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# Current Affairs Today — May 6, 2026

6 May 2026

**ECONOMY****SCIENCE & TECH****IR****SECURITY & DEFENCE****POLITY****ENVIRONMENT****REPORTS & SCHEMES****PERSONS & AWARDS****GS2****GS3**

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# Current Affairs Today — May 6, 2026

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## TOP STORIES — MAY 6, 2026

### Economy & Development

**RBI Gold Repatriation — 880.52 MT Total; 77% Now in India** The Reserve Bank of India transferred **168.06 metric tonnes** of gold from foreign vaults (Bank of England, BIS) to domestic storage in FY 2025–26 — the largest annual repatriation on record. India’s total gold reserves now stand at **880.52 MT** (as of March 2026), with **77% held domestically** (up from 38% in March 2023). Gold accounts for **16.7%** of India’s total forex reserves. The repatriation is driven by geopolitical concerns over asset freezes following Russia sanctions precedent.

**Mission for Cotton Productivity — ₹5,659 Crore (2026–31)** The Union Cabinet approved the **Mission for Cotton Productivity** worth **₹5,659.22 crore** for FY 2026–31, covering **140 districts across 14 states**. Target: raise lint productivity from **440 kg/hectare to 755 kg/hectare** and production to **498 lakh bales** by 2031 (each bale = 170 kg). Beneficiary: **~32 lakh cotton farmers** via digital platform. Premium brand: “**Kasturi Cotton Bharat**”. Implementing: Agriculture + Textiles ministries with ICAR and CSIR.

**FDI Norms Eased — Press Note 2 (2026 Series)** India modified **Press Note 3 (2020)** via **Press Note 2 (2026 Series)**: companies with up to **10% Chinese or Hong Kong shareholding without control** can now invest through the **automatic FDI route**. Control is defined per PMLA 2002 (>10% = beneficial owner). China’s FDI share in India: **0.32%** (USD 2.51 billion, ranked 23rd). Land-border nations still requiring prior government approval. New processing timeline for government-route applications: **12 weeks**. Multilateral banks including **AIIB** now exempt from land-border restrictions.

**ECLGS 5.0 — ₹2,55,000 Crore Credit Guarantee** Cabinet approved **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0** with ₹2,55,000 crore additional credit facility. MSME guarantee: **100%**; Non-MSME/Airlines: **90%**. Guarantee fee: Nil. Additional credit for MSMEs/non-MSMEs: up to 20% of peak working capital (cap: ₹100 crore); Airlines: up to 100% of outstanding credit (cap: ₹1,500 crore/borrower). Implementing agency: **NCGTC** (National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited). Valid until **March 31, 2027**.

**Vadinar Ship Repair Facility — ₹1,570 Crore** CCEA approved a **₹1,570 crore brownfield ship repair facility** at **Vadinar, Gujarat** in partnership between **Deendayal Port Authority** and **Cochin Shipyard Ltd**. Jetty: 650 metres; two floating dry docks (vessels up to 230 m); maximum vessel capacity: **300 metres** length. Direct jobs: ~290; indirect: ~1,100. Strategic alignment: **Maritime India Vision 2030** and **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.

**NCLAT — Adani Wins Jaypee Associates Resolution** NCLAT upheld **Adani Group's ₹14,535 crore resolution plan** for Jaiprakash Associates Limited (JAL), rejecting Vedanta's challenge. Adani acquires **~3,985 acres** of prime NCR land plus Delhi–airport corridor assets at approximately 25 paise on the rupee. Under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016** framework.

## Science, Technology & Defence

**INS Mahendragiri Inducted — Project 17A Sixth Ship INS Mahendragiri**, the **sixth of seven Nilgiri-class stealth frigates** under **Project 17A**, was delivered to the Indian Navy (April 30, 2026) at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDSL), Mumbai**. Indigenous content: **75%**. Armament: **BrahMos** supersonic missiles, **MFSTAR** radar, **MRSAM** air-defence system. Propulsion: **CODOG** (Combined Diesel or Gas). Builder split: Mazagon Dock (4 ships), Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE, Kolkata; 3 ships). Designer: **Warship Design Bureau**.

**Critical Mineral Recycling Scheme — 58 Companies Approved** Ministry of Mines approved **58 companies** under the **Critical Mineral Recycling Incentive Scheme** (notified October 2, 2025; ₹1,500 crore budget; FY2025–2031). Capex subsidy: **20%** (Group A ceiling: ₹50 crore; Group B: ₹25 crore). India's import dependence on critical minerals exceeds **80%** (annual outflow: ₹80,000 crore). Waste streams targeted: e-waste, spent Li-ion batteries, permanent magnets, catalytic converters.

