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CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC

9th May 2026

TOPICS:-


- 1. India's Maiden Nuclear-Capable ICBM Test**
- 2. Jharkhand Achieves Zero Primary Dropout Rate**
- 3. Odisha Leads in PMAY-U 2.0 House Completion**
- 4. QR-code identity cards for Census enumerators**
- 5. Suru River**
- 6. Tamil Nadu Records Highest Marine Fish Landings in 2025**
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INDIA'S MAIDEN NUCLEAR-CAPABLE ICBM TEST

 The Times of India

India conducts its maiden test of 'nuclear-capable ICBM' off Odisha coast



News News: NEW DELHI: DRDO on Friday evening launched the maiden test of a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) off the...

Why in News?

- India conducted the maiden test of a **nuclear-capable Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** off the **Odisha coast** on **8 May 2026**.

Missile Test location

- The launch took place from **Abdul Kalam Island**, earlier known as **Wheeler Island**. Located near **Chandipur, Odisha** and is linked with the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** of **DRDO**.
- India issued a **Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)** from **6–9 May 2026** for airspace safety over the **Bay of Bengal**.
- The missile test corridor covered nearly **3,560 km** over the Bay of Bengal.

Strategic and Defence Significance

- An ICBM is a long-range ballistic missile with a range of more than **5,500 km**.
- ICBMs are designed to carry **conventional or nuclear warheads** across intercontinental distances.
- The missile follows a **ballistic trajectory** after powered flight.
- The test strengthens India's **strategic deterrence architecture** under the **Nuclear Command Authority**.


Related Defence Developments

- The launch followed the maiden trial of the **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) glide weapon system** on **7 May 2026**.
- India's **Agni missile series** has been developed indigenously by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

JHARKHAND ACHIEVES ZERO PRIMARY DROPOUT RATE

Why in News?

- Jharkhand recorded a **0% primary dropout rate** in **2024-25** according to **UDISE+ 2024-25** and a **NITI Aayog** report released on **8 May 2026**.

 The Times of India

[Education transformation in Jharkhand: Jharkhand achieves zero primary dropout rate; Secondary dropout ra](#)

Ranchi: Jharkhand has effectively eliminated primary dropouts, with the rate crashing from 6.41% in 2014-15 to 0 in 2024-25, according to...



Education Indicators and Data Trends

- The primary dropout rate declined from **6.41% in 2014-15** to **0% in 2024-25**.
- The upper primary dropout rate declined from **7.42% to 1.7%** during the same period.
- The secondary dropout rate reduced from **23.2% to 3.5%**.
- Jharkhand ranked **fourth nationally** in secondary dropout reduction.

Administrative and Governance Challenges

- Around **86,000 children** remained out of school in Jharkhand as of **September 2023**.
- The state planned a household survey from **15 November 2025 to 10 January 2026** to identify out-of-school children.
- Jharkhand reported **99,565 teacher vacancies** in **2025-26**.
- About **9,172 schools** in the state were functioning with only a single teacher.

Understanding Key Education Indicators

- **Dropout rate** refers to the proportion of students leaving school before completing a stage of education.
- Primary education generally includes **Classes I to V** under India's school structure.
- **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** measures enrolment as a percentage of the official age-group population.
- GER can exceed **100%** due to enrolment of underage or over-age students.

ODISHA LEADS IN PMAY-U 2.0 HOUSE COMPLETION

 The Times of India

[Odisha leads India in PMAY-U 2.0 housing completions](#)

Bhubaneswar: Odisha has emerged as the top-performing state in the country in completion of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban...



Why in News?

- Odisha emerged as the top-performing state in house completion under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0** as of **8 May 2026**.

Scheme Features

- **PMAY-U 2.0** was launched in **September 2024** for urban housing development.
- The scheme aims to provide **pucca houses** to eligible urban poor and middle-income families.
- PMAY-U 2.0 is implemented as a **Central sector scheme**.
- The scheme uses **geo-tagging, foundation tracking, and completion monitoring**.

Odisha's Performance Under PMAY-U 2.0

- Odisha received sanction for **24,625 houses** under the scheme.
- Around **23,464 sites** had been geo-tagged by **8 May 2026**.
- Foundation work had started for **3,134 houses** by **5 May 2026**.
- A total of **2,008 houses** had been completed by the same date.



Institutional and Administrative Structure

- The **Housing and Urban Development Department** is the nodal implementing authority in Odisha.
- **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** play a key role in project execution and monitoring.
- Geo-tagging records the exact location of houses for transparency and monitoring.
- Physical progress is assessed through completion-stage verification.

QR-CODE IDENTITY CARDS FOR CENSUS ENUMERATORS

THE Hindu

Census enumerators ID can be verified through QR code

Census enumerators' IDs feature QR codes for verification, addressing residents' concerns about authenticity and ensuring a secure data...



