

Weekly Current Affairs 18-24 May 2026: Bhojshala | AI Ministry | International Booker

This report covers 25 highly significant current affairs for the week of May 18 to May 24, 2026. If you are looking for regular updates on Bengali current affairs, you will find all the essential information detailed below.

National and State Developments

01 Madhya Pradesh: Bhojshala Declared a Hindu Temple

The Indore High Court has officially recognized the historical Bhojshala in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh, as a Hindu temple dedicated to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati).

- History: It was established by King Bhoja around 1034 AD as a Sanskrit university and temple.
- Current Status: Based on the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) findings, the court has handed over its management to the Hindu community.

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- King Bhoja was one of the most powerful rulers of the Paramara dynasty.
- The ASI was established in 1861.

02 West Bengal: Siliguri Corridor Handover

For strategic security reasons, the West Bengal government has transferred 120 acres of the 'Siliguri Corridor' (Chicken's Neck) along with 7 national highways to the central government and the BSF. The move aims to strengthen military logistics and regional infrastructure.

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- The Siliguri Corridor connects Northeast India to the rest of the country.
- The Border Security Force (BSF) was founded in 1965.

03 Kerala: AI Ministry and New Chief Minister

To usher in a technological revolution, Kerala has become the first state in India to launch an exclusive 'AI Ministry'. P. K. Kunhalikutty has taken charge as the first AI Minister. Meanwhile, V. D. Satheesan has been sworn in as the 13th Chief Minister of Kerala.

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- Kerala is famously known as 'God's Own Country'.
- Thiruvananthapuram is the capital of Kerala.

04 Other Significant Projects

The 'Kalpasar Project' in the Gulf of Khambhat, Gujarat, is set to become the world's largest freshwater reservoir. In Jharkhand, the Palamu Tiger Reserve is developing the country's first AI-powered human-elephant conflict research center. Additionally, the 'Coffees of Nagaland Mission' has been launched with a budget of 175 crore, and Kaziranga National Park in Assam has released its first satellite-tagged Ganges Soft-shell Turtle.

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- Palamu is the only tiger reserve in Jharkhand.
- Kaziranga National Park is famous for its one-horned rhinoceros.

International Affairs

05 Global Honors and Chola Copper Plates

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received the highest civilian honors from Norway and Sweden. In a significant cultural return, Leiden University in the Netherlands has officially handed over the 11th-century Chola-era 'Anaimangalam Copper Plates' to India.

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- Norway and Sweden are Scandinavian nations in Northern Europe.

- The Chola Dynasty is renowned in history for its powerful naval forces.

06 Global Health and Iraqi Politics

The WHO has declared an international emergency regarding the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus. Ali Fadhil Kadir al-Zaidi has become the new Prime Minister of Iraq. Meanwhile, the 79th World Health Assembly of the WHO was held in Geneva, Switzerland.

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- The headquarters of the World Health Organization is in Geneva.
- Baghdad is the capital of Iraq.

Sports and Awards

07 International Booker Prize and ISL

Taiwanese author Yang Shuang-zi has won the Booker Prize for her novel 'Taiwan Travelogue'. East Bengal FC won the ISL 2025-26 title by defeating Inter Kashi in the final. Additionally, Kami Rita Sherpa of Nepal has climbed Everest for the 32nd time. PM Modi was also honored with the FAO 'Agricola Medal'.

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- East Bengal FC is a traditional football club from Kolkata.
- Mount Everest stands at a height of 8848.86 meters.

Defense and Appointments

The 'Pragati 2026' military exercise has commenced in Umroi, Meghalaya. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an Indian war memorial in South Korea. The capacity of judges in the Supreme Court has increased to 38. Saurabh Vijay has been appointed as the new CEO of UIDAI, while Bharat Singh Chauhan has become the

president of the Commonwealth Chess Association. Former Chief Minister Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri passed away this week. International Day for Biological Diversity was observed on May 22.

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- Under Article 123 of the Constitution, the President has the power to promulgate ordinances.
- UIDAI is responsible for issuing and managing Aadhaar cards.

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