Nandyal Banking Coaching Center - Daily News Dated 16 Oct 2026

1. The Union Cabinet Extends National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for 2026-27 to 2030-31 with a total outlay of ₹53,428 crore.

- The programme has been renamed the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana
- Renamed sub-schemes:
  - Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) → Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana.
  - Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) → PM Vridhavastha Pension Yojana.
  - Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) → PM Vidhawa Pension Yojana.
  - National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) → PM Parivar Labh Yojana.
- Central assistance under the Divyangjan pension raised from ₹300 to ₹375 per month (ages up to 79) and from ₹500 to ₹625 per month (aged 80 and above).

2. Lakshadweep Declared a Fully (100%) Literate Union Territory under ULLAS initiative

- ULLAS = Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society, also called the New India Literacy Programme (NILP) / Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, under the Ministry of Education.
- Duration: 2022-23 to 2026-27; covers non-literates aged 15 years and above; target: 5 crore learners (1 crore per year).
- Under ULLAS, a literacy rate of 95% or above is treated as fully literate.
- Mizoram was the first State declared fully literate under ULLAS (98.2%), declared by CM Lalduhoma in Aizawl on 20 May 2025.

3. National Conference on e-Governance Reforms Held in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

- Governor of Himachal Pradesh : Kavinder Gupta

4. New 12-State GST Standing Committee of Officers Constituted

- A Standing Committee of Officers comprising tax officials from 12 States has been constituted under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework (announced on 13 October 2026).
- 5 permanent seats for large States: Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- 7 rotating seats (4 medium and 3 small States), rotating every 2 years; proposed first rotation: Rajasthan, West Bengal, Kerala, Punjab, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Meghalaya.
- The GST Council is a constitutional body under Article 279A, chaired by the Union Finance Minister.

5. PMAY-U 2.0: 1.93 Lakh More Houses Sanctioned; Total Crosses 20 Lakh

- PMAY-U launched on 25 June 2015; PMAY-U 2.0 launched in September 2024.
- PMAY-U 2.0 targets 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families, with central assistance of up to ₹2.5 lakh per dwelling unit.

6. Telangana Constitutes Senior Citizens Commission

- Retired Telangana High Court judge Justice E. Tirumala Devi appointed the first Chief Commissioner for 3 years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

7. Cabinet Approves 78 Days' Productivity Linked Bonus for Railway Employees

- Financial outlay: ₹2,009.61 crore, benefiting 11,40,770 Railway employees.
- Maximum payout: ₹17,951 per employee (based on the wage ceiling of ₹7,000 per month).

8. National Saras Livelihood Mela 2026 Held in Vijayawada

9. Nagaland's Department of Youth Resources & Sports won the SKOCH Silver Award 2026 for the grassroots football festival "Baby League".

10. Sudha Yadav Appointed Governor of Karnataka

- President Droupadi Murmu appointed Dr. Sudha Yadav as Governor of Karnataka on 12 October 2026, succeeding Thaawarchand Gehlot.

11. RBI Approves Amalgamation of Emirates NBD's Indian Branches with RBL Bank

- RBL Bank: Formerly Ratnakar Bank; founded in 1943 in Kolhapur, Maharashtra; renamed RBL Bank in August 2014; Headquarters: Mumbai.

12. CCEA Approves Sale of 60.72% Stake in IDBI Bank to Fairfax Financial Holdings

- Post-sale holding: the Government of India will retain 15% and LIC will retain 19%.
- FDI limits in banking: Up to 74% in private sector banks and 20% in public sector banks.

13. The RBI fixed the premature redemption price at ₹14,614 per unit (1 unit = 1 gram of gold) for Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) 2020-21 Series VII.

- SGB Scheme: Launched in November 2015; bonds are issued by the RBI on behalf of the Government of India.
- Tenure: 8 years, with a premature exit option after the 5th year.
- Interest rate: 2.5% per annum, paid half-yearly (the first tranches of 2015 carried 2.75%).

14. SEBI Proposes Stricter Profitability Norms for SME IPOs

Nandyal Banking Coaching Center

- Proposed raising the eligibility requirement to a minimum average annual operating profit of ₹3 crore over the preceding 3 financial years for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) launching an Initial Public Offer (IPO).
- Current norm: operating profit of at least ₹1 crore in 2 of the last 3 financial years.

15. NSE IFSC Ltd (GIFT City, Gujarat) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the London Stock Exchange (LSE)

- Scope: dual listing, cross-border trading, derivatives on FTSE Russell indices, joint indices and market data.

