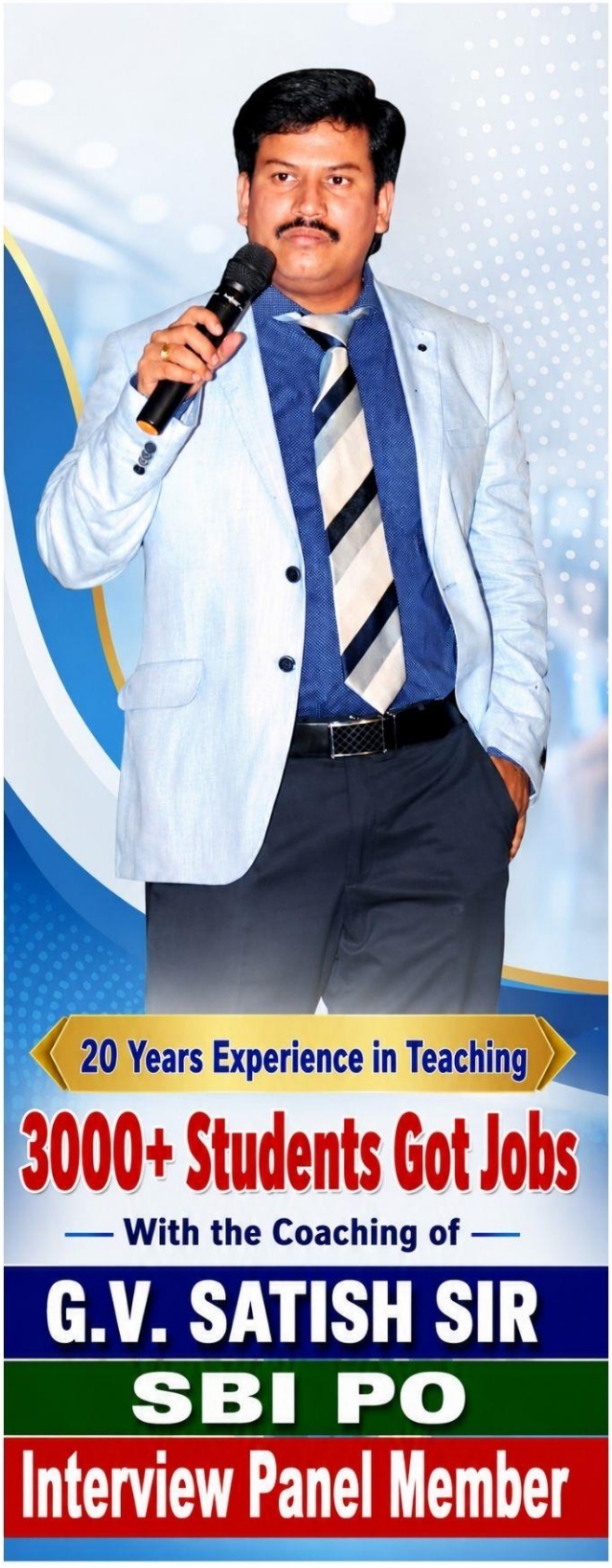
October 2026

16-31 Current Affairs







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NBCC Current Affairs

16–31 October 2026

Index

S.No	Topic	Page No
1	G.V. Satish Sir (Best Picks)	4
2	Amounts & Agreements	9
3	Appointments	9
4	Arts and Culture	10
5	Awards	11
6	Banking and Finance	13
7	Defence	16
8	International	18
9	Meetings	19
10	Miscellaneous	21
11	MOUs	22
12	National	23
13	Persons in News	26
14	Ranks and Reports	27
15	Schemes & Initiatives	28
16	Science & Technology	30
17	Sports	31
18	Static News	33
19	200 Most Expected General Awareness Questions	35

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ప్రియమైన విద్యార్థులారా,

నంద్యాలలో జరుగుతున్న దుర్మార్గాలు:

1. తమ సంస్థ తప్ప ఇతర సంస్థలన్నీ ఫేక్ మరియు డమ్మీ కోచింగ్ సెంటర్లని అసత్య ప్రచారం చేయడం.
2. వారి సంస్థ విద్యార్థులు తప్ప ఇతర కోచింగ్ సెంటర్ల విద్యార్థులు నంద్యాలలోని హాస్టళ్లలో ఉండకూడదని బెదిరించడం; దీనిని అమలు చేయడం కోసం తమ సెక్యూరిటీ గార్డులను హాస్టళ్లకు పంపి ఐడీ కార్డులు తనిఖీ చేయించడం.

