

Current Affairs – 25 May 2026

For Bank PO | SSC | UPSC & Government Competitive Examinations | Date: 25 May 2026

■ National News

1. Severe Heatwave Grips North & Central India

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued red-alert warnings across Maharashtra, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and the Indo-Gangetic Plains as a severe heatwave pushed temperatures beyond 45°C. Brahmapuri in Maharashtra recorded the highest temperature at approximately 47°C. The Union Health Ministry activated the National Heat Action Plan and issued health advisories. IMD projected the heatwave to continue for at least five more days.

2. India–USA High-Level Diplomatic Talks

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived in India for bilateral discussions focusing on trade, defence cooperation, and critical technology transfer. The visit aims to reinvigorate the India–US Comprehensive Global & Strategic Partnership amid global geopolitical tensions and West Asian trade disruptions.

3. CBSE Extends Deadline for Answer Sheet Applications

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) extended the deadline for students to apply for scanned copies of evaluated answer books till 25 May 2026, following reported technical glitches on its official portal.

4. UCC – Tribal Community Outreach by Home Ministry

The Union Home Ministry continued consultations with tribal communities on the proposed Uniform Civil Code (UCC), assuring that tribal customs and constitutional protections under the Fifth and Sixth Schedules would be fully safeguarded.

5. Parliamentary Panel Reviews West Asia Maritime Trade Impact

A parliamentary committee convened discussions on the impact of the West Asia crisis on India's maritime trade and energy security, with focus on rising freight insurance costs and longer shipping routes.

■ International News

1. US–Israel Deal Framework Announced

US President Trump announced an unfinalized deal framework aimed at ending the Gaza conflict, including a 60-day window for negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme. International mediators from Qatar and Egypt are reportedly involved.

2. Taliban Issues New Marriage Law – UN Expresses Concern

The UN expressed grave concern over a new Taliban law on separation in marriage containing provisions enabling child marriage. The UN called for immediate review, citing violations of international human rights obligations.

3. Ebola Outbreak Worsens in Eastern Congo

The WHO flagged a worsening Ebola situation in eastern Congo after residents set fire to a treatment centre amid disputes over burial protocols. Aid workers evacuated as fears of wider transmission grew.

4. Palme d'Or 2026 – Cannes Film Festival

Romanian director Cristian Mungiu won the Palme d'Or at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival for his film Fjord, a culture-war drama set in Norway.

5. F1 Canadian Grand Prix 2026

The Formula 1 Canadian Grand Prix was held on 22–24 May 2026 at Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve in Montreal, Canada, drawing global viewership ahead of the mid-season break.

■ Indian Banking & Finance

1. Finance Ministry Clears Emirates NBD's ■26,853 Cr Acquisition of RBL Bank

The Department of Financial Services approved UAE-based Emirates NBD to acquire up to 74% stake in RBL Bank for ■26,853 crore (\$3 billion) — the largest FDI in India's financial services history. The RBI had earlier approved governance amendments on 6 May 2026. Post-deal, RBL Bank will function as a foreign bank subsidiary.

2. RBI Extends Enhanced Export Credit Period

The RBI extended the 450-day enhanced export credit facility for pre- and post-shipment finance to 30 June 2026, supporting exporters affected by West Asia crisis-related shipping disruptions.

3. RBI Opens Term Money Market to Non-Bank Entities

Non-bank entities including NBFCs, corporates, Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), and AIFIs can now participate in the 14-day to 1-year term money market — a market previously limited to banks and primary dealers.

4. RBI Injects ■81,590 Crore via VRR Auction

The RBI conducted a 3-day variable rate repo auction and injected ■81,590 crore to ease short-term liquidity in the banking system.

5. India's Forex Reserves Fall to \$688.89 Billion

India's foreign exchange reserves fell by \$8.094 billion to \$688.894 billion in the week ended 15 May 2026. NRI deposit inflows for FY2025-26 stood at \$14.41 billion, compared to \$16.16 billion in FY2024-25.

6. R Vijay Anandh Appointed MD & CEO of City Union Bank

The RBI approved R Vijay Anandh, Executive Director of City Union Bank (CUB), as MD & CEO for a 3-year term beginning 1 May 2026.

■ International Banking & Finance

1. IMF & World Bank Restore Relations with Venezuela

The IMF and World Bank resumed formal relations with Venezuela after a 6-year freeze following the removal of President Nicolás Maduro. Interim President Delcy Rodríguez has requested access to ~\$5 billion in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).