Why in News?

- India introduced **QR-code identity cards** for Census enumerators during the ongoing **Census 2027** exercise.

Digital Census Framework

- The first phase of Census 2027 began on **1 April 2026** and will continue till **30 September 2026**.
- Around **30 lakh enumerators** are participating in the nationwide exercise.
- The Census uses **mobile applications, centralised portals, and real-time data transmission**.
- QR-code identity cards enable residents to verify enumerator authenticity through mobile scanning.

Self-Enumeration and Technology Integration

- The **Census of India Self-Enumeration Portal** allows citizens to submit details directly.
- Self-enumeration facilities were available in areas such as **Noida and Ghaziabad**.
- Residents received QR codes linked with a unique **self-enumeration ID**.
- The digital system is designed to reduce delays and minimise data-entry errors.

Constitutional and Legal Dimensions

- Census is a **Union subject** under the **Constitution of India**.
- The Census is conducted under the **Census Act, 1948**.
- India's Census is generally conducted in two phases: **House Listing** and **Population Enumeration**.
- Census data supports planning, welfare distribution, and policy formulation.

SURU RIVER

TOI The Times of India

[Suru River tragedy: Pakistan hands over body of Ladakh minor after 46 days](#)

India News: SRINAGAR: Around 46 days after a nine-year-old boy from Kargil drowned in Suru river and was swept into Pakistan-occupied...



Why in News

- A child's body retrieved from **Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK)** highlighted the transboundary nature of the **Suru River**.

Geographical Course

- The **Suru River** is an important tributary of the **Indus River** in **Ladakh**.
- It originates from the **Panzella Glacier** near **Pensi La Pass**.
- The river flows westward through the **Suru Valley**.
- It eventually joins the **Indus River** at **Nurla**.



Regional Significance

- The river forms the western and northern boundary of the **Zaskar Range**.
- The Suru Valley is surrounded by the **Nun Kun Peaks**.
- The river passes through towns such as **Tongul, Goma, Kharul, and Kargil**.

Historical Importance

- A branch of the ancient **Silk Route** once passed along the Suru River valley.
- The river flows into **Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK)** before merging with the Indus system.

TAMIL NADU RECORDS HIGHEST MARINE FISH LANDINGS IN 2025

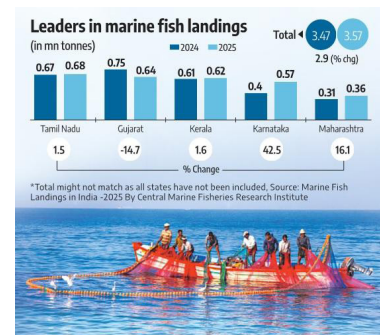
Tamil Nadu records highest marine fish landings in 2025

Tamil Nadu leads marine fish landings in 2025 with 6.85 lakh tonnes, surpassing Gujarat despite adverse weather challenges.



Why in News

- **Tamil Nadu** emerged as India's top marine fish-producing state in **2025**, according to data released by the **ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)**.



Production Statistics

- Tamil Nadu recorded around **6.85 lakh tonnes** of marine fish landings in 2025.
- India's total marine fish production reached nearly **35.7 lakh tonnes**.
- National marine fish production registered about a **3% increase** over 2024.

State-Wise Performance

- **Kerala** recorded around **6.24 lakh tonnes** of fish landings.
- **Gujarat** witnessed nearly a **15% decline** in marine fish production.
- **Tamil Nadu** surpassed Gujarat due to relatively stable marine conditions.

Major Marine Species

- **Indian mackerel** was the most landed species at around **2.7 lakh tonnes**.
- **Cephalopods** and **oil sardine** also contributed significantly to total output.

CABINET APPROVES INCREASE IN SUPREME COURT JUDGE STRENGTH TO 37

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to increase the sanctioned strength of judges in the **Supreme Court of India** from **34 to 37 judges**, excluding the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**.

News On AIR

[Government increases Judge strength of Supreme Court by 4 to 37](#)

New Delhi: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw addresses a press conference after the Cabinet meeting, at the National Media Centre,...



Constitutional and Legal Framework

- **Article 124** of the Constitution provides for the establishment of the Supreme Court.
- Parliament determines the number of Supreme Court judges through legislation.
- The **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956** fixes the sanctioned strength of judges.
- The last major increase occurred in **2019**, when strength rose from 31 to 34 judges.

Judicial Administration

- **Article 145** empowers the Supreme Court to frame rules regarding practice, procedure, and bench formation.
- The proposed strength after approval will become **37 judges** excluding the CJI.
- The move aims to improve disposal of constitutional, civil, and criminal matters.

Need for Expansion

- The Supreme Court currently faces over **80,000 pending cases**.
- A large number of appeals reach the court under **Article 136** through **Special Leave Petitions (SLPs)**.
- India's judge-population ratio remains low at around **21 judges per million population**.


