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CURRENT AFFAIRS

October 2026

Every daily post of the month, in full · 26 days · 659 items

For NABARD Grade A · RBI Grade B · SEBI Grade A · IRDAI · SIDBI

Big themes · Misc GA 173 · Miscellaneous General Awareness 121 · Banking and Finance 102

Most mentioned · New Delhi · Indian Navy · Uttar Pradesh · SEBI · Tamil Nadu

8 OF THE TOP 10

Eight of the top 10 ranks in NABARD Grade A 2025 came from this classroom — 32 final selections in one batch. The same mentors compile this book every day.

Contents

Every daily post of October 2026 in full, day by day — 26 days, 659 items. Every line is linked; so is every bookmark in your PDF reader.

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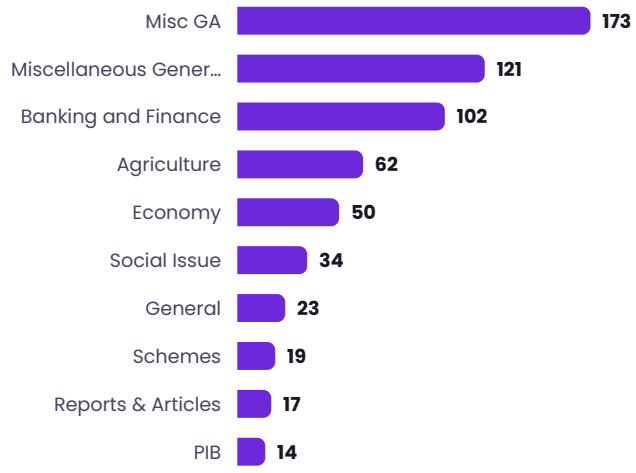
THE MONTH IN NUMBERS

October 2026 at a glance

26 daily compilations, 659 items across 21 topics — Misc GA weighed the most. Read the charts first: they tell you where this month's questions will come from.

26	659	21	46
daily compilations	items covered	topics	data tables

Items by topic



Items per day

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 28	2 17	3 25	4 15
5 15	6 25	7 24	8 22	9 17	10 16	11 15
12 15	13 35	14 29	15 25	16 33	17 26	18 12
19 12	20 16	21 16	22 40	23 20	24 21	25 15
26 15	27 26	28 23	29 19	30 20	31 24	

Darker = a heavier day. Two-day posts are split across their days.

Where the items sat

NABARD-specific 104 (16%) · RBI-specific 56 (8%) · Common to both 487 (74%) · Other exams 12 (2%)

Most mentioned this month

How many items each name appeared in. Know these cold.

New Delhi 44 · Indian Navy 23 · Uttar Pradesh 15 · SEBI 13 · Tamil Nadu 13 · UNESCO 12 · Madhya Pradesh 12 · RBI 11 · Indian Army 11 · South Korea 10 · News India 10 · WHO 9 · News The 9 · Defence Minister Rajnath Singh 9 · United States 9 · World Bank 8

FIGURES THE PAPER LOVES

October 2026 by the numbers

The month's biggest figures with the line they came from. Say each one with its scheme or report before you turn the page.

₹4,500 crore

Launched in April 2015 with an outlay of ₹4,500 crore

India's Rising Supercomputing Ecosystem · 7 October 2026

₹1.03 trillion

Launched in 2020-21; ₹1.03 trillion sanctioned for 2,28,428 projects; over ₹1.75 trillion mobilised

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) · 25 & 26 October 2026

₹5,000 crore

The PRIP Scheme was launched in 2023 with an outlay of ₹5,000 crore to strengthen pharmaceutical research and innovat…

New Discovery Track Under PRIP Scheme · 4 & 5 October 2026

₹2,817 crore

Digital Agriculture Mission was approved by the Cabinet in 2024, with an outlay of about ₹2,817 crore

Farmer IDs Created Under Digital Agriculture Mission · 25 & 26 October 2026

41%

The Ministry of Rural Development expanded permissible works under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeev…

VB–G RAM G Act: Permissible Rural Works Expanded to 375 · 8 October 2026

12 per cent

India Consumer Scam Report 2026, by GSMA; 12 per cent of Indians scammed in a year against 8 per cent in ASEAN-6

GSMA Report: 12% in India Scammed in a Year · 8 October 2026

4 per cent

The World Bank WDR 2026 found just over 4 per cent of Indian jobs face immediate automation risk, against over one-th…

IMF Report on AI and Employment in Asia 2026 · 20 & 21 October 2026

₹1,856.67 crore

The Union Cabinet approved the scheme with an outlay of ₹1,856.67 crore for 2026–27 to 2033–34 to strengthen India's …

Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme · 30 October 2026

53.8 per cent

OPHI MPI: 53.8 per cent (2005-06) → 16.4 per cent (2019-21); World Bank MPI 15.5 per cent (2022-23)

World Bank Poverty and Equity Brief 2026 · 30 October 2026

₹7,395.55 crore

In October 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY), a Centrally Spons…

Union Cabinet Approves Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana · 31 October 2026

READ IT THE WAY TOPPERS DO

How to use this book

One day a sitting. Read the day, then close the book and say the **Five to remember** out loud before you look. That single habit is the difference between reading current affairs and scoring from them.

1
Read the day
Every item, source and table. Underline the bold facts: they are the exam.

2
Say the five
Close the book. Recite the day's *Five to remember*. Only then check.

3
Take the quiz
Each day ends with its ten-question quiz. Note every wrong answer.

4
Come back
Tick the tracker. Recall the day again on day 3 and day 7, then use the revision sheet.

Your revision tracker

Tick as you go. Day 3 and day 7 recalls are what move a fact from short-term to exam-day memory.

DAY	READ	RECALL +3	RECALL +7	QUIZ	NOTES
1 October 2026 · 28 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
2 October 2026 · 17 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
3 October 2026 · 25 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
4 & 5 October 2026 · 30 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
6 October 2026 · 25 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
7 October 2026 · 24 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
8 October 2026 · 22 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
9 October 2026 · 17 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
10 October 2026 · 16 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
11 & 12 October 2026 · 30 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
13 October 2026 · 35 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
14 October 2026 · 29 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
15 October 2026 · 25 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
16 October 2026 · 33 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
17 October 2026 · 26 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
18 & 19 October 2026 · 23 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
20 & 21 October 2026 · 32 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
22 October 2026 · 40 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
23 October 2026 · 20 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
24 October 2026 · 21 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
25 & 26 October 2026 · 29 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
27 October 2026 · 26 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
28 October 2026 · 23 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	

DAY	READ	RECALL +3	RECALL +7	QUIZ	NOTES
29 October 2026 · 19 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
30 October 2026 · 20 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	
31 October 2026 · 24 items	☐	☐	☐	☐	

DAY 1 OF 26

1 October 2026

Thursday · 28 items · 6 topics

Agriculture **2** · Banking and Finance **4** · Reports & Articles **2** · Economy **6** · Social Issue **2** · Misc GA **12**

NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Southwest Monsoon 2026 Ends with 13% Rainfall Deficit

- The **2026 southwest monsoon** ended with rainfall at **87% of the Long Period Average (LPA)**.
- India received about **759.4 mm** of rainfall against the LPA of **868.6 mm**.
- The **13% deficit** was the largest in more than a decade, according to the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**.
- A strong **El Niño** in the Pacific was one of the factors associated with the deficient monsoon.

Annual Survey of Industries 2024–25

- The **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2024–25**, released by MoSPI, reported **2.7 lakh factories** and **1.67 crore workers**.
- The average wage per factory worker increased **5.3% to ₹2.28 lakh**.
- **Jharkhand** recorded a **5.2% fall** in average wages, although its average wage of **₹3.04 lakh** remained above the national average.
- **Bihar** recorded a **16.7% increase** in average wages to **₹1.63 lakh**.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

SEBI Approves Reforms for Portfolio Management Services

- **SEBI** approved changes to the **Portfolio Management Services (PMS)** regulatory framework.
- PMS providers will be allowed to invest client funds in **direct mutual fund schemes and Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs)** under the proposed framework.
- PMS can also invest up to **10% of client AUM in investment-grade unlisted debt**, subject to conditions and client consent.
- SEBI also approved changes to **settlement proceedings**, including formula-based settlement amounts and a fast-track mechanism for certain violations.

India's Net FDI Rises to Five-Year High

- India's **net FDI** increased to **US$7.35 billion in July 2026**, the highest since May 2021.
- Gross FDI inflows stood at **US$14.58 billion** during July.
- Major sectors receiving equity inflows included **communication, financial services and computer services**.

- During **April–July 2026**, net FDI reached **US$13.4 billion**, compared with US$9.7 billion a year earlier.

India's First Blue Bond by SMFCL

- **Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd. (SMFCL)** launched India's first **blue bond**.
- It aims to raise **₹600 crore**, with a **₹500 crore green-shoe option**.
- The 10-year bond will support **maritime lending, greenfield ports and coastal road projects**.
- **Blue bonds** are debt instruments used to finance projects linked to **marine and water-related sustainability**.

IndusInd Bank Launches GCC Banking Vertical

- **IndusInd Bank** launched a dedicated **Global Capability Centre (GCC) Banking** vertical.
- It combines digital banking, employee banking, commercial cards, **FEMA/capital-account solutions** and foreign-currency banking.
- Its International Banking Unit at **GIFT City** will support cross-border banking requirements.
- India's GCC ecosystem has grown significantly, with **2,117 GCCs**.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Reports & Articles

1. Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR) 2026

Source: The Hindu

Context **SPIR 2026** was released, based on a **16-state survey of 8,306 citizens** — mapping **cybercrime exposure, vulnerability patterns** and **police redressal mechanisms**.

What It Is

- An empirical multi-state study of the **everyday interface between citizens and the police**
- Tracking the **lifecycle of cyber frauds** — from digital exposure and victimisation to **formal reporting and financial recovery**
- Published jointly by **Lokniti–CSDS** and **Common Cause**

Key Findings

- **Cybercrime increased sharply:** Cybercrime cases rose **17.9%**, from **86,420 in 2023 to 1,01,928 in 2024**, while overall registered crime fell by about **6%**.
- **High exposure to scams:**
  - **33%** received calls about unordered deliveries.
  - **31%** encountered high-return investment scams.
  - **27%** received calls from fake bank officials seeking account details.
- **More internet use, more exposure: 46%** of high internet users reported moderate-to-high scam exposure, compared with **19%** among non-internet users.
- **Cybercrime victims:** Around **13%** of respondents had directly experienced cybercrime in the previous 2–3 years. Among them, **54% faced financial fraud**, and **23% lost more than ₹20,000**.
- **Higher-income and educated groups also targeted:** Financial fraud affected **57% of affluent victims** compared with **47% of poor victims**. Among education groups, **59% of graduates** were targeted compared with **40% of non-literate citizens**.
- **Low police reporting:** Only **49%** of victims filed a formal police complaint, while **39% did not complain**

and **9% discontinued the process after the first visit**.

- **Bribery and recovery: 27%** of complainants reported paying a bribe. Among those who paid, **41% recovered their full loss**, compared with **12% among those who did not pay**. This is a survey finding showing an association, **not proof that bribery causes better recovery**.
- **Greater burden on poorer victims: 51% of poor victims** reported paying a bribe, compared with **12% of affluent victims**. **55% of poor victims** relied on informal influence networks to advance their cases.

Important Facts for Exams

- **Cybercrime:** Crime committed using computers, mobile phones, networks or the internet.
- **Social Engineering:** Manipulating people psychologically to obtain money, passwords or sensitive information.
- **Cyber Fraud:** Using digital technologies to deceive people and illegally obtain money or information.
- **CFCFRMS:** System designed to coordinate rapid action to **freeze funds lost through cyber financial fraud**.
- **I4C: Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre**, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, which coordinates India's cybercrime response.
- **CEIR: Central Equipment Identity Register**, used to track and block lost or stolen mobile phones.
- **ASTR:** Technology used to identify suspicious or fraudulent mobile connections.
- **Procedural Fatigue:** Discouragement or withdrawal caused by lengthy, complicated or repeated official procedures.

The Ageing World and India's Narrowing Window

Source: Business Standard

Context A new **global demographics report by Moody's Ratings** underscores a structural shift — **more than 70 per cent of the world's population** now lives in countries with fertility **at or below replacement rate**.

Key Highlights

- **Global ageing:** Over **70% of the world's population** lives in countries with fertility at or below replacement level. Global fertility fell from **4.9 (1950)** to about **2.2**.
- **India's ageing:** India entered the **"ageing" category** around 2024, with 65+ population crossing **7%**. It may become **"aged" (14%) by 2049** and **"super-aged" (21%) by 2065**.
- **Demographic dividend:** About **68% of Indians were aged 15–64 in 2025**, but the working-age share is expected to decline after **2030**.
- **Economic opportunity:** Demographic change contributed about **1.9 percentage points annually** to India's growth during **1981–2021**.
- **Women's employment:** Female labour-force participation is around **32%**. Raising it to **50%** could add about **1 percentage point annually to GDP growth**, according to the World Bank estimate cited.
- **Elderly population:** Indians aged **60+** are projected to rise from **153 million (2022) to 347 million (2050)**.
- **Policy challenge:** India needs more **jobs, skills and female employment** while preparing for higher demand for **pensions, healthcare, geriatric care and senior housing**.

Key Terms

- **Demographic Dividend:** Economic growth potential created when the working-age population becomes larger relative to dependants.
- **Replacement-Level Fertility:** Fertility rate needed to maintain a broadly stable population; generally around **2.1 children per woman**.

- **Working-Age Population:** Usually the population aged **15–64 years**.
- **Ageing Population:** A population in which the share of older people is increasing significantly.
- **Super-Aged Society:** A society where **21% or more** of the population is aged 65 or above.
- **Silver Economy:** Economic activities and markets related to the needs of older people.
- **Female Labour-Force Participation Rate (FLFPR):** Share of working-age women who are employed or actively seeking employment.

Economy

US State Department Report on India's Investment Climate

- A **US Department of State report** assessed India's investment environment and highlighted issues related to **foreign-investment restrictions and regulatory practices**.
- The report noted that India permits **100% FDI in many sectors**, while some sectors still require government approval.
- These include areas such as **multi-brand retail, private banking, pharmaceuticals, defence, media and satellites**.
- These are **claims and assessments of the US report**, rather than an independent conclusion.

CAFE-III Norms for Passenger Vehicles

- The government notified the **third phase of Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE-III) norms**.
- The norms will apply from **1 April 2027 to 31 March 2032**.
- They tighten fleet-level fuel-efficiency requirements and provide incentives for **EVs, hybrids, flex-fuel vehicles and other cleaner technologies**.
- Under the framework, a **battery electric vehicle counts as three vehicles** for the fleet-efficiency calculation.

Green Energy Corridor Phase III Approved

- The Union Cabinet approved **Green Energy Corridor Phase III** with an outlay of over **₹1.86 lakh crore**.
- It aims to integrate up to **135 GW of renewable energy** into the electricity grid by **FY2032–33**.
- Around **₹1.36 lakh crore** is allocated for intra-state transmission systems.
- A dedicated **₹50,000 crore** component will support **50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)**.

India Participates in ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' Meeting

- India participated in the **23rd ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultation** and the **14th East Asia Summit–Economic Ministers' Meeting** in Manila.
- Discussions covered **trade, investment, energy security, industrial clusters and regional economic cooperation**.
- India called for a balanced and trade-facilitative review of the **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)**.
- India-ASEAN trade reached **US$128.38 billion in 2025–26**.

HAL–SkyPulse ₹2,491 Crore Helicopter Programme

- **HAL and SkyPulse Solutions IFSC** signed an MoU for a proposed **₹2,491 crore helicopter programme**.
- The programme covers **30 HAL-manufactured helicopters**, with 10 planned during 2027–29 and 20

from 2030 onwards.
- Applications include **emergency medical services, disaster response, search and rescue, tourism and UDAN**.
- The programme also covers **leasing, financing, MRO, training and engineering support**.

India International Water Week 2026

- **India International Water Week 2026** was held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, from **22–26 September**.
- The theme was **"Climate Resilient Water Management."**
- Participants from around **150 countries** discussed sustainable and technology-driven water management.
- The event also promoted **South-South cooperation** and progress towards **SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation**.

Social Issue

Seva First Innovation Challenge 2026

- The **Seva First Innovation Challenge (SFIC)** was launched to encourage young people to develop solutions to **community problems**.
- It has three levels: **Junior, Technical and Open** for school students, ITI/polytechnic students, and higher-education/research participants.
- Key themes include **sustainable development, farmers, health, education and security**.
- The challenge is being organised by the **Ministry of Education, AICTE and UGC**, with IISc Bengaluru as a nodal institution.

ECI's Electoral Roll Management Systems

- **ECINET**, launched by the Election Commission in 2026, is a unified digital platform integrating more than **40 election-related portals and applications**.
- It provides services relating to **electoral rolls, candidates, political parties and polling information**.
- The issue concerns the balance between **centralised software systems and the statutory role of Electoral Registration Officers (EROs)**.
- The Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer sought changes to preserve ERO discretion in handling **voter-data discrepancies**.

Misc GA

Sunil Kumar Wins Bronze in Greco-Roman Wrestling

- **Sunil Kumar** won bronze in the men's **87 kg Greco-Roman wrestling** event.
- He defeated the Philippines' **Roberts Callum Johnston 9–0** by technical superiority.
- He had earlier lost his semifinal **0–11** to Japan's **Taizo Yoshida**.
- This became his **second Asian Games medal**, making him the first Indian Greco-Roman wrestler to achieve this.

Lovlina Borgohain Reaches Asian Games Final

- **Lovlina Borgohain** reached the women's **75 kg boxing final**.

- She defeated Kazakhstan's **Natalya Bogdanova 3–2** in the semifinal.
- She became the **first Indian woman boxer to reach back-to-back Asian Games finals**.
- **Priya Ghanghas** and **Kapil Pokhariya** won bronze medals.

India Reaches Women's Hockey Final

- India defeated **South Korea 2–0** to reach the **women's hockey final**.
- **Ishika Chaudhary** and **Salima Tete** scored for India.
- India dominated possession but struggled to convert penalty corners during the early stages.
- The result put India one step away from reclaiming the **Asian Games women's hockey gold**.

Sanskrit Subhashitam on Six Qualities of Success

- The Sanskrit verse highlights six qualities: **diligence, courage, patience, wisdom, strength and valour**.
- The verse conveys that **human effort and ability are important for achieving success**.
- It links **wisdom and courage** with effective action.
- The message combines the ideas of **human effort and destiny**.

Skytrax World Airline Awards 2026

- **Singapore Airlines** was named the **World's Best Airline** in the 2026 Skytrax World Airline Awards.
- **Qatar Airways** ranked second and **Cathay Pacific** third.
- **Air India** was the highest-ranked Indian airline at **57th globally**.
- **IndiGo** ranked 61st and was recognised as the Best Low-Cost Airline in India & South Asia.

TakeMe2Space to Launch Orbital Data Centre

- Indian spacetech company **TakeMe2Space** plans to launch India's first networked **orbital data-centre mission** in 2028.
- Two satellites of about **100 kg each** are planned for launch on a **SpaceX Falcon 9**.
- Each satellite is planned to carry **NVIDIA Thor GPUs, 100 TB storage and 1.5 kW power**.
- The project aims to enable **in-orbit computing and data processing across satellites**.

Bodhana Sivanandan Becomes Youngest Woman Grandmaster

- Indian-origin British chess player **Bodhana Sivanandan** became the youngest **Woman Grandmaster (WGM)** at age **11**.
- She secured her third and final WGM norm at the **46th Chess Olympiad**.
- She represented **England** at the Olympiad in Samarkand.
- She also became one of the youngest players to achieve major international chess milestones.

V.S. Rathanvel Becomes India's 99th Grandmaster

- **V.S. Rathanvel** of Tamil Nadu became India's **99th Grandmaster**.
- He crossed the required **2,500 Elo rating**.
- The achievement came during the **3rd Guwahati Smart City International Open 2026**.
- The milestone added another Indian player to the country's growing pool of chess Grandmasters.

World Contraception Day 2026

- **World Contraception Day** is observed on **26 September**.

- The **2026 theme** was **"No Barriers, Just Choices."**
- It promotes awareness of **contraceptive methods and informed reproductive-health choices**.
- The first observance was held in **2007**.

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

- Observed annually on **26 September**.
- It promotes awareness about the dangers of **nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament**.
- The UN General Assembly designated the day through **Resolution A/RES/68/32** in 2013.
- The first observance took place in **2014**.

World Environmental Health Day 2026

- Observed on **26 September** every year.
- The **2026 theme** was **"Environmental Health: Standing with Science to Protect Communities."**
- It highlights the role of environmental health professionals in **public health and community protection**.
- The observance is coordinated by the **International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH)**.

Delhi Launches 'Udyog Mitra' Portal

- Delhi launched the **'Udyog Mitra'** portal under the **Ease of Doing Business** initiative.
- It provides a **single-window platform** for business licences and NOCs.
- The portal initially integrates **50+ services from 15 departments**, with plans for further expansion.
- It includes features such as **Single Sign-On, Common Application Form, Know Your Approvals and application tracking**.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 1 OCTOBER 2026

1. Indian spacetech company **TakeMe2Space** plans to launch India's first networked **orbital data-centre mission** in 2028. TakeMe2Space to Launch Orbital Data Centre
2. The **2026 southwest monsoon** ended with rainfall at **87% of the Long Period Average (LPA)**. Southwest Monsoon 2026 Ends with 13% Rainfall D…
3. The **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2024–25**, released by MoSPI, reported **2.7 lakh factories** and **1.67 crore workers**. Annual Survey of Industries 2024–25
4. **Cybercrime increased sharply**: Cybercrime cases rose **17.9%**, from **86,420 in 2023 to 1,01,928 in 2024**, while overall registered crime fell by about **6%**. Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR) 2026
5. **Global ageing**: Over **70% of the world's population** lives in countries with fertility at or below replacement level. Global fertility fell from **4.9 (1950)** to about **2.2**. The Ageing World and India's Narrowing Window

DAY 2 OF 26

2 October 2026

Friday · 17 items · 5 topics

Schemes **2** · Reports & Articles **1** · Misc GA **5** · Banking and Finance **6** · Social Issue **3**

NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Schemes

National Coastal Mission 2.0

Source: ThePrint

Context The Union Environment Minister launched **implementation guidelines for the National Coastal Mission 2.0 (NCM 2.0)** — a **Central Sector Scheme** with an outlay of **₹767 crore** for **2025-26 to 2030-31**, across **nine coastal States and four Union Territories**.

What It Is

- A Central Sector Scheme establishing an **integrated ecological governance and marine spatial planning framework**
- **Subsuming NCM 1.0 (2021-22 to 2025-26)**
- To protect **fragile coastal ecosystems** and scale up **nature-positive economic activities**
- Administered directly by the **MoEFCC**

Aim

- Protect **coastal and marine ecosystems**
- Strengthen **climate resilience**
- Reduce **marine pollution**
- Sustainably harness India's **Blue Economy** toward **Viksit Bharat @2047**

The Five Thematic Pillars

- **Blue Economy growth**
- **Coastal risk reduction**
- **Climate adaptation and mitigation**
- **Capacity building**
- **Effective project management**

Important Facts for Exams

- **NCM 2.0** — **₹767 crore**, **2025-26 to 2030-31**; **9 coastal States and 4 UTs**; administered by **MoEFCC**
- **ICZM** — Integrated Coastal Zone Management; the **ICZM Project** has been World Bank-supported since 2010
- **CRZ Notification, 2019** governs coastal regulation; zones **CRZ-I to IV**
- **NCSCM** — National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai, the technical arm
- **Blue carbon** — carbon stored by **mangroves, seagrass and salt marshes**; the **Indian Sundarbans** stores about **24 million tonnes**
- India has a coastline of about **7,500 km**; **40 per cent** of mangroves lost over the past century
- **Green Climate Fund** — the largest climate fund under the **UNFCCC**, established 2010

Air Ayodhya Receives NOC under UDAN

- **Air Ayodhya**, operated by Megamax Aviation, received a **NOC from the Ministry of Civil Aviation** to operate under **RCS-UDAN**.
- It aims to connect **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, pilgrimage centres and tourism hubs** in Uttar Pradesh.
- Operations are planned with **Cessna Grand Caravan EX** aircraft, later expanding to larger aircraft.
- The airline plans to build a **50-aircraft fleet by 2036**.

Reports & Articles

WHO-UNICEF Report on WASH in Schools

- WHO and UNICEF released **Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools 2015–25** under the **JMP-WASH** programme.
- Around **50 million Indian children** lacked access to sanitation services at school in 2025, the **highest number globally**.
- Globally, **244 million children** lacked school sanitation services.
- About **20 million Indian children** also lacked hygiene services at school.

Misc GA

UIDAI Launches Five New Aadhaar Initiatives

- UIDAI launched **five initiatives** at **Aadhaar Samvaad** in Kolkata on **29 September 2026**, marking the **17th Aadhaar Day**.
- Initiatives include **Face Authentication for ePDS, SWIK Portal 2.0, Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA (LITE) Framework, New Token Management System and a revamped UIDAI website**.
- **Aadhaar Day** commemorates the issuance of the first Aadhaar number on **29 September 2010**.

MoMSME–MoSPI MoU for Statistical Business Register

- MoMSME and MoSPI signed an **MoU to strengthen the Statistical Business Register (SBR)**.
- **Udyam Registration** data will be shared with MoSPI through **APIs**.
- The data will help improve the **coverage, consistency and reliability** of business statistics.
- **SBR** is a regularly updated database of businesses and economic units used for statistical purposes.

DRDO–CSIR-CGCRI Indigenous Bulletproof Glass

- DRDO and CSIR-CGCRI are developing **lightweight bulletproof glass** for armoured vehicles.
- The **₹50-crore, four-year project** uses **glass-ceramic technology and nanocrystals**.
- The project aims for **multi-shot protection** against AK-47-class threats.
- Initial trials successfully stopped **TAR rounds** at around 695 m/s.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

JNPA–IFC Blue Financing for Shore Power

- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority partnered with **IFC** for India's first **blue financing** for shore power infrastructure.
- The financing is worth **USD 70 million (about ₹672 crore)** through a **10-year ECB loan**.
- **Shore Power Supply (SPS)** allows ships at berth to use electricity from the grid instead of diesel engines.
- The project will help reduce **fuel consumption and port-related emissions**.

Apple Pay Launched in India

- **Apple Pay** was launched in India with **Axis Bank-issued Visa and Mastercard credit cards**.
- Transactions use **tokenisation** and can be authenticated through Face ID, Touch ID or a device passcode.
- The initial rollout covers sectors such as **food and beverages, travel, fashion and lifestyle**.
- The initial service supports **cards but not UPI or RuPay cards**.

Bank of India Launches Programmable CBDC

- **Bank of India** launched **user-level programmable CBDC with auto-issuance**.
- Users can schedule recurring **Digital Rupee (e₹)** payments with fixed amounts and frequencies.
- Users can also specify the **purpose for which the recipient can use the funds**.
- Applications include **allowances, education expenses and other recurring purpose-bound payments**.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. The Green Energy Corridor Phase-III Scheme

Source: News on

Context The **Union Cabinet** approved the **Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III)** scheme with an outlay of **₹1,86,405 crore**.

What It Is

- A flagship central infrastructure scheme to **expand and modernise state-level transmission grids (InSTS)**
- **Renewable Energy Evacuation:** The scheme will enable evacuation of up to **135 GW** of renewable energy across States/UTs.
- **Battery Energy Storage: 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)** will be deployed to improve grid flexibility.
- **Total Outlay:₹1,86,405 crore**
  - **₹1,36,378 crore** – Intra-State Transmission Systems
  - **₹50,000 crore** – 50 GWh BESS
- **Central Financial Support:₹54,082 crore**
  - This will help reduce **intra-state transmission charges**, ultimately keeping electricity costs lower.
- **Target:** The projects are planned for completion by **FY 2032-33**.
- **Non-Fossil Energy Target:** GEC-III will support India's goal of **900 GW installed non-fossil fuel capacity by 2035**.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**

Important Facts for Exams

- **Green Energy Corridor (GEC):** Transmission network designed to integrate and evacuate electricity generated from renewable energy sources.
- **Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS):** Transmission network used to transfer electricity **within a State**.
- **BESS:** Battery-based system that stores electricity and supplies it when required.
- **TBCB:** A competitive bidding system where transmission projects are awarded to the bidder offering the required service at the most competitive tariff.
- **BOOM: Build-Own-Operate-Maintain** model in which a private transmission provider builds, owns, operates and maintains the infrastructure.
- **Brownfield Project:** Expansion, upgrading or strengthening of an **existing infrastructure/network**.
- **Non-Fossil Capacity:** Power capacity based on sources such as **solar, wind, hydro and nuclear**, rather than fossil fuels.

ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026)

Source: TH

Context The **second edition of AIME** commenced at **Subic Bay, Philippines** — with **INS Sahyadri** and **INS Kulish** deployed alongside naval assets from ASEAN member states.

Key Details

- A **multilateral joint naval exercise** between the **Indian Navy** and **ASEAN** maritime forces
- The **second edition**, after the **inaugural edition hosted by Singapore in May 2023**
- **Host:** the **Philippines**, at **Subic Bay, Zambales**, opening into the **South China Sea / West Philippine Sea**

The Sengol

Source: New Indian Express

Context The **NCERT** incorporated the **Sengol** into its newly released **Class 9 Social Science textbook**, citing it as a historic symbol marking the **transfer of power to Jawaharlal Nehru** on the eve of Independence in **1947**.

What It Is

- A **ceremonial gold-plated silver sceptre** rooted in **ancient Tamil statecraft**
- Historically presented at the **coronation of monarchs**, as an emblem of **righteous rulership, judicial impartiality** and adherence to **dharma**

Historical Background

- **Chola legacy** — the tradition originated over a millennium ago under the **Imperial Cholas**, where the **high priest or royal guru** handed the sceptre to a newly crowned sovereign, symbolising that **temporal authority is subordinate to ethical law**
- **1947** — commissioned by the **Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam**, a centuries-old **non-Brahmin Saivite mutt** in Tamil Nadu, and crafted by Madras jewellers **Vummidi Bangaru Chetty**; the **five-foot** sceptre was presented to **Jawaharlal Nehru** in **August 1947**
- **Modern installation** — preserved for decades at the **Allahabad Museum**, consecrated by pontiffs of Tamil Nadu Adheenams, and installed beside the **Lok Sabha Speaker's chair** in the new Parliament building in **May 2023**

Social Issue

International Day of the Deaf 2026

- Observed on **27 September 2026**, the last Sunday of September.
- It promotes **rights, inclusion, education and communication access** for deaf people.
- The **World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)** was established in **1951**.
- It is observed during the **International Week of Deaf People**.

International Day for Universal Access to Information 2026

- Observed on **28 September** to promote the **right to access information**.
- **2026 theme:** *"Upholding Information Integrity in the Digital Age: The role of access to Information in addressing Information Disorder."*
- UNESCO adopted the observance in **2015**, while the UN General Assembly formally recognised it in **2019**.

International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste 2026

- Observed on **29 September** to highlight the need to reduce **food loss and waste (FLW)**.
- **2026 theme:** *"Transformative Potential of Reducing Food Loss and Waste."*
- The UN General Assembly established the day in **2019**.
- The first observance was held on **29 September 2020**.

Misc GA

Lalit Kala Akademi National Exhibition of Art

- The **65th National Exhibition of Art** showcased **6,175 artworks by 2,495 artists**.
- The Lalit Kala Akademi announced **20 awards** across visual art forms.
- Major categories included **painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking and mixed media**.
- The exhibition was held at **Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi**.

Edward Rukidi Kijanangoma Crowned King of Tooro

- **Edward Rukidi Kijanangoma** was crowned the **13th King (Omukama) of Tooro Kingdom, Uganda**.
- He succeeded the late **King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV**.
- He was selected by a **21-member Babiito clan committee**.
- He adopted the regnal name **Edward Rukidi Nyabongo I**.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 2 OCTOBER 2026

1. **NCM 2.0** — **₹767 crore**, **2025-26 to 2030-31**; **9 coastal States and 4 UTs**; administered by **MoEFCC** National Coastal Mission 2.0
2. **Aadhaar Day** commemorates the issuance of the first Aadhaar number on **29 September 2010**. UIDAI Launches Five New Aadhaar Initiatives
3. The first observance was held on **29 September 2020**. International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and…
4. The **₹50-crore, four-year project** uses **glass-ceramic technology and nanocrystals**. DRDO–CSIR-CGCRI Indigenous Bulletproof Glass
5. The financing is worth **USD 70 million (about ₹672 crore)** through a **10-year ECB loan**. JNPA–IFC Blue Financing for Shore Power

DAY 3 OF 26

3 October 2026

Saturday · 25 items · 8 topics

Schemes **4** · Agriculture **2** · Banking and Finance **5** · Economy **3** · Misc GA **2** · Appointments & Resignations **4** · Acquisitions & Mergers **1** · Important Days **4**

NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Schemes

The GOBARdhan Scheme

Source: TH

Context The Union Minister of **Petroleum and Natural Gas** launched the **GOBARdhan Central Sector Scheme** with an outlay of **₹23,731 crore**, to accelerate India's **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** sector over **10 years — FY2026-27 to FY2035-36**.

What It Is

- **Objective:** Promote domestic **CBG production**, reduce **LNG imports and biomass burning**, and convert **agricultural waste and cattle dung** into green energy and bio-fertilisers.
- **Nodal Ministry:Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**
- **Capital Assistance:** Up to **₹2 crore per TPD** of installed CBG capacity for eligible greenfield plants.
- **Credit Guarantee:** Up to **85% of outstanding defaults**, with an exposure cap of **₹20 crore**, increased to **₹25 crore for women-led enterprises**.
- **Ecosystem Challenge Fund:** Supports **R&D, capacity building and district-level biomass mapping** through the **Unified GOBARdhan Portal**.

Aim

- Boost **domestic CBG production**
- **Reduce LNG imports** and **biomass burning**
- Convert **agricultural waste and cattle dung** into **green energy and bio-fertilisers**

Important Facts for Exams

- **GOBARdhan:** *Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan* — initiative for converting organic waste into **biogas, CBG and bio-fertilisers**.
- **CBG:** Purified biogas with high methane content that can be used as a **CNG substitute**.
- **FOM: Fermented Organic Manure**, a useful by-product of CBG production.
- **TPD: Tonnes Per Day**, a measure of plant production capacity.
- **SATAT: Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation**, launched in **2018** to promote CBG production and its use as an alternative transport fuel.

India's First Female Farmer Worker Conference

Source: New Indian Express

Context India's **first Female Farmer Worker Conference** was held in **New Delhi** to recognise women's contributions to agriculture and rural livelihoods — coinciding with the **UN International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026**.

What It Is

- A **national-level convention** for celebrating, networking and addressing **structural challenges** faced by **women farmers, agricultural labourers and pastoralists**
- Organised by the **Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS)**

Aim

- Establish the **formal social and legal identity of women as legitimate "farmers" (Kisan)** rather than **unpaid family helpers**
- Facilitate access to **institutional land rights and credit**
- Promote **sustainable agrarian models**

Important Facts for Exams

- **2026 is the UN International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF)** — proposed by India and adopted by the UNGA
- **The core issue is land title.** Without a **patta** in her name, a woman cannot access **institutional credit, crop insurance, subsidies** or **compensation** — regardless of how much farm work she does
- **Joint patta** — land title recorded jointly in the names of husband and wife
- Women constitute roughly **one-third of the agricultural workforce** and a far higher share of operations in some activities, but own only about **14 per cent** of operational holdings
- **Mahila Kisan Diwas** is observed on **15 October**, also the **International Day of Rural Women**
- **MKSP** — Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana, under **DAY-NRLM**
- **Female LFPR: 41.7 per cent (2023-24)** on usual status; agriculture absorbs the largest share
- India ranks **131st** on the **Global Gender Gap Index 2026**

PRAGATI-50 Initiative for Clean Cities

- **MoHUA** launched **PRAGATI-50** under **SBM-U 2.0** to develop **50 clean role-model cities across 24 States**.
- It will use **KPI-based monitoring** and technology-enabled governance.
- A **Swachh Bharat Test Bed & Innovation Centre** will be established at Durgapur with CSIR-CMERI.
- A new cohort of **sanitation and waste-management startups** was also launched with IIT Kanpur.

National Coastal Mission 2.0

- **NCM 2.0** aims to strengthen conservation and sustainable management of India's **coastal and marine ecosystems**.
- It has a total budget of **₹767 crore** and will continue up to **2030–31**.
- It covers **9 coastal States and 4 Union Territories**.
- Focus areas include **climate-resilient blue economy, coastal risk reduction, climate adaptation and capacity building**.

Agriculture

Zuppa–TNUAVC Drone Training Programme

- Zuppa and **Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Corporation (TNUAVC)** signed an MoU to establish **indigenous drone training labs** at Army Regimental Centres.
- The programme will train **Agniveers and defence personnel** in UAV operations.
- Zuppa plans to train and certify **over 2,000 personnel in three years**.

- Training will cover **drone flying, simulation, maintenance, safety, mission planning and DGCA regulations**.

MoTA–IGNCA MoU on Tribal Heritage

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and **IGNCA** signed an MoU to preserve and promote India's **tribal cultural heritage**.
- It covers **tribal languages, traditions, art, folklore and freedom-struggle contributions**.
- Activities include **digitisation, documentation, research, publications, exhibitions and cultural festivals**.
- Tribal Research Institutes will work with IGNCA on preservation and dissemination.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

Small Savings Scheme Interest Rates Unchanged

- The Ministry of Finance kept **Small Savings Scheme (SSS)** interest rates unchanged for **Q3 FY27 (October–December 2026)**.
- Rates have now remained unchanged for **14 consecutive quarters**.
- The last revision was made in **Q4 FY24**.
- SSS instruments are government-backed savings products administered mainly through **Post Offices and designated banks**.

ICICI Lombard Launches VIBE Health Insurance

- **ICICI Lombard** launched **VIBE**, a health insurance product aimed at **Gen Z customers aged 18–35 years**.
- It combines hospitalisation, outpatient care, mental-health support, fitness benefits and wellness rewards.
- It offers **six variants**, with coverage from **₹7 lakh to ₹1 crore**.
- The product uses the company's **IL TakeCare** digital ecosystem.

Pramerica Life Launches Poorna Rakshak

- **Pramerica Life Insurance** launched **Poorna Rakshak**, a non-linked, non-participating individual savings life insurance plan.
- It offers **five variants** based on different financial and income needs.
- Variants include **Smart Scholars, Early Income, Income Booster, Smart Money Back and Smart Saver**.
- The plan combines **life protection with guaranteed benefits**.

Jio Financial Services–Allianz Capital Infusion

- **Jio Financial Services and Allianz Europe** invested a combined **₹640.10 crore** in their 50:50 Jio Allianz General Insurance joint venture.
- Each partner invested **₹320.05 crore** through a rights issue.
- The capital will support the **expansion of general insurance operations in India**.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad

Source: PIB

Context The **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)** and the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India** launched **CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad** — an **AI-powered multilingual translation solution** for official and audit-related documents.

What It Is

- An **AI-enabled multilingual document translation solution**
- Developed by **BHASHINI** specifically for the **CAG**
- To translate **official documents and audit reports** into Indian languages

Aim

- Integrate **Language AI** into CAG workflows
- Enabling **faster and consistent** multilingual translation
- While ensuring **human oversight, security** and **data sovereignty**

Important Facts for Exams

- **CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad** — by the **Digital India BHASHINI Division** and the **CAG**
- BHASHINI supports **36 Indian text languages**, **23 Indian voice languages**, **35 international languages**
- **BHASHINI** — Bhasha Interface for India, launched **2022** under the **National Language Translation Mission**; an initiative of **MeitY**
- It is built as **Digital Public Infrastructure** for language, with an **open API** ecosystem
- **CAG** — **Article 148**; appointed by the **President**; tenure **six years or age 65**
- The CAG audits accounts under **Articles 149-151**; reports go to the **President** or **Governor**, who lays them before **Parliament** or the **State Legislature**
- CAG reports are examined by the **Public Accounts Committee**, the **Committee on Public Undertakings** and the **Estimates Committee**
- **Dr B. R. Ambedkar** called the CAG the **"most important officer under the Constitution"**
- India has **22 scheduled languages** in the **Eighth Schedule**; **Hindi and English** are the languages of the Union under **Articles 343-351**

Economy

Delhi ITMS Project Approved

- The Cabinet approved the **Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS)** for Delhi at an estimated cost of **₹1,789.52 crore**.
- The project will cover **42 traffic corridors**.
- It will be implemented in **three phases over 24 months**, followed by five years of operation and maintenance.
- The project aims to improve **traffic management, urban mobility and transport infrastructure**.

Green Energy Corridor Phase-III Approved

- The Cabinet approved **Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III)** to strengthen **intra-state transmission networks**.
- It will facilitate the evacuation of up to **135 GW of renewable energy**.
- The project supports India's expansion of **renewable-energy infrastructure**.

- It was covered earlier as a major clean-energy transmission initiative.

India Energy Week 2027 to Be Held in Kolkata

- **India Energy Week 2027** will be held in **Kolkata from 28–31 January 2027**.
- **Theme:** *"Unlocking Innovation. Securing Energy. Shaping Tomorrow."*
- The event will focus on **oil and gas, LNG, hydrogen, biofuels, petrochemicals, AI and digitalisation**.
- It will be the **first India Energy Week hosted in eastern India**.

Misc GA

ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise 2026

- The **2nd ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026)** was held at **Subic Bay, Philippines**.
- Indian Navy ships **INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish** participated.
- The exercise aims to improve **interoperability, operational coordination and maritime cooperation**.
- It has two phases: **Harbour Phase and Sea Phase**.

HSBC Global Entrepreneurial Wealth Report 2026

- The report found that around **74% of Indian entrepreneurs** surveyed planned to relocate or secure overseas residency.
- **Singapore** was the most preferred destination, followed by France, the UK and the US.
- Around **99%** were adopting or planning to adopt **AI in business**.
- Major AI-related concerns included **data privacy, employee resistance and integration with legacy systems**.

Appointments & Resignations

Anup Kumar Saha Appointed Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO

- RBI approved **Anup Kumar Saha** as the next **MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank**.
- He will take charge on **1 January 2027** for a three-year term.
- He will succeed **Ashok Vaswani**.

Mahesh Muralidhar Pai Appointed South Indian Bank MD & CEO

- **Mahesh Muralidhar Pai** became MD & CEO of **South Indian Bank** from **1 October 2026**.
- His appointment has RBI approval and is for a **three-year term**.
- He succeeds **P. R. Seshadri**.

Lavanya R. Mundayur Appointed NIACL CMD

- The Central Government approved **Lavanya R. Mundayur** as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of **New India Assurance Company Limited**.
- She will serve until **31 May 2029**, subject to the applicable terms of appointment.

Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri Appointed Morocco PM

- Morocco's King **Mohammed VI** appointed **Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri** as Prime Minister.
- She became the **first woman Prime Minister of Morocco**.

- She belongs to the **Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM)**.
- Morocco follows a **constitutional monarchy** with a bicameral Parliament.

Acquisitions & Mergers

CCI Approves BNP Paribas Cardif–IndiaFirst Life Deal

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved BNP Paribas Cardif's proposal to acquire a **26% stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance**.
- The stake is being acquired from **Warburg Pincus**.
- After the transaction, the shareholding is expected to be **Bank of Baroda 65%, BNP Paribas Cardif 26% and Union Bank of India 9%**.
- **CCI** is India's statutory competition regulator under the **Competition Act, 2002**.

Important Days

World Rabies Day – 28 September

- Observed annually on **28 September** to promote rabies prevention and elimination.
- **2026 theme:** *"Stronger Together."*
- The day was established in **2007** by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control.
- It commemorates the death anniversary of **Louis Pasteur**, developer of the first successful rabies vaccine.

World Rivers Day – 27 September

- Observed on the **fourth Sunday of September** to promote river conservation and sustainable management.
- **2026:** 27 September.
- The initiative was associated with Canadian river conservationist **Mark Angelo**.
- The first World Rivers Day was observed in **2005**.

World Heart Day – 29 September

- Observed to raise awareness about **cardiovascular diseases (CVDs)** and heart health.
- **2026 theme:** *"Don't Miss a Beat."*
- The first World Heart Day was observed in **2000**.
- The observance is associated with the **World Heart Federation and WHO**.

International Translation Day – 30 September

- Observed on **30 September** to recognise the role of language professionals in international communication.
- **2026 theme:** *"Linguistic Diversity and Language Rights."*
- The UN officially recognised the day through **UNGA Resolution A/RES/71/288 in 2017**.
- The date coincides with the feast day of **St. Jerome**, regarded as the patron saint of translators.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 3 OCTOBER 2026

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4. After the transaction, the shareholding is expected to be **Bank of Baroda 65%, BNP Paribas Cardif 26% and Union Bank of India 9%.** CCI Approves BNP Paribas Cardif–IndiaFirst Life…
5. The first World Rivers Day was observed in **2005**. World Rivers Day – 27 September

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30 items · 6 topics

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Tiger Reintroduction at Buxa Tiger Reserve

- A **three-year-old tigress (T138)** was released into **Buxa Tiger Reserve, West Bengal**, starting a phased tiger reintroduction programme.
- The tigress was translocated from **Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar**.
- **Three more tigers** are planned to be released over the next two months.
- The aim is to establish a **viable and self-sustaining tiger population** in Buxa.

ICAR–FCI MoU on Alternative Fumigation Technologies

- **ICAR and FCI** signed an MoU to develop safer and more sustainable alternatives to chemical fumigation for **wheat and rice storage**.
- Phase-I has an approved outlay of **₹3.28 crore** and will be implemented by **ICAR-CIPHET**.
- Technologies being tested include **nitrogen, carbon dioxide and combined CO_2-phosphine fumigation**.
- The programme aims to reduce **worker, environmental and ecological risks** associated with conventional fumigation.

PIB

ICAR–FCI MoU on Alternative Fumigation Technologies

- **ICAR and Food Corporation of India (FCI)** signed an MoU to develop **alternative fumigation technologies** for wheat and rice storage.
- The **two-year Phase-I** will be implemented by **ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana**.
- It seeks alternatives to **aluminium phosphide and malathion**, whose repeated use has contributed to pest resistance and health risks.
- Pest resistance in key Indian states has reached **72–100%**, increasing fumigation costs and risks to workers and the environment.

National Biodiversity Authority – 23rd Foundation Day

- The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** observed its **23rd Foundation Day**.
- The focus was on strengthening **Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)**.
- ABS ensures that benefits arising from the use of **biological resources and associated traditional knowledge** reach local communities.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

NPS Swasthya

Source: Mint

Context The **PFRDA** launched **NPS Swasthya** on **1 October 2026**, observed as **NPS Diwas** — pairing a dedicated investment corpus with a **super top-up health insurance policy**. **Axis Pension Fund** is so far the only pension fund manager to launch the scheme.

How It Works

- Pairs a **dedicated investment corpus** with a **super top-up health insurance policy**
- Aims to help individuals prepare for **health contingencies without disrupting long-term retirement savings**
- A **family floater** covering the subscriber's **spouse and children** — **parents are excluded**
- **Sum insured: ₹1 lakh to ₹30 lakh**
- The **first-year premium is paid upfront**; from the second year, renewal premiums can be funded from the **NPS Swasthya balance**

Important Facts for Exams

- **NPS Swasthya** launched **1 October 2026 (NPS Diwas)** by **PFRDA**; first offered by **Axis Pension Fund**
- Sum insured **₹1 lakh to ₹30 lakh**; **family floater excluding parents**; **12-month** pre-existing disease waiting period; renewal only to **age 85**
- Withdrawal: up to **25 per cent of own contributions**, no waiting period or frequency limit
- Deductibles: **₹10,000 / ₹50,000 / ₹1 lakh / ₹3 lakh** for covers of ₹1 lakh / ₹5 lakh / ₹10 lakh / ₹30 lakh
- **NPS Vatsalya** — for minors; **Atal Pension Yojana** — for the unorganised sector

Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 Comes into Force

- The **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026** came into force on **1 October 2026**.
- It replaces the **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891**.
- The new law provides a modern framework for using **banking records as evidence**, including records maintained electronically.
- It received **Presidential assent on 13 August 2026**.

Bank of Baroda Becomes Second PSU Bank Sponsor of Pension Fund

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** received PFRDA approval to become a **Pension Fund Sponsor** through its subsidiary BoB Pension Fund Management Company.
- **SBI** was the first PSU bank to enter the pension fund segment in 2008.
- BoB has an **80.10% stake** in its pension fund subsidiary, while Baroda BNP Asset Management Company holds 19.90%.
- BoB has also integrated **Tatkal NPS with the BHIM App** for digital NPS onboarding.

HDFC Bank Appoints Anup Bagchi as MD & CEO

- **Anup Bagchi** was appointed MD & CEO of **HDFC Bank** for three years, subject to RBI approval.
- He becomes the **first external candidate** to lead HDFC Bank.
- He previously served as **MD & CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** and held senior positions at ICICI

Bank and ICICI Securities.
- He has more than **30 years of experience** in banking and financial services.

RBI & NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Rising Child Leprosy Cases Challenge India's 2027 Goal

Source: The Hindu

Context India recorded **3,832 new child leprosy cases** in **2025-26**, including **37 with Grade-2 disability** at diagnosis — **91.6 per cent above** the National Leprosy Eradication Programme's target of **2,000 cases**.

