

14/05/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport:*

Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today has approved the Extension of Lease Period of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)'s land leased to MIL (MIHAN India Limited) beyond 06.08.2039, so as to enable MIL to license Nagpur Airport to the Concessionaire, viz. GMR Nagpur International Airport Limited (GNIAL) for 30 years since Commercial Operation Date (COD).

Background:

- ❖ In 2009, AAI and MADC formed a Joint Venture Company (MIL) with a 49:51 equity structure for airport development.
- ❖ Airport assets of AAI were transferred to MIL in 2009 for operations, but lease deed was delayed due to land demarcation issues.
- ❖ AAI land was later leased to MIL up to 06 August 2039.
- ❖ In 2016, MIL invited global bids under the PPP model to identify an airport operator.
- ❖ GMR Airports Ltd. (GAL) emerged as the highest bidder with an initial revenue share offer of 5.76%.
- ❖ The revenue share was later revised upward to 14.49% of Gross Revenue.
- ❖ MIL annulled the bidding process in March 2020.
- ❖ The annulment was challenged by GAL before the Bombay High Court and subsequently upheld in its favour.
- ❖ The Supreme Court also ruled in favour of GAL in its judgement dated 27 September 2024.
- ❖ Following the Supreme Court order, MIL signed a Concession Agreement with GMR Nagpur International Airport Ltd. (GNIAL) on 8 October 2024.

About Nagpur airport:

- ❖ The airport at Nagpur was commissioned during World War I (1917–18) for the Royal Flying Corps (RFC)/Royal Air Force (RAF).
- ❖ During World War II, the existing structures were renovated and used as a staging airfield by the RAF.
- ❖ After British rule ended, the airport was transferred to the Government of India.
- ❖ In 1953, new terminal buildings were constructed with facilities such as refreshment areas, retiring rooms, restrooms, book stalls, and visitor galleries.
- ❖ Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport (NAG) serves Nagpur, Maharashtra, the state's winter capital.
- ❖ The airport is located at Sonagaon, about 8 km southwest of Nagpur city.
- ❖ It covers an area of approximately 1,355 acres (548 hectares).
- ❖ In 2005, it was renamed after B. R. Ambedkar, architect of the Indian Constitution and a key national figure.

2. Minimum Support Price (MSP):

Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 14 Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2026-27.

About Minimum Support Price (MSP):

- ❖ It is the price at which the government purchases crops from the farmers, to insure farmers against any sharp fall in farm price
- ❖ It is announced by the Government on the basis of the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), at the beginning of the sowing season.
- ❖ Government of India fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 22 mandated agricultural crops.
- ❖ The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has been recommended for Sunflower Seed (₹ 622 per quintal) followed by Cotton (Rs. 557 per quintal), Nigerseed (Rs.515 per quintal) and Sesamum (Rs.500 per quintal).
- ❖ Ragi (₹5205/quintal) – Highest MSP among Kharif crops in 2026–27
- ❖ Sesamum (₹10346/quintal) – Highest MSP among oilseeds
- ❖ Cotton – Long Staple (₹8667/quintal) – Highest MSP among commercial crops

3. Thoothukudi Greenfield Shipyard:

Context: Landmark MoU Signed for India's First Mega Greenfield Shipyard at Thoothukudi. A tripartite MoU was signed on 20 April 2026 between HD KSOE (South Korea), NSHIP-TN (Tamil Nadu SPV), and Sagarmala Finance Corporation (MoPSW). The agreement aims to develop India's first Mega Greenfield Shipyard at Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.

