

Weekly Current Affairs 11-17 May 2026: New CDS | State Politics | Awards

This report covers the key events from 11-17 May 2026, offering a quick digest of national and international news essential for your exam preparation.

1. Major Appointments and Administration

01 CDS and Naval Chief

Lieutenant General **N.S. Raja Subramani** has been appointed as India's next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), with his term beginning on 30 May 2026. Simultaneously, Vice Admiral **Krishna Swaminathan** is set to take charge as the next Chief of Naval Staff on 31 May. Meanwhile, the tenure of CBI Director **Praveen Sood** has been extended by one year.

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- The CDS position was established to ensure better synergy among the three wings of the Indian Armed Forces.
- India observes 'Navy Day' annually on 4 December.

02 Industry Body

R. Mukundan has been appointed as the new President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the 2026-27 term.

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- CII is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering industrial development in India.
- Its headquarters is based in New Delhi.

2. Political and State Events

03 West Bengal and Tamil Nadu

Suwendu Adhikari was sworn in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal on 9 May 2026, following his victories in both the Bhabanipur and Nandigram constituencies. In Tamil Nadu, **Thalapathy Vijay** took the oath as the new Chief Minister. His party, 'Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam', uses the 'Whistle' as its official symbol.

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- The West Bengal Legislative Assembly currently consists of 294 seats.
- The emergence of new parties in Tamil Nadu politics has marked a shift from the traditional dominance of DMK and AIADMK.

04 Assam Administration

Himanta Biswa Sarma has assumed office as the Chief Minister of Assam for a second consecutive term. The NDA coalition secured a decisive victory, winning 102 out of 126 seats.

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- Dispur is the capital of Assam.
- The state is internationally renowned for the Kaziranga National Park, home to the one-horned rhinoceros.

3. National Security and Defence

05 Defence Systems

DRDO and the Indian Air Force have successfully tested the '**TARA**' glide weapon system, capable of converting unguided bombs into precision-guided weapons. It features a range of **80 km** and a top speed of **650 km/h**. Additionally, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 67th anniversary on 7 May 2026.

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- DRDO was founded in 1958 and serves as India's premier defence research agency.
- BRO plays a critical role in building and maintaining infrastructure in India's border regions.

4. International and Economic Affairs

06 UPI and BRICS

Trinidad and Tobago has become the first Caribbean nation to adopt the **UPI** payment system. Meanwhile, the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting took place in New Delhi on 14-15 May, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar presiding over the session.

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- UPI is an instant payment system managed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- BRICS is a major geopolitical bloc consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

07 Economy and Infrastructure

The import duty on gold and silver has been raised from 6% to **15%**. Furthermore, India's first PM MITRA park has been inaugurated in Warangal, Telangana, spanning an area of 1327 acres.

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- The primary goal of PM MITRA parks is to boost manufacturing within the textile industry.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) serves as the country's central banking authority.

5. Awards and Important Days

08 Panchayat and Technology Day

In the 'Nanaji Deshmukh Best Panchayat' awards, the Gram Panchayat of New Napam (Assam) secured the top rank. National Technology Day was observed on 11 May, with the 2026 theme being 'Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth'.

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- National Technology Day commemorates the Pokhran-II nuclear tests conducted on 11 May 1998.
- The Panchayati Raj system forms the third tier of India's administrative structure.

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