16. Jio Platforms Launches India's Largest-Ever IPO

- Jio Platforms Limited (JPL) launched an IPO of ₹30,213 crore

17. INS Samarthak, Navy's First Multi-Purpose Vessel, Commissioned at Karwar

- Built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at its Kattupalli shipyard, Tamil Nadu
- Indian Navy Headquarters: New Delhi; Navy Day: 4 December.

18. 9th IBSAMAR Naval Exercise Concludes in South Africa

- Trilateral maritime exercise of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSAMAR IX) held at Simon's Town, South Africa
- Participating ships: INS Tarkash (India), BNS Barroso (Brazil), SAS Amatola and submarine SAS Manthatisi (South Africa).
- Theme: "Stronger Together Towards a Shared Future in the Maritime Domain".

19. The 25th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh represented India
- SCO founded in 2001 in Shanghai, China; Secretariat: Beijing, China.
- 10 member states: China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus.
- The 26th SCO Heads of State Summit (2026) was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Pakistan holds the chair for 2026-27 and will host the 2027 summit.

20. FM Nirmala Sitharaman Visits Thailand for IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings

- IMF Managing Director : Kristalina Georgieva.

21. Nirmala Sitharaman met UK Chancellor of the Exchequer John Healey in Bangkok

- UK Prime Minister: Andy Burnham.

22. The Embassy of India, Jakarta launched an AI-powered avatar "Dewi" (Indonesian for "goddess") on 13 October 2026, announced by Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty during Navaratri.

23. The National Security Guard (NSG) observed its 42nd Raising Day on 16 October 2026.

- Known as the "Black Cats"; India's premier federal counter-terrorism force under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Raised in 1984; statutory force under the National Security Guard Act, 1986.
- Headquarters: New Delhi (Mehram Nagar, Palam); training centre and NSG Academy at Manesar, Haryana.

24. India's Ramsar Sites Rise to 103 with Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced on 15 October 2026 the addition of 2 new Ramsar sites:

– Sukhna Wetland, Chandigarh (Ramsar Site No. 2602) – Chandigarh's 1st Ramsar site.

– Sauj Jheel, Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh (Ramsar Site No. 2603) – UP's 14th Ramsar site; part of the Saman Wetland Complex in the Ganga floodplain, supporting over 30,000 waterbirds, including the Sarus Crane and Greater Spotted Eagle.

- India's total reached 103, ranking 1st in Asia and 3rd globally (after the United Kingdom – 176 and Mexico – 144).
- Mainpuri is the only district in UP with 2 Ramsar sites (Saman Bird Sanctuary and Sauj Jheel).
- State with most sites: Tamil Nadu (20), followed by Uttar Pradesh (14).
- Largest Ramsar site: Sundarbans Wetland, West Bengal (about 4,230 sq km).
- Smallest Ramsar sites: Renuka Wetland (Himachal Pradesh) and Vembannur Wetland Complex (Tamil Nadu).
- Montreux Record sites in India: Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur).
- Wetland City Accreditation (January 2025): Indore and Udaipur.
- India's 100th Ramsar site: Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (UP); 101st: Glaw Lake (Arunachal Pradesh's 1st site).
- Ramsar Convention: Signed on 2 February 1971 at Ramsar, Iran; came into force in 1975; India became a party on 1 February 1982.

Nandyal Banking Coaching Center

25. Asiatic Lions Return to Barda Wildlife Sanctuary(Gujarat) After 144 Years

- Project Lion launched on 15 August 2020 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- Project Tiger – 1973; Project Elephant – 1992; Project Cheetah – 2022.
- International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA): Launched in 2023 to protect 7 big cats (Lion, Tiger, Cheetah, Puma, Jaguar, Leopard, Snow Leopard); Bangladesh became the 27th member in June 2026.

26. Mahila Kisan Divas Observed on 15 October

- 2026 Theme: "Role of Women Farmers in Developing Agriculture and Developed India".

27. Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated KAUMARACON 2026, the 3rd International Conference on Kaumarabhritya, at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Sarita Vihar, New Delhi (15–17 October 2026).

- Theme: "Shaping the Future of Child Health: Global Perspectives, Research Innovations and Clinical Frontiers in Kaumarbhritya".
- Kaumarabhritya (paediatrics) is one of the 8 branches (Ashtanga) of Ayurveda.

28. CGPDTM (Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks) Releases Status Report on Ayush-Related Inventions (2014–2026)

- 4,077 patent applications filed and 711 patents granted between FY 2014-15 and FY 2025-26.
- CGPDTM HQ: Mumbai.
- Ministry of Ayush formed on 9 November 2014.