**UDGAM Portal — 30 Banks Cover 90% of Unclaimed Deposits** RBI reported **30 banks** (covering **~90% of unclaimed deposits by value**) now integrated into the **UDGAM portal** (Unclaimed Deposits — Gateway to Access inforMation). Unclaimed deposits: savings/current accounts inactive for 10+ years or fixed deposits unpaid within 10 years of maturity. Funds transferred to **DEA (Depositor Education and Awareness) Fund**. Developed by RBI with ReBIT and IFTAS.

## International Relations & Security

**CINBAX-II — India-Cambodia Joint Military Exercise** India and Cambodia conducted **CINBAX-II** at Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia. Indian contingent: **120 personnel** from Maratha Light Infantry Regiment; Cambodian: 160 personnel from Royal Cambodian Army. Focus: counter-terrorism in semi-urban and jungle terrain, drone operations, sniper tactics. First edition (CINBAX-I): Pune, India, December 2024. Policy linkage: **Act East Policy**.

**Dorjilung Hydropower Project — 1,125 MW, Bhutan–World Bank** Bhutan and World Bank signed USD **515 million** financing agreements for the **1,125 MW Dorjilung Hydroelectric Power Project** on the **Kurichhu River**, eastern Bhutan. Annual generation: 4,500+ GWh; **~80% to be supplied to India**. Total cost: ₹13,100 crore (~USD 1.7 billion). Dam: 139.5 m concrete-gravity; 6 Francis turbines. Developer: Dorjilung Hydro Power Limited — **Druk Green Power Corporation (60%) + Tata Power (40%)**. Commissioning: **September 2031**. Bhutan's largest PPP hydropower project.

**Boko Haram — 23 Chadian Soldiers Killed, Lake Chad** Boko Haram militants killed **23 Chadian soldiers** and injured 26 in an attack on a military post in the **Lake Chad** region (May 5, 2026). Lake Chad: borders Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger; primary inflow: Chari River; has shrunk to less than **one-tenth of its 1960s size**; endorheic freshwater lake (no ocean outlet).

## Polity & Governance

**Supreme Court Judges — Sanctioned Strength Increased to 38** Union Cabinet approved **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill 2026** increasing sanctioned strength from **34 to 38** (37 judges + CJI). Constitutional authority: **Article 124(1)** — Parliament empowered by simple majority. Original strength (1956): 11 (10 + CJI). All SC expenditures charged to Consolidated Fund of India. SC Collegium recommends appointments.

**TVK Forms Government in Tamil Nadu — Congress Extends Support** Congress extended support to **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)** after the hung Tamil Nadu assembly result. TVK won **108/234 seats** (majority: 118); Congress's **5 MLAs** bring total to 113 (additional alliance members needed). TVK leader: **C. Joseph Vijay** (actor-politician). Rationale: “Protect the Constitution and secular values.”

**Samarth Panchayat Portal — Digital OSR Management** Ministry of Panchayati Raj expanding the **Samarth Panchayat** portal to states including Assam, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra for digital **Own Source Revenue (OSR)** management by Gram Panchayats. Constitutional basis: **73rd Constitutional Amendment** (Panchayati Raj). OSR includes taxes, service charges, rents, leases, fees collected at panchayat level.

## Environment & Ecology

**Indopotamon alipurduarensis — New Freshwater Crab, West Bengal** Scientists discovered **Indopotamon alipurduarensis**, a new freshwater crab species in the **sub-Himalayan Dooars, Alipurduar district, West Bengal** — found in deep burrows (up to 1.5 m) in muddy rice fields. Active: May–August. Greyish shell with orange-red edges and claws. Second species in the **Indopotamon** genus. India's total freshwater crab species: **183**.

**Three New Plant Species — Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh** Scientists identified three **Critically Endangered** new plant species in Andhra Pradesh's Eastern Ghats: **Euphorbia ananthapuramensis** (Nigidi Forest, Sri Sathya Sai district; ~80 individuals), **Euphorbia chalamensis** (Chalama Forest, Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary, Nandyal district; >100 individuals), and **Ceropegia andhrlica** (Paderu forest, Alluri Sitharamaraju district; ~200 individuals; leafless during flowering in May–June; edible tubers). All face threats from mining, forest fires, and grazing.

