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# Current Affairs Today -- May 16, 2026

16 May 2026

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CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

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# Current Affairs Today -- May 16, 2026

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## TOP STORIES – MAY 16, 2026

### 1. India Raises Petrol and Diesel Prices by Rs 3 – First Hike in Four Years

State-owned oil marketing companies (IOC, BPCL, HPCL) hiked petrol and diesel prices by **Rs 3 per litre** each effective May 15, 2026 – the first upward revision in over four years. Global crude crossed **\$110 per barrel** amid West Asia conflict and Strait of Hormuz disruptions. India imports approximately **87% of its crude oil requirements** and the OMCs were collectively losing ~Rs 1,000 crore per day at pre-hike prices.

**Key facts:** Delhi petrol post-hike: Rs 97.77/litre; diesel: Rs 90.67/litre. Last hike: 2022. Relevant to GS3 – energy security, inflation, fiscal policy.

### 2. Bhojshala-Kamal Maula: MP High Court Declares Site a Hindu Temple

The Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on May 15, 2026 declared the **Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex** in Dhar district a **Hindu temple dedicated to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati)**, quashing the 2003 ASI arrangement that allowed namaz on Fridays and Hindu puja on Tuesdays. The 242-page verdict relied on an ASI archaeological survey that found **1,700+ artefacts and 37 Hindu idols**. Muslim petitioners announced they will challenge the ruling in the Supreme Court.

**Key facts:** Bhojshala built by **Raja Bhoj of the Paramara dynasty** (11th century CE). The original Vagdevi murti is in the **British Museum, London**. Verdict raises questions about the **Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991**.

### 3. India's First Satellite-Tagged Ganges Softshell Turtle Released at Kaziranga

On **Endangered Species Day (May 15)**, the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** and Assam Forest Department released India's first **satellite-tagged Ganges Softshell Turtle** into the Brahmaputra River at Kaziranga, marking a conservation milestone. The project is funded by the **National Geographic Society** and led by Dr. Abhijit Das (WII). The satellite tag will track seasonal movement patterns and identify critical habitats.

**Key facts:** Scientific name: *Nilssonina gangetica*. IUCN status: **Endangered**. Listed under **Schedule I** of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and **Appendix I of CITES**. Five of India's eight softshell turtle species are found in Kaziranga.

## 4. Tripura First State to Complete All Phase I and II Deregulation Priority Areas

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Tripura became the **first state in India** to complete all **51 priority areas** under both Phase I and Phase II of the Cabinet Secretariat's **National Deregulation Initiative** (launched January 2026). Key reforms: White Category industries expanded from 41 to 130; 72 services and 14 inspections covered under the **SWAAGAT platform**; land-use categories reduced from 100+ to 10.

**Key facts:** Nodal body: **Cabinet Secretariat** (not DPIIT). Relevant to GS2 – governance reforms, ease of doing business, cooperative federalism.

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## 5. EU Includes India in Revised Draft List for Aquaculture Exports

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The European Union included India in its **revised draft list for aquaculture product exports** effective September 2026, under EC Delegated Regulation **(EU) 2023/905** (antimicrobial residue compliance). India had been excluded from an October 2024 EU draft list due to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) concerns. The EU is India's **third-largest seafood export market**, accounting for **18.94% of total export value** (USD 1.593 billion in 2025-26), with **41.45% year-on-year growth**.

**Key facts:** Apex body: **MPEDA** (Marine Products Export Development Authority) under Ministry of Commerce. Announced by PIB on May 14, 2026.

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## 6. Rathindra Bose Elected Speaker of West Bengal's 18th Legislative Assembly

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BJP MLA **Rathindra Bose** (Cooch Behar Dakshin) was elected **unopposed** as Speaker of the newly constituted **18th West Bengal Legislative Assembly** on May 15, 2026, becoming the **first Speaker from North Bengal** in the state's history. His name was proposed by CM Suvendu Adhikari; Pro tem Speaker Tapas Roy conducted the proceedings.

**Key facts:** Constitutional provision: **Article 178** (election of Speaker, State Legislature). Bose is a Chartered Accountant and first-time MLA with a winning margin of 23,284 votes.

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## 7. Census 2027 Phase I Under Way – India's First Digital Census

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India's **Census 2027** – the first digital census and the world's largest enumeration exercise – is in **Phase I (House Listing and Housing Census / HLO)**, running April–September 2026 in rolling 30-day state windows. For the first time, citizens can **self-enumerate digitally** via **se.census.gov.in** before the enumerator visits. **Phase II (Population Enumeration)** is scheduled for **February 2027**.

**Key facts:** Nodal authority: **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (ORGI)** under MHA. Legal basis: **Census Act, 1948** (Union List, Entry 69). Last census: 2011 (Census 2021 delayed due to COVID – 16-year gap by 2027).

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