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# Current Affairs Today -- May 9, 2026

9 May 2026

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# Current Affairs Today -- May 9, 2026

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## OPERATION SINDOOR ANNIVERSARY – INDIA’S TRANSFORMED DEFENCE POSTURE

*May 9, 2026 marks the anniversary of India’s airbase strikes phase during Operation Sindoor – launched in May 2025 – prompting strategic assessments of India’s transformed security doctrine.*

### Background

Since the Pahalgam terror attack of April 2025 (26 civilians killed), India launched Operation Sindoor targeting nine terror infrastructure sites across PoJK and Pakistan’s Punjab. The operation used BrahMos missiles and over 100 aircraft – the largest aerial engagement since 1971. Pakistan’s DGMO initiated a ceasefire call on May 10, 2025.

### Key Strategic Shifts

- India moved from **reactive restraint** to a **zero-tolerance, offensive deterrence** doctrine
- Demonstrated ability to operate under nuclear overhang with calibrated, precise strikes
- IAF struck 11 Pakistani military air bases in the retaliation phase (including Nur Khan, Sargodha, Murid, Bholari, and others)
- Signalled willingness to escalate asymmetrically if provoked again

*9 terror sites struck; BrahMos + 100+ aircraft; largest aerial op since 1971. Ceasefire: May 10, 2025, 17:00 IST, after Pakistan DGMO call. India’s security doctrine shift: reactive restraint -> zero-tolerance deterrence. Retaliation phase: 11 Pakistani airbases struck (May 9-10, 2025).*

## SUPREME COURT FLAGS ‘TYRANNY OF ELECTED’ – EC APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

*On May 7, 2026, the Supreme Court of India flagged the current procedure for appointing Election Commissioners as a “tyranny of the elected,” raising concerns about lack of independent oversight in selecting constitutional appointees.*

### Background

The CEC and Other ECs Act, 2023 replaced the earlier collegium-style recommendation with a selection committee comprising the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and the Leader of Opposition – removing the Chief Justice of India from the panel, as had been suggested by a 2023 SC ruling.

### Key Issues Raised

- Appointment committee dominated by the ruling executive (PM + PM-nominated minister = 2/3 votes)
- Structural conflict of interest: government appoints the body that oversees elections
- SC had previously (*Anoop Baranwal* case, 2023) recommended CJI's inclusion
- Parliament enacted the 2023 Act bypassing the CJI-inclusion recommendation

*Art 324 governs EC; 2023 Act: selection committee = PM + Cabinet Minister + LoP (CJI excluded). Anoop Baranwal case (2023 SC): first raised independent oversight need. EC is a Constitutional body; CEC removal requires same procedure as SC judge.*

## INDIA-VIETNAM ELEVATE TIES TO ENHANCED COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

*During Vietnamese President To Lam's state visit to India (May 5-7, 2026), both countries elevated bilateral ties to an **Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** and signed 13 agreements.*

### Key Outcomes

- **Trade target:** \$25 billion by 2030 (up from \$16 billion in 2025-26)
- **13 MoUs signed:** digital payments, rare earth minerals, pharma, education, banking, culture
- **IREL-ITRRE MoU:** India-Vietnam rare earth elements cooperation
- **Defence MRO:** India offered maintenance support for Vietnam's Su-30 jets and Kilo-class submarines
- **Vietnam joins** Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)

*CSP 2007 -> Comprehensive Strategic Partnership 2016 -> Enhanced CSP 2026. Trade: \$16 bn (2025-26) -> target \$25 bn (2030). 13 MoUs signed May 2026 (To Lam visit: May 5-7, 2026). Vietnam joined IPOI 2026.*

## NCRB CRIME IN INDIA 2024 – CYBERCRIME CROSSES ONE LAKH CASES

The National Crime Records Bureau released its **Crime in India 2024** report, showing overall cognizable crimes declined ~6% but cybercrimes crossed 1 lakh registered cases for the first time.

### Key Data Points

| INDICATOR                  | 2023       | 2024       | CHANGE            |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Total cognizable crimes    | 62.41 lakh | 58.85 lakh | ~-6%              |
| Cybercrime cases           | 86,420     | 1,01,928   | +17.9%            |
| Crime rate (per lakh pop.) | –          | 418.9      | Lowest since 2019 |

- **72.6%** of cybercrime cases (73,987) were cyber fraud
- States with highest cybercrime rate: Karnataka, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh
- “Digital Arrest” frauds emerged as a major category

Under MHA; publishes Crime in India annually. 2024 key: cybercrimes 1,01,928 (first time >1 lakh); cyber fraud = 72.6% of cases; overall crime rate 418.9/lakh (lowest since 2019). Digital Arrest fraud: new category. BSA 2023 now governs digital evidence.