**Caracal Returns to Thar Desert — Rajasthan** Officials confirmed sightings of the **caracal** (siya gosh) near the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan's Thar Desert. Speed: up to 80 kph; can leap 3 metres to catch birds. Distribution: Africa, Central/West Asia, northwestern India. IUCN: Least Concern; India: **Schedule I**,

**Wildlife Protection Act 1972** (highest protection).

**Jim Corbett NP – Tiger Vikram Dies at 21** **Vikram**, a male Bengal tiger aged 21, died at **Jim Corbett National Park**, Uttarakhand – India’s first national park (est. 1936 as Hailey National Park; renamed 1957) and first **Project Tiger** site (1973). Area: >1,300 sq km; main river: Ramganga (West).

**MARS Expanded – Coal Mines and Waste Facilities Added** UNEP’s **Methane Alert and Response System (MARS)** expanded to include **coal mines and waste facilities**. Operated by UNEP’s **International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO)** (launched G20 Leaders Summit 2021). MARS launched: **COP27, Sharm el-Sheikh, November 2022**.

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## **Persons & Awards**

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**Pulitzer Prize 2026 – Three Indian Journalists Win** Three Indian journalists won **Pulitzer Prizes** announced May 4, 2026 at Columbia University, New York: **Anand RK and Suparna Sharma** (Bloomberg) – *Illustrated Reporting and Commentary* – for project “**trAPPed**” investigating India’s digital arrest cyberfraud epidemic (shared with Natalie Obiko Pearson); **Aniruddha Ghosal** (Associated Press) – *International Reporting*. Pulitzer Prize: established **1917**; 23 categories; USD 15,000 per category.

**Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2026 – Sudanese Journalists Syndicate** UNESCO awarded the **2026 Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize** to the **Sudanese Journalists Syndicate**. Prize established **1997**; named after **Guillermo Cano Isaza** (Colombian journalist assassinated **1986**); selected by independent international jury; awarded on **World Press Freedom Day (May 3)**.

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## PRELIMS QUICK FACTS

ITEM	FACT
RBI gold reserves	880.52 MT (March 2026); 77% domestic; 16.7% of forex reserves
Gold repatriated FY26	168.06 MT (largest annual repatriation)
Mission Cotton Productivity	₹5,659.22 crore; 2026–31; 140 districts, 14 states
Cotton target	755 kg/ha lint yield; 498 lakh bales by 2031
Kasturi Cotton Bharat	Premium brand under Mission for Cotton Productivity
FDI easing	Press Note 2 (2026); 10% China/HK shareholding → automatic route
ECLGS 5.0	₹2,55,000 crore; MSME 100% guarantee; NCGTC
Vadinar ship repair	₹1,570 crore; Deendayal Port + Cochin Shipyard; 300 m vessel capacity
INS Mahendragiri	Project 17A; 6th Nilgiri-class frigate; 75% indigenous; MDSL Mumbai
Project 17A total	7 ships; Mazagon Dock (4) + GRSE Kolkata (3)
Critical Mineral Recycling	₹1,500 crore; 58 companies approved; 20% capex subsidy
UDGAM portal	30 banks; 90% unclaimed deposits; DEA Fund; RBI
CINBAX-II	India-Cambodia; Kampong Speu; Maratha Light Infantry; Act East Policy
Dorjilung Hydro	1,125 MW; Kurichhu River, Bhutan; Tata Power 40%; commissioning 2031
SC judges	Increased from 34 to 38 (37 + CJI); Article 124(1)
TVK Tamil Nadu	108/234 seats; C. Joseph Vijay; Congress support (5 MLAs)
Samarth Panchayat	Panchayati Raj Ministry; OSR digital management; 73rd Amendment
Indopotamon alipurduarensis	New freshwater crab; Dooars, Alipurduar, WB; 183rd Indian species
Eastern Ghats plants	3 new Critically Endangered species — 2 Euphorbia + 1 Ceropogia; Andhra Pradesh
Caracal	Schedule I WPA 1972; Thar Desert sighting; up to 80 kph; siya gosh
Jim Corbett	India's first NP (1936); first Project Tiger (1973); Vikram tiger died aged 21
MARS expansion	Coal mines + waste added; UNEP IMEO; launched COP27 2022

ITEM	FACT
Pulitzer 2026	Anand RK + Suparna Sharma (Bloomberg, Illustrated Reporting); Aniruddha Ghosal (AP, International)
Guillermo Cano Prize	Sudanese Journalists Syndicate; UNESCO; est. 1997; named after 1986 assassination

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