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# Current Affairs Today — May 1, 2026

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1 May 2026

CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

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# Current Affairs Today — May 1, 2026

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## TODAY'S TOP STORIES

### 1. Buddha Purnima 2026 Celebrated Nationwide

**Buddha Purnima** (Vaishakha Purnima, May 1, 2026) was celebrated across India and at Buddhist sites worldwide. Lakhs of pilgrims gathered at **Bodh Gaya (Bihar)**, **Sarnath (UP)**, **Kushinagar (UP)**, and **Sanchi (MP)**. PM Modi extended greetings, reiterating India's commitment to the Buddha's message of peace, non-violence, and karuna (compassion). The day commemorates **three events** in Gautama Buddha's life — birth, enlightenment (Bodhi), and Parinirvana — all traditionally held to have occurred on the same lunar date. International delegations from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Japan, and South Korea participated in ceremonies at Bodh Gaya. | [GS1](#)

### 2. Maharashtra and Gujarat Mark 66th Formation Day

**May 1, 1960** → **May 1, 2026** marks the **66th anniversary** of the formation of Maharashtra and Gujarat under the **Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960**. The bilingual Bombay State was bifurcated on linguistic lines: **Maharashtra** (Marathi-speaking) and **Gujarat** (Gujarati-speaking).

**Maharashtra Day celebrations:** The traditional grand parade was held at **Shivaji Park, Mumbai**. CM Devendra Fadnavis hoisted the flag. PM Modi posted a message: *“Through literature, theatre, music, cinema to industry, education, science, and public service, the state has made invaluable contributions to India's progress.”*

**Gujarat Day:** Celebrations in Gandhinagar; CM Bhupendra Patel addressed the state. The day commemorates the Mahagujarat movement that produced Gujarat's separate statehood. | [GS1/GS2](#)

### 3. International Labour Day — May Day Observed

**International Workers' Day (Labour Day)** was observed across India on May 1 — commemorating workers' rights movements traced to the **1886 Haymarket affair, Chicago**. India's labour movement events were held in Mumbai, Kolkata, and Delhi by trade unions including INTUC, AITUC, CITU, BMS, and HMS. The day comes against the backdrop of India's **labour code reforms** — four codes (Wages, Social Security, Industrial Relations, Occupational Safety) that have been notified but await full implementation in many states. | [GS3/Social Issues](#)

## 4. Triple Holiday Convergence — Banks and Most Offices Closed

The convergence of **Buddha Purnima + Labour Day + Maharashtra Day + Gujarat Day** on May 1, 2026 created a rare quadruple observance. Banks were closed nationwide under the Negotiable Instruments Act for Buddha Purnima, plus Labour Day in most states, plus state-specific Maharashtra Day. The next bank closure of similar scale will not recur until 2034 when these dates align again. | *GS2*

### QUICK BITES

- **PM Modi's Buddha Purnima Message** — Highlighted India's role as “the land of Buddha” and the relevance of Buddhist values in resolving global conflicts. Mentioned ongoing efforts to revitalize the Buddhist circuit (Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, Kushinagar). | *GS2*
- **Mahagujarat Movement (1956-1960)** — The agitation that led to Gujarat's separate statehood; its centenary celebrations are anticipated in 2056-2060 windows; Indulal Yagnik was the principal leader. | *GS1*
- **Samyukta Maharashtra Movement (1956-1960)** — Demanded a separate Marathi-speaking state; led by Senapati Bapat, S.M. Joshi, P.K. Atre, and others; resulted in Maharashtra's formation on May 1, 1960. | *GS1*
- **Election Result Countdown — 3 Days** — Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Puducherry election results on May 4, 2026 (824 seats total). | *GS2*

## FACTS CORNER

ITEM	FACT
Buddha Purnima 2026	May 1; Vaishakha Purnima
Buddha Purnima commemorates	Birth + Enlightenment (Bodhi) + Parinirvana
Maharashtra Day	May 1, 1960 (Bombay Reorganisation Act 1960)
Gujarat Day	May 1, 1960 (same act)
66th anniversary	2026 — both Maharashtra and Gujarat
Mumbai parade	Shivaji Park
Maharashtra CM	Devendra Fadnavis
Gujarat CM	Bhupendra Patel
Labour Day origin	1886 Haymarket affair, Chicago
Indian labour movement parties	INTUC, AITUC, CITU, BMS, HMS
Bombay Reorganisation Act	1960
Maharashtra movement leaders	Senapati Bapat, S.M. Joshi, P.K. Atre
Gujarat movement leader	Indulal Yagnik

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