

02/05/2026 Daily Current News

1. *INS Mahendragiri (Yard 12654):*

Context: Mahendragiri (Yard 12654), the sixth ship of Nilgiri-class (Project 17A) and fourth ship of the class built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL), was delivered to the Indian Navy on 30 Apr 2026 at MDSL, Mumbai.

About INS Mahendragiri (Yard 12654):

- ❖ Project 17A frigates are advanced multi-mission stealth frigates designed for modern maritime challenges.
- ❖ The project represents a major advancement in naval design, stealth, automation, survivability, and firepower.
- ❖ P17A frigates are a symbol of India's Aatmanirbharta in indigenous warship building.
- ❖ The ships were designed by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB).
- ❖ Construction was overseen by the Warship Overseeing Team (Mumbai).
- ❖ The project follows the philosophy of Integrated Construction for timely delivery.
- ❖ P17A frigates possess more advanced weapons and sensors than the Shivalik-class (P17) frigates.
- ❖ The ships are equipped with Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion systems.
- ❖ Each ship uses diesel engines and gas turbines driving Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPPs).
- ❖ The frigates feature a state-of-the-art Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS).
- ❖ The weapon suite includes anti-surface, anti-air, and anti-submarine warfare systems.
- ❖ Mahendragiri is the sixth P17A frigate delivered to the Indian Navy.
- ❖ Mahendragiri was delivered within 17 months of the first P17A frigate, Nilgiri.
- ❖ The first P17A frigate, Nilgiri, was delivered on 20 December 2024 by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL).
- ❖ The project demonstrates India's growing shipbuilding and engineering capabilities.
- ❖ P17A frigates have around 75% indigenous content.
- ❖ More than 200 MSMEs participated in the project through MDSL.
- ❖ The project generated employment for around 4,000 people directly and over 10,000 indirectly.

2. *Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Communication:*

Context: TRAI releases Consultation Paper on Regulatory Framework for Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Communication.

What is Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Communication?

- ❖ Vehicle-to-Everything Communication (V2X) enables vehicles to exchange real-time information with vehicles, infrastructure, pedestrians, and networks.
- ❖ V2X shares data such as vehicle position, speed, and movement conditions.
- ❖ It is a core component of Intelligent Transport Systems and connected mobility.
- ❖ V2X improves road safety through applications like collision avoidance and emergency vehicle warning systems.
- ❖ The technology supports safer intersection management and reduces accident risks.
- ❖ V2X contributes to achieving SDG 3.6, which aims to halve global road traffic deaths and injuries by 2030.
- ❖ The Forward Collision Warning System in the USA recorded a 9% reduction in forward collision conflicts.
- ❖ V2X enhances traffic efficiency through smart traffic signal coordination and congestion reduction.
- ❖ It supports autonomous and self-driving vehicles by providing external real-time data inputs.

- ❖ V2X mainly relies on Dedicated Short-Range Communication (DSRC) and Cellular V2X (C-V2X) technologies.
- ❖ DSRC technology is based on Wi-Fi communication standards.
- ❖ C-V2X is a broader communication standard that leverages cellular networks.

3. *Prosopis juliflora*:

Context: *Prosopis juliflora*, to be used as feedstock for India's first green methanol production plant, designed to fuel ocean-going ships.

About *Prosopis juliflora*:

- ❖ *Prosopis juliflora* is a leguminous tree species highly resistant to drought and salinity.
- ❖ It is regarded as one of the world's most dominant invasive plant species.
- ❖ The species is native to Mexico.
- ❖ It was first introduced in India by the British in the 1920s to "green" Delhi.
- ❖ The Gujarat Forest Department further introduced it in 1961.
- ❖ *Prosopis juliflora* is a phreatophyte with deep roots that absorb groundwater from below the water table.
- ❖ The species can worsen hydrological drought by excessive groundwater extraction.
- ❖ It reduces native plant diversity and threatens phytodiversity in affected ecosystems.

4. *Hepatitis*:

Context: Global Hepatitis Report 2026 released by World Health Organization (WHO). As per the report, India is among top contributors to global hepatitis deaths, particularly from hepatitis B and C.

About Hepatitis:

Types of Hepatitis

	TRANSMISSION	PREVENTION	TREATMENT
Hepatitis A	Eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water	• Practicing good hygiene • Vaccine	No treatment
Hepatitis B	Through contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person	• Practicing good hygiene • Vaccine • Blood screening	• Alpha interferon • Peginterferon
Hepatitis C	Blood-to-blood contact	• Practicing good hygiene • Avoid sharing needles, toothbrushes, razors or nail scissors	Direct-acting antiviral drugs
Hepatitis D	Contact with infected blood (only occurs in people already infected with hepatitis B)	• Hepatitis B vaccine • Avoid sharing needles, toothbrushes, razors or nail scissors	Interferon
Hepatitis E	Eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water	• Practicing good hygiene • Avoid drinking water that has come from a potentially unsafe source	No treatment

- ❖ Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver— the irritation or swelling of the liver cells from any cause.
- ❖ Usually caused by a group of viruses known as the “hepatotropic” (liver directed) viruses, including A, B, C, D and E.

