

Daily Current Affairs

12 May 2026

International Day of Plant Health 2026

- Every year on 12 May, the world observes the International Day of Plant Health to spread awareness about protecting plants from pests, diseases, and environmental threats. The day is promoted by the **Food and Agriculture Organization** and supported by the **United Nations**.
- Plants are essential for human life. According to the FAO:
- Plants provide nearly 80% of the food humans consume.
- Plants produce around 98% of the oxygen we breathe.
- The theme for 2026 is:
- **“Plant Biosecurity for Food Security”**



Mental Health Awareness Week 2026

- The Mental Health Awareness Week 2026 is being observed from 11 May to 17 May this year. This week will be observed around the **theme of ‘Action’** and it

encourages people to move beyond the conversations and take practical steps to support mental wellbeing.

- The campaign promotes activities such as,
- Supporting the friends and family emotionally
- Spending time outdoors and in the green spaces
- Also participating in community activities
- Seeking help early when someone struggling mentally



Florence Nightingale Awards 2026

- Respectable President of India Shri. Droupadi Murmu has presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026 at Rashtrapati Bhavan on International Nurses Day.
- This ceremony recognized the outstanding nursing professionals from across the country for their dedication and commitment to the healthcare.
- This prestigious awards are instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to honor the excellence in nursing services.
- Awards are presented at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- It recognizes the service, compassion and resilience.
- It also includes a Certificate of Merit, ₹1 lakh cash prize and a medal.

- The ceremony also attended by Union Health Minister Shri. Jagat Prakash Nadda.
- Some of the notable awardees include,
- Kulwinder Parhi (Leh)
- Ujwala Mahadev Soyam (Maharashtra)
- Lalenthangi Hnamte (Mizoram)
- Madhu Mala Gurung (Sikkim)
- Gita Karmakar (West Bengal)
- Poonam Verma (Chandigarh)



Kartavya-KAAMS App for School Attendance

- The Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of Karnataka, introduced the Karnataka Advanced Attendance Management System (KAAMS), also called the Kartavya-KAAMS mobile application, through a circular dated 27 April 2026.

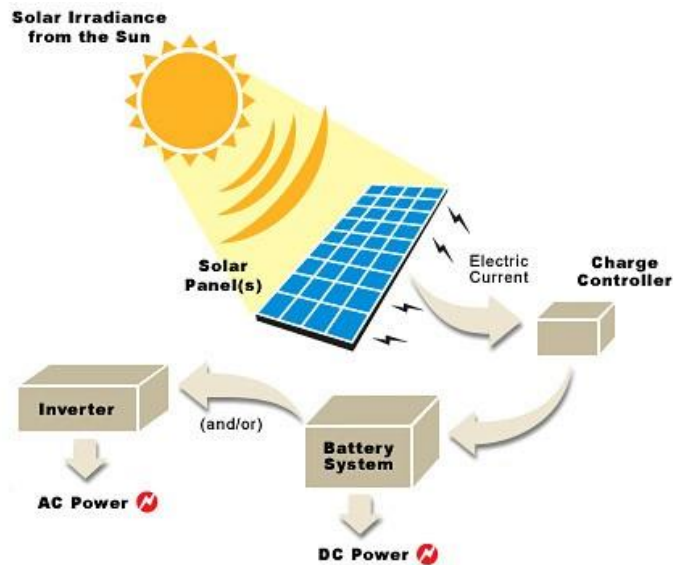
- The system is designed for attendance monitoring of permanent teachers, Head Masters, equivalent cadre officers, and non-teaching staff in government educational institutions and offices in Karnataka.
- The Kartavya-KAAMS application uses Artificial Intelligence, Facial Recognition, and Geo-Fencing for attendance verification. Employees must register with official credentials, verify the mobile number linked with the Human Resource Management System, complete face recognition authentication, and enable location permissions.
- The application requires users to mark attendance twice a day from their duty location. Staff members record “In Time” attendance within the authorised workplace and “**Out Time**” attendance before leaving the institution.
- The system applies from the academic year 2026-27 and replaces the earlier biometric attendance system from 1 May 2026 across government departments, boards, and corporations.