About Thoothukudi Greenfield Shipyard:

- ❖ A \$4 billion (≈ ₹33,000+ crore) greenfield mega shipyard is being planned at Thoothukudi (Tuticorin), Tamil Nadu, by South Korea's HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering (HD KSOE / HD Hyundai group).
- ❖ It is being developed through collaboration between HD KSOE, NSHIP-TN (Tamil Nadu SPV), and Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd under MoPSW, via a tripartite MoU signed on 20 April 2026.
- ❖ The project is India's first foreign-led greenfield shipyard, marking a major shift in global participation in Indian shipbuilding.
- ❖ Planned capacity is around 3.5–4 million Gross Tonnage (GT) per year, making it one of the largest shipbuilding hubs in Asia.
- ❖ The shipyard is designed as part of a shipbuilding cluster model under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, aligning with India's goal of becoming a top global shipbuilding nation.
- ❖ It will integrate a full shipbuilding ecosystem including fabrication, vessel construction, offshore engineering, and supporting vendor industries.

4. *MuleHunter.AI*

Context: Mule accounts, frequently used to launder money and facilitate cybercrime, have consistently posed difficulties for traditional detection approaches.

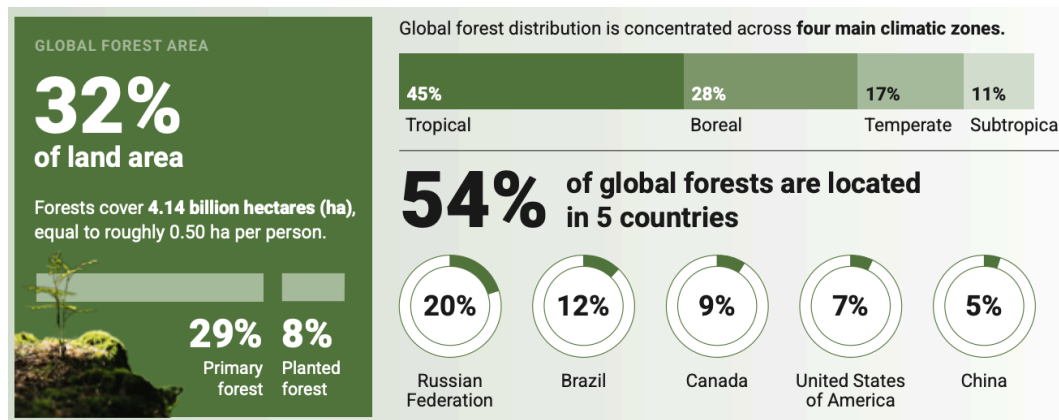
More about MuleHunter.AI:

- ❖ Launched in December 2024 by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), MuleHunter.AI is an advanced AI-powered tool designed to identify and mitigate "mule" bank accounts used in cybercrimes.
- ❖ Unlike traditional rule-based systems, it uses AI/ML-powered tool to analyze transaction patterns in real-time, detecting anomalies that indicate money laundering or illegal betting.
- ❖ Successful pilot tests with large public sector banks have shown encouraging results, leading the RBI to encourage wider adoption across the banking ecosystem to strengthen national financial security.

5. *Global Forest Goals (GFG) Report 2026:*

Context: The report is prepared by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat.

Major highlights of the report:



REGION	FOREST AREA (1 000 HA)			ANNUAL NET CHANGE (%)	2015–2025 NET CHANGE (%)
	2015	2025	1 000 HA/YEAR		
Africa	692 237	662 630	–2 961	–0.44	–4.28
Asia	613 786	630 029	1 624	0.26	2.65
Europe	1 024 558	1 038 911	1 435	0.14	1.40
North and Central America	778 758	776 162	–260	–0.03	–0.33
Oceania	182 499	183 898	140	0.08	0.77
South America	889 598	848 587	–4 101	–0.47	–4.61
WORLD	4 181 435	4 140 217	–4 122	–0.10	–0.99

- ❖ Global forest cover declined from 4.18 billion ha (2015) to 4.14 billion ha (2025), with an average annual loss of 4.12 million ha.
- ❖ The world lost nearly 16 million ha of primary forests (2015–2025), with South America witnessing the highest decline.
- ❖ Agricultural expansion remained the largest global driver of deforestation.
- ❖ Rising demand for fuelwood and charcoal, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia, significantly contributed to forest degradation.
- ❖ Climate change impacts such as droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, pests, and diseases are intensifying forest loss.
- ❖ Although 91 countries pledged to restore 190 million ha of forests, only 44 million ha have been restored by 2025.
- ❖ Asia led forest restoration efforts, achieving over 31 million ha (42.2% of pledged target).