ఇటువంటి దుర్మార్గాలను తట్టుకొని నిలబడి NBCC అద్భుతమైన ఫలితాలను సాధిస్తోందంటే, దాని వెనుక ఉన్న కష్టాన్ని అర్థం చేసుకోండి. సామాజిక స్పృహ, సామాజిక బాధ్యత మరియు వివేకంతో ఆలోచించండి. రాముడెవరో, రావణుడెవరో గుర్తించి NBCCని ప్రోత్సహించాలని మా మనవి.

ಆತ್ಮೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೇ,

ನಂದ್ಯಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅನ್ಯಾಯಗಳು:

1. ತಮ್ಮ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳೆಲ್ಲವೂ ನಕಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಡಮ್ಮಿ ಕೋಚಿಂಗ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್‌ಗಳೆಂದು ಸುಳ್ಳು ಪ್ರಚಾರ ಮಾಡುವುದು.
2. ತಮ್ಮ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಬೇರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಕೋಚಿಂಗ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್‌ನ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ನಂದ್ಯಾಲದ ಹಾಸ್ಟೆಲ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇರಬಾರದೆಂದು ಬೆದರಿಸುವುದು; ಇದನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಲು ತಮ್ಮ ಸೆಕ್ಯೂರಿಟಿ ಗಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಸ್ಟೆಲ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿ ಐಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುವುದು.

ಇಂತಹ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸಿ ನಿಂತು NBCC ಉತ್ತಮ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ತರುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದರೆ, ಅದರ ಹಿಂದಿರುವ ಕಠಿಣ ಪರಿಶ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ. ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಪ್ರಜ್ಞೆ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವೇಕದಿಂದ ಯೋಚಿಸಿ. ಯಾರು ರಾಮ, ಯಾರು ರಾವಣ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ NBCC ಅನ್ನು ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿ ನಮ್ಮ ವಿನಂತಿ.

G.V. SATISH SIR (BEST PICKS)

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. **New Governors Appointed / Sworn In (October 2026)**

- **Karnataka:** Dr. Sudha Yadav – appointed on 12 October 2026 by President Droupadi Murmu, succeeding Thaawarchand Gehlot; took oath on 16 October 2026 (administered by Justice Vibhu Bakhru, Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court).
- **Kerala (Keralam):** Om Prakash Mathur – transferred from Sikkim; sworn in as the 29th Governor on 23 October 2026 (oath by Kerala High Court Chief Justice Soumen Sen).
- **Tamil Nadu:** Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar – appointed full-time Governor.
- **Sikkim:** Dushyant (Kumar) Gautam.
- **Odisha:** Braj Mohan Ram – took oath on 18 October 2026 at Lok Bhavan, Bhubaneswar (administered by Orissa High Court Chief Justice Harish Tandon); succeeds Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati.
- **Uttarakhand:** Dhal Singh Bisen – took oath on 19 October 2026 at Lok Bhavan, Dehradun (administered by Acting Chief Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari); succeeds Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.).
- Governors are appointed by the President under Article 155; the oath is administered by the High Court Chief Justice under Article 159.

3. **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.

4. **Subhash Chandra Lal (SCL) Das Appointed Chairperson of Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)**

- FSIB was set up in 2022 (notified 1 July 2022) under the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, replacing the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) (set up in 2016).

