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# Current Affairs Today – May 5, 2026

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# Current Affairs Today — May 5, 2026

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## TOP STORIES — MAY 5, 2026

### Economy & Development

**RBI MPC — Repo Rate Held at 5.25%, Neutral Stance** The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously held the repo rate at **5.25%** with a neutral stance. GDP growth projected at **6.9%** for FY 2026–27 (down from 7.6% in FY 2025–26); CPI inflation projected at **4.6%**. Key upside risks: West Asia conflict driving energy prices; possible El Niño. SDF rate: 5.00%; MSF/Bank Rate: 5.50%.

**India Ranks 3rd Globally in Renewable Energy — IRENA 2026** India secured **3rd position** in renewable energy installed capacity as per **IRENA Renewable Energy Statistics 2026**, trailing only China and the USA. Total non-fossil capacity: **283.46 GW** (as of March 31, 2026) — solar 150.26 GW, wind 56.09 GW, large hydro 51.41 GW, nuclear 8.78 GW. India added a record **55.3 GW** of non-fossil capacity in FY 2025–26 — highest ever annual addition.

**Coal Gasification Incentive Scheme V-KALP — ₹37,500 Crore** The Union Cabinet is set to approve the **Coal Gasification Incentive Scheme (V-KALP)** worth ₹37,500 crore — scaling up from the ₹8,500 crore scheme of January 2024. Target: **100 million tonnes** of coal gasification capacity by 2030, reducing import dependence on LNG, urea, ammonia, methanol, and coking coal. Maximum assistance per project: ₹3,000 crore.

**EPFO E-PRAAPTI Portal — Dormant PF Accounts** The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation announced **E-PRAAPTI** (Employee Provident Fund Aadhaar-based Access Portal for Tracking Inoperative Accounts) to help members claim **31.83 lakh** dormant PF accounts via Aadhaar-based verification. EPFO settled 8.31 crore claims in FY 2025–26 — up from 6.01 crore in FY 2024–25.

### Environment

**State of India's Environment 2026 — CSE/Down To Earth** The **State of India's Environment (SOE) 2026** report by CSE and Down To Earth warns that **7 of 9 planetary boundaries** have now been breached (including ocean acidification — the 7th). Extreme weather events occurred on **99% of days (January–November 2025; 331 of 334 days)**, causing **4,419 deaths** and damaging **17.41 million hectares** of cropland. Only **15% of India's population** lives within 10 km of an air quality monitor.

## Science & Technology

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**ISRO — 27 Missions Planned for FY 2026–27 Including Four Gaganyaan** ISRO announced **27 space missions** for FY 2026–27 — four dedicated to **Gaganyaan** human spaceflight. Gaganyaan-1 (uncrewed, with **Vyommitra** half-humanoid robot): H2 2026. First crewed mission: Q1 2027. Four astronauts selected: Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap, Shubhanshu Shukla (all IAF test pilots).

**SACHET — Cell Broadcast Alert System Tested Nationwide** SACHET (Integrated Alert System), developed by **C-DOT** (Centre for Development of Telematics) under DoT in partnership with NDMA and MHA, was tested nationally on May 2, 2026. The system broadcasts emergency alerts to all mobile devices in a geographic area simultaneously, independent of call/SMS network congestion. Operational across all 36 States and UTs; based on **Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)** by ITU.

**Pixxel + Sarvam AI — India’s First Orbital AI Data Centre Satellite** Pixxel and Sarvam AI announced **Pathfinder** — India’s first AI-powered orbital data centre satellite (~200 kg), hosting data-centre-class GPUs capable of running full language models in orbit. Launch targeted Q4 2026, enabling real-time in-orbit AI processing for Earth observation with data sovereignty.

## Security & Defence

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**North Tech Symposium 2026 — “Raksha Triveni Sangam”** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the **North Tech Symposium 2026** (May 4–6) at Prayagraj, themed **“Raksha Triveni Sangam — Where Technology, Industry & Soldiering Converge”**, jointly by Indian Army’s Northern & Central Commands and SIDM. Over **284 companies** including MSMEs and startups showcased indigenous defence technologies — drones, autonomous vehicles, all-terrain systems.