2. IMF Extends Haiti Staff-Monitored Programme

On 21 May 2026, the IMF approved the Third Review and extended its Staff-Monitored Programme with Haiti to support economic stabilisation amid security challenges.

3. IMF Downgrades Global Growth Forecast to 3.1%

The IMF's updated World Economic Outlook lowered global GDP growth to 3.1% (from 3.4% in 2025), citing the West Asia conflict, high debt servicing costs, and slowing momentum in major economies.

4. CATL's Sodium-Ion Battery Achieves 500 km Range

China's CATL unveiled next-generation sodium-ion batteries with 175 Wh/kg energy density and 500+ km electric vehicle range, using abundant, low-cost materials as an alternative to lithium.

International Sports Events

1. Aryaveer Dewan – Boys' U-19 Asian Squash Champion (India)

India's 17-year-old Aryaveer Dewan won the Boys' U-19 title at the Asian Junior Individual Squash Championships 2026 in Panzhihua, China (24 May). He defeated South Korea's Jonghyeok Lee 3-0. He is only the 4th Indian to win this title, after Ravi Dixit (2010), Velavan Senthilkumar (2016), and Veer Chotrani (2019). India won 1 gold, 3 silver, 4 bronze.

2. Aaron Rai Wins PGA Championship 2026

England's Aaron Rai won the 108th PGA Championship at Aronimink Golf Club, Pennsylvania (USA) with a 9-under 274, three strokes ahead of Jon Rahm and Alex Smalley. He is the first Englishman to win the PGA Championship since Jim Barnes, and the first player of Indian descent to win a men's major golf title. Prize money: \$3.69 million.

3. UEFA Europa League Final – Istanbul

The UEFA Europa League Final 2026 was played on 20 May in Istanbul, Turkey, as one of Europe's premier club football events of the season.

4. FA Cup Final 2026 – London

The FA Cup Final was held on 16 May 2026 in London, UK — the conclusion of England's oldest football cup competition for 2025-26.

5. Xiamen Diamond League & European Athletics Events

The Xiamen Diamond League 2026 and European Champion Clubs Cup (ECCC) Track & Field events took place on 23 May 2026 as part of the World Athletics circuit.

Major Appointments

V. D. Satheesan – Chief Minister of Kerala

V. D. Satheesan was sworn in as the 13th Chief Minister of Kerala on 18 May 2026 after the Congress-led UDF won 102/140 seats in the 2026 Kerala Assembly elections, ending the CPI(M)-led LDF's decade-long rule.

R Vijay Anandh – MD & CEO, City Union Bank

RBI-approved appointment as MD & CEO for a 3-year term from 1 May 2026.

Shalini Pandit – Government Nominee Director, Canara Bank

Appointed on 14 May 2026 by the Government of India.

Ambrish Tripathi – Head of HR, Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)

Selected to lead Human Resources at BEL, a Navratna defence PSU, on 14 May 2026.

Ashok Kumar (IAS) – Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi

Appointed by the Election Commission of India, replacing R. Alice Vaz as CEO of NCT of Delhi.

DoPT Reshuffle – 21 IAS Officers

A major central government reshuffle at Joint Secretary and equivalent levels was effected on 8 May 2026, covering 21 IAS officers across ministries.

Major Inventions & Discoveries

1. Vast Space Haven-1 – First Private Commercial Space Station

Vast Space launched its Haven-1 space station on a SpaceX Falcon 9 in May 2026. The habitat supports 4-crew, 10-day missions for commercial microgravity research.

2. 118 New Exoplanets Confirmed Using AI (University of Warwick)

Astronomers confirmed 118 new exoplanets via machine learning on NASA TESS data (3 May 2026), plus 2,000 candidates. Ross 318 b — a candidate temperate super-Earth in the habitable zone of red dwarf Ross 318 — was separately reported on 11 May 2026.

3. Textile Recycling Breakthrough – Avantium & University of Amsterdam

A new process using hydrochloric acid at room temperature separates cotton-polyester blends with 75% cotton glucose and 78% polyester monomer recovery, scaling to a demonstration plant in 2026.

4. Suzetrigine (Journavx) – First Non-Opioid Selective Pain Blocker

FDA-approved (January 2025), suzetrigine blocks Nav1.8 pain channels with 31,000-fold selectivity, offering effective pain relief without opioid addiction risks. Large-scale clinical adoption progressing in 2026.

5. AI Interpretability Research Reveals LLM Internals

Scientists studying LLMs as living organisms uncovered new insights into how AI models internally represent information, advancing interpretability and AI safety research.

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