29. IIT Hyderabad Launches India's First Credit Course on 'Goodness'

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad launched the course "Goodness: Character, Responsibility and Human Flourishing" (course code LA2270).

30. University of Liverpool (UK) Opens Bengaluru Campus

31. World Spine Day (16 October)

- 2026 Campaign Theme: "Spine Health for Life".

32. BRICS Traditional & Indigenous Sports Demonstration Games 2026 Held in Ahmedabad

- India showcased Mallakhamb, Yogasana and Kalaripayattu.
- Other sports showcased: Capoeira and Zarabatana (Brazil), Wushu and Lion Dance (China), Sambo (Russia), Gorodki (Belarus), Zoorkhaneh (Iran), Qazaq Kuresi (Kazakhstan), Lucha de Cholitas and Tinku (Bolivia).

33. The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports revised the Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF) Scheme for the 16th Finance Commission cycle (2026-27 to 2030-31) with a total outlay of ₹7,386.74 crore.

34. Wrestler Vishvajit Ramchandra More won Silver in the Men's 55 kg Greco-Roman category at the U-23 World Wrestling Championships in Las Vegas, USA.

35. Anandkumar Velkumar (Tamil Nadu) won Silver in the Men's 1000 m sprint at the World Skate Games 2026 in Asunción, Paraguay

36. Cricketer Punam Raut Retires from International Cricket

- Shared a then world-record 320-run opening partnership in women's ODIs with Deepti Sharma against Ireland in May 2017 at Potchefstroom, South Africa.

37. World Food Day 2026 (16 October)

- 2026 Theme: "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow."
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Headquarters: Rome, Italy; Director-General: Qu Dongyu

38. The World Food Prize 2026 was awarded to Huub Lelieveld of the Netherlands

- Known as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture"; instituted in 1986 by Dr. Norman Borlaug ("Father of the Green Revolution").

39. Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2024 and 2025 Presented

- A total of 106 artists were honoured for 2024 and 2025; each receives ₹25,000 and a Tamrapatra.

40. Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026 Winners Announced

- Wildlife Photographer of the Year: Italian photographer Federico Veronesi for "The Aftermath", showing a female elephant carrying her dead calf in the Huab River Valley, Namibia.
- Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year: Oscar Whitfield (UK/Zimbabwe), 14 years [Unverified], winner of the 11–14 years category, for "Labour of Love", showing a dung beetle rolling a dung ball in Zambezi National Park, Zimbabwe.

41. Traditional paddy seed conservator and Padma Shri (2023) awardee Cheruvayal Raman ("Nelachan") died

- Known as "Nelachan" (Father of Paddy), "Living Paddy Gene Bank" and "Guardian of Native Paddy".

Nandyal Banking Coaching Center

42. 8th Windergy India 2026 Held in Chennai

- India's installed wind capacity: 59.20 GW (as on 30 September 2026); target: 100 GW by 2030.
- Global wind energy ranking: 1. China, 2. USA, 3. Germany, 4. India, 5. Brazil

43. India Mining Week Rescheduled to February 2027

- The Ministry of Coal rescheduled India Mining Week from 15–17 November 2026 to 24–26 February 2027.
- Venue: Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi.

Important Question and Answers

1. **What is the new name of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)?**
   Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana
2. **Which Union Territory was declared fully literate under ULLAS?**
   Lakshadweep
3. **Which was the first state declared fully literate under ULLAS?**
   Mizoram
4. **Under which Article is the GST Council set up?**
   Article 279A
5. **Who was appointed Governor of Karnataka in October 2026?**
   Dr. Sudha Yadav
6. **Which company is buying a 60.72% stake in IDBI Bank?**
   Fairfax Financial Holdings
7. **What is the interest rate on Sovereign Gold Bonds?**
   2.5% per year
8. **What is India's first multi-purpose vessel in the Navy?**
   INS Samarthak
9. **Where was the IBSAMAR IX naval exercise held?**
   Simon's Town, South Africa
10. **Where was the 25th SCO Heads of Government meeting held?**
    Dushanbe, Tajikistan
11. **How many Ramsar sites does India have now (as on 16 October 2026)?**
    103
12. **Which state has the most Ramsar sites?**
    Tamil Nadu (20)
13. **Asiatic lions returned to which sanctuary after 144 years?**
    Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat
14. **Who won the World Food Prize 2026?**
    Huub Lelieveld (Netherlands)
15. **Where is the NSG Academy located?**
    Manesar, Haryana

Nandyal Banking Coaching Center