

Daily Current Affairs

16 May 2026

India and UAE Sign Key Strategic Agreements

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the United Arab Emirates and both nations announced several important agreements aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in energy, trade, infrastructure, and technology.
- One of the major outcomes was a strategic collaboration agreement between **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)**. The agreement may allow ADNOC to store up to 30 million barrels of crude oil in India's strategic petroleum reserves, including facilities in Visakhapatnam and future reserves planned in Odisha.
- The agreements are expected to improve India's energy security by ensuring stable crude oil supplies during global disruptions. The partnership also reflects growing trust between India and the UAE in strategic sectors.
- Apart from energy cooperation, both countries discussed expanding investments, strengthening digital and technological collaboration, and improving trade connectivity. The visit further reinforced the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership shared by India and the UAE.
- **Growing Global Role of India**
- These developments show India's increasing emphasis on becoming a global manufacturing and strategic power. While defence projects aim to strengthen military self-reliance, international partnerships like the UAE agreements help secure energy supplies and expand economic cooperation.
- Together, the announcements demonstrate how India is simultaneously focusing on domestic industrial growth and stronger international strategic partnerships to support long-term national development.



Sikkim Statehood Day 2026

- Sikkim celebrates the Statehood Day 2026 on 16th May every year since the formation of state in year 1975. This Himalayan state marks the 51 years of becoming the part of India.
- This day is just more than political anniversary and this occasion reflects the Sikkim's journey of democracy, cultural preservation, environmental leadership.
- Before becoming part of the India, Sikkim functioned as an independent Himalayan kingdom ruled by the Chogyal monarchy.
- The ruling Namgyal dynasty was established in the 17th century and shaped the Sikkim's historical identity.
- A historic referendum in the 1975 asked people whether the monarchy should continue and whether Sikkim should integrate with India.
- The majority of people voted in favor of joining India.
- Following this approach,
- The monarchy was abolished.
- The 36th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1975 was passed.
- And the State of Sikkim officially became India's 22nd state.



Sahdev Yadav Elected President of South Asian Weightlifting Federation

- Sahdev Yadav has been elected as the President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation (SAWF). His election to the chair marks the strengthening India's leadership in South Asia sports governance and is expected to boost cooperation.
- Sahdev Yadav who currently heads the Indian Weightlifting Federation was elected unopposed during the SAWF elections.



India Wins 27 Medals at Asian Boxing U15 Championships 2026

- India delivered the exceptional performance at the Asian Boxing U15 Championships 2026 and finished with the total of 27 medals. Out of 27 medals India have claimed the 9 Gold medal and this achievement reflects the emergence of young talent on international stage.
- The U-15 girls team was the standout performer in this tournament.
- Medal Tally (U-15 Girls)
 - Gold: 7
 - Silver: 2
 - Bronze: 5
 - Anzee (37kg) – Gold
 - Soniya (40kg) – Gold
 - Tanvi (43kg) – Gold
 - Hanshika Attri (46kg) – Gold
 - Sunaina (58kg) – Gold
 - Bhumika (61kg) – Gold
 - Angel (70kg) – Gold
- Medal Tally (U-15 Boys)
 - Gold: 2
 - Silver: 4
 - Bronze: 7
 - Gold Medal Winners
 - Yash Kumar (33kg)
 - Mohd Yasser (58kg)



India Concludes Kimberley Process Intersessional 2026

- India successfully concluded the Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026 in the Mumbai. This event was led by Union Minister Piyush Goyal and the event focused on enhancing transparency, governance and trust in the natural diamond sector.
- The Kimberley Process (KP) is the international initiative which was launched in 2000.
- **Purpose of KP**
- To prevent conflict diamonds from entering global markets.
- Also to promote ethical and responsible sourcing.
- And to ensure transparency in the diamond supply chain.
- India's chairship was guided by the theme of 3Cs.
- **Key Pillars**
- **Credibility:** Ensuring the authenticity of diamonds
- **Compliance:** Also adhering to global standards
- **Consumer Confidence:** Building global trust among buyers



Women Empowerment Boost

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched 'Project Saksham' and to encourage the inclusive development. This initiative aims to empower the rural women through skill development and employment opportunities.
- 'Project Saksham' is a skill development initiative which will be launched by NHAI in collaboration with Vertis Foundation.
- **Main Objectives**
 - It will provide the industry-relevant skills.
 - Also promote financial independence.
 - And create access to formal employment opportunities.
- **Major Achievements**
 - Created the 12 training centres across India.
 - Over 6,000 youth were trained.
 - More than 4,000 job placements
 - 80% beneficiaries are of this initiative are women.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Sikkim became the 22nd state of India in which year?**
A) 1962
B) 1971
C) 1975
D) 1980

Answer: C) 1975

2. **Which Constitutional Amendment officially made Sikkim a state of India?**
A) 42nd Amendment
B) 36th Amendment
C) 44th Amendment
D) 52nd Amendment

Answer: B) 36th Amendment

3. **Before joining India, Sikkim was ruled by which monarchy?**
A) Gupta Dynasty
B) Ahom Dynasty
C) Chogyal Monarchy
D) Pala Dynasty

Answer: C) Chogyal Monarchy

4. Who has been elected as the President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation (SAWF)?

- A) Mirabai Chanu
- B) Sahdev Yadav
- C) P.T. Usha
- D) Narinder Batra

Answer: B) Sahdev Yadav

5. India won a total of how many medals at the Asian Boxing U15 Championships 2026?

- A) 15
- B) 20
- C) 27
- D) 35

Answer: C) 27

6. How many gold medals were won by the Indian U-15 girls team in the Asian Boxing Championships 2026?

- A) 3
- B) 5
- C) 7
- D) 9

Answer: C) 7

7. The Kimberley Process was launched to prevent the trade of:

- A) Illegal gold
- B) Smuggled weapons
- C) Conflict diamonds
- D) Rare earth minerals

Answer: C) Conflict diamonds

8. **The Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026 was held in:**

- A) Delhi
- B) Jaipur
- C) Mumbai
- D) Surat

Answer: C) Mumbai

9. **'Project Saksham' has been launched by which organisation?**

- A) ISRO
- B) NHAI
- C) DRDO
- D) ONGC

Answer: B) NHAI

10. **Approximately what percentage of beneficiaries under Project Saksham are women?**

- A) 40%
- B) 55%
- C) 65%
- D) 80%

Answer: D) 80%