5. **Finance Ministry Constitutes High Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat; Chairman: Suresh N. Patel**

- The Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services – DFS) constituted a High Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat under the Chairmanship of Suresh N. Patel to review the banking sector and prepare a roadmap aligned with Viksit Bharat 2047

6. **HDFC Bank: Anup Bagchi Takes Over as MD & CEO**

- Anup Bagchi as MD & CEO of HDFC Bank for 3 years, succeeding Sashidhar Jagdishan.
- HDFC Bank ranked 3rd in Forbes & Statista's "World's Best Performing Banks 2026" (1st: OCBC, 2nd: DBS, both Singapore) – the only Indian bank in the top 10.

7. **SBI Named "World's Best Consumer Bank 2026" by Global Finance**

- State Bank of India (SBI) was named "World's Best Consumer Bank 2026" by Global Finance magazine (New York) for the 2nd consecutive year; Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty received the award in Bangkok, Thailand during the 2026 IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings.
- Also named Best Bank in India for the 5th consecutive year.
- SBI paid a dividend of ₹8,813 crore to the Government for FY26.

8. RBI Issues Leverage Ratio Directions under Basel III

- **Minimum leverage ratio:** 4% for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs); 3.5% for other commercial banks (Indian branches of G-SIBs: 3.5% plus G-SIB buffer).
- Leverage Ratio = Tier-1 Capital ÷ Total Exposure – a non-risk-based backstop to risk-based capital requirements.
- BCBS (Basel Committee on Banking Supervision) is hosted by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), Basel, Switzerland.

9. RBI Notifies Basel III Standardised Approach for Operational Risk

- The Standardised Approach (SA) for operational risk applies from 1 April 2027 to all commercial banks except Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Payments Banks (PBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).
- Provides indicative mapping of Business Indicator (BI) components; Loss Component = 15 × average annual operational risk losses (net of recoveries); capital charge = BIC × ILM.
- Requires 10 years of loss data (minimum 5 years for banks newly subject to the Internal Loss Multiplier (ILM)).

10. "Utkarsh" Reform Agenda: All 28 RRBs to Set Up Cyber Security Operation Centres

- Under the Utkarsh RRB reform agenda for FY27 (unveiled by DFS Secretary Sanjay Lohiya around 21 October 2026), all 28 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) will set up Cyber Security Operation Centres (CSOCs) and conduct Vulnerability Assessment & Penetration Testing (VAPT).
- **Theme:** "Transforming Rural Banking for Viksit Bharat" – 36 action points under 5 themes.
- RRBs were set up in 1975 (RRB Act, 1976) on the recommendation of the Narasimham Working Group; regulated by RBI and supervised by NABARD.
- **Shareholding:** Central Government 50%, Sponsor Bank 35%, State Government 15%; the 28 RRBs have 22,273 branches.

11. PFRDA Launches "NPS Central"; Bank of Baroda Sponsors Pension Fund

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) launched "NPS Central" on NPS Diwas (1 October 2026)
- Bank of Baroda became the 2nd public sector bank (after SBI) to sponsor a pension fund – BoB Pension Fund Management Co. Ltd (BoB 80.10%, Baroda BNP Paribas AMC 19.90%).
- Accounts are identified by a 12-digit Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN).
- **PFRDA:** HQ – New Delhi; Chairperson – Sivasubramanian Ramann; under the Ministry of Finance; regulates NPS, Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY).
- **NPS entry age:** 18–70 years (can remain invested up to 85); APY entry age: 18–40 years.

12. IRDAI Declares November 2026 as "Grievance Resolution Month"

- **Insurance Ombudsman:** governed by the Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017 (under Section 24 of the IRDA Act, 1999); run by the Council for Insurance Ombudsmen through 17 Ombudsman centres; handles claims up to ₹50 lakh.
- **IRDAI:** HQ Hyderabad, Telangana; established under the IRDA Act, 1999; Chairman: Ajay Seth (since August 2025).
- 100% FDI in insurance allowed under the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Act, 2025 (in force from 5 February 2026); LIC capped at 20% FDI; goal: "Insurance for All by 2047".

13. The Union Cabinet approved a 3% hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) for Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners – from 60% to 63% of basic pay/pension.

14. The Union Cabinet raised the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) statutory wage ceiling for mandatory coverage from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per month (reported 16 September 2026), effective 17 September 2026.