The National Figures (2025-26)

Indicator	Figure
Total new leprosy cases	**91,783**
New child cases	**3,832**
Child cases with Grade-2 disability	**37**
Total G2D cases at diagnosis	**1,945** — **2.12 per cent** of new cases
Prevalence rate	**0.56 per 10,000** population
National G2D rate	**1.34 per million** — above the target of under **one per million**

India's Global Position

Per the WHO's latest global update, for 2025:

Country	New cases
India	**91,783**
Brazil	**22,901**
Indonesia	**16,292**

- The three together account for **78.3 per cent** of all new cases globally
- India also reported the **world's largest number of new child cases — 3,832**
- India's data covers **April 2025 to March 2026**, though presented in the WHO's 2025 table

High-Burden States

Districts with prevalence above **one per 10,000**:

- **Chhattisgarh — 23 districts**
- **Jharkhand — 21**
- **Maharashtra — 18**
- **Odisha — 18**
- **Madhya Pradesh — 10**

About Leprosy

- Also called **Hansen's disease**
- A **chronic bacterial infection**, caused mainly by ***Mycobacterium leprae***
- Primarily affects the **skin and peripheral nerves**
- Transmitted mainly through **prolonged, close contact** with an untreated person
- **Curable with multidrug therapy (MDT)**

Coal Mine Near Ramappa Temple Raises Heritage Concerns

Source: The Hindu

Context Heritage activists, including the **Kakatiya Heritage Trust**, are demanding withdrawal of the proposed **PVNR opencast coal mine** at **Venkatapur, Mulugu district, Telangana** — contending it threatens the UNESCO-inscribed **Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple** and the adjacent **Ramappa Lake**.

About the Ramappa Temple

- Formally the **Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple**, at **Palampet, Mulugu district, Telangana**
- Built in **1213 CE** under the **Kakatiya** ruler **Ganapati Deva**, by his general **Recharla Rudra**
- Inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021** — India's **39th** at the time
- The **only temple in India named after its sculptor**, **Ramappa**
- Dedicated to **Lord Shiva** as **Rudreshwara**

Samudra Manthan Mission

Source: Times of India

Context Details emerged on the operationalisation of the **₹84,084-crore Samudra Manthan (National Offshore Exploration Scheme)** — expanding India's hydrocarbon exploration into **deep and ultra-deep offshore frontier waters**.

What It Is

- A **Central Sector initiative** of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**
- Outlay **₹84,084 crore** till **FY2030-31**
- Targeting **deep and ultra-deep offshore basins**

Aim

- **De-risk and accelerate** offshore exploration
- Add over **600 MMTOE** of recoverable reserves
- Raise domestic production to **80 MMTOE annually**
- Reduce **crude oil import dependence**

Haryana's IoT-Based Waste Management for Pilgrimage Sites

Source: New Indian Express

Context The **Haryana Government** planned an **IoT-based waste management system** for **high-footfall pilgrimage sites, religious places, fairs and festivals**.

What It Is

- A technology-driven **solid waste management system**
- Combining **IoT-enabled smart bins, four-stream segregation, geo-tagging** and **real-time monitoring**

Aim

- Ensure **scientific waste segregation, collection and disposal**
- **Prevent littering** and improve cleanliness, particularly during **periods of high visitor footfall**

Key Features

- **IoT-enabled smart bins** — sensor-equipped bins providing **real-time fill-level data** and **automatically opening lids**, enabling timely collection
- **Four-stream segregation** — dedicated waste stations with **covered storage facilities**

- **500-metre clean zone** — no **open waste collection points** permitted within a **500-metre buffer**, covering **approach roads, parking areas and vendor zones**
- **Waste audits and geo-tagging** — a minimum **seven-day waste audit** to assess generation; **littering hotspots geo-tagged** for targeted intervention

RoDTEP Scheme Extended to 31 December 2026

Source: News on Air

Context The **Department of Commerce** extended the **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme** up to **31 December 2026**.

What It Is

- A **WTO-compliant export promotion and tax neutrality scheme**
- Refunding previously **un-rebated Central, State and local levies, taxes and duties** borne on exported goods
- Including **prior-stage cumulative indirect taxes** on inputs and transport
- Came into effect on **1 January 2021**, replacing the **WTO-disputed Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)**

Who Runs It

- **Notified by:** the **DGFT**, Department of Commerce, **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
- **Administered and implemented by:** the **CBIC**, Department of Revenue, **Ministry of Finance**

Aim

- **Neutralise embedded domestic taxes** on outbound goods
- Eliminate **cost disabilities** for domestic producers
- Prevent the **export of domestic taxes**
- Enhance the **cost competitiveness** of Indian merchandise globally

Economy

Minimum Support Prices for Rabi Crops 2027–28

- The **CCEA approved higher MSPs for all mandated Rabi crops** for the **2027–28 Marketing Season**.
- The increase aims to provide **remunerative prices to farmers** and encourage production of key Rabi crops.
- Major crops covered include **wheat, barley, gram, lentil, rapeseed-mustard, safflower and toria**.
- **Wheat MSP** was increased by **₹25 to ₹2,610 per quintal**.

India's GDP Growth Projected at 7.3% in Q2 FY27

- The **Ministry of Finance** projected India's real GDP growth at **7.3% in Q2 FY27**.
- India recorded **7.8% growth in Q1 FY27**.
- Growth is supported by **domestic consumption, investment, bank credit, infrastructure activity and services**.
- Total exports were nearly **US$400 billion during the first five months of FY27**, keeping India on track for strong annual exports.

Amended BharatNet Programme Expanded in Maharashtra

- **DBN** signed an agreement with Maharashtra, MDIL, BSNL and MahaIT to implement the **Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP)**.
- The Centre has approved **₹10,520 crore** for the programme in Maharashtra.
- It will cover **28,237 Gram Panchayats** and provide connectivity to **15,799 villages on demand**.
- The programme aims to improve **rural broadband and last-mile digital connectivity**.

Schemes

New Discovery Track Under PRIP Scheme

- The **Department of Pharmaceuticals** launched a **New Discovery Track** under the **PRIP Scheme**.
- It aims to provide early-stage funding for **New Chemical Entities (NCEs), New Biological Entities (NBEs), complex generics, biosimilars and medical devices**.
- Projects require **25% co-funding** and can receive support through different funding stages.
- The PRIP Scheme was launched in **2023** with an outlay of **₹5,000 crore** to strengthen pharmaceutical research and innovation.

PMGSY-IV and PM-JANMAN Rural Roads Impact Assessment

- **NRIDA** signed an MoU with **IIM Kolkata** for a **four-year longitudinal impact assessment** of rural roads under **PMGSY-IV and PM-JANMAN**.
- The study covers **10 States/UTs, 50 districts, 150 blocks, 250 roads and around 5,000 households**.
- It will assess changes in **mobility, livelihoods, accessibility and access to essential services**.
- The study includes **baseline, transition and endline surveys**.

Misc GA

Pranavi Urs Wins Historic Asian Games Golf Gold

- **Pranavi Urs** became the **first Indian woman golfer to win an Asian Games gold medal**.
- She won the individual women's golf event by maintaining a **one-stroke lead** in the final round.
- She also contributed to India's **team silver medal**.

Kumkum Mohod Wins Asian Games Recurve Gold

- Indian archer **Kumkum Mohod** won **gold in the recurve event** at the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- Her victory was part of India's strong performance in **archery, boxing and wrestling**.
- The achievement added to India's medal tally on **Day 14** of the Games.

Mahatma Gandhi's 157th Birth Anniversary

- **2 October 2026** marked the **157th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**.
- Indian missions across the world observed the day.
- The observances highlighted Gandhi's message of **truth, peace and non-violence**.

CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad Launched for Audit Documents

- **Digital India BHASHINI Division** and **CAG** launched **CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad**.

- It uses **AI-based multilingual translation** for official documents and audit reports.
- The system focuses on **context-aware translation, consistent terminology and data sovereignty**.
- **BHASHINI**, launched in 2022, supports multiple Indian and international languages for digital public services.

India Reaffirms Whale Conservation Commitment at IWC-70

- India participated in the **70th International Whaling Commission meeting (IWC-70)** in **Hobart, Australia**, held from 28 September to 2 October 2026.
- The meeting adopted the **Hobart Declaration** by consensus.
- India called for **science-based cetacean conservation, better data and stronger international cooperation**.
- India protects cetaceans through the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, Marine Protected Areas and Project Dolphin**.

THE World University Rankings 2027

- **IISc Bengaluru** was the highest-ranked Indian institution, placed **254th globally**.
- **University of Oxford** retained the **1st position** for the 11th consecutive year.
- The **USA** was the most represented country with **168 universities**, followed by India with **143**.
- Rankings consider **teaching, research environment, research quality, international outlook and industry**.

SpaceX Transporter-18 Launches 130 Payloads

- **SpaceX** launched **130 payloads** aboard its Falcon 9 rocket under the **Transporter-18** rideshare mission.
- The mission included Google's **Project Suncatcher** satellite experiment.
- The project aims to study the operation of **AI chips in space** and support future orbital data centres.
- The payloads were deployed into **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.

Flying Wedge Defence–Keydef Partnership

- Indian defence startup **Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA)** partnered with Portugal's **Keydef**.
- The partnership will manufacture **Kaal Bhairava autonomous UAVs** and **YAMA swarm interceptor drones** in Portugal.
- The initial investment is **€6 million**.
- The companies will also pursue **NATO certification** to expand global market access.

International Day of Older Persons 2026

- Observed annually on **1 October** to highlight the rights, dignity, health and contributions of older persons.
- **2026 Theme:** *"The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives."*
- The UN officially designated the day through **UNGA Resolution 45/106 in 1990**.
- The first observance was held on **1 October 1991**.

International Coffee Day 2026

- Observed on **1 October** to recognise coffee farmers, workers and communities and promote a sustainable coffee sector.

- **2026 Theme:** *"Celebrating Coffee, Honouring the People Behind Every Cup."*
- **2026 marked the first official UNGA-recognised observance** of International Coffee Day.
- The day highlights coffee's role in **livelihoods, sustainable agriculture and international trade**.

World Vegetarian Day 2026

- Observed annually on **1 October** to promote awareness of the ethical, environmental and health aspects of vegetarianism.
- Established by the **North American Vegetarian Society (NAVS)** in **1977**.
- The **International Vegetarian Union** endorsed it in 1978.
- It marks the beginning of **Vegetarian Awareness Month**.

DAD Launches Digital Financial Management Initiatives

- The **Defence Accounts Department (DAD)** launched three major initiatives to improve digital financial management in defence.
- **SAKSHAM** was integrated with the **Indian Army Financial Information System (IAFIS)** for real-time financial data exchange.
- The **Treasury Single Account (TSA)** was operationalised through **PRISM**, integrated with RBI's **e-Kuber**.
- The revamped **National Compilation System (NCS)** will improve defence expenditure monitoring and budget reporting.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 4 & 5 OCTOBER 2026

1. The **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026** came into force on **1 October 2026**. Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 Comes into Fo…
2. **SBI** was the first PSU bank to enter the pension fund segment in 2008. Bank of Baroda Becomes Second PSU Bank Sponsor …
3. The PRIP Scheme was launched in **2023** with an outlay of **₹5,000 crore** to strengthen pharmaceutical research and innovation. New Discovery Track Under PRIP Scheme
4. The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** observed its **23rd Foundation Day**. National Biodiversity Authority – 23rd Foundati…
5. **NPS Swasthya** launched **1 October 2026 (NPS Diwas)** by **PFRDA**; first offered by **Axis Pension Fund** NPS Swasthya

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Desert National Park

Source: IE

Context The Union Environment Minister released **two captive-bred male Great Indian Bustards** into the wild at **Sam, Desert National Park, Jaisalmer**.

What It Is

- One of India's **largest national parks**, in the **Thar Desert**
- A sanctuary for **desert wildlife, winter migrants** and **critically endangered avian fauna**

Location

- Extreme **western Thar Desert, Rajasthan**, along the **India-Pakistan border**
- **Gazetted in 1980** to arrest **desertification**
- A **hyper-arid zone** receiving **under 100 mm** annual rainfall
- Bordered by the **Aravalli Range** (east), **Indus plains** (west) and **Great Rann of Kutch** (south)

Important Facts for Exams

- **DNP** — **3,162 sq km**; **Jaisalmer and Barmer**, Rajasthan; gazetted **1980**; on India's **UNESCO Tentative List**
- Rainfall **under 100 mm**; breeding centres at **Sam** and **Ramdevra**
- **Great Indian Bustard** (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) — **IUCN Critically Endangered**, **CITES Appendix I**, **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act; **state bird of Rajasthan**; locally **Godawan**

Annual Survey of Industries 2024–25

- **MoSPI** released the **ASI 2024–25**, covering India's registered manufacturing sector.
- Manufacturing **GVA increased by 9.59%**, while employment rose **7.19% to 2.10 crore**.
- **Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka** accounted for 53.30% of total establishments.
- Total **emoluments increased by 12.08%** during 2024–25.

Schemes

PM-SETU Completes One Year

- **PM-SETU** aims to modernise **Government ITIs** and make skill training more industry-oriented.
- It has an outlay of **₹60,000 crore** for five years: ₹30,000 crore Centre, ₹20,000 crore States and ₹10,000 crore industry.
- It targets **1,000 Government ITIs** — 200 Hub ITIs and 800 Spoke ITIs.
- In the first year, **850 ITIs** were identified, including **172 Hub and 678 Spoke ITIs**.

PMAY-G 2.0 Houses and 3D-Printed Housing in Andhra Pradesh

- The first instalment for **3 lakh PMAY-G houses** worth **₹3,600 crore** was released in Andhra Pradesh.
- A pilot project for **177 houses using 3D concrete printing** was also launched.
- 3D printing can reduce construction time, labour requirements and costs.
- **PMAY-G** provides ₹1.20 lakh assistance in plain areas and ₹1.30 lakh in North-Eastern and hilly areas.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

NABKISAN Lists India's First WASH-Focused Social Bond

- **NABKISAN Finance Ltd**, a subsidiary of **NABARD**, listed India's first **WASH-focused Social Bond** on the NSE.
- It raised **₹180 crore** through a **5-year bond** carrying an **8.10% coupon**.
- The bond was **1.8 times oversubscribed** and received **CRISIL AAA (Stable)** and **CARE AAA (Stable)** ratings.
- Funds will support **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** projects for rural and underserved communities.

RBI Grants CIC Registration to Indiabulls

- RBI granted **Certificate of Registration (CoR)** to **Indiabulls Limited** as a **Core Investment Company (CIC)**.
- A CIC is an NBFC mainly engaged in holding investments in and providing loans to **group companies**.
- Generally, at least **90% of net assets** of a CIC must be in group-company investments/loans, with at least **60% in equity investments**.
- The registration brings Indiabulls under the **RBI regulatory framework for CICs**.

RBI & NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026

Source: Indian Express

Context

The **2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** was jointly awarded to **Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel** for discoveries that led to **optogenetics** — a technique that uses **light to control specific nerve cells**.

Key Highlights

- **What is Optogenetics?**
  - It is a technique that uses **light-sensitive proteins** to control the activity of specific neurons.
  - Scientists can switch selected brain cells **ON or OFF using light**.
- **Role of Channelrhodopsin**
  - **Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel** discovered **channelrhodopsin**, a light-sensitive protein in the single-celled alga *Chlamydomonas*.
  - When exposed to blue light, this protein opens a channel and allows **ions** to flow into the cell, producing an electrical signal.

- **Contribution of Karl Deisseroth**
  - Deisseroth introduced the gene for channelrhodopsin into **nerve cells**.
  - In 2005, he demonstrated that light could trigger nerve signals.
  - In 2007, the technique was successfully used to control nerve cells in the **living brain of mice**.
- **Why is it important?**
  - Earlier, scientists could mainly **observe** brain activity.
  - Optogenetics allows them to **actively control specific neurons** and establish a **cause-and-effect relationship** between brain circuits and behaviour.
  - It has helped researchers study **memory, pain, emotions, thirst, hunger, reward, attention and social behaviour**.
- **Medical Applications**
  - It is being studied for neurological and psychiatric conditions such as **Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, depression and schizophrenia**.
  - Researchers are also exploring it to **restore vision** in people with certain forms of blindness.

Example

- Think of the brain as a huge electrical circuit. Earlier, scientists could **watch the circuit working**, but could not easily control one particular wire.
- **Optogenetics = putting a light-controlled switch on selected neurons.**
- So, scientists can shine light on a particular group of neurons and observe what happens to **memory, movement, emotion or behaviour**.

Key Terms

- **Optogenetics:** Use of light to control genetically modified cells, especially neurons.
- **Channelrhodopsin:** A light-sensitive protein that acts as a switch for controlling cell activity.
- **Light-gated ion channel:** A protein channel that opens or closes when exposed to specific light.
- **Neuron:** A nerve cell that transmits electrical and chemical signals.
- **Neural circuit:** A network of interconnected neurons responsible for a particular function or behaviour.
- **Causal relationship:** Showing that one event directly produces a particular effect.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Source: PIB

Context A high-level **Indian Parliamentary Delegation** led by **Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh** departed for **Arusha, Tanzania**, to participate in the **153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**.

What It Is

- The **global multilateral organisation of national parliaments**
- A **non-governmental international platform** for **parliamentary diplomacy, democratic institution-building** and international cooperation among legislatures

Key Details

- **Established 1889 in Paris**
- Co-founded by **William Randal Cremer** (United Kingdom) and **Frédéric Passy** (France)
- One of the **oldest international political organisations** in the world
- **Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland**
- **183 Member Parliaments** and **15 Associate Members**
- Slogan: **"For democracy. For everyone"**

Aim

- Promote **democratic governance, accountability, rule of law** and **legislative transparency**
- Strengthen parliaments while advancing **human rights, gender equality, youth participation** and **international peace**

The Ramappa Temple

Source: TH

What It Is

- A **13th-century Hindu temple** dedicated to **Shiva** as **Ramalingeswara or Rudreshwara**
- Inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2021** — India's **39th** — as **"Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana"**
- At **Palampet village, Venkatapur Mandal, Mulugu district**

History

- Built in **1213 CE** under **Ganapati Deva**, by his general **Recharla Rudra**
- Construction took roughly **40 years**
- Named after its chief sculptor **Ramappa** — perhaps the **only historic temple in India named after its builder** rather than the deity

Important Facts for Exams

- Built **1213 CE**; UNESCO listed **July 2021**; India's **39th** World Heritage Site
- **Ganapati Deva** (Kakatiya ruler); general **Recharla Rudra**; sculptor **Ramappa**
- **Sandbox technique** gives earthquake resistance; **floating bricks** reduce structural load
- **Madanika** — a sculpted female figure; **Yali** — a mythical composite beast in South Indian temple art
- **Kakatiyas** ruled from **Warangal**, 12th–14th centuries; **Rani Rudrama Devi** was among India's few women rulers

3D-Printed Rural Houses under PMAY-G

Source: The Hindu

Context **Andhra Pradesh** will launch **India's first national-level pilot** to construct rural houses using **3D Concrete Printing (3DCP)** under **PMAY-Gramin**.

What 3DCP Is

- An **automated, construction-scale additive manufacturing technology**
- Replacing traditional **brick-and-mortar masonry** by depositing **high-performance cementitious mixtures layer by layer**, using **robotic gantry or arm printers**

How It Works

- **Digital modelling** — a 3D plan created using **Building Information Modelling (BIM)**, sliced into precise numerical computer paths
- **Material extrusion** — a computer-guided **robotic nozzle** extrudes specially engineered fluid concrete along the toolpath
- **Rapid in-situ setting** — the mix maintains **high buildability and fast setting**, forming load-bearing walls **without conventional formwork**

Misc GA

NSO National Household Travel Survey

- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** released findings from India's first **National Household Travel Survey**.
- Only around **15% of workers** use public transport such as buses, trains, trams and auto-rickshaws.
- Around **46%** depend on **cars or two-wheelers**, while **28% travel on foot**.
- The data helps understand **urban mobility and transport patterns** in India.

Five New Cheetah Cubs Born in Kuno

- **Five cheetah cubs** were born in **Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**.
- India's cheetah population increased to **60**, including **41 cubs born in India**.
- The cubs were born to **KJP21**, the third India-born female cheetah to give birth in India.
- The development strengthens **Project Cheetah** and efforts to establish a sustainable cheetah population.

Five Centres of Excellence for Classical Languages

- The Ministry of Education approved five **Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** for **Assamese, Bengali, Marathi, Pali and Prakrit**.
- **Assamese:** Tezpur University; **Bengali:** Visva-Bharati.
- **Marathi:** Deccan College, Pune; **Pali:** Central University of Odisha; **Prakrit:** Central University of Gujarat.
- The centres will focus on **research, preservation, digitisation and wider dissemination** of classical-language heritage.

28 Places and Geographical Features Identified in Ladakh

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs**, with the Ladakh administration, identified **28 geographical features** using standard names on Survey of India maps.
- These include **peaks, mountains, glaciers, passes, land areas, a river, lake and valley**.
- The initiative provides standard references for geographical features and improves awareness of their locations.
- Examples include **Yangpa River, Guru Rinpoche Lake, Shkorga Valley and Hot Spring**.

Nālandā University–CSIR-TKDL MoU

- **Nālandā University** and the **CSIR-Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)** Unit signed an MoU on traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.
- The collaboration covers **Traditional Knowledge, IPR, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Indian Knowledge Systems**.
- It includes research, documentation, training, internships and academic exchanges.
- Special focus will be given to **Bihar's cultural heritage**.

Pondicherry University–NIT Nagaland Research Collaboration

- **Pondicherry University** and **NIT Nagaland** signed an MoU under the **ANRF-PAIR** programme.
- **IISc Bengaluru** will act as the hub, while Pondicherry University and NIT Nagaland will function as spoke institutions.
- NIT Nagaland became the **first North-Eastern institution** participating in this PAIR project.

- Research will focus on **functional materials** for healthcare, energy, catalysis and computational materials.

HAL to Acquire Full Ownership of HATSOFF

- **HAL** signed an agreement to acquire the remaining **50% stake** in HATSOFF Helicopter Training from **CAE Canada**.
- The shares are being acquired at **nil consideration**.
- After completion, HATSOFF will become a **100% wholly owned subsidiary of HAL**.
- HATSOFF provides **simulator-based training for military and civil helicopter pilots**.

DRDO's Kaveri Dry Engine Completes Trials

- DRDO's **Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE)** successfully completed high-altitude and flight trials of the **Kaveri Dry Engine** in Russia.
- The engine is being developed for the **Ghatak Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV)**.
- It recorded a maximum dry thrust of **48.5 kN**, exceeding the target of 46 kN.
- The engine is a **non-afterburning** version of the Kaveri engine.

India's First Free-Space Quantum Key Distribution Link

- **QNu Labs, BISAG-N and IIT Gandhinagar** demonstrated India's first free-space **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)** link.
- The secure communication link covered **5.56 km**.
- It achieved a **Quantum Bit Error Rate below 5%** and generated secure keys at **230–260 bps**.
- QKD uses quantum principles to enable highly secure **encryption-key distribution**.

New Lizard Species Discovered in Peru

- Scientists discovered a new cryptic lizard species named **Liolaemus arequipensis** in southern Peru.
- It was found at an altitude of about **4,818 metres** in the Arequipa region.
- It belongs to the **Liolaemus genus**, a group of South American lizards mainly found in the Andes.
- The species was described in the scientific journal **Diversity**.

Asian Games 2026 – India Finishes Fourth

- The **Aichi–Nagoya Asian Games 2026** concluded on **4 October 2026**.
- India finished **4th** with **85 medals: 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze**.
- **China** topped the table with **341 medals**, followed by Japan and South Korea.
- The Games featured **469 medal events across 43 sports**.

Filmmaker Singeetham Srinivasa Rao Passes Away

- Veteran filmmaker **Singeetham Srinivasa Rao** passed away at the age of **94**.
- He directed around **60 films** across several Indian languages.
- Notable works include **Pushpaka Vimanam, Aditya 369, Mayuri and Bhairava Dweepam**.
- He received **2 National Film Awards** and several state and Filmfare awards.

International Day of Non-Violence 2026

- Observed on **2 October**, the birth anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi**.

- The UN established the day through **UNGA Resolution 61/271 in 2007**.
- India observes 2 October as **Gandhi Jayanti** and **Swachh Bharat Diwas**.
- 2026 marked Gandhi's **157th birth anniversary**.

World Animal Day 2026

- Observed annually on **4 October** to promote **animal welfare and protection**.
- **2026 Theme:** *"See the World Through Their Eyes."*
- October 4 is also associated with **St. Francis of Assisi**, regarded as the patron saint of animals.
- Since 2003, the **Naturewatch Foundation** has coordinated the global observance.

National Wildlife Week 2026

- Observed in India from **2–8 October** to promote wildlife conservation.
- **2026 Theme:** *"Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife."*
- The focus is on **habitat connectivity**, which enables wildlife to move and survive across landscapes.
- National Wildlife Week developed from the **National Wildlife Day first observed in 1955**.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 6 OCTOBER 2026

1. Total **emoluments increased by 12.08%** during 2024–25. Annual Survey of Industries 2024–25
2. The **Ministry of Home Affairs**, with the Ladakh administration, identified **28 geographical features** using standard names on Survey of India maps. 28 Places and Geographical Features Identified …
3. 2026 marked Gandhi's **157th birth anniversary**. International Day of Non-Violence 2026
4. National Wildlife Week developed from the **National Wildlife Day first observed in 1955**. National Wildlife Week 2026
5. It has an outlay of **₹60,000 crore** for five years: ₹30,000 crore Centre, ₹20,000 crore States and ₹10,000 crore industry. PM-SETU Completes One Year

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. COFO 28: India's Forest Progress and the SOFO 2026 Report

Source: PIB

Context of the News

India presented its progress on **forest cover, restoration and climate action** at the **28th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 28)**, held from **28 September to 2 October 2026** in **Rome, Italy**. India's forest and tree cover now stands at **82.74 million hectares**, or **25.17 per cent** of its geographical area.

Key Highlights

What Is COFO?

- A **biennial session** — held every **two years**
- Brings together **128 member countries**, including ministers, heads of forest services, senior officials and partner organisations
- Discusses **global forestry issues**
- **COFO 28 was chaired by Pierre Taty** of the **Republic of the Congo**

What Was the Theme?

- Held alongside the **10th World Forest Week**
- Theme: **"Forests for food, resilience and prosperity"**

How Did India Participate?

- Through the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**
- India presented its **national statement on forest and landscape restoration**
- Reported forest and tree cover of **82.74 million hectares — 25.17 per cent** of geographical area

What Did the FAO Report Say?

The FAO released **"The State of the World's Forests 2026: Restoring Forests and Landscapes – The Way Forward for a Sustainable Future"**

- A **global assessment of land degradation**
- With practical strategies for scaling up **high-quality Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR)**
- **Key finding:** nearly **1.56 billion hectares** of land is **degraded globally**
- That is **10 per cent of the world's total land area**
- And about **5.2 times the size of India**

Important Facts for Exams

- India's forest and tree cover: **82.74 mn ha**, **25.17 per cent** of geographical area
- India ranks **9th globally** in total forest area and **3rd** in **net annual forest area gain** (FRA 2025)
- **Bonn Challenge:** India pledged **26 mn ha by 2030**; **21.76 mn ha** already under restoration
- India's carbon sink: additional **2.29 billion tonnes CO_2e by 2021**; target **3.5–4.0 billion tonnes by 2035**

- **FAO** — headquartered at **Rome**, founded **1945**; also publishes **SOFI** (food security) and **SOFA** (agriculture)
- The **Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)** is published every **five years**

PM E-DRIVE Scheme Completes Two Years

- The **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)** Scheme completed **two years** on 29 September 2026.
- About **26.59 lakh electric vehicles (EVs)** were sold under the scheme as of June 2026.
- The scheme was launched in October 2024 and has been extended up to **31 March 2028**.
- It supports **e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks, e-buses and EV charging infrastructure**.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

World Bank Raises India's FY27 Growth Forecast to 7.1%

Source: Business Standard

Context The **World Bank** raised India's **FY27 growth projection to 7.1 per cent from 6.6 per cent**, citing **robust domestic demand** and **strong exports** despite global headwinds — in the **October edition of its India Development Update**.

The Revised Forecast Table

Agency	Before	After
World Bank	6.6	**7.1**
OECD	6.3	**7.1**
ADB	6.6	**7.0**
S&P Global	6.6	**7.0**
Moody's	6.0	**7.0**
Fitch	6.4	**6.9**
Goldman Sachs	**6.5**	—
IMF	**6.4**	—
RBI	**6.7**	—

What Is Driving Growth

- **"Growth has held up better than expected despite trade and geopolitical uncertainties"**
- **Private consumption** is expected to remain the **main driver**
- A **rainfall deficit through August** is likely to weigh **modestly on rural demand**
- **Government consumption** will stay **subdued**

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

2026 Nobel Prize in Physics: Neutrinos and the IceCube Observatory

Source: Indian Express

Context of the News

The **2026 Nobel Prize in Physics** was awarded to **Francis Halzen**, a Belgian-American scientist, for his pioneering work on detecting **high-energy neutrinos** using the **IceCube Neutrino Observatory** at the South Pole in Antarctica.

Key Highlights

What are Neutrinos?

- **Neutrinos** are extremely tiny **subatomic particles** produced mainly during **nuclear reactions**, such as those occurring inside the Sun.
- They are among the **most abundant particles in the universe**, after photons.
- They are electrically neutral and interact **very weakly with matter**, earning them the nickname **"ghost particles."**
- Billions of neutrinos pass through our bodies every second without noticeable effects.

Why are Neutrinos Important?

- Because neutrinos interact very weakly with matter, they can travel through **very dense regions of space** without being absorbed or scattered.
- This allows scientists to study cosmic events that cannot be observed clearly through ordinary light.
- Neutrinos therefore provide a **new window into the universe**.

What did Francis Halzen do?

- **Francis Halzen** developed the idea of using the **deep Antarctic ice** itself as a huge neutrino detector.
- This led to the development of the **IceCube Neutrino Observatory** at the **South Pole**.
- IceCube covers about **1 cubic kilometre of ice** and contains **more than 5,000 light sensors** installed deep inside the Antarctic ice.

How does IceCube detect neutrinos?

1. A neutrino occasionally collides with an **atomic nucleus** in the ice.
2. The collision produces a **charged particle**.
3. The charged particle travels through the ice and produces a faint **blue light/glow** called **Cherenkov light**.
4. IceCube's light sensors detect this glow.
5. Scientists use the **direction and energy of the light** to determine the direction and energy of the original neutrino.

Why Antarctica?

- The **South Pole** provides a large volume of extremely clear and stable ice.
- Deep ice is naturally **dark and isolated**, reducing interference from other sources.
- This makes it suitable for detecting the extremely rare interactions of neutrinos.

India's Rising Supercomputing Ecosystem

Source: PIB

Context of the News

India has deployed **40 indigenous supercomputers** with a combined capacity of **68 Petaflops** under the **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)** — strengthening self-reliance in **high-performance computing (HPC)** ahead of **ESTIC-2026**.

Key Highlights

What Is the National Supercomputing Mission?

- Launched in **April 2015** with an outlay of **₹4,500 crore**
- Jointly run by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**

- Implemented by **C-DAC, Pune** and **IISc, Bengaluru**
- Its aim is to build an **indigenous high-performance computing system**, so India does not depend on other countries for computing power

How Did Indian Supercomputing Develop?

- **PARAM 8000 (1991)** — India's first indigenous supercomputer, built by **C-DAC**, with a speed of **1 Gigaflop**. It was made after Western countries **refused to sell India the Cray X-MP** machine
- **PARAM Yuva series (2008–2013)** — raised Indian computing to the **Teraflop level (54 TF)**, used for fluid dynamics, weather modelling and bioinformatics
- **NSM launched (2015)** — shifted from building **one-off machines** to a **connected national grid**
- **PARAM Shivay and Pravega (2019–2022)** — the first multi-petaflop systems. **PARAM Shivay at IIT BHU** was the first built under NSM, followed by **PARAM Pravega (3.3 PF) at IISc Bengaluru**
- **PARAM Rudra (2024 onwards)** — uses **Indian-designed Rudra servers**, Indian **high-speed interconnects** and Indian **liquid-cooling parts**

National Household Travel Survey (NHTS)

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** released the findings of India's **first-ever National Household Travel Survey (NHTS)**, conducted from **July 2025 to June 2026**.

Key Highlights

What Is the Survey?

- India's **first all-India household travel survey**
- It records **why people travel, how they travel, how far, for how long** and **how much they spend**
- Covered **4.92 lakh households** and over **20.34 lakh persons**
- Conducted by the **NSO** under **MoSPI**
- **Important note:** in this survey, "travel" means a trip of **1 km or more**. Shorter trips are **not counted**

Important Facts for Exams

- **NHTS** — India's **first household travel survey**; **July 2025 to June 2026**; **4.92 lakh households**, **20.34 lakh persons**; by the **NSO** under **MoSPI**
- **"Travel" means trips of 1 km or more**
- Students: **66.4 per cent** travel 1 km+; **walking 37**, **bus 29.5**, **bicycle 15.8 per cent**
- Workers: **57.6 per cent** travel 1 km+; **urban 64.1**, **rural 54.5 per cent**
- **Two-wheelers: 42.6 per cent** overall; **52.3 urban**, **37.1 rural**
- Gender gap: **61.9 per cent men** against **41.9 per cent women**
- Average travel time: **23 minutes (students)**, **25 minutes (workers)**
- Monthly commute cost: **₹785** average; **₹1,044 urban**, **₹612 rural**
- Overnight travel: **buses 55.8**, **railways 17.7 per cent**; **70.2 per cent** for social and religious reasons
- The **female work-travel gap** connects to India's low **female labour force participation of 41.7 per cent (PLFS 2023-24)**

Pneumonic Plague

Source: TOI

Context of the News

Nearly **200 people were quarantined** and monitored in **Irkutsk, Siberia**, after a researcher at an **anti-plague institute** died of severe pneumonia suspected to be **pneumonic plague**.

Key Highlights

What Is Pneumonic Plague?

- The **rarest, most severe and most deadly** form of plague
- It is an infection of the **lungs**
- Caused by the bacterium ***Yersinia pestis***
- It is the **only form of plague that spreads directly from person to person**

Important Facts for Exams

- **Pneumonic plague** — the **deadliest** form and the **only one spreading person to person**
- Caused by ***Yersinia pestis***; carried by **rodents**, spread by the **rat flea (*Xenopsylla cheopis*)**
- **Incubation: 24 hours to 3 days**
- Three forms: **bubonic (lymph nodes), septicaemic (blood), pneumonic (lungs)**
- Treated with **gentamicin, doxycycline, ciprofloxacin**
- *Yersinia pestis* is named after **Alexandre Yersin**, who identified it in **Hong Kong, 1894**
- Plague caused three historic pandemics — the **Plague of Justinian (6th century)**, the **Black Death (14th century)** and the **Third Pandemic (19th century)**, which reached **Bombay in 1896**
- India's last major outbreak was in **Surat, 1994**
- The **Haffkine Institute, Mumbai** was founded after the 1896 plague; **Waldemar Haffkine** developed the first plague vaccine there

India-Japan Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

Source: PIB

Context of the News

India and Japan jointly launched the **Operational Manual for the India-Japan Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** in New Delhi — moving the arrangement from **design to actual project execution**.

Key Highlights

What Is the JCM?

- A **bilateral project-based mechanism** started by **Japan** with partner developing countries
- Japan supplies **advanced low-carbon technology, infrastructure and services**
- The emission reductions achieved are **counted as credits** and shared between the two countries

What Is the Legal Basis?

- Governed by **Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement**, which allows two countries to **cooperate voluntarily** and transfer emission reductions between them
- These transferred reductions are called **ITMOs — Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes**
- Built on a **Memorandum of Cooperation signed 7 August 2025**
- And **Rules of Implementation adopted 8 June 2026**

Economy

India, Japan Launch Operational Manual for Joint Crediting Mechanism

- India and Japan launched the **Operational Manual for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** in New Delhi.
- It operationalises cooperation under **Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement**.
- The JCM promotes **low-carbon technologies, climate finance and emission reduction projects**.
- The manual covers the complete project cycle, from **project idea submission to credit issuance and authorisation**.

Odisha Launches MICE Incentive Portal

- Odisha launched India's first dedicated digital portal for **MICE — Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions** tourism.
- The portal will simplify **incentive applications and approvals** for large business events.
- Eligible events can receive incentives of **₹1,000 per room per day**, subject to specified conditions.
- The initiative aims to strengthen **business tourism and corporate event infrastructure** in Odisha.

Social Issue

World Habitat Day 2026

- **World Habitat Day** is observed on the **first Monday of October** to promote adequate housing and better human settlements.
- The **2026 theme** was **"Adequate Housing for All."**
- The global observance was held in **Muscat, Oman**, from 5–8 October 2026.
- In India, the focus included progress under **PMAY-U and PMAY-U 2.0**.

World Teachers' Day 2026

- **World Teachers' Day** is observed every year on **5 October**.
- The 2026 theme was **"Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures."**
- It marked the **60th anniversary** of the 1966 ILO-UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.
- The day was first observed globally in **1994**.

World Cerebral Palsy Day 2026

- **World Cerebral Palsy Day** is observed on **6 October** to promote awareness, inclusion and accessibility.
- The 2026 theme was **"Unique and united."**
- Cerebral Palsy is a group of **neurological disorders affecting movement, posture and muscle coordination**.
- The day was designated in **2012** by the Cerebral Palsy Alliance.

Misc GA

India Among Countries Interested in Hosting 2036 Olympics

- India is among **seven countries** that expressed interest in hosting the **2036 Summer Olympics**.
- Other interested countries include **Qatar, South Africa, South Korea, Germany, Hungary and Turkey**.

- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** is expected to decide the host through its members in **2029**.
- The IOC is also discussing potential hosting for **2040 and 2044**.

HAL Delivers Its 2,000th Aero-Engine

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** delivered its **2,000th aero-engine** from its Koraput division in Odisha.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** stressed the need for indigenous capabilities in **aero-engine design, development, manufacturing and maintenance**.
- Around **₹5,000 crore** of proposed investment will support the aerospace ecosystem.
- India is also developing its first indigenous **high-thrust engine testing facility**, important for the **AMCA programme**.

24 Departmentally-Related Standing Committees Reconstituted

- The Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairman reconstituted **24 Departmentally-Related Standing Committees (DRSCs)** for **2026–27**.
- **Bhartruhari Mahtab** was appointed Chairperson of the Finance Committee.
- **Shashi Tharoor** will head the Committee on External Affairs.
- **Radha Mohan Singh** was appointed Chairperson of the Defence Committee.

MeitY Launches Centre for AI in Keralam

- MeitY launched the **Centre for AI in Keralam (CAIK)** in Thiruvananthapuram under the **IndiaAI Mission**.
- **Digital University Kerala** will be the implementing agency.
- Focus areas include **healthcare, agriculture, climate resilience, sustainability and e-governance**.
- Its first cohort includes **15 AI startups** across healthcare, AgriTech, legal technology, Edge AI and other fields.

Three High Court Chief Justices Appointed as Supreme Court Judges

- **Justice Sunita Agarwal, Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh** were appointed as Supreme Court judges.
- The appointments were made under **Article 124(2)** of the Constitution.
- New Acting Chief Justices were also appointed for the **Gujarat, Delhi and Telangana High Courts**.
- **Gurvinder Pal Singh** was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court under **Article 224(1)**.

Rajeshwari Kumari Elected to OCA Athletes Commission

- Indian trap shooter **Rajeshwari Kumari** was elected to the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Athletes Commission** for **2026–2030**.
- She will represent **South Asia**.
- She becomes the **second Indian** on the Commission after **Shiva Keshavan**.
- She won a **silver medal in the Women's Trap Team event** at the 2022 Asian Games.

Fleet Support Ship 'Surya' Launched

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched **Fleet Support Ship-1 (FSS-1) 'Surya'** at Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam.

- It is the **first of five** indigenously designed Fleet Support Ships for the Indian Navy.
- The **43,500-tonne** ships will carry fuel, water, ammunition and other supplies for naval vessels.
- The ship also has a **helicopter deck, maintenance facilities and self-defence systems**.

Max Verstappen Wins 2026 Bahrain Grand Prix

- **Max Verstappen** won the 2026 Bahrain Grand Prix for **Oracle Red Bull Racing**.
- **Kimi Antonelli** finished second, while **Lewis Hamilton** finished third.
- It was the **16th round** of the 2026 Formula One World Championship.
- The race was held at **Sepang International Circuit, Malaysia**, marking Formula One's return to the circuit since 2017.

India Wins Four Gold and One Silver at IOAA 2026

- India won **four gold medals and one silver medal** at the **19th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) 2026**.
- All five members of India's team won medals.
- The achievement highlights India's performance in **astronomy and astrophysics education**.

India Mobile Congress 2026

- The **10th edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC)** began at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi**.
- The 2026 theme is **"Scale Without Boundaries."**
- The event focuses on **telecommunications, digital connectivity and emerging technologies**.
- It provides a platform for global collaboration in India's digital ecosystem.

Novak Djokovic Wins Seventh China Open Title

- **Novak Djokovic** won the **China Open men's singles title** in Beijing.
- It was his **seventh China Open title**.
- The victory also gave him his **102nd Tour-level trophy**.
- Australia's **Alex de Minaur** retired during the final.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 7 OCTOBER 2026

1. Launched in **April 2015** with an outlay of **₹4,500 crore** India's Rising Supercomputing Ecosystem
2. The **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)** Scheme completed **two years** on 29 September 2026. PM E-DRIVE Scheme Completes Two Years
3. The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** is expected to decide the host through its members in **2029**. India Among Countries Interested in Hosting 203…
4. **NHTS** — India's **first household travel survey**; **July 2025 to June 2026**; **4.92 lakh households**, **20.34 lakh persons**; by the **NSO** under **MoSPI** National Household Travel Survey (NHTS)
5. It marked the **60th anniversary** of the 1966 ILO-UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. World Teachers' Day 2026

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Up to 30% of Cotton Area Under Illegal GM Hybrids

Source: Indian Express

Context of the News

A recent field-based study by the **Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII)** and **National Seed Association of India (NSAI)** estimates that **24–30% of India's cotton area** may be under **unauthorised GM cotton hybrids** containing traits not approved by the government.

Key Highlights

- **Scale of cultivation:** Of **114.8 lakh hectares** under cotton in 2025–26, around **26.2–29 lakh hectares** may involve unauthorised GM hybrids.
- **Genes legally allowed:** India currently permits GM cotton with two **Bt genes — cry1Ac and cry2Ab**. These provide protection against certain **bollworm pests**.
- **Unauthorised genes found:**
  - **cp4-epsps:** Provides tolerance to **glyphosate herbicide**, allowing farmers to spray glyphosate for weed control without killing the cotton plant.
  - **Vip3A:** A Bt-derived gene offering protection against a broader range of insect pests, including **pink bollworm**.
- **Study coverage:** Researchers tested **227 geo-tagged seed/leaf samples** from fields of **984 farmers** across **16 districts** in Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- **HT gene prevalence:** The **cp4-epsps gene** was detected in **72.69%** of field samples.
  - Telangana: **88.64%**
  - Maharashtra: **70.92%**
  - Andhra Pradesh: **62.86%**
  - Rajasthan: **57.14%**
- **Vip3A prevalence: 53.74%** of samples tested positive for the **Vip3A gene**.
- **Why farmers are adopting it: Labour shortages and high manual weeding costs** are major drivers. Glyphosate-based weed control may cost around **₹750–850/acre**, compared with **₹12,000–15,000/acre** for manual weeding.
- **Illegal seed market:** Unauthorised HTBt cotton seed sales are estimated to have increased from **35 lakh packets in 2017–18** to **82–88 lakh packets in 2025–26**, potentially worth **₹820–880 crore**.
- **Glyphosate imports:** Imports increased by about **29%**, from **27,721 kilolitres in 2024–25** to **35,642 kilolitres in 2025–26**.

Key Terms

- **GM Crop:** A crop whose genetic material is modified using biotechnology to introduce a desired trait.

- **Bt Cotton:** Cotton genetically modified with genes from *Bacillus thuringiensis* to protect against insect pests.
- **HT Cotton: Herbicide-Tolerant Cotton**, designed to survive application of a particular herbicide.
- **cp4-epsps:** A gene that gives plants tolerance to **glyphosate**.
- **Vip3A:** A Bt-derived insect-resistance gene effective against several cotton pests.
- **Biosafety Regulation:** Government rules governing the development, testing, approval and release of genetically modified organisms.
- **Pink Bollworm:** A major cotton pest that damages cotton bolls and reduces yield and fibre quality.

WWF Living Planet Report 2026

Source: Indian Express

Context of the News

The **WWF's biennial Living Planet Report 2026** found a **73 per cent average decline** in the sizes of monitored vertebrate populations — mammals, fish, birds and amphibians — over the **52 years from 1970 to 2022**.

Key Highlights

- **73% decline:** Average monitored **vertebrate population sizes declined by 73% between 1970 and 2022**, based on data from **35,803 populations and 5,790 species**.
- **Freshwater ecosystems:** Recorded the **highest decline at 85%**, followed by **terrestrial ecosystems (69%)** and **marine ecosystems (59%)**.
- **Regional decline:** The largest declines occurred in **Latin America & Caribbean (95%)**, **Africa (80%)**, and **Asia-Pacific (49%)**.
- **Major drivers:** Habitat loss and degradation, overexploitation, climate change, invasive species, pollution and disease.
- **Food system:** The way food is produced and consumed is identified as the **single largest driver of biodiversity loss**, contributing to habitat destruction, overharvesting and greenhouse-gas emissions.
- **Recovery is possible:** Green turtles, bluefin tuna, tigers and southern African elephants have shown recovery due to targeted conservation efforts. Global wild tiger numbers increased from around **3,200 in 2010 to 5,700 in 2025**.

Living Planet Index (LPI)

LPI measures the **average rate of change in population size of monitored vertebrate species** across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. It tracks **relative changes in population abundance**, not the total number of animals lost.

Key Terms

- **Biodiversity:** Variety of living organisms, ecosystems and genetic resources.
- **Living Planet Index:** Indicator tracking changes in monitored vertebrate populations.
- **Vertebrates:** Animals with a backbone, such as mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians.
- **CBD:** Global agreement for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing.
- **Cartagena Protocol:** International agreement dealing with biosafety and GMOs.
- **Nagoya Protocol:** Agreement governing access to genetic resources and fair sharing of benefits.

Important Facts for Exams

- **WWF** — founded **1961**, headquartered at **Gland, Switzerland**; its symbol is the **giant panda**

Rural Economy Becoming More Resilient to Monsoon Shocks

- An **RBI study** found that India's rural economy is becoming less dependent on rainfall because of **non-farm activities, allied sectors and better irrigation**.
- For small farm households owning up to one acre, **wages contribute more than 55%** of income, while crops and livestock together contribute about **36%**.
- Even when rainfall is highly deficient, **non-agricultural rural growth remains relatively strong**, while agricultural growth falls sharply.
- The finding is important for understanding **rural income diversification and climate resilience**.

VB–G RAM G Act: Permissible Rural Works Expanded to 375

- The Ministry of Rural Development expanded permissible works under the **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB–G RAM G] Act, 2025** from **266 to 375**, a **41% increase**.
- The works are grouped under **Water Security, Core Rural Infrastructure, Livelihood Infrastructure and Disaster Preparedness**.
- **181 works** are agriculture-related, including water management, land development, plantations, livestock and productive assets.
- Works will be planned through **Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans**, approved by the Gram Sabha.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

RBI Raises Repo Rate to 5.5% and Shifts to Calibrated Tightening

Source: ET

Context of the News

The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** raised the **policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.5 per cent** and shifted its stance from **neutral to calibrated tightening** — signalling that **rate cuts are off the table** in the near term.

Key Highlights

What Are the New Rates?

Rate	New level
Repo rate	**5.50 per cent**
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	**5.25 per cent**
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	**5.75 per cent**
Bank Rate	**5.75 per cent**

Why Did RBI Raise the Repo Rate?

The main reason is that the **inflation outlook has become less comfortable**, while economic growth remains strong.

- **Crude oil prices:** Oil prices have risen above **$100 per barrel**, creating inflationary pressure because India is heavily dependent on imported crude.
- **Geopolitical tensions:** The escalation of the **West Asia conflict** has increased uncertainty and oil-price volatility.
- **Food inflation:** Weak monsoon conditions and **El Niño-related risks** could put pressure on food prices.

- **Rupee weakness:** A weaker rupee makes imports, particularly crude oil, more expensive.
- **Strong growth:** India's economy remains strong, giving the RBI greater room to raise borrowing costs.

What Does "Calibrated Tightening" Mean?

- **Calibrated tightening** means the RBI is gradually moving towards a **tighter monetary policy** to control inflation.
- **Inflation risk ↑ → Repo Rate ↑ → Borrowing becomes costlier → Demand may moderate → Inflation pressure may reduce**

Impact on Loans

The repo-rate hike is likely to make **floating-rate loans** more expensive.

- **Home loans:** EMIs may increase or loan tenure may rise.
- **Auto loans:** New borrowing may become costlier.
- **MSME loans:** Cost of credit may increase.
- **Consumer demand:** Higher EMIs can reduce demand for interest-sensitive goods and services.
- **Deposits:** Banks may gradually increase deposit rates to attract funds.

Key Terms

- **Repo Rate:** Rate at which RBI lends short-term money to commercial banks against eligible securities.
- **Basis Point (bps): 1 bps = 0.01 percentage point**; therefore, **25 bps = 0.25 percentage point**.
- **MPC:** Six-member body responsible for deciding the policy repo rate.
- **Monetary Policy Stance:** RBI's broad approach towards interest rates and liquidity.
- **Calibrated Tightening:** A gradual move towards higher interest rates to contain inflation.
- **SDF:** Facility through which banks deposit surplus funds with RBI without collateral.
- **MSF:** Overnight borrowing facility available to eligible banks from RBI against specified securities.
- **CPI Inflation:** Inflation measured using changes in the **Consumer Price Index**.

