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# Current Affairs Today — May 17, 2026

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# Current Affairs Today — May 17, 2026

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## TODAY'S TOP STORIES

**1. India–Sweden Strategic Partnership | International Relations** PM Modi visited Gothenburg, Sweden on May 17 and elevated India–Sweden ties to a Strategic Partnership — the first time. He was escorted by Swedish Gripen jets and was conferred the Royal Order of the Polar Star (Commander Grand Cross). A Joint Action Plan 2026–2030 was adopted. On the sidelines, Modi met EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who called for an EU–India Investment Agreement as the “missing piece” after the landmark India–EU FTA signed in January 2026.

**2. IMD Heatwave Warnings + Early Monsoon Onset Forecast | Environment/Geography** IMD issued heatwave warnings on May 17 covering 9 states/UTs including Rajasthan, UP, MP, Delhi, and Chandigarh, valid through May 22. Red Alert declared for Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, and Barmer. Simultaneously, IMD forecast Southwest Monsoon onset over Kerala on **May 26** — five days ahead of the normal June 1 date. Seasonal rainfall forecast: 92% of Long Period Average (below normal). El Niño probability: 82% for May–July 2026.

**3. India AI Investment — Stock Market Darling Status at Risk | Economy/Science & Technology** A Bloomberg/Business Standard analysis dated May 17 warns that India risks falling out of the world’s five largest stock markets for the first time in three years, as global AI investment rotates to Taiwan (+42% YTD) and South Korea (+78% YTD). India’s Nifty IT index is down 26%+ in 2026; FPI net outflows since end-2024 exceed \$42 billion. India’s R&D spending stands at only 1.2% of GDP vs 5%+ in South Korea and Taiwan.

**4. Kerala Cabinet of 20 Announced — VD Satheesan | Polity** CM-designate VD Satheesan submitted a 20-minister cabinet list to Governor Rajendra Arlekar on May 17; swearing-in is on May 18. The UDF (Congress-led) returns to power after defeating the LDF government of Pinarayi Vijayan. The 21-member Council of Ministers (CM + 20) is within Article 164(1A)'s 15% ceiling on Kerala’s 140-seat Assembly. The cabinet includes 14 first-time ministers, 2 women, 2 SC ministers, and 5 IUML ministers.

**5. Adhik Maas (Purushottam Maas) 2026 Begins | History & Culture** The Hindu calendar’s intercalary month — Adhik Jyeshtha — begins on May 17, 2026 and ends June 15. A lunar month containing no Surya Sankranti (sun’s zodiac transition) is designated an Adhik (extra) month, inserted every ~32.5 months to reconcile the 11-day annual gap between the lunar (~354 days) and solar (~365 days) year. The month is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and is also called Purushottam Maas. No auspicious social ceremonies are performed during this period.

**6. Petronet LNG Force Majeure — CNG Prices Spike | Economy** CNG prices in Delhi-NCR were hiked twice in 48 hours — to Rs 80.09/kg in Delhi — as QatarEnergy’s force majeure continues. Petronet LNG has received zero Qatari LNG for three consecutive months (March–May 2026) due to the [Strait of Hormuz](#) blockade following Iranian strikes on Ras Laffan.

**7. NEET-UG 2026 Controversy — Re-Exam June 21 | Social Issues** NEET-UG 2026 (held May 3 for 2.27 million candidates) was cancelled on May 12 after a large-scale paper leak. CBI arrested retired Pune lecturer P V Kulkarni as the primary source. The re-exam is scheduled for June 21. Petitions before the Supreme Court seek NTA dissolution.

## EDITORIAL PICKS FOR TODAY

- **The Hindu:** India–Sweden partnership and the EU dimension — what the Gothenburg summit means for India’s [multi-alignment](#)
- **Indian Express:** NEET-UG 2026 — systemic failure at NTA and the case for reform
- **Business Standard:** LNG crisis and CNG price spiral — India’s energy [vulnerability](#) exposed
- **Business Standard/Bloomberg:** India’s AI miss — structural gaps in R&D, semiconductor capability, and the capital flight risk

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