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15. Cabinet Approves Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY)

- The 16th Finance Commission recommended about ₹4.35 lakh crore in grants to Rural Local Bodies for 2026-31.
- Panchayati Raj institutions derive from the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.
- Approved on 28 October 2026 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for FY 2026-27 to 2030-31, aligned with the 16th Finance Commission period.
- **Outlay:** ₹7,395.55 crore – Centre ₹4,869.48 crore, States ₹2,526.07 crore.
- Makes the Gram Panchayat the hub of decentralised planning; covers over 2.55 lakh Panchayats and traditional local bodies.
- **Aim:** strengthen Gram Panchayats as institutions of local self-governance through better planning, coordination, capacity building and transparency.
- **PANCHAM:** an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled, multilingual, two-way communication platform in 17 Indian languages

16. Cabinet Approves ₹10,000 Crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)

- **OPEX support:** ₹8,891 crore – ₹49,500 per 20-ft and ₹86,625 per 40-ft container.
- **Interest subvention:** ₹859 crore (3% per annum on term loans); testing & certification: ₹150 crore.
- **Eligibility:** new (greenfield) units with at least 1 lakh TEU annual capacity (brownfield: 25,000 TEU); domestic content 70%, rising to 90% from FY 2032-33.
- **Target:** raise India's annual container manufacturing capacity about tenfold, from about 70,000 TEU to 7.5 lakh TEU (7,50,000 TEU).

17. PM-KISAN: 24th Instalment of ₹18,680 Crore Released from Banaskantha, Gujarat

- Launched on 24 February 2019 at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- Provides eligible landholding farmer families ₹6,000 per year in three equal instalments of ₹2,000 through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

18. Digital Kisan Credit Card (KCC): Uttar Pradesh Ranks First

- KCC Scheme was introduced in 1998 on the recommendation of the R.V. Gupta Committee.
- Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) loan limit raised from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh (announced in Union Budget 2025–26).
- **Interest subvention:** 1.5% to lending institutions + 3% Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI) to farmers, reducing the effective interest rate from 7% to 4% per annum.
- Collateral-free limit raised from ₹1.6 lakh to ₹2 lakh.
- Uttar Pradesh ranks 1st in India in Digital Kisan Credit Card (KCC) applications, with more than 1 lakh applications within 8 months of launch (reported 7–8 October 2026).
  - **Rank 2:** Karnataka (about 95,000 applications).
  - **Rank 3:** Haryana (about 42,000 applications).
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) KCC Directions (19 June 2026):
  - **Tenure:** 6 years for the composite KCC facility (earlier 5 years), applicable to KCC loans sanctioned from 1 January 2027.
  - Collateral-free limit of ₹2 lakh retained; up to ₹3 lakh without collateral in specified crop-hypothecation and recovery tie-up cases.
  - Crop seasons standardised at 12 months (short-duration crops) and 18 months (long-duration crops).
  - Flexi-KCC of ₹10,000 to ₹50,000 for marginal farmers with up to 1 hectare of land.
- **Union Budget 2026–27:** ₹22,600 crore allocated for MISS (KCC interest subvention).
- **Kisan Rin Portal (launched in 2023):** for digital tracking of KCC loans and interest subvention claims.

19. Jio Platforms Lists at 21.36% Premium after India's Largest-Ever IPO

- Jio Platforms Ltd listed on the BSE and National Stock Exchange (NSE) on 28 October 2026.
- Price band ₹1,065–1,119; issue price ₹1,119; listed at ₹1,358 on both exchanges — a 21.36% listing premium.

