



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 05, 2026

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Global Report Flags India Among Top Methane Emitters from Coal Mines in 2025

- According to the Global Methane Tracker 2026 by the International Energy Agency, India is among the world's largest emitters of methane from coal mines, releasing about **2.2 million tonnes in 2025** – an increase from previous years.
- The report highlights a significant gap between actual and reported emissions submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, raising concerns about underreporting and the need for better monitoring and transparency.
- Methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas, responsible for a substantial share of global warming, making its reduction crucial for near-term climate action.
- While India has not joined the Global Methane Pledge, the report notes that up to 70% of emissions can be reduced using existing, cost-effective technologies, offering both environmental and economic benefits.

#### From Rodents to Cruise Cabins How Hanta Virus Is Spreading Concern

- Health experts are raising concerns about Hantavirus after recent cases linked to cruise ship travel, highlighting risks in enclosed environments where tracing exposure is difficult.

- Hantavirus spreads mainly through contact with infected rodent urine, droppings, or saliva, and can also become airborne in contaminated dust – especially in poorly ventilated spaces. Unlike COVID-19, it rarely spreads from person to person.
- Early symptoms include fever, fatigue, and muscle aches, but severe cases can develop into Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS), causing serious lung complications and breathing failure within days.
- Though rare, the disease can be deadly without early care. Experts are urging better sanitation, pest control, and prompt medical attention to reduce risks, particularly in high-density environments like cruise ships.

### **Global Press Freedom Hits Record Low in World Press Freedom Index 2026 Report**

- According to the World Press Freedom Index 2026 by Reporters Without Borders, India ranks 157th out of 180 countries, reflecting a continued decline in press freedom.
- The index evaluates nations on political, legal, economic, social, and safety indicators, and notes that global press freedom has reached its lowest level in 25 years, with over half the countries falling into “difficult” or “very serious” categories.
- Top-performing countries include Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, while the worst performers include Eritrea, North Korea, and China, where media faces severe restrictions.
- The report highlights concerns in India such as weakening legal protections and the “criminalisation of journalism,” alongside a broader global trend of increasing pressure on independent media.

### **India Strengthens Global Health Diplomacy: 10 BHISHM Cube Mobile Hospitals Gifted to Jamaica**

- India has strengthened its global health diplomacy by gifting 10 BHISHM Cube units to Jamaica, aiming to support emergency healthcare and disaster response capabilities.
- The initiative reflects India’s commitment to humanitarian assistance under the framework of the Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri, which promotes rapid medical support for partner countries.

- The BHISHM Cube is a modular, portable mobile hospital system designed for quick deployment in crisis situations, offering triage, emergency care, and short-term treatment in areas where healthcare infrastructure is damaged or unavailable.
- This move further strengthens India-Jamaica relations and highlights India's expanding role in global humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts worldwide.

## **ECONOMY**

### **India's Net Direct Tax Collections Rise 5.12% to ₹23.40 Trillion in FY26**

- India's net direct tax collections grew by 5.12% to about ₹23.40 trillion in FY26, according to data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes, reflecting steady but moderate revenue growth.
- Despite this increase from ₹22.26 trillion in FY25, collections fell short of the revised estimate of ₹24.21 trillion, indicating a gap between projections and actual performance during the year.
- Corporate tax contributed around ₹10.99 lakh crore, while personal income tax (including STT) led with about ₹12.41 trillion, highlighting stronger individual compliance and income growth.
- Gross collections stood at ₹28.12 lakh crore with slightly lower refunds, suggesting improved tax efficiency, even as challenges remain in meeting ambitious revenue targets.

## **DEFENSE**

### **Indian Navy Submarine INS Sindhukesari Docks at Port of Colombo for Operational Turnaround**

- The INS Sindhukesari arrived at the Port of Colombo for an Operational Turnaround, reinforcing maritime cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.

- This routine stop allows for maintenance, logistics support, and crew rest, while also enhancing interoperability and trust between the Indian Navy and Sri Lanka Navy.
- During the visit, crew members will engage in professional exchanges, cultural programmes, and local visits, strengthening both military and people-to-people ties.
- The visit highlights growing defence collaboration in the Indian Ocean region, supporting maritime security, joint preparedness, and stability amid evolving regional challenges.