SEBI Launches 'Samajh Se Investing Simple' Campaign

- **SEBI** launched the **'Samajh Se Investing Simple'** campaign under **Project Jagrook** during World Investor Week 2026.
- The campaign aims to improve **financial literacy, informed investment decisions and investor protection**.
- The **MUST programme** trains university and college faculty, staff and senior students as investor-education trainers.
- The campaign is supported by market institutions including **NISM, BSE, NSE, MCX, CDSL, NSDL and AMFI**.

RBI & NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

2026 Chemistry Nobel: Mirror-Image Molecules

Source: Indian Express

Context of the News

The **2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** was awarded to **Henri Kagan** (France) and **Kenso Soai** (Japan) for showing how **homochirality** — nature's preference for one mirror-image form of a molecule — can be created in the laboratory.

Key Highlights

What Is Chirality?

- Some molecules exist in **two forms**, each the **mirror image of the other** — like your **left and right hands**
- The two forms have the **same atoms, connected in the same order**
- The only difference is the **three-dimensional arrangement**
- One cannot be placed exactly on top of the other — they are **non-superimposable**
- The two forms are called **enantiomers**

Why Does It Matter in Biology?

- The **amino acids** in proteins and the **sugars** in DNA occur in **only one form**
- The mirror versions exist but life **rarely uses them**
- This preference is called **homochirality**

What Was the Laboratory Problem?

- Ordinary chemical reactions produce **both enantiomers in roughly equal amounts**
- So homochirality was long thought to be **unique to living things**

What Did Each Scientist Contribute?

Scientist	Period	Contribution
Willy Marckwald	Early 1900s	First reaction giving **slightly unequal** amounts, using a **chiral catalyst**
Henri Kagan	1980s	Showed that a **mildly chiral catalyst** can produce **strongly asymmetric** results — disproving the assumed **linear relationship**
Kenso Soai	1990s	Created the first **asymmetric autocatalytic reaction**, where the product acts as its own catalyst, yielding **99.5 per cent** of one enantiomer

Why Does This Matter for Medicines?

- Many **drug molecules are chiral**
- The body responds to **only one enantiomer**; the other may be **useless or harmful**
- **Earlier:** companies made both forms, then **separated** the useful one — expensive and wasteful
- **Now:** the desired form can be made **directly**, through **asymmetric synthesis**
- Also applies to **flavours, fragrances** and **pesticides**

The Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA)

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The **Union Cabinet** approved setting up a dedicated **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** — the **Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA)** — as the national apex body for transport and logistics planning.

What Is ITLA?

- A **national apex institution**, set up as a **Special Purpose Vehicle**
- To institutionalise **integrated, multimodal transport planning**, **big-data analytics**, **project technical appraisal** and **policy support** across all freight and transit areas
- Modelled on similar agencies in **Japan, the United States, South Korea, China** and **Australia**

Why Was It Needed?

- India's transport infrastructure has historically suffered from **fragmented planning**
- Road, rail, aviation and shipping ministries **worked in isolation** from one another
- **PM GatiShakti (2021)** and the **National Logistics Policy (2022)** improved coordination
- But a dedicated mechanism was still missing for three things: **technical appraisal**, **transport data management** and **multimodal project monitoring**

Key Terms

- **SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle):** A separate legal entity created for one defined purpose — a company, not a body created by an Act of Parliament
- **Multimodal transport:** Moving goods using more than one mode, such as road to rail to port
- **Rolling plan:** A plan revised and extended regularly, so it always looks a fixed number of years ahead
- **Technical appraisal:** Checking whether a project is sound in design and engineering; **financial appraisal** checks whether it makes money sense
- **Origin-destination analysis:** Studying where goods begin and end their journeys, to locate where capacity is short
- **Vahan and SARATHI:** The national databases for **vehicle registrations** and **driving licences**
- **Silo:** A department working in isolation, without sharing information or coordinating with others

GSMA Report: 12% in India Scammed in a Year

Source: Times of India

Context of the News

A survey by **GSMA**, a global body representing the mobile industry, found that **12 per cent of respondents in India** reported being **scammed in the last 12 months** — against **8 per cent** in the **ASEAN-6** countries. The findings appear in the **India Consumer Scam Report 2026**.

Major Findings of the Survey

Indicator	Key finding
Indians scammed in the previous 12 months	12%
Average across six ASEAN countries	8%
Victims who reported their case to an organisation	86%
Reported cases that remained unresolved	33%
Victims who lost money but recovered nothing	67%
Consumers whose behaviour changed due to scam risks	72%

What Types of Scams Are Most Common?

Scam type	India	ASEAN-6
Online shopping scams	**33 per cent**	32 per cent
Prize, lottery and inheritance scams	**31 per cent**	25 per cent
Job or income scams	**30 per cent**	32 per cent
QR code or payment link scams	**27 per cent**	18 per cent

Important Facts for Exams

- **India Consumer Scam Report 2026**, by **GSMA**; **12 per cent** of Indians scammed in a year against **8 per cent** in ASEAN-6

- **Compare with SPIR 2026:** cybercrime cases rose **17.9 per cent** to **1,01,928** in 2024; **13 per cent** of citizens were victims; only **49 per cent** filed a police complaint
- Financial fraud complaints in India totalled **₹55,050 crore** between **2021 and 2025**

Economy

India-Japan Joint Crediting Mechanism Operationalised

- India and Japan launched the **Operational Manual for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)**.
- It supports **low-carbon technologies, climate finance and emission reduction projects**.
- The mechanism operates under **Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement**.
- The manual covers the process from **project proposal to carbon-credit issuance and authorisation**.

Social Issue

Kerala Launches WOMN Scheme for Menstrual Hygiene

- Kerala's **Women and Child Development Department** launched **WOMN – Women on the Move and Menstrual Needs**.
- It aims to provide **affordable sanitary products and safe disposal facilities** at public transport locations.
- The initiative focuses on making travel more **safe, convenient and menstrual-hygiene friendly**.
- It addresses menstrual hygiene needs of **women and girls during travel**.

Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve to Become New Cheetah Habitat

- **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (VDTR)** in Madhya Pradesh is being developed as another habitat for India's **cheetah reintroduction programme**.
- Two cheetahs, **Tholo and CCB-3**, are being moved from **Kuno National Park**.
- The reserve covers about **2,339 sq km** across **Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur** districts.
- It is **Madhya Pradesh's 7th tiger reserve** and India's **54th tiger reserve**.

Misc GA

Starlink Faces Delay in Launching Satellite Internet Services in India

- **SpaceX's Starlink** has received **Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) authorisation** from the Department of Telecommunications.
- However, it is still awaiting required **security approvals** before starting operations.
- Elon Musk alleged that certain business interests were delaying Starlink's India launch.
- A Starlink official indicated that the service could potentially become operational in India by **2027**.

India Develops Indigenous High-Altitude Platform for Surveillance

- **DRDO** successfully tested an indigenous **High-Altitude Platform (HAPS)** developed by ADRDE, Agra.
- The platform reached **21 km altitude** and remained at around **20 km for more than 30 minutes**.
- HAPS can support **long-endurance surveillance and communication** from the stratosphere.
- The trial supports India's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** objective in advanced defence technology.

DRDO Conducts Advanced High-Altitude Parachute Trial

- DRDO conducted the maiden live jump trial of the indigenous **Advanced High-Altitude Parachute (AHAP)** at **Nyoma, Ladakh**.
- The jump was conducted from **16,000 ft**, with deployment at **15,500 ft**.
- The system was tested for operations in **extremely high-altitude terrain**.
- It can strengthen India's **specialised airborne and military logistics capabilities**.

Bharat Forge Signs Aerospace Engine Components Contract with Pratt & Whitney Canada

- **Bharat Forge Limited** signed a long-term agreement with **Pratt & Whitney Canada** for aerospace engine components.
- The components will be manufactured at Bharat Forge's **Indian aerospace facility**.
- The agreement supports **advanced manufacturing and localisation** in India's aerospace sector.
- It can help India become a more important part of **global aerospace supply chains**.

India–Korea Sign Sports Cooperation MoU

- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** and **Korean Sport and Olympic Committee (KSOC)** signed an MoU during the Asian Games 2026.
- It provides for **joint training, coaching exchanges and sports-science cooperation**.
- Athletes will receive opportunities to access **high-performance facilities and expertise**.
- The agreement aims to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the **Olympic movement**.

Palle Rama Rao Passes Away at 89

- **Professor Palle Rama Rao**, noted metallurgist and Padma Awardee, passed away at the age of **89**.
- He served as **Secretary, Department of Science and Technology**, Chairman of the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board** and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hyderabad.
- He also served as Director of the **Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory**.
- His major contributions were in **metallurgy, indigenous alloys and defence materials**.

Eva Marie Saint Passes Away at 102

- Oscar-winning American actress **Eva Marie Saint** passed away at the age of **102**.
- She won the **Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress** for *On the Waterfront* (1954).
- She was also famous for her role in Alfred Hitchcock's **North by Northwest**.
- She was one of the prominent surviving stars of Hollywood's **Golden Age**.

Important Days

World Cotton Day 2026

- **World Cotton Day** is observed on **7 October** to highlight cotton's role in **trade, economic growth and poverty reduction**.
- The 2026 theme was **"Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership."**
- The **Cotton Four (C-4)** countries — Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali — proposed the observance.
- The United Nations officially recognised **7 October** as World Cotton Day in **2021**.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2026

- Observed throughout **October** to promote **early detection, treatment and access to quality care**.
- The 2026 theme was **"Every story is unique, every journey matters."**
- It is also known as **Pink October**.
- The **pink ribbon** is the globally recognised symbol of breast cancer awareness.

World Space Week 2026

- **World Space Week** is observed from **4–10 October** every year.
- The 2026 theme was **"Rocket Revolution."**
- It highlights developments such as **reusable rockets, private space companies, startups and new launch systems**.
- The United Nations declared 4–10 October as World Space Week through **UNGA Resolution 54/68 (1999)**.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 8 OCTOBER 2026

1. The Ministry of Rural Development expanded permissible works under the **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB–G RAM G] Act, 2025** from **266 to 375**, a **41% increase**. VB–G RAM G Act: Permissible Rural Works Expande…
2. **India Consumer Scam Report 2026**, by **GSMA**; **12 per cent** of Indians scammed in a year against **8 per cent** in ASEAN-6 GSMA Report: 12% in India Scammed in a Year
3. **Scale of cultivation**: Of **114.8 lakh hectares** under cotton in 2025–26, around **26.2–29 lakh hectares** may involve unauthorised GM hybrids. Up to 30% of Cotton Area Under Illegal GM Hybri…
4. The **WWF's biennial Living Planet Report 2026** found a **73 per cent average decline** in the sizes of monitored vertebrate populations — mammals, fish, birds and amphibians — over the **52 years from 1970 to 2022**. WWF Living Planet Report 2026
5. The 2026 theme was **"Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership."** World Cotton Day 2026

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Herugavialis cairensis: Gharial Relative Found in Egypt

Source: TOI

Context of the News

Palaeontologists discovered ***Herugavialis cairensis***, a new **extinct crocodilian species**, in **45-million-year-old limestone** of Egypt's **Mokattam Formation** — the same rock formation associated with the **Great Sphinx and Giza pyramids**.

What Is It?

- An extinct **semi-aquatic crocodilian** of the **gharial superfamily (Gavialoidea)**
- Originally classified in **1927** as ***Tomistoma cairense***
- **Advanced 3D cranial modelling** revealed unique internal skeletal features, warranting an **entirely new genus**

How Was It Named?

- **Heru (Horus)** — the Egyptian deity associated with the **Great Sphinx**; chosen because the skull's **missing snout tip** resembles the **Sphinx's missing nose**
- ***cairensis*** — after **Cairo**

When and Where Did It Live?

- **Middle Eocene Epoch**, about **45 million years ago**, during a **global greenhouse climate phase**
- In **warm, shallow coastal waters and lagoons** of the ancient **Neo-Tethys Sea**, which once covered northern Egypt and the Mediterranean basin

India Launches First High-Altitude Snow Leopard Safari in Ladakh

- Launch: Ladakh launched India's first high-altitude snow leopard safari with six safari vehicles.
- Locations: Initial routes cover Rumbak, Shang and Uley, with proposed routes across Hemis National Park, Changthang and the Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Conservation and Livelihoods: Trained local guides and approved routes aim to reduce wildlife disturbance, control illegal off-roading and create jobs through ecotourism.
- Snow Leopard Population: Ladakh reportedly hosts 477 of India's estimated 718 snow leopards, accounting for about two-thirds of the national population.

MoSPI Releases Strategy for Environmental Economic Accounts 2026–2030

- Released by: The Social Statistics Division of the National Statistics Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- Framework: The strategy follows the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), which links environmental data with economic information.
- Priority Areas: Forests, water, land, soil, minerals, carbon stocks, biodiversity, pollination services and

environment-related economic activities.
- Importance: It will improve environmental data and help assess progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

RBI to Enable Interoperability Among Account Aggregators

- Announcement: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced plans to enable interoperability among Non-Banking Financial Company Account Aggregators (NBFC-AAs).
- Purpose: Customers will be able to view information about all their financial assets through a single platform, instead of accessing multiple aggregators.
- Implementation Deadline: The framework is expected to be implemented by 31 December 2026.
- Importance: It can improve access to financial information and make financial services more convenient.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

2026 Nobel Prize in Literature: Anne Carson

Source: TH

Context of the News

The **2026 Nobel Prize in Literature** was awarded to **Anne Carson**, a Canadian poet, classicist, essayist and translator.

About Anne Carson

- **Nationality:** Canadian
- **Born:** 21 June 1950, Toronto, Canada
- **Profession:** Poet, essayist, translator, classicist and professor
- **Field of expertise:** Ancient Greek literature and classical studies
- **Achievement:** The 19th woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. She is also the second Canadian recipient, after Alice Munro, who won in 2013.

Why Did She Win?

- The Swedish Academy honoured Carson for her **bold and inventive body of work, which uses classical literature to create new forms of contemporary writing.**
- Her work combines **poetry, prose, translation and literary criticism.** She often uses **ancient Greek myths and stories to explore modern themes such as love, identity, loss and grief.**

Important Works

- **Autobiography of Red (1998):** A novel in verse that reimagines the ancient Greek myth of Geryon.
- **Eros the Bittersweet (1986):** A work exploring love and desire through ancient Greek poetry.
- **The Beauty of the Husband (2001):** A fictional essay in 29 sections called tangos, exploring love and marriage.
- **Nox (2010):** An experimental book about the death of her elder brother, combining poetry, photographs and personal materials.
- **If Not, Winter (2002):** An English translation of the surviving fragments of ancient Greek poet Sappho.

Important Facts for Exams

- **2026 Literature Nobel: Anne Carson** (Canada) — poet, classicist, translator
- Key works: **Autobiography of Red (1998)**, **The Beauty of the Husband (2001)**, **Nox (2010)**, **Wrong Norma (2024)**
- **First woman to win the T. S. Eliot Prize**
- Doctoral work and translations on **Sappho**
- Awarded by the **Swedish Academy**, Stockholm
- **Rabindranath Tagore (1913)** — India's only Literature Nobel, for **Gitanjali**; the first non-European to win it
- **2026 Nobels:** Medicine — **optogenetics** (Deisseroth, Hegemann, Nagel); Physics — **neutrino detection at IceCube** (Francis Halzen); Chemistry — **asymmetric catalysis** (Kagan, Soai)

SAREX-2026

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The **Raksha Rajya Mantri** inaugurated the **Multinational Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026)** off **Paradip, Odisha** — alongside the **24th National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Board** meeting.

What Is SAREX?

- A **biennial multinational maritime search and rescue exercise**
- Simulating **aircraft ditching, sinking commercial vessels** and **mass casualty evacuations**
- To validate **standard operating procedures** for saving lives at sea
- **Lead agency: the Indian Coast Guard**, the central coordinating authority for maritime search and rescue in India

What Is the Aim?

- Validate **operational readiness**
- Enhance **international and inter-agency interoperability**
- Test **joint multi-platform response**
- Exchange best practices under a **Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Nation** approach

Economy

Government Establishes FTA Utilisation Cell

- Established by: The Department of Commerce, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Objective: To help Indian businesses understand and use benefits under Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including preferential market access and tariff concessions.
- Implementation: The cell will work with Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), industry associations and state governments to identify export opportunities.
- Importance: Better use of FTAs can help Indian businesses enter foreign markets and increase exports.

G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting Held in the United States

- Meeting: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal attended the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Milwaukee, USA, from 30 September to 1 October 2026.
- Key Issues: Global trade challenges, food security, excess production capacity, forced labour in supply chains and World Trade Organization (WTO) reforms.

- Key Outcome: Participating countries agreed on a statement addressing the use of food as a tool of economic or political pressure.
- India's Position: India highlighted food security, farmers' interests and international cooperation in trade.

Hical Technologies and Safran Aerosystems Sign Rafale Manufacturing MoU

- Agreement: Indian aerospace manufacturer Hical Technologies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with France-based Safran Aerosystems to explore a joint venture in India.
- Focus: The proposed venture will manufacture complex fluid systems, fuel systems and related assemblies for Rafale aircraft.
- Manufacturing Base: Hical's aerospace facility in Devanahalli, near Bengaluru, Karnataka, is expected to support the partnership.
- Importance: The agreement supports domestic aerospace manufacturing, technology development and the Make in India initiative.

Social Issue

India Falls Short of Leprosy Control Targets

- New Cases: India reported 91,783 new leprosy cases, compared with the projected 65,000 — about 41.2% higher.
- Child Cases: The country recorded 3,832 child cases against a target of 2,000 — about 91.6% higher.
- Other Indicators: The Grade 2 Disability (G2D) rate was 1.34 per million, against a target of 1 per million. Only 148 districts achieved interrupted transmission, against a target of 300.
- Importance: The figures point to continuing challenges in early detection, treatment and prevention of leprosy transmission.

JOSH Teams Launched to Support TB Elimination

- Launched by: The Union Health Ministry under the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.
- Full Form: JOSH stands for Joint Squad for Health.
- Implementation: National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets and MY Bharat volunteers will conduct household-level outreach in 55 districts across 11 States and Union Territories.
- Objective: To identify people with tuberculosis (TB) who have not been reached by the health system and connect them with testing and treatment.

Misc GA

Henri Boris Kagan and Kenso Soai Win 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

- Awarded by: The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences to French chemist Henri Boris Kagan and Japanese chemist Kenso Soai.
- Contribution: Their work on asymmetric organic synthesis, nonlinear effects and autocatalysis advanced the selective production of molecular mirror images.
- Prize Money: The laureates will share 12 million Swedish kronor (SEK).
- Importance: Their research helps scientists produce specific forms of molecules, which is important in chemistry and drug development.

Mahesh Kakde Wins 2026 Ramanujan Prize for Mathematics

- Winner: Mahesh Kakde, a professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- Contribution: Recognised for outstanding research in algebraic number theory.
- Significance: He becomes the fifth Indian recipient, following Sujatha Ramdorai, Amalendu Krishna, Ritabrata Munshi and Neena Gupta.
- Award Details: The prize has been awarded annually since 2005 to outstanding mathematicians under 45 from developing countries. It is jointly presented by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the International Mathematical Union (IMU) and India's Department of Science and Technology (DST).

EyeROV Delivers India's First Indigenous Military-Grade Underwater ROV

- Company: Kochi-based deep-tech startup EyeROV delivered two TROUT underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) systems to the Indian Navy on 7 October 2026.
- Contract: The delivery is part of an order for five systems, following a ₹47 crore contract awarded in September 2025.
- Applications: The systems support underwater inspection, surveillance, reconnaissance, search and recovery, and robotic intervention.
- Development: TROUT was developed under the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) programme.

Roshan Kumari, Padma Shri Kathak Dancer, Passes Away

- Field: Roshan Kumari was a renowned Indian classical dancer and choreographer associated with the Jaipur Gharana of Kathak.
- Award: She received the Padma Shri in 1984 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.
- Contribution: She founded Nritya Kala Kendra in Bandra, Mumbai, in 1971 to train students and promote Kathak.

Indian Air Force Day 2026

- Date: Observed annually on 8 October to mark the establishment of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in 1932.
- 2026 Anniversary: The day marked the 94th anniversary of the IAF.
- Theme: "Indian Air Force – Infallible, Impervious and Precise."
- 2026 Event: The parade and ceremonial flypast were held at Hindon Air Force Station, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

World Post Day 2026

- Date: Observed annually on 9 October to mark the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874.
- 2026 Theme: "World Post Day: One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities."
- History: The observance was adopted in 1969 by the UPU Congress in Tokyo as UPU Day and renamed World Post Day in 1984.
- Importance: It highlights the role of postal services in communication, trade and connecting communities.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 9 OCTOBER 2026

1. **Autobiography of Red (1998)**: A novel in verse that reimagines the ancient Greek myth of Geryon. 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature: Anne Carson
2. Meeting: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal attended the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Milwaukee, USA, from 30 September to 1 October 2026. G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting Held in the United…
3. Contract: The delivery is part of an order for five systems, following a ₹47 crore contract awarded in September 2025. EyeROV Delivers India's First Indigenous Milita…
4. 2026 Anniversary: The day marked the 94th anniversary of the IAF. Indian Air Force Day 2026
5. **Middle Eocene Epoch**, about **45 million years ago**, during a **global greenhouse climate phase** Herugavialis cairensis: Gharial Relative Found …

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture Minister Inaugurates Facilities at ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi

Source: News on Air

Context of the News

Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** inaugurated new facilities at the **ICAR-Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology (ICAR-IIAB)** at **Garhkhatanga, Ranchi** — and called for **scientific farming and improved seeds** to boost agriculture in Jharkhand.

What Was Inaugurated?

- **Admin-cum-School Building**
- **Birsa Munda Multipurpose Hall**
- **Jaipal Singh Munda Sports Complex**
- **NEXTGEN Breeding Facility**
- Foundation laid for a new **Guest House** — the project is worth **₹119 crore**

What Did the Minister Emphasise?

- **Scientific agriculture** and **improved seeds**
- **Integrated farming** — combining vegetables, cereals and livestock
- **Balanced nutrient management** and proper use of fertilisers
- **Location-specific agricultural technologies** suited to local resources and agro-climatic conditions
- **Timely availability of improved seeds**
- **Transfer of technology** from research institutions to farmers' fields

What Was the Kisan Goshti?

- A **Pre-Rabi Kisan Goshti-cum-Agricultural Input Distribution Programme**
- Held under the **Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP)** and **Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)**
- Brought together about **1,500 farmers** from **Ranchi, Khunti, Gumla** and **Ramgarh** districts
- To enable direct interaction between **farmers, scientists and policymakers**

Key Terms

- **Integrated farming:** Combining crops, livestock, fisheries and horticulture on the same farm, so the waste of one becomes input for another
- **Balanced nutrient management:** Applying nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in correct proportion, rather than over-using urea
- **Agro-climatic conditions:** The combination of soil, rainfall and temperature that determines what can be grown in a place
- **SCSP and TSP:** Sub-plans requiring a share of scheme funds to be earmarked for **Scheduled Caste** and **Scheduled Tribe** beneficiaries
- **Kisan Goshti:** A farmers' meeting where scientists and officials interact directly with farmers

Important Facts for Exams

- **Birsa Munda** — the tribal freedom fighter and leader of the **Ulgulan** rebellion; **15 November**, his birth anniversary, is **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**
- **Jaipal Singh Munda** — hockey captain of India's **1928 Olympic gold** team and a member of the **Constituent Assembly**, who argued for tribal rights
- **Jharkhand** is largely **rain-fed**, with low irrigation coverage — which is why **location-specific technology** and **short-duration varieties** matter there
- **ICAR** was established in **1929** as the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research; headquartered at **New Delhi**

National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing (NSAM) 2.0

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is rolling out NSAM 2.0, building on the first strategy launched in 2022.
- Additive manufacturing is a process of creating objects layer by layer using 3D model data. Unlike subtractive manufacturing, which removes material, it adds material to build the object.
- Key Steps: The process involves 3D design using Computer-Aided Design (CAD), converting the design into a digital file, slicing it into layers, depositing or fusing materials, and post-processing.
- Applications: It can be used in aerospace, defence, healthcare, automobiles and advanced manufacturing, enabling complex designs and reducing material waste.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

RBI Raises Daily CRR Maintenance Requirement

Source: ET

Context of the News

The RBI said banks must maintain **99 per cent of the required Cash Reserve Ratio daily** from **16 October**, up from **90 per cent** at present — to reduce **surplus liquidity** in the banking system.

Key Highlights

- **CRR rate remains unchanged at 3%:** Banks must continue to maintain 3% of their Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) as cash reserves with the RBI.
- **Daily maintenance rises from 90% to 99%:** Banks must now maintain at least 99% of their prescribed CRR on every day of the reporting fortnight, compared with 90% earlier.
- **Purpose:** The RBI is trying to absorb excess liquidity and bring short-term market interest rates closer to the policy repo rate.
- **Banking system liquidity surplus:** It was around ₹3.88 lakh crore on 8 October 2026.

Understanding the CRR Change with an Example

Suppose a bank has an NDTL of ₹1,000 crore.

Particulars	Amount
Prescribed CRR rate	3%
Total CRR required	₹30 crore
Earlier minimum daily maintenance (90%)	₹27 crore

New minimum daily maintenance (99%)	₹29.7 crore

CRR vs SLR

Basis	CRR	SLR
Full form	Cash Reserve Ratio	Statutory Liquidity Ratio
Maintained with/in	RBI	Banks themselves
Form	Cash reserves	Cash, gold and eligible securities
Interest/return	No interest on CRR balances	Eligible securities may earn returns
Main purpose	Manage liquidity and monetary conditions	Maintain liquidity and support financial stability

Key Terms for Exams

- **CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio):** The percentage of a bank's NDTL that must be maintained as cash reserves with the RBI. Banks do not earn interest on these reserves.
- **SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio):** The percentage of NDTL banks must maintain in specified liquid assets, such as cash, gold and eligible government securities.
- **NDTL (Net Demand and Time Liabilities):** A bank's net demand and time liabilities, broadly representing deposits and certain other liabilities used to calculate reserve requirements.
- **Repo Rate:** The rate at which the RBI lends money to banks against eligible securities.
- Liquidity: The availability of money and funds in the banking system.
- **OMO (Open Market Operations):** The RBI's purchase or sale of government securities to manage liquidity. Selling securities generally absorbs liquidity.
- **WACR (Weighted Average Call Rate):** The weighted average interest rate on overnight unsecured funds borrowed and lent in the interbank call money market.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Reports

UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2026

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

UNCTAD's Trade and Development Report 2026 found that India's share of **global greenfield investments** during **2020-25** was **5.7 per cent** — **more than double China's** share in the same period.

What Is a Greenfield Investment?

- An investment by a company in a **new venture** in another country
- Building a **new facility from scratch**, as against buying an existing one

Which Countries Attracted the Most?

Country	Share of global greenfield investment, 2020-25
India	**5.7 per cent**
Malaysia	**4.0 per cent**
Indonesia	**3.8 per cent**
China	**2.8 per cent**

What Did the Report Say About India's Economy?

- India **remains the fastest-growing major economy**
- But **domestic consumption is showing signs of strain** due to **higher prices**

Important Facts for Exams

- **UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2026**
- **India 5.7 per cent** of global greenfield investment (2020-25); **Malaysia 4.0**, **Indonesia 3.8**, **China 2.8**
- Strategic sectors rose from **16 to 44 per cent** of global greenfield investment; total **$845.7 billion**
- Regional shares: **Europe 28.4**, **North America 28.0**, **developing Asia 26.5 per cent**
- **UNCTAD** — established **1964**, headquartered at **Geneva**; also publishes the **World Investment Report**, the **Technology and Innovation Report** and the **Digital Economy Report**

Ayush Services Sector Report 2026

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The **Ministry of Ayush** released findings from the **Ayush Services Sector Report 2026** on **Ayurveda Day 2026** — showing that **women form 43 per cent** of India's Ayush services workforce.

Who Prepared It?

- The **Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)**
- It examines the sector's **economic contribution, employment, women's participation** and **growth potential**

What Is Women's Share in the Workforce?

Segment	Women's share
Spas and wellness resorts	Over 60 per cent
Educational institutes	58 per cent
Day-care centres	57 per cent
Hospitals	53 per cent
Overall sector	43 per cent

Key Terms

- **AYUSH:** Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy; **Sowa-Rigpa** was later added
- **CAGR:** Compound Annual Growth Rate — the steady annual rate at which something grows over several years
- **Medical value travel:** Travelling to another country for treatment — commonly called medical tourism
- **Standalone clinic:** A single independent clinic, not part of a hospital or chain
- **RIS:** Research and Information System for Developing Countries, a policy think tank under the Ministry of External Affairs

Important Facts for Exams

- **Ayush Services Sector Report 2026** — by **RIS**, released on **Ayurveda Day 2026**
- Sector size: **US$36.92 billion (FY2024-25)**; **CAGR 16.91 per cent**; projected **US$216-318 billion by 2047**
- **1.76 million livelihoods**; over **1 million** in standalone and local clinics
- **Women: 43 per cent** overall; **over 60 per cent** in spas and wellness resorts

- Revenue: **standalone clinics US$16.21 bn (43.9 per cent)**; **day-care US$10.13 bn**; **Ayurveda ~48 per cent** of the total
- **Wellness CAGR 21.29 per cent**; **medical value travel US$1.77 billion**
- **Ayurveda Day** is observed on **Dhanvantari Jayanti (Dhanteras)**; from 2025 it is fixed on **23 September**
- The **Ministry of Ayush** was created in **2014**, upgraded from the Department of AYUSH (2003)
- Key institutions: **AIIA** (All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi), **NCISM** (National Commission for Indian System of Medicine), **NCH** (National Commission for Homoeopathy), **CCRAS**, **NMPB**
- The **WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre** is at **Jamnagar, Gujarat** — the first of its kind anywhere

World Development Report 2026

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The **World Bank Group's World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence** was launched in New Delhi by the Union Minister for Electronics and IT, jointly hosted by MeitY's **IndiaAI Mission**.

About the World Development Report (WDR) 2026

- **Published by:** World Bank Group.
- **Nature:** The World Bank Group's annual flagship report on important development policy issues.
- **Focus:** Examines how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can support economic development, affect jobs and improve public services, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

Key Highlights of the Report

- **Adopt and Adapt Strategy:** Developing countries should customise existing AI models for local needs instead of building costly models from scratch.
- **Job Displacement:** Just over 4% of Indian jobs face immediate automation risks, versus over one-third in advanced economies. Entry-level BPO job postings in South Asia fell by around 20%.
- **Fiscal Risks:** Tax incentives, including a reported 20-year tax holiday for foreign data centres, may strain public finances and raise electricity costs.
- **AI Sovereignty:** Domestic data centres cannot ensure technological independence due to dependence on imported semiconductors, cloud infrastructure and global supply chains.
- **AI Talent Drain:** India lost a net 200 elite AI researchers and inventors (2011–2024) despite having around 50,460 AI professionals in 2025.
- **AI Preparedness:** Only 1 of 25 low-income economies had an active national AI strategy.
- Public Perception: 18.8% of Indians, compared with 50.5% of Americans, expressed concern about AI.

2026 Nobel Peace Prize

Source: TH

Context of the News

The **2026 Nobel Peace Prize** was awarded to **Navi Pillay**, a **judge and human rights lawyer**, at a time the committee said international law faces **"tremendous pressure"** and its institutions are **"under attack."**

Who Is She?

- Aged **85**
- Born into an **Indian Tamil family in Durban, South Africa**
- Founded her **own law firm in 1967**

- Earned a **doctorate from Harvard University in 1988**
- Defended **Nelson Mandela** and others opposing **apartheid**

Important Facts for Exams

- **2026 Nobel Peace Prize: Navi Pillay**, aged **85**; born in **Durban, South Africa**, to an **Indian Tamil family**
- **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2008-2014**
- Judge at the **ICTR** and currently at the **ICJ**, hearing the **genocide case against Myanmar**
- Chaired the **UN Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory**
- Her work shaped the recognition of **rape and sexual violence as acts of genocide**
- The **Nobel Peace Prize** is the only Nobel awarded in **Oslo, Norway**, by a committee appointed by the **Norwegian Parliament**; the others are awarded in **Stockholm**
- The **Myanmar genocide case** was brought by **The Gambia** over the **Rohingya**
- **2026 Nobels:** Medicine — **optogenetics**; Physics — **neutrino detection at IceCube**; Chemistry — **asymmetric catalysis**; Literature — **Anne Carson**
- Indian Peace Nobel laureates: **Mother Teresa (1979)** and **Kailash Satyarthi (2014)**

Misc GA

The JOSH Initiative

Source: TH

Context of the News

The Union Health Minister launched **JOSH (Joint Squad for Health)** teams under the **TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** on **8 October 2026** — deployed across **55 districts in 11 States and UTs** in Phase 1.

What Is It?

- A **youth-led community health outreach mechanism**
- Deploying volunteer squads to mobilise **Jan Bhagidari** in the fight against **tuberculosis**
- **Door-to-door awareness campaigns**
- Working across **blocks, wards and villages**
- Lead ministry: **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

What Digital Tools Are Used?

- **TB Mukt Bharat App** for monitoring
- **Khushi Avatar (e-Sangini)** — a multilingual AI assistant answering queries and giving **medication reminders in 12 Indian languages**

Important Facts for Exams

- **JOSH** — Joint Squad for Health; launched **8 October 2026**; **55 districts**, **11 States/UTs** in Phase 1, to scale to **804 districts**
- **TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan** — India aims to **end TB by 2025**, five years ahead of the **SDG 3.3 target of 2030**
- **NTEP** — National TB Elimination Programme, renamed from RNTCP in 2020
- **Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana** gives **₹1,000 per month** (raised from ₹500) for nutrition during treatment; **Ni-kshay Mitra** allows citizens to adopt TB patients
- India has the **world's highest TB burden**, with about **26 per cent** of global cases
- **MY Bharat** — Mera Yuva Bharat, the youth volunteer platform launched in 2023

- **World TB Day: 24 March**

Putul Sonowal Assures India's First-Ever World Bowls Champion of Champions Medal

- Achievement: Indian player Putul Sonowal, aged 43 and from Assam, secured a place in the men's singles semi-finals at the World Bowls Champion of Champions in Barham, Australia.
- Significance: Her achievement assured India's first-ever medal at the tournament, according to the report.

Indian Navy to Commission ASW Shallow Water Craft Mangrol

- Vessel: Mangrol is the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi.
- Commissioning: It is scheduled to be commissioned into the Indian Navy on 12 October 2026 at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.
- Purpose: ASW shallow water craft are designed to help detect and counter enemy submarines in coastal and shallow waters.

'Pandharpur Wari' Documentary Wins National Honour at Asian Academy Creative Awards 2026

- Documentary: Pandharpur Wari – In the Footsteps of the Saints was named India's national winner in the Best Branded Programme category.
- Award: The recognition is part of the Asian Academy Creative Awards 2026.
- Cultural Significance: The documentary focuses on Pandharpur Wari, a major devotional pilgrimage tradition in Maharashtra associated with Lord Vitthal.

MeitY Pavilion Showcases Digital India Initiatives at India Mobile Congress 2026

- Organiser: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) established a dedicated pavilion at India Mobile Congress 2026 in Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.
- Focus: The pavilion showcases Digital India initiatives, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and emerging technologies.
- Importance: The exhibition highlights the use of digital technologies to improve public services, connectivity and digital innovation.

Indian Foreign Service Day 2026

- Observed on: 9 October, to recognise the role of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in representing India abroad.
- Ministry: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) reaffirmed its commitment to serving the nation and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat.
- Importance: The IFS manages India's diplomatic relations, consular services and engagement with other countries.

Territorial Army Raising Day 2026

- Occasion: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated members, veterans and families of the Territorial Army on its Raising Day.
- Motto: "Naagrik Bhi, Sainik Bhi", meaning "Citizens as well as Soldiers."
- Role: The Territorial Army supports the regular armed forces and assists during emergencies and other national requirements.

Mumbai to Host World Hindu Congress 2026

- Dates: The fourth World Hindu Congress is scheduled for 18–20 December 2026 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Venue: Jio World Convention Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex.
- Inaugural Address: Organisers announced that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat would deliver the inaugural address.
- Purpose: The event brings together participants from different countries to discuss issues related to Hindu communities, culture and global engagement.

3,000-Year-Old Writing System Possibly Found at Thelunganur

- Location: Thelunganur, near the Mettur Dam in Salem district, Tamil Nadu, where excavations were conducted by the Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology.
- Discovery: A black-and-red ware bowl carries five graffiti signs arranged from left to right. A second bowl contains the same signs in a different order.
- Historical Significance: Thelunganur and Mangadu have been dated to 1600–1200 BCE. The discovery may provide clues about early writing and communication, but the signs have not been conclusively identified as a writing system.
- Important Facts: Around 16,000 graffiti-inscribed potsherds have been found across Tamil Nadu. Studies have reported similarities between some Tamil Nadu graffiti signs and Indus script signs, which remain undeciphered.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 10 OCTOBER 2026

1. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is rolling out NSAM 2.0, building on the first strategy launched in 2022. National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing (N…
2. **Banking system liquidity surplus**: It was around ₹3.88 lakh crore on 8 October 2026. RBI Raises Daily CRR Maintenance Requirement
3. **UNCTAD's Trade and Development Report 2026** found that India's share of **global greenfield investments** during **2020-25** was **5.7 per cent** — **more than double China's** share in the same period. UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2026
4. The **Ministry of Ayush** released findings from the **Ayush Services Sector Report 2026** on **Ayurveda Day 2026** — showing that **women form 43 per cent** of India's Ayush services workforce. Ayush Services Sector Report 2026
5. **AI Talent Drain**: India lost a net 200 elite AI researchers and inventors (2011–2024) despite having around 50,460 AI professionals in 2025. World Development Report 2026

DAY 10 OF 26

11 & 12 October 2026

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana Completes One Year

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The **PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)** completed **one year on 11 October 2026** — a scheme for focused agricultural development across **100 Aspirational Agricultural Districts**.

What Is the Scheme?

- Approved by the **Union Cabinet on 16 July 2025**, for **six years**
- Formally launched by the **Prime Minister on 11 October 2025**
- Begins with **2025-26**
- Covers **100 Aspirational Agricultural Districts**

Major Objectives:

- Increase agricultural productivity.
- Promote crop diversification and sustainable farming.
- Improve post-harvest storage at the panchayat and block levels.
- Improve irrigation facilities.
- Expand access to short-term and long-term agricultural credit.

Implementation and Monitoring:

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.
- District-level plans are prepared according to local agricultural needs. **District, state and national committees oversee implementation, with NITI Aayog providing guidance and review.**

What Was the FPO Sangam?

- Held in **December 2025**
- Brought together **over 72 FPOs** from **15 States** and **33 PM-DDKY districts**
- Covered **natural farming, oilseeds, beekeeping, protected cultivation, micro irrigation, institutional finance** and **digital agriculture**

Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve

Source: New Indian Express

Context of the News

The **Nanda Devi Biosphere Decadal Monitoring Campaign 2026**, by the **Uttarakhand Forest Department** and the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, found that **landslide-prone zones in the strictly protected core have nearly doubled** over the past decade — along with the appearance of a **new glacial lake**.

What Is the Reserve?

- A **high-altitude protected Himalayan landscape** under UNESCO's **Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme**
- It has **two core zones**:
  - **Nanda Devi National Park**
  - **Valley of Flowers National Park**
- Both are inscribed together as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**

Where Is It?

- In the **Garhwal and Kumaon Himalayas**
- Across three districts of **Uttarakhand** — **Chamoli, Pithoragarh** and **Bageshwar**
- Area: **6,407 sq km**
- In the **upper catchment of the Alaknanda** river system

Key Terms

- **Biosphere Reserve:** A protected area with three zones — a **core** (strictly protected), a **buffer** (limited activity) and a **transition** zone (human settlement and sustainable use)
- **MAB Programme:** UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme, under which biosphere reserves are internationally recognised
- **Ecotone:** A transition zone between two ecosystems, usually rich in species from both
- **Bugyal:** A high-altitude alpine meadow in Uttarakhand
- **Endemic species:** Found naturally nowhere else
- **GLOF:** Glacial Lake Outburst Flood — a sudden release of water when a glacial lake's natural dam breaks
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site 1988**, extended **2005**; **MAB listed 2004**
- India has **18 biosphere reserves**, of which **12** are in the UNESCO network; **Nilgiri (1986)** was the first

Madhya Pradesh Begins Wild Buffalo Reintroduction After a Century

- Madhya Pradesh began reintroducing wild water buffaloes after nearly a century.
- Eight wild water buffaloes were released into a 17-hectare enclosure in the Supkhar range of Kanha Tiger Reserve on 11 October 2026.
- The initiative aims to support wildlife conservation and restore the wild water buffalo population.

National Steel Policy 2047

- The government released the draft National Steel Policy 2047 to increase India’s steel production capacity, improve competitiveness and reduce import dependence.
- Crude Steel Capacity: Target of 604 million tonnes by 2047.
- Other Targets: Finished steel demand of 505 million tonnes, per capita steel consumption of 302 kg and steel exports of 45 million tonnes by 2047.
- Raw Material Challenge: Raw materials account for around 65–70% of steelmaking costs. India is largely self-sufficient in iron ore but imports nearly 92% of its coking coal requirement.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve (FERR)

Source: IE

Context of the News

The RBI introduced the **Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve (FERR)** — a measure **new to Indian markets**, borrowed from **China** — as part of a package to defend the rupee, which had fallen close to its all-time low.

What Is FERR?

- Banks must set aside **20 per cent** of any **forex derivative contract above $2 million** involving the rupee
- The amount is kept **in cash with the RBI**
- The RBI can **change the percentage** as conditions require
- It earns **no return** for the bank

What Does It Actually Do?

- It makes **protection against a fall in the rupee more expensive**
- Banks must lock up cash against every such contract, so they **price the hedge higher** or offer fewer of them

Why Discourage Hedging?

This is the point that needs careful understanding:

- **Hedging is normally good practice** — importers protect themselves from a falling rupee
- But **to hedge, you must buy dollars forward**
- That **adds to dollar demand today**
- Which **pushes the rupee down further**
- So when a currency is already under pressure, **hedging activity deepens the fall**
- FERR raises the cost of that activity, slowing it

How Is This the China Model?

- China has long used a **Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve Ratio** of **20 per cent**
- In **March 2026**, China **cut its ratio to zero** — because the **yuan was strengthening**, and it wanted to **remove the cost of betting against its own currency**
- **India has done the reverse**, introducing the ratio because the **rupee is weakening**

Key Terms

- **Forex derivative:** A contract whose value depends on a future exchange rate — a forward, future, option or swap
- **Hedging:** Buying protection against an adverse future price or rate movement
- **Underlying:** The actual exposure a derivative is meant to protect — such as an import bill
- **Rebooking:** Cancelling a hedge and taking a fresh one at a better rate; often used to **speculate** rather than protect
- **Speculative demand:** Buying a currency to profit from its movement, not because it is needed for a transaction
- **Structural demand:** Regular, unavoidable demand — such as oil companies needing dollars every month

The GST Council and the 57th Meeting

Source: TH

Context of the News

The **GST Council** held its **57th meeting** in New Delhi under the chairpersonship of the **Union Finance Minister**, announcing a package of **administrative and process reforms** effective from **1 April 2027**.

What Is the GST Council?

- A **joint constitutional forum of the Centre and States**
- Makes recommendations on all key GST issues
- Described as the **institutional pillar of cooperative federalism** in India's fiscal structure

What Is Its Constitutional Basis?

- Inserted by the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016**, under **Article 279A**
- The **President** was mandated to constitute it within **60 days** of the Act's commencement
- **Notified on 12 September 2016**

Who Are Its Members?

Role	Member
Chairperson	**Union Finance Minister**
Union Member	**Union Minister of State** for Revenue or Finance
State Members	The Minister for **Finance or Taxation**, or another Minister nominated by each State/UT
Ex-officio Secretary	**Revenue Secretary**
Permanent non-voting invitee	**Chairperson, CBIC**

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Indo-French TRISHNA Satellite to Launch in 12–16 Months

- TRISHNA stands for Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment.
- Partnership: It is a joint satellite mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and France's National Centre for Space Studies (CNES).
- Purpose: To monitor land surface temperature, water stress, vegetation health and energy exchanges using thermal infrared observations.
- Importance: The data will support agriculture, water-resource management, climate studies and environmental monitoring.

India Records the World's Largest Share of Demonstrations

- Source: The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), a United States-based organisation tracking political violence and demonstrations.
- Number of Demonstrations: India recorded 18,074 demonstrations through September 2026, accounting for 17.5% of the global total.
- Trend: The number increased from 11,020 in 2017. India reportedly recorded the largest share globally for five consecutive years.
- Other Countries: Pakistan, Mexico and France were among the other countries in the top five, each accounting for approximately 4–5%.

Misc GA

Putul Sonowal Assures India's First-Ever World Bowls Champion of Champions Medal

- Achievement: Indian bowls player Putul Sonowal, from Assam, reached the men's singles semi-finals at the World Bowls Champion of Champions in Barham, Australia.
- Significance: According to the report, she assured India's first-ever medal at the tournament.

Udhayveer Sidhu Wins Gold at ISSF World Cup in Cairo

- Event: Men's 10-metre air pistol at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Cairo, Egypt.
- Gold Medal: India's Udhayveer Sidhu scored 240.6 points in the final.
- Other Medalists: Germany's Christian Reitz won silver with 240.1 points, while Italy's Paolo Monna took bronze with 219.8 points.

Scientists Report the First Working Nuclear Clocks

- Development: Scientists from Europe and China reported the first working nuclear clocks in two papers published in the journal Nature.
- Difference: Atomic clocks measure time using transitions in an atom's electrons, while nuclear clocks use transitions within an atom's nucleus.
- Importance: Nuclear clocks could offer highly precise time measurement and help scientists study fundamental forces and possible changes in physical constants.
- Applications: Potential uses include advanced navigation, precision measurement and fundamental physics research.

INS Mangrol: Third Indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

- Vessel: INS Mangrol is the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi.
- Commissioning: Scheduled for 12 October 2026 at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.
- Purpose: Designed to detect and counter enemy submarines and underwater threats in shallow coastal waters.
- Strategic Importance: These vessels strengthen the Indian Navy's coastal defence and anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

Project Seabird: New Infrastructure at Karwar Naval Base

- Project: Project Seabird is the Indian Navy's major naval infrastructure project at Karwar, Karnataka, centred on INS Kadamba.
- Latest Development: Residential accommodation and essential utility infrastructure were inaugurated under Phase IIA.
- Objective: To expand naval facilities for basing, repair, maintenance and logistics for warships and submarines.
- Strategic Importance: The project strengthens India's naval presence on the western coast and helps reduce pressure on Mumbai's naval facilities.

Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel Shreyas Launched

- Vessel: Shreyas (Yard 3040) is a Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) launched at Garden

Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, on 10 October 2026.
- Purpose: Offshore patrol vessels support maritime surveillance, coastal security and protection of offshore assets.
- Significance: The vessel's launch advances India's efforts to strengthen indigenous warship construction.

Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026

- Host: The Indian Air Force (IAF) hosted the second edition of Exercise Tarang Shakti from 26 September to 12 October 2026.
- Participating Countries: Air forces from Australia, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates and the United States participated, alongside 32 observer nations.
- Venue: The Defence Minister addressed participants at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan, on 10 October 2026.
- Objective: The exercise promotes joint training, interoperability, defence self-reliance and international cooperation.

Exercise INDRA 2026: INS Sahyadri Arrives in Russia

- Ship: Indian Navy's INS Sahyadri arrived at Vladivostok, Russia, on 10 October 2026.
- Exercise Dates: The bilateral Exercise INDRA 2026 is scheduled for 13–18 October 2026.
- Participants: The exercise involves the Indian Navy and Russian Federation Navy.
- Objective: To improve operational coordination, professional exchanges and maritime interoperability.

Exercise KONKAN 2026: INS Trishul Arrives in the United Kingdom

- Ship: Indian Navy guided-missile stealth frigate INS Trishul arrived at Plymouth, United Kingdom.
- Exercise: It is scheduled to participate in Exercise KONKAN-26, the annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Royal Navy.
- Objective: The exercise strengthens maritime cooperation, operational interoperability and mutual understanding between India and the United Kingdom.

Smriti Mandhana Named UNICEF India Celebrity Advocate

- Appointment: Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana was named a celebrity advocate for UNICEF India.
- Focus Areas: She will promote equal opportunities, health and well-being for adolescent girls.
- Objective: The initiative aims to encourage girls' participation in sports, leadership and decision-making and raise awareness of barriers affecting their rights.

Udhayveer Sidhu Wins Gold at ISSF World Cup in Cairo

- Achievement: Udhayveer Sidhu won the gold medal in the men's 10-metre air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo.
- Final Score: He scored 240.6 points, ahead of Germany's Christian Reitz (240.1) and Italy's Paolo Monna (219.8).
- Significance: The result adds to India's achievements in international shooting sports.

Indian Foreign Service Day 2026

- Date: 9 October, observed to recognise the role of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).
- Ministry: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) reaffirmed its commitment to serving India and

advancing Viksit Bharat.
- Role of IFS: The service manages diplomatic relations, consular services and India's engagement with other countries.

