parliament to amend The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 for increasing the number of Judges of the Supreme Court of India by 4 from the present 33 to 37 (excluding the Chief Justice of India).
5. Cabinet approves Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects with a financial outlay of Rs.37,500 crore
6. Cabinet approves Upgradation and Modernisation of Nagpur International Airport through long term license involving Private Partner under Public Private Partnership (PPP)

Link for more details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PMContents/PMContents.aspx?menuid=6&Lang=1&RegionId=3®=3>

HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER MR. NARENDRA MODI HIGHLIGHTS YOGA'S EXPANDING GLOBAL IMPACT, CALLS FOR GREATER PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA 2026



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi underscored the transformative power of yoga as a global movement for health, well-being and active living while addressing the inaugural session of the First World Yogasana Championship 2026 in Ahmedabad. His remarks come as nations across the world prepare to celebrate the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) on 21 June 2026 under the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing."

Referring to the growing global acceptance of yoga, the Prime Minister recalled India's successful initiative at the United Nations to establish the International Day of Yoga, which received unprecedented support from countries across the world. He noted with satisfaction that yoga, meditation and pranayama have increasingly become an integral part of the daily lives of millions, contributing to better physical and mental well-being.

Highlighting the significance of this year's International Day of Yoga theme, Mr. Modi observed that people everywhere are seeking sustainable ways to remain healthy, active and productive throughout their lives. He described yoga as one of the most effective and accessible means to achieve this objective, emphasizing its role in promoting preventive healthcare and enhancing quality of life across all age groups.

The Prime Minister also noted that the First World Yogasana Championship is being organized at a time when preparations for International Day of Yoga 2026 are gaining momentum worldwide. Describing the event as a "double dose of health and wellness" ahead of IDY celebrations, he said such initiatives contribute to increasing awareness about yoga and inspire greater public participation.

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Mr. Modi highlighted the Government of India's efforts to promote year-round engagement with yoga through the Ministry of Ayush's Yoga 365 initiative. Calling upon participants from different countries to carry the message of yoga back to their communities, he encouraged them to become ambassadors of Yoga 365 and help spread awareness about yoga's benefits across the globe.

The Prime Minister reiterated that yoga is a powerful tool for achieving holistic health and well-being, requiring minimal resources while delivering lifelong benefits. Urging people to embrace yoga as a daily practice, he emphasized that regular yoga can play a significant role in preventing diseases and fostering healthier societies.

The Ministry of Ayush welcomes the Prime Minister's inspiring message and reaffirms its commitment to expanding the reach of yoga through International Day of Yoga 2026 and the Yoga 365 movement. With the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," this year's celebrations aim to encourage individuals of all ages to adopt yoga as a lifelong companion for health, vitality and active ageing.

As the world moves towards International Day of Yoga 2026, the Ministry invites citizens, institutions and communities across India and abroad to participate in the celebrations and join the collective movement towards a healthier and more resilient future through yoga.

FORTHCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS IN INDIA

India Space Congress (ISC)

15-17 June at New Delhi. The organizer is Space industry Association-India (SIA-India):

<https://.indiaspacecongress.com/>

India Net Zero Forum 2026

16 June at Delhi; the Organizer is ET Energy World: <https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/India-netzero-forum>

Minerals and Mining Conclave 2026

19 June at Kolkata; the organizer is ASSOCHAM: <https://assocham.org/event-detail.php?event=4th-edition-of-minerals-and-mining-conclave-2026>

FIMI Sustainable Mining Summit

22-23 June at Odisha; the organizer is Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI):

<https://fedmin.comindexmain/events/12>

Reverse Buyer Seller Meet at Vadodara, Gujarat on 29th & 30th June, 2026

The RBSM at Vadodara will focus on the following Product/ Sectors:

- ✓ Drug & Pharmaceuticals
- ✓ Engineering & Electrical Equipments
- ✓ Chemicals
- ✓ Plastic & Plastic Products

As a Hosted International Buyer, the Importers/ Buyers will be eligible for the following benefits:

1. Hotel Stay for 2 Nights & 3 Days
2. Economy Class airfare reimbursement (One Delegate per company)
3. Internal Transportation Facility during the event along with Airport Pickup & Drop (Shared basis)

RBSM at SRINAGAR 2026

FIEO in association the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) is organising a Reverse Buyer Seller Meet (RBSM) at Srinagar **from 29 - 30 June 2026** at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre, Srinagar.

FOCUS SECTORS

- Handicrafts
- Carpets & Handloom Products
- Woollen Textiles
- Agri & Horticulture Products (Apple, Walnut, Saffron, etc.)
- Processed Food Products

DELIVERABLES TO FOR HOSTED FOREIGN BUYERS

- Reimbursement of Return Air Ticket Cost
- Hotel Stay with Airport Transfers
- Local Transfers

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