## INDIA TO HOST FIRST IBCA SUMMIT – JUNE 2026

India announced it will host the **first International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit** on June 1-2, 2026, in New Delhi, with participation from 97 big cat range countries.

### About IBCA

- Launched in **2023** by PM Modi during **Project Tiger’s 50th anniversary**
- Covers **7 big cat species**: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, Puma
- India’s funding commitment: **Rs 150 crore** (2023-2028)
- **25 countries** joined as members; 5 as observers
- Headquartered in **India**; inter-governmental organisation
- Theme: “*Save Big Cats, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystem*”

Launched 2023, Project Tiger 50th anniversary; 7 big cats; 25 member nations + 5 observers; Rs 150 cr India commitment; HQ: India; 1st Summit: June 1-2, 2026, New Delhi. Project Tiger: 1973; currently 58 tiger reserves; 3,682 tigers (2022 census average); India holds ~75% of world's wild tigers.

## RABINDRANATH TAGORE'S 165TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY – THE GANDHI-TAGORE CHARKHA DEBATE

May 7, 2026 marked the **165th birth anniversary** of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore (born May 7, 1861). This week, analyses revisit his famous intellectual clash with Mahatma Gandhi over the charkha (spinning wheel).

### The Philosophical Divide

- **Gandhi's position:** Charkha as symbol of self-reliance, economic liberation, and national solidarity
- **Tagore's position:** Rejected the charkha as a “cult” glorifying mindless mechanical repetition; argued India needed creative education and rational enquiry
- Tagore coined the term “*cult of the charkha*” in his 1925 critique
- The debate reflects: **nationalism vs. humanism, economic utility vs. creative development**
- Tagore founded Visva-Bharati University (1921) at Shantiniketan promoting integrated creative education

Born May 7, 1861, Jorasanko, Kolkata; Nobel Prize in Literature 1913 (*Gitanjali*); knighthood revoked 1919 (*Jallianwala Bagh* protest); Visva-Bharati University 1921 (*Shantiniketan*); authored *Jana Gana Mana* (national anthem). Charkha critique: 1925. Tagore vs Gandhi: nationalism vs. humanism.

## NITI AAYOG REPORT – SCHOOL EDUCATION DEFICITS

NITI Aayog released a comprehensive report on India's school education system, highlighting deep structural deficits in retention, learning outcomes, and infrastructure.

### Key Findings

- **1.19 lakh schools** lack access to functional electricity (UDISE+ 2024-25)
- Significant dropouts after **Class 10** – economic barriers and weak foundation
- Recommends shift from “*textbook completion to foundational mastery*”

- Teachers advised to teach at **actual learning level**, not grade level

*Est. January 1, 2015 (replaced Planning Commission); not a statutory body. NEP 2020: 5+3+3+4 structure; FLN goals by 2026-27. UDISE+: Unified District Information System for Education Plus, under DOE.*

## PERSONS IN NEWS

**Prasoon Joshi** – Appointed Chairman of **Prasar Bharati** since May 2, 2026. Lyricist, ad professional, and Chairman of CBFC since 2017. Prasar Bharati oversees Doordarshan and All India Radio; established by the Prasar Bharati Act 1990, operational since 1997.

| TOPIC             | KEY FACT   |
|-------------------|--|
| Operation Sindoor | Since May 2025; 9 sites struck; 11 airbases hit; ceasefire May 10                      |
| EC Appointments   | 2023 Act: PM + Cabinet Minister + LoP; CJI excluded                                    |
| India-Vietnam     | 13 MoUs; \$25 bn trade target 2030; ECSP elevation (May 5-7, 2026)                     |
| NCRB 2024         | Cybercrimes: 1,01,928 (first time >1 lakh); overall crime ~-6%                         |
| IBCA Summit       | June 1-2, 2026; 7 big cats; 25 members; Rs 150 cr India commitment; 97 range countries |
| Tagore            | 165th birth anniversary May 7; Nobel 1913; Visva-Bharati 1921                          |
| NITI Aayog        | 1.19 lakh schools without electricity; focus on foundational mastery                   |
| Prasoon Joshi     | Prasar Bharati Chairman since May 2, 2026  |

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