Territorial Army Raising Day 2026

- Occasion: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the personnel, veterans and families of the Territorial Army.
- Motto: "Naagrik Bhi, Sainik Bhi", meaning "Citizens as well as Soldiers."
- Role: The Territorial Army supports the regular armed forces and assists during emergencies and national requirements.

'Pandharpur Wari' Documentary Wins National Honour

- Documentary: Pandharpur Wari – In the Footsteps of the Saints was named India's national winner in the Best Branded Programme category at the Asian Academy Creative Awards 2026.
- Cultural Significance: The documentary highlights Pandharpur Wari, a major pilgrimage tradition in Maharashtra associated with Lord Vitthal.

MeitY Pavilion Showcases Digital India Initiatives at India Mobile Congress 2026

- Organiser: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) established a pavilion at India Mobile Congress 2026 in Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.
- Focus: It showcases Digital India initiatives, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and emerging technologies.
- Importance: The exhibition highlights the role of digital technologies in improving public services, connectivity and innovation.

Mumbai to Host World Hindu Congress 2026

- Dates: The fourth World Hindu Congress is scheduled for 18–20 December 2026 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Venue: Jio World Convention Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex.
- Inaugural Address: Organisers announced that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat would deliver the inaugural address.
- Purpose: The event will bring together participants from different countries to discuss Hindu communities, culture and global engagement.

Social Issue

UNICEF India Names Smriti Mandhana Celebrity Advocate

- UNICEF India appointed Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana as a celebrity advocate on 11 October 2026, marking the International Day of the Girl.
- She will promote gender equality and support the rights and opportunities of girls.
- The initiative aims to raise awareness about issues affecting girls.

Miscellaneous General Awareness

Indian Army Launches Bharat Rice for Troops

- The Indian Army launched Bharat Rice for defence personnel in New Delhi on 12 October 2026.
- The launch was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- The initiative focuses on providing affordable rice to defence personnel.

Sunil Bharti Mittal Receives France's Highest Civilian Honour

- French President Emmanuel Macron named Sunil Bharti Mittal a Chevalier (Knight) of the National Order of the Legion of Honour on 12 October 2026.
- The honour recognises his contributions to business and India–France relations.

Udhayveer Sidhu Wins Cairo 10m Air Pistol Gold

- Indian shooter Udhayveer Sidhu won gold in the men's 10-metre air pistol event at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Cairo, Egypt.
- The event took place on 11 October 2026.

Aditya Mehta Wins Gold at Commonwealth Cue Sports Championships

- Aditya Mehta won the men's snooker gold medal at the Commonwealth Cue Sports Championships 2026 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- He defeated fellow Indian player Dhvaj Haria by 3–0 in the final.

M.R. Raghava Varier Named 2026 M.G.S. Narayanan Memorial Awardee

- Historian M.R. Raghava Varier was selected for the 2026 Prof. M.G.S. Narayanan Memorial Award.
- The award was jointly instituted by the Kerala History Congress and the Calicut Heritage Forum.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 11 & 12 OCTOBER 2026

1. Approved by the **Union Cabinet on 16 July 2025**, for **six years** PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana Completes One Year
2. India has **18 biosphere reserves**, of which **12** are in the UNESCO network; **Nilgiri (1986)** was the first Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve
3. Inserted by the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016**, under **Article 279A** The GST Council and the 57th Meeting
4. Number of Demonstrations: India recorded 18,074 demonstrations through September 2026, accounting for 17.5% of the global total. India Records the World's Largest Share of Demo...
5. Vessel: Shreyas (Yard 3040) is a Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) launched at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, on 10 October 2026. Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel Shreyas ...

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

The Sarus Crane

Source: Down To Earth

Context of the News

The **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** announced a nationwide **All-India Sarus Crane Survey** — to estimate the **population baseline**, map **breeding and roosting strongholds**, and assess **collision threats** to India's tallest flying bird.

What Is It?

- The **world's tallest flying bird**
- India's **only resident breeding crane species**
- In Indian culture, an enduring symbol of **marital fidelity and lifelong companionship**
- **State Bird of Uttar Pradesh**
- **IUCN: Vulnerable**

Important Facts for Exams

- **Sarus Crane (*Antigone antigone*)** — the **world's tallest flying bird**, up to **1.5 m** tall, wingspan **2.4 m**
- **IUCN: Vulnerable**; **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; **CITES Appendix II**
- **State Bird of Uttar Pradesh**; India's **only resident breeding crane**
- Survey announced by the **BNHS** — founded **1883**, headquartered at **Mumbai**
- India holds the **largest global population**, concentrated in **Uttar Pradesh**, especially the **Etawah-Mainpuri** belt; also in **Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh** and **Maharashtra**
- **Electrocution on power lines** is the leading cause of death — the same threat facing the **Great Indian Bustard**
- The **main habitat is farmland**, so protection depends on **wetland conservation outside protected areas**
- **Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur** — a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and **Ramsar Site**

World Bank Backs Kerala's Carbon Credit Cell Proposal Under KERA Project

- The World Bank backed Kerala's proposal to establish a Carbon Credit Cell under the Department of Agriculture as part of the ₹2,365 crore Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project.
- The initiative aims to promote climate-friendly farming, increase carbon sequestration and provide additional income opportunities for farmers.
- KERA is a five-year project covering 2024–2029, focused on climate-resilient agriculture and stronger agricultural value chains.

Nagaland Launches SAY-SOBLOK to Support 4,000 Vulnerable Households

- The Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission partnered with BRAC International to launch SAY-SOBLOK, a three-year initiative targeting 4,000 extremely vulnerable households.
- The initiative operates under Samaveshi Aajeevika Yojana (SAY) and the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- Support includes livelihood development, financial inclusion, household coaching and access to government benefits, with priority for women-led families and persons with disabilities.

Sex Reversal in Animals Raises Concerns About Extinction Risk

- A study published in Science Advances examined wild agile frogs (Rana dalmatina) in Hungary.
- Sex reversal occurs when an animal develops reproductive traits that differ from its genetically determined sex.
- The study found that climate change-related sex reversal can create reproductive disadvantages and increase the risk of extinction.

Lakshadweep Achieves 100% Literacy

- Lakshadweep was declared a fully literate Union Territory under the ULLAS–Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.
- A survey identified 1,113 adult non-literate people across the islands, who received literacy and numeracy training.
- The learners successfully passed the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

SEBI's Credit Risk-o-Meter for Debt Securities

Source: News on Air

Context of the News

SEBI issued a circular introducing a **mandatory colour-coded Credit Risk-o-Meter**, to help investors assess the **credit risk** of debt securities.

What Is It?

- A **visual, colour-coded indicator** showing how risky a debt security is
- Based on **mapping existing credit ratings** to simple risk levels

How Does It Work?

- SEBI's existing credit ratings, from **AAA to D**, are mapped to **six risk levels**
- Ranging from **"Lowest Credit Risk"** to **"High to Very High Risk of Default"**
- Each level has its **own colour**

Where Must It Be Displayed?

- **Offer documents**
- **Abridged prospectuses**
- **Private placement memoranda**
- **All advertisements** by issuers and **Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs)**

- The **web and mobile platforms** of OBPPs

Which Instruments Are Covered?

- **Non-Convertible Securities (NCS)**
- **Commercial Papers (CPs)**
- **Securitised Debt Instruments (SDIs)**
- **Security Receipts (SRs)**
- **Structured Debt and Market-Linked Debentures (MLDs)**

Key Terms

- **Credit risk:** The risk that the borrower will fail to repay
- **Credit rating:** An agency's assessment of that risk, from **AAA** (safest) down to **D** (default)
- **NCD / NCS:** Non-Convertible Debenture or Security — a bond that cannot be converted into shares
- **Commercial Paper:** A short-term unsecured borrowing instrument used by companies
- **MLD:** Market-Linked Debenture — a bond whose return depends on the performance of a market index
- **Private placement:** Selling securities to a selected group rather than the public
- **OBPP:** Online Bond Platform Provider — a SEBI-registered platform selling bonds to retail investors

Federal Bank Launches Verto Premium Savings Account

- Federal Bank launched Verto, a premium savings account designed for young professionals, entrepreneurs and salaried executives.
- The account offers benefits such as up to ₹35 lakh in complimentary insurance coverage, 5% cashback on selected debit card spending and domestic airport lounge access.
- Other benefits include locker rent concessions, outward remittance facilities and personalised spending insights.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

2026 Nobel Prize in Economics

Source: IE

Context of the News

American economists **Robert E. Hall** and **Michael Woodford** were awarded the **2026 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences** — for providing an **empirical formula** to help governments frame **stabilisation policy**, incorporating **household demand behaviour** and **firms' supply behaviour**.

Who Are the Winners?

Name	Age	Position
Robert E. Hall	**83**	Robert and Carole McNeil Joint Hoover Senior Fellow and Professor of Economics, **Stanford University**
Michael Woodford	**71**	John Bates Clark Professor of Political Economy, **Columbia University**

What Is Stabilisation Policy?

Measures taken by the government and central bank to **reduce major swings** in growth, inflation and employment.

- **Fiscal policy** — the government changes **spending and taxes**. Example: raising infrastructure spending during a slowdown to create jobs
- **Monetary policy** — the central bank changes **interest rates** to influence borrowing, spending and

inflation. Example: cutting rates to encourage investment

The idea originates with **John Maynard Keynes**, whose work gained importance during the **Great Depression (1929-1939)**. He argued that **government intervention** may be needed when private spending is too weak.

World Bank: India's Poverty Rate to Fall to 12.1% by 2028

Source: Business Standard

Context of the News

The **World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief** projects India's poverty rate at the **$4.2-a-day threshold** to fall from **14.2 per cent in 2026** to **12.1 per cent by 2028** — though the **pace of reduction is expected to moderate**.

Key Highlights

Decline in Poverty in India

- **Poverty rate:** Projected to decline from 14.2% in 2026 to 12.1% by 2028.
- **Lower-middle-income poverty:** Fell from 57.7% in 2011 to 16.1% in 2023, lifting an estimated 496 million people out of poverty.
- **Extreme poverty:** Declined from 27.1% in 2011 to 2.6% in 2023.
- **Higher poverty threshold:** Around 80% of India's population remained below the upper-middle-income poverty line of $8.30 per person per day in 2023.

World Bank Poverty Lines

Poverty category	Daily poverty line
Extreme poverty	$3.00
Lower-middle-income	$4.20
Upper-middle-income	$8.30

Factors Behind Poverty Reduction

- Rising Consumption: Improved household spending on essential goods and services.
- Employment Growth: Around 134 million additional people employed between 2017 and 2023.
- Welfare Support: Food subsidies and social transfers support low-income households.
- E-commerce Growth: Online shopping and quick-commerce services create jobs.

Rural–Urban Poverty Gap

Area (2023)	Poverty rate
Rural India	19.3%
Urban India	8.6%

Economy

Fitch Unit Raises India’s FY2026–27 Growth Forecast to 7.5%

- BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions, raised India’s economic growth forecast for FY2026–27 to 7.5%, from its earlier estimate of 6.8%.
- Strong economic momentum and continued investment in artificial intelligence are expected to support growth.

- Higher crude oil prices and possible disruptions caused by El Niño are key downside risks.

Retail Inflation Rises to 5.5% in September

- India's retail inflation increased to 5.5% in September, compared with 4.8% in the previous month.
- Inflation in food and beverages rose to 7.4%, up from 5.7% in the previous month.
- Higher food and fuel prices contributed to the increase in inflation.

India–EFTA Trade Agreement (TEPA) Comes into Force

- The India–European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) came into force on 1 October 2026, according to the provided news.
- EFTA consists of Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein; these countries are not members of the European Union.
- The agreement includes trade cooperation and commitments related to investment and job creation.

Maharashtra Signs MoU for ₹70,000 Crore Green Data Centre Park

- ReNew Wind Energy Private Limited and the Maharashtra government signed an MoU to develop a proposed green data centre park in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.
- The project is planned with a capacity of 750 megawatts (MW), with operations expected to begin in 2028.
- The project aims to source 51% of its operational electricity from green energy and generate more than 7,000 jobs.

Social Issue

UNICEF India Names Smriti Mandhana Celebrity Advocate

- UNICEF India appointed cricketer Smriti Mandhana as a celebrity advocate on 11 October 2026, marking the International Day of the Girl.
- She will promote gender equality and advocate for the rights and opportunities of girls.
- The appointment aims to increase awareness of issues affecting girls and encourage equal opportunities.

UNDP and Generali Central Launch Insurance Innovation Challenge

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Generali Central Insurance launched an insurance innovation challenge to strengthen the resilience of India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- The challenge seeks insurance products and distribution models that protect businesses against health-related events, business interruptions and asset losses.
- Up to three winners can receive grants of USD 40,000 each. The application deadline is 20 November 2026.

World Mental Health Day 2026

- World Mental Health Day is observed annually on 10 October to raise awareness about mental health and encourage support for mental well-being.
- The 2026 theme provided in the notes is "Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change".
- The day was initiated in 1992 by the World Federation for Mental Health, and the World Health

Organization has led the global campaign since 2013.

National Human Rights Commission Celebrates 33rd Foundation Day

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) celebrated its 33rd Foundation Day on 12 October 2026, highlighting the need to strengthen human rights protection.
- The NHRC was established on 12 October 1993.
- Its work includes promoting and protecting human rights amid emerging social, technological and global challenges.

Miscellaneous General Awareness

Putul Sonowal Wins Bronze at World Bowls Championship 2026

- Putul Sonowal from Assam won India's first-ever bronze medal at the World Bowls Champion of Champions 2026.
- The championship was held in Barham, New South Wales, Australia.
- Lawn bowls is a precision sport in which players roll biased balls towards a smaller target ball called the jack.

CERVAVAC Receives WHO Prequalification

- CERVAVAC, India's indigenous quadrivalent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, received prequalification from the World Health Organization.
- It was developed by the Serum Institute of India and is designed to protect against HPV types 16 and 18, which are associated with cervical cancer, and types 6 and 11, which cause most genital warts.
- WHO prequalification indicates that the vaccine has met international standards for quality, safety and efficacy.

Exercise INDRA-2026

- Indian Naval Ship INS Sahyadri arrived in Vladivostok, Russia, to participate in the India–Russia naval exercise INDRA-2026 from 13 to 18 October 2026.
- The bilateral exercise involves the Indian Navy and the Russian Federation Navy.
- It aims to improve operational coordination, tactical interoperability and mutual understanding between the two navies.

Indian Army and Food Corporation of India Sign MoU

- The Indian Army and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in New Delhi.
- The agreement relates to cooperation between the Army and FCI, which plays an important role in foodgrain procurement, storage and distribution.
- The initiative was announced alongside the government's emphasis on self-reliance and modernisation.

Indian Army Launches Bharat Rice for Troops

- The Indian Army launched Bharat Rice for defence personnel in New Delhi on 12 October 2026.
- The launch was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

- The initiative focuses on providing affordable rice to defence personnel.

Sunil Bharti Mittal Receives France's Highest Civilian Honour

- French President Emmanuel Macron named Sunil Bharti Mittal a Chevalier (Knight) of the National Order of the Legion of Honour on 12 October 2026.
- The honour recognises his contributions to business and India–France relations.

Udhayveer Sidhu Wins Cairo 10m Air Pistol Gold

- Indian shooter Udhayveer Sidhu won gold in the men's 10-metre air pistol event at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Cairo, Egypt.
- The competition took place on 11 October 2026.

Aditya Mehta Wins Commonwealth Cue Sports Championships Gold

- Aditya Mehta won the men's snooker gold medal at the Commonwealth Cue Sports Championships 2026 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- He defeated fellow Indian player Dhvaj Haria 3–0 in the final.

M.R. Raghava Varier Named 2026 M.G.S. Narayanan Memorial Awardee

- Historian M.R. Raghava Varier was selected for the 2026 Prof. M.G.S. Narayanan Memorial Award.
- The award was jointly instituted by the Kerala History Congress and the Calicut Heritage Forum.

Chhattisgarh Signs MoU with Singapore's ITE Education Services

- The Chhattisgarh government signed an MoU with Singapore-based Institute of Technical Education Services to strengthen technical and vocational education.
- The agreement was signed during Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai's visit to Singapore for the Singapore–India Network for Growth Forum 2026.
- The state also received investment proposals worth ₹43,600 crore and an invitation for a proposed ₹350 crore agro-processing and export hub.

MoSPI Signs MoU with Pahle India Foundation

- The National Statistics Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation signed an MoU with Pahle India Foundation on 8 October 2026.
- The agreement aims to strengthen cooperation in official statistics, research, data analysis and capacity building.
- Pahle India Foundation is a New Delhi-based organisation established in 2013.

NCRTC and IGNCA Partner to Promote Culture at Namo Bharat Stations

- The National Capital Region Transport Corporation signed an MoU with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts to promote Indian art, culture and heritage at Namo Bharat stations.
- Activities will include art exhibitions, heritage displays, literary events, lectures and workshops.
- The partnership aims to bring cultural programmes into public transport spaces and reach a wider audience.

UGC Grants Letter of Intent to University of Colorado Denver

- The University Grants Commission granted a Letter of Intent to the University of Colorado Denver to

establish a degree-granting campus in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The proposed campus is expected to welcome its first batch in August 2027.
- Planned academic fields include business, computing, engineering and analytics, in line with the internationalisation goals of the National Education Policy 2020.

The ePlane Company Partners with Noida International Airport

- The ePlane Company signed an MoU with Noida International Airport on 8 October 2026 to develop infrastructure and operating procedures for electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft.
- The partnership will focus on vertiports, charging stations, safety procedures and airspace integration.
- Potential applications include urban air travel, airport-to-airport transport and emergency air ambulance services.

Canadian Poet Anne Carson Wins 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature

- The Swedish Academy awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature to Canadian poet and essayist Anne Carson.
- She was recognised for her experimental literary works and creative engagement with classical traditions.
- She will receive a prize of 12 million Swedish kronor.

Navi Pillay Named 2026 Nobel Peace Prize Winner

- South African jurist of Indian origin Navanethem “Navi” Pillay was named the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize winner.
- She is known for her work in international law and human rights, including serving as a judge at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- The Nobel Peace Prize is traditionally presented in Oslo, Norway, on 10 December.

National Postal Week 2026

- National Postal Week 2026 is observed from 9 to 15 October by the Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications.
- The observance highlights the role of postal services in financial inclusion, digital services and socioeconomic development.
- World Post Day is observed on 9 October to mark the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874.

Jantar Mantar De-notified as a Designated Protest Site

- Delhi Police de-notified Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site and identified three alternative venues.
- The alternatives are Ramlila Ground, Burari Ground and CBD Ground in East Delhi.
- The decision concerns the designated locations for public protests and demonstrations in the national capital.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 13 OCTOBER 2026

1. The **World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief** projects India's poverty rate at the **$4.2-a-day threshold** to fall from **14.2 per cent in 2026** to **12.1 per cent by 2028** — though the **pace of reduction is expected to moderate**. World Bank: India's Poverty Rate to Fall to 12....
2. **IUCN: Vulnerable**; **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; **CITES Appendix II** The Sarus Crane
3. The World Bank backed Kerala's proposal to establish a Carbon Credit Cell under the Department of Agriculture as part of the ₹2,365 crore Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project. World Bank Backs Kerala's Carbon Credit Cell Pr...
4. The India–European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) came into force on 1 October 2026, according to the provided news. India–EFTA Trade Agreement (TEPA) Comes into Fo...
5. Up to three winners can receive grants of USD 40,000 each. The application deadline is 20 November 2026. UNDP and Generali Central Launch Insurance Inno...

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Nameri Wild Classroom

Source: TH

Context of the News

The **Assam Forest and Climate Change Department** launched the **Nameri Wild Classroom** at **Nameri Tiger Reserve** — a programme that takes students into the forest itself for hands-on learning.

What Is It?

- A **residential environmental education programme**
- Students attend **two- and three-day field camps inside the tiger reserve**
- The point is to move learning **out of textbooks and into a living habitat**

What Does It Aim to Do?

- Build **curiosity** and **scientific temper** among young people
- Give direct exposure to **forest and river ecosystems**
- Create **future conservationists and researchers**

Important Facts for Exams

- **Nameri National Park** lies in **Sonitpur district, Assam**, on the **Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border**
- It became a **Tiger Reserve in 1999-2000**
- The **Jia Bhoroli river** (called the **Kameng** in Arunachal) flows along its boundary
- It adjoins **Pakke Tiger Reserve** in Arunachal Pradesh, forming a continuous habitat
- Famous for the **White-winged Wood Duck** — Assam's **state bird**, listed as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List
- Assam's other tiger reserves: **Kaziranga, Manas** and **Orang**
- **Kaziranga** and **Manas** are **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**

OPEC Cuts India's 2026 Oil Demand Growth Forecast to 40,000 Barrels per Day

- The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) reduced its forecast for India's oil demand growth in 2026 to 40,000 barrels per day (bpd), down from 60,000 bpd in its September report.
- India's total oil demand is projected to reach 5.7 million barrels per day in 2026.
- Petrol and diesel are expected to drive demand, supported by vehicle sales, road transport, manufacturing and agricultural activities.
- Demand for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and naphtha is expected to decline.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

BIMSTEC Delhi Declaration 2026

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

India hosted the **first-ever meeting of BIMSTEC Home Ministers** in New Delhi. The bloc adopted the **Delhi Declaration**, aimed at countering **radicalisation, terror financing** and the **misuse of new technologies** by terrorist groups.

What Is the Meeting?

- The **first ministerial-level gathering** of Home Ministers from the **seven BIMSTEC member states**
- Held in **New Delhi**, hosted by India
- Its purpose is to give **strategic direction** to regional security cooperation

Background

Year	Event
2018	The **4th BIMSTEC Summit at Kathmandu** proposed Home Ministers' Meetings, alongside the existing **National Security Advisors' mechanism**
2025	The **6th BIMSTEC Summit at Bangkok** welcomed the **operationalisation** of the Home Ministers' Meeting mechanism
2026	India hosted the **inaugural meeting** in New Delhi

What Is BIMSTEC?

- Full form: **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation**
- **Seven members:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand
- Founded in **June 1997** as **BIST-EC** — Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand
- **Myanmar** joined later that year, making it **BIMST-EC**
- **Nepal and Bhutan** joined in **2004**, after which it took its present name
- Established by the **Bangkok Declaration, 1997**
- **Secretariat: Dhaka**, Bangladesh, set up in **2014**
- The **BIMSTEC Charter** came into force in **2024**, giving the grouping a formal legal identity

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

SEBI Extends IPO Issue-Size Relaxation Until March 2027

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) reportedly extended a temporary relaxation concerning changes to the fresh-issue size in initial public offerings (IPOs).
- The extension runs until March 2027.
- An IPO is the process through which a company offers its shares to the public for the first time.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

PM GatiShakti Completes Five Years

Source: News on Air

Context of the News

The **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan** completed **five years on 13 October 2026**. Around the same time, the Union Cabinet approved the **Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA)**, which will appraise infrastructure projects worth **₹500 crore or more**.

What Is PM GatiShakti?

- India's **digital planning framework** for infrastructure
- It combines **GIS mapping, satellite imagery** and **databases from different ministries** on one platform
- The idea is to move away from each department planning **on its own**, toward a **whole-of-government** approach

Key Highlights

- **Launched on:** 13 October 2021
- **Launched by:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- **Full name:** PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity
- **Nodal ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- **Main objective:** Integrated infrastructure planning and better coordination among ministries and states.
- **Technology:** Geographic Information System (GIS), satellite imagery and digital mapping.
- **Developed by:** BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).

Economy

IMF Raises India's FY2026–27 GDP Growth Forecast to 7%

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised India's growth forecast for FY2026–27 to 7%, from 6.4% estimated in July.
- Strong domestic demand and services activity supported the upward revision.
- The IMF also raised its FY2027–28 growth forecast to 7%, from 6.7%.
- India's GDP growth stood at 7.8% in FY2025–26.
- The World Bank and Reserve Bank of India had also projected India's FY2026–27 growth at 7.1%, according to the article.

Oman Replaces the United States as India's Largest LNG Supplier

- Oman became India's largest supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in September 2026, replacing the United States.
- India imported 2.17 million tonnes of LNG during the month, 14% less than in the previous comparison period.
- LNG is natural gas cooled into liquid form to make storage and transportation easier.

Social Issue

World Mental Health Day 2026

- World Mental Health Day is observed every year on 10 October to raise awareness about mental health and encourage access to mental healthcare.

- The 2026 theme was "Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change."
- The observance highlights the need to listen to people experiencing mental health challenges and improve community-based care.

Tele-MANAS: India's Mental Health Helpline

- Tele-MANAS stands for Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States.
- It was launched on 10 October 2022 under the National Tele Mental Health Programme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The free, 24-hour helpline operates through 14416, providing mental health counselling, psychological support and referrals.
- The helpline received nearly 48 lakh calls in four years, highlighting the need for accessible mental healthcare.

Miscellaneous General Awareness

Exercise KONKAN-2026

- Indian Navy guided-missile stealth frigate INS Trishul arrived at Plymouth, United Kingdom, to participate in the bilateral naval exercise KONKAN-2026.
- The exercise involves the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom.
- It aims to improve operational coordination, tactical cooperation and interoperability between the two navies.

Newly Appointed Governors and Respective States

State	Governor
Tamil Nadu	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Keralam	Om Prakash Mathur
Sikkim	Dushyant Gautam
Odisha	Braj Mohan Ram
Karnataka	Sudha Yadav
Uttarakhand	Dhal Singh Bisen

Union Minister Launches Multilingual DST and Science and Technology Websites

- On 9 October 2026, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched redeveloped websites for the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- The websites support 22 Indian languages through BHASHINI integration.
- They provide information about research grants, fellowships, government schemes, awards and research opportunities.
- Accessibility features include adjustable font sizes, high-contrast displays and screen-reader compatibility.

Indian Embassy in Indonesia Launches AI Avatar Dewi

- The Indian Embassy in Jakarta launched an artificial intelligence avatar named Dewi in October 2026.
- The initiative aims to support public outreach through artificial intelligence.

Sentinel-3C Sends First Earth Images

- Europe's Copernicus Sentinel-3C satellite was launched on 15 September 2026 aboard a Vega-C rocket from French Guiana.
- The satellite subsequently returned its first images of Earth.
- The Sentinel-3 mission supports Earth observation and environmental monitoring.

L. Murugan Resigns as Union Minister and Rajya Sabha Member

- L. Murugan resigned as Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs and relinquished his Rajya Sabha membership on 13 October 2026.
- He represented Madhya Pradesh in the Rajya Sabha.

Google Launches Gemini 4 Argon AI Model

- Google reportedly launched Gemini 4 Argon globally on 13 October 2026.
- The model is designed for complex tasks.

IBM and MeitY Partner to Support Deep-Tech Startups

- IBM and MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, signed an MoU on 13 October 2026.
- The partnership aims to support India's deep-technology startups.
- Deep technology refers to innovations based on advanced scientific research and engineering, such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors and robotics.

HAL, National Culture Fund and ASI Sign Heritage Conservation Agreement

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the National Culture Fund (NCF) and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) signed a heritage conservation agreement on 13 October 2026.
- The agreement concerns cooperation in the conservation and protection of India's cultural heritage.

Prof. Achyuta Samanta Elected First President of Indian UniSport Federation

- Prof. Achyuta Samanta, founder of KIIT and KISS, was elected the first president of the Indian UniSport Federation (IUSF) in October 2026.
- The federation was established in 2026 with the approval of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- It aims to provide a common platform for universities across India.

GRSE Launches INS Shreyas for the Indian Navy

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) launched INS Shreyas, the third of four Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels, in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The vessel is approximately 113 metres long, with a displacement of 3,000 tonnes and a maximum speed of 23 knots.
- Its roles include maritime surveillance, coastal security and protection of offshore assets.

Max Verstappen Wins Singapore Grand Prix 2026

- Dutch-Belgian racing driver Max Verstappen won the 2026 Singapore Grand Prix on 11 October 2026.
- Charles Leclerc finished second, while Andrea Kimi Antonelli secured third place.
- The race took place at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Singapore.

Prasar Bharati and In-Dot Sports Launch Kisan Cricket League

- Prasar Bharati and In-Dot Sports Private Limited launched the Kisan Cricket League (KCL) to identify cricketing and singing talent in rural and semi-urban India.
- Its inaugural season is scheduled for February 2027, featuring seven teams and 140 cricketers.
- Matches and related programmes are planned for broadcast through Waves OTT, Doordarshan and Akashvani.

Guruvayur Dorai, Padma Shri-Awarded Mridangam Maestro, Passes Away

- Renowned Carnatic percussionist Guruvayur Dorai passed away in Chennai at the age of 91.
- He received the Padma Shri in 2025 for his contribution to Indian classical music.
- He also received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1996 and the Kalaimamani award in 1990.

Sunil Gavaskar Releases Book on Sanjay Jagdale

- Former Indian cricket captain Sunil Gavaskar released Sanjay Jagdale: Rag-Rag Mein Cricket in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- The book was authored by Kiran Waikar and Sunil Dudhale.
- It documents Jagdale's cricketing career and contributions as a player, selector and administrator.

World Egg Day 2026

- World Egg Day was observed on 9 October 2026, the second Friday of October.
- The 2026 theme was "Protein that Powers and Protects."
- The observance highlights the nutritional value of eggs as a source of protein and essential nutrients.

World Day Against the Death Penalty 2026

- The day is observed annually on 10 October to raise awareness about capital punishment and promote its abolition.
- The 2026 theme was "Stories for Life."
- The first observance took place on 10 October 2003.

World Migratory Bird Day 2026

- World Migratory Bird Day is observed twice annually, on the second Saturday of May and October.
- In 2026, the observance dates were 9 May and 10 October.
- The campaign raises awareness about threats to migratory birds and the need to protect their habitats.

Schemes

Government Approves DRISHTI Project for Property Rights in Delhi

- The Government of India reportedly approved the ₹65 crore DRISHTI project to speed up property rights for residents of unauthorised colonies in Delhi under the PM-UDAY scheme.
- DRISHTI stands for Delhi Revenue and Imaging Survey, Spatial Technology Initiative.
- The project will use Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping to improve property surveys and ownership verification across all 13 Delhi districts.
- ₹52 crore will come through the Urban Development Fund and ₹13 crore from the Delhi government's

Revenue Department.

Shipping Ministry Launches Credit Insurance for Shipbuilders

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways reportedly launched two credit-risk insurance products for India's shipbuilding industry on 13 October 2026.
- The products aim to address credit risks faced by shipbuilders.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 14 OCTOBER 2026

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2. Founded in **June 1997** as **BIST-EC** — Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand BIMSTEC Delhi Declaration 2026
3. The World Bank and Reserve Bank of India had also projected India's FY2026–27 growth at 7.1%, according to the article. IMF Raises India's FY2026–27 GDP Growth Forecas…
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15 October 2026

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

10th National Convention of Agrivision 2026

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The **10th National Convention of Agrivision 2026** was held in **New Delhi on 13-14 October**. The theme running through it was India's shift from **production-centric agriculture** to **market-oriented agri-food value chains**.

What Is Agrivision?

- A **national agricultural convention**
- It brings together **students, scientists, policymakers, entrepreneurs** and **farmers**
- The focus areas are **innovation, agricultural education, entrepreneurship** and **farmer-centric development**

Who Organised It?

- **Agrivision**, under the **ICAR Agricultural Education Division**
- Venue: the **ICAR-NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi**

What Is the Aim?

- Strengthen collaboration among **agricultural stakeholders**
- Promote **market-driven agriculture**
- Improve **farmer profitability** through **innovation and value addition**

Soybean Varieties NRC 268 and NRC 270

Source: PIB

Context of the News

At a **Soybean Harvest Day** organised by **ICAR-National Soybean Research Institute, Indore**, two new varieties — **NRC 268** and **NRC 270** — showed preliminary yields of about **20 quintals per hectare**.

What Are They?

- **High-yielding, climate-resilient** soybean (*Glycine max*) varieties
- Developed by **ICAR-NSRI, Indore, Madhya Pradesh**
- Meant to raise **farm productivity, seed quality** and **returns** for oilseed growers

What Are Their Key Traits?

- **Climate and disease resilience** — better tolerance of **irregular rainfall, dry spells, pests and diseases**
- **NRC 270 is bold-seeded** — larger grains, higher seed weight, **better market value**
- **High oil and protein content** — supporting both **edible oil extraction** and **protein-rich soybean meal** for livestock feed

- Suited to **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra** and **Rajasthan**, mainly in the **kharif** season

Jeypore Ground Gecko

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

Only **four individuals** of the endangered **Jeypore ground gecko** have been recorded in the past year in Odisha's **Balda hills** — inside the site of a **proposed bauxite mining project**.

What Is the Jeypore Ground Gecko?

- A **nocturnal** lizard, about **3.6 inches long**
- **Comparatively large head**, **yellow-orange body**, strikingly patterned
- Lives in **rock crevices** and under **leaf litter**
- Found in the **Eastern Ghats** of **Odisha and Andhra Pradesh**

Important Facts for Exams

Feature	Details
Scientific name	Cyrtodactylus jeyporensis
Family	Gekkonidae
Distribution	Eastern Ghats of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh
IUCN status	Endangered (EN)
CITES status	Appendix II
Rediscovered	2010, after more than a century without recorded sightings
Major threats	Bauxite mining, deforestation, forest fires and habitat loss

Indian Army Launches Bharat Rice for Defence Forces

- The Indian Army launched Bharat Rice to supply quality rice to Army Supply Depots, including remote areas of Ladakh and the Northeast.
- The Directorate General of Supplies and Transport (DGST) is leading the initiative.
- The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) will procure and supply rice in 10 kg and 30 kg bags during Financial Year 2026–27.
- The Army signed a five-year, extendable Memorandum of Understanding with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to use its infrastructure, equipment and trained manpower during operational contingencies.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

SEBI to Expand AIF Framework

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

SEBI will soon issue a circular expanding the framework for **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**. The change is expected to raise the pool of **accredited investors** from **1 lakh to about 4 lakh**.

What Are AIFs?

- **Privately pooled investment vehicles**
- They raise money from **institutional investors** and **high-net-worth individuals**
- They invest in **alternative asset classes** — **unlisted securities** and other non-traditional investments
- Because they hold **complex and often illiquid** assets, they carry **higher risk**
- So they follow a **separate regulatory framework** from retail products such as mutual funds

Important Facts for Exams

- AIFs are regulated under the **SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012**
- **Three categories:**
  - **Category I** — venture capital, SME, social venture and infrastructure funds; government-encouraged sectors
  - **Category II** — private equity and debt funds; no special incentives and no leverage
  - **Category III** — hedge funds and funds using complex trading strategies; may use leverage
- **Minimum investment in an AIF: ₹1 crore**, reduced to **₹25 lakh** for employees and directors of the fund
- **Minimum corpus: ₹20 crore**, or **₹10 crore** for an angel fund

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Khajuraho's Javari Temple

Source: Times of India

Context of the News

The **Archaeological Survey of India** announced that the **missing head of the 11th-century Vishnu idol** at Khajuraho's **Javari Temple** has been traced in an **ASI store** — ending a dispute that had reached the **Supreme Court**.

What Is the Javari Temple?

- A compact, finely sculpted **Hindu temple dedicated to Vishnu**
- Part of the **Khajuraho Group of Monuments**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1986**
- Located in the **Eastern Group of Temples**, **Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh**

Important Facts for Exams

- **Javari Temple** — dedicated to **Vishnu**; in the **Eastern Group**, Khajuraho, **Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh**
- Built **1075-1100 CE** under the **Chandela** dynasty
- **Khajuraho Group of Monuments** — **UNESCO World Heritage Site, 1986**
- Of about **85 original temples**, around **25 survive**, in three groups — **Western, Eastern** and **Southern**
- The **Western Group** is the largest and includes the **Kandariya Mahadeva Temple**, the biggest and most ornate
- Khajuraho temples follow the **Nagara style** — curvilinear shikhara, no boundary wall, built on a **raised jagati**
- They are built of **sandstone**, mostly **without mortar**, using interlocking stone

Lakshadweep Declared 100% Literate Under ULLAS

Source: News on Air

Context of the News

Lakshadweep was declared a **100 per cent literate Union Territory** by Administrator **Praful Patel**, under the **ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**.

What Is ULLAS?

- Full form: **Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society**
- Also called the **Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** or **New India Literacy Programme (NILP)**
- A **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**
- Aligned with the **National Education Policy 2020**
- Targets adults **aged 15 and above** who **missed formal schooling**

Who Runs It and For How Long?

- **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL)**, Ministry of Education
- A **five-year cycle**, from **FY2022 to FY2027**
- Vision: **"Jan Jan Saakshar"**

What Does "100 Per Cent Literate" Mean?

- Under ULLAS, a place is declared fully literate when it crosses **95 per cent literacy** among the target population, not a literal 100 per cent.
- The standard is set by the Ministry of Education, and the measurement is through the **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)**.

Economy

Wholesale Price Inflation Rises to 11.4% in September

- India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation rose to 11.4% in September, a 49-month high according to the longer historical series mentioned in the report.
- Inflation in food articles increased to 8.1%, compared with 5.7% in the previous month.
- Inflation in non-food primary articles stood at 10.3%.
- WPI measures changes in the prices of goods at the wholesale level, before they reach consumers.

India–China Trade: Exports Rise 40.7%, Trade Deficit Crosses $100 Billion

- During January–September 2026, India's exports to China increased 40.7% to $19.26 billion.
- Imports from China reached $125.19 billion, an increase of 23.3%.
- Total two-way trade reached $144.45 billion, growing by 25.4%.
- India's trade deficit with China reached $105.93 billion, meaning India imported substantially more from China than it exported.

UNCTAD Projects India's Growth at 7.3% in 2026

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) projected India's economic growth at 7.3% in 2026.
- Global growth is projected at 2.6%, down from 2.9% in 2025; developing economies are expected to grow by 4%.
- Global trade reached a record $35 trillion in 2025, while trade in goods and services is projected to grow by around 4% in 2026.
- The report highlights the growing importance of artificial intelligence products, semiconductors and

advanced computing equipment in global trade.

Internet Shutdowns in India

- India's share of global internet shutdowns reportedly increased from 37% in 2016 to 63% in 2020, before declining to 21% in 2025.
- Despite this decline, India ranked second globally in 2025, behind Myanmar and ahead of Pakistan.
- Protests accounted for 47% of shutdown cases in 2025, compared with 8% in 2021, according to the figures in the supplied article.
- Internet shutdowns restrict access to online communication and services and raise concerns about access to information, livelihoods and public safety.

Social Issue

The Myth of "Unskilled" Labour in India

- A The Hindu article argues that classifying workers as "unskilled" can affect their wages, workplace safety and job security.
- Safe in India Foundation data cited in the article for the automotive sector in 2024 showed an average of 2.27 fingers lost per accident among the lower-paid "unskilled" category, compared with 1.54 among the "skilled" category.
- The article links this difference to the assignment of dangerous machinery without adequate training and safety measures.
- Uttar Pradesh announced an interim monthly wage increase to ₹13,690 for "unskilled" workers and ₹16,868 for "skilled" workers.

India's First Household Travel Survey

- The National Statistics Office conducted India's first all-India household travel survey between July 2025 and July 2026.
- The survey covered more than 14,000 villages and 10,000 urban blocks.
- Two-wheelers accounted for 43% of workers' travel, while public transport accounted for 15% and cars for 3%.
- Average commuting time was 25 minutes; average monthly spending on travel to a fixed workplace was ₹785. The survey also reported a gap in daily work trips between male workers (62%) and female workers (42%).

International Relations

India, Brazil and South Africa Conduct Exercise IBSAMAR IX 2026

- INS Tarkash, an Indian Navy guided-missile stealth frigate, arrived in South Africa for the ninth edition of Exercise IBSAMAR.
- The exercise involves the navies of India, Brazil and South Africa.
- IBSAMAR is a trilateral maritime exercise conducted under the India–Brazil–South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum.
- It aims to improve joint naval training, maritime cooperation and operational coordination.

Czech Deputy Prime Minister Inaugurates Aerospace Production Line in Karnataka

- Czech Republic Deputy Prime Minister Karel Havlíček inaugurated a new production line at Gopalan Aerospace India Private Limited in Hoskote, Karnataka.
- Five Memoranda of Understanding were signed with Czech partners.
- Areas of cooperation include unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), fire-extinguishing solutions, thermal-reflective coatings and unmanned traffic management systems.
- The partnership aims to strengthen India–Czech cooperation in aerospace and related technologies.

Miscellaneous General Awareness

10th India Mobile Congress 2026

- The 10th India Mobile Congress was held at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, from 7 to 10 October 2026.
- The theme was "Scale Without Boundaries."
- It was organised by the Department of Telecommunications and the Cellular Operators Association of India.
- The event covered 5G and 6G, artificial intelligence networks, semiconductors, cybersecurity, quantum communication and electronics manufacturing. It also announced Viksit Tech 47, a platform to identify and promote Indian technology brands.

3rd International Bharat 6G Symposium 2026

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated the symposium at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, from 7 to 9 October 2026.
- It was organised by the Bharat 6G Alliance to support India's next-generation communication technology ambitions.
- The Alliance exchanged MoUs with five organisations, including the GSMA and one6G Association.
- A report on progress towards the New Delhi Declaration on 6G principles and nine working-group white papers were released.

Indian Navy Commissions INS Mangrol

- The Indian Navy commissioned INS Mangrol (P82) in Mumbai in October 2026.
- It is the third of eight Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- The vessel has more than 80% indigenous content, according to the supplied report.
- Its roles include anti-submarine warfare, underwater surveillance, coastal security and protection of maritime assets.

Awards and Recognitions

Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford Win the 2026 Economics Prize

- American economists Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford received the 2026 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.
- The prize recognises their work on the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation.
- They will share the prize money of 12 million Swedish kronor.
- The award ceremony is held annually on 10 December in Stockholm, Sweden.

Israel to Honour Indian Pilot Smit Machchhar

- Israeli President Isaac Herzog announced that Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar would receive the Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism.
- According to the supplied report, the award recognises his actions in preventing a potential aircraft disaster.
- Six passengers who helped prevent the incident were also named as recipients.
- The award recognises civilians who risk their lives to save others.

Sunil Bharti Mittal Receives France's Legion of Honour

- French President Emmanuel Macron named Sunil Bharti Mittal, founder and chairman of Bharti Enterprises, a Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour in October 2026.
- The honour recognises his contribution to India–France economic relations, telecommunications and digital infrastructure.
- Mittal received the Padma Bhushan in 2007 for contributions to trade and industry.
- He also serves as co-chairman of satellite communications company Eutelsat, according to the supplied report.

Sports

Sports Ministry Forms Committee to Revive Hockey India League

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports formed a seven-member committee to review the Hockey India League's governance, financial model and structure.
- The committee includes representatives of the Sports Ministry, Hockey India and league franchises.
- The league was relaunched in 2024 after a seven-year break.
- The committee is expected to recommend measures to address financial challenges and franchise uncertainty.

Putul Sonowal Wins India's First-Ever Medal at World Bowls Champion of Champions

- Indian lawn bowls player Putul Sonowal from Assam won bronze in the men's singles category in October 2026.
- The tournament took place in Barham, Australia, from 6 to 10 October.
- The competition was organised under the aegis of World Bowls, the international governing body for lawn bowls.
- Lawn bowls is a precision sport in which players roll biased bowls towards a target ball called the jack.

Important Days

International Day of the Girl Child – 11 October

- Observed annually on 11 October to promote girls' rights, empowerment and well-being.
- 2026 theme: “End Child Marriage and Invest in Girls’ Rights!”
- The United Nations General Assembly established the day through Resolution A/RES/66/170 in 2011.
- The first observance took place on 11 October 2012. UNICEF India named cricketer Smriti Mandhana as its Celebrity Advocate for 2026, according to the supplied report.

World Arthritis Day – 12 October

- Observed annually on 12 October to raise awareness about rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.
- The day promotes awareness of early diagnosis, treatment, prevention and support for affected people.
- It was established in 1996 by Arthritis and Rheumatism International.
- 2025–26 theme stated in the supplied material: “Achieve Your Dreams.”

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NABARD s

State of the World's Forests 2026

Source: FAO

Context of the News

The **FAO** released the **State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2026**. The report says the world needs to restore **470 million more hectares by 2030** to meet existing pledges. India ranks **first in the world** in forest area actively under restoration.

What Is SOFO?

- The FAO's **flagship forest report**, published every **two years**
- It tracks the **size, health, governance** and **economic value** of the world's forests
- The 2026 edition focuses on **Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR)**
- It draws on the **Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025** and country reports under the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

Key Highlights

Global Forest Status

- **Forest area:** 4.14 billion hectares, covering 32% of global land.
- **Carbon stored:** 714 gigatonnes.
- Forests support up to 80% of terrestrial biodiversity.

Forest Loss and Degradation

- 1.56 billion hectares of land is degraded, including 460 million hectares of forest.
- 489 million hectares cleared since 1990.
- Wildfires affect 127 million hectares annually.

Global Restoration Gap

- **Global pledges:** Over 1 billion hectares.
- **Reported restoration:** 44 million hectares under FRA 2025.
- Gap to 2030 targets: 470 million hectares.
- Restoration can generate up to $30 per $1 invested under favourable conditions.

India's Position

Country	Area under restoration
India	9.8 million hectares
China	7.9 million hectares

Ethiopia	5.0 million hectares

- India ranks **first globally in active forest restoration under FRA 2025**.
- Under its **7th National Report to the CBD**, India reported **18.9 million hectares** under forest and landscape restoration, ranking second after China.
- Key initiatives include compensatory afforestation, agroforestry and Joint Forest Management.

Important Facts for Exams

- **FAO** — founded **1945**, headquartered at **Rome**

Kerala Launches India's First Ecosystem Red List Assessment

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

The **Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB)** has launched India's **first State-level Red List Assessment of Ecosystems (RLE)**. It will judge how close entire ecosystems are to **collapse**.

What Is It?

- An assessment that checks the **risk of collapse of whole ecosystems**
- Not individual species — this is the key difference
- It uses the **IUCN Red List of Ecosystems** framework
- Funded by the **Kerala State Biodiversity Board**
- Duration: **one year**, covering all **14 districts** of Kerala

How Is It Different From the Usual Red List?

- The familiar **IUCN Red List** rates **species** — tiger, bustard, gharial
- This one rates **ecosystems** — a forest type, a **wetland, a grassland**
- A species can survive while the system it belongs to falls apart. Rating the ecosystem catches that

How Does It Classify Risk?

- Using the **five standard IUCN RLE criteria**
- These look at **historical habitat loss**, **environmental degradation** and **risk of collapse**

India Joins the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The Central Government approved India's **accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)**. India moves up from a **Cooperating Non-Contracting Party** to a **full Contracting Party**.

What Is SIOFA?

- A **regional fisheries agreement**, and also a **Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO)**
- It works on the **conservation and sustainable use of non-tuna fish** in the **high seas** of the Southern Indian Ocean
- **Headquarters: Saint-Denis, Réunion Island (France)**
- Run by a **Meeting of the Parties**, with a **Scientific Committee** and a **Compliance Committee**

Important Facts for Exams

- India approved **accession to SIOFA** in **October 2026**, becoming a **Contracting Party**
- India held **Cooperating Non-Contracting Party** status since **2022**

- **SIOFA** concluded at **Rome, July 2006** under **FAO**; in force **June 2012**
- **Headquarters: Saint-Denis, Réunion Island (France)**
- Manages **non-tuna, non-migratory** stocks in the **high seas** of the Southern Indian Ocean
- Species include **orange roughy, alfonsino, toothfish, molluscs** and **crustaceans**
- India is the world's **second-largest fish producer** and **second-largest aquaculture producer**; production reached **198 lakh tonnes in 2024-25**

WINDS Weather Network

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

India's **WINDS** project — a network of automatic rain gauges and weather stations to support **crop insurance** — is **more than a year behind schedule**. Over **96 per cent of planned sensors** are still not installed.

What Is WINDS?

- **Weather Information Network and Data System**
- A nationwide network of weather sensors to supply **hyper-local weather data**
- Its main purpose is **computing insurance estimates and payouts** under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**
- Run by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**
- Executed through the **Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC)**
- Implemented by **States** through **private partners**

Key Terms

- **ARG:** Automatic Rain Gauge — measures rainfall and transmits the reading automatically
- **AWS:** Automatic Weather Station — measures several weather parameters at once
- **Hyper-local data:** Weather readings at village or panchayat level, rather than district level
- **Siting requirements:** Technical rules on where an instrument may be placed, so readings are accurate
- **Retrospective amendment:** A rule change applied to decisions already taken under the earlier rule

PM-SETU Scheme to Upgrade 9 Government ITIs

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a Shareholders' Agreement with ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India and the governments of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.
- The project will upgrade 9 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in Surat and Visakhapatnam clusters, with an approved investment of ₹440 crore.
- Five ITIs in Surat will receive ₹240 crore, while four ITIs in Visakhapatnam will receive ₹200 crore.
- Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) will manage the clusters, with AM/NS India holding a 51% stake.

Reports & Articles

1. India Ranks Third in Contracted Clean Hydrogen Volumes

- India ranks third globally in cumulative contracted clean hydrogen volumes, according to Union Minister Prahlad Joshi.
- Clean hydrogen can help reduce dependence on fossil fuels and lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- The development supports India's clean energy transition and energy security.

2. Fitch BMI Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast to 7.5%

- Business Monitor International (BMI), part of Fitch Solutions, raised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2026–27 to 7.5%, from 6.8%.
- Strong industrial growth, economic momentum and investments in artificial intelligence infrastructure supported the revision.
- BMI lowered its FY 2027–28 growth forecast to 6.3%, citing concerns about household consumption, higher oil prices and possible El Niño-related disruptions.

