

# Daily Current Affairs

## 09 May 2026

### Archibald Prize 2026 Awarded to Richard Lewer

- The Archibald Prize 2026 was awarded on 8 May 2026 to Melbourne-based artist Richard Lewer for a portrait of Pitjantjatjara Elder Iluwanti Ken. The prize carried a cash award of \$100,000 and the winning work was selected from 1,034 entries.
- The Archibald Prize is an Australian portraiture award established in 1921 and administered by the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney. It is one of Australia's best-known art prizes and is awarded annually for portrait painting.
- Richard Lewer is a six-time Archibald finalist, with nominations in 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2025 and 2026. His 2026 portrait depicts Iluwanti Ken, who is identified as a Pitjantjatjara Elder, senior artist and ngangkari, a term used for a traditional healer in Central Australia.
- The 2026 Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes exhibition opened to the public on 9 May 2026 at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. The exhibition includes 59 finalist works and runs until 16 August 2026.



## Government Launches Road RADAR to Track Air Pollution Sources

- The Delhi Pollution Control Committee launched Road RADAR on 8 May 2026 in Delhi to identify sources of air pollution through daily ground-level surveys. Road RADAR stands for Real-time Air Pollution Detection Across Roads and uses geo-tagged reporting for rapid redressal of dispersed pollution sources.
- Road RADAR is a field-based monitoring programme for road-linked pollution sources in Delhi. The initiative deploys 13 dedicated surveyors, with one surveyor assigned to each district of Delhi. Surveyors use the MCD-311 mobile application for geo-tagged field surveys.
- The programme sets a daily reporting target of at least 70 pollution-related issues per surveyor and around 1,000 issues collectively each day.
- The initiative covers about 18,000 km of roads in Delhi every month across municipal wards under different civic bodies and agencies. The survey system is designed for daily inspection of roads and related public spaces.
- The reported issues are routed automatically to the concerned authorities for action. The system includes safeguards for zero duplication of complaints.
- Road RADAR tracks 11 categories of air pollution sources. These include road dust from unpaved roads, broken footpaths, potholes, sand or loose material on roadsides, unregulated parking lots, garbage, biomass burning, plastic burning, construction and demolition waste, and barren roadsides.



## India Achieves Zero Primary Dropout Rate in Jharkhand

- Jharkhand recorded a primary dropout rate of 0% in 2024-25, compared with 6.41% in 2014-15, in education data linked to the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2024-25 and a NITI Aayog report released on 8 May 2026.
- The state also reported a decline in upper primary dropout rate from 7.42% to 1.7% and in secondary dropout rate from 23.2% to 3.5% between 2014-15 and 2024-25.
- Dropout rate is the proportion of students who leave a school stage before completion of that level. In India, primary education generally covers Classes I to V, while upper primary covers Classes VI to VIII and secondary covers Classes IX to X.
- UDISE+ is the national school education database used for school-level indicators such as enrolment, teachers, infrastructure, and dropout rates. The 2024-25 data placed Jharkhand at zero primary dropout for both boys and girls, after a rate of more than 11% in 2022-23.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is the total enrolment in a level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the official age group for that level. Jharkhand's primary GER declined from 109.2% in 2014-15 to 92.5% in 2024-25, while the secondary GER rose from 66.05% to 72% in the same period.
- 014-15 to 92.5% in 2024-25, while the secondary GER rose from 66.05% to 72% in the same period. GER can exceed 100% when students outside the official age group are enrolled in a level of education. GER is used in India by the Ministry of Education and in school statistics compiled through UDISE+.



## **IIT Madras Launches Deep-Tech Research Hub in California**

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras Global Research Foundation, also called IITM Global, launched its first United States centre in Menlo Park, California. The centre became operational on 24 April 2026 and was announced at the SelectUSA Investment Summit held from 6 May to 9 May 2026.
- IITM Global is the overseas research and innovation arm linked to the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. The new centre has a planned investment of 7.5 million, including a greenfield investment of 4.5 million from IITM Global.
- The Menlo Park hub is planned as a centre for deep-tech research, commercialisation, and startup incubation. Deep-tech refers to technology based on advanced scientific and engineering research, including areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, clean technology, and immersive systems.
- Menlo Park is located in California and lies in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- Silicon Valley is associated with technology companies, venture capital, and startup ecosystems.
- IIT Madras is one of the Indian Institutes of Technology established under the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961.



## Europe Day

- Europe Day, celebrated annually on May 9, commemorates the 1950 Schuman Declaration, which proposed a new form of political cooperation making war between European nations unthinkable.
- It celebrates peace, unity, and the foundation of the European Union, with 2026 events highlighting solidarity, democracy, and cross-border cooperation.
- The European Union (EU) is a unique economic and political union of 27 member states, covering over 4.2 million km<sup>2</sup> and inhabited by over 450 million people as of 2025. It operates an internal single market, facilitating the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people.
- As of May 2026, the EU is focusing on strengthening its strategic partnership with India, navigating trade negotiations, and supporting enlargement with candidates like Montenegro.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Who won the Archibald Prize 2026?**

- A. Iluwanti Ken
- B. Richard Lewer
- C. Henry Dunant
- D. Raja Subramani

**Answer:** B. Richard Lewer

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**2. The Archibald Prize is associated with which field?**

- A. Literature
- B. Science
- C. Portrait Painting
- D. Architecture

**Answer:** C. Portrait Painting

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**3. Road RADAR was launched in which Indian city?**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Chennai
- D. Delhi

**Answer:** D. Delhi

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**4. What does “Road RADAR” stand for?**

- A. Road Repair and Development Action Report
- B. Real-time Air Pollution Detection Across Roads
- C. Rapid Air Dust Analysis Report
- D. Road Area Detection and Review

**Answer:** B. Real-time Air Pollution Detection Across Roads

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**5. Which state achieved a 0% primary dropout rate in 2024-25?**

- A. Bihar
- B. Odisha
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Gujarat

**Answer:** C. Jharkhand

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**6. UDISE+ is mainly related to which sector?**

- A. Agriculture
- B. School Education
- C. Health
- D. Banking

**Answer:** B. School Education

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**7. IIT Madras launched its first US research centre in which city?**

- A. New York
- B. Boston
- C. Menlo Park
- D. Chicago

**Answer:** C. Menlo Park

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**8. The new IIT Madras centre in California will mainly focus on:**

- A. Textile manufacturing
- B. Deep-tech research
- C. Tourism studies
- D. Mining technology

**Answer:** B. Deep-tech research

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**9. Europe Day is celebrated annually on:**

- A. 1 May
- B. 5 May
- C. 8 May
- D. 9 May

**Answer:** D. 9 May

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**10. Europe Day commemorates which historic declaration?**

- A. Magna Carta
- B. Schuman Declaration
- C. Treaty of Versailles
- D. Lisbon Declaration

**Answer:** B. Schuman Declaration