Governance Significance

- Increasing judicial strength is expected to reduce case backlog and delays.
- The measure supports the constitutional principle of **speedy justice** under **Article 21**.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

**Environ-
ment**

LUTJANUS ARAKAN

 Odisha TV

[Historic discovery: Snapper species found in Indian waters for the first time at Odisha's Gopalpur](#)

Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and Fakir Mohan University, Balasore, documented a snapper species, Lutjanus arakan,...



Why in News

- Researchers recorded **Lutjanus arakan** in Indian waters for the first time at **Gopalpur, Odisha**.

Scientific Significance

- **Lutjanus arakan** is a species of snapper belonging to the family **Lutjanidae**.
- Snappers are ecologically important mid-level predators in reef ecosystems.
- The species was previously recorded only near the coast of **Bangladesh**.

Identification Features


- It has a reddish-silver body with four dark reddish-brown horizontal stripes.
- The upper body appears dark brown to blackish in colour.
- Its paired fins are translucent pinkish in appearance.

Geographical Relevance

- The species was identified at **Gopalpur-on-Sea in Ganjam district of Odisha**.
- Snappers are commonly found in tropical and subtropical marine ecosystems.

Awards in News

ARCHIBALD PRIZE 2026

 The Economic Times

[Who is Richard Lewer? Melbourne-based artist wins Archibald Prize 2026 with powerful portrait of Pitjantja](#)

Melbourne artist Richard Lewer has won the prestigious Archibald Prize. His winning artwork is a portrait of Iluwanti Ken,...



Why in News

- The **Archibald Prize 2026** was awarded to Melbourne-based artist **Richard Lewer** on **8 May 2026**.

About the Archibald Prize

- The Archibald Prize is an Australian award for **portrait painting**.
- It was established in **1921**.
- The prize is administered by the **Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney**.
- It is one of Australia's most prestigious art awards.


- It was South Korea’s third Uber Cup title after victories in **2010** and **2022**.
- China defeated **France** in the Thomas Cup final to secure its **12th** title.

Medal Standings

- **Uber Cup:** Gold – South Korea, Silver – China, Bronze – Japan and Indonesia.
- **Thomas Cup:** Gold – China, Silver – France, Bronze – Denmark and India.

Space

JWST STUDIES ROCKY EXOPLANET LHS 3844 B

 ScienceDaily

[Webb space telescope reveals a scorching “super-Earth” that looks like Mercury](#)



A scorching, airless world just 48 light-years away is offering scientists a rare glimpse into the geology of distant planets.

Why in News?

- The **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** directly studied the rocky exoplanet **LHS 3844 b** on **4 May 2026**.

Space Telescope and Scientific Instruments

- JWST is jointly developed by **NASA, ESA, and CSA**.
- The telescope mainly operates in the **infrared spectrum**.
- It carries the **Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI)** for heat and molecular analysis.
- Infrared observation helps scientists study distant celestial bodies and exoplanets.

Characteristics of LHS 3844 b

- LHS 3844 b is a **super-Earth** located around **49–50 light-years** away.
- The planet is nearly **30% larger than Earth**.
- It is a **tidally locked exoplanet**, with one side permanently facing its host star.
- Surface temperatures on the star-facing side reach nearly **725°C**.

Geological and Scientific Findings

- Scientists found the planet to be **hot, dark, barren, and atmosphere-free**.
- The surface appears rich in **basaltic or igneous mantle rock**.
- The geology resembles surfaces of **Mercury and the Moon** rather than Earth.
- The study belongs to the field of **exoplanet geology**.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

FRUIT HORIZON 2026

ET The Economic Times

[India must boost fruit, vegetable exports to increase farmers' income: Shivraj Singh Chouhan](#)

This move aims to boost farmer incomes, create jobs, and earn foreign currency. The 'Fruit Horizon 2026' program focuses on enhancing...



Why in News?

- Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** participated in **Fruit Horizon 2026** held in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.

Agricultural and Economic Focus

- Fruit Horizon 2026 is a two-day programme focused on the horticulture sector.
- Discussions covered **quality enhancement, value addition, processing, and exports**.
- The event promoted the concept of **zero rejection** in fruit exports.

Institutional Role in Horticulture

- The programme highlighted the role of **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**.
- It also discussed contributions of **Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs)** and **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.
- FPOs are promoted by the **Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)**.
- FPOs help improve market access, aggregation, and bargaining power for farmers.

Legal and Administrative Dimensions

- FPOs emerged in India in **2008** following recommendations of the **Y. K. Alagh Committee (2002)**.
- FPOs can be registered under the **Companies Act, 2013**.
- They may also register under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- Some FPOs function as Public Trusts under **the Indian Trusts Act, 1882**.