4. PIB in News

1. India Showcases Indigenous Defence Capabilities Through INS Samarthak

- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan commissioned the indigenously built multi-purpose vessel INS Samarthak into the Indian Navy.
- The commissioning took place at INS Kadamba Naval Base, Karwar, Karnataka.
- The vessel strengthens India's indigenous shipbuilding capacity and naval operational capabilities.

2. India Reaches 103 Ramsar Sites

- India’s Ramsar site count reached 103 following the inclusion of Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh and Sauj Jheel in Uttar Pradesh, according to the supplied report.
- Ramsar sites are wetlands recognised as internationally important under the Ramsar Convention.
- Wetland conservation supports biodiversity, water management and flood control.

3. National Strategic Trade Command Centre Launched

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal launched the National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC) in New Delhi.
- The centre aims to strengthen monitoring and governance of India's international trade through integrated data analytics.
- It is intended to improve trade-related analysis and decision-making.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

1. LIC Launches Three New Insurance Plans

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) announced three plans: New Jeevan Dhara-II (Plan 892), Health Shield (Plan 907) and New Cancer Cover (Plan 908).
- New Jeevan Dhara-II provides guaranteed annuity rates for retirement income, while Health Shield offers fixed benefits for specified health risks.
- New Cancer Cover provides financial benefits upon diagnosis of specified early- or major-stage cancer. The plans are scheduled to be available from 19 October 2026.

2. Karur Vysya Bank Partners with Zurich Kotak General Insurance

- Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) entered into a partnership with Zurich Kotak General Insurance to distribute general insurance products through its banking network.
- The arrangement can improve customer access to non-life insurance and generate commission-

based income for the bank.
- Zurich Kotak General Insurance is a joint venture in which Zurich Insurance Group holds 70% and Kotak Mahindra Bank holds 30%.

3. Karnataka Bank Launches Trade Konnect

- Karnataka Bank launched Trade Konnect, a digital platform developed with Kyzer Software (India) Private Limited.
- It enables online submission of import, export and outward cross-border remittance requests without visiting a bank branch.
- The platform aims to simplify foreign exchange services for businesses engaged in international trade and individuals making overseas remittances.

4. Ministry of Defence Signs ₹4,106 Crore Defence Contracts

- The Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth approximately ₹4,106 crore for a dedicated communication satellite for the Indian Air Force and Varunastra heavy-weight torpedoes for the Indian Navy.
- The GSAT-7C satellite contract worth ₹2,563 crore was awarded to New Space India Limited (NSIL).
- The Varunastra torpedo contract worth ₹1,543 crore was awarded to Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), supporting indigenous defence manufacturing.

5. SEBI Finalises Closing Auction Session Rules

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) retained the volume-weighted average price (VWAP) of the final 30 minutes of regular trading to determine settlement prices for expiring stock and index derivatives.
- For index derivatives, settlement uses the VWAP of constituent securities during the final 30 minutes of cash-market trading. For expiring stock derivatives, it uses the underlying stock's VWAP across exchanges.
- Most changes will take effect from 7 December 2026, while rules for transferring certain unexecuted orders into the Closing Auction Session will begin on 8 February 2027.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The Union Cabinet has approved continuing the **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** for five more years, from **FY2026-27 to 2030-31**, with an outlay of **₹53,428 crore**. The scheme has been renamed **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana (PMSSY)**.

What Is the Scheme?

- It gives **monthly pensions** and **social security assistance** to poor and vulnerable people
- Beneficiaries are **BPL elderly persons, widows, persons with disabilities** and **households that lose their breadwinner**
- It is **non-contributory** — the beneficiary pays nothing
- It is **100 per cent centrally funded**
- It follows from **Article 41** of the Constitution, a Directive Principle that asks the State to help citizens in old age, sickness and disability

- Run by the **Department of Rural Development**, Ministry of Rural Development

What Are the New Names?

Old name	New name
IGNOAPS (old age pension)	**Pradhan Mantri Vridhavastha Pension Yojana**
IGNWPS (widow pension)	**Pradhan Mantri Vidhawa Pension Yojana**
IGNDPS (disability pension)	**Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana**
NFBS (family benefit)	**Pradhan Mantri Parivar Labh Yojana**

What Changed for Persons With Disabilities?

Disability threshold lowered

- Earlier a person needed **80 per cent severe disability** to qualify
- Now **40 per cent benchmark disability** is enough
- This matches the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**

Minimum age removed

- Earlier a person had to be **18 years** old
- Now a person with benchmark disability is **eligible from birth**

Economy

1. India's Merchandise Exports Rise 23.04% in September 2026

- India's merchandise exports rose 23.04% year-on-year to $44.4 billion in September 2026, supported by petroleum products, electronic goods and chemicals.
- Imports stood at $74.61 billion, while the merchandise trade deficit narrowed year-on-year to $30.21 billion, compared with $33 billion in September 2025.
- Electronic goods exports grew 70.44% to $5.3 billion, petroleum product exports rose 31.9% to $6.2 billion, and chemical exports increased 24.21% to $3 billion.

2. India’s Unemployment Rate Remains at 5%

- India's unemployment rate remained at 5% in September 2026, unchanged from August, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) bulletin of the National Statistics Office.
- The labour force participation rate declined slightly from 55.6% to 55.5%.
- Unemployment was higher in urban areas at 6.9% than in rural areas at 4.2%. Overall unemployment among women was 5.2%, compared with 4.9% among men.

3. India Launches Development Projects Worth ₹3,350 Crore in Ladakh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated five development projects worth approximately ₹3,350 crore covering airport infrastructure and strategic road connectivity in Ladakh.
- The government is advancing proposals to establish satellite campuses of IIT Jammu and IIM Jammu.
- The initiatives aim to improve regional connectivity and provide local youth with better access to higher education, research and new technologies.

Social Issue

1. Bhagini Nivedita Scheme for Women's Higher Education

- The West Bengal Cabinet approved the Bhagini Nivedita Scheme to provide financial assistance to unmarried women pursuing higher education.
- Eligible beneficiaries will receive ₹50,000 over three years: ₹17,000 in the first year, ₹17,000 in the second year and ₹16,000 in the third year.
- The scheme is scheduled for implementation from January 2027, according to the supplied report.

Miscellaneous General Awareness

1. Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026

- The Indian Army's Assam Regiment won a Gold Medal at Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026 in Wales, United Kingdom.
- The exercise is often called the "Olympics of Military Patrolling" and tests soldiers' endurance, leadership, tactical decision-making and survival skills.
- It was established in 1959 and is organised annually by the British Army in the challenging terrain of Wales.

2. Hornbill Festival 2026

- Nagaland will host the 27th Hornbill Festival from 1 to 10 December 2026 at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama.
- Known as the "Festival of Festivals," it showcases the traditions, music, dance, crafts, food and heritage of Nagaland's indigenous tribes.
- The festival began in December 2000 and promotes cultural preservation, inter-tribal interaction and tourism.

3. Ambaji Mohanthal Receives GI Tag

- Ambaji Mohanthal, a traditional sweet offered as prasad at Gujarat's Ambaji Temple, received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The sweet is made mainly from gram flour, sugar and ghee and is associated with Gujarat's religious and culinary heritage.
- It is registered under Class 30, which covers food products such as sweets and confectionery.

4. Indian Coast Guard Inducts Indigenous ALH MK-III Helicopter

- The Indian Coast Guard inducted the indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK-III, designated CG 875, at Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, on 13 October 2026.
- Manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the helicopter is equipped with radar, an Electro-Optical Pod and an Automatic Identification System.
- It strengthens maritime surveillance, search and rescue, pollution response and coastal security along India's western coast.

5. Dr. A. V. S. Raju Passes Away at 89

- Dr. Alluri Venkata Satyanarayana Raju, founder and Chairman Emeritus of Nagarjuna Construction Company, passed away in Hyderabad on 13 October 2026, aged 89.

- He received the Padma Shri in 2010 for his contributions to trade and industry, particularly infrastructure, construction and housing.
- He was also known for writing more than 25,000 poems and received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree in 2008.

6. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2026

- The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed annually on 13 October to promote awareness and action to prevent disasters and reduce their impacts.
- The supplied report gives the 2026 theme as "Resilience Starts at Home."
- The day supports the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, which promotes disaster preparedness and resilience.

7. World Standards Day 2026

- World Standards Day is observed annually on 14 October to highlight the importance of international standards in improving safety, quality and compatibility.
- The 2026 theme given in the supplied material is "Shared vision for a better world: Spotlight on SDG 7—Affordable and Clean Energy."
- The day is jointly observed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

8. India Attends East Asia Summit Energy Ministers' Meeting

- Union Minister of State Shripad Yesso Naik attended the 20th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers' Meeting in Manila, Philippines, in October 2026.
- The meeting was chaired by Sharon S. Garin, Secretary of the Philippine Department of Energy.
- The forum provides a platform for regional cooperation on energy security, clean energy and sustainable energy development.

9. India Participates in the 7th CICA Summit

- India reiterated its support for inclusive and consensus-based multilateral cooperation at the 7th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- The summit focused on regional cooperation, mutual trust and peace in Asia.
- CICA is a multinational forum that promotes confidence-building measures and cooperation among Asian countries.

10. International Defence and Education Developments in Ladakh

- The government is focusing on improving educational opportunities for Ladakh's youth through proposed satellite campuses of IIT Jammu and IIM Jammu.
- Development projects covering airport infrastructure and strategic road connectivity are intended to improve access and strengthen regional infrastructure.
- These initiatives support regional development and can improve access to education, technology and economic opportunities.

11. Rajnath Singh to Represent India at SCO Heads of Government Meeting

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to represent India at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 19–20

October 2026.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to participate virtually, according to the supplied report.
- The meeting provides a platform for member countries to discuss economic cooperation and regional development.

12. India's Clean Hydrogen Progress

- India has been reported as the third-largest country globally in cumulative contracted clean hydrogen volumes.
- Clean hydrogen can support industries that are difficult to electrify and help reduce carbon emissions.
- The development is relevant to India's energy transition and efforts to diversify its energy sources.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 16 OCTOBER 2026

1. This matches the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana
2. Union Minister of State Shripad Yesso Naik attended the 20th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers' Meeting in Manila, Philippines, in October 2026. India Attends East Asia Summit Energy Ministers…
3. It draws on the **Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025** and country reports under the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** State of the World's Forests 2026
4. India is the world's **second-largest fish producer** and **second-largest aquaculture producer**; production reached **198 lakh tonnes in 2024-25** India Joins the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries…
5. Business Monitor International (BMI), part of Fitch Solutions, raised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2026–27 to 7.5%, from 6.8%. Fitch BMI Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast to…

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17 October 2026

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

India's Ramsar Sites Reach 103

Source: News on Air

Context of the News

India now has **103 Ramsar sites**. Two were added — **Sukhna Wetland** in **Chandigarh** and **Sauj Jheel** in **Uttar Pradesh**.

Sukhna Wetland, Chandigarh

What is it?

- A **man-made reservoir** and freshwater wetland on the edge of Chandigarh
- **Ramsar Site number 2602**
- Sits at the foot of the **Shivalik range**, the outer Himalayas
- It acts as both a **water regulator** and an **urban wildlife refuge**

Sauj Jheel, Uttar Pradesh

What is it?

- A **perennial shallow floodplain lake**
- **Ramsar Site number 2603**
- An **Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA)**
- Located in **Mainpuri district**, near **Kishni**, in the **Indo-Gangetic floodplain**

Important Facts for Exams

- **Mainpuri** is the **only district in India with two Ramsar sites** — the other is **Saman Bird Sanctuary (2019)**
- **Uttar Pradesh has 14 Ramsar sites**, the highest for any state; **Tamil Nadu** is close behind
- India has the **third-highest number** of Ramsar sites in the world, after the **UK** and **Mexico**, and the **most in Asia**
- The **Ramsar Convention** was signed at **Ramsar, Iran**, in **1971**, and came into force in **1975**. It is the **oldest** of the modern global environmental treaties
- India joined in **1982**; its first sites were **Chilika Lake (Odisha)** and **Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)**
- **World Wetlands Day: 2 February**

1. Cheruvayal Raman, Traditional Rice Conservationist, Passes Away

- Cheruvayal Raman, known as “Nellachan” and the “Living Paddy Gene Bank,” passed away in Kerala at the age of 74.

- He preserved more than 45 traditional rice varieties through traditional farming in Wayanad and distributed indigenous seeds to farmers free of cost.
- He received the Padma Shri in 2023 and the National Plant Genome Saviour Award in 2016 for his contribution to agricultural biodiversity.

Schemes

1. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) to Continue for Five Years

- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for five years, from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31, with a reported allocation of ₹53,428 crore.
- According to the supplied report, the programme will be renamed Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana (PMSSY), with changes to the names of its pension and family-benefit sub-schemes.
- The programme provides social assistance to eligible elderly people, widows, persons with disabilities and families facing the death of a primary breadwinner.

2. Credit Risk Insurance Support for Shipbuilding

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched two credit risk insurance products on 13 October 2026 under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS).
- The Shipbuilding Project Credit Risk Insurance Policy (SbPCP) covers specified credit and payment risks in export shipbuilding projects, while the Business Credit Shield Policy – Shipbuilders (BCSPS) covers domestic shipbuilding projects.
- The initiative aims to protect shipyards against payment delays, reduce financial risks and promote indigenous shipbuilding.

Reports & Articles

1. India Ranks Third in Contracted Clean Hydrogen Volumes

- India ranks third globally in cumulative contracted clean hydrogen volumes, according to Union Minister Prahlad Joshi.
- Clean hydrogen can reduce emissions in industries that are difficult to electrify and support India's transition towards cleaner energy.
- The development is important for India's energy security and clean energy goals.

2. ReNew Secures $100 Million from Dutch Development Bank FMO

- ReNew Energy Global secured a $100 million debt facility from the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank FMO to finance renewable energy projects under construction.
- The 10-year financing is intended to provide long-term capital for clean energy projects.
- The facility qualifies under the 2X Challenge, a global initiative that promotes women's economic participation through investment.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

1. SEBI Introduces Common Advertisement Code for Celebrity Endorsements

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) notified a Common Advertisement Code (CAC) allowing regulated market intermediaries to use celebrities for brand-level promotion while restricting endorsements of specific financial products or services.
- Celebrity advertisements will require prior approval from the relevant supervisory body or SEBI, as applicable.
- The rules are scheduled to take effect on 8 April 2027, while the deadline for revising IPO issue sizes has been extended to 31 March 2027, according to the supplied report.

2. NovaFusion Capital Receives RBI Approval to Operate as an NBFC

- NovaFusion Capital, the lending subsidiary of Astranova Mobility, received approval from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- The company aims to reach ₹5,000 crore in assets under management within five years, focusing mainly on commercial electric vehicles.
- NBFCs provide financial services such as loans and asset financing but are regulated differently from banks.

3. ReNew Secures Long-Term Renewable Energy Financing

- ReNew Energy Global secured a $100 million debt facility from Dutch development bank FMO for renewable energy projects under construction.
- The financing has a reported tenure of 10 years and is intended to provide stable funding for clean energy infrastructure.
- The transaction supports renewable energy investment and India's transition towards a lower-carbon economy.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

PUFFINS Telescope Mission

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

Bengaluru-born astronomer **Dr Ramya Anche** has been selected as **Principal Investigator** of NASA's **$20-million PUFFINS** space telescope mission.

What Is PUFFINS?

- Full form: **Polarimetry in the Ultraviolet to Find Features in INterStellar dust**
- A **small satellite** in **low-Earth orbit**
- It carries a **10-inch ultraviolet telescope**
- It measures the **polarisation of UV starlight** as it passes through **interstellar dust**

Who Runs It?

- Funded by **NASA's Astrophysics Pioneers** programme
- Led by the **University of Arizona's Steward Observatory**
- With the **McDonald Observatory, University of Texas**

What Makes It Notable?

- It **revives ultraviolet spectropolarimetry** after nearly **three decades**
- It targets dust grains **smaller than 50 nanometres**, which are very hard to study with normal optical or

infrared telescopes
- It will study how **elongated dust grains line up with the Milky Way's magnetic field** — the change in starlight polarisation reveals the shape of **galactic magnetic fields**
- It will observe at least **70 distant stars**, across **stellar nurseries, reflection nebulae** and the **Magellanic Clouds**
- Ground support comes from the **82-inch Otto Struve Telescope** at McDonald Observatory

PM-SETU Scheme

Source: TH

Context of the News

The **National Steering Committee** of **PM-SETU** approved five Strategic Investment Plans worth **₹1,194.92 crore** to modernise ITI clusters in **Maharashtra, Odisha** and **Jammu & Kashmir**.

What Is PM-SETU?

- Full form: **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs**
- It modernises government **Industrial Training Institutes**
- Through **industry-aligned teaching, better infrastructure, advanced workshops** and **updated curriculum**
- Run by the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**

When Was It Launched?

- Cabinet approval: **7 May 2025**
- Launched: **4 October 2025**
- Outlay: **₹60,000 crore** over **five years**
- Target: upgrade **1,000 government ITIs**

What Is the Hub-and-Spoke Model?

- Institutes are grouped into **clusters**
- One **Hub ITI** holds the advanced infrastructure and equipment
- It shares these with **four Spoke ITIs**
- This avoids duplicating costly equipment at every institute

How Is It Funded?

- **Central Government**
- **State Governments**
- **Industry partners**

With support from **multilateral development banks**.

10 Years of the Kigali Amendment

Source: Indian Express

Context of the News

The **Kigali Amendment** to the **Montreal Protocol** completed **10 years on 15 October 2026**. It aims to cut **hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)** and avoid up to **0.5°C of warming by 2100**.

What Is It?

- A **legally binding amendment** to the **1987 Montreal Protocol**
- It requires countries to **gradually phase down the production and use of HFCs**

- HFCs are **powerful greenhouse gases**, used mainly in **air conditioners and refrigerators**

Important Facts for Exams

- **Kigali Amendment** adopted **15 October 2016** at **Kigali, Rwanda**; in force **1 January 2019**
- First proposed in **2009** by the **Federated States of Micronesia** and **Mauritius**
- It amends the **Montreal Protocol, 1987**, which itself sits under the **Vienna Convention, 1985**
- Target: cut HFCs by **over 80-85 per cent** in **three decades**; avoid **0.3-0.5°C** of warming by **2100**
- The Montreal Protocol phased out about **99 per cent** of ozone-depleting substances
- It is the **only UN treaty ratified by every country in the world** — all **198** parties
- **India ratified the Kigali Amendment in 2021**
- India follows the **India Cooling Action Plan (2019)** — the **first country** to produce one
- **World Ozone Day: 16 September**, marking the signing of the Montreal Protocol

PIB

1. IMD Launches Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Services DSS

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) launched a web-based Decision Support System (DSS) to improve cyclone warnings, marine weather services and disaster preparedness.
- The platform combines cyclone tracks, intensity forecasts, wind distribution, rainfall warnings and storm surge information through interactive maps.
- It aims to provide location-specific weather information to support timely decisions and improve public safety.

2. ICMR Establishes High-Altitude Health Research Centre in Himachal Pradesh

- Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda laid the foundation stone for the Indian Council of Medical Research's first High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research Centre at Keylong, Himachal Pradesh.
- Research will cover altitude-related health risks, acclimatisation, maternal and child health, nutrition, infections and non-communicable diseases.
- The centre will collaborate with the Armed Forces Medical Services and AIIMS Bilaspur and use telemedicine and drone-enabled healthcare logistics.

3. IBM Partners with MeitY Startup Hub

- IBM and the MeitY Startup Hub signed a memorandum of understanding to support India's deep-tech startup ecosystem.
- The partnership focuses on enterprise artificial intelligence, hybrid cloud and quantum computing, helping startups develop and commercialise technology solutions.
- Selected startups will receive technical guidance, skilling opportunities and access to IBM's global network.

4. India Strengthens Maritime Capabilities Through INS Samarthak

- The Indian Navy commissioned INS Samarthak, the first of two indigenously built multi-purpose vessels constructed by Larsen & Toubro.
- The vessel was commissioned at Karwar, Karnataka, in the presence of Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan and senior naval officials.
- It will support the testing and evaluation of indigenous sensors and weapons, strengthening India's naval research and maritime capabilities.

5. India Participates in IBSAMAR IX 2026

- The Indian Navy's guided-missile stealth frigate INS Tarkash participated in the ninth edition of the India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime Exercise (IBSAMAR IX) in South Africa.
- The exercise was conducted from 12 to 22 October 2026 to improve interoperability and cooperation among the three navies.
- IBSAMAR is a biennial trilateral naval exercise conducted under the India-Brazil-South Africa framework since 2008.

6. DRDO Tests Quantum Key Distribution Platform

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) tested its Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) platform on a live network at the Proof & Experimental Establishment in Chandipur, Odisha.
- QKD uses quantum properties to distribute secret cryptographic keys and can help detect attempts to intercept communications.
- The technology aims to strengthen secure military communications and protect sensitive information related to weapon trials.

7. Indian Army Receives 450 Nagastra-1R Loitering Munitions

- Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL) delivered 450 Nagastra-1R loitering munitions to the Indian Army.
- The indigenous system is designed for surveillance and precision strikes and reportedly contains more than 80% indigenous components.
- The delivery supports India's defence indigenisation efforts and reduces reliance on imported military equipment.

Economy

1. Five States to Get Permanent Seats in New GST Standing Committee

- Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have been announced as permanent members of a new Standing Committee under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework.
- The proposed committee will comprise 12 states: five large, four medium and three small states, with seven positions rotating every two years.
- The initiative aims to improve GST compliance, expand the taxpayer base and use data analytics to reduce tax leakage.

2. Government Launches Credit Risk Insurance for Shipbuilders

- The government introduced specialised insurance products to protect shipyards against specified credit and payment risks in domestic and export shipbuilding projects.
- The products are designed to reduce financial pressure caused by delayed milestone payments and global market fluctuations.
- The initiative supports domestic manufacturing, maritime infrastructure and India's shipbuilding capabilities.

Social Issue

1. International Day of Rural Women 2026

- The International Day of Rural Women is observed every year on 15 October to recognise rural and indigenous women's contributions to agriculture, food security and rural development.
- The supplied report gives the 2026 theme as “Rural Women Farmers Caring for Mother Nature.”
- In India, Mahila Kisan Diwas was observed on 15 October 2026 to recognise the role of women farmers.

2. Global Handwashing Day 2026

- Global Handwashing Day is observed annually on 15 October to promote handwashing with soap and water as a simple way to prevent infections.
- The supplied report gives the 2026 theme as “Be a Handwashing Hero.”
- The observance promotes hygiene awareness and encourages handwashing practices in homes, schools and communities.

Miscellaneous General Awareness

1. INS Samarthak Commissioned into the Indian Navy

- INS Samarthak is an indigenously built multi-purpose vessel constructed by Larsen & Toubro.
- It was commissioned at Karwar, Karnataka, and is the first of two such vessels being built by the company.
- Its key role is to support testing and evaluation of indigenous naval sensors and weapons.

2. Nagastra-1R Loitering Munition

- Nagastra-1R is an indigenous, man-portable loitering munition designed for surveillance and precision strikes.
- The system reportedly has an operational endurance of up to 60 minutes and carries a high-explosive fragmentation warhead.
- It is manufactured by Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited, a subsidiary of Solar Industries India Limited.

3. Cheruvayal Raman Receives Recognition for Rice Conservation

- Cheruvayal Raman was a traditional farmer from Wayanad, Kerala, known for conserving indigenous rice varieties.
- He preserved more than 45 traditional varieties and promoted chemical-free farming and agricultural biodiversity.
- His work earned him the Padma Shri in 2023 and the National Plant Genome Saviour Award in 2016.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 17 OCTOBER 2026

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4. First proposed in **2009** by the **Federated States of Micronesia** and **Mauritius** 10 Years of the Kigali Amendment
5. The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for five years, from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31, with a reported allocation of ₹53,428 crore. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) to …

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

FSSAI Proposes Pesticide Residue Limits for Tea

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) proposed maximum residue limits (MRLs) for acetamiprid and imidacloprid in tea.
- The proposed limits are 20 mg/kg for acetamiprid and 50 mg/kg for imidacloprid.
- The acetamiprid limit is stricter than the limits mentioned for Japan (30 parts per million) and the United States (50 parts per million).
- The proposal aims to improve food safety, pesticide monitoring and regulatory clarity for tea growers and processors. Pasted text.txt

Telangana Seeks 100% Minimum Support Price Procurement Amid Drought

- Telangana reported drought conditions in 315 out of 621 mandals, affecting agricultural activities and crop production.
- The State Agriculture Minister requested the Centre to remove the 25% procurement cap on major crops and ensure 100% procurement at the Minimum Support Price (MSP).
- The State planned the Khet Bachao Abhiyan from 22 to 30 October 2026.
- The State also sought additional funds for micro-irrigation equipment, intercropping seeds, water conservation and employment for agricultural workers. Pasted text.txt

Schemes

CCRAS SPARK 5.0 and Ayurshodh 2026

- The Chairperson of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) launched CCRAS SPARK 5.0 and CCRAS Ayurshodh 2026.
- SPARK 5.0 provides short-term research opportunities to undergraduate Ayurveda students.
- Ayurshodh 2026 promotes scientific communication, original publications and innovative research.
- Both initiatives aim to strengthen research skills and scientific work in the field of Ayurveda. Pasted text.txt

Mizoram Launches Four Digital Financial Management Initiatives

- Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma launched four initiatives: Mizoram Integrated Works Accounts System (MIWAS), e-Sanction, e-Budget and 100% Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- MIWAS aims to improve the management and reconciliation of works-related expenditure across six State departments.

- The e-Sanction module enables online approval of expenditure, while e-Budget supports digital preparation and submission of budget proposals.
- The 100% DBT initiative aims to transfer payments under State schemes directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts. Pasted text.txt

Reports & Articles

Female Labour Force Participation in the North-East and Union Territories

- The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025 shows that female labour force participation has increased since 2019–20, but the improvement differs across States and Union Territories.
- Rural female labour force participation increased from 33% to 45.9%, while the urban rate rose from 23.3% to 27.7%.
- Arunachal Pradesh recorded the highest average annual percentage-point change in both rural (+8.28) and urban (+5.24) participation.
- Lakshadweep recorded negative changes in both rural (−2.34) and urban (−1.30) participation, highlighting regional differences in women's economic participation. Pasted text.txt

WTO Raises Global Merchandise Trade Growth Forecast for 2026

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) raised its forecast for global merchandise trade growth in calendar year 2026 to 3.9%, up from its earlier estimate of 1.9%.
- Artificial intelligence-related investments increased by 67% year-on-year in the first half of 2026 and accounted for 47% of total merchandise trade growth, according to the report.
- Global merchandise trade growth is projected at 4.1% in 2027, while services trade growth is forecast at 3.3% in 2026.
- The WTO projected global gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 2.6% in 2026 and 2.9% in 2027. Pasted text.txt

PIB

India Approves Accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

- The Government of India approved accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) through the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- India had participated as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party since 2022; full membership will provide greater participation in fisheries-related decision-making.
- Indian fishing vessels will be able to undertake authorised fishing for species such as squid, toothfish and alfonsino within the agreement's jurisdiction.
- The move aims to strengthen international fisheries cooperation, scientific research, sustainable fishing and livelihood opportunities for fishers.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

BIS Launches Silver Refinery Scheme

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) launched the Silver Refinery Scheme during the World Standards

Day 2026 celebrations on 14 October 2026.

- The scheme introduces a certification framework to establish the purity and authenticity of silver bullion and coins.
- The proposed hallmarking details include the BIS mark, the word SILVER, purity grades of 999.9, 999.5 or 999.0, the manufacturer's identification mark and a unique batch serial number.
- Other initiatives included the BIS Digital Standard Reader, seven new Indian Standards and standardisation roadmaps for sustainable agriculture and manufacturing. Pasted text.txt

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)

Source: Indian Express

Context of the News

The **FRRO** reportedly issued a **'Leave India' notice** to actor and **OCI cardholder Imran Khan**, after he took part in a protest in Mumbai. The case has brought attention to what an OCI card does and does not allow.

What Is OCI?

- A special **immigration status**, introduced in **2005** under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**
- Available to **foreign nationals of Indian origin**
- **Not available** to those with roots in **Pakistan or Bangladesh**

Is an OCI Holder an Indian Citizen?

No. This is the core point.

- **Article 9** of the Constitution **bars dual citizenship**
- An OCI cardholder stays a **foreign national**, holding a **foreign passport**
- Despite the word "citizenship" in the name, it is essentially a **lifelong visa**

What Does an OCI Card Give You?

- A **lifelong, multiple-entry, multi-purpose visa** to visit India
- **Exemption from registering with the FRRO**, no matter how long the stay
- **Parity with NRIs** in **financial, economic and educational** matters
- But **not** for buying **agricultural or plantation property**

What Can an OCI Holder Not Do?

- **No political rights** — under **Section 7B of the Citizenship Act, 1955**:
- **No Article 19 protections**
- **Activities needing prior permission** — under the **March 2021 OCI notification**:

Important Facts for Exams

- **OCI introduced in 2005**, under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**
- An OCI cardholder is a **foreign national**, not an Indian citizen
- **Article 9** bars **dual citizenship**
- **Section 7B** denies **voting rights, election candidacy** and **constitutional offices**
- **Article 19** rights apply **only to citizens**; **Articles 14 and 21** apply to **all persons**, including foreigners
- Cannot buy **agricultural or plantation land**
- The **March 2021 notification** requires prior permission for **journalism, research, missionary work, mountaineering** and **protected area visits**

- **Not available** to people of **Pakistani or Bangladeshi** origin
- The **PIO card scheme was merged into OCI in 2015**
- Articles **only for citizens**: **15, 16, 19, 29** and **30**

National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC)

Source: News on Air

Context of the News

Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** launched the **National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC)** at **Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi**. It brings India's scattered trade data onto one dashboard.

What Is It?

- A **central trade intelligence and analytics hub**
- It pulls together **different streams of trade data** into a single dashboard
- Built for **senior policymakers and regulators**

Who Runs It?

- The **Department of Commerce**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Working with the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**

What Is the Aim?

- Move trade governance from **periodic, scattered reports** to **real-time monitoring**
- Base policy on **evidence rather than lagging data**
- Improve **transparency** and **speed up trade clearances**

KAUMARACON-2026

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The **Vice-President of India** inaugurated **KAUMARACON-2026** at the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**, New Delhi, and launched several **AYUSH digital initiatives**.

What Is KAUMARACON?

- The **third edition** of an international conference on **Kaumarabhritya**
- **Kaumarabhritya** is the branch of Ayurveda dealing with **child health** — paediatric care, nutrition, growth, development and disease prevention
- Organised by **AIIA, New Delhi**, under the **Ministry of AYUSH**

What Is the Theme?

"Shaping the Future of Child Health: Global Perspectives, Research Innovations, and Clinical Frontiers in Kaumarabhritya"

What Is the Aim?

- Promote **evidence-based Ayurvedic paediatrics**
- Through **scientific research**, **international collaboration**, and **integration with modern healthcare**

Economy

India–Mauritius Tax Treaty Introduces Principal Purpose Test

- The Central Government notified amendments to the India–Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) on 13 October 2026.
- The amendments introduce the Principal Purpose Test (PPT) to prevent misuse of tax treaty benefits.
- Under the test, treaty benefits may be denied when obtaining those benefits is one of the principal purposes of a transaction, unless granting them is consistent with the treaty's objectives.
- Investments made before 1 April 2017 are exempt from the PPT, according to the supplied report; the change aims to strengthen tax compliance while protecting legitimate treaty benefits. Pasted text.txt

NTPC Signs Agreement with Africa50 for Power Projects

- NTPC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, signed a cooperation agreement with Africa50.
- The partnership aims to identify and develop commercially viable power projects across African countries.
- NTPC will contribute technical expertise in project assessment, engineering, construction and operations, while Africa50 will support project identification, government coordination and investment structuring.
- The agreement will also explore cross-border electricity trading to improve regional power connectivity and electricity availability. Pasted text.txt

Social Issue

Supreme Court Recognises Internet Access as a Fundamental Right

- The Supreme Court stated that the right to access and use the Internet is a fundamental right under Article 21 read with Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.
- The ruling referred to the 2020 Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India judgment, which recognised constitutional protection for freedom of speech and expression through the Internet.
- The Court emphasised that children should not be treated as the problem merely because they may encounter objectionable online material.
- The report highlights the responsibility of individuals who create or share objectionable content and intermediaries that fail to remove it. Pasted text.txt

Miscellaneous General Awareness

Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026

- The Ministry of Home Affairs notified the Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026, expanding the categories of people eligible for appointment as Census enumerators.
- The amendment changes Rule 3 of the Census Rules, 1990, under the framework of the Census Act, 1948.
- Eligible personnel now include private-sector employees and teachers, according to the supplied report.
- The objective is to increase field staff availability, reduce the workload on government schoolteachers and support India's upcoming digital Census. Pasted text.txt

India's Ramsar Site Count Reaches 103

- India's Ramsar site count reached 103 following the addition of Sukhna Wetland in Chandigarh and Sauj Jheel in Uttar Pradesh.
- Sukhna Wetland supports different habitats and resident and migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway.
- Sauj Jheel lies in the floodplain of the Ganga River and is an Important Bird Area, supporting vulnerable bird species.
- Uttar Pradesh's Ramsar site count increased to 14, placing it second among Indian States after Tamil Nadu, according to the supplied report. Pasted text.txt

India–UK Strengthen Science and Innovation Cooperation

- India and the United Kingdom held the 8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council Meeting in New Delhi in October 2026.
- The countries inaugurated the BRIC-CDFD–Oxford Nanopore Technologies India Genomics Centre of Excellence to advance genomics research and biotechnology cooperation.
- New initiatives included the UK–India Technology Translation Partnership and the InnoXchange Programme to support technology commercialisation and connections among start-ups and incubators.
- The two countries have jointly invested over GBP 450 million since 2008 through UK Research and Innovation and Indian partnerships, supporting more than 290 projects and 1,665 scientific publications. Pasted text.txt

T. M. Balakrishnan Nair Elected Chair of UNESCO's Indian Ocean Panel

- Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), was elected Chair of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO).
- The election took place during the body's second Intergovernmental Session in Bali, Indonesia, from 12 to 14 October 2026.
- He has over 30 years of experience in operational oceanography, marine science and real-time ocean observation systems.
- IOCINDIO promotes regional cooperation in ocean science, marine observations, capacity building and ocean information services. Pasted text.txt

Punam Raut Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- Indian women's cricket batter Punam Raut announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket in October 2026.
- Her international career spanned 2009–2021 and included four Test matches, 73 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and 35 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is).
- She scored 2,299 runs in ODIs, including three centuries and 15 half-centuries.
- She scored 86 runs in the 2017 Women's ODI World Cup final against England and was part of India's campaign in three ODI World Cups. Pasted text.txt

World Students' Day 2026

- World Students' Day is observed annually on 15 October to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.
- The year 2026 marks his 95th birth anniversary.

- Dr. Kalam contributed to India's space and defence programmes through the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- His contributions included the Satellite Launch Vehicle-III, the Agni and Prithvi missile programmes, and the Technology Vision 2020 initiative. Pasted text.txt

Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls

- The Election Commission announced the schedule for the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls across 17 States and Union Territories, with 1 January 2027 as the qualifying date.
- The exercise updates voter lists by enrolling new voters, recording address changes and removing entries of deceased or duplicate voters.
- Article 324 of the Constitution gives the Election Commission supervisory powers over electoral rolls and elections.
- Section 21(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, provide the relevant legal framework. Pasted text.txt

INS Samarthak Commissioned into the Indian Navy

- The Indian Navy commissioned INS Samarthak, the first indigenously designed Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) of its class.
- The vessel is 107 metres long and serves as an auxiliary platform rather than a frontline warship.
- It is the lead ship of the Samarthak-class Multi-Purpose Vessels.
- The vessel was built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Shipyard at its Warship Design Centre and shipbuilding facility in Kattupalli. Pasted text.txt

Bengaluru Scientists Study Solar Eruptions Using Aditya-L1 and Proba-3

- Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics and international collaborators studied coronal mass ejections (CMEs) using data from India's Aditya-L1 and Europe's Proba-3 missions.
- They combined observations from the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) aboard Aditya-L1 and the ASPIICS instrument aboard Proba-3.
- The joint observations examined the mass, density and energy of solar eruptions in the region close to the Sun.
- The study demonstrates the value of combining observations from different space missions to understand solar activity.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 18 & 19 OCTOBER 2026

1. Artificial intelligence-related investments increased by 67% year-on-year in the first half of 2026 and accounted for 47% of total merchandise trade growth, according to the report. WTO Raises Global Merchandise Trade Growth Fore…
2. The Ministry of Home Affairs notified the Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026, expanding the categories of people eligible for appointment as Census enumerators. Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026
3. Section 21(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, provide the relevant legal framework. Pasted text.txt Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls
4. The Chairperson of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) launched CCRAS SPARK 5.0 and CCRAS Ayurshodh 2026. CCRAS SPARK 5.0 and Ayurshodh 2026
5. The 100% DBT initiative aims to transfer payments under State schemes directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts. Pasted text.txt Mizoram Launches Four Digital Financial Managem…

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Agrivoltaics in India

Source: Indian Express

Context of the News

India hosts the **7th AgriVoltaics World Conference** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, from **21 to 23 October**. The theme is **"Powering the Global South"**. The two Union Ministers write about how **agrivoltaics** can give farmers a second income from the same land.

What Is Agrivoltaics?

- Growing crops and generating **solar power on the same land**
- Using structures and panel spacing designed to allow farming underneath
- Also called **AgriPV**

What Is the Microclimate Benefit?

The panels create shade, which protects crops against:

- **Heat stress**
- **Drought**
- **Excessive solar radiation**
- **Hail**

Important Facts for Exams

- **7th AgriVoltaics World Conference**, **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, **21-23 October 2026**; theme **"Powering the Global South"**
- Design standard: panels should let **70 per cent or more** of natural radiation reach the crop canopy
- Crop criteria: **shade tolerance, morphological plasticity, stable productivity under intermittent radiation**
- **Centre of Excellence on Agri-Photovoltaics** at **ICAR-IARI, New Delhi**, set up **2025**, **100 kW**; run by **ICAR and NISE** under **MNRE**
- **PM-KUSUM** solarises irrigation; **PM-KUSUM 2.0** will include a **dedicated agrivoltaics component**
- **PM-KUSUM** has three components: **Component A** (decentralised solar plants on barren land), **Component B** (standalone solar pumps), **Component C** (solarising existing grid-connected pumps)
- **ISA** — International Solar Alliance, launched by **India and France** at **COP21, Paris, 2015**; headquartered at **Gurugram**
- Authors: **Pralhad Joshi**, Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, and **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Kufri Jamunia

Source: PIB

Context of the News

ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute has highlighted **Kufri Jamunia**, a **biofortified purple potato** developed in India, as a step against **hidden hunger**.

What Is It?

- A **nutrient-dense potato variety**
- **Dark purple skin** and **purple flesh**
- Bred to deliver higher levels of **antioxidants, vitamins and micronutrients** through everyday food

Who Developed It and When?

- **ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla**
- Released in **2024**

What Came Before It?

Variety	Year	Feature
Kufri Neelkanth	**2018**	Purple skin, high antioxidants
Kufri Manik	**2021**	Red skin, yellow flesh
Kufri Jamunia	**2024**	Deep purple skin **and** flesh, high **anthocyanin**

Important Facts for Exams

- **Kufri Jamunia** — biofortified purple potato from **ICAR-CPRI, Shimla**; released **2024**
- **Biofortification:** Breeding a crop to contain more nutrients, rather than adding nutrients afterwards
- **Anthocyanins 42.05 mg**, **Vitamin C 42.75 mg**, **iron 3.22 mg**, **zinc 2.28 mg** per 100 g
- **ICAR-CPRI** is at **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**; all its varieties carry the **Kufri** prefix
- India is the world's **second-largest potato producer** after China; **Uttar Pradesh** leads, followed by **West Bengal** and **Bihar**
- Other biofortified releases in India: **iron-rich pearl millet**, **zinc-rich wheat and rice**, **protein-rich maize** and **Kufri Lima**
- Biofortification is promoted under the **Poshan Abhiyaan** and **Krishonnati Yojana**

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

Source: TH

Context of the News

The **NBA** disbursed about **₹1.19 crore** to **29 State Biodiversity Boards** and **one UT Biodiversity Council**, under the **Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)** mechanism.

What Is the NBA?

- A **statutory, autonomous** regulatory and advisory body
- Under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**
- Set up in **2003**, headquartered at **Chennai**
- Created under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**

Barda Wildlife Sanctuary

Source: PIB

Context of the News

A study in **PLOS One** found that **Asiatic lions have permanently reclaimed Barda Wildlife Sanctuary** in Gujarat, after nearly **144 years**.

What Is Barda?

- A hilly forest sanctuary of about **192.31 sq km**
- In the **Saurashtra** region of Gujarat
- Across **Porbandar** and **Devbhumi Dwarka** districts
- Barely **15 km** from the coastal town of **Porbandar**
- Designated as the **second home** for the Asiatic lion

Important Facts for Exams

- **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary** — **192.31 sq km**, in **Porbandar** and **Devbhumi Dwarka**, Gujarat; notified **February 1979**
- Lions have returned after nearly **144 years**; study published in **PLOS One**
- **Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*)** — **IUCN Endangered**, **CITES Appendix I**, **Schedule I**
- The **Asiatic lion is found only in Gujarat** — the last wild population in the world
- **Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary** is the primary habitat; the **2025 census put the population at 891**
- **Project Lion** was launched in **2020**

Schemes

CCRAS SPARK 5.0 and CCRAS Ayurshodh 2026

- Launched by: Prof. Maneesha Kothekar, Chairperson of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM), in October 2026.
- CCRAS SPARK 5.0: Offers 300 studentships of ₹50,000 each to eligible third- and fourth-year Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) students for short-term research projects in 2026–27.
- CCRAS Ayurshodh 2026: Promotes quality research publications, research communication and innovation in Ayurveda through CCRAS-Prabodh 3MT, CCRAS-Prakash and CCRAS-Navonmesha.
- Ministry: Ministry of AYUSH; the initiatives are implemented by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS).

Reports & Articles

India's Reservoir Storage Status 2026

- Released by: Central Water Commission (CWC), based on its Reservoir Storage Bulletin dated 15 October 2026.
- National storage: India's 178 major reservoirs held 126.717 billion cubic metres (BCM), equal to 68.58% of their total usable capacity.
- Year-on-year decline: Storage was 24.53% lower than the corresponding period a year earlier and 16.44% below normal.
- Regional differences: The Pennar basin recorded a 72.32% deficit and the Cauvery basin a 60.50% deficit, while the Swarnarekha, Narmada and Mahanadi basins had above-normal storage.

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), September 2026

- Released by: National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), through its 18th monthly bulletin.
- Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR): India's overall LFPR rose to 55.5%, compared with 55.3% in September 2025.
- Unemployment Rate (UR): The overall rate declined to 5.0%, from 5.2% a year earlier; the rural rate was 4.2% and the urban rate was 6.9%.
- Female participation and employment: Female LFPR stood at 34.6%, while the overall Worker Population Ratio (WPR) increased to 52.7% from 52.4% in September 2025.

World Health Summit 2026

- Held in: Berlin, Germany, from 11 to 13 October 2026, under the theme “From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health”.
- Participation: More than 4,000 people from over 130 countries and territories attended in person, with over 50,000 participating virtually.
- Major outcome: The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Hub 2030 Strategy to help countries detect and assess emerging health threats within 24 hours.
- Key announcements: The Government of Bangladesh and the European Investment Bank announced a €250 million women's health programme; the Gates Foundation and Wellcome Leap committed $100 million for stillbirth prevention.

PIB

India Approves Currency Swap Facility Rollover for Maldives

- Amount: The Government of India approved the rollover of a ₹3,000 crore currency swap facility to the Maldives in October 2026.
- Framework: The facility operates under the SAARC Currency Swap Arrangement Framework and the bilateral framework for 2024–2027.
- Background: The arrangement was signed between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Maldives Monetary Authority in October 2024; the first drawdown was extended on 23 April 2026.
- Significance: It supports the Maldives' short-term liquidity needs and financial stability and reflects India's Neighbourhood First Policy and MAHASAGAR vision.

India–Myanmar Quick Impact Projects under Mekong-Ganga Cooperation

- Agreement: India and Myanmar signed five Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for Quick Impact Projects worth US$247,502.47 for financial year 2026–27.
- Areas covered: Water, sanitation and hygiene; road improvement; boiler-operation training; sports facilities; and digital support for public-sector auditing.
- Key projects: These include water and sanitation support for earthquake-affected schools and a futsal stadium at Patheingyi Boys' Training School in Mandalay.
- Significance: The projects support local development and strengthen cooperation under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) framework.

India–UK Science and Innovation Cooperation

- Meeting: The 8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council Meeting was held in New Delhi in October 2026.

- Genomics: The BRIC-CDFD–Oxford Nanopore Technologies India Genomics Centre of Excellence was inaugurated to advance genomics and biotechnology research.
- New initiatives: The UK–India Technology Translation Partnership and InnoXchange Programme aim to support technology commercialisation and connections among start-ups and incubators.
- Research cooperation: The two countries have jointly invested over £450 million since 2008, supporting more than 290 projects and 1,665 scientific publications, according to the supplied report.

Technology Development Board Supports Indigenous Technologies

- Organisation: The Technology Development Board (TDB), under the Department of Science and Technology, signed agreements with ideaForge and QNu Labs in October 2026.
- Financial support: The report gives a combined research, development and innovation (RDI) support figure of ₹301 crore for drone logistics and quantum-secure technologies.
- ideaForge project: The YETI autonomous aerial logistics vehicle is designed to carry a 200-kilogram payload, cover 200 kilometres and operate at altitudes up to 6,500 metres.
- QNu Labs project: The India Quantum Secure and Sensing Networks project focuses on quantum-secure identity, location integrity, network security and time synchronisation.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

SEBI Revises Closing Auction Session Framework

- Regulator: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) revised the Closing Auction Session (CAS) framework for the equity cash market in October 2026.
- Effective date: The revised framework is scheduled to take effect from 7 December 2026.
- New timing: The Closing Auction Session will run from 3:30 p.m. to 3:40 p.m., with three phases for reference-price calculation, order entry and final limit-order entry.
- Order rules: During the final phase, only limit orders will be allowed; market orders cannot be modified or cancelled. The order-entry session will close randomly between 3:38 p.m. and 3:40 p.m.

Finance Receives In-Principle Approval for MF Lite AMC

- Company: 1 Finance Private Limited received in-principle approval from SEBI to establish an Asset Management Company (AMC) under the Mutual Funds Lite (MF Lite) framework.
- Investment products: The proposed AMC will focus on passive investment products, mainly index funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs).
- Regulatory framework: The MF Lite framework was introduced by SEBI on 31 December 2024 to facilitate passive mutual fund businesses.
- Financial requirements: The supplied report states a minimum net worth of ₹35 crore, potentially reducible to ₹25 crore after five consecutive profitable years, subject to applicable regulatory conditions.

SBI Wins Global Finance's World's Best Consumer Bank 2026 Award

- Award: State Bank of India (SBI) won the World's Best Consumer Bank 2026 award for the second consecutive year and the Best Bank in India 2026 award.
- Award ceremony: The awards were presented alongside the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Annual Meeting 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand.

- Digital banking: SBI's YONO platform crossed 10 crore registered users, and the bank introduced artificial intelligence-powered customer services.
- Significance: The awards recognise SBI's customer service, digital innovation and financial inclusion efforts.

Canara HSBC Life Insurance Launches Global Wealth Plan

- Product: Canara HSBC Life Insurance launched the USD-denominated Global Wealth Plan through Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- Target customers: The plan is designed for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) seeking life insurance protection alongside market-linked global investment opportunities.
- Investment options: It offers exposure to global equities, precious metals such as gold and silver, and debt funds.
- Important feature: The plan has three variants—Wealth, Wealth Plus and Wealth Forever. Returns are market-linked and are not guaranteed.

CARE Ratings Sells a Stake in CareEdge Global IFSC

- Transaction: CARE Ratings signed agreements to sell a 19.8% stake in its subsidiary, CareEdge Global International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Limited.
- Buyers: State Bank of India and NSE IFSC (NSEIX) will each acquire a 9.9% stake.
- Ownership change: After completion, CARE Ratings will retain an 80.2% majority stake, and the subsidiary will no longer be wholly owned.
- Significance: The transaction brings two financial-market institutions into the ownership structure of CareEdge Global IFSC.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Basawan: Mughal Painter

Source: Times of India

Context of the News

A nearly **450-year-old Mughal painting** attributed to **Basawan**, titled **"A Family of Cheetahs in a Rocky Landscape"**, sold at **Christie's in London** for **£10.245 million**. It came from the collection of **Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan**.

Who Was Basawan?

- A leading Indian painter of the **16th century**
- A master in the **imperial Mughal atelier** under **Emperor Akbar**
- Most active between **1575 and 1580**

Important Facts for Exams

- **"A Family of Cheetahs in a Rocky Landscape"**, attributed to **Basawan**, sold at **Christie's London** for **£10.245 million**
- From the collection of **Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan**, assembled between the **1960s and 1980s**
- **Basawan** worked in **Akbar's** atelier, active around **1575–1580**
- His contemporary was **Daswanth**; both are praised in the **Ain-i-Akbari** by **Abul Fazl**
- Mughal painting began under **Humayun**, who brought the Persian artists **Mir Sayyid Ali** and **Abd-us-Samad** from Persia

- Major works of Akbar's atelier: **Hamzanama, Akbarnama, Razmnama** (a Persian translation of the Mahabharata) and **Tutinama**
- **Jahangir's** reign is considered the peak of Mughal painting, especially **natural history studies**; **Ustad Mansur** was his great animal and bird painter

Aditya-L1

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

Scientists have produced **Doppler velocity images** of the **solar corona**, using data from the **Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)** on India's solar mission **Aditya-L1**. These images can show **which direction a solar eruption is travelling** — something not available until now.

