



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 20, 2026

NATIONAL

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

- Honorable 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 for PM Modi globally and highlights the India's growing global diplomatic influence. Yesterday, Sweden has also honored the Indian Prime Minister.
- **PM Modi Receives Norway's Top Civilian Honour**
 - Prime Minister 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 honor is awarded for the exceptional service in advancing Norway's interests and strengthening international relations.
 - The recognition also adds another major diplomatic milestone to PM Modi's international profile.

Everest Legends Kami Rita and Lhakpa Sherpa Break Their Own Summit Records Again

- A renowned Nepali mountain guide has broken his own world record for the most summits of Mount Everest, after scaling the world's tallest peak for the 32nd time. Kami Rita Sherpa, 56 who is known as the "Everest Man", was leading clients up the 8,849m (29,032ft) peak on Sunday when he set the new record.
- **Kami Rita Sherpa Breaks His Own Everest World Record**
 - Veteran Nepali mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa has once again set up the new global record.
 - The 56 year old mountaineer reached the summit of Mount Everest for the 32nd time.
 - This makes him the first person with the highest number of successful Everest summits in history.
 - He has achieved the record while leading climbers as part of a guided expedition.
 - Kami Rita is widely respected in the mountaineering world for his consistency, endurance and the technical climbing expertise.

'Coffees of Nagaland' Mission

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has launched the ₹175 crore "Coffees of Nagaland" Mission to boost the coffee sector of Nagaland. This ambitious initiative aims to transform the northeastern state into a premium specialty coffee destination with strong domestic and global market presence.
- **₹175 Crore Coffees of Nagaland Mission Launched**
 - Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M Scindia has officially launched the Cluster-based Coffee Value Chain Development Mission for Nagaland.
 - The mission comes with a total investment of ₹175 crore.
 - It has been designed as a full value chain coffee development program.
 - The objective is to move Nagaland beyond raw coffee production and establish it as a globally recognized specialty coffee brand.

DEFENSE

Indian Air Force Officer Squadron Leader Saanya Becomes First Woman Cat-A Flying Instructor

- The Indian Air Force has marked the historic milestone as Squadron Leader Saanya has become the first woman in the Indian Air Force to earn the Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI) qualification. It showcases the growing role of the women in the India's defense forces.
- Historic First for the Indian Air Force
 - The Indian Air Force has officially announced the achievement on 18th of May, 2026. On X post (Formerly Twitter) IAF has described the Squadron Leader Saanya's success as a proud milestone.
 - The force said her achievement reflects the excellence, dedication and relentless pursuit of the professional standards.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Metrology Day

- India celebrated World Metrology Day 2026 on 20 May, marking the 151st anniversary of the Metre Convention, with a strong focus on modernizing the nation's measurement ecosystem.
- The 2026 theme, "Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making," highlights the role of accurate measurements in science, trade, healthcare, governance, and consumer protection.
- India introduced major reforms including the launch of the e-Maap portal, decriminalization of minor legal metrology offences, and expansion of Government Approved Test Centres (GATCs).
- The country also advanced initiatives like One Nation, One Time with ISRO and the National Physical Laboratory to strengthen precision timekeeping and digital infrastructure.

