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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC

14th May 2026

TOPICS:-

- 1. Indian Ocean Dialogue**
- 2. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**
- 3. National Florence Nightingale Award**
- 4. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)**
- 5. National Technology Day**
- 6. India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**
- 7. N. Rangasamy Sworn in as Puducherry Chief Minister**
- 8. Other Important News of the day**
- 9. UP SPECIFIC NEWS**

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636, Mukherjee Nagar
New Delhi-110009

PRAYAGRAJ CENTRE:
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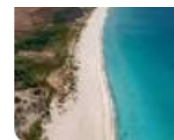
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INDIAN OCEAN DIALOGUE

India hosts 10th edition of Indian Ocean Dialogue

It is a flagship initiative of the Indian Ocean Rim Association. ministry of external affairs.

IORA. diplomacy. Indian Ocean.



Why in News

- The **10th Indian Ocean Dialogue** was organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs** along with the **IORA Secretariat**.

Institutional Framework

- **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** was established in **1997** as an intergovernmental organisation.
- It was earlier known as **Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)**.
- The organisation aims to promote balanced regional development and economic cooperation.
- The apex body of IORA is the **Council of Foreign Ministers (COM)**, which meets annually.
- Its secretariat is located at **Ebène, Mauritius**.



Membership and Geographical Reach

- IORA currently comprises **23 member states** and **12 dialogue partners**.
- Members are drawn from **Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Oceania, West Asia, and Europe**.
- **France** is the only European member of IORA.
- Dialogue partners include countries such as **China, Japan, Russia, the US, UK, Germany, and Saudi Arabia**.

Strategic and Maritime Relevance

- IORA focuses on **Maritime Safety and Security** in the Indian Ocean Region.
- It promotes cooperation in **Blue Economy**, fisheries management, and disaster risk management.
- The grouping supports trade liberalisation and smoother investment flows within the region.
- The Indian Ocean remains strategically important due to major global shipping routes and energy trade.

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

 PIB

[Government of India and IFAD launch new eight-year strategy with Country Strategic Opportunities Programme \(COSOP\) from 2026 to 2033 to strengthen rural economy](#)



Government of India and IFAD launch new eight-year strategy with Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) from 2026 to 2033 to...

WHY IN NEWS

- India and the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** launched a new **Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) 2026–2033**.

Institutional Profile

- IFAD is a specialised agency of the **United Nations** and an international financial institution.
- It was established in **1977** through a **UN General Assembly Resolution**.
- Its headquarters are located in **Rome, Italy**.
- India is a founding member among IFAD's present **180 member states**.

Developmental Mandate

- IFAD exclusively focuses on transforming agriculture and rural economies in developing countries.
- The organisation aims to eradicate rural poverty and hunger.
- It **supports food security, nutrition improvement, and livelihood generation for rural populations**.
- IFAD projects are implemented in environmentally fragile and remote regions.

Governance and Funding

- The **Governing Council** is the highest decision-making body of IFAD.
- IFAD provides both global/regional grants and country-specific grants.
- Its grants support innovation, institutional reforms, and pro-poor technologies.

COSOP 2026–2033

- The **programme seeks to improve rural incomes and climate resilience** in India.
- It emphasises strengthening knowledge systems for scaling successful development models.
- The initiative aligns with sustainable agriculture and Global South cooperation priorities.

NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AWARD

PIB

PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTS NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AWARDS 2026

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2026 to the nursing personnel,...



Why in News

- The President of India recently conferred the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026**.

Institutional Background

- The award was instituted in **1973** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- It recognises exceptional services by nursing professionals across India.
- Eligible recipients include **Registered Nurses, Midwives, ANMs, and Lady Health Visitors**.

Award Components

- Each award carries a **Certificate of Merit**, a medal, and a cash prize of **₹1 lakh**.
- The award honours dedication, compassion, and resilience in the nursing profession.

Historical Significance

- **Florence Nightingale** is regarded as the founder of modern nursing.
- She gained prominence during the **Crimean War** through organised medical care for soldiers.
- She established the **Nightingale School of Nursing** at **St. Thomas' Hospital, London**.
- The awards are announced annually on **International Nurses Day (12 May)**.

NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (NSAP)

The Indian Express

Centre's old age pension at Rs 200 since 2012 'significantly eroded' due to inflation: Rural Development Ministry study

With the Centre's contribution to monthly old age pensions unchanged at Rs 200–500 per beneficiary since 2012 under the National Social...



Why in News

- Recent assessments have highlighted the declining real value of pensions provided under the **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** due to inflation.

Governance and Welfare Dimensions

- NSAP is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** launched in **1995**.
- It provides social assistance to vulnerable groups living below the poverty line.
- The programme is implemented by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- NSAP reflects the welfare obligations under **Article 41** of the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**.

Major Pension Schemes

- **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)** provides pensions to elderly citizens above 60 years.
- **Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)** supports widows aged 40 years and above.
- **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)** covers persons with severe disabilities.
- Beneficiaries aged 80 years and above receive enhanced pension assistance.

Social Protection Components

- The **National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)** provides one-time assistance of **₹20,000** after the death of a primary breadwinner.
- The **Annapurna Scheme** provides **10 kg free food grains** monthly to eligible senior citizens not receiving pensions.
- NSAP acts as a crucial social security mechanism for economically vulnerable households.

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY

DH Deccan Herald

National Technology Day: Focus on responsible innovation for inclusive growth

Bengaluru: From banking, retail, life sciences to travel, technology plays a very important role across all sectors. Every year, National...



Why in News

- The Prime Minister recently extended greetings on **National Technology Day** celebrated on **11 May**.

Historical Background

- The day commemorates the successful **Pokhran-II nuclear tests** conducted in **1998**.

