

# Daily Current Affairs 18 May 2026: Bhojshala Dispute | Ganga Turtle | Sanda World Cup

In today's edition, we cover significant national and international developments. Staying updated with daily current affairs is vital for success in competitive examinations.

## National News

### 01 Bhojshala Dispute and High Court Verdict

The long-standing legal battle over the Bhojshala site in Dhar has come to an end. The Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has officially recognized it as a 'Hindu Saraswati (Vagdevi) temple'. Originally established as a center for Sanskrit education by King Bhoj in 1034 AD, ASI surveys later identified various Hindu religious symbols there. Furthermore, the court has mandated the repatriation of the historic Vagdevi statue currently held in London.

#### ☑ Related Static GK

- King Bhoj was a highly powerful and scholarly ruler of the Parmar dynasty.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was established in 1861, with headquarters in New Delhi.

### 02 Ganga Soft Shell Turtle

In a major conservation step, India's first satellite-tagged 'Ganga Soft Shell Turtle' has been released into Kaziranga National Park, Assam. Scientifically known as *Nilssonia gangetica*, it is currently classified as 'Endangered' by the IUCN and is protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

#### ☑ Related Static GK

- Kaziranga National Park is globally renowned for its one-horned rhinoceros population.
- The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is headquartered in Gland, Switzerland.

### 03 Semiconductor Plant in Rajasthan

Rajasthan has inaugurated its first semiconductor unit in Khushkhera, Alwar. Operated by Sahasra Semiconductor, this facility is set to manufacture memory chips. Notably, this stands as India's first SME-led semiconductor unit.

#### ☑ Related Static GK

- Silicon serves as the primary raw material for manufacturing semiconductors.
- The Indian government promotes domestic chip production through the PLI (Production Linked Incentive) scheme.

### 04 Anti-Narcotics Task Force Station

To combat drug trafficking, authorities have approved the establishment of India's first Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) police station in New Delhi. It will operate under the provisions of the NDPS Act of 1985.

#### ☑ Related Static GK

- The NDPS Act was enacted in 1985.
- The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is the country's primary anti-drug agency.

## International News

### 05 11th Sanda World Cup

India's own Aparna Dahiya has achieved glory at the 11th Sanda World Cup in Macau, China, by winning a Gold medal in the 52 kg women's category. Sanda is a full-contact combat style derived from the traditional Chinese martial art, 'Wushu'.

#### ☑ Related Static GK

- Wushu is a popular martial art and a recognized event in the Asian Games.
- Macau is a Special Administrative Region under Chinese authority.

### 06 New Prime Minister of Iraq

There has been a change in Iraq's leadership as Ali Fali Kadim Al-Zaidi has taken the oath as the new Prime Minister, succeeding Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani.

### Related Static GK

- Baghdad is the capital of Iraq.
- Iraq is historically celebrated as the birthplace of the ancient Mesopotamian civilization.

## 07 World Health Statistics 2026

A startling report from the WHO reveals that approximately 22.1 million excess deaths occurred globally during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2023). Additionally, the report notes that 5.5% of children under the age of five are suffering from obesity.

### Related Static GK

- The WHO headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The WHO was established on 7 April 1948.

## 08 India-UAE Energy Agreement

During PM Narendra Modi's visit to Abu Dhabi, India and the UAE signed a strategic agreement focusing on petroleum reserves and LPG supply. Currently, the UAE serves as India's fourth-largest crude oil supplier.

### Related Static GK

- The headquarters of OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) is in Vienna, Austria.
- The capital of the UAE is Abu Dhabi.

## 09 World Telecommunication Day

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is observed annually on 17 May. The theme for 2026 is "Digital Lifeline Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World".

Test your knowledge by taking our practice quiz linked below.

[Take the Interactive Quiz](#)