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- Jio Platforms became India's 2nd most valuable listed company, after Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), overtaking Bharti Airtel.
- Jio Platforms Launches India's Largest-Ever IPO
- Jio Platforms Limited (JPL) launched an IPO of ₹30,213 crore

20. Census 2027: Rules Amended to Widen Pool of Enumerators

- The last Census was held in 2011; the 2021 Census was postponed due to COVID-19.
- **Phase 1 – House Listing and Housing Census:** 1 April – 30 September 2026 (31 questions; 30-day window per State).
- **Phase 2 – Population Enumeration:** 40-question schedule.
  - Snow-bound areas (Ladakh and snow-bound parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand): enumeration 1–30 September 2026; reference date 1 October 2026.
  - **Main enumeration:** 9–28 February 2027; reference date 00:00 hrs, 1 March 2027.
- First caste enumeration since 1931; budget ₹11,718 crore; 8th Census since Independence.
- Census is a Union subject – Entry 69, Union List, Seventh Schedule (Article 246); conducted under the Census Act, 1948 by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Mascots:** Pragati (women) and Vikas (men), unveiled by Amit Shah on 5 March 2026.
- **Brand ambassador:** sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik (Odisha)
- **Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India:** Mritunjay Kumar Narayan.
- **National toll-free helpline:** 1855 (operational since April 2026).
- 16th Census overall since 1872 (under Lord Mayo) and 8th after independence

21. Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026: India Ranked 100th of 122

- Published by Welthungerhilfe, the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) and Helvetas; Theme: "No Security Without Food Security".
- **Global score:** 18.1 (moderate); 645 million people face hunger.
- **Alarming category (8):** Burundi, Chad, DR Congo, Madagascar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen.
- **Top performers:** 24 countries (including Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile) share ranks 1–24; bottom: Somalia (122nd), DR Congo (121st), Chad (120th).
- **India:** 100th of 122, score 24.1 (tied with Ethiopia), "Serious" category.

22. India's Ranks in Major Global Indices (Latest Editions)

- **World Youth Skills Index (Shanghai):** 10th.
- **QS World Future Skills Index 2027 (QS Quacquarelli Symonds, June 2026):** 13th of 89 economies.
- Global Terrorism Index 2026 (Institute for Economics & Peace – IEP, March 2026): 13th (Pakistan 1st, most affected).
- Global Innovation Index 2026 (World Intellectual Property Organization – WIPO): 38th of 139 (Switzerland 1st).
- **Energy Transition Index 2026 (World Economic Forum – WEF, June 2026):** 70th of 120 (up from 72nd; Sweden 1st).
- **WJP Rule of Law Index 2026 (World Justice Project, October 2026):** 88th of 143.
- Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 (Transparency International, released 10 February 2026): 91st of 182, score 39/100.
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index 2026 (UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network – SDSN): 94th of 167 (India's best rank so far).
- Global Hunger Index 2026 (Welthungerhilfe & Concern Worldwide, October 2026): 100th of 122, score 24.1 ("serious").
- Electoral Democracy Index (V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg, Democracy Report 2026): 106th of 179.
- World Happiness Report 2026 (Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre, Gallup & UN SDSN, March 2026): 116th of 147 (Finland 1st for the 9th consecutive year).
- **Global Passport Index 2026 (Global Citizen Solutions, July 2026):** 125th of 197 (Sweden 1st).
  - **Henley Passport Index (Henley & Partners, October 2026):** 84th (Singapore 1st).
- **Global Peace Index 2026 (IEP, June 2026):** 127th of 163 (Iceland 1st).

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- **Global Gender Gap Index 2026 (WEF, released 16 September 2026):** 131st of 145 (Iceland 1st).
- **World Press Freedom Index 2026 (Reporters Without Borders – RSF):** 157th of 180.
- Environmental Performance Index 2026 (Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy, July 2026): 176th of 177.
- **3rd:** Global startup ecosystem.
- **4th:** Wind energy installed capacity.
- **4th:** Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2026 (61 unicorns).
- **5th:** Military expenditure (SIPRI, 2025 data; US$92.1 billion).
- **9th:** Forest area (FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025; 3rd in annual forest gain).
- **31st:** Global Skills Index [Unverified].
- **106th:** V-Dem Electoral Democracy Index (of 179); EIU Democracy Index 2025: 47th.
- **130th:** Human Development Index (HDI) (Human Development Report 2025; of 193).