India Adds Record 44 GW Solar Capacity in 2025

- India added 44 GW of solar capacity in 2025, taking the total installed solar capacity to 150 GW. By March 2026, India’s installed solar power capacity had reached 150.2 GW AC, and the country ranked as the world’s third-largest producer of solar power.
- India’s solar capacity refers to the installed electricity generation capacity from photovoltaic and related solar systems measured in gigawatts. The 44 GW addition in 2025 placed India among the largest annual solar capacity expanders globally.
- The United States typically adds 30 GW to 40 GW of solar capacity in a year, while the European Union and China recorded higher annual additions.

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is the Union ministry responsible for renewable energy policy in India. The expansion in solar capacity is linked with the PM Surya Ghar scheme for rooftop solar, the PM-KUSUM scheme for solar pumps and decentralised solar, and the Production Linked Incentive scheme for domestic manufacturing of solar equipment.



India Activates 165-Lab Hantavirus Surveillance Network

- India has activated a nationwide Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory Network with 165 specialised laboratories for hantavirus surveillance. The network uses RT-PCR technology for confirmation of suspected cases and works with the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology for diagnostic support.
- Hantaviruses are RNA viruses in the family Hantaviridae. They are zoonotic viruses, and rodents are the main reservoirs for many hantavirus species. Human infection can occur through contact with rodent excreta, contaminated dust, or close contact in specific outbreak settings.
- The hantavirus linked to the MV Hondius incident is the Andes strain. This strain has documented limited human-to-human transmission through prolonged close contact. Several hantaviruses in Asia and Europe are associated with haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, which affects the kidneys.
- The Union Health Ministry has coordinated precautionary surveillance with the World Health Organization, the National Centre for Disease Control, and the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme. The Viral Research and Diagnostic

Laboratory Network provides laboratory coverage across India for detection of viral infections, including suspected hantavirus cases.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. International Day of Plant Health is observed every year on:

- A) 5 June
- B) 12 May
- C) 21 April
- D) 15 August

Answer: B) 12 May

2. The theme of International Day of Plant Health 2026 is:

- A) Green Earth for Future
- B) Sustainable Farming for All
- C) Plant Biosecurity for Food Security
- D) Healthy Plants Healthy Planet

Answer: C) Plant Biosecurity for Food Security

3. According to the FAO, plants provide nearly what percentage of the food humans consume?

- A) 50%
- B) 60%

- C) 70%
- D) 80%

Answer: D) 80%

4. Mental Health Awareness Week 2026 is being observed from:

- A) 1 May to 7 May
- B) 5 May to 11 May
- C) 11 May to 17 May
- D) 15 May to 21 May

Answer: C) 11 May to 17 May

5. The theme of Mental Health Awareness Week 2026 is:

- A) Care
- B) Awareness
- C) Wellness
- D) Action

Answer: D) Action

6. The National Florence Nightingale Awards are presented to recognize excellence in:

- A) Teaching services
- B) Nursing services
- C) Defence services
- D) Scientific research

Answer: B) Nursing services

7. The Kartavya-KAAMS application introduced by Karnataka uses:

- A) Blockchain technology only
- B) Satellite communication only
- C) Artificial Intelligence, Facial Recognition and Geo-Fencing
- D) Manual attendance system

Answer: C) Artificial Intelligence, Facial Recognition and Geo-Fencing

8. India's total installed solar power capacity reached approximately _____ by March 2026.

- A) 80 GW
- B) 100 GW
- C) 150 GW
- D) 200 GW

Answer: C) 150 GW

9. Hantaviruses mainly spread to humans through:

- A) Mosquito bites
- B) Contaminated water
- C) Rodent contact and contaminated dust
- D) Food poisoning

Answer: C) Rodent contact and contaminated dust

10. The nationwide hantavirus surveillance network in India consists of:

- A) 50 laboratories
- B) 100 laboratories
- C) 165 laboratories
- D) 250 laboratories

Answer: C) 165 laboratories