

09/05/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Somnath Temple:*

Context: The Somnath Swabhiman Parv Yatra, organised under the campaign “Chalo Chalein Somnath,” was flagged off from Delhi’s Safdarjung Railway Station, on 30th April 2026. The special train, carrying over 1,300 devotees, travelled to Somnath, as part of a year-long celebration marking 1,000 years of the temple’s faith and resilience. The yatra reached Somnath on 1st May, followed by a series of devotional and cultural programmes, including aarti, temple visits, and a light and sound show held over the following days.

About Somnath temple:

- ❖ Somnath, located at Prabhas Patan along the Saurashtra coast in Gujrat, is among India’s most sacred pilgrimage centres. The temple enshrines one of the most sacred Jyotirlingas mentioned in the Shiva Purana. It is revered for the worship of Lord Shiva, Lord Krishna and Shakti.
- ❖ On 11 May 1951, the temple was ceremonially consecrated by President Dr. Rajendra Prasad. 75 years later, Somnath stands rejuvenated as a symbol of national pride and spiritual endurance.
- ❖ The Somnath Swabhiman Parv honours the enduring legacy of the Somnath temple. It marks one thousand years since the first recorded attack on the Somnath Temple in 1026.
- ❖ May 11, 2026 also marks the 75th anniversary of the reopening of the Somnath Temple in 1951, when it was dedicated to the nation by India’s first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
- ❖ The temple is crowned by a 150-foot Shikhar, topped with a 10-tonne Kalash. Its 27-foot Dhvajdand represents the temple’s enduring spiritual presence.

2. *Model Code of Conduct (MCC):*

Context: The Election Commission of India (ECI) issued an order on 7 May 2026 lifting the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for the 2026 Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala etc.

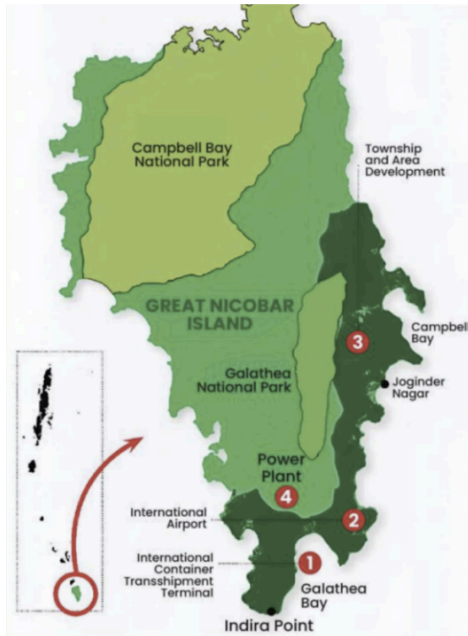
About Model Code of Conduct (MCC):

- ❖ MCC is a set of guidelines issued to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections.
- ❖ The MCC comes into force from the date the election schedule is announced until the date that results are out.
- ❖ The MCC contains eight provisions dealing with general conduct, meetings, processions, polling day, polling booths, observers, the party in power, and election manifestos.
- ❖ The code ensures that Government in power does not use its official position for campaigning.
- ❖ Hence, no policy, project or scheme can be announced that can influence the voting behaviour.
- ❖ Holding public meetings during the 48-hour period before the hour fixed for the closing of the poll is also prohibited. The 48-hour period is known as “election silence”.
- ❖ MCC traces its origins to the 1960 Assembly elections in Kerala, where a 'Code of Conduct' was prepared by the State Administration for political leaders.
- ❖ Subsequently, in the 1962 Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission of India (ECI) circulated the code to all recognized political parties and State governments, which was generally followed.

- ❖ The code was renamed the MCC and made more stringent, but despite demands that it be incorporated into the law, no such legislation was passed.
- ❖ After 1991, the ECI enforced the MCC using new means, and in cases of violation, the Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan exercised constitutional power under Article 324 to postpone elections.
- ❖ The MCC evolved as part of the ECI's drive to ensure free and fair elections and was the result of a consensus among major political parties.
- ❖ It has no statutory backing.
- ❖ Everything is voluntary. The EC uses moral sanction or censure for its enforcement.

3. ***Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve:***

Context: Ms. Gupta, a retired IAS officer, filed a series of petitions on government notification reducing the buffer zones for both the Campbell Bay and Galathea Bay National Parks for Great Nicobar project.



About Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve:

- ❖ The Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve encompasses a large part (some 85%) of the island of Great Nicobar, the largest of the Nicobar Islands in the Indian Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ In 2013 it was included in the list of Man and Biosphere program of UNESCO to promote sustainable development based on local community effort and sound science.
- ❖ It incorporates two National parks of India, which were gazetted in 1992: the larger Campbell Bay National Park on the northern part of the island, and Galathea National Park in the southern interior.
- ❖ The environment is classified by the World Wide Fund for Nature as a tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests biome, and located in the Indomalayan realm.

- ❖ The Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve also incorporates territories and traditional lands of the indigenous Nicobarese and Shompen people.

4. ***Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA):***

Context: The Defence Research and Development Organisation and the Indian Air Force have conducted the maiden flight-trial of the Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) weapon system off the coast of Odisha.

About Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA):

- ❖ TARA, the modular range extension kit, is India's first indigenous glide weapon system to convert unguided warheads into precision guided weapons.
- ❖ TARA has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad along with other DRDO laboratories to enhance the lethality and accuracy of a low-cost weapon to neutralise ground-based targets.
- ❖ It is the first glide weapon to utilise state-of-the-art low-cost systems.
- ❖ The development of the kit has been undertaken with Development cum Production Partners (DcPP) & other Indian industries, which have already started the production activity.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India (MoCA), jointly with the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), successfully organised the 2nd edition of the India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit 2.0 (IALFS 2.0) on Friday, 8th May 2026, at the GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ☐ As Chair of BRICS in 2026, India is spearheading a renewed agenda for MSME cooperation under the BRICS Partnership on the New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR). During India's Chairship, the Ministry of MSME is mandated to convene three SME Working Group Meetings and the inaugural BRICS MSME Forum.
- ☐ Rajasthan's state-owned electricity producer sought diversion of 1,742.6 hectares of forest land and felling of around 4.48 lakh trees in Hasdeo-Arand Forest for mining activities, raising environmental concerns. It is a dense sal forest region spread across the Korba, Surguja, and Surajpur districts of Chhattisgarh. Known as the "lungs of central India," it forms the catchment area of the Hasdeo River and Bango Dam, acts as an important tiger dispersal corridor, and supports the livelihoods of tribal communities. The forest hosts rich biodiversity, including several Schedule-I species such as leopards, sloth bears, and elephants.
- ☐ *Phalera cf. bucephala*, commonly called the buff-tip moth, is a moth species in the order Lepidoptera. The species has been linked with agricultural concern in Ladakh, a high-altitude cold desert region in India where farming depends on short growing seasons and limited irrigation.

- ☐ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has released a report titled Invisible Barriers: The Costs of Non-Tariff Measures. The report states that non-tariff measures now impose greater costs on global exports than tariffs for 88% of countries.
- ☐ The Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission (KSPPC) has proposed establishment of Wisdom Valley, a world-class Knowledge City dedicated to promoting education, research, innovation and sustainable urban development at the Bengaluru Airport City, which is located near the Kempegowda International Airport.

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