**India Warns Italy on Pakistan Defence Tech Transfers** India delivered a firm warning to Italy during a bilateral meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto — cautioning that **Italian defence technology must not be transferred to Pakistan** given Pakistan’s continued support for terrorism.

## International Relations

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**ADB — \$70 Billion Asia-Pacific Power and Digital Initiative** ADB President Masato Kanda announced a **\$70 billion** initiative at the ADB Annual Meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan: the **Pan-Asia Power Grid Initiative** (\$50 billion, cross-border renewable power connectivity) and **Asia-Pacific Digital Highway** (\$20 billion, fibre/satellite/data centre connectivity). Goal: connect 200 million first-time broadband users and create 4 million jobs by 2035.

**BRICS India 2026 — 18th Summit in New Delhi (September)** India’s BRICS Presidency theme: **“Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”**. The **18th BRICS Summit** is scheduled for **September 12–13, 2026, New Delhi**. Key agenda: global governance reforms, local currency

trade, digital public infrastructure, climate finance, and counter-terrorism. Current BRICS membership: **11 countries** — original 5 (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) + Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE (joined Jan 2024) + Indonesia (joined Jan 6, 2025) + **Saudi Arabia (joined July 2025 as the 11th member)**.

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## Polity & Governance

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**Karnataka — India's First State-Led Space Technology Centre of Excellence** Karnataka launched India's first state-led **Centre of Excellence for Space Technology (CoE SpaceTech Foundation)** on May 1, 2026, at Bengaluru, under an MoU between **KITS** (Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society) and **SIA-India** (Space Industry Association of India). Focus: space biotech, satellite applications for agriculture, climate, and national security.

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## PRELIMS QUICK FACTS

ITEM	FACT
RBI Repo Rate	5.25% (unchanged); SDF 5.00%; MSF 5.50%; stance: Neutral
GDP Projection FY27	6.9% (RBI MPC); CPI inflation 4.6%
India renewable rank	3rd globally (IRENA 2026); 283.46 GW non-fossil capacity
Solar installed	150.26 GW (as of March 31, 2026)
Wind installed	56.09 GW; record 6.05 GW added in FY26
Non-fossil capacity addition	Record 55.3 GW in FY 2025–26
SOE 2026	CSE/Down To Earth; 7 of 9 planetary boundaries breached
Extreme weather 2025	99% of days (Jan–Nov 2025; 331 of 334 days); 4,419 deaths; 17.41 million ha cropland affected
Planetary boundary 7th	Ocean acidification (30–40% more acidic since industrial era)
ISRO missions FY27	27 total; 4 Gaganyaan missions
Gaganyaan-1	Uncrewed; Vyommitra robot; H2 2026
Gaganyaan crewed	Q1 2027; 4 IAF test pilot astronauts
SACHET	Cell broadcast alert; C-DOT/DoT + NDMA; all 36 States/UTs; CAP protocol
Pathfinder satellite	Pixxel + Sarvam AI; ~200 kg; orbital AI GPU; Q4 2026 launch
North Tech Symposium	May 4–6, Prayagraj; Raksha Triveni Sangam; 284 companies; Rajnath Singh
V-KALP coal gasification	₹37,500 cr; 100 MT target by 2030; max ₹3,000 cr per project
E-PRAAPTI	EPFO; 31.83 lakh dormant PF accounts; Aadhaar-based
ADB initiative	\$70 bn; Pan-Asia Power Grid \$50 bn + Digital Highway \$20 bn; Samarkand 2026
BRICS India 2026	18th Summit; Sept 12–13, New Delhi; theme: BRICS acronym; 11 members (Saudi Arabia joined July 2025)
Karnataka CoE SpaceTech	India's first state-led space CoE; KITS + SIA-India; Bengaluru

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