1. National Press Day 2026: Press Council of India Completes 60 Years

- National Press Day 2026 (Monday, November 16, 2026) marked 60 years of the Press Council of India.
- Theme 2026: "Journalism: Populist or Responsible?"
- PCI Chairperson – Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (Retd.):
- World Press Freedom Day is observed internationally on May 3.

2. Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (Tribal Pride Day) is observed every year on November 15 to mark the birth anniversary of tribal leader and freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda

3. States formed in November 2000:

- Chhattisgarh – November 1, 2000 (from Madhya Pradesh).
- Uttarakhand – November 9, 2000 (from Uttar Pradesh).
- Jharkhand – November 15, 2000 (from Bihar
- Jharkhand Chief Minister: Hemant Soren (Jharkhand Mukti Morcha – JMM); Governor: Santosh Gangwar.

4. Lakhpati Didi Initiative

- Announced on August 15, 2023, the initiative is implemented under the Ministry of Rural Development's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- Aims to enable women members of rural Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to earn a sustainable annual household income of at least ₹1 lakh through multiple livelihood activities.

5. Former High Court Judge Justice C.S. (Chinnaswamy Swaminathan) Karnan Passes Away

6. RBI Cancels Certificates of Registration of 49 NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in a notification dated November 16, 2026, cancelled the Certificates of Registration (CoR) of 49 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) under Section 45-IA(6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- State-wise distribution:
- West Bengal – 43 (including 41 in Kolkata).
- Tamil Nadu – 3.
- Gujarat, Maharashtra and Delhi – 1 each.

7. RBI Monetary Policy: Repo Rate at 5.50% with 'Calibrated Tightening' Stance

- At its 63rd meeting (October 5–7, 2026), the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) chaired by Governor Sanjay Malhotra unanimously raised the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50% – its first hike since February 2023.
- Stance changed to "calibrated tightening".
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 5.25%; Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Bank Rate: 5.75%.
- Next MPC meeting: December 2–4, 2026.

8. Karnataka Bank Appoints Biji Sreekrishnavilas Sankaranarayanan as Interim MD & CEO

- She succeeds Raghavendra Srinivas Bhat, whose tenure ended on November 15, 2026.

9. WPI Inflation Rises to Series-High 12.29% in October 2026

- This is the highest inflation since the new WPI series (base year 2022-23) was introduced in June 2026; WPI has risen for the third consecutive month.

10. PLFS October 2026: Unemployment Rate Eases to 4.9%

- The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Monthly Bulletin is released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
- Unemployment Rate (UR), Current Weekly Status (CWS), age 15+:
- Overall: 4.9% (from 5.0% in September 2026; 5.2% in October 2025).
- Rural: 4.2%; Urban: 6.7% (from 6.9%).
- Male: 4.9%; Female: 5.0% (from 5.2%).
- Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):
- Overall: 55.7% (from 55.5%); Female: 35.0% (from 34.6%).
- Rural: 58.4%; Urban: 50.5%.
- Worker Population Ratio (WPR): 53.0% overall (from 52.7%); female WPR: 33.3%.

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11. Exercise Mitra Shakti 2026: 12th India–Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise is going to be held at the Army Training School, Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka

12. Exercise Harimau Shakti 2026: India–Malaysia Joint Military Exercise is scheduled in Malaysia.

- India–Malaysia bilateral exercises:
  - Army – Harimau Shakti.
  - Navy – Samudra Laksamana.
  - Air Force – Udara Shakti

13. IMNEX-26: 8th India–Myanmar Naval Exercise Concludes at Visakhapatnam

- Visakhapatnam is the headquarters of the Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command

14. Other exercises to remember:

- Garuda Shakti – India–Indonesia (Army, special forces).
- Naseem Al Bahr – India–Oman (Navy).
- Sea Vigil – national coastal defence exercise.
- Mountain Guardian – India–UAE (Army); 3rd edition held at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand (October 5–18, 2026). Another India–UAE army exercise is Desert Cyclone.

15. India is hosting the first Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum at Purana Qila, New Delhi

- SCO: founded in 2001 in Shanghai (from the Shanghai Five, with Uzbekistan joining); currently 10 member states.
- The 2026 SCO Heads of State summit was hosted by Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek); Pakistan chairs the SCO Council of Heads of State for 2026-27 and will host the 2027 summit.