6. ***Kallakkadal:***

Context: The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), headquartered in Hyderabad, has installed a second Coastal Flood Monitoring System (CFMS) near the Kollam harbour in Kerala to enhance the accuracy of Kallakkadal (swell surge) forecasts along India's southwest coast. The first observational evidence of such waves in Indian waters was recorded during the initial deployment of the CFMS at Vizhinjam.

About Kallakkadal:

- ❖ Kallakkadal is essentially coastal flooding during the pre-monsoon (April-May) season by swell waves on the southwest coast of India.
- ❖ The term Kallakkadal, used by local fishermen, is a combination of two Malayalam words, including Kallan and Kadal.
- ❖ “Kallan means thief and Kadal means sea.
- ❖ Ocean swells occur not due to the local winds, but rather due to distant storms like hurricanes, or even long periods of fierce gale winds.
- ❖ During such storms, huge energy transfer takes place from the air into the water, leading to the formation of very high waves.
- ❖ Such waves can travel thousands of kilometres from the storm centre until they strike shore.
- ❖ Usually, Kallakkadal is a consequence of the strong winds in the southern part of the Indian Ocean, where an ocean swell is generated, and the waves then travel north to reach the coast in two or three days.
- ❖ Kallakkadal occurs without precursors or any kind of local wind activity and as a result, it has been very difficult for the coastal population to get an advance warning.

7. ***Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS):***

Context: The Endocrine Society, a global organisation of scientists and physicians devoted to hormone-related conditions, has decided to rename Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) as Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS).

About Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS):

- ❖ Polycystic Ovary Syndrome is a common hormonal disorder affecting women of reproductive age.
- ❖ Women with PCOS may experience irregular ovulation, high androgen levels, and multiple small ovarian cysts.
- ❖ Common symptoms include irregular periods, excess hair growth, acne, infertility, and weight gain.
- ❖ Major causes include genetic predisposition, obesity, diabetes risk, unhealthy lifestyle, and stress.
- ❖ PCOS can be managed through lifestyle modifications, medications, and fertility treatments.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth will inaugurate the third edition of Kalam & Kavach at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi on May 14, 2026. The conference will serve as a premier strategic platform bringing together senior policy makers, military leadership, defence industry stakeholders, diplomats, innovators, start-ups, academia & strategic experts to deliberate on India's evolving defence transformation, indigenous capability development, and future warfighting preparedness.
- ☐ Enterprise AI refers to the integration of Artificial Intelligence technologies such as machine learning, Natural Language Processing (NLP) and computer vision into large organizations to improve efficiency and decision-making.
- ☐ Global Report on Internal Displacement 2026 Released by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).
- ☐ Maize has become India's single-largest feedstock for ethanol production as of 12 May 2026, with maize-based ethanol reaching 182 crore litres in the first half.
- ☐ India approved the Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)–Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Line project on 13 May 2026. The project is estimated at about ₹20,667 crore and will add around 134 km of railway line in Gujarat. It is planned as India's first semi high-speed rail project developed with indigenous technology.
- ☐ The Centre has doubled the effective tax paid on the import of gold and silver to a total of 18.4% from the previous 9.2%. The changes, which came into effect on Wednesday, were made through two separate notifications.

Tax	Earlier	Now
Basic customs duty	5%	10%
Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess	1%	5%
Integrated Goods and Services Tax*	3%	3%
Total	~9.2%	~18.4%

- ☐ Visakhapatnam Port has retained its position as the leader in India's marine exports, handling a record share of the country's 19.32 lakh metric tonnes of seafood shipments in the 2025-26 financial year.

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