- India carried out three underground nuclear tests on **11 May 1998** and two additional tests on **13 May 1998**.
- The operation was code-named **Operation Shakti**.
- These tests established India as the world's sixth nuclear weapons-capable nation.

Scientific and Strategic Achievements

- The nuclear tests were led by **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**.
- India also successfully tested the **Trishul surface-to-air missile** on the same day.
- The indigenous aircraft **Hansa-3** was also test-flown successfully.
- The events demonstrated India's strategic and technological self-reliance.

Institutional Significance

- National Technology Day was officially declared by Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** in **1998**.
- Since 1999, it has been celebrated annually across India.
- The **Technology Development Board**, under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**, commemorates the day through national awards.
- The 2026 theme is **"Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth"**.

INDIA-OMAN COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (CEPA)

THE Hindu

India-Oman FTA on track for June 1 start even as deal with Chile hits hurdles, says Commerce Minister

The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) will "probably" be implemented on June 1, 2026, Commerce Minister Piyush...



Why in News

- India and Oman finalised the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**, effective from **1 June 2026**.

Key Trade Provisions

- CEPA was signed in **December 2025** and ratified by Oman through a **Royal Decree** in **February 2026**.
- India will receive duty-free access for **98% of its exports** to Oman.
- Major Indian exports covered include **textiles, leather goods, and agricultural products**.
- India will reduce tariffs on Omani imports such as **dates, marbles, and petrochemical products**.

Economic and Strategic Relevance

- Bilateral trade between India and Oman stood at about **US\$10.61 billion in FY2024–25**.
- Oman is strategically located near the **Strait of Hormuz**, a major global energy route.
- CEPA strengthens India's economic and maritime engagement in **West Asia** and the **Indian Ocean Region**.

N. RANGASAMY SWORN IN AS PUDUCHERRY CHIEF MINISTER

TH The Hindu

[N. Rangasamy takes oath as Puducherry Chief Minister for 5th time](#)

N. Rangasamy takes oath as Puducherry CM for the fifth time, joined by cabinet members from AINRC and BJP.



Why in News

- **N. Rangasamy** was sworn in as the Chief Minister of **Puducherry** for the fifth time on **13 May 2026**.

Constitutional and Governance Dimensions

- Puducherry is a **Union Territory with a Legislative Assembly**.
- Governance operates under the **Government of Union Territories Act, 1963**.
- The Chief Minister is appointed by the **Lieutenant Governor**.
- The oath of office was administered by Lieutenant Governor **K. Kailashnathan** at **Lok Nivas**.

Political Composition

- The government is led by the **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)**.
- NDA allies in Puducherry include **All India N.R. Congress, BJP, AIADMK, and Latchiya Jananayaga Katchi**.
- **A. Namassivayam** and **Malladi Krishna Rao** were sworn in as ministers.
- The six-member Council of Ministers will be expanded later.

Important Geographical Facts

- Puducherry consists of four regions: **Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe, and Yanam**.
- **Yanam** is located within present-day **Andhra Pradesh**.
- Malladi Krishna Rao, MLA from Yanam, took oath in **Telugu**.

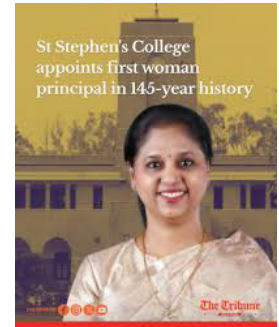
OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Person in News

ST STEPHEN'S COLLEGE APPOINTS FIRST FEMALE PRINCIPAL

Why in News

- St Stephen's College, Delhi appointed **Professor Susan Elias** as its first female principal on **12 May 2026**.



Institutional Background

- St Stephen's College was established in **1881**.
- It is a constituent college of the **University of Delhi**.
- Women students were admitted to the college from **1975**.
- Professor Susan Elias will assume office as the **14th principal on 1 June 2026**.

Administrative and Academic Relevance

- The principal heads academic administration, institutional governance, and faculty coordination.
- Professor Susan Elias succeeds **Professor John Varghese**.
- She previously served as **Pro Vice Chancellor (Research) at Chandigarh University Uttar Pradesh**.
- She has over three decades of experience in teaching, research, and university administration.

Emerging Technology Focus

- Professor Elias plans to introduce certification courses in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Quantum Computing**.
- The **University of Delhi** is a **Central University** established in **1922**.
- The appointment reflects growing gender representation in leadership positions in higher education institutions.

UP SPECIFIC NEWS

MEJA STAGE-II THERMAL POWER EXPANSION PROJECT

UP clears Rs 33,000 crore Meja thermal power expansion

The Uttar Pradesh government has approved Meja thermal power expansion project in Prayagraj involving an investment of around Rs 33000 crore.



Why In News:

- The Uttar Pradesh government approved the proposal for the ₹33,000 crore **Meja Stage-II Thermal Power Expansion Project in Prayagraj** district to strengthen the state's energy security and meet rising electricity demand.

UP Government Approves ₹33,000 Crore Thermal Power Expansion



Key Points

- **Project:** The Meja Stage-II project will add **2,400 MW** of thermal power generation capacity through three units of **800 MW each**.
- **Project Cost:** The expansion project involves an estimated investment of nearly **₹33,000 crore** over the **next five years**.
 - The thermal power expansion project will be developed in **Prayagraj district** of Uttar Pradesh.
- **Joint Venture:** The project is a 50:50 joint venture between NTPC Limited and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam (**UPRVUNL**).
- **Approval:** The proposal has been cleared by the State Energy Task Force and will be placed before the cabinet headed by Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** for final approval.
- **Existing Capacity:** The existing **Meja Stage-I** thermal power plant already operates two units of **660 MW each**.