Important Facts for Exams

- **Aditya-L1** — India's **first solar mission**, launched **2 September 2023** by **PSLV-C57**
- It was placed in a **halo orbit around Lagrange Point 1 (L1)** in **January 2024**
- **L1** lies about **1.5 million km** from Earth, towards the Sun. A satellite there can watch the Sun **continuously, without eclipses**
- **VELC** — Visible Emission Line Coronagraph; the **primary payload**, developed by the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru**
- Aditya-L1 carries **seven payloads** — four observe the Sun directly, three study particles and fields at L1
- **Principal Investigator, VELC: R. Ramesh**, IIA
- Other solar missions: **NASA's Parker Solar Probe**, the **ESA-NASA Solar Orbiter** and **SOHO**

The World Bank's October 2026: Poverty and Equity Brief

Source: Business Standard

Context of the News

The **World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief** shows poverty has fallen sharply in India. But the editorial argues the next stage depends on **creating better jobs**, not just more jobs.

What Does the Poverty Data Show?

Measure	2011	2023
Below $4.20 a day (lower-middle-income line)	**57.7 per cent**	**16.1 per cent**
Below $3 a day (extreme poverty)	—	**2.6 per cent**

- **496 million people** moved above the $4.20 line
- Projected to fall further — **14.2 per cent (2026)** to **12.1 per cent (2028)**

Key Terms

- **PPP:** Purchasing Power Parity — adjusts incomes for what money actually buys in each country
- **Real earnings:** Wages adjusted for inflation
- **Low-productivity work:** Jobs that create little value, so wages stay low even when employment rises
- **Labour-intensive manufacturing:** Industries that need many workers relative to machinery
- **FLFPR:** Female Labour Force Participation Rate
- **Median earnings:** The middle value — half earn more, half earn less

Important Facts for Exams

- **Below $4.20 a day: 57.7 per cent (2011) → 16.1 per cent (2023)**; **496 million** lifted out

- **Extreme poverty ($3 a day): 2.6 per cent**
- **80 per cent** still below the **$8.30 a day** line
- **134 million jobs added (2017-2023)** — twice the working-age population growth — but **real earnings flat**
- **Top 10 per cent earn 13 times** the bottom 10 per cent
- **Youth unemployment: 14.6 → 15.9 per cent**
- **Agriculture 43 per cent** of employment; **manufacturing 12.1 per cent** (PLFS 2025)
- **FLFPR: 40 per cent** overall (2025), up from **33.9 per cent** (2022); **urban only 27.7 per cent**
- **ILO:** every **$1** on childcare could yield **$3.76** in global GDP by **2035**
- **UP, Bihar and West Bengal: 57 per cent** of India's poor; **rural poverty 19.3**, **urban 8.6 per cent**
- The World Bank **revised its poverty lines in 2025** to **$3.00, $4.20** and **$8.30** in 2021 PPP
- India's own poverty line committees: **Lakdawala (1993), Tendulkar (2009), Rangarajan (2014)**. No official poverty line has been published since

IMF Report on AI and Employment in Asia 2026

Source: Times of India

Context of the News

The IMF's **October 2026 Regional Economic Outlook: Asia and Pacific** found that demand for workers in **AI-exposed occupations** across Asia has fallen by nearly **10 per cent** since **November 2022**.

Important Facts for Exams

- **IMF Regional Economic Outlook: Asia and Pacific, October 2026**
- Labour demand in **AI-exposed occupations fell nearly 10 per cent** since **November 2022**, but has **stabilised**
- Only about **6 per cent** of Asian firms seek AI skills in job postings
- Firms adopting AI show **stronger labour demand growth**
- India's **agriculture-heavy workforce** has lower immediate exposure, but faces a harder **transition** into manufacturing and services
- The **World Bank WDR 2026** found just over **4 per cent** of Indian jobs face immediate automation risk, against **over one-third** in advanced economies
- **India's employment structure (PLFS 2025):** agriculture **43 per cent**, manufacturing **12.1 per cent**
- India added **134 million jobs (2017-2023)**, but **real earnings stayed flat**
- **Youth unemployment rose** from **14.6 per cent (Q1 FY26)** to **15.9 per cent (Q1 FY27)**
- The **IMF** was founded at **Bretton Woods, 1944**; headquartered at **Washington DC**

Global Hunger Index 2026

Source: Global Hunger Index

Context of the News

The **Global Hunger Index 2026** was released on **14 October 2026**, ahead of **World Food Day (16 October)**, at a hybrid event in **Berlin**. India ranked **100th out of 122 countries**, with a score of **24.1** — in the **"serious"** hunger category.

Who Publishes It?

- **Welthungerhilfe (WHH)**, a German humanitarian organisation
- With the **Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV)**
- And **Helvetas**

- Title of the 2026 report: **"No Security Without Food Security"**

How Is the Score Calculated?

Four indicators, with different weights:

Indicator	Weight	What it measures
Undernourishment	**One-third**	Share of the population whose **calorie intake is insufficient**
Child stunting	**One-sixth**	Children under 5 with **low height for their age**
Child wasting	**One-sixth**	Children under 5 with **low weight for their height**
Child mortality	**One-third**	Children who die **before their fifth birthday**

How Is the Score Read?

- The scale runs from **0 to 100**
- **0** is the best score — no hunger
- **100** is the worst

What Is the Global Trend?

- The global score rose from **17.6 in 2018** to **18.1 in 2026**
- That is a **moderate** level of hunger globally — but it has **worsened**
- Hunger levels got worse in **32 countries**
- **57 countries** are not on track to reach low hunger by **2030**

Which Countries Did Best?

- **24 countries scored below 5.0**, including **Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica** and **Croatia**
- **Moldova** 25th (5.0)
- **Mongolia** 26th (5.3)
- **Argentina, Brazil and Azerbaijan** shared 27th (5.5)

Which Countries Did Worst?

Rank	Country	Score
122	**Somalia**	**47.0**
121	**DR Congo**	**39.5**
120	**Chad**	**38.0**
119	**Madagascar**	**36.5**
118	**Haiti**	**34.4**

Important Facts for Exams

- **GHI 2026** — India **100th of 122**, score **24.1**, in the **"serious"** category
- Released **14 October 2026** in **Berlin**, ahead of **World Food Day, 16 October**
- Published by **Welthungerhilfe**, with **IFHV** and **Helvetas**; title **"No Security Without Food Security"**
- Four indicators: **undernourishment (1/3), child stunting (1/6), child wasting (1/6), child mortality (1/3)**
- Global score: **17.6 (2018) → 18.1 (2026)**; worse in **32 countries**; **57 countries** off track for 2030
- Worst: **Somalia 47.0**, **DR Congo 39.5**, **Chad 38.0**, **Madagascar 36.5**, **Haiti 34.4**
- **GHI severity bands:** low (under 9.9), moderate (10-19.9), **serious (20-34.9)**, alarming (35-49.9), extremely alarming (50 and above)
- **India has consistently rejected the GHI methodology.** The government's objections are that three of four indicators cover only **children under five**, the undernourishment figure rests on a **small opinion**

poll sample, and the index **does not capture India's food security programmes**

- India's own nutrition data comes from the **NFHS**; **NFHS-5** recorded **stunting 35.5 per cent**, **wasting 19.3 per cent** and **underweight 32.1 per cent** among children under five
- India's programmes: **NFSA, 2013** covering about **80 crore** people, **PMGKAY**, **Poshan Abhiyaan**, **PM POSHAN** (mid-day meal) and **Saksham Anganwadi**
- **SDG 2** is **Zero Hunger** by 2030

Economy

India and Mauritius Amend Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement

- Notification: The Central Government notified amendments to the India–Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) on 13 October 2026.
- Principal Purpose Test (PPT): The test helps prevent misuse of tax treaty benefits when obtaining those benefits is one of the principal purposes of a transaction.
- Objective: The amendment aims to reduce tax avoidance and strengthen compliance while preserving legitimate treaty benefits.
- Exemption: According to the supplied report, investments made before 1 April 2017 are exempt from the PPT.

NTPC Partners with Africa50 for African Power Projects

- Agreement: NTPC Limited signed a cooperation agreement with Africa50 to identify and develop commercially viable power projects across African countries.
- NTPC's role: It will contribute technical expertise in project assessment, engineering, construction and operations.
- Africa50's role: It will support project identification, government coordination and investment structuring.
- Objective: The partnership also explores cross-border electricity trading to improve regional power connectivity and electricity availability.

India Supports Indigenous Drone and Quantum-Secure Technologies

- Indigenous innovation: The Technology Development Board's agreements with ideaForge and QNu Labs support domestic technology development in aerial logistics and quantum security.
- Drone logistics: The YETI vehicle is designed for remote and high-altitude deliveries, with a reported payload capacity of 200 kilograms.
- Quantum security: The QNu Labs project targets secure identity, location integrity, communications networks and time synchronisation.
- Economic significance: Such technologies can support domestic manufacturing, strategic infrastructure and reduced dependence on foreign technology.

Social Issue

Internet Access as a Fundamental Right for Children

- Supreme Court ruling: The Supreme Court of India affirmed that Internet access is protected as a fundamental right, including for children, irrespective of age.
- Constitutional provisions: The ruling relates to Article 19(1)(a), which protects freedom of speech and

expression, and Article 21, which protects life and personal liberty.
- Child safety: The Court emphasised that children should not be excluded from Internet access simply because harmful content exists online.
- Key principle: Efforts to improve digital safety should address the sources of harmful material and those responsible for it, rather than treating children themselves as the problem.

Reema Nanavaty Receives Hillary Rodham Clinton Award

- Recipient: Reema Nanavaty, Director of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) of India, received the Hillary Rodham Clinton Award in October 2026.
- Awarding institution: The award was presented through the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security in Washington, D.C.
- Recognition: The award recognises her work in women's economic empowerment, livelihoods, peace and security.
- Previous honour: She received the Padma Shri in 2013 for social work.

Miscellaneous General Awareness

World Students' Day 2026

- Date: World Students' Day is observed on 15 October, marking the birth anniversary of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.
- 2026 milestone: The year marked his 95th birth anniversary.
- Scientific contributions: Dr. Kalam contributed to India's space and defence programmes through the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Key initiatives: His contributions included the Satellite Launch Vehicle-III, Agni and Prithvi missile programmes, and Technology Vision 2020.

International Day of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2026

- Date: Observed on 17 October; 2026 marked its third observance.
- UNESCO decision: The day was proclaimed in November 2023 through Resolution 42 C/34, with the first observance held in 2024.
- Purpose: It promotes awareness about protecting living cultural traditions, including music, dance, rituals, crafts and oral traditions.
- Convention: It commemorates the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which entered into force in 2006.

World Trauma Day 2026

- Date: Observed on 17 October to raise awareness about trauma, injury prevention, emergency response and rehabilitation.
- Origin: The day was first observed in New Delhi in 2011, according to the supplied report.
- Objective: It promotes timely medical care and preventive measures to reduce injury-related deaths and long-term disabilities.
- Related observances: It falls within Bone and Joint Action Week, observed from 12 to 20 October.

World Menopause Day 2026

- Date: Observed annually on 18 October.
- 2026 theme: “Chronic Pain At Midlife”.
- Purpose: The day raises awareness about menopause, women's health and available support and treatment options.
- Significance: It encourages better understanding of midlife health concerns and appropriate healthcare support.

World Osteoporosis Day 2026

- Date: Observed on 20 October.
- 2026 theme: “Build, Protect, Strengthen Your Bones for Life”.
- Origin: The day was launched in 1996 by the United Kingdom's National Osteoporosis Society, with support from the European Commission.
- Coordinating organisation: The International Osteoporosis Foundation leads the global campaign to promote prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis.

KAUMARACON 2026 and AIIA Foundation Day

- Event: Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated KAUMARACON 2026, the third international conference on Kaumarabhritya (Ayurvedic paediatrics), held from 15 to 17 October at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi.
- Theme: “Shaping the Future of Child Health: Global Perspectives, Research Innovations, and Clinical Frontiers in Kaumarabhritya.”
- Digital initiatives: Five initiatives were launched: the AYUSH Start-up Portal, AIIA–iCAINE website, AyuDIVA, Vamana App and Panchakarma Assessment App.
- Foundation Day: AIIA celebrated its 10th Foundation Day on 17 October 2026, signed MoUs with Rashtriya Ayurved Vidyapeeth and Arogya Bharati, and released academic publications and educational resources.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 20 & 21 OCTOBER 2026

1. Created under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002** National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)
2. Launched by: Prof. Maneesha Kothekar, Chairperson of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM), in October 2026. CCRAS SPARK 5.0 and CCRAS Ayurshodh 2026
3. **Aditya-L1** — India's **first solar mission**, launched **2 September 2023** by **PSLV-C57** Aditya-L1
4. The **World Bank WDR 2026** found just over **4 per cent** of Indian jobs face immediate automation risk, against **over one-third** in advanced economies IMF Report on AI and Employment in Asia 2026
5. The arrangement was signed between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Maldives Monetary Authority in October 2024; the first drawdown was extended on 23 April 2026. India Approves Currency Swap Facility Rollover ...

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Upgraded Agri Welfare Portal Launched

Source: News on Air

Context of the News

Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the upgraded **Agri Welfare Portal**. It gives farmers **single-window access** to government schemes, financial help and farming information.

What Does Single-Window Access Mean Here?

The portal pulls together three major systems:

- **PM-KISAN** — the income support scheme
- **PMFBY** — crop insurance
- **AgriStack** — the farmer and land database

A farmer can check **scheme details, eligibility** and **apply** in one place, instead of visiting separate portals.

What Services Does It Provide?

- **Weather conditions**
- **Scientific farming practices**
- **Seed and fertiliser availability**
- **Agricultural market prices**
- Financial assistance paid through **Direct Benefit Transfer**

Important Facts for Exams

- **Agri Welfare Portal** upgraded and launched by **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- Integrates **PM-KISAN, PMFBY** and **AgriStack**
- Built per **DBIM 3.0** and **GIGW 3.0**, both from **MeitY**
- Connects **FPOs, PACS, scientists, researchers** and **startups**
- Training through **Krishi Vigyan Kendras**
- **PM-KISAN** pays **₹6,000 a year** in three instalments of ₹2,000

Keralam's First Vistadome Coach on Kollam–Sengottai Route

- Launch date: The first vistadome coach in Keralam is scheduled to operate on the Kollam–Sengottai route from 22 October 2026.
- Key features: The executive air-conditioned coach has large glass windows and rotatable seats,

offering panoramic views of the Western Ghats.
- Route significance: The coach will enhance the travel experience through the scenic Sengottai–Punalur ghat section and promote tourism in the region.

Green Diwali Campaign 2026

- Launch: WWF-India's Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) Programme Centre launched the nationwide campaign with support from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- Objective: To encourage people to celebrate Diwali without firecrackers and adopt cleaner, more sustainable festive practices.
- Mission LiFE: The campaign supports Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) by promoting responsible lifestyles and reducing air and noise pollution.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Minutes

- Repo rate: The October 2026 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting minutes reported a unanimous decision to raise the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.5%.
- Inflation concerns: Members discussed broadening inflationary pressures and the risk of second-round price rises, in which an initial price increase leads to further increases in wages and other prices.
- Policy debate: The minutes highlighted differences among members over whether the Reserve Bank of India should signal further monetary tightening.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Three New Indian Sites on the UNESCO Tentative List

Source: Times of India

Context of the News

India's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO announced that **three sites** have been added to the **World Heritage Tentative List** — the **Karst-mud-volcano Complex of Baratang**, the **Andaman Subduction Volcanoes**, and the **Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape**.

What Is a Tentative List?

- A list of sites a country **intends to nominate** for the World Heritage List in future years
- **Being on the tentative list is compulsory** before any site can be formally evaluated and nominated

Site 1: Karst-Mud-Volcano Complex of Baratang

- A **natural site** on **Baratang Island**, Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Combines **limestone karst caves** and **active mud volcanoes**

Site 2: Andaman Subduction Volcanoes

- A **natural serial site** made of **Narcondam Island** and **Barren Island**
- The **only Quaternary-period subduction volcanoes** in the inner volcanic arc of the **5,000 km Burma-Andaman-Java subduction complex**

Site 3: Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape

- A **cultural site** on the eastern bank of the **Mahanadi River**
- In **Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh**
- It was **Shripur**, the ancient capital of the **Kosala Kingdom**, under the **Sharabhapuriya** and **Panduvamshi** dynasties

UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2026

Source: Times of India

Context of the News

UNEP's annual Emissions Gap Report found that **India's greenhouse gas emissions fell in 2025** over the previous year. UNEP credits the country's **structural shift towards renewables**, and in part **weather effects**.

Key Highlights

What Is Notable About India's Numbers?

- India recorded a **decrease in emissions in 2025**
- This marks a **break in the trend** after a long period of **rapid growth**
- India is the **third-largest emitter** in total greenhouse gas emissions
- But its **per capita emission** is:
  - **Less than half the global average**
  - **Substantially lower** than China and the United States

Important Facts for Exams

- **UNEP Emissions Gap Report**, released **October 2026**
- **India's emissions fell in 2025** — a break after years of rapid growth
- India is the **third-largest total emitter**; per capita emissions are **less than half the global average**
- **EU and Russia** also saw declines; **China and the US** saw increases
- **Global emissions in 2025 were similar to 2024**
- **1.5°C without overshoot is no longer achievable**; current policies point to about **2.8°C** this century
- Baseline for warming: **1850–1900**
- **UNEP** — United Nations Environment Programme, founded **1972** after the **Stockholm Conference**; headquartered at **Nairobi, Kenya**
- The **Emissions Gap Report** is published annually, ahead of the **COP** climate meeting
- **Paris Agreement, 2015:** hold warming **well below 2°C**, pursuing efforts to limit it to **1.5°C**
- The top emitters in order: **China, United States, India, EU, Russia**

Pumped Storage Hydropower in India

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The **Ministry of Power** and the **Central Electricity Authority** highlighted the growing role of **Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs)**, as India crossed **300 GW of non-fossil capacity** on the way to its **500 GW target by 2030**.

What Is Pumped Storage?

Think of it as a **large water battery**.

- Two reservoirs are built at **different heights**

- When power is cheap or surplus — such as during **peak solar hours at midday** — water is **pumped up** to the higher reservoir
- When demand peaks in the **evening**, or renewables fall short, the water is **released downhill** through **reversible pump-turbines** to generate power
- The energy is stored as **gravitational potential energy**

What Are the Three Types?

Type	Upper reservoir	Lower reservoir
On-stream	On a natural river or stream	On the same or connected river
Off-stream open-loop	Away from natural flows	On an existing river or reservoir, or the reverse
Off-stream closed-loop	Completely away from natural flows	Completely away from natural flows

Where Does India Stand Globally?

Rank	Country
1	**China**
2	**Japan**
3	**United States**
4	**India**

Economy

World Bank Group's First Digital Strategy

- Launch: The World Bank Group launched its first comprehensive digital strategy at the Global Artificial Intelligence and Digital Summit 2026 in Seoul, South Korea.
- Target: The strategy aims to benefit 1 billion people by 2030 through better internet connectivity, affordable digital access, digital services and skills, and improved artificial intelligence readiness.
- Digital divide: In 2025, more than 2 billion people worldwide remained offline. Internet usage was 23% in low-income countries, compared with 94% in high-income countries.
- New initiative: The AI Infrastructure and Readiness Initiative will initially focus on Africa and Latin America to improve access to affordable computing infrastructure.

Social Issue

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2026

- Date: Observed every year on 17 October by the United Nations (UN).
- 2026–2028 theme: "United for Peace and Human Rights."
- Origin: On 17 October 1987, more than 100,000 people gathered at Trocadéro Plaza in Paris to honour victims of poverty, hunger and violence.
- UN recognition: The United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/47/196 on 22 December 1992. The first UN-recognised observance took place in 1993.

Misc GA

Henley Passport Index 2026

- India's rank: India ranked 84th, improving from 85th in October 2025, with visa-free access to 55 destinations.
- Top-ranked passports: Singapore ranked first with access to 193 destinations. Japan, the United Arab Emirates and South Korea shared second place with access to 188 destinations.
- Lowest-ranked passports: Afghanistan ranked 106th with access to 22 destinations, while Pakistan ranked 103rd with access to 29 destinations.

World Food Day 2026

- Date: Observed annually on 16 October to raise awareness about food security, nutrition and access to healthy food.
- 2026 theme: "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow."
- FAO establishment: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was established on 16 October 1945.
- Origin: World Food Day was instituted in 1979 at the 20th FAO Conference in Rome. The first observance took place in 1981 following United Nations recognition.

Asian Para Games 2026

- Edition and dates: The fifth edition is scheduled from 18 to 24 October 2026 in Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya, Japan.
- Motto: "Imagine One Heart."
- Participants: The event brings together Asian athletes with physical, visual and intellectual disabilities.
- Organising body: The Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) regulates the Games, which are recognised by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

Police Commemoration Day 2026

- Date: Observed annually on 21 October to honour police personnel who died in the line of duty.
- Historical significance: The day commemorates 10 police personnel killed by Chinese troops at Hot Springs, Ladakh, on 21 October 1959.
- First observance: The day was first observed on 21 October 1960 following a resolution adopted by the annual conference of state and Union Territory police chiefs.
- 2026 event: Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid tribute at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi and flagged off a nationwide motorcycle rally themed "Fight Against Drugs."

National Solidarity Day 2026

- Date: Observed annually on 20 October to honour Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the 1962 Sino-Indian War.
- Historical background: The war began on 20 October 1962 and continued until 21 November 1962.
- Establishment: The day was designated in 1966 by a committee constituted under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- First observance: National Solidarity Day was first observed on 20 October 1966.

69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

- Venue: The conference was held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in Cape Town, South Africa.
- Theme: "Strengthening International Law and Parliamentary Democracy in a Changing World Order: Commonwealth Leadership."

- Indian delegation: Harivansh Narayan Singh, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, led the Indian parliamentary delegation.
- Next edition: The 70th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference is scheduled to be hosted by Canada in 2027.

Three New Sites Added to India's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List

- New additions: Karst-mud-volcano Complex of Baratang, Andaman Subduction Volcanoes and Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape.
- Locations: The first two sites are in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, while Sirpur is in Chhattisgarh.
- Total tentative-list sites: The additions increased India's total to 81 sites: 59 cultural, 19 natural and 3 mixed.
- Significance: The sites represent geological features, volcanic activity, biodiversity and India's archaeological and cultural heritage.

MoES and AcSIR Sign MoU for PhD Programmes

- Agreement: The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in October 2026.
- Coverage: All 10 MoES research institutes were recognised as AcSIR Associated Research Institutes.
- Research areas: Doctoral research will cover atmospheric sciences, oceans, polar and cryosphere studies, deep-sea research, geosciences, coastal and water sciences, and emerging technologies.
- Academic framework: Students will conduct research at the recognised institutes, with AcSIR awarding PhD degrees that mention the host institute.

Ladakh's First Government Medical College Approved

- Approval: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare approved the operationalisation of Ladakh's first Government Medical College at Stipuk Pharka, Leh, from the 2027–28 academic year.
- Recruitment: Approval includes a phased recruitment process for 103 sanctioned regular posts.
- Training facilities: Two newly constructed buildings will serve as the academic block and students' hostel, while the 200-bedded Sonam Norboo Memorial Hospital will support clinical training.
- Significance: The college is expected to expand medical education opportunities and strengthen healthcare services in Ladakh.

NHAI Launches Toll Plaza Feedback Feature on Rajmargyatra App

- Launch: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) introduced the Toll Plaza Feedback feature in October 2026.
- Objective: The feature enables highway users to report service issues, helping NHAI identify gaps and improve toll plaza facilities.
- FASTag: FASTag uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to deduct toll charges electronically under the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) framework.
- Annual Pass fee: The fee for eligible non-commercial private cars, jeeps and vans increased to ₹3,075 from 1 April 2026, with validity of one year or 200 toll crossings, whichever comes first.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Launches NPS Central

- Launch: The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) launched NPS Central on 1 October 2026, observed as NPS Diwas.
- Purpose: The unified digital platform simplifies access to National Pension System (NPS) services,

including registration, contributions, investment management and account updates.
- Login: Subscribers can log in using their registered mobile number and date of birth, verified through a One-Time Password (OTP), instead of their Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN).
- Development: The platform was jointly developed and managed by three Central Recordkeeping Agencies: Protean eGov Technologies, KFin Technologies and Computer Age Management Services (CAMS).

VORAN and W&S Innovation Sign MoU on Gyroplane Technology

- Agreement: Indian aviation startup VORAN Private Limited signed an MoU with Poland-based W&S Innovation – Aviation Artur Trendak in October 2026.
- Focus: The collaboration will explore gyroplane technology, product development and potential light-aircraft manufacturing in India.
- Products: The partnership covers the X2 advanced gyroplane and AAT Taifun.
- Significance: The proposed collaboration could support technology transfer, pilot training, maintenance capabilities and the growth of India's light-aviation industry.

Embraer to Acquire 51% Stake in Novavayu Aerospace

- Agreement: Brazilian aerospace manufacturer Embraer signed an agreement with Mahindra Defence Systems Limited to acquire a 51% controlling stake in Novavayu Aerospace Limited.
- Ownership: Following the proposed transaction, Embraer will hold 51% and Mahindra Defence Systems Limited will hold 49%.
- Purpose: The joint venture aims to promote Embraer's C-390 Millennium aircraft for the Indian Air Force's Medium Transport Aircraft programme.
- Significance: The partnership seeks to combine Embraer's aerospace expertise with Mahindra's industrial capabilities and support India's military transport aviation requirements.

DRDO Develops Portable ELINT System

- Development: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), through its Defence Electronics Research Laboratory in Hyderabad, initiated the development of man-portable Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) modules.
- Purpose: The system is intended to detect, intercept and analyse signals emitted by enemy radars and other electronic systems.
- Technology: Antennas, receivers, digital signal processing and machine learning will help separate signals and identify radar signatures.
- Other development: DRDO also developed indigenous armour panels around 20% lighter than existing systems, designed to withstand 30 mm armour-piercing ammunition and meet the specified STANAG 4569 Level 6 protection standard.

Three New Centipede Species Discovered in the Western Ghats

- Discovery: Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) Western Ghats Regional Centre and Malabar Christian College discovered three new species in Kerala and Karnataka.
- Species names: Rhysida quadrispinosa, Rhysida coorgensis and Rhysida neyyarensis.
- Research significance: The findings increased the number of known Rhysida species in India to 23.
- Scientific publication: The findings were published in the International Journal of Tropical Insect Science. ZSI, established in 1916 and headquartered in Kolkata, studies and documents India's animal diversity.

Miscellaneous General Awareness

Sirpur Archaeological Site Moves Closer to UNESCO World Heritage Status

- Location: Sirpur is situated on the eastern bank of the Mahanadi River in Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh.
- UNESCO status: The site has been added to UNESCO's Tentative List, an important step towards possible World Heritage Site recognition.
- Historical importance: Its archaeological remains date from the 5th to the 12th century CE and represent Hindu, Buddhist and Jain traditions within a unified urban landscape.
- Next step: Authorities must prepare and submit a detailed nomination dossier to UNESCO for consideration.

Japan's Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) Mission

- Space agency: Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) is leading the robotic sample-return mission, with participation from NASA, the European Space Agency, France's CNES and Germany's DLR.
- Mission targets: The spacecraft will study Phobos and conduct flybys of Deimos, the two moons of Mars.
- Sample return: It aims to collect at least 10 grams of surface material from Phobos and return it to Earth in 2031.
- Scientific objective: The mission seeks to understand how Mars's moons formed and gain insights into the early evolution of the Solar System.

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2024 and 2025

- Award ceremony: The Union Minister for Culture and Tourism conferred the awards for 2024 and 2025 on 106 young performing artists in New Delhi.
- Established: The award was instituted in 2006 in memory of Ustad Bismillah Khan, the renowned shehnai maestro and Bharat Ratna recipient.
- Administered by: The Sangeet Natak Akademi, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Culture.
- Purpose: It recognises promising young performers and encourages the continuation of India's music, dance, theatre and other performing arts traditions.

India's Ramsar Site Count Reaches 103

- New additions: Sukhna Wetland in Chandigarh and Sauj Jheel in Uttar Pradesh were reported as newly added Ramsar sites.
- Sukhna Wetland: It supports wetland habitats and resident and migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway.
- Sauj Jheel: Located in the Ganga floodplain, it is an Important Bird Area that supports vulnerable bird species.
- State ranking: According to the supplied report, Uttar Pradesh has 14 Ramsar sites, the second-highest number among Indian States after Tamil Nadu.

Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026

- Ministry: The Ministry of Home Affairs notified amendments to the Census Rules, 1990.
- Key change: The amendments expand the categories of people eligible for appointment as Census enumerators, including private-sector employees and teachers, as stated in the supplied report.

- Legal framework: The rules operate under the Census Act, 1948.
- Objective: The changes aim to increase field staff availability, reduce the workload on government schoolteachers and support the upcoming digital Census.

INS Samarthak Commissioned into the Indian Navy

- Vessel: INS Samarthak is the first indigenously designed Multi-Purpose Vessel of its class.
- Dimensions: The vessel is 107 metres long and is designed for auxiliary and support roles.
- Shipbuilder: It was built by Larsen & Toubro at its shipbuilding facility in Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu.
- Significance: The vessel supports India's indigenous naval shipbuilding and defence manufacturing capabilities.

India–UK Genomics Centre of Excellence

- Initiative: The BRIC-CDFD–Oxford Nanopore Technologies India Genomics Centre of Excellence was inaugurated during the 8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council Meeting.
- Focus: The centre aims to advance genomics research and biotechnology cooperation.
- Other initiatives: The UK–India Technology Translation Partnership and InnoXchange Programme support technology commercialisation and innovation.
- Significance: The partnership strengthens scientific research, technology development and collaboration between India and the United Kingdom.

T. M. Balakrishnan Nair Elected Chair of UNESCO's Indian Ocean Panel

- Appointment: Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), was elected Chair of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO).
- Election venue: Bali, Indonesia, during the body's second Intergovernmental Session in October 2026.
- Expertise: He has over 30 years of experience in operational oceanography and marine science.
- Role of IOCINDIO: It promotes regional cooperation in ocean observations, marine research, capacity building and ocean information services.

Subhas Chandra Lal Das Appointed Part-Time Chairperson of FSIB

- Appointment: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved Subhas Chandra Lal Das, a retired 1992-batch Indian Administrative Service officer, as part-time Chairperson of the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB).
- Tenure: Three years.
- Additional appointments: Six part-time members were appointed, covering banking and financial institutions as well as public-sector insurance.
- Role of FSIB: It recommends candidates for senior leadership positions in public-sector banks and financial institutions and public-sector insurance companies.

Skyroot Aerospace Partners with Reflect Orbital

- Agreement: Indian space company Skyroot Aerospace signed a contract with United States-based Reflect Orbital for two dedicated satellite launches.
- Technology: Reflect Orbital plans to use satellites fitted with large mirrors to redirect sunlight towards selected locations after sunset.
- Potential applications: The system could support disaster response, remote industrial operations, solar farms and selected defence applications.

- Launch vehicles: The planned launches will use Skyroot's Vikram rocket family, with Vikram-1 and the under-development Vikram-1U identified in the supplied report.

Pakistan Test-Fires Extended-Range Fatah-II Missile

- Announcement: Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations reported a test of the extended-range variant of the Fatah-II surface-to-surface missile in October 2026.
- Reported range: Approximately 400 kilometres, according to the supplied report.
- Technology: The missile reportedly uses an Inertial Navigation System (INS) and Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) for precision targeting.
- Background: The Fatah missile programme began with Fatah-I in August 2021, followed by Fatah-II in December 2023.

Punam Raut Retires from International Cricket

- Announcement: Indian women's cricket batter Punam Raut announced her retirement from international cricket in October 2026.
- Career: Her international career spanned 2009–2021 and included four Test matches, 73 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and 35 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is).
- ODI record: She scored 2,299 runs, including three centuries and 15 half-centuries.
- Notable performance: She scored 86 runs in the 2017 Women's ODI World Cup final against England.

Devanesan Chokkalingam, Known as Deva, Passes Away

- Profile: Veteran Tamil film composer Devanesan Chokkalingam, popularly known as Deva or “Thenisai Thendral”, died at the age of 75 in Chennai in October 2026.
- Career: He worked across Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam cinema, composing songs and background scores for more than 400 films, according to the supplied report.
- Musical contribution: He helped popularise Gaana music through folk-inspired melodies and distinctive rhythms.
- Awards: His honours included the Kalaimamani Award and Tamil Nadu State Film Awards for Best Music Director.

Fisheries Scientist B. Madhusoodana Kurup Passes Away

- Profile: B. Madhusoodana Kurup, founding Vice-Chancellor of Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), passed away at the age of 71 in Kochi in October 2026.
- Research: He contributed to fisheries science, aquatic biodiversity, aquaculture and fisheries education.
- Contributions: He discovered eight freshwater fish species in the Western Ghats, guided 22 doctoral scholars and published more than 250 research papers.
- Leadership: He also served at Cochin University of Science and Technology and Shri Venkateshwara University.

CJI Surya Kant Inaugurates Ladakh High Court Bench

- Inauguration: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant inaugurated the Ladakh Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh at Melongthang, Leh, in October 2026.
- Judicial access: The facility aims to improve access to justice for people in Leh, Kargil and other remote areas.
- Digital services: The initiatives included an e-filing portal, a Document Management System and an

online recruitment portal.

- Green Wall: A Green Wall initiative was also launched to highlight environmental conservation and ecological sustainability in Ladakh.

Solar Eruptions Studied Using Aditya-L1 and Proba-3

- Research: Scientists from Bengaluru and international collaborators studied coronal mass ejections (CMEs), large eruptions of plasma and magnetic fields from the Sun.
- Missions: The research combined observations from India's Aditya-L1 mission and Europe's Proba-3 mission.
- Instruments: The study used the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) aboard Aditya-L1 and the ASPIICS instrument aboard Proba-3.
- Significance: Combining observations from the two missions helps scientists study solar eruptions and understand their mass, density and energy.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 22 OCTOBER 2026

1. Repo rate: The October 2026 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting minutes reported a unanimous decision to raise the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.5%. RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Minutes
2. Launch: The World Bank Group launched its first comprehensive digital strategy at the Global Artificial Intelligence and Digital Summit 2026 in Seoul, South Korea. World Bank Group's First Digital Strategy
3. Agreement: The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in October 2026. MoES and AcSIR Sign MoU for PhD Programmes
4. Approval: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare approved the operationalisation of Ladakh's first Government Medical College at Stipuk Pharka, Leh, from the 2027–28 academic year. Ladakh's First Government Medical College Appro...
5. Established: The award was instituted in 2006 in memory of Ustad Bismillah Khan, the renowned shehnai maestro and Bharat Ratna recipient. Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2024 and 2025

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23 October 2026

Friday · 20 items · 5 topics

Agriculture **1** · Banking and Finance **8** · Economy **2** · Social Issue **1** · Misc GA **8**

Agriculture

Agrivoltaics World Conference 2026

- Edition and venue: The 7th Agrivoltaics World Conference (AWC) 2026 was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, marking the first time India and the Global South hosted the conference.
- Meaning: Agrivoltaics refers to the combined use of the same land for agricultural crop production and solar photovoltaic electricity generation.
- Organising ministry: The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, hosted the conference.
- Theme: "Powering the Global South."

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

Core Sector Data Points to a Coming Slowdown

- The Index of Eight Core Industries recorded 7.9% growth in September 2026, its highest growth in the series and the second consecutive month of acceleration.
- Key growth drivers included electricity (11.4%), coal (10.7%) and refinery products (10.3%).
- The editorial cautions that the strong figures may be temporary and may not reflect sustained economic growth.
- Exam point: The Eight Core Industries are coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity.

SEBI Eases Early Pay-In Rules for Share Delivery

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has eased rules for Early Pay-In (EPI), which allows investors to deliver shares before the normal settlement date.
- Shares delivered early can be used to meet the margin requirement for the related sale.
- The revised framework is scheduled to take effect on 22 February 2027.
- Brokers and clearing corporations have four months to update their systems.

AU Small Finance Bank and Paytm Launch RuPay Credit Card

- AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) partnered with Paytm to launch the Paytm AU SFB Credit Card, described in the supplied news as India's first RuPay credit card offering family airport lounge access.
- The card has no joining or annual fee and supports digital payments, including eligible Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions.
- It offers up to 12 complimentary family lounge visits annually on eligible round-trip flights booked

through Paytm.
- Rewards include up to 2% on eligible Paytm UPI transactions and 5% on eligible Paytm Travel bookings and gold purchases.

Bank of Baroda Launches Festive Campaign

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) launched "bob Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang – Shubh bhi, Labh bhi" to offer festive benefits on loans, savings products and debit card spending.
- Home loans start at 7.40% per annum, while car loans start at 7.85% per annum, according to the supplied news.
- The bob Green Wheels loan offers an additional interest concession for eligible electric vehicle buyers.
- Other offerings include loans for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and collateral-free financing for women entrepreneurs.

CBDT Introduces Form 173A for Tax Exemption Claims

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) introduced Form 173A, effective 19 October 2026, under the Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2026.
- It aims to standardise reporting and improve verification of specified tax exemption claims on interest and capital gains from government securities.
- The form applies to eligible Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), subject to prescribed conditions.
- Part A records investor details, while Part B covers securities, holdings, transactions, interest income and capital gains.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Emissions Gap Report 2026

Source: UNEP

Context of the News

UNEP released the **Emissions Gap Report 2026: The Point of Return**. Its central warning is that the Paris Agreement's **1.5°C limit without overshoot is no longer possible**.

What Is the Report?

- The **17th edition** of UNEP's annual assessment
- It measures the **gap** between:
  - Emissions projected under countries' current pledges
  - Emissions needed to meet the Paris temperature goals

Where Does India Stand?

On meeting its targets

- India is **projected to achieve its 2030 and 2035 NDC targets** under existing policies
- **No additional measures** are needed

On per capita emissions

Projected for **2035**:

Country	Per capita emissions
India	**3.6 tCO_2e**

Country	Per capita emissions
China	**9.3**
Russia	**11.5**
Saudi Arabia	**15.2**

Important Facts for Exams

- **Emissions Gap Report 2026: The Point of Return** — UNEP's **17th edition**
- **1.5°C without overshoot is no longer possible**
- Global emissions: about **58.4 $GtCO_2e$ (2025)**, broadly flat
- Required cuts from 2025: **18 per cent by 2030**, **45 per cent by 2035**, **69 per cent by 2040**
- Current 2035 NDCs leave a gap of **16 $GtCO_2e$**, delivering only **11–15 per cent**
- Projected warming: **2.8°C** under existing policies; about **2.1°C** if all pledges are met
- **320 $GtCO_2$** of carbon removal would be needed this century
- **Solar deployment grew sevenfold faster** than 2015 projections
- **India will meet its 2030 and 2035 NDC targets** under existing policies
- India's projected **2035 per capita emissions: 3.6 tCO_2e**, against **China 9.3**, **Russia 11.5**, **Saudi Arabia 15.2**
- India's NDC: **45 per cent** cut in emissions intensity by 2030 over 2005; **50 per cent** non-fossil power capacity by 2030; **net zero by 2070**
- India crossed **300 GW** non-fossil capacity in 2026; target **500 GW by 2030** and **900 GW by 2035**
- **UNEP** — founded **1972** after the **Stockholm Conference**; headquartered at **Nairobi, Kenya**`

SUVIKALP: Mine Repurposing Tool

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The **Coal Controller Organisation** received the **SKOCH Gold Award 2026** for its **SUVIKALP Mine Repurposing Tool**, which helps plan the reuse of **closed coal mines**.

What Is SUVIKALP?

- An **indigenous, data-driven tool**
- It identifies and ranks **sustainable alternative uses** for **closed and abandoned coal mines**
- Developed by the **Coal Controller Organisation**, under the **Ministry of Coal**

What Is the Aim?

- **Scientific mine closure**
- **Environmental restoration**
- **Livelihood generation**
- **Sustainable regional development**

eMudhra Certificates Blocked by Global Browsers

Source: Indian Express

Context of the News

Google, Mozilla, Apple and **Microsoft** took emergency action to **block digital certificates** issued by **eMudhra**, after a serious cryptographic flaw came to light.

What Is eMudhra?

- Founded in **2008**
- A **CCA-licensed** digital identity and security firm under the **IT Act, 2000**
- Holds nearly **38 per cent** of India's digital signature certificate market
- Issues **TLS/SSL certificates** and **code-signing certificates**

What does eMudhra do?

- **Digital Signature Certificates (DSC):** Used for online activities such as Goods and Services Tax (GST) filings, company filings and e-tendering.
- **Electronic signatures:** Help organisations approve and sign documents without printing them.
- **Digital identity and verification:** Help businesses verify customers and manage secure access.

What is a Digital Signature Certificate?

A Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) is **an electronic certificate that helps verify the identity of a person or organisation and supports secure digital signing.** For example, a company may use a DSC to sign documents while filing returns on a government portal instead of signing paper documents physically

Economy

India and New Zealand Sign MoC on Electronic Origin Data Exchange

- India and New Zealand signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in October 2026 to exchange electronic data on the origin of goods traded between them.
- The arrangement supports customs coordination under the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which, according to the supplied news, came into force on 20 October 2026.
- Rules of Origin determine whether goods qualify for preferential or reduced customs duties under an FTA.
- The agreement aims to reduce customs clearance time, transaction costs and information gaps, helping trade and Indian exports such as textiles and engineering goods.

UN Biodiversity Summit to Review 2030 Goals

- Conference: Representatives from 196 countries, Indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders gathered in Yerevan, Armenia, for the 17th United Nations biodiversity conference.
- Main objective: To review global progress towards biodiversity conservation targets for 2030 and assess the action needed to address the decline in biodiversity caused by human activities.
- Key concern: Habitat destruction, pollution, climate change and the overuse of natural resources threaten biodiversity and ecosystem stability.
- Significance: The conference provides an opportunity to strengthen international cooperation and accelerate implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Social Issue

UNESCO Releases 2026 GEM Gender Report on Education Access

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) released its 2026 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Gender Report, titled Gender Equity in Access to Education.
- The report examines school enrolment, completion rates and access to higher education, highlighting barriers such as poverty, child marriage and geographical disadvantages.

- In 2024, global gender parity had been achieved in pre-primary, primary and secondary enrolment, but inequalities remained in tertiary education and disadvantaged communities.
- Between 2000 and 2024, the share of countries with fewer than nine girls enrolled for every ten boys fell from 15% to 2% in primary education and from 18% to 5% in upper-secondary education.

Misc GA

Fifth Edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 5.0)

- Launch: Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi launched the registration portal for the fifth edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam in October 2026.
- Theme: Thirukkural, the classical Tamil text written by poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar.
- Objective: The programme aims to strengthen cultural and educational connections between Kashi (Varanasi) in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Cultural significance: Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently gifted a Russian translation of Thirukkural to Russian President Vladimir Putin during the BRICS Summit 2026.

SIMBEX-2026

- Edition and venue: The 33rd edition of the Singapore–India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) commenced in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, in October 2026.
- Participating countries: India and Singapore, represented by their respective navies.
- Indian Navy ships: The opening ceremonies took place aboard INS Nilgiri and INS Kamorta.
- Objective: The exercise aims to improve maritime cooperation, tactical coordination and operational interoperability between the two navies, particularly in addressing shared security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage I Invoked in Delhi-NCR

- Trigger: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) invoked Stage I of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) after the Air Quality Index (AQI) entered the Poor category (201–300).
- Purpose: GRAP is an emergency framework that introduces progressively stricter measures to control air pollution across Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).
- Background: GRAP was formally notified on 12 January 2017 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, following Supreme Court directions in M. C. Mehta v. Union of India.
- Four stages: Stage I applies to Poor air quality (201–300), Stage II to Very Poor (301–400), Stage III to Severe (401–450), and Stage IV to Severe+ (above 450).

BHASHINI and IISc Develop Text-to-Speech Models for Sourashtra

- The Digital India BHASHINI Division and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, developed text-to-speech models for Sourashtra, a minority Indo-Aryan language spoken mainly in Tamil Nadu.
- The four models use the Variational Inference with adversarial learning for end-to-end Text-to-Speech (VITS) architecture and generate speech at 22,050 hertz.
- The training corpus contains over 28 hours of recordings, with approximately 10,000 male and 11,400 female utterances.
- The models are available through BHASHINI's AIKosh platform and can support language learning, accessibility, digital content creation and language preservation.

25th SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting

- The 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 19–20 October 2026, under the chairmanship of Tajikistan's Prime Minister Qohir Rasulzoda.
- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh represented India.
- India announced that it would host the first SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum by the end of 2026.
- Outcomes included a Joint Communiqué, an action plan for multilateral trade and economic cooperation for 2026–2030, and approval of the organisation's 2027 budget.

Vummidi Ethiraj, Craftsman Behind the Sengol, Passes Away

- Renowned jeweller and craftsman Vummidi Ethiraj passed away at the age of 99 in Chennai in October 2026.
- He helped craft the historic Sengol, a silver sceptre coated with gold, in 1947 for presentation to India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.
- The Sengol symbolised the transfer of power from British rule to independent India and features a Nandi (bull) figure at the top.
- On 28 May 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ceremonially installed the Sengol in India's new Parliament building.

Former Prasar Bharati Chairman Releases Book on Indian TV News

- Former Prasar Bharati Chairman Surya Prakash released Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey's book, The Evolution of TV News in India: From Doordarshan to Digital Disruption – An Insider's Account.
- Published by Om Books International, the book traces nearly five decades of Indian television journalism.
- It covers the growth of Doordarshan, satellite television, private news channels, 24-hour news and digital media.
- The book also discusses television coverage of major events, including the Emergency of 1975–1977, the Jayaprakash Narayan Movement and Operation Blue Star.

World Iodine Deficiency Day 2026 – 21 October

- World Iodine Deficiency Day, also known as Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day, is observed annually on 21 October.
- It raises awareness about iodine deficiency and its effects on health, growth and brain development.
- Iodine is essential for producing the thyroid hormones triiodothyronine (T3) and thyroxine (T4), which regulate metabolism and development.
- Global efforts to prevent iodine deficiency gained momentum at the 1990 World Summit for Children, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 23 OCTOBER 2026

1. The Index of Eight Core Industries recorded 7.9% growth in September 2026, its highest growth in the series and the second consecutive month of acceleration. Core Sector Data Points to a Coming Slowdown
2. **UNEP** released the **Emissions Gap Report 2026: The Point of Return**. Its central warning is that the Paris Agreement's **1.5°C limit without overshoot is no longer possible**. Emissions Gap Report 2026
3. Edition and venue: The 7th Agrivoltaics World Conference (AWC) 2026 was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, marking the first time India and the Global South hosted the conference. Agrivoltaics World Conference 2026
4. A **CCA-licensed** digital identity and security firm under the **IT Act, 2000** eMudhra Certificates Blocked by Global Browsers
5. Main objective: To review global progress towards biodiversity conservation targets for 2030 and assess the action needed to address the decline in biodiversity caused by human activities. UN Biodiversity Summit to Review 2030 Goals

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24 October 2026

Saturday · 21 items · 3 topics

Agriculture **3** · Banking and Finance **6** · Misc GA **12**

NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Sixteen New Indigenous Breeds Recognised

Source: New Indian Express

Context of the News

The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** notified **16 newly recognised indigenous breeds** of livestock and dogs, across **13 states and one Union Territory**, on the recommendation of the **Breed Registration Committee**.

What Does Recognition Mean?

- A **statutory, scientific registration** published in the **Gazette of India**
- It gives a native animal population a **formal national identity** and a **unique accession number**
- Based on its distinct **physical, phenotypic and genetic** characteristics

Who Does It?

Role	Body
Nodal agency	**ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal**
Notifying authority	**Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)**, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Which Breeds Were Recognised?

Category	Breed	State
Cattle (4)	**Koppal**	Karnataka
	Mahakaushali	Madhya Pradesh
	Periyar (Periyar Kullan dwarf)	Kerala
	Umarda	Maharashtra
Buffalo (1)	**Gomanchali**	Goa
Goat (2)	**Battisi**	Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
	Totapuri	Rajasthan
Sheep (4)	**Asomi**	Assam
	Kow Debar	Uttarakhand
	Madgyal	Maharashtra and Karnataka
	Seemanchali	Bihar
Equine (2)	**Braj Donkey**	Uttar Pradesh

Category	Breed	State
	Kashmiri Horse / Pony	Jammu & Kashmir
Pig (1)	**Nagal Pig**	Nagaland
Yak (1)	**Sikkimese Yak**	Sikkim
Canine (1)	**Kombai Dog**	Tamil Nadu

Important Facts for Exams

- **NBAGR** maintains the **National Animal Gene Bank** and registers all indigenous breeds
- India has over **200 registered indigenous breeds** of livestock and poultry
- India is the world's **largest milk producer**, with about **24 per cent** of global output

MoAFW Launches 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan – Rabi 2026'

- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the campaign in Karnal, Haryana, for the period 22 October to 30 November 2026.
- The campaign promotes soil health, balanced fertiliser use, crop diversification and sustainable farming.
- The government aims to reach nearly 1 crore participants through the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- Around 4,150 teams and over 12,000 scientists and ATMA functionaries are expected to participate through training, farmers' meetings and field demonstrations.

