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Current Affairs Today — May 2, 2026

2 May 2026

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TODAY'S TOP STORIES

1. NDMA Tests Nationwide Cell Broadcast Alert System

The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** is conducting a **nationwide test of the Cell Broadcast (CB) emergency alert system** on May 2, 2026. The system, which sends instant alerts to all mobile phones in a specific geographic area, is being tested in coordination with the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and mobile network operators (Airtel, Jio, Vi, BSNL). Cell broadcast technology — used in countries like the US (Wireless Emergency Alerts), Japan (J-Alert), and South Korea — sends location-specific alerts during disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, floods) without needing internet connectivity. Mobile users will receive a test alert message; no action is required. | *GS3/Disaster Management*

2. IMD Heatwave Continues; NE India Braces for Heavy Rainfall

Heatwave conditions persist in West Rajasthan and parts of Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi-NCR — temperatures expected at **44-48°C** through May 5. Simultaneously, IMD has issued **heavy rainfall warnings** for the Northeast: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura — with **isolated very heavy rainfall** likely over Assam and Meghalaya during May 2-3. The simultaneous heat and rain pattern reflects India's increasingly **bipolar pre-monsoon climate** — a concerning trend documented in the SOE 2026 report. | *GS3/Disaster Management*

3. Rupee Depreciation — Comparisons to 2013 Fragile Five Period

The **Indian rupee** continues to face depreciation pressure, currently trading near **94.50/USD** — among the weakest levels in years. Analysts have begun comparing the current dynamics to India's **2013 "Fragile Five"** period, when India was grouped with Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa, and Turkey as economies vulnerable to capital flight. The 2026 rupee weakness is driven by: (1) Brent crude near \$106/barrel pushing import bill; (2) FPI outflows from Indian equities; (3) JP Morgan's 'Neutral' downgrade; (4) US dollar strength as global safe-haven. RBI is judiciously deploying its **\$682 billion forex reserves** to manage volatility. | *GS3/Economy*

4. May 4 Election Results — 2 Days to Verdict

The countdown to **May 4, 2026** continues — when **824 assembly seats** across **Tamil Nadu (234), West Bengal (294), Kerala (140), Assam (126), and Puducherry (30)** will be counted. Exit polls (released April 29) suggest BJP majority in Bengal (~153 seats), DMK retention in TN, UDF return in Kerala (~82 seats),

BJP third consecutive term in Assam (~93 seats). Counting begins at 8 AM on May 4; trends are usually clear by 11 AM-12 noon. | *GS2*

5. UAE OPEC Strategy and India's Energy Security

Reports indicate **UAE** is reconsidering its **OPEC** strategy, with Abu Dhabi seeking greater flexibility outside the organisation's production quotas. The UAE's domestic oil production capacity (5+ million barrels/day) exceeds its OPEC quota. India is the world's third-largest oil consumer and imports approximately 85% of its crude. Any restructuring of OPEC dynamics directly affects India's energy import strategy and the strategic petroleum reserve calculations. | *GS3/Economy/IR*

QUICK BITES

- **Cell Broadcast vs SMS** — Cell broadcast sends instant alerts to all phones in a cell tower's range without requiring phone numbers or internet. SMS alerts (used in India for emergencies until now) are slower and require internet/SMS connectivity. CB is internationally standard for tsunamis, earthquake, and cyclone warnings. | *GS3*
- **Indian Pre-Monsoon Pattern** — India's pre-monsoon (March-May) has shifted toward more extreme weather — both higher peak temperatures (heatwaves) and intensified isolated thunderstorms in NE/peninsular India. SOE 2026 documents this as 331 of 334 days of extreme weather in 2025. | *GS3*
- **Fragile Five Concept** — Coined by Morgan Stanley in 2013 to describe Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa, India, and Turkey — economies vulnerable to capital flight during US Fed tightening. India had its worst rupee crisis between 2013-14 (rupee fell from 53 to 68 against USD). | *GS3*
- **NDMA Founded 2005** — National Disaster Management Authority was established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, with PM as ex-officio chairperson. | *GS3*

FACTS CORNER

ITEM	FACT
Cell Broadcast test	May 2, 2026; NDMA + DoT
NDMA establishment	2005 (Disaster Management Act 2005)
NDMA chairperson	Prime Minister (ex-officio)
Cell Broadcast technology	Sends alerts to all phones in a tower's range
International examples	US (WEA), Japan (J-Alert), South Korea
Heatwave region	West Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi-NCR
Heatwave temperatures	44-48°C (May 2-5)
NE India rainfall	Heavy May 2-4; very heavy in Assam-Meghalaya
Rupee level	~94.50/USD
Crude oil	Brent ~\$106/barrel
Forex reserves	~\$682 billion
Fragile Five	Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa, India, Turkey (Morgan Stanley 2013)
May 4 results	824 assembly seats across 5 states/UT
TN, WB, Kerala, Assam, Puducherry	Single-day counting; results by evening

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