16. PM Modi Visits Philippines for 23rd ASEAN–India Summit and 21st East Asia Summit

- PM Narendra Modi visited Manila on November 16–17, 2026 at the invitation of Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.
- Attended the 23rd ASEAN–India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit (EAS) on November 17, 2026.
- The Philippines is the ASEAN Chair for 2026; 2026 is the ASEAN–India Year of Maritime Cooperation.

17. India Hosts 62nd Session of International Coconut Community in Kochi

- The ICC (International Coconut Community) was established in 1969 under the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP); headquarters Jakarta, Indonesia.

18. India and Italy to Launch Joint Research Call in 2027

19. India Votes Against UNGA Resolution on Death Penalty Moratorium

- The UN General Assembly (UNGA) on November 13, 2026 adopted the resolution "Moratorium on the use of the death penalty", introduced by Mexico, with 133 votes in favour, 33 against and 16 abstentions.
- India voted against it, along with countries such as the US, China, Japan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

20. Indian Pilot Captain Smit Machchhar Honoured for Bravery

- On September 30, 2026, Captain Smit Machchhar, an Indian pilot of Gujarat origin flying flydubai flight FZ1073 (Dubai–Tel Aviv), was attacked in the cockpit with a crash axe by his Omani co-pilot, who allegedly planned to crash the aircraft at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport.
- UAE: President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan conferred the First Class Order of Zayed II on him and the crew on October 27, 2026.
- Israel: President Isaac Herzog announced the Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism for him (October 8, 2026).
- Gujarat: The State Government announced the Vishisht Gujarat Garima Award carrying ₹25 lakh.

21. 8th UAE National Festival of Tolerance and Coexistence: India Guest of Honour

- Held at Umm Al Emarat Park, Abu Dhabi, from November 13 to 15, 2026 under the theme "Growing in Unity".
- India was the Country Guest of Honour; the festival was inaugurated by UAE Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan.

Prepared by G V Satish, Director, NBCC

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22. Thailand Launches 'WORPT' App to Let Tourists Spend Crypto as Baht

23. The National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), organised the 3rd National Conference on Cyber Security, Digital Forensics and Intelligence (NCCDFI 2026).

- Held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, on November 16–17, 2026.
- Theme: "Cyber Secure Bharat: Fortifying India's Digital Future".
- NIELIT is headquartered in New Delhi.

24. BCG AI Maturity Matrix 2026: India a 'Rising Contender'

- Boston Consulting Group (BCG) released The AI Maturity Matrix 2026 (October 20, 2026), assessing more than 75 economies on AI exposure and AI readiness across 33 indicators.
- India is placed among the "Rising Contenders" – high readiness to use AI but lower exposure to disruption – mainly due to strength in skills and a large AI talent pool.

25. Cyclone Akvan: Third Cyclone over Bay of Bengal in Three Weeks

- A deep depression intensified into Cyclonic Storm "Akvan" over the Bay of Bengal on November 16, 2026, and later into a Severe Cyclonic Storm.
- It is the third cyclone in the Bay of Bengal within about three weeks, after Cyclone Arnab and Cyclone Murasu.
- Names:
  - Arnab – given by Bangladesh (means "sea/ocean").
  - Murasu – given by India (a traditional Tamil drum).
  - Akvan – given by Iran; refers to a demon in Persian mythology.

26. Prehistoric Elephant Fossil Found in Narmada River

27. Five New Horned Frog Species Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

28. Plant Genome Saviour Awards 2026: Karnataka Seed Conservers Honoured

- The women-led Bibi Fathima Self-Help Group of Theertha village, Kundgol taluk, Dharwad district (Karnataka) received the Plant Genome Saviour Community Award (₹10 lakh, citation and memento).
- Farmer Eshwaragouda Patil of Mattigatti village (Karnataka) was also honoured.
- The Bibi Fathima SHG also won the UNDP Equator Prize 2025.

29. World Diabetes Day 2026 Observed on November 14; theme 2026–27: "Early Action on Diabetes",

30. 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) Begins in Goa

- The 57th IFFI is being held in Goa from November 20 to 28, 2026, under the theme "Stories Without Borders";
- Spain (capital: Madrid; currency: Euro) is the Country of Honour, with four Spanish films; Russia is the Partner Country.

