

07/05/2026 Daily Current News

1. *International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):*

Context: India to host International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit, on 1st – 2nd June, 2026, in New Delhi. It is going to be the 1st International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit.

About International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):

- ❖ The IBCA, an inter-governmental international organisation headquartered in India, has been established for the conservation of seven big cats - Lion, Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma.
- ❖ India would host the first IBCA Summit on 1st June 2026 in New Delhi, with participation expected from Heads of State/Government of Member and Observer countries.
- ❖ The Summit, guided by the theme ‘Save Big Cats, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystem’
- ❖ IBCA launched in 2023 is a first-of-its-kind platform bringing together countries home to the seven big cats, reflecting India’s belief that conservation challenges must be addressed collectively through cooperation, knowledge sharing and mutual support.
- ❖ Summit would be the adoption of the first-ever global declaration on big cat conservation, titled the ‘Delhi Declaration’, which will articulate shared priorities, strengthen transboundary cooperation and promote a landscape-based approach for conserving big cats and their habitats.

2. *Caracal:*

Context: Rare caracals (locally called padang) spotted in Thar Desert near India-Pakistan border.

About Caracal:

- ❖ Wildlife Institute of India estimates only ~50 Caracal remain in India.
- ❖ Caracal is a secretive, nocturnal wild cat known for agility and catching birds mid-air.
- ❖ Habitat: Dry savannahs, scrublands, deserts, and rugged mountainous regions.
- ❖ Distribution: Africa, Middle East, Central Asia, and arid regions of India (Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh).
- ❖ Major threats: Habitat loss, fragmentation, and retaliatory killings.
- ❖ Conservation status: Least Concern (International Union for Conservation of Nature); Schedule I under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ Conservation effort: Included in Species Recovery Programme as a critically endangered species in India.

3. *Methane Alert and Response System (MARS):*

Context: MARS will now cover coal mines and waste facilities after analysis identified Kanjurmarg landfill, Mumbai among the world’s top 3 methane emitting sites. Until now, MARS focused on oil and gas facilities in countries that are part of UNEP’s Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0.

About Methane Alert and Response System (MARS):

- ❖ The **Methane Alert and Response System (MARS)** is the first public global satellite-based system to detect and notify very large methane emissions (super-emitters).
- ❖ Nodal agency: United Nations Environment Programme under the International Methane Emissions Observatory.
- ❖ Launched at COP27 climate summit held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt (2022).
- ❖ Supports implementation of the Global Methane Pledge.
- ❖ Aims to help reduce global methane emissions by at least 30% from 2020 levels by 2030.

4. ***Mission Mausam:***

Context: Mission Mausam Urban Testbed has been launched in India to improve monsoon prediction through urban-scale weather observation and modelling. The initiative is linked with atmospheric science, numerical weather prediction, and city-level meteorological data collection.

More details:

- ❖ Mission Mausam is a weather and climate initiative associated with the Indian Meteorological Department and the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❖ It focuses on improving forecasting of monsoon rainfall, extreme weather events, and local atmospheric conditions.
- ❖ An urban testbed is a controlled field setup used to study weather processes in a city environment.
- ❖ It generally includes automatic weather stations, rain gauges, radar inputs, and data from surface observations for high-resolution analysis.

5. ***When does a CM cease to hold office?:***

Context: Mamata Banerjee refused to resign after the alleged defeat of the TMC in West Bengal elections, claiming the verdict resulted from conspiracy and unfair electoral practices.

More details:

- ❖ **Allegations by TMC:** Ms. Banerjee accused the BJP of misusing central forces, forcibly capturing booths, and influencing election outcomes.
- ❖ **Constitutional Provision:** Article 164(1) states that the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor and holds office “during the pleasure of the Governor.”
- ❖ **Concern in Constituent Assembly:** Members feared that the phrase “during the pleasure” could enable arbitrary exercise of gubernatorial powers.
- ❖ **Mohammad Ismail Khan’s Suggestion:** He proposed replacing “during the pleasure” with “so long as they enjoy the confidence of the Legislative Assembly.”
- ❖ **Ambedkar’s Clarification:** B. R. Ambedkar clarified that the Council of Ministers survives only while enjoying majority confidence, even if not expressly stated.
- ❖ **Supreme Court Interpretation:** In *A.G. Perarivalan v. State Through Superintendent of Police*, the Supreme Court held that the Governor generally acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.
- ❖ **Nature of Governor’s Role:** The Governor is the formal constitutional head, while real executive power rests with the elected government.

- ❖ **Need for Floor Test:** If the Governor seeks replacement of a sitting CM during the Assembly's tenure, a floor test is mandatory to determine majority support.
- ❖ **Purpose of Floor Test:** The Chief Minister must prove majority support in the Legislative Assembly or resign.
- ❖ **Failure to Form Government:** If no stable government emerges, President's Rule under Article 356 may be imposed as a last resort.
- ❖ **Assembly Duration:** Article 172 provides that a State Legislative Assembly normally continues for five years unless dissolved earlier.
- ❖ **West Bengal Assembly Tenure:** The current West Bengal Assembly began on May 8, 2021 and ends on May 7, after which it stands automatically dissolved.
- ❖ **Effect on Chief Ministership:** With dissolution of the Assembly, the Chief Minister automatically ceases to hold office regardless of formal resignation.
- ❖ **Role of Governor After Dissolution:** The Governor initiates the process for constituting the new Legislative Assembly and government.
- ❖ **Election Petition Remedy:** Election petitions can be filed before the Calcutta High Court within 45 days of result declaration.
- ❖ **Legal Basis for Challenge:** Section 100 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 allows elections to be declared void for corrupt practices or procedural violations.
- ❖ **Grounds for Writ Petition:** Challenges concerning integrity of the electoral process, including arbitrary voter deletions, may be raised through writ petitions.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Shri. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, virtually inaugurated the 100th N-Gen Post Office of India Post at North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, on 6th May, 2026. The upgraded facility has been developed as a modern, youth-centric postal space designed to serve students, faculty members, and residents of the university campus
- ☐ Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) opened the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) field training and demonstration Centre at Burari plains in Delhi.
- ☐ The Government of India, through a notification issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting dated May 6, 2026, has appointed Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). He shall hold office for a period of three years from the date of joining.
- ☐ India and EU Launched €15.2 Million/~₹169 Crore Joint Initiative to Strengthen EV Battery Recycling under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC)-Working Group-2.
- ☐ Activists called for inclusion of Ecocide as one of the international crimes under the Rome Statute that governs International Criminal Court. It refers to harms caused to environment by human actions, usually on a major industrial scale or affecting a huge area.
- ☐ International Organisation for Migration released the World Migration Report 2026. Top Corridors: Mexico-US (1st), Afghanistan-Iran (2nd), Syria-Turkiye (3rd), Russia-Ukraine (4th), India-UAE (5th) and India-US (6th).

- ☐ The Union Government has extended the duty-free import of yellow peas and black gram until March 2027. Yellow peas are a pulse commodity used in food processing, while black gram, also called urad, is a major pulse crop in India.
- ☐ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras Global Research Foundation established its first United States centre in Menlo Park, California, on 6 May 2026.
- ☐ India and Algeria held their inaugural Joint Commission meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday, marking a significant step forward in bilateral defence ties. According to the Defence Ministry, the discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in key areas such as training, joint military exercises, medical collaboration, and defence industry engagement.

-----The END-----