Maharashtra Launches Mission Murghas to Tackle Fodder Shortages

- Maharashtra launched Mission Murghas on 24 October 2026 to address fodder shortages during drought conditions.
- The initiative aims to improve the availability of fodder for livestock.
- The launch comes amid widespread drought, with 305 talukas reportedly declared drought-affected by 14 October 2026.
- Exam relevance: Fodder availability is important for livestock productivity, dairy farming and rural livelihoods.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

Net FDI Positive for Third Straight Month in August

- India's net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) remained positive for the third consecutive month in August 2026, with net inflows of $3.3 billion, according to the Reserve Bank of India's monthly Bulletin.
- Gross FDI inflows stood at $11.1 billion, while total outflows were $7.7 billion.
- Gross inflows were 24% lower than July 2026, but around 68% higher than August 2025, as reported in the supplied news.
- Net FDI is the amount remaining after accounting for investment outflows from gross FDI inflows.

BSE and MMTC-PAMP Sign Agreement to Boost India's EGR Market

- BSE Limited partnered with MMTC-PAMP to expand India's Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) market.
- EGRs are securities regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) that allow investors

to hold gold electronically in demat accounts.
- BSE plans to offer EGR contracts in multiple denominations, while MMTC-PAMP will contribute its expertise in gold and silver refining.
- The partnership aims to improve transparency, liquidity and investor participation and encourage gold trading through regulated markets.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Khajuraho's Medieval Temples

Source: Indian Express

Context of the News

The **ASI** plans to restore the headless sandstone **Vishnu idol** at Khajuraho's **Javari Temple**, by re-attaching the head recently found in an ASI repository.

What Are the Khajuraho Temples?

- A group of medieval **Hindu and Jain temples**
- They represent the peak of **Nagara-style** temple architecture
- Known for their **soaring shikharas**, **mathematical proportions** and **intricate sculptural reliefs**
- **Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh**
- Against the backdrop of the **Vindhya range**

Who Built Them and When?

- The **Chandela dynasty**
- Built mainly between **950 and 1050 CE**
- They reflected the rulers' **authority, religious devotion** and artistic ambition

Important Facts for Exams

- **Khajuraho** — **Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh**, near the **Vindhya range**
- Built **950-1050 CE** by the **Chandela** dynasty
- About **85 temples** originally over **13 sq km**; **20-23** survive, in **three groups**
- Rediscovered by **Captain T. S. Burt (1838)**; documented by **Alexander Cunningham** and **F. C. Maisey**
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site, 1986**
- The **Kandariya Mahadeva Temple** is the largest and most ornate, attributed to **Vidyadhara**
- Temples are built of **sandstone**, mostly **without mortar**, using interlocking stone
- The **Eastern Group** includes **Jain temples** such as **Parshvanatha** and **Adinatha**, alongside Hindu ones
- The **Chandelas** ruled **Bundelkhand** from the 9th to 13th centuries; their fort capital was **Kalinjar**

Shamonda Virus

Source: TH

Context of the News

The **WHO** confirmed the **first ever documented human infection and death** from the **Shamonda virus**. The patient was **immunocompromised**, in **Lyon, France**.

What Is the Virus?

- A **vector-borne animal virus**
- Belongs to the **Simbu serogroup**, genus **Orthobunyavirus**, family **Peribunyaviridae**
- Closely related to the **Schmallenberg virus**

- It mainly infects **ruminants**

Important Facts for Exams

- **Shamonda virus** — first human infection and death confirmed by the **WHO**, in **Lyon, France**; patient was **immunocompromised**
- **Simbu serogroup**, genus **Orthobunyavirus**, family **Peribunyaviridae**; related to **Schmallenberg virus**
- First isolated in **cattle in Nigeria, 1965**
- Spread by **Culicoides midges**
- Causes **fever, falling milk yield, foetal deformities** and **abortions** in ruminants
- Has spread to over a dozen European countries, including **France, Germany, Spain, Ireland**
- **Not listed by WOAH** or under **EU Animal Health Law**, so reporting is not mandatory
- **WOAH** — World Organisation for Animal Health, founded **1924**, headquartered at **Paris**
- The **One Health** approach links human, animal and environmental health. India has a **National One Health Mission**
- Other **Culicoides-borne** diseases: **bluetongue** and **African horse sickness**

Sakharov Prize 2026

Source: European Parliament

Context of the News

The **European Parliament** announced the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** and its officials as the **collective winners** of the **2026 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought**, on **22 October 2026**.

What Is the Sakharov Prize?

- The **European Union's highest honour for human rights**
- Awarded annually to individuals, groups or organisations
- For exceptional contribution to **human rights, freedom of thought, democracy** and the **international rule of law**

Who Won in 2026?

- The **International Criminal Court** and its personnel — **judges, prosecutors and investigators**
- Under ICC President **Tomoko Akane**

Important Facts for Exams

- **2026 Sakharov Prize** awarded collectively to the **International Criminal Court** and its officials
- ICC President: **Tomoko Akane**
- The prize was established in **1988**, named after **Andrei Sakharov**
- First awarded jointly to **Nelson Mandela** and **Anatoly Marchenko**
- Carries **€50,000**; ceremony held each **December at Strasbourg**
- Awarded by the **European Parliament**
- **Andrei Sakharov** won the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1975**
- The **ICC** was created by the **Rome Statute**, adopted **1998**, in force **2002**; headquartered at **The Hague**
- **India is not a party** to the Rome Statute. Nor are the **United States, China** or **Russia**

President Murmu Releases ₹200 Commemorative Coin for Mata Hasi Devi Ji

- President Droupadi Murmu released a ₹200 commemorative coin in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, to mark the 200th birth anniversary of Mata Sahib Hasi Devi Ji.
- Mata Hasi Devi Ji was the fifth spiritual head of Shadani Darbar, a prominent Sindhi religious institution.

- One side of the coin features Mata Hasi Devi Ji, while the other displays the Lion Capital of Ashoka and the denomination.
- The coin was issued by the Ministry of Finance to commemorate the occasion.

Misc GA

ACC Appoints Sunil Kumar as ONGC Chairman

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Sunil Kumar, an Executive Director at Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), as its next Chairman for a three-year term.
- He is expected to assume charge on or after 7 December 2026, succeeding Arun Kumar Singh.
- Sunil Kumar joined ONGC in 1991 and has over three decades of experience in the oil and gas sector.
- He has contributed to the Vasistha and S1 deep-water project on India's east coast and has served as Executive Director and Asset Manager of ONGC's Mehsana Asset since January 2025.

Anca-Maria Verma Appointed IIMSAM Ambassador-at-Large for India

- Anca-Maria Verma was appointed Ambassador-at-Large of the Inter-Governmental Institution for the Use of Micro-Algae Spirulina Against Malnutrition (IIMSAM) for India.
- Her five-year term runs from 20 October 2026 to 19 October 2031.
- She is expected to support humanitarian initiatives, nutrition programmes and stakeholder engagement.
- IIMSAM focuses on promoting the use of Spirulina, a nutrient-rich microalga, to help address malnutrition.

Dr L. Murugan Resigns as Minister of State and Rajya Sabha Member

- Dr Loganathan Murugan resigned as Minister of State in the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, and as a Rajya Sabha member.
- The President accepted his resignation from the Union Council of Ministers under Article 75(2) of the Constitution.
- Murugan had served as Vice-Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) from 2017 to 2020 and was a Rajya Sabha member from Madhya Pradesh.
- According to the supplied news, a by-election for the vacant Rajya Sabha seat was scheduled for 12 November 2026.

SDAL Delivers Nagastra 2 Loitering Munition System to Indian Army

- Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL) delivered its indigenous Nagastra 2 anti-tank loitering munition system to the Indian Army.
- It is a man-portable, suicide-type Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) designed to strike targets with precision.
- The system has a reported range of 25 km in recover-and-reuse mode and 50 km in fire-and-forget mode.
- Its 4 kg tandem shaped-charge warhead is designed to penetrate up to 650 mm of Rolled Homogeneous Armour (RHA). It also incorporates features to improve resistance to electronic warfare.

Tom Skerritt, Veteran Hollywood Actor, Passes Away at 93

- American actor Tom Skerritt reportedly passed away in October 2026 at the age of 93.
- He made his film debut in War Hunt (1962) and appeared in films including M*A*S*H (1970), Alien (1979) and Top Gun (1986).
- He won the 1993 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series for his role in Picket Fences.
- He also co-founded TheFilmSchool in Seattle to support aspiring filmmakers.

International Stuttering Awareness Day 2026 – 22 October

- International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) is observed every year on 22 October to promote understanding and inclusion of people who stutter.
- The 2026 theme was “Shades of Stuttering – What’s Yours?”
- The day was first observed on 22 October 1998, following international efforts to raise awareness of stuttering.
- The sea-green ribbon, adopted in 2009, represents awareness, support and solidarity.

International Snow Leopard Day 2026 – 23 October

- International Snow Leopard Day, also called World Snow Leopard Day, is observed on 23 October to promote snow leopard conservation and protection of mountain habitats.
- The day originated from the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in 2013.
- The Bishkek Declaration was adopted by 12 snow leopard range countries in 2013, supporting a coordinated conservation effort.
- The United Nations General Assembly formally proclaimed 23 October as International Snow Leopard Day through Resolution A/RES/79/143 in December 2024.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police Raising Day 2026 – 24 October

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) observes its Raising Day on 24 October every year.
- The force was established in 1962 to strengthen security along the India–Tibet border.
- The force operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs and is one of India's Central Armed Police Forces.
- Its legal framework includes the ITBP Force Act, 1992, and the ITBP Rules, 1994.

National Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2026 – October

- National Cybersecurity Awareness Month is observed every October to promote safe online behaviour and protect people and organisations from cyber threats.
- It was launched in 2004 by the United States Department of Homeland Security and the National Cybersecurity Alliance.
- The National Cybersecurity Alliance's 2026 theme is “Don't Make It Easy for Them”, focusing on everyday habits that protect personal information and digital accounts.
- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's 2026 theme is “Securing the Next 250”, linked to strengthening cybersecurity as the United States approaches its 250th anniversary.

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2026 – 18–24 October

- The 14th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week was observed from 18 to 24 October 2026.
- The 2026 campaign theme was “From Detection to Prevention”.

- The campaign promotes awareness of lead exposure, especially among children, and encourages the elimination of lead paint.
- The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint was established in 2011 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO); the first awareness week was observed in 2012.

Nihal Sarin and Koneru Humpy Win Gold at European Chess Club Cup

- Indian chess players Nihal Sarin and Koneru Humpy won individual gold medals at the European Chess Club Cup 2026.
- The tournament was held in Budva, Montenegro, from 17 to 23 October 2026.
- The results highlight India's presence in international competitive chess.

Pankaj Advani Wins 29th World Billiards Title

- Indian cueist Pankaj Advani won his 29th career world title at the WBL World Billiards Championship on 23 October 2026.
- He defeated England's Robert Hall by 1,906–1,206.
- Advani's victory further strengthened his record as one of India's most successful cue-sports players.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 24 OCTOBER 2026

1. First isolated in **cattle in Nigeria, 1965** Shamonda Virus
2. Gross inflows were 24% lower than July 2026, but around 68% higher than August 2025, as reported in the supplied news. Net FDI Positive for Third Straight Month in Au…
3. Murugan had served as Vice-Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) from 2017 to 2020 and was a Rajya Sabha member from Madhya Pradesh. Dr L. Murugan Resigns as Minister of State and …
4. The 2026 theme was “Shades of Stuttering – What’s Yours?” International Stuttering Awareness Day 2026 – 2…
5. It was launched in 2004 by the United States Department of Homeland Security and the National Cybersecurity Alliance. National Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2026 – O…

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)

Source: Mint

Context of the News

The Union government has extended the **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)** beyond **30 September 2026**, up to **31 March 2027**. The **Department of Expenditure** gave the approval.

What Is the AIF?

- A scheme that gives **financing support** for **post-harvest infrastructure**
- It covers **cold storages, warehouses** and **grading units**
- Support comes through **interest subvention** and **credit guarantee** benefits

What Is the Aim?

- Build storage closer to the farm
- **Reduce crop wastage**
- Let farmers **hold their produce** until prices improve, instead of selling immediately after harvest

Important Facts for Exams

- **AIF extended to 31 March 2027**, from the earlier deadline of **30 September 2026**
- Approved by the **Department of Expenditure**
- Launched in **2020–21**; **₹1.03 trillion sanctioned** for **2,28,428 projects**; over **₹1.75 trillion** mobilised
- Top states: **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat**

The Snow Leopard

Source: Times of India

Context of the News

On **International Snow Leopard Day (23 October)**, the Environment Ministry highlighted India's first **Snow Leopard Population Assessment (SPAI)**. It recorded **718 snow leopards**, of which **477 are in Ladakh**.

What Is the Snow Leopard?

- Scientific name **Panthera uncia**
- A **solitary apex carnivore** — it hunts alone and sits at the top of its food chain
- Known as the **"Ghost of the Mountains"**, because it is so rarely seen
- Adapted to the cold, rugged mountains of **Central and South Asia**

Where Does It Live?

Region
Himalayas
Mongolia and Russia

What Is Its Conservation Status?

- **IUCN: Vulnerable**

Farmer IDs Created Under Digital Agriculture Mission

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

The Union Agriculture Ministry has created **11 crore Farmer IDs** — **five months ahead** of the deadline of **31 March 2027**. The milestone was completed on the night of **23 October**.

What Is a Farmer ID?

- A **unique digital identity card** for a farmer
- Created under the **Digital Agriculture Mission**
- Run by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**

What Will It Give Access To?

- **Government schemes**
- **Bank credit**
- **Crop insurance**
- **Disaster relief**

Key Terms

- **Farmer ID:** A unique digital identity linking a farmer to their land records and crop details
- **Digital Agriculture Mission:** The government programme building digital infrastructure for farming
- **AgriStack:** The underlying system, built on three registries — farmer identity, land, and crops sown
- **Verification:** Confirming a person's identity and eligibility before a benefit is released
- **Service delivery:** How a government scheme actually reaches the intended person

Important Facts for Exams

- **11 crore Farmer IDs** created, as on **23 October 2026** — **five months ahead** of the **31 March 2027** deadline
- Created under the **Digital Agriculture Mission**, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- Union Agriculture Minister: **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**
- **Digital Agriculture Mission** was approved by the Cabinet in **2024**, with an outlay of about **₹2,817 crore**
- **AgriStack's three registries: Farmer Registry**, **Geo-referenced Village Maps** and **Crop Sown Registry**
- The Farmer ID is the **identity layer** of AgriStack, the equivalent of what Aadhaar is in India Stack
- **Agriculture is a State subject**, so AgriStack implementation **varies across states**

Enhanced NMMS 2.0 Mobile App for VB-G RAM G

- Launch: Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the upgraded National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) 2.0 app in October 2026.
- Purpose: Records attendance of workers under the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar & Ajeevika Mission (Gramin).

- Technical Partner: Developed with technical support from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras).
- Key Features: Device-level security, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based verification and offline attendance recording to reduce fraudulent attendance.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

RBI Revises Bank Leverage Ratio Framework

- Announcement: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the Commercial Banks – Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy (Eleventh Amendment Directions), 2026.
- Effective Date: 1 April 2027. The changes align the framework with the 2017 Basel Committee on Banking Supervision standard under Basel III.
- Leverage Ratio: Measures a bank's Tier 1 capital against its total exposure, including on-balance-sheet and off-balance-sheet items.
- Minimum Ratios:
  - Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs): 4%
  - Indian branches of Global Systemically Important Banks (G-SIBs): 3.5% plus the applicable buffer
  - Other banks: 3.5%

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

World Development Report 2026

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** launched the **World Bank Group's World Development Report 2026**. The event was organised under the **IndiaAI Mission** with the World Bank. The report was first released globally in **August 2026**.

Key Highlights

- **Three-step approach to AI:** The report recommends **adoption, adaptation and advancement**. Developing countries should first **use existing AI tools**, **modify them according to local needs** and gradually **build their own AI capabilities**.
- **AI in agriculture:** In **Baramati, Maharashtra**, AI-based farming support reportedly **increased sugarcane yields by 40%** while **reducing water and fertiliser use by 30%**. Farmers received guidance through **voice-based services on mobile phones**, making technology accessible even to farmers who had never used computers.
- **AI in healthcare:** According to Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, AI-based initiatives **increased tuberculosis (TB) detection by 35%**.
- **IndiaAI Mission:** The Government of India is developing **AI infrastructure, datasets, skills, startups and safety systems** to expand AI use across the country.
- **Basic infrastructure is essential: Reliable electricity, internet connectivity, computing facilities, quality data, skilled workers and strong institutions** are necessary to make AI useful.
- **From pilot projects to large-scale use:** The report stresses that successful AI experiments should be **properly evaluated and expanded** across regions and sectors **based on evidence of their impact**.

- **AI and employment:** Developing countries should **prepare workers for changes caused by AI**. The report notes that **immediate job disruption may be less pronounced in developing countries**, but the effects will **depend on how AI is adopted**.

IndiaAI Mission: Seven Pillars

The IndiaAI Mission aims to build an **inclusive, responsible and self-reliant AI ecosystem** in India.

Pillar	Main Purpose
IndiaAI Compute Capacity	Provides **computing infrastructure** needed to develop and run AI systems.
IndiaAI Innovation Centre	Supports the development of **indigenous AI models**.
IndiaAI Datasets Platform (AIKosh)	Provides **access to datasets** for AI development.
IndiaAI Application Development Initiative	Promotes **AI solutions for real-world problems**.
IndiaAI FutureSkills	Develops **AI skills** among students and professionals.
IndiaAI Startup Financing	Supports **startups** working on AI technologies.
Safe and Trusted AI	Promotes **responsible AI, privacy, fairness and safety**.

AI Applications Presented at the State AI Showcase

- **Navachetana — Andhra Pradesh:** An AI-enabled **early screening initiative for children aged 0–6 years** to identify possible **developmental delays**.
- **MahaVISTAAR AI — Maharashtra:** Provides **personalised agricultural advice**, digital services and farmer engagement.
- **EdskGrid — Meghalaya:** Uses **Geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI)** to support **education planning and governance**.
- **Vyuhaa-Cerviai:** Supports **cervical cancer screening at the point of care**.

Economy

Nepal Becomes First Beneficiary of the Loss and Damage Fund

- Fund: The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) was created in 2022 to help vulnerable developing countries deal with climate-related losses.
- Latest Development: In October 2026, the fund's board provisionally set aside $20 million for Nepal following devastating flash floods in August.
- Purpose: Supports recovery from climate disasters such as floods, cyclones and droughts, as well as slow-onset impacts such as sea-level rise and desertification.
- Importance: It is a major step towards meeting developing countries' demand for financial support for climate-related damage. The supplied articles report different figures: $20 million and $21.6 million.

India's Defence Exports to Europe

- India's defence exports reportedly reached a record ₹38,424 crore, reflecting the growth of domestic defence manufacturing.
- Rising European demand for ammunition, linked to the ReArm Europe initiative, has created export opportunities for Indian manufacturers.
- Significance: Defence exports can support domestic industry, employment and India's goal of self-reliance in defence production.

Misc GA

Theoretical Physicist Ashoke Sen Wins Oskar Klein Medal

- Award: Ashoke Sen received the 2026 Oskar Klein Medal, becoming the first Indian to win the honour.
- Awarding Institutions: Stockholm University and the Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
- Field of Work: His research focuses on string theory, which attempts to explain fundamental particles and forces, including gravity, within one framework.
- Importance: String theory seeks to connect quantum physics with Einstein's theory of relativity, although it has not yet produced predictions that can be experimentally confirmed using current technology.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0

- The fifth edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam will be held from 28 November to 12 December 2026.
- It aims to strengthen the historical, cultural and civilisational links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi (Varanasi).
- The programme promotes the exchange of knowledge, traditions and cultural practices between the two regions.

Book: Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World

- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book.
- It highlights India's civilisational heritage, democratic traditions, technological progress and growing global influence.
- The book focuses on India's role in shaping a more equitable world.

National Urban Conclave 2026

- The conclave concluded in Bhubaneswar on 25 October 2026 after a two-day programme.
- It was organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in partnership with the Government of Odisha.
- It focused on urban reforms and improving the planning and management of Indian cities.

Kerala Plans India's First Cooperative Airline

- The Kerala government approved a proposal to launch an airline through the Kerala Civil Aviation Development Cooperative Society.
- The proposed airline aims to operate under a cooperative model.
- The initiative could expand regional air connectivity, subject to the required approvals and operational arrangements.

Shabari Naturals Wins G-Mark Global Design Award

- Shabari Naturals, a Maharashtra government initiative, received the G-Mark Global Design Award on 25 October 2026.
- Its packaging design draws inspiration from traditional tribal art.
- The award highlights the potential of traditional art and local identity in modern product design.

Sitaram Raul Wins Wildlife Photography Award

- Indian photographer and fine artist Sitaram Raul won the Behaviour: Invertebrates category at the 2026 Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition.
- His winning photograph was titled “Shifting Sand.”
- The award recognises his wildlife photography, particularly his depiction of invertebrate behaviour.

Chef Damu Dies at 72

- K. Damodharan, popularly known as Chef Damu, died in Chennai on 25 October 2026, at the age of 72.
- He received the Padma Shri in 2025 for his contribution to culinary arts.
- He was widely known for his work in cooking, food education and television.

Yuki Bhambri Wins Almaty Open Doubles Title

- Indian tennis player Yuki Bhambri and American partner Ryan Seggerman won the men’s doubles title at the ATP 250 Almaty Open.
- The final was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 25 October 2026.
- The victory added another international doubles title to Bhambri’s career.

9th IBSAMAR 2026 Concludes

- The ninth edition of the India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime Exercise (IBSAMAR) concluded at Simon’s Town, South Africa.
- The exercise involved the navies of India, Brazil and South Africa.
- It aimed to strengthen maritime cooperation, operational coordination and professional exchanges among the participating navies.

Yamuna Rejuvenation Projects in Delhi

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched and laid foundation stones for Yamuna rejuvenation projects worth over ₹8,941 crore.
- Major works include expanding sewer networks and improving drainage systems.
- The projects aim to reduce pollution entering the Yamuna River and improve wastewater management in Delhi.

30th Financial Stability and Development Council Meeting

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 30th Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) meeting in New Delhi.
- The council discusses domestic and global financial developments and emerging risks.
- Its role includes supporting financial stability and coordination among financial-sector regulators.

‘Wings Over Ganga’ Air Show

- The Indian Air Force showcased its capabilities during the Wings Over Ganga air show in Varanasi.
- Spectators watched aerial displays along the Ganga, from Namo Ghat to Assi Ghat.
- According to the supplied report, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was scheduled to attend the event and inaugurate a garment facility in Varanasi.

Science and Technology

Advanced Emergency Braking Systems (AEBS)

- Proposal: The Ministry of Road Transport proposed making Advanced Emergency Braking Systems (AEBS) mandatory for new passenger car models from 1 October 2030. Existing production models would need to comply by 1 October 2032.
- How It Works: The system monitors the road ahead, warns the driver of a possible collision and can automatically apply the brakes if the driver does not respond in time.
- Purpose: To reduce rear-end collisions, protect pedestrians and cyclists, and lower road fatalities.
- Key Term: Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) refers to vehicle technologies that help drivers avoid crashes and improve road safety.

NVS-03 Navigation Satellite

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is scheduled to launch NVS-03 on 30 October 2026, using a GSLV Mk II rocket from Sriharikota.
- NVS-03 is part of the second-generation Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) satellite series.
- Purpose: To replace ageing first-generation navigation satellites and improve India's independent satellite-navigation services.
- Organisations Involved: ISRO operates NavIC; the Space Applications Centre (SAC) develops navigation payloads, while the U. R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) builds satellite platforms.

Ghostly Eyeless Freshwater Snail Discovered in China

- Scientists discovered a new cave-dwelling freshwater snail named Erhaia dijiang in Yunnan Province, China, at an altitude of 2,062 metres.
- Only three living adult specimens were found, raising concerns about the species' conservation.
- Adaptations: It has no eyes, lacks body pigmentation and has a nearly transparent, cone-shaped shell.
- Habitat: The snail lives in shallow cave water among gravel and broken rocks, showing adaptations to life underground.

Astronomers Detect Magnetic Threads Above the Sun

- Astronomers detected fine, thread-like magnetic structures in the Sun's chromosphere, the layer of its atmosphere above the visible surface.
- The observations were made using the Sunrise-III solar observatory.
- Importance: The discovery can help scientists better understand the Sun's magnetic field and the physical processes occurring in its atmosphere.

International Days and Observances

United Nations Day – 24 October

- Observed annually on 24 October to mark the date the United Nations Charter came into force in 1945.
- In 1947, the United Nations General Assembly designated 24 October as United Nations Day.
- 2026 marked the 81st anniversary of the United Nations.
- The day highlights the UN's role in international peace, cooperation, human rights and development.

World Development Information Day – 24 October

- Observed annually on 24 October to raise awareness about global development challenges.
- It promotes the sharing of information and international cooperation to support development.
- The United Nations General Assembly established the observance in 1972.
- The date is linked to the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade in 1970.

Global Media and Information Literacy Week – 24–31 October

- Observed from 24 to 31 October to promote media literacy, critical thinking and responsible digital engagement.
- 2026 Theme: "We All Play a Part – Media and Information Literacy for the People."
- The initiative was launched in 2012 under the leadership of UNESCO and partner organisations.
- It encourages people to assess information carefully and identify misleading or false content.

World Polio Day – 24 October

- Observed annually on 24 October to raise awareness about polio and support global eradication efforts.
- 2026 Theme: "One day, one focus, Ending polio for good."
- India's last reported case of wild poliovirus was recorded in Howrah, West Bengal, on 13 January 2011.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) certified its South-East Asia Region, including India, as polio-free on 27 March 2014. India continues vaccination and disease surveillance to prevent the return of polio.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 25 & 26 OCTOBER 2026

1. Launched in **2020-21**; **₹1.03 trillion sanctioned** for **2,28,428 projects**; over **₹1.75 trillion** mobilised Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
2. **Digital Agriculture Mission** was approved by the Cabinet in **2024**, with an outlay of about **₹2,817 crore** Farmer IDs Created Under Digital Agriculture Mi…
3. Award: Ashoke Sen received the 2026 Oskar Klein Medal, becoming the first Indian to win the honour. Theoretical Physicist Ashoke Sen Wins Oskar Kle…
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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Ramsar Sites in India Reach 103

Source: PIB

Context of the News

India now has **103 Ramsar Sites**, covering over **13.87 lakh hectares**. The latest additions are **Sukhna Wetland** in Chandigarh and **Sauj Jheel** in Uttar Pradesh.

What Is a Ramsar Site?

- A wetland designated as a **"Wetland of International Importance"**
- Under the **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**
- An intergovernmental treaty signed at **Ramsar, Iran, in 1971**

What Counts as a Wetland?

A wide definition:

- **Fens, marshes, peatlands** or bodies of water
- **Natural or artificial**
- **Permanent or temporary**
- **Fresh, brackish or salt**
- Including **marine areas no deeper than six metres at low tide**

Recently Added Site

Site	Date	Detail
11 wetlands	**2025**	Took the tally to **96**; floodplain oxbows, reservoirs and community reserves
Surha Tal / Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary	**June 2026**	India's **100th** site; **Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh**; floodplain ecosystem rich in birdlife
Glaw Lake	**August 2026**	**101st**; **Arunachal Pradesh**; an Eastern Himalayan lake with over **150 tree species** and **49 orchid species**
Sukhna Wetland	**15 October 2026**	**102nd**; an artificial rain-fed reservoir in **Chandigarh**, at the Shivalik foothills
Sauj Jheel	**15 October 2026**	**103rd**; a shallow floodplain lake in **Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh**

Important Facts for Exams

- **India has 103 Ramsar Sites**, covering over **13.87 lakh hectares**, across **28 States and UTs**
- **100th site: Surha Tal / Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary**, Ballia, UP, **June 2026**
- India has the **third-highest number** of Ramsar Sites globally, after the **UK** and **Mexico**, and the **most in**

Asia

- The Convention was signed in **1971** and came into force in **1975**. It is the **oldest** modern global environmental treaty
- India joined in **1982**; its first sites were **Chilika Lake (Odisha)** and **Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)**
- **World Wetlands Day: 2 February**
- The **Montreux Record** lists sites facing ecological change. India has two on it — **Keoladeo** and **Loktak Lake**

Hydroseeding: Restoring Mined Land in Jharkhand

Source: New Indian Express

Context of the News

Tata Steel introduced **hydroseeding** at its **West Bokaro Division** in **Ramgarh district, Jharkhand**. It covers over **50 acres** of mined land, nurseries and overburden dumps. This is the **first such effort in the state**.

What Is Hydroseeding?

- A **mechanised planting method**
- A **liquid mixture (slurry)** is sprayed over bare ground using **high-pressure equipment**

What goes into the slurry?

- **Seeds**
- **Fibrous mulch**
- **Fertiliser**
- **Binders, called tackifiers**
- **Soil-conditioning agents**
- **Water**

What Is the Aim?

- Quickly establish **green cover** on damaged land
- Strengthen **slope stability**
- Prevent **topsoil erosion** by wind and water
- Reclaim **degraded overburden dumps**
- Without the labour of **manual planting**

The Camels of Kutch

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

The camel population in Gujarat's **Kutch district** has fallen sharply. From a peak of over **17,600 in 1992**, numbers are now critically low. Attendance at the traditional **Bhed Mata Camel Fair** has dropped from thousands to **under 200 animals**.

What Are They?

- Indigenous **dromedary camels (*Camelus dromedarius*)**
- Native to the **salt marshes, coastal mangroves** and **thorn-forest scrublands** of Kutch
- Reared by pastoral communities — **Rabaris, Maldharis** and **Jaths**

What Are the Two Breeds?

Breed	Habitat
Kharai camel	Coastal areas and **mangrove swamps**. Known as the **"swimming camel"**
Kutchhi camel	Inland **thorn-scrub forests, dry grasslands** and the rocky **Rann of Kutch**

Important Facts for Exams

- They feed on ***Avicennia marina*** mangrove
- Reared by the **Rabari, Maldhari** and **Jath** communities
- **Kharai** was recognised as a distinct breed by **NBAGR** in **2015**
- India has nine registered camel breeds, including **Bikaneri, Jaisalmeri, Mewari, Marwari, Kachchhi** and **Kharai**
- India's camel population has fallen sharply across censuses — it is now around **2.5 lakh**
- **Rajasthan** declared the camel its **state animal** in 2014
- **2024 was the UN International Year of Camelids**

Plant-Based Meat Shows Higher Protein Bioavailability Than Chicken

- Study: Scientists from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT), Palampur, and the Good Food Institute India studied protein bioavailability in plant-based meat and traditional chicken products.
- Key Findings: Plant-based seekh kebabs recorded protein bioavailability of 80.8% and 86.1%, compared with 38.8% for chicken. Plant-based nuggets scored 61.2% against 43.4%, while two plant-based burger patties scored approximately 57% and 58%, compared with 21.2% for chicken.
- Research Method: The researchers used an in vitro method, which studies biological processes outside a living organism under controlled laboratory conditions.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

SAMHiTA Project: India-Sri Lanka Manuscript Digitisation

Source: TH

Context of the News

India and Sri Lanka launched the **SAMHiTA Project** at the **Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo**. It will digitise **100 ancient manuscripts** and strengthen cultural cooperation between the two countries.

What Is SAMHiTA?

- Full form: **South Asian Manuscript Histories and Textual Archive**
- An India-supported heritage initiative
- It **digitises and preserves ancient South Asian manuscripts**

What Is the Aim?

- Safeguard **historical manuscripts**
- Preserve **religious and intellectual traditions**
- Improve **digital access** for future generations

Important Facts for Exams

- **SAMHiTA** — South Asian Manuscript Histories and Textual Archive
- Launched at **Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo**, Sri Lanka's **first partner institution**; MoU signed **July 2026**

- **100 manuscripts** to be digitised by **November 2026**
- Implemented by the **India International Centre, New Delhi**, with Indian government grant support
- **Gangaramaya Temple** is one of Colombo's most important Buddhist temples
- India's own manuscript body is the **National Mission for Manuscripts**, set up in **2003** under the Ministry of Culture. India holds an estimated **10 million manuscripts** — the largest collection in the world
- **Gyan Bharatam Mission** was announced in Budget 2025-26 to survey and digitise over **1 crore manuscripts**
- India-Sri Lanka Buddhist links: the **Sanchi relics** have been taken to Sri Lanka for exposition; India funded restoration of the **Thiruketheeswaram Temple** and the **Jaffna Cultural Centre**
- **Emperor Ashoka's** son **Mahinda** and daughter **Sanghamitta** are credited with bringing Buddhism to Sri Lanka
- Other India-Sri Lanka cooperation: the **SLINEX** naval exercise, **Mitra Shakti** army exercise, the **UPI link**, and India's support during Sri Lanka's **2022 economic crisis**

Integrated Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory (AATAL)

Source: PIB

Context of the News

Union Minister **Dr Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the **Integrated Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory (AATAL)** at the **IITM** branch in New Delhi. It is described as the **first of its kind in the world**.

What Does It Do?

It studies air pollution at a deeper level than normal monitoring:

- Identifies the **molecular composition** of pollutants
- Traces how pollutants **change chemically** in the air
- Finds the **exact sources** in real time
- Assesses the **health risks** they carry

Who Built It?

- Developed by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**
- Under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**
- Located at the **IITM Delhi branch**

Important Facts for Exams

- **AATAL** — Integrated Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory, at **IITM Delhi branch**
- Developed by **IITM Pune**, under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**
- Inaugurated by **Dr Jitendra Singh**
- Links with **AIRWISE**, giving **400-metre resolution** forecasts for **72 hours**, plus **four-day** prediction
- Tracks **VOCs, SO_2, NO_x, ozone**, plus **PM2.5, ultrafine particles** and **toxic metals**

Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026

Source: News on Air

Context of the News

The **President of India** gave assent to the **Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) Bill, 2026**. It had been passed **unanimously** by the **Nagaland Legislative Assembly**.

What Does It Create?

- A **statutory, autonomous self-governing body** — the **Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority**
- For the **six eastern districts** of Nagaland
- Enacted in consultation with the **Ministry of Home Affairs**

What Is the Aim?

- Establish **decentralised self-governance** in Eastern Nagaland
- Address **infrastructure gaps** in the region
- Meet its **social, economic, educational, cultural and linguistic** aspirations

Important Facts for Exams

- **FNTA Bill, 2026** — passed unanimously by the **Nagaland Legislative Assembly**; **Presidential assent** granted
- Covers six districts: **Tuensang, Mon, Longleng, Kiphire, Noklak, Shamator**
- Main tribes: **Konyak, Chang, Phom, Sangtam**
- Based on the **tripartite MoA of 5 February 2026** between the **Centre, Nagaland Government** and **ENPO**
- Funded through a **population and area based share** of the state budget, plus **MHA Special Development Grants**
- The **Nagaland Assembly retains legislative power** over the region
- **Article 371A** gives Nagaland special status — Parliament cannot legislate on **Naga religious or social practices, customary law, land** or **criminal and civil justice by customary law**, unless the Assembly agrees
- Nagaland became a state in **1963**, under the **16-Point Agreement**

Economy

India Chem 2026 Highlights India's Chemical Industry Growth Targets

- Event: The 14th edition of India Chem 2026 was held from 22 to 24 October 2026 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, NESCO, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Theme: "Advantage Bharat: An Emerging Global Chemicals Hub."
- Organisers: The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, organised the event in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- Growth Targets: India aims to develop its chemical industry into a US$300 billion sector by 2030, US$1 trillion by 2040 and approximately US$1.6 trillion by 2047. The event also featured the India Chem Youth Innovation Challenge.

Misc GA

Exercise Keen Sword 27

- Participants: The United States and Japan launched Exercise Keen Sword 27, a joint military field-training exercise involving the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the United States Armed Forces.
- Location: The exercise is being conducted across the waters and islands of southwestern Japan.
- Frequency: Keen Sword is a biennial exercise, meaning it is held every two years.
- Objective: It aims to improve combat readiness, tactical coordination and interoperability across land,

sea, air and other operational domains.

Defence Acquisition Council Clears Deals Worth ₹2.12 Lakh Crore

- Approval: The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, granted Acceptance of Necessity for capital acquisition proposals worth approximately ₹2.12 lakh crore for the three armed services.
- Domestic Industry: Around 82% of the proposed acquisitions will be sourced from Indian industry.
- Army Equipment: The proposals include high-mobility vehicles, self-propelled tracked gun systems, light multi-role helicopters, very short-range air defence systems (VSHORADS), surveillance unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and long-range kamikaze drones.
- Importance: Acceptance of Necessity is an initial formal approval in the defence procurement process. It confirms the need for the proposed equipment but does not mean that final purchase contracts have been awarded.

Land Warfare Doctrine 2026 Released

- Released By: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the Indian Army's Land Warfare Doctrine 2026 during the Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi.
- Purpose: The doctrine provides a framework to prepare the Indian Army for changing warfare conditions and future conflicts.
- Key Changes: It replaces the December 2018 doctrine and incorporates advanced technologies, drones, artificial intelligence, precision warfare and multi-domain operations.
- Conference: The biannual Army Commanders' Conference was chaired by General Dhiraj Seth, Chief of the Army Staff, to review operational preparedness, capability development and military modernisation.

Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan

- Inauguration: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- Dates: The three-day event was held from 23 to 25 October 2026.
- Occasion: It marked the culmination of year-long celebrations commemorating 75 years of the Chinmaya Mission, founded by Swami Chinmayananda.
- Message: The Prime Minister called for social unity, resistance to divisive forces, self-reliance and efforts towards building a developed India by 2047.

Ashoke Sen Wins Oskar Klein Medal 2026

- Award: Indian theoretical physicist Ashoke Sen, a professor at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences in Bengaluru, became the first Indian physicist to receive the Oskar Klein Medal.
- Contribution: He was recognised for his pioneering work in string theory and theoretical physics.
- Established: The medal was instituted in 1988 and is named after Swedish theoretical physicist Oskar Klein.
- Awarding Institutions: The medal is awarded by Stockholm University and the Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva Re-elected President of Brazil

- Election: Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva won Brazil's 2026 presidential runoff election on 25 October 2026, defeating Flávio Bolsonaro.

- Results: Lula received 51.79% of the votes, while Flávio Bolsonaro secured 48.21%.
- Significance: According to the supplied material, Lula became the first president in Brazil's democratic era to be elected to four terms, although his terms are non-consecutive.
- Oath-Taking: He is scheduled to be sworn in on 5 January 2027, according to the supplied material.

Asian Para Games 2026: India Finishes Fourth

- Event: The fifth Asian Para Games, officially known as Aichi–Nagoya 2026, were held in Japan from 18 to 24 October 2026.
- India's Performance: India finished fourth with 114 medals: 30 gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze. A total of 168 Indian athletes competed across 11 sporting disciplines.
- Top Countries: China topped the medal table with 435 medals, followed by Japan with 186 and Uzbekistan with 145.
- Next Edition: Doha, Qatar, will host the sixth Asian Para Games in 2030. The event promotes inclusion and sporting opportunities for athletes with disabilities.

Bodhana Sivanandan Becomes Youngest Female International Master

- Achievement: Eleven-year-old British chess player of Indian origin Bodhana Sivanandan became the youngest female International Master (IM), at 11 years, seven months and 16 days.
- Venue: She achieved the feat at the European Club Cup in Budva, Montenegro, in October 2026.
- Record: She surpassed the previous record held by Judit Polgar, who achieved the relevant milestone at age 12 in 1988.
- Performance: She earned her third and final IM norm at the European Club Cup and crossed the required live rating threshold of 2,400.

Ahmedabad to Host Senior World Weightlifting Championships in 2029

- Announcement: The International Weightlifting Federation announced Ahmedabad, Gujarat, as the host of the 2029 Senior World Weightlifting Championships.
- Significance: It will be the first time India hosts the senior edition of the championship.
- Other Events: India is also scheduled to host the Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad in 2030, while Gandhinagar hosted the Asian Weightlifting Championships in 2026.
- Background: The World Weightlifting Championships were first held in 1891. The first Women's World Weightlifting Championships took place in 1987.

Chef Damu Passes Away at 72

- Person: Renowned Tamil chef K. Damodaran, popularly known as Chef Damu, passed away in Chennai at the age of 72.
- Award: He received the Padma Shri in 2025 for his contributions to culinary arts.
- Academic Achievement: In 2004, he earned a PhD in Hotel Management and Catering Technology from the University of Madras.
- Guinness World Record: In December 2010, he cooked 617 dishes weighing 190 kilograms in 24 hours, 30 minutes and 12 seconds.

Jogen Chowdhury Passes Away at 87

- Person: Indian painter and former Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Jogen Chowdhury passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal, at the age of 87.
- Career: He worked as an art teacher, designer at the Handloom Board, Keeper of Art at Rashtrapati

Bhavan and professor at Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University.
- Political Role: He represented West Bengal in the Rajya Sabha as a member of the Trinamool Congress from 2014 to 2020.
- Awards: His honours included the Kalidas Samman, Banga Bibhushan and Zainul Samman.

Book: Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World

- Released By: Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book in New Delhi in October 2026.
- Author: Anil K. Antony, National Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- Publisher: Rupa Publications.
- Themes: The book discusses India's technological development, artificial intelligence, semiconductor independence, defence, space, Digital India, women, youth and India's international role towards 2047.

United Nations Disarmament Week 2026

- Dates: Observed from 24 to 30 October 2026 to raise awareness about disarmament and its role in international peace and security.
- Origin: The United Nations General Assembly called for Disarmament Week in 1978 through the Final Document of its special session on disarmament.
- Participation: In 1995, the General Assembly invited governments and non-governmental organisations to participate actively in the observance.
- Organiser: The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

Infantry Day 2026

- Date: Observed annually on 27 October by the Indian Army.
- Historical Significance: It commemorates the landing of Indian Army troops at Srinagar Airfield on 27 October 1947.
- Purpose: The day honours the contribution of the Infantry to India's national security and is also known as Shaurya Diwas.

Kufri Jamunia: Biofortified Purple Potato

- Variety: Kufri Jamunia is a biofortified potato variety developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Potato Research Institute (ICAR-CPRI), Shimla.
- Release: It was officially released in 2024.
- Key Feature: The variety is characterised by its dark purple skin.
- Importance: Biofortification aims to improve the nutritional quality of crops through plant breeding and related methods.

Himachal Pradesh Records 100% Survival of Cheer Pheasants

- Achievement: Himachal Pradesh recorded a 100% survival rate among reintroduced Cheer Pheasants in 2024–25, compared with 11.11% in 2019–20.
- Development: During Wildlife Week in October 2026, 12 captive-bred birds were released, according to the supplied material.
- Significance: The result indicates progress in conservation and the reintroduction of this threatened pheasant species.
- Importance: The Cheer Pheasant is a Himalayan bird whose conservation depends on habitat protection and effective population management.

India Amends Vehicle Rules for E85 and E100 Flex-Fuel Vehicles

- Amendment: On 23 October 2026, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.
- Fuel Types: E85 contains up to 85% ethanol, while E100 refers to ethanol fuel.
- Objective: Flex-fuel vehicles are designed to operate on petrol and specified ethanol blends, helping expand the use of alternative fuels.
- Significance: The amendment concerns the regulatory framework for vehicles using higher ethanol blends.

Sarvam Signs MoU for Armed Forces AI Projects

- Agreement: On 27 October 2026, Sarvam signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff under the Ministry of Defence.
- Purpose: The agreement establishes a framework for artificial intelligence projects for the Indian Armed Forces.
- Importance: AI can support military data analysis, decision-making and operational planning.
- Strategic Significance: The collaboration reflects efforts to develop and apply indigenous AI capabilities in defence.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 27 OCTOBER 2026

1. Launched at **Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo**, Sri Lanka's **first partner institution**; MoU signed **July 2026** SAMHiTA Project: India-Sri Lanka Manuscript Dig...
2. Agreement: On 27 October 2026, Sarvam signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff under the Ministry of Defence. Sarvam Signs MoU for Armed Forces AI Projects
3. India joined in **1982**; its first sites were **Chilika Lake (Odisha)** and **Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)** Ramsar Sites in India Reach 103
4. Released By: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the Indian Army's Land Warfare Doctrine 2026 during the Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi. Land Warfare Doctrine 2026 Released
5. Occasion: It marked the culmination of year-long celebrations commemorating 75 years of the Chinmaya Mission, founded by Swami Chinmayananda. Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan

DAY 23 OF 26

28 October 2026

Wednesday · 23 items · 7 topics

Agriculture **4** · Schemes **1** · Reports & Articles **1** · Banking and Finance **2** · Economy **1** · Social Issue **2** · Misc GA **12**

NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Arabian Black Electric Ray

Source: ThePrint

Context of the News

Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India** discovered a new species of **deep-sea electric ray** in the **southeastern Arabian Sea**. It has been named the **Arabian Black Electric Ray** (*Tetronarce ramanamurthyi*).

What Is It?

- A newly described **deep-sea cartilaginous fish**
- From the electric ray family **Torpedinidae**, order **Torpediniformes**
- Named after **M. V. Ramana Murthy**, Mission Director of the **Deep Ocean Mission**, for his work in marine science and ocean engineering

Where Does It Live?

- On the **deep-water continental shelf** and **upper bathyal slopes**
- In the **southeastern Arabian Sea**, off southwestern India
- It lives on the **sea floor** of the northern Indian Ocean

Ladakh Declared India's First Fully Organic Union Territory

Source: News reports

Context of the News

Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, declared Ladakh **India's first 100 per cent Organic Union Territory**.

How Did It Happen?

Date	Step
March 2026	**Organic fertilisers distributed** to villages ahead of the farming season, to ease the transition
July 2026	A **complete ban** on the procurement, distribution, sale, marketing and use of **chemical and synthetic fertilisers** across the UT
October 2026	Ladakh declared **100 per cent organic**

Why Was It Done?

- Promote **chemical-free agriculture**
- Protect the **fragile Himalayan ecosystem**
- Improve **farmers' livelihoods**

What Will Help Farmers Earn More?

- **Organic certification**
- Better **post-harvest management**
- **Value addition**
- **Strong market linkages**

Important Facts for Exams

- **Ladakh** declared **India's first 100 per cent Organic Union Territory**, by LG **Vinai Kumar Saxena**
- **Chemical and synthetic fertilisers banned** in **July 2026**; organic fertilisers distributed in **March 2026**
- **Sikkim** became **India's first fully organic state** in **2016**, and won the **FAO Future Policy Gold Award** in **2018**
- **India has the largest number of organic farmers in the world**; **Madhya Pradesh** has the largest organic area

Project Great Indian Bustard: First Captive-Bred Birds Released

Source: Indian Express

Context of the News

The conservation programme for the **Great Indian Bustard** will keep releasing captive-bred birds into the wild at **Desert National Park, Jaisalmer** — despite one released bird dying, apparently killed by a desert fox. Officials have ruled out destroying fox dens, saying **predation is a natural part of reintroduction**.

About the Bird

- Scientific name: ***Ardeotis nigriceps***
- A large, **ground-dwelling** bird
- Found mainly in India's **dry grasslands** and open landscapes
- **State Bird of Rajasthan**
- **IUCN: Critically Endangered**

E100 Flex-Fuel Vehicles in India

- Amendment: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, to provide a regulatory framework for flex-fuel vehicles capable of running on ethanol blends up to E100.
- E100 Fuel: E100 refers to fuel consisting almost entirely of ethanol, an alcohol produced through the fermentation of feedstocks such as sugarcane, molasses and maize.
- Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs): These vehicles are designed to operate on petrol, ethanol or different blends of the two fuels.
- Importance: Wider use of ethanol can create additional markets for agricultural produce, reduce crude oil import dependence and support the decarbonisation of road transport.

Schemes

PM-DAKSH Yojana

- Objective: The Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana provides skill training to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), De-notified Tribes (DNTs) and Safai Karamcharis, including waste pickers.
- Reported Progress: In October 2026, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment reported that

1.87 lakh candidates had received training and 96,162 had secured placements.

- Launch: The Central Sector Scheme was launched in 2020–21. Indian citizens aged 18–45 years are eligible under the scheme.
- Implementation: The scheme is implemented through the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).

Reports & Articles

AI Neolabs

- Meaning: AI Neolabs are independent, research-focused artificial intelligence laboratories established by leading AI researchers to develop advanced AI systems.
- Why in News: Increasing numbers of AI researchers are leaving major technology companies to establish independent research laboratories.
- Main Aim: These laboratories focus on developing safe, reliable and human-aligned artificial intelligence, including research into safe superintelligence.
- Importance: They emphasise long-term scientific research and AI safety rather than focusing only on immediate commercial returns.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

Initial Public Offering (IPO)

- Meaning: An Initial Public Offering (IPO) is the process through which an unlisted company offers its shares to the public for the first time and becomes eligible for listing on a stock exchange.
- Types: A Fresh Issue involves issuing new shares to raise funds for the company, while an Offer for Sale (OFS) allows existing shareholders to sell their shares.
- Stock Exchanges: In India, companies can list their shares on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE), subject to applicable requirements.
- Importance: IPOs help companies raise capital for expansion, while investors get an opportunity to purchase shares and participate in the company's growth.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)

Source: Business Standard

Context of the News

The Cabinet approved the **₹10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)**. It was announced by Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** in the **February Budget**. The scheme will run till **2039-40**.

What Is the Aim?

- Build a **globally competitive container manufacturing** industry in India
- Raise annual domestic capacity about **ten-fold**, to **750,000 TEUs**
- Position India as a **global export hub** for quality shipping containers

Why Is This Needed?

