

CURRENT AFFAIRS: 30.05.2026

Personalities in News

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

Union Home Minister paid tribute to noted patriot and literary figure Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on his 132nd death anniversary on April 8, 2026.

About Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay:

- **Early Life:** Born in 1838 at Naihati in the Bengal Presidency.
- **Education:** Studied at Hooghly College and was among the first graduates of the University of Calcutta.
- **Indian Civil Service:** Appointed as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in the British Indian Civil Service in 1858.
- **Literary Contributions:** Considered the pioneer of modern Bengali prose.
 - His writings captured the social, cultural, and moral realities of colonial India.

Important Works:

- **Durgeshnandini (1865)** – First major Bengali novel.
- **Kapalkundala (1866)** – Combined romantic and spiritual themes.
- **Anandamath (1882)** – Introduced *Vande Mataram* and promoted nationalism.
- **Devi Chaudhurani (1884)** – Highlighted women's empowerment and resistance.

Legacy and Influence:

- Influenced leaders such as Sri Aurobindo, Rabindranath Tagore, and Mahatma Gandhi.
- *Vande Mataram* was officially adopted as the National Song of India on January 24, 1950.

Babu Jagjivan Ram

On his birth anniversary (April 5, 2026), leaders paid tribute to Babu Jagjivan Ram for his lifelong contribution to social justice and nation-building.

About Babu Jagjivan Ram (1908–1986):

- Prominent freedom fighter, Dalit leader, and statesman.
- Championed social justice, equality, and inclusive governance.

Early Life:

- Born in Bihar in 1908.
- Studied at Banaras Hindu University and the University of Calcutta.
- Faced and resisted caste discrimination.

Contribution to Freedom Struggle:

- **National Movement Participation:** Worked closely with the Indian National Congress and mobilised marginalised communities.
- **Advocacy for Social Equality:** Fought against caste discrimination and untouchability.

Role in Constituent Assembly:

- Advocated for fundamental rights and safeguards for Scheduled Castes and minorities.
- Contributed to provisions such as:
 - Abolition of Untouchability (**Article 17**)
 - Support for affirmative action policies.

Post-Independence Contributions:

- **Labour and Industrial Reforms:** As Labour Minister, strengthened worker welfare laws and contributed to the Industrial Disputes framework.

Recognition:

- **Samta Diwas (Equality Day):** Celebrated on April 5 to honour his contribution to social justice.

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule

On April 11, 2026, India commemorated the 200th birth anniversary of social reformer Jyotiba Phule.

About Mahatma Jyotiba Phule:

- **Full Name:** Jyotirao Govindrao Phule.
- **Born:** 11 April 1827, Pune, Maharashtra.
- **Marriage:** Married Savitribai Phule at the age of 13.

Ideology:

- **Equality & Justice:** Advocated a society free from caste and gender discrimination.
- **Rationalism:** Opposed blind faith, superstition, and Brahmanical authority.
- **Social Justice:** Promoted dignity for all irrespective of caste or gender.

Mahatma Title:

- Conferred the title "**Mahatma**" on May 11, 1888, by Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar.

Major Social Contributions:

- Opposed caste-based discrimination and Brahmanical dominance.
- Advocated abolition of the caste system through education and rational thought.
- Promoted girls' education and widow remarriage.
- Worked closely with Savitribai Phule for women's empowerment.

Satyashodhak Samaj (1873):

- Founded the **Society of Truth-Seekers** in September 1873.
- Offered an alternative to upper-caste dominated reform movements such as:

- Brahmo Samaj
- Prarthana Samaj
- Arya Samaj

Educational Contributions:

- **First Girls' School (1848):** Established with Savitribai Phule.
- Curriculum included science, mathematics, social studies, and practical training.
- **Night Schools (1855):** Opened for workers, farmers, and working women.

Major Literary Works:

- *Gulamgiri (Slavery)*
- *Shetkaryacha Asud (Farmer's Whip)*
- *Satsar (The Essence of Truth)*
- *Manav Mahamand (Muhammad the Man)*
- *Sarvajanik Satya Dharma Pustak*

Adi Shankaracharya Jayanti

Prime Minister paid tribute to Adi Shankaracharya on his Jayanti.

About Adi Shankaracharya Jayanti:

- Annual celebration commemorating the birth of the 8th-century philosopher Adi Shankaracharya.
- Observed on **Panchami Tithi of Shukla Paksha in Vaishakha** (April 21, 2026).

About Adi Shankaracharya:

- 8th-century Indian philosopher and theologian.
- Consolidated Hindu thought through **Advaita Vedanta** and institutional reforms.