5. *Windfall Tax:*

Context: Centre cuts windfall tax on diesel & jet fuel exports in line with the price fluctuations in the international market due to the West Asia war.

About Windfall Tax:

- ❖ Windfall Tax is a government levy imposed on extraordinary profits earned by companies or individuals due to unexpected circumstances.
- ❖ It is typically applied when global events such as geopolitical tensions or commodity price surges create abnormal profit gains.
- ❖ Sectors like oil and gas often experience windfall gains during such periods.
- ❖ The objective is to capture a portion of these excess profits for public welfare.
- ❖ Revenue collected through windfall tax is used for funding public projects and reducing fiscal deficits.
- ❖ It also supports redistribution of wealth to balance economic inequalities.

6. *Himalayan salamander and Indian skimmer:*

Context: Barkha Subba and Parveen Shaikh won the Whitley Awards for protecting the Himalayan salamander and Indian skimmer habitats.

About Himalayan salamander and Indian skimmer:

Feature	Himalayan salamander	Indian skimmer
Habitat & Distribution	Rare semi-aquatic amphibian of the Eastern Himalaya; found in India, Nepal, Bhutan, and also reported in Myanmar and Thailand.	Riverine bird; India hosts >90% of global population, especially in the Chambal River.
Conservation & Behaviour	Classified as Vulnerable (IUCN); shows philopatry (returns to natal site for breeding and egg-laying).	Classified as Endangered (IUCN); nests on sandbars and mid-river islands; known for skimming water surface to catch fish using its long orange bill.

About Whitley Awards:

- ❖ Whitley Award is a prestigious conservation award given by the Whitley Fund for Nature, a UK-based nature conservation charity.
- ❖ It supports conservationists working to protect wildlife and ecosystems.
- ❖ The award is often referred to as the “Green Oscars” due to its global recognition.
- ❖ It is awarded annually to outstanding conservation leaders.

7. **PM E-DRIVE programme:**

Context: The Centre may roll out a fresh electric bus scheme for States after completing the tendering and allocation of all 14,000 buses under the PM E-DRIVE programme, a government official said.

About PM E-DRIVE programme:

- ❖ PM E-DRIVE Scheme was approved with an outlay of ₹10,900 crore.
- ❖ The PM E-DRIVE Scheme is effective from October 2024 to March 2026.
- ❖ The scheme aims to accelerate electric vehicle adoption in India.
- ❖ PM E-DRIVE focuses on EV charging infrastructure and domestic EV manufacturing.
- ❖ The scheme supports the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- ❖ PM E-DRIVE builds on earlier schemes like FAME India Scheme Phase I and FAME India Scheme Phase II.
- ❖ The scheme targets electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, e-ambulances, e-trucks, and e-buses.
- ❖ e-trucks require scrapping certificates to avail benefits under the scheme.
- ❖ Demand incentives are capped at 15% of the ex-factory price or a fixed vehicle limit.
- ❖ Only EVs below a prescribed price threshold are eligible for incentives.
- ❖ The scheme plans to establish 72,300 public fast EV chargers.
- ❖ Public chargers will be installed in major cities and along selected highways.
- ❖ Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited will develop a digital Super App for EV users.
- ❖ The Super App will help users book charging slots and make payments.
- ❖ PM E-DRIVE allocates ₹780 crore for upgrading EV testing agencies.
- ❖ Testing agencies under the Ministry of Heavy Industries will receive advanced technology support.
- ❖ Only EVs with advanced battery technology qualify for incentives.
- ❖ Government-purchased EVs are excluded from the scheme incentives.
- ❖ Eligible vehicles must be registered under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.
- ❖ e-2Ws and e-3Ws must be manufactured and registered between October 2024 and March 2026.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India has established a Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (C-ART) at Andhra University (AU) in Visakhapatnam. This Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (C-ART) will serve as a national user facility to provide research observations to support process-level diagnostics of monsoon convection, improve parameterization schemes in numerical weather prediction models, enable data assimilation experiments for enhanced forecast skill and for model evaluation.
- ☐ In a major breakthrough against organised narcotics trafficking, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), under Operation WHITE STRIKE, has uncovered a large transnational cocaine trafficking syndicate and seized approximately 349 kilograms of high-grade cocaine valued at nearly ₹1,745 crore in the illicit market from Mumbai and adjoining logistics corridor.

- ☐ Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari announced the launch of India's first Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) barrier-less tolling system at the Chorayasi Toll Plaza on the Surat–Bharuch section of NH-48 in Gujarat. The state-of-the-art system enables seamless toll collection without requiring vehicles to stop, using advanced technologies such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and FASTag.
- ☐ In a landmark step towards safeguarding the rights of platform-based workers, the Karnataka government has launched India's first dedicated digital grievance redressal mechanism for gig workers.
- ☐ The annual Mahua flower festival, locally known as 'Ippa Puvvu Panduga', was celebrated with traditional fervour in Jamidi village of Adilabad district, Telangana.
- ☐ Karnataka has taken a significant step in advancing India's space innovation ecosystem by launching the country's first state-led Centre of Excellence for Space Technology in Bengaluru.

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