- Indian traders have faced **high freight costs** since **2023**
- Container **leasing and buying rates** turned volatile after global crises
- Global shipping lines bought containers **mostly from China**, because of a big cost advantage

Economy

Jio Platforms IPO

- Development: The supplied material reports that Jio Platforms debuted on the BSE and NSE following an IPO worth ₹30,213 crore.
- Investor Response: The reported bids reached approximately ₹7.3 lakh crore, indicating strong demand for the offering.
- Capital Market: An IPO enables a company to raise money from public investors or allows existing shareholders to sell their holdings.
- Importance: Large IPOs can increase investor participation, expand the stock market and provide companies with access to public capital. The reported listing details should be independently verified.

Social Issue

PM-DAKSH Yojana: Skill Development and Employment

- Reported Progress: The scheme had trained 1.87 lakh candidates, with 96,162 candidates securing placements, according to the October 2026 update in the supplied material.
- Target Groups: It supports disadvantaged communities, including SCs, OBCs, EWS, DNTs and Safai Karamcharis.
- Training Focus: The scheme aims to improve employability through skill development and vocational training.
- Social Importance: Skill development can improve access to employment, increase earning opportunities and support the economic inclusion of disadvantaged groups.

Urban Mobility India Conference and National Urban Conclave 2026

- Event: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, in collaboration with the Government of Odisha, organised the 19th Urban Mobility India Conference and the second National Urban Conclave in Bhubaneswar from 23 to 25 October 2026.
- Urban Mobility Theme: “Urban Accessibility and Liveability in Digital Age,” focusing on accessible transport, integrated infrastructure and digital technologies.
- National Urban Conclave Theme: “Urban Rising – Rethinking Urban Systems, Solutions and Delivery,” emphasising stronger urban institutions and improved public services.
- Importance: The events focused on sustainable transport, urban planning, better city governance and improved service delivery towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

Misc GA

Sarvam Signs MoU for Armed Forces AI Projects

- Agreement: Indian AI company Sarvam signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), Ministry of Defence.

- Objective: The agreement establishes an umbrella framework for artificial intelligence projects across the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Applications: AI can support military data analysis, decision-making, operational planning and other defence-related tasks.
- Significance: The collaboration aims to expand the use of indigenous AI technologies in India's defence sector.

Cyclone Arnab

- Development: The supplied material reports that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a Red Alert for Andhra Pradesh and Odisha as Cyclone Arnab intensified into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm over the west-central Bay of Bengal.
- Origin: The storm reportedly developed from a low-pressure system over the east-central and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal.
- Classification: A Very Severe Cyclonic Storm is a category in the IMD's classification of tropical cyclones, associated with sustained winds of approximately 118–166 km/h.
- Impact: Such cyclones can bring destructive winds, heavy rainfall, coastal flooding and storm surges. The storm's name and reported status should be independently verified.

Ashoke Sen Wins the 2026 Oskar Klein Medal

- Achievement: Indian theoretical physicist Ashoke Sen became the first Indian physicist to receive the Oskar Klein Medal, according to the supplied material.
- Contribution: He was recognised for his pioneering work in string theory and theoretical physics.
- History: The medal was instituted in 1988 in honour of Swedish physicist Oskar Klein.
- Awarding Institutions: The award is associated with Stockholm University and the Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The K9 Vajra Self-Propelled Howitzer

- Development: The Ministry of Defence reportedly granted Acceptance of Necessity for procuring more than 300 additional K9 Vajra-T artillery systems, at an estimated cost exceeding ₹20,000 crore.
- Features: The K9 Vajra-T is a 155 mm, 52-calibre tracked self-propelled howitzer designed to provide mobile artillery fire support.
- Manufacturing: Larsen & Toubro (L&T) manufactures the system in India at its Armoured Systems Complex in Hazira, Gujarat, in technical collaboration with South Korea's Hanwha Aerospace.
- Importance: Its mobility and firepower support mechanised formations and help strengthen India's artillery capabilities.

Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI

- Participants: The 11th edition of the India–Indonesia joint special forces exercise, GARUDA SHAKTI, commenced in Banyuwangi, Indonesia, according to the supplied material.
- Nature: It is a bilateral military exercise involving the Indian Army and the Indonesian National Armed Forces.
- Objectives: The exercise aims to improve tactical coordination, military interoperability and mutual understanding.
- Training Focus: Joint training includes counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism and other special forces operations.

Ballon d'Or 2026

- Men's Award: The supplied material reports that England striker Harry Kane won the men's Ballon d'Or, becoming the first Englishman to win it since Michael Owen in 2001.
- Women's Award: Spain midfielder Alexia Putellas reportedly won her third Women's Ballon d'Or after previous victories in 2021 and 2022.
- Kopa Trophy: Lamine Yamal reportedly won the men's Kopa Trophy for the third consecutive year, while Vicky Lopez won the women's award.
- Other Awards: Bukayo Saka received the Socrates Award, while Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona were named men's and women's Clubs of the Year, respectively. These reported 2026 results require independent verification.

Yonex French Open Badminton 2026

- Event: The Yonex French Open badminton tournament was held from 20 to 25 October 2026 at Arena Grand Paris in Tremblay-en-France, France.
- Men's Singles: France's Christo Popov defeated Indonesia's Moh. Zaki Ubaidillah in the final.
- Women's Singles: South Korea's An Se-young defeated India's P. V. Sindhu, who finished as the runner-up.
- Prize Money: The supplied material reports a total prize pool of US$950,000.

European Chess Club Cup 2026

- Indian Achievements: Indian Grandmasters Nihal Sarin and Koneru Humpy won individual gold medals at the European Chess Club Cup and European Women's Chess Club Cup, respectively.
- Dates and Venue: The tournaments were held in Budva, Montenegro, from 17 to 23 October 2026.
- Team Winners: Bayegan Pendik Chess Sports Club of Turkey won the Open section, while Cercle d'Échecs de Monte-Carlo of Monaco won the Women's section.
- Participation: A reported record of 130 teams competed across both sections, comprising 108 Open teams and 22 Women's teams.

Book: The Story of Vande Mataram

- Release: Former Bihar and Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan unveiled the English translation of the book in New Delhi in October 2026.
- Original Author: The book was originally written in Malayalam by veteran Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Ranga Hari.
- Translator: Dr. Mercy Jill translated the book into English.
- Theme: It discusses the historical and cultural significance of Vande Mataram, its role in India's freedom struggle and its association with the Swadeshi Movement.

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2026

- Date: Observed annually on 27 October to promote the preservation of audiovisual records, including films, recordings and other sound and visual materials.
- 2026 Theme: “Your Window to the World.”
- Origin: UNESCO proclaimed the observance in 2005 through Resolution 33 C/Resolution 53.
- Significance: The date commemorates the recommendation adopted on 27 October 1980 for safeguarding and preserving moving images. UNESCO and the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations jointly support the observance.

Dyslexia Awareness Month 2026

- Dates: Observed from 1 to 31 October to raise awareness about dyslexia and the learning support needed by affected individuals.
- Dyslexia: It is a learning difference that can affect reading, spelling and the processing of written language. It is not a measure of a person's intelligence.
- World Dyslexia Day: The supplied material identifies 8 October as World Dyslexia Day.
- Objective: Awareness initiatives promote early identification, inclusive education and appropriate learning support.

Vigilance Awareness Week 2026

- Dates: Observed from 26 October to 1 November 2026 under the leadership of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- Theme: "Probity for Prosperity."
- Purpose: The observance promotes integrity, transparency, accountability and awareness against corruption in public life.
- Significance: The week coincides with the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31 October, whose commitment to integrity is associated with the observance.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 28 OCTOBER 2026

1. **Sikkim** became **India's first fully organic state** in **2016**, and won the **FAO Future Policy Gold Award** in **2018** Ladakh Declared India's First Fully Organic Uni...
2. Launch: The Central Sector Scheme was launched in 2020–21. Indian citizens aged 18–45 years are eligible under the scheme. PM-DAKSH Yojana
3. Reported Progress: The scheme had trained 1.87 lakh candidates, with 96,162 candidates securing placements, according to the October 2026 update in the supplied material. PM-DAKSH Yojana: Skill Development and Employme...
4. Event: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, in collaboration with the Government of Odisha, organised the 19th Urban Mobility India Conference and the second National Urban Conclave in Bhubaneswar from 23 to 25 October 2026. Urban Mobility India Conference and National Ur...
5. Men's Award: The supplied material reports that England striker Harry Kane won the men's Ballon d'Or, becoming the first Englishman to win it since Michael Owen in 2001. Ballon d'Or 2026

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29 October 2026

Thursday · 19 items · 5 topics

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Nobel Laureate on GM Crops

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

Richard J. Roberts, the **1993 Nobel laureate in Physiology or Medicine**, spoke at the second **Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC)** at Bharat Mandapam. He argued that India can develop and own GM crop technology itself.

Why Did He Object to the Term "GM"?

- He called **"genetically modified" very misleading**
- He preferred **"biotechnologically modified" (BM)**
- His reasoning: **"Every life form on this planet has been genetically modified by evolution"**

What Is CRISPR?

- A **gene-editing tool**
- A **guide RNA** steers the **Cas9 enzyme** to a chosen spot in the DNA
- The enzyme **cuts** there, letting scientists **alter or insert genes** at that point

What Is India's Current Position?

- **Bt cotton** is permitted for commercial cultivation
- **No GM food crop** is approved

Important Facts for Exams

- **Richard J. Roberts** — **1993 Nobel laureate in Physiology or Medicine**, for the discovery of **split genes**. He spoke at **ESTIC 2026**, Bharat Mandapam
- **CRISPR-Cas9** won the **2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry**, for **Emmanuelle Charpentier** and **Jennifer Doudna**
- **Bt cotton** is India's **only commercially approved GM crop**, since **2002**
- **Bt brinjal** moratorium imposed in **2010** by **Jairam Ramesh**
- **GM mustard (DMH-11)** was cleared by **GEAC** in 2022; the **Supreme Court gave a split verdict in July 2024** and asked for a **national policy**
- **Golden Rice** was engineered in **1999** by **Ingo Potrykus** and **Peter Beyer**
- A **2017 PLOS One** study found Golden Rice crossed into an Indian variety gave **stunted, low-yielding plants**
- India's gene-editing position: **SDN-1 and SDN-2** crops are **exempt** from GM rules, since no foreign DNA is added. **SDN-3** remains regulated
- India released its first genome-edited rice varieties in **2025** — **DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)** and **Pusa DST**

Rice 1

IUCN Coral Reef Assessment 2026

Source: Down To Earth

Context of the News

The **IUCN** released its **first global assessment of coral reefs** under the **Red List of Ecosystems**, at the **UN Biodiversity Conference in Yerevan, Armenia**. It warns that **96 per cent** of shallow-water coral reefs face an **extremely high risk of collapse by 2075**.

What Are Coral Reefs?

- Underwater structures built by **coral polyps**, tiny animals that secrete **calcium carbonate**
- They live in **symbiosis** with photosynthetic algae called **zooxanthellae**
- These algae provide up to **90 per cent of the coral's energy** and give reefs their colour
- **Extreme heat stress** kills coral, and the reef can be replaced by **algae, rubble and sponges**

What Are the Main Threats?

Threat	Share of reef ecoregions affected
Marine heat stress	**77 per cent**
Overfishing and fish depletion	**63 per cent**

Important Facts for Exams

- **IUCN's first global coral reef assessment** under the **Red List of Ecosystems**, released at the **UN Biodiversity Conference, Yerevan, Armenia**
- **122 of 127 ecoregions (96 per cent)** are **Critically Endangered**; the **Western Galápagos** is classified **collapsed**
- **24 per cent** are critically endangered on **observed change alone**; **96 per cent** when projected warming is added
- They absorb up to **97 per cent** of wave energy
- Collapse risk is projected by **2075**
- **IUCN** — founded **1948**, headquartered at **Gland, Switzerland**
- **India's coral reefs** are found in four main areas: **Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kachchh, Lakshadweep** and the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**
- **Lakshadweep** and the **Maldives** are atoll formations
- Corals are listed under **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Schemes

PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY) Approved

- The Union Cabinet approved PM-VGSY with an outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore for 2026–27 to 2030–31. It aims to improve the planning and governance capacity of Gram Panchayats.
- The scheme upgrades the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, shifting from separate training for individual schemes to a more integrated approach to village development.
- The Centre will contribute ₹4,869.48 crore and the States ₹2,526.07 crore. It aims to train around 32 lakh representatives and functionaries across 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats.
- The scheme targets the preparation of 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayat Development Plans through eGramSwaraj. Panchayati Raj is linked to the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, which added

Part IX and the Eleventh Schedule containing 29 subjects.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

SBI Launches CyRIS Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence

- State Bank of India (SBI) launched CyRIS, a Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence, in Mumbai in October 2026 to strengthen cybersecurity and improve the financial sector's ability to respond to cyber threats.
- The centre was inaugurated by Sanjay Lohiya, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, in the presence of SBI Chairman C. S. Setty.
- CyRIS operates through three pillars: THINK (policy, education and talent development), INNOVATE (research and security solutions), and DEFEND (threat detection, incident response and cyber defence).
- The initiative aims to strengthen threat intelligence, encourage cybersecurity innovation and improve the resilience of financial institutions.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

WJP Rule of Law Index 2026

Source: World Justice Project

Context of the News

The **World Justice Project** released the **Rule of Law Index 2026**. India ranked **88th out of 143 countries**, with a score of **0.48** — down from **86th** in 2025.

What Is the Index?

- Published by the **World Justice Project**
- It is the leading source of **independent rule of law data**
- The 2026 edition covers **143 countries**, accounting for about **95 per cent of the world's population**

Where Does India Stand?

Year	Rank	Score
2025	86th	—
2026	88th	0.48

Who Tops the Index?

Rank	Country	Score
1	Denmark	0.90
2	Norway	—
3	Finland	—

Which Countries Rank Lowest?

Rank	Country	Score
143	Venezuela	0.26
142	Afghanistan	0.31

Rank	Country	Score
141	Haiti	0.31
140	Cambodia	0.31
139	Nicaragua	0.32

How Is the Index Built?

The WJP measures rule of law across **eight factors**:

- **Constraints on government powers**
- **Absence of corruption**
- **Open government**
- **Fundamental rights**
- **Order and security**
- **Regulatory enforcement**
- **Civil justice**
- **Criminal justice**

RELIEF Initiative

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The **Department of Commerce** extended the operational window under **Component II** of the **RELIEF** initiative until **31 March 2027**.

What Is RELIEF?

- Full form: **Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation**
- A **time-bound financial and risk-mitigation scheme**
- It gives exporters a **safety net** against geopolitical and shipping disruptions
- **e.g. Bab el-Mandeb** and the **Strait of Hormuz** are the two chokepoints affecting this route. About **12 per cent of global trade** passes through the Red Sea

Why Was It Needed?

- Launched on **19 March 2026**, under the **Export Promotion Mission**
- It responds to:
  - **Rising shipping surcharges**
  - **Trade-lane diversions**
  - **Transit risks** across the **Red Sea**, the **Persian Gulf** and wider **West Asian** shipping routes

Who Runs It?

- Formulated by the **Department of Commerce**
- Implemented through the **Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)**
- Operated through the **ECGC digital portal**

Economy

The Gendered Skill Gap in India's Workforce

- Women's share among apprentices under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) increased from 11.8% in 2018–19 to 32.4% in 2025–26, before reaching 29.5% of 1.35 million apprentices in

2026–27 so far.

- Women remain underrepresented in technical trades: their participation is reported at 6% among electricians and 2.6% among fitters, with zero participation reported in welding, diesel mechanics and lineman trades.
- After vocational training, the employment rate is reported at 83.3% for men compared with 51.4% for women. Rural women also have greater concentration in unpaid family work and lower representation in regular wage employment.
- Under NAPS-2, the government provides 25% of the minimum stipend, capped at ₹1,500 per month. The figures highlight the need to improve women's access to technical training, childcare and better-paying jobs.

Miscellaneous General Awareness

Ministry of Culture Signs MoU with France's National Library

- On 26 October 2026, the Ministry of Culture signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) to preserve and digitise India's manuscript and documentary heritage.
- The partnership brings together the Gyan Bharatam Mission, National Archives of India, National Library in Kolkata and BnF to identify and digitise Indian-origin manuscripts held in France.
- Cooperation will cover digital repositories, conservation technologies, cataloguing standards, Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) for Indian scripts.
- The Gyan Bharatam Mission focuses on identifying, documenting, conserving, digitising, translating, researching and sharing India's manuscript heritage.

PM-DAKSH Yojana

- PM-DAKSH, launched in 2020–21, provides skill development training to eligible people from Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Economically Weaker Sections, De-Notified Tribes and Safai Karamcharis, including waste pickers.
- The scheme targets beneficiaries aged 18–45 years and aims to improve their employability through skill training.
- It is implemented through the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).
- The supplied figures report 1.87 lakh people trained and 96,162 placed. These figures and the reported expenditure should be checked against official records before exam use.

Exercise Garuda Shakti 2026

- The 11th edition of the India–Indonesia joint Special Forces exercise began at Banyuwangi, Indonesia, on 27 October 2026 and is scheduled to continue until 6 November 2026.
- The exercise aims to improve interoperability, coordination and mutual understanding between the Special Forces of both countries.
- India's contingent comprises troops from the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces), while Indonesia is represented by its Special Forces.
- Training focuses on special operations in jungle environments, helping both forces strengthen their ability to operate together.

Sanjay Singhal Gets Additional Charge as ITBP DG

- The Ministry of Home Affairs assigned Sanjay Singhal, Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), additional charge as Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), effective 31 October 2026.
- Singhal is a 1993-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre.
- He is scheduled to take over from Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor, who is due to retire on 31 October 2026.

Air Marshal Vikram Gaur Appointed DMA Additional Secretary

- Air Marshal Vikram Gaur was appointed Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) under the Ministry of Defence.
- According to the supplied material, he is the first Indian Air Force officer to hold this position.
- Before the appointment, he served as Joint Secretary (Air and Staff Duties) in the DMA from October 2024.

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage

- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed on 27 October to raise awareness about preserving films, recordings and other audiovisual materials.
- UNESCO proclaimed the observance in 2005.
- The supplied 2026 theme is “Your Window to the World.”

International Animation Day 2026

- International Animation Day is observed on 28 October to commemorate Émile Reynaud's public screening of projected animated images in Paris on 28 October 1892.
- The Association Internationale du Film d’Animation (ASIFA) established the observance in 2002.
- The 2026 poster was created by Japanese animator Yoriko Mizushiri, according to the supplied material.

International Day of Care and Support 2026

- The United Nations observes the International Day of Care and Support on 29 October to highlight the importance of care work, gender equality and strong care systems.
- The day was proclaimed through UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/77/317 on 24 July 2023, and the first observance took place on 29 October 2023.
- The supplied theme for 2026 is “Building Sustainable Care and Support Systems through Decent Work.”
- The observance highlights the role of care work and care systems in social and economic development.

World Boxing U19 Championships 2026

- The championships were held in Budva, Montenegro, from 16 to 27 October 2026. India won four medals: one gold, one silver and two bronze.
- Aditya won gold in the men's 55 kg category after defeating Russia's Islam Magomedov 4–1 in the final.
- India's other medal winners were Megha Sheokand (silver, women's 80 kg), Harshika (bronze, women's 65 kg) and Prachi Tokas (bronze, women's 80+ kg).
- Russia topped the medal table with five gold and five silver medals, according to the supplied figures.

European Chess Club Cup 2026

- The European Chess Club Cup was held in Budva, Montenegro, from 17 to 23 October 2026, with 130 teams participating.
- India's Nihal Sarin and Koneru Humpy won individual gold medals, as reported in the supplied material.
- Bayegan Pendik of Turkey won the open team title, while Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo of Monaco won the women's team title.

Book: The Story of Vande Mataram

- An English translation of The Story of Vande Mataram was launched by former Governor Arif Mohammed Khan.
- The original Malayalam work was written by Ranga Hari and translated into English by Dr Mercy Jill.
- The book discusses the history and cultural significance of Vande Mataram, India's national song.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda Dies

- Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan, died in Tokyo at the age of 90, according to the supplied material.
- He served as Prime Minister from September 2007 to September 2008 and resigned amid political deadlock and declining public approval.
- Before becoming Prime Minister, he served as Chief Cabinet Secretary from 2000 to 2004.
- His foreign policy placed importance on relations with Asian neighbours, particularly China.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 29 OCTOBER 2026

1. Launched on **19 March 2026**, under the **Export Promotion Mission** RELIEF Initiative
2. State Bank of India (SBI) launched CyRIS, a Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence, in Mumbai in October 2026 to strengthen cybersecurity and improve the financial sector's ability to respond to cyber threats. SBI Launches CyRIS Cybersecurity Centre of Exce…
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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

New Genetic Tools for India's Staple Crops

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

New genetic technologies — **CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing** and **apomixis** — are opening ways to improve India's staple crops, especially **rice and wheat**. They could produce **higher-yielding, climate-resilient varieties** and cut the cost farmers pay for hybrid seed every year.

Why Rice and Wheat?

- They occupy **more than half** of India's cultivated land
- They are the main source of food and calories
- So improving their productivity matters directly for **food security**

What Gene-Edited Rice Has India Released?

In **2025**, India released two varieties developed using **CRISPR-Cas9**:

Variety	Developed by	Main feature
DRR Dhan 100	**ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research**	Matures in about **130 days** against **150** for its parent; nearly **20 per cent higher yield**
Pusa DST Rice 1	**ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute**	Performs better in **saline and alkaline soils**, with **10-30 per cent** higher yield in those conditions

What Is Apomixis?

- A form of **asexual reproduction** in plants
- Seeds form **without fertilisation**
- The offspring are **genetically almost identical** to the mother plant

What Is Happening Elsewhere?

Country	Development
Argentina	**HB4 wheat** by **Bioceres Crop Solutions** — drought-tolerant, using a **sunflower gene**. This is **GM, not gene editing**
Australia	Researchers exploring both **GM** and **CRISPR** to improve wheat
India	Progress in **gene-edited rice**; **no gene-edited wheat** released yet

Why Does the GM vs Gene Editing Distinction Matter in India?

Because the two are regulated completely differently:

Category	Treatment in India
SDN-1 and SDN-2 gene editing — no foreign DNA added	**Exempt** from GM rules
SDN-3 gene editing — foreign DNA inserted	**Regulated as GM**
Transgenic GM — gene taken from another species	**Regulated**; needs **GEAC** approval

This is why **DRR Dhan 100** and **Pusa DST Rice 1** could be released in 2025, while **GM mustard** remains stuck in litigation. The difference is not the benefit — it is **whether foreign DNA was inserted**. **HB4 wheat**, using a sunflower gene, falls in the regulated category.

Key Terms

- **Apomixis:** Seed formation without fertilisation, producing offspring genetically similar to the mother plant
- **Synthetic apomixis:** Using genetic tools to introduce apomixis-like reproduction into crops that normally reproduce sexually
- **CRISPR-Cas9:** A gene-editing tool that makes precise changes in an organism's own DNA
- **Hybrid vigour (heterosis):** Better growth or yield in offspring produced by crossing genetically different parents
- **Gene editing:** Changing an organism's **existing** DNA
- **Genetic modification (GM):** Changing genetic material, often by **inserting a gene from another organism**
- **SDN:** Site-Directed Nuclease. **SDN-1** makes a cut and lets the plant repair it; **SDN-2** guides a small edit using a template; **SDN-3** inserts a whole new gene
- **Salinity:** Excess soluble salts in soil, which harm crop growth
- **Parthenogenesis:** Development of an embryo without fertilisation
- **Bt cotton** remains India's **only commercially approved transgenic crop**, since **2002**
- **GM mustard (DMH-11)** was cleared by GEAC in 2022; the **Supreme Court gave a split verdict in July 2024** and asked for a national policy

Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme

- The Union Cabinet approved the scheme with an outlay of ₹1,856.67 crore for 2026–27 to 2033–34 to strengthen India's sports goods manufacturing industry.
- Implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, it aims to promote domestic manufacturing, investment, research and development, innovation and exports while reducing import dependence.
- The scheme has two broad components: manufacturing incentives and ecosystem development interventions. It also proposes four integrated Sports Goods Manufacturing Zones, each spread over 300 acres or more.
- Two major support components have a combined outlay of ₹1,130 crore: 20% capital expenditure support for eligible anchor investors investing at least ₹100 crore, and turnover-linked incentives of up to 15% for eligible manufacturers investing at least ₹10 crore.

Two New Plant Species Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

- Researchers from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Madras Christian College discovered two new flowering plant species in the Vijoynagar region of Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- The species are Ophiorrhiza shidiensis and Ophiorrhiza pemae, belonging to the Rubiaceae family, commonly known as the coffee family.
- Ophiorrhiza shidiensis was named after Shidi, the traditional name for Gandhigram used by the Lisu (Yobin) community.

- Ophiorrhiza pemae was named in honour of Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu. The findings were published in the journal Taiwania.

RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Banking and Finance

SEBI and Bank of England Sign MoU

- On 28 October 2026, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bank of England (BoE).
- The agreement aims to strengthen regulatory cooperation and information sharing concerning SEBI-recognised Clearing Corporations (CCs).
- It provides a framework for cooperation relating to Central Counterparties (CCPs), allowing the Bank of England to rely on SEBI's regulatory and supervisory activities, subject to applicable laws.
- Clearing corporations help complete trade settlements and reduce the risk of default between buyers and sellers.

Air India, SBI Card and Visa Partnership

- Air India, SBI Card and Visa partnered to develop a co-branded credit card for members of Air India's Maharaja Club loyalty programme.
- The card is expected to offer travel and lifestyle benefits, including Maharaja Points on everyday purchases and travel transactions.
- It is Air India's first co-branded credit card initiative since its privatisation and acquisition by the Tata Group in January 2022.
- The Maharaja Club was redesigned in 2024 and has added more than 5 million members, according to the supplied information.

Cyberattack on SEBI's SMARTs Portal

- SEBI placed its cybersecurity team on red alert following repeated attempts to breach its systems, including a code execution attack on the SMARTs portal on 26 October 2026.
- SMARTs stands for Securities Market Trainers. It is a platform used by eligible trainers to register with SEBI and conduct investor awareness programmes.
- A code execution attack allows an attacker to run unauthorised commands or malicious code on a computer system by exploiting a vulnerability.
- Such attacks can threaten data security and disrupt the functioning of digital platforms.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

World Bank Poverty and Equity Brief 2026

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

The **World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief** says India has made **"remarkable progress"** in reducing poverty, across both **income and non-income** measures. It calls this one of the **fastest reductions in the world**.

What Do the Income Measures Show?

Between **2011 and 2023**:

Poverty line	2011	2023
Lower Middle-Income line ($4.20 a day)	57.7 per cent	16.1 per cent
Extreme poverty ($3.00 a day)	27.1 per cent	2.6 per cent

An estimated **496 million people** moved out of poverty.

The Bank projects poverty will keep falling, **"albeit more gradually"**.

What Do the Non-Income Measures Show?

Measure	Period	Figure
OPHI Multidimensional Poverty Index	2005-06	53.8 per cent
OPHI MPI	2019-21	16.4 per cent
World Bank MPI measure	2022-23	15.5 per cent

What Drove the Decline?

The World Bank names three causes:

- **Strong consumption growth**
- **Rising employment**, especially among women
- **Expanded social transfers**, including **food subsidies**

Important Facts for Exams

- **World Bank Poverty and Equity Brief, October 2026**
- **$4.20 a day line: 57.7 per cent (2011) → 16.1 per cent (2023)**; **496 million** lifted out
- **$3.00 a day line: 27.1 per cent → 2.6 per cent**
- **OPHI MPI: 53.8 per cent (2005-06) → 16.4 per cent (2019-21)**; **World Bank MPI 15.5 per cent (2022-23)**
- **Top 10 per cent of workers earn 13 times** the bottom 10 per cent
- **UP to West Bengal belt: 57 per cent** of India's poor
- **134 million jobs added (2017-2023)** — nearly twice the working-age population growth
- **Youth unemployment: 14.6 per cent → 15.9 per cent** between Q1 FY2026 and Q1 FY2027
- The same report found about **80 per cent** of Indians still below the **upper-middle-income line of $8.30 a day**
- Rural poverty **19.3 per cent**, urban **8.6 per cent**
- The World Bank **revised its poverty lines in 2025** to **$3.00, $4.20** and **$8.30** in **2021 PPP** terms
- India's own poverty committees: **Lakdawala (1993), Tendulkar (2009), Rangarajan (2014)**. No official poverty line has been published since
- **NITI Aayog** publishes India's own **National MPI**, with **12 indicators** across health, education and standard of living

Economy

Centre's Fiscal Deficit Reaches 42% of FY27 Target in H1

- India's fiscal deficit reached 42% of the FY27 Budget Estimate during April–September 2026, compared with nearly 37% in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.
- The fiscal deficit increased nearly 25% year-on-year to ₹7.14 lakh crore during the first half of

FY2026–27.

- Government expenditure rose nearly 11% to ₹25.50 lakh crore, mainly due to higher revenue expenditure.
- Revenue expenditure increased 10% to ₹18.95 lakh crore, supported by higher subsidy spending. Slower tax collection and increased expenditure contributed to the higher fiscal deficit.

Dearness Allowance Increased to 63%

- The Union Government increased Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) by three percentage points, from 60% to 63%, with effect from 1 July 2026.
- DA is paid to government employees, while DR is paid to pensioners.
- It is a cost-of-living adjustment intended to protect the purchasing power of employees and pensioners against inflation.
- The increase helps offset the impact of rising prices on household expenses.

Social Issue in News

Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 4.0

- Union Minister of State Prataprao Jadhav launched the fourth edition of the Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign (TFYC 4.0) on 28 October 2026 in New Delhi.
- The campaign is organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and will run for 60 days.
- Its main objectives are to prevent tobacco use, encourage people to quit tobacco and strengthen awareness about nicotine addiction.
- The campaign places special emphasis on Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) and creating tobacco-free campuses. The associated “Say No to Tobacco” pledge encourages young people to reject tobacco and nicotine products.

Miscellaneous General Awareness

12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum

- The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum was held in New Delhi from 26 to 27 October 2026 under the theme “Fostering Parliaments for People-Centric Development.”
- The forum was inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and concluded with the adoption of a Joint Declaration.
- Discussions focused on parliamentary cooperation, global governance reforms, counter-terrorism and sustainable development.
- Other BRICS engagements included the BRICS Theatre Festival, BRICS Business Forum and the second BRICS Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' meeting.

India's INS Sahyadri Participates in India–Republic of Korea Naval Exercise

- Indian Naval Ship INS Sahyadri, an indigenously designed and built guided-missile stealth frigate, arrived at Busan Naval Harbour, South Korea, to participate in a bilateral maritime exercise.
- The exercise involves the Indian Navy and the Republic of Korea Navy (RoKN).
- It includes harbour interactions and tactical operations at sea to improve coordination and interoperability between the two navies.
- The exercise aims to strengthen defence cooperation and support a free, open and rules-based maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region.

UAE's First-Class Order of Zayed II

- Indian commercial pilot Captain Smit Machchhar received the UAE's prestigious First-Class Order of Zayed II.
- The honour recognised his bravery in protecting 174 passengers during an in-flight cockpit assault aboard a Flydubai flight.
- The Order of Zayed II is a UAE national civilian decoration awarded to foreign dignitaries and distinguished individuals for exceptional public service, diplomatic achievements or acts of bravery.

BRICS Business and Financial Cooperation

- India hosted the BRICS Business Forum in New Delhi under its 2026 BRICS presidency theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- The second BRICS Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' (FMCBG) Meeting was co-chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra and DEA Secretary Anuradha Thakur.
- RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra and Dilma Rousseff, President of the New Development Bank, inaugurated the BNKP, a centralised digital platform.
- The platform aims to consolidate and share knowledge and best practices from BRICS working groups.

DPIIT Announces 6th National Startup Awards

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) launched the sixth edition of the National Startup Awards (NSA 6.0) under the Startup India initiative.
- The awards aim to recognise innovation and entrepreneurship and encourage startup participation from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- Startups will be recognised across 20 sectoral categories and three special categories. Winners in eligible startup categories will receive a cash prize of ₹25 lakh.
- The special categories include Women-Led Startup of the Year, North-East Startup Excellence and Student Innovator/Aspiring Entrepreneur Award.

The UAE's First-Class Order of Zayed II

- The award is a national civilian decoration of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- It recognises exceptional public service, diplomatic achievements and acts of gallantry.
- Captain Smit Machchhar received the honour for protecting passengers during an in-flight cockpit assault.

Miscellaneous General Awareness

LA28 Announces Official Slogan for 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games

- The Los Angeles 2028 Organising Committee announced "Stars Align" as the official slogan for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- The Olympic Games are scheduled for 14–30 July 2028, while the Paralympic Games will take place from 15–27 August 2028.
- Los Angeles will host the Summer Olympics for the third time, after 1932 and 1984. It will host the Paralympic Games for the first time.
- The Olympic motto is "Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together", while the Paralympic motto is "Change Starts with Sport."

Three-Time Asian Para Games Gold Medallist Neeraj Yadav Dies

- Indian para-athlete Neeraj Yadav, a three-time Asian Para Games gold medallist, passed away at the age of 42.
- He competed in the F55 category and won gold in men's javelin throw at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Para Games with an Asian record of 29.84 metres.
- At the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Para Games, he won gold medals in men's discus throw and javelin throw.
- He had earlier competed in wheelchair tennis before moving to seated para-athletics events.

World Stroke Day 2026

- World Stroke Day is observed every year on 29 October to raise awareness about stroke prevention, early recognition of symptoms and timely treatment.
- The supplied theme for 2026 is “Every M1nute Counts.”
- The day was first observed on 29 October 2006 under the initiative of the World Stroke Organization (WSO).
- The 18th World Stroke Congress 2026 was held in Seoul, South Korea, from 21 to 23 October.

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 30 OCTOBER 2026

1. **OPHI MPI: 53.8 per cent (2005-06) → 16.4 per cent (2019-21)**; **World Bank MPI 15.5 per cent (2022-23)** World Bank Poverty and Equity Brief 2026
2. The Union Cabinet approved the scheme with an outlay of ₹1,856.67 crore for 2026–27 to 2033–34 to strengthen India's sports goods manufacturing industry. Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme
3. On 28 October 2026, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bank of England (BoE). SEBI and Bank of England Sign MoU
4. The Los Angeles 2028 Organising Committee announced “Stars Align” as the official slogan for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. LA28 Announces Official Slogan for 2028 Olympic…
5. It is Air India's first co-branded credit card initiative since its privatisation and acquisition by the Tata Group in January 2022. Air India, SBI Card and Visa Partnership

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NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agriculture

PI Industries Develops India's First Indigenous Insecticide Molecule

Source: Indian Express

Context of the News

PI Industries Ltd, based in Gurugram, has developed **Pioxaniliprole** — recognised by the **CIB&RC** as **India's first indigenously discovered insecticide active ingredient**. It will be sold under the brand name **Pioxazon** from the **Rabi 2026-27** season.

What Makes It a First?

- It is the **first insecticide active ingredient discovered in India**
- Developed over **more than a decade** of research

Which Crops and Pests Is It Approved For?

Crop	Pests
Rice	Yellow Stem Borer, Leaf Folder, Fall Armyworm
Chilli	Fruit Borer, Tobacco Caterpillar
Tomato	Fruit Borer
Bengal Gram (Chana)	Pod Borer

Important Facts for Exams

- **Pioxaniliprole** is the molecule; **Pioxazon** is the brand name
- Developed by **PI Industries Ltd**, Gurugram; about **₹2,000 crore** and over **a decade** of research
- India's **first indigenously discovered insecticide active ingredient**
- Approved for **rice, chilli, tomato** and **Bengal gram**
- Class: **anthranilic diamide**; formulation **20 per cent w/v SC**
- Mode of action: targets **ryanodine receptors**, causing uncontrolled calcium release and paralysis
- Registered by the **CIB&RC** under the **Insecticides Act, 1968**
- Other anthranilic diamides already used in India include **chlorantraniliprole** and **cyantraniliprole**. Since all act the same way, **cross-resistance** is a risk
- India is among the world's **largest producers and exporters of generic pesticides**
- India's pesticide use is about **0.5 kg per hectare**, against a global average of **2.38 kg**
- Related: the **ban on Paraquat Dichloride**, the proposed **Carbosulfan** ban, and the **Pesticides Management Bill** meant to replace the 1968 Act

UNEP Honours India's Ganges Dolphin Recovery

Source: New Indian Express

Context of the News

The **UNEP** report **"Nature's Comeback – Scaling Ecosystem Restoration for People and Planet"** recognised India's **Ganges River dolphin recovery programme** as one of **35 UN World Restoration Flagships**.

What Is the Ganges River Dolphin?

- An **obligate freshwater cetacean** — it lives **only** in fresh water
- Popularly called **Susu**, after the sound it makes while breathing
- **India's National Aquatic Animal**
- **State aquatic animal of Assam**

Status

- **IUCN: Endangered**
- **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- **CITES Appendix I**

Where Does It Live?

- **Deep-water pools, river bends** and **confluence zones**
- In the **Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna** and **Karnaphuli-Sangu** river systems
- Across **India, Nepal** and **Bangladesh**

Punah Bharan Mobile Application

Source: PIB

Context of the News

The Union Minister of **Jal Shakti** launched the **Punah Bharan Mobile Application** and a companion web portal, to improve **groundwater recharge planning**.

What Is It?

- A **geospatial decision-support** app and web portal
- For **evidence-based, village-level planning** of **artificial groundwater recharge structures**

Who Built It?

- Developed by **BISAG-N** — Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics
- With the **National Water Mission**, under the **Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation**, **Ministry of Jal Shakti**

What Is the Aim?

- Move groundwater recharge planning from **ad-hoc decisions** to a **data-driven, scientific framework**
- Maximise **rainwater harvesting**
- Improve **long-term aquifer sustainability**

Schemes in News

Union Cabinet Approves Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana

- In October 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-

VGSY), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a total outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore for five years, from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31.

- The scheme aims to strengthen grassroots governance through Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs), capacity building, digital support and better financial accountability.
- The total outlay includes a Central share of ₹4,869.48 crore and a State share of ₹2,526.07 crore. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.
- It will cover all States and Union Territories, including over 2.55 lakh Panchayats and Traditional Local Bodies, including areas where Panchayats do not exist under Part IX.

Six Components of PM-VGSY:

1. Gram Panchayats as Hubs of Local Governance.
2. Holistic Gram Panchayat Development Planning.
3. Common Digital Platform for Panchayat Governance.
4. Connecting National Priorities with Local Needs.
5. Capacity Building and Digital Handholding.
6. Transparent and Efficient Utilisation of Resources.

RBI AND NABARD CURRENT AFFAIRS

AI INSPIRED Programme and IN-SPACe

Source: Times of India

Context of the News

IN-SPACe selected **six private space tech entities** for seed-fund grants of up to **₹1 crore each**, under its **AI INSPIRED** initiative.

What Is IN-SPACe?

- **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre**
- An **autonomous single-window agency** under the **Department of Space**
- Headquartered at **Bopal, Ahmedabad**
- It acts as both **regulator and promoter** for **Non-Government Entities** in space

What Is Its Aim?

- Promote **private sector and startup participation** in India's space economy
- By supporting **innovation**, giving **access to infrastructure**, and easing **regulatory compliance**

What Is the AI INSPIRED Programme?

- A **seed-fund scheme** for private space technology companies
- Grants of up to **₹1 crore each**
- **Six entities** selected in this round

India's Cloud Ecosystem

Source: PIB

Context of the News

MeitY highlighted the growth of India's **domestic cloud ecosystem**. Two things are driving it — **data sovereignty** concerns and **rising data consumption**.

What Is Cloud Computing?

- Computing resources delivered **over the internet**, on demand
- This includes **data storage, servers, databases, networking** and **software**
- Charged on a **pay-as-you-go** basis
- Instead of buying and running physical servers, an organisation **rents** capacity as it needs it

What Are the Service Models?

Model	What it provides
IaaS — Infrastructure as a Service	Basic **compute power, storage and networking** — virtual machines, block storage
PaaS — Platform as a Service	**Development environments, operating systems and database tools**, so developers can build and deploy without managing hardware
SaaS — Software as a Service	**Ready-to-use software**, hosted centrally and used through a browser
Serverless computing	The vendor **automatically allocates and scales** resources. Developers write code without maintaining servers at all

GSLV-F18 Launches NVS-03 Navigation Satellite

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

ISRO's **GSLV-F18** successfully launched the **NVS-03** satellite from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**. The satellite is expected to help restore India's **NavIC** navigation system.

What Is NVS-03?

- The **third satellite** in the **next-generation navigation satellite series**
- It provides **continuity of navigation services** for the **IRNSS** series, known as **NavIC**

What Is NavIC?

- India's **independent regional navigation satellite system**
- It provides **Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT)** service
- Coverage: the **Indian landmass**, plus a region extending about **1,500 km** beyond India's boundary

Chola-Era Nataraja and Sivagami Idols Found in Nagapattinam

Source: The Hindu

Context of the News

The **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** unearthed **bronze alloy idols** of **Lord Nataraja** and **Goddess Sivagami**, with their pedestals, during excavations in **Nagapattinam**.

What Was Found?

Idol	Posture	Arms	Size
Lord Nataraja	**Ananda Tandava**	**Four**	**110 cm high, 100 cm wide**
Goddess Sivagami	**Tribhanga**	**Two**	**82 cm high, 23 cm wide**

- Found at a depth of **one metre**
- Both came with their **pedestals**
- They are estimated to date to the **12th century AD**, in the **Chola period**.

What Is Ananda Tandava?

The **dance of bliss** — the most famous depiction of Shiva as **Nataraja**, the Lord of Dance.

The standard iconography carries specific meanings:

- **Upper right hand** holds the **damaru**, the drum of creation
- **Upper left hand** holds **agni**, fire, representing destruction
- **Lower right hand** is in **abhaya mudra**, the gesture of protection
- **Lower left hand** points to the **raised foot**, signifying liberation
- He dances on **Apasmara**, the dwarf of ignorance
- The surrounding **arch of flames (prabhavali)** represents the cosmos

Who Is Sivagami?

Sivakami is **Parvati**, shown standing beside Nataraja, watching the dance. **Tribhanga** means the body bends at three points — neck, waist and knee — a graceful posture common in Indian sculpture.

Important Facts for Exams

- **Chola bronzes** are made by the **lost-wax (cire perdue)** method, usually in **panchaloha**
- The Chola period, especially under **Rajaraja I** and **Rajendra I**, is considered the peak of Indian bronze sculpture
- **Great Living Chola Temples** are a **UNESCO World Heritage Site (1987, extended 2004)** — the **Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur**, the temple at **Gangaikonda Cholapuram**, and the **Airavatesvara Temple at Darasuram**
- **Nagapattinam** was a major **Chola port**, linked to trade with **Southeast Asia**. It also had a Buddhist presence, and the **Chudamani Vihara** was built there with Srivijaya support

Social Issue

Ayushman Vay Vandana Initiative Completes Two Years

- Ayushman Vay Vandana (AVV) completed two years of implementation in October 2026. It provides healthcare coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status.
- The initiative is implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Eligible senior citizens receive health coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.
- Senior citizens aged 70 years and above who belong to families already covered under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) receive an additional top-up cover of up to ₹5 lakh per year, exclusively for themselves.

UN Report: At Least 25 Women and Girls Killed Daily in Armed Conflicts

- The 2026 UN Secretary-General's Report on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) revealed that at least 25 women and girls were killed daily in armed conflicts worldwide during 2025.
- More than 37,000 civilians were killed in armed conflicts in 2025, with women and girls accounting for 25% of the deaths.
- The United Nations verified 9,788 cases of conflict-related sexual violence in 2025. Around 750 million women and girls lived within 50 km of active conflicts.
- Around 170 million women and girls faced conflict and extreme poverty, surviving on less than USD 3

per day. Women also spent five times as many hours on unpaid care work as men in conflict-affected countries.

Background

- On 31 October 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325, establishing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.
- The agenda promotes women's participation in conflict prevention, peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction.
- The UN Secretary-General publishes an annual report to review progress under this agenda.

World Stroke Day – 29 October

- World Stroke Day is observed annually on 29 October to raise awareness about stroke prevention, treatment and its impact.
- 2026 Theme: "Every M1nute Counts."
- The day was established in 2004, and the first global observance took place on 29 October 2006.
- The World Stroke Organization (WSO) was formed in October 2006.

Important Days

World Savings Day 2026 – 31 October

- World Savings Day (WSD), also known as World Thrift Day, is observed annually on 31 October to promote saving habits and financial security.
- 2026 Theme: "AI Advises, Human Decides."
- It was introduced by Italian Professor Filippo Ravizza.
- The first World Savings Day was observed on 31 October 1924 during the first International Thrift Congress in Milan, Italy.

World Cities Day 2026 – 31 October

- World Cities Day (WCD) is observed annually on 31 October to promote international cooperation on urbanisation and sustainable urban development.
- 2026 Theme: "Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All."
- The United Nations General Assembly designated the day through Resolution 68/239 (2013). The first global observance took place in 2014.
- Fuzhou, China, is hosting the 2026 global observance, focusing on neighbourhood renewal and sustainable urban development.

Miscellaneous General Awareness

FICCI Appoints Vijay Sankar as President-Elect for 2026–27

- In October 2026, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) appointed Vijay Sankar as its President-Elect for 2026–27.
- He is currently the Senior Vice-President of FICCI and Chairman of The Sanmar Group, which has interests in chemicals, engineering, steel foundries and shipping.
- He will succeed Anant Goenka as FICCI President after the Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention scheduled for 18–19 November 2026 in New Delhi.

- He also serves as Chairman and Non-Executive Director of Chemplast Sanmar Limited and as an Independent Director on the boards of TVS Motor Company and Larsen & Toubro.

India Discovers New Microscopic Land Snail Species in Maharashtra

- Researchers from the Thackeray Wildlife Foundation discovered a new microscopic land snail species named Dicharax tilariensis in the Tilari region of Kolhapur district, Maharashtra.
- The species is currently known only from the Tilari region, making it endemic to the area.
- It inhabits moist soil, forest litter and decaying organic matter in the semi-evergreen forests of Tilari.
- Specimens were collected near Swapnavel Point, close to Tilarinagar, at an elevation of 700–800 metres above sea level.

New Mollisia Fungus Discovered in the Sikkim Himalaya

- Microbiologists discovered a new fungal species named Mollisia sokpayensia in the Sikkim Himalaya in October 2026.
- The research team was led by Manipur scientist Dr Laishram Shantikumar Singh and included Subecha Rai and Gajanan V.
- The discovery adds a new species to the known fungal diversity of the Himalayan region.

Impacts of Volcanic Ash on Aviation and Public Health

- Volcanic ash consists of fine fragments of rocks, minerals and volcanic glass released during volcanic eruptions.
- It can travel long distances from the eruption site and remain suspended in the atmosphere.
- Volcanic ash can damage aircraft engines and other aircraft components because of its abrasive nature.
- It can also affect public health, particularly by causing respiratory problems when inhaled.

Digital Bharat Nidhi Signs Tamil Nadu BharatNet Agreement

- On 30 October 2026, Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), the Tamil Nadu Government and Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation (TANFINET) signed an agreement to expand digital connectivity in Tamil Nadu.
- The agreement was signed at Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The initiative aims to strengthen broadband infrastructure and expand connectivity through the BharatNet programme.

India to Host ICAR–CGIAR Science and Partnership Week 2027

- India will host the ICAR–CGIAR Science and Partnership Week in New Delhi from 12 to 17 April 2027.
- The event will be held at Yashobhoomi.
- It will be hosted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

India–Brazil Partnership Expands in Defence, Aerospace and Space

- On 31 October 2026, India and Brazil highlighted expanding cooperation in defence, aerospace and space.
- The update was shared by Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (East) Rudrendra Tandon.
- Brazilian Ambassador Kenneth Felix was also associated with the engagement.

Buddha's Piprahwa Relics to Be Displayed in Arunachal Pradesh

- The sacred Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha will be displayed for public veneration in Arunachal Pradesh from 31 October to 21 November 2026.
- The relics are preserved at the National Museum.
- The exhibition will provide an opportunity for people to view and pay respect to the sacred Buddhist relics.

Rahul Dravid and Saina Nehwal Nominated to 2030 Commonwealth Games Board

- Former Indian cricket captain Rahul Dravid and Olympic medallist Saina Nehwal were nominated to the Organising Company Board for the 2030 Commonwealth Games.
- The nominations were announced on 30 October 2026.
- Both sportspersons will be associated with the board responsible for the organisation of the 2030 Games.

Oscar-Nominated Actress Barbara Barrie Passes Away at 95

- American actress Barbara Barrie passed away at the age of 95 in Manhattan, New York City, in October 2026.
- She won the Best Actress award at the 1964 Cannes Film Festival for One Potato, Two Potato.
- She received an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Evelyn Stohler in Breaking Away (1979).
- She also received three Emmy nominations and a Tony Award nomination for her performance in Company (1970).

FIVE TO REMEMBER · 31 OCTOBER 2026

1. In October 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a total outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore for five years, from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31. Union Cabinet Approves Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gr…
2. Registered by the **CIB&RC** under the **Insecticides Act, 1968** PI Industries Develops India's First Indigenous…
3. **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 UNEP Honours India's Ganges Dolphin Recovery
4. Ayushman Vay Vandana (AVV) completed two years of implementation in October 2026. It provides healthcare coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status. Ayushman Vay Vandana Initiative Completes Two Y…
5. More than 37,000 civilians were killed in armed conflicts in 2025, with women and girls accounting for 25% of the deaths. UN Report: At Least 25 Women and Girls Killed D…

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of the top 10 ranks	final selections, one batch	reached the interview	current affairs, free

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