Early Life:

- Born in **Kalady, Kerala**.
- Became a monk at an early age.
- Studied under **Govinda Bhagavatpada**.
- Mastered Vedic scriptures within a short lifespan.

Key Contributions:

- **Advaita Vedanta:** Propounded non-dualism, asserting unity of Atman and Brahman.
- **Revival of Sanatan Dharma:** Revitalised Vedic traditions.
- **Four Maths (Mutts):**
 - Sringeri
 - Dwarka
 - Puri
 - Jyotirmath
- **Literary Contributions:** Authored commentaries on:

- Upanishads
- Bhagavad Gita
- Brahma Sutras
- Vivekachudamani

- **Panchayatan Puja:** Promoted inclusive worship of major Hindu deities under one philosophical framework.

Term in News	Meaning	Key Points / Exam Relevance
Madman Theory	A foreign policy doctrine where a leader projects an image of being unpredictable or irrational to intimidate opponents.	Associated with Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger during the Cold War and Vietnam War; aims to force adversaries into concessions through fear of extreme actions.
Blue Book Protocol	Official security manual prescribing protection measures for top constitutional authorities.	Provides security guidelines for the President, Vice-President, and Prime Minister during domestic visits; recently invoked by Pakistan during U.S.-Iran talks in Islamabad.
AI Deflation	Reduction in the cost of goods or services due to AI-driven efficiency and automation.	AI increases productivity, reduces labour costs, and lowers service delivery expenses, leading to downward pressure on prices.
Memflation	Inflation in memory-chip prices caused by AI-driven demand.	Refers mainly to DRAM and NAND memory chips; AI data centres divert memory supply from other sectors, creating an AI Crowding Effect and raising prices.
Digital Human	Hyper-realistic AI avatar designed to resemble and interact like a real person.	Can mimic human appearance, voice, expressions, and conversations; used in customer service, education, healthcare, and virtual assistance.

Date (2026)	Observance	Theme	Significance
30 March	International Day of Zero Waste	Focus on Food Waste	Promotes waste reduction, sustainable consumption, resource efficiency, and circular economy practices.
5 April	National Maritime Day	"Maritime India – Empowering Progress"	Highlights India's maritime heritage; commemorates the voyage of SS Loyalty (1919) ; emphasizes trade, connectivity, and economic growth.
7 April	World Health Day	"Together for Health: Stand with Science"	Raises awareness about global health challenges; promotes science-based healthcare, innovation, and inclusive public health systems.
21 April	Civil Services Day	"Viksit Bharat: Citizen-Centric Governance and Development at the Last Mile"	Reinforces the commitment of civil servants to public service; commemorates Sardar Patel's "Steel Frame of India" vision.
22 April	World Earth Day	"Our Power, Our Planet"	Encourages environmental protection, climate action, sustainability, and renewable energy adoption.

Date (2026)	Observance	Theme	Significance
24 April	National Panchayati Raj Day	"Sashakt Panchayat, Sarvangeen Vikas"	Marks the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 ; promotes grassroots democracy and inclusive rural development.

Category	News / Person / Award	Key Points
Sports	Sabastian Sawe	Won the 2026 London Marathon with a time of 1:59:30 , becoming the first athlete to run a marathon under 2 hours in an official race; broke the previous record of 2:00:35 set by Kelvin Kiptum (Chicago Marathon 2023).
Sports	Aronyak Ghosh	Became India's 95th Grandmaster (GM) after securing his third GM norm at the Bangkok Chess Club Open 2026 in Thailand; GM title requires 3 GM norms and a FIDE rating of 2500 .
Award	Breakthrough Prize 2026	Known as the " Oscars of Science "; founded in 2013 by Sergey Brin, Priscilla Chan & Mark Zuckerberg, Yuri & Julia Milner, and Anne Wojcicki; prize money is \$3 million .
Award	Breakthrough Prize – Life Sciences	Stuart Orkin & Swee Lay Thein for work leading to Casgevy , the first CRISPR-based treatment; Jean Bennett, Katherine High & Albert Maguire for Luxturna gene therapy; Rosa Rademakers & Bryan Traynor for ALS research.
Award	Breakthrough Prize – Mathematics	Frank Merle honoured for contributions to nonlinear wave equations and dynamic systems.
Award	Breakthrough Prize – Physics	Teams from CERN, Brookhaven National Laboratory and Fermilab recognized for precision measurement of the muon's magnetic moment; David Gross received Special Breakthrough Prize.
Award	WWF National Award	Won by N. Alim Yusuf for developing an AI app that identifies nearly 100 invasive plant species in Kerala.
Award	Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2026	Awarded to Kailash Satyarthi for his lifelong service to India and its people.