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Kimberley Process Intersessional 2026 at Mumbai: India Chairs Under the "3Cs" Theme

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WHY IN NEWS

India is hosting the **Kimberley Process (KP) Intersessional Meeting 2026** at the **Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai**, from **May 11 to May 14, 2026**. India has held the **KP Chairship since 2026 (specifically since January 1, 2026)** with the **United Arab Emirates as Vice-Chair** (and the next Chair in 2027). India's chairmanship theme is the **"3Cs" – Credibility, Compliance, Consumer Confidence**. Implementation in India is led by the **Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

WHAT IS THE KIMBERLEY PROCESS?

The Kimberley Process is a joint **Government + industry + civil-society** initiative to **prevent the trade in conflict (or "blood") diamonds** – rough diamonds used by rebel movements to finance war against legitimate Governments. It is named after **Kimberley, South Africa**, where the founding meeting was held in **May 2000**.

Key Milestones

YEAR	MILESTONE
2000	KP launched at Kimberley, South Africa
2001	UN General Assembly Resolution 55/56 endorsed the KP
2003	KP Certification Scheme (KPCS) entered into force (January 1, 2003)
2008	India chaired KP
2019	India chaired KP again
2026	India chairs again; UAE Vice-Chair

KPCS – THE CERTIFICATION SCHEME

The KPCS is the operational instrument. Every shipment of rough diamonds between Participants must be:

- Accompanied by a **forgery-resistant Kimberley Process Certificate**
- Sealed in a **tamper-proof container**
- Traded only between **KP Participants** – non-Participants are barred
- Reported via **annual statistics submissions**

Participants

- KP has **60 Participants** representing **86 countries** (because the European Union is counted as a single Participant for its 27 member states)
- Plus **two Observers**: World Diamond Council (industry) and the Kimberley Process Civil Society Coalition

Major Producers

- **Botswana, Russia, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Angola, Australia, Canada, Namibia, Zimbabwe**

INDIA'S POSITION IN THE GLOBAL DIAMOND TRADE

INDICATOR	INDIA'S SHARE
Diamond cutting and polishing (by volume)	~90 per cent
Diamond cutting and polishing (by value)	~70-75 per cent
Principal cutting hub	Surat (Gujarat) – ~80 per cent of polished output
Trading hub	Bharat Diamond Bourse, Mumbai (BKC) – among the world's largest
Gems & Jewellery exports (FY 2024-25)	~USD 32-35 billion
Share of India's merchandise exports	~8-9 per cent

India produces almost no rough diamonds domestically – Panna (Madhya Pradesh) is the lone working mine. The Indian industry **imports roughs and exports polished diamonds**.

INDIA'S "3CS" THEME

Credibility

- Strengthen the **auditing and traceability framework** of the KPCS
- Tighten controls on **alluvial production** zones (Central African Republic, DRC) where rough is most vulnerable to diversion
- Address concerns about **mixed parcels** containing undocumented stones

Compliance

- Synchronise KP data with national customs records
- Improve the **Working Group on Statistics, Monitoring and Diamond Experts** outputs
- Build capacity in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) jurisdictions

Consumer Confidence

- Enable end-buyer **certificate verification**
- Distinguish natural diamonds from **lab-grown diamonds (LGDs)** – a separate but related industry issue
- Build a positive narrative for natural diamonds as **conflict-free** and ethically traceable

INDIA'S ROLE AT MUMBAI 2026

Sessions

- **Working Group on Monitoring** – review country reports
- **Working Group on Statistics** – alignment of trade and production data
- **Diamond Experts Working Group** – technical compliance
- **Plenary session** – decisions for 2026 calendar

Bilateral Outreach

- India to engage African producers on **direct sourcing**
- Discussions on a possible **Africa-India Diamond Trade Corridor**

Industry Side

- GJEPC organises ancillary events for Indian exporters
- Bharat Diamond Bourse (BDB) showcases the **integrated Indian value-chain**

KP LIMITATIONS AND REFORM DEBATE

Limitations Often Cited

- Narrow scope: “Conflict diamond” is defined **only** as a rough diamond financing rebel movements – it does **not** cover State-sponsored violence, human-rights abuses, environmental damage, or laundering through neighbouring countries
- **Russia-Ukraine** dispute: Russian diamonds were not declared “conflict diamonds” within the KP definition; the **G7 ban on Russian diamonds (2024)** moved the issue outside KP
- Civil society pull-outs: The civil-society coalition has periodically withdrawn over reform-pace concerns

Reform Proposals

- Expand the definition to include human-rights and environmental dimensions
- Mandatory **electronic KP certificates** with QR-code verification
- Integration with the **G7 traceability protocols** for Russian-origin diamonds

India’s Chair year is expected to position itself as a **bridge** – preserving the KP framework while signalling openness to **incremental** reform.

GJEPC – INDIAN IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER

- **Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council**
- Set up in **1966** as an Export Promotion Council under the Ministry of Commerce
- Sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; not **statutory** but industry-Government umbrella
- Conducts **Indian rough diamond imports certification** under KPCS

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 2 – International Relations, International Institutions

- Inter-governmental commodity-trade architectures
- India’s leadership in plurilateral processes
- Role of industry-Government-civil society “triadic” arrangements

GS Paper 3 – Indian Economy

- Gems and Jewellery sector; exports
- Surat-Mumbai value chain

Mains Angles

- 1 Discuss the architecture of the Kimberley Process and the limitations cited by civil society. Is the “conflict diamond” definition fit for purpose?
- 2 India’s chairmanship of the KP in 2026 offers an opportunity to bridge industry and human-rights concerns. Examine.
- 3 Evaluate the rise of lab-grown diamonds and their implications for India’s natural-diamond cutting hubs.

Founded **2000** at Kimberley, South Africa; **KPCS in force since January 1, 2003.**

60 Participants representing **86 countries** (EU as one bloc); two Observers (industry – World Diamond Council; civil society – KP Civil Society Coalition).

Defined in **UN GA Resolution 55/56 (December 1, 2000)** as a rough diamond used by rebel movements to finance war against legitimate Governments.

2008, 2019, **2026.**

Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council; sponsored by Ministry of Commerce and Industry; set up in **1966.**

World’s largest diamond cutting and polishing hub; processes ~80 per cent of India’s polished diamond output.

Inaugurated November 2010 at Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai; the world’s largest diamond trading complex by floor area.

Botswana, Russia (Alrosa), DR Congo, South Africa (De Beers), Angola, Australia (Argyle – closed 2020), Canada (Diavik).

Effective March 2024 (1+ carat) and September 2024 (0.5+ carat); imposed via individual G7 customs codes; operates outside the KPCS framework.

Surat International Exhibition and Convention Centre (SIECC) – a flagship project.

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