31. Book: 'Counting a Nation' by C. Chandramouli

32. Book: 'Sabr: Finding My Way in Cricket and Life' by Usman Khawaja

33. Other Important Days

- November 15: World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (third Sunday of November).
- November 15: International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime – theme "Follow the money. Stop organized crime." (declared by UNGA resolution 78/267 of March 2024).
- November 16: International Day for Tolerance.

34. India Win Record 9th Under-19 Asia Cup Title

- India beat defending champions Pakistan by one wicket on the last ball in the final of the ACC Men's Under-19 Asia Cup 2026 at Al Amerat Cricket Ground, Muscat (Oman)
- Captain: Lakshya Raichandani; Player of the Match: Mohit Ulva.
- Player of the Tournament: Aaryavir Sehwag, the leading run-scorer with 361 runs in five innings

35. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Becomes Youngest Captain in Men's T20 History

- Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, aged 15 years 232 days, captained Bihar against Saurashtra in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy at Holkar Stadium, Indore

Prepared by G V Satish, Director, NBCC

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36. ICC Confirms India as Host of 2029 Champions Trophy, Co-Host of 2031 World Cup

- India will host the ICC Champions Trophy 2029 (October 9–28, 2029).
- India and Bangladesh will co-host the ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2031 (October 9 – November 23, 2031).

37. ICC Players of the Month for October 2026

- Men's: Marco Jansen (South Africa all-rounder) – his first award, for South Africa's 2-1 Test series win over Australia.
- Women's: Deepti Sharma (India all-rounder) – her second award (first in December 2023).

38. Lakshya Sen won the men's singles title at the Kumamoto Masters Japan (BWF Super 500)

39. 8th Khelo India Youth Games 2026: Telangana Unveils Logo and Mascot

- Mascot: "Neelamani", a bird-inspired character; Tagline: "Khel Ka Junoon, Telangana Ki Jaan Aur Pehchaan".
- The Games will be held from December 11 to 22, 2026 in six cities: Hyderabad, Khammam, Karimnagar, Hanumakonda, Mahabubnagar and Nizamabad
- 29 disciplines (27 competitive + 2 demonstration); Softball debuts, with Sailing and Karra Samu as demonstration sports; about 8,000 athletes expected.

Important Questions and Answers

1. **Who is the Chairperson of the Press Council of India?**
   Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (Retd.)
2. **What is the theme of National Press Day 2026?**
   Journalism: Populist or Responsible?
3. **When is Janjatiya Gaurav Divas observed?**
   15 November (birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda)
4. **When was Jharkhand formed?**
   15 November 2000 (from Bihar)
5. **What minimum annual income does the Lakhpati Didi initiative aim for?**
   ₹1 lakh
6. **How many NBFCs had their registration cancelled by RBI on 16 November 2026?**
   49
7. **What is the current repo rate?**
   5.50%
8. **What is the RBI's current policy stance?**
   Calibrated tightening
9. **Who was appointed interim MD & CEO of Karnataka Bank?**
   Biji Sreekrishnavilas Sankaranarayanan
10. **What was WPI inflation in October 2026?**
    12.29%
11. **What was the unemployment rate in the PLFS for October 2026?**
    4.9%
12. **Where will Exercise Mitra Shakti 2026 be held?**
    Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka
13. **What is the name of the India–Malaysia Army exercise?**
    Harimau Shakti
14. **Where is India hosting the first SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum?**
    Purana Qila, New Delhi

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15. **Which edition of the ASEAN–India Summit did PM Modi attend in Manila?**
    23rd
16. **Where is the headquarters of the International Coconut Community?**
    Jakarta, Indonesia
17. **Which country introduced the UNGA resolution on a death penalty moratorium?**
    Mexico
18. **In which festival was India the Country Guest of Honour?**
    8th UAE National Festival of Tolerance and Coexistence
19. **Which country proposed the name of Cyclone Akvan?**
    Iran
20. **Which group received the Plant Genome Saviour Community Award 2026?**
    Bibi Fathima SHG, Dharwad (Karnataka)
21. **Which country is the Country of Honour at IFFI 2026?**
    Spain
22. **Who wrote the book 'Counting a Nation'?**
    C. Chandramouli
23. **How many Under-19 Asia Cup titles has India won?**
    9 (a record)
24. **Who became the youngest captain in men's T20 history?**
    Vaibhav Sooryavanshi
25. **Which state will host the 8th Khelo India Youth Games?**
    Telangana

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