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Current Affairs Today — May 8, 2026

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Current Affairs Today — May 8, 2026

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WHY IN NEWS

A consolidated digest of major current affairs from May 8, 2026 covering security and defence (Joint Commanders' Conference Day 2 in Jaipur and the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor with India's reiterated stand on the Indus Waters Treaty), polity (the unfolding Tamil Nadu constitutional crisis over Vijay-TVK government formation, the Cabinet's Supreme Court judges expansion Bill, and the anti-defection legal fiction doctrine), and environment (new research on AMOC weakening and its threat to India's monsoon).

SECURITY & DEFENCE

Joint Commanders' Conference 2026 Concludes — New Warfare Doctrines Released (Jaipur, May 7–8) The **second Joint Commanders' Conference**, themed “**Military Capability in New Domains**”, concluded at South Western Command Headquarters, **Jaipur**, on **May 8, 2026**. Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and CDS **General Anil Chauhan** presided alongside the Army, Navy, and Air Force chiefs. New operational doctrines were released for **cyber warfare**, **space warfare**, **cognitive warfare** (information operations/PsyOps), and **AI-enabled autonomous systems**. Rajnath Singh described Operation Sindoor as “a defining benchmark of modern warfare” and called its success the foundation for India's future multi-domain doctrine. The conference also accelerated the **Aatmanirbharta** roadmap — faster absorption of iDEX products into frontline units and expansion of civil-military fusion for defence innovation.

Operation Sindoor First Anniversary — India Reiterates Hard Posture on Pakistan (May 7–8) As historical context: Operation Sindoor was launched in 2025 (specifically on May 7, 2025) — and on its first anniversary, India sent a strong and unambiguous message. The **Ministry of External Affairs** reiterated that the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) remains in abeyance** until Pakistan takes credible and irreversible steps to end its support for cross-border terrorism. Former DGMO Lt. Gen. Rajiv Ghai revealed publicly that **Pakistan had requested India to stop** operations during Operation Sindoor, describing the mission as “not a one-time response but the beginning of a continuing campaign against terrorism.” PM Modi changed his display picture on X to honour the armed forces.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Tamil Nadu Constitutional Crisis — Governor Blocks Vijay's Swearing-In (May 7–8) Tamil Nadu is in a full constitutional crisis after Governor **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar** refused to invite **Thalapathy Vijay** (TVK — Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam) to form the government. As background, the Assembly elections

were held earlier on May 4, 2026, with TVK winning **108 of 234 seats** and emerging as the **single largest party** — ending the 59-year duopoly of DMK and AIADMK. The Governor is demanding written proof that Vijay commands 118 MLAs (the majority mark) before any swearing-in. Vijay argues that constitutional practice requires only the single largest party to be invited to form government and prove majority on the floor of the House, not before oath. TVK threatened mass resignation of all 108 MLAs if rival parties attempt to stake claim. Congress (5 seats) has extended support (total 113), with Left parties and smaller allies being courted. Constitutional experts are near-unanimous that the Governor is overstepping his powers under Articles 163–164 of the Constitution.

Supreme Court — Cabinet Clears Bill to Expand Judges from 34 to 38 (May 5–8) As historical context: the Union Cabinet, in its meeting introduced in 2026 (specifically held earlier this month on May 5), approved the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, raising sanctioned judge strength from **34 to 38** — the largest expansion in the Court’s history and the first since 2019 (when strength went from 31 to 34). As historical context, total case **pendency** in the Supreme Court stood at **92,823 cases** as of 2026 (specifically April 30, 2026). The Bill will be introduced in the next Parliament session. The Supreme Court also heard arguments on **May 8** in a case challenging the constitutionality of the **Chief Election Commissioners and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023**, which excluded the CJI from the election commissioners’ selection panel.

Anti-Defection Law — Legal Fiction and Party Merger Doctrine A Supreme Court bench ruled (in a judgment circulating in legal commentary on May 8, 2026) that **“a legal fiction is created for a definite purpose and cannot extend beyond its legitimate scope”** — a ruling with direct implications for how the **Tenth Schedule (anti-defection)** merger exception is interpreted. The court clarified that a two-thirds threshold among legislators verifies a merger already approved by the parent political party — it does not by itself create one. This is relevant to the pending case of seven former AAP MPs who claimed protection under the merger clause when crossing to BJP.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

AMOC Collapse — 59% Weakening by 2100 Could Devastate India’s Monsoon New scientific research published in May 2026 warns that the **Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)** — the vast ocean current system acting as Earth’s heat conveyor belt — could weaken by **up to 59% by 2100**, far more severely than previous estimates of 15%. AMOC drives global heat redistribution: warm surface water moves north, cools, sinks, and returns south as cold deep water. A weakened AMOC pulls the tropical rain belt southward, away from India, and could **disrupt the Indian Summer Monsoon** — causing shorter wet seasons, longer dry spells, and more erratic rainfall patterns. India’s agriculture, groundwater recharge, hydropower, and drinking water systems are deeply monsoon-dependent. The IMD’s 2026 monsoon forecast already projects **below-normal rainfall** at 90–95% of the Long Period Average. AMOC weakening is driven by Arctic freshwater influx from melting ice sheets disturbing ocean salinity gradients.

FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA
JOINT COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE (2ND EDITION, 2026):

Venue: South Western Command HQ, Jaipur; May 7–8, 2026

Theme: “Military Capability in New Domains”

New doctrines: Cyber warfare, Space warfare, Cognitive warfare, AI/Unmanned Systems

CDS: General Anil Chauhan; Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh

Operation Sindoor called “defining benchmark of modern warfare”

OPERATION SINDOOR ANNIVERSARY (HISTORICAL CONTEXT):

Launched in 2025 — specifically on May 7, 2025 (first anniversary May 7, 2026)

Targets: Terror infrastructure in Bahawalpur (JeM HQ), Muridke (LeT base), Muzaffarabad, Kotli, Bhimber, Sialkot

Indus Waters Treaty: In abeyance since May 2025; MEA reiterated stance on anniversary

Former DGMO Rajiv Ghai: “Pakistan requested us to stop”

TAMIL NADU CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS (BACKGROUND):

Election held in 2026 — polling on May 4, 2026 (results counted)

TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam): 108/234 seats — single largest party

Majority mark: 118; TVK + Congress = 113

Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar — demanding majority proof before swearing-in

Vijay (TVK): Former film actor; party founded 2024; ended 59-year Dravidian duopoly

Constitutional issue: Article 163–164; floor test vs pre-oath majority proof

SC JUDGES EXPANSION:

Current strength: 34 (incl. CJI); proposed: 38

Cabinet cleared: May 5, 2026; Bill to be introduced next Parliament session

Last expansion: 2019 (31→34 via SC (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019)

Pendency (as of 2026, specifically April 30, 2026): 92,823 cases

Sources: PIB India, Ministry of External Affairs, Supreme Court of India

ANTI-DEFECTION / TENTH SCHEDULE:

52nd Constitutional Amendment, 1985 — inserted Tenth Schedule

Merger exception: $\geq 2/3$ legislators + original political party must merge

Legal fiction doctrine: Cannot extend beyond its stated purpose (SC, May 2026)

AMOC:

Full form: Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation

Function: Redistributes heat globally via thermohaline circulation (warm surface → cold deep)

New research: Could weaken 59% by 2100 (earlier estimate: 15%)

India impact: Monsoon disruption — shorter wet seasons, erratic rainfall

IMD 2026 SW Monsoon forecast: Below normal (90–95% of LPA)

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**Joint Commanders' Conference 2026: India
Frames New Doctrine...**

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