

13/05/2026 Daily Current News

1. National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026:

Context: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2026 to the nursing personnel, on the occasion of International Nurses Day, at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (May 12, 2026).

NAMES & CITATIONS OF NATIONAL AWARDEES 2026

S.No.	Category	State / Union Territory	Name
1	ANM	Ladakh (Union Territory)	Ms Kulwinder Parhi
2	ANM	Maharashtra	Ms Ujwala Mahadev Soyam
3	ANM	Mizoram	Ms Lalenthangi Hnamte
4	ANM	Sikkim	Ms Madhu Mala Gurung
5	ANM	Uttarakhand	Ms Pooja Parmar Rana
6	ANM	West Bengal	Ms Gita Karmakar
7	Nurse	Chandigarh (Union Territory)	Ms Poonam Verma
8	Nurse	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (UTs)	Ms Deepa Biju
9	Nurse	Delhi	Dr Sharwan Kumar Dhaka
10	Nurse	Goa	Ms Raksha Rupo Parvatkar
11	Nurse	Karnataka	Ms Kavitha Jagannath
12	Nurse	Keralam	Ms Manju Mol V S
13	Nurse	Lakshadweep (Union Territory)	Ms Aysha Beebi K
14	Nurse	Tamil Nadu	Prof (Dr) R Shankar Shanmugam
15	Nurse	IHQ of MoD (Army), Delhi	Major Gen Lissamma P V

About National Florence Nightingale Awards:

- ❖ National Florence Nightingale Awards were instituted in 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ The awards honour outstanding nursing personnel serving in Central and State Governments, Union Territories, and voluntary organizations.
- ❖ They recognize meritorious contributions in clinical care, public health, nursing education, and administration.
- ❖ The awards are presented in three categories: Registered Nurses and Midwives (RN & RM), Registered Auxiliary Nurses and Midwives (RANM), and Registered Lady Visitors.
- ❖ Eligible nominees include nurses working in hospitals, community healthcare, educational institutions, and administrative services.
- ❖ Each award includes a Certificate of Merit, a medal, and a cash prize of ₹1,00,000.
- ❖ Florence Nightingale was an English social reformer, statistician, and pioneer of modern nursing.
- ❖ She gained prominence during the Crimean War for improving healthcare and hygiene for wounded soldiers.
- ❖ Florence Nightingale significantly reduced mortality rates through better sanitation and nursing practices.

- ❖ She established the Nightingale School of Nursing at St Thomas' Hospital, laying the foundation for modern nursing education.

2. Kimberley Process (KP) Intersessional Meeting 2026:

Context: The Kimberley Process (KP) Intersessional Meeting 2026 commenced in Mumbai under India's Chair. The meeting, being held from May 11 to May 14, 2026, has brought together representatives from Kimberley Process Participants, Observers and industry stakeholders from across the world to deliberate on key issues related to the global trade in natural diamonds.

What is the Kimberley Process (KP)?

- ❖ The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), established pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/56 (2000), is an international initiative aimed at preventing the flow of conflict diamonds into the legitimate diamond trade.
- ❖ At present, the Kimberley Process has 60 Participants representing 86 countries, with the European Union and its Member States participating as a single bloc.
- ❖ Kimberley Process is not a formal international organisation or legally binding treaty.
- ❖ It functions through burden-sharing contributions from participating countries with support from industry and civil society groups.
- ❖ The Kimberley Process has no permanent office or staff.
- ❖ Its rules are implemented through domestic laws rather than international legal obligations.
- ❖ The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme was launched in 2003 to regulate trade in rough diamonds.
- ❖ KPCS establishes minimum requirements that all participating members must follow.
- ❖ Every international shipment of rough diamonds must carry a tamper-resistant Kimberley Process certificate.
- ❖ Trade in rough diamonds is permitted only between certified Kimberley Process participant countries.
- ❖ Participating countries must share accurate and timely data on diamond production and trade for transparency.
- ❖ India is one of the founding members of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

3. Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP):

Context: The Government of India, in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), today launched a new eight-year Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) for the period 2026–2033, aimed at enhancing rural incomes, strengthening resilience, and scaling sustainable livelihood opportunities across the country.

About Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP):

- ❖ The newly launched strategy focuses on strengthening grassroots institutions such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), and cooperatives.

- ❖ These institutions act as platforms linking finance, technology, infrastructure, and markets for rural communities.
- ❖ International Fund for Agricultural Development supported programmes in India have significantly improved women's financial inclusion through SHGs.
- ❖ IFAD-backed initiatives have enhanced farmers' market access through infrastructure development.
- ❖ The programmes also promoted women-led enterprises through value addition and e-commerce integration.
- ❖ The Country Strategic Opportunities Programme aims to establish India as a global knowledge leader in rural development.
- ❖ COSOP promotes sharing of India's successful rural development models with countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America.
- ❖ Key areas of knowledge sharing include inclusive rural finance, cooperative governance, digital agriculture services, and climate-resilient value chains.

4. Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme:

Context: The Union Ministry of Education has issued a fresh reminder regarding the pending implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme to West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu after Assembly elections concluded in the three States.

About Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme:

- ❖ It is a Centrally Sponsored scheme announced in 2022.
- ❖ It aims to develop more than 14500 schools across the country by strengthening selected existing schools being managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies.
- ❖ The duration of the scheme is from 2022-23 to 2026-27.
- ❖ After which it shall be the responsibility of the States/UTs to continue to maintain the benchmarks achieved by these schools.
- ❖ Showcasing all components of the National Education Policy 2020.
- ❖ The Schools will be developed as Green Schools, incorporating environment-friendly aspects.
- ❖ The pedagogy adopted in these schools will be more experiential, holistic, integrated, play/toy-based.
- ❖ The focus will be on the learning outcomes of every child in every grade.
- ❖ Assessment at all levels will be based on conceptual understanding and application of knowledge.
- ❖ Linkage with Sector Skill Councils and local industry.
- ❖ A School Quality Assessment Framework (SQUAF) is being developed.

5. National Testing Agency (NTA):

Context: NTA cancelling NEET exam was subjected to wide criticism about the paper leakage.

About National Testing Agency (NTA):

- ❖ National Testing Agency (NTA): National Testing Agency is an autonomous and self-sustained organisation established to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions in India.
- ❖ Establishment: NTA was established as a Society under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ❖ Purpose: It conducts transparent, efficient, and standardized entrance examinations for admissions into higher educational institutions.
- ❖ Chairperson: NTA is chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- ❖ CEO: The Chief Executive Officer serves as the Director-General appointed by the Government of India.
- ❖ Board of Governors: NTA has a Board of Governors comprising representatives from user institutions.
- ❖ Infrastructure Role: NTA identifies partner institutions with adequate infrastructure for conducting online examinations smoothly.
- ❖ Question Bank Development: It develops modern and technology-driven question banks for various subjects.
- ❖ Research & Development: NTA promotes a strong research and development culture in testing and assessment methods.
- ❖ Expert Pool: It creates a pool of experts in different areas of examination and testing systems.
- ❖ International Collaboration: NTA collaborates with international organisations such as Educational Testing Service (ETS).
- ❖ Additional Role: It conducts examinations entrusted by Ministries and Departments of the Central and State Governments.

6. *Mayon volcano:*

Context: Thousands evacuated in Philippines as Mayon Volcano erupts.

About Mayon volcano:

- ❖ Also known as Mount Mayon and Mayon Volcano, is an active stratovolcano in the province of Albay in Bicol, Philippines. A popular tourist destination, it is renowned for its "perfect cone" owing to its symmetric conical shape, and is regarded as sacred in Philippine mythology.
- ❖ Mayon Volcano Natural Park: Mayon Volcano Natural Park was reclassified and renamed as a natural park in 2000.
- ❖ UNESCO Recognition: The park became the centerpiece of the UNESCO-declared Albay Biosphere Reserve in 2016.
- ❖ World Heritage Nomination: Mayon Volcano Natural Park is currently being nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ❖ Most Active Volcano: Mayon Volcano is the most active volcano in the Philippines.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance held an event chaired by Secretary, DFS to launch the domestic insurance pool, namely 'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool' (BMIP) of USD 1.5 billion today, with a sovereign guarantee of USD 1.4 billion/₹12,980 crores to facilitate continuous maritime insurance coverages. The pool covers all maritime risks such as Hull and Machinery, Cargo, P&I and War risk for Indian flagged or controlled vessels or vessels destined to or starting from India, in the context of the current Middle East tensions.
- ☐ The National Jute Board, headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal, is a statutory body under the Ministry of Textiles and governed by the National Jute Board Act, 2008. It is responsible for promoting the jute sector in India through research and human resource development, focusing on finding new and innovative applications of jute, and enhancing the global market share of Indian jute products in the world economy.
- ☐ A recent study found that the world's first approved malaria vaccine, RTS,S/AS01E malaria vaccine, reduced overall child mortality by 13% in parts of Africa. Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites and is transmitted to humans primarily through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquito. The disease does not spread from person to person, as its transmission depends on mosquito vectors rather than direct human contact.
- ☐ The Government of India notified a 1% cess on the total cost of construction incurred by employers for building and other construction works under the Code on Social Security, 2020. The notification was issued under Section 100(1) of the Code on Social Security, 2020, and it replaced a notification dated 26 September 1996. Under the new labour codes, individuals building houses costing less than ₹50 lakh are exempt from paying the building cess from 21 November 2025. Earlier, the threshold was ₹10 lakh or properties above 100 square metres.
- ☐ The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) will “probably” be implemented on June 1, 2026, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday, following a meeting with the negotiating team from Oman. He added that the India-Chile Free Trade Agreement negotiations have hit some hurdles due to the difference in the sizes of the economies involved.

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