23. WJP Rule of Law Index 2026: India Ranked 88th of 143

- **India:** 88th out of 143, overall score 0.48 — down 2 places from 86th in 2025; 3rd in South Asia (after Nepal and Sri Lanka).
- **Top 5:** 1st Denmark (score 0.90), 2nd Norway, 3rd Finland, 4th Sweden, 5th Luxembourg.
- **Bottom:** 143. Venezuela; 142. Afghanistan; 141. Haiti; 140. Cambodia; 139. Nicaragua.

24. 5th Asian Para Games 2026 (Aichi–Nagoya, Japan): India's Record 114 Medals

- **Concluded on 24 October 2026 in Aichi–Nagoya, Japan; mascot:** "Uzumin".
- About 3,000 athletes from 45 countries/regions in 18 sports; India sent 168 athletes.
- India finished 4th with 114 medals (30 gold, 35 silver, 49 bronze) – its first 100+ haul – with 22 golds in para-athletics.
- **Top 5:** 1. China – 435 (207-117-111); 2. Japan – 186 (64-60-62); 3. Uzbekistan – 145 (45-49-51); 4. India – 114 (30-35-49); 5. South Korea – 100 (29-38-33).
- **6th Asian Para Games (2030):** Doha, Qatar (with the 21st Asian Games).
- **Commonwealth Games 2030:** Ahmedabad, India.
- Held on 18–24 October 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan; opening at Paloma Mizuho Stadium.
- **Opening ceremony theme:** "WABI: We Are Beautiful Individuals".
- **Indian contingent:** 281 members – 168 athletes (112 men, 56 women) and 113 officials across 11 disciplines.
- **Flag bearers:** para-badminton player Pramod Bhagat and sprinter Simran Sharma.
- **Asian Paralympic Committee HQ:** Dubai, UAE.
- **Deepthi Jeevanji:** Gold, women's 400 m T20 – 56.36 s (Games record).
- **Simran Sharma:** Gold, women's 200 m T12 – 24.80 s (Games record), and Gold, 100 m T12 – 12.02 s (Games record).
- **Pranav Soorma:** Gold, men's discus F51/52/53 – 11.66 m (Asian record); Ram Ratan Singh – Silver.
- **Devender Kumar:** Gold, men's discus F44/64 – 49.71 m, in an Indian sweep with Rakesh (Silver) and Pradeep Kumar (Bronze).
- **Sachin Khilari:** Gold, men's shot put F46 – 15.87 m (Games record), with Mohd Yasser (Silver) and Parveen (Bronze) completing an Indian podium sweep.
- **Sheetal Devi (para archery):** scored 704/720 in women's compound qualification, equalling the world record and setting an Asian record; with Toman Kumar set a mixed team qualification world record of 1,402.
- **Shooting (10 m Air Rifle SH1):** Mona Agarwal – Gold (final 250.0, Games record; qualification 629.1, Games record); Avani Lekhara – Silver (qualification 626.4; final 249.6).
- **Other gold medallists:** Rinku (javelin F46) and Nishad Kumar (long jump T47).
- **Kapil Parmar:** Bronze, men's judo J1 -70 kg.

25. Manisha Bhanwala Becomes India's First Woman Senior World Wrestling Champion

- Senior World Wrestling Championships 2026 — Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Manisha Bhanwala won gold in the women's 59 kg category on 30 October 2026
- Manisha is the first Indian woman to win a Senior World Wrestling Championships title, and the second Indian wrestler overall after Sushil Kumar (men's 66 kg, 2010).

26. 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:

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  - 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.

AMOUNTS & AGREEMENTS

1. **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).

2. **The Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Government of Japan and AM Green Ammonia (India) Pvt Ltd signed a financing agreement (ADB release dated 15 October 2026, Manila) for a green ammonia plant at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.**
- **ADB:** Founded on 19 December 1966; HQ: Manila, Philippines; President: Masato Kanda; 69 members (newest: Israel, September 2024);
- ADB projects India's FY27 GDP growth at 7.0%.
- **Green Hydrogen Hub ports:** V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port (Thoothukudi), Deendayal Port (Kandla) and Paradip Port (Odisha).

3. **India approved (16 October 2026) the rollover of the INR 30 billion (₹3,000 crore) currency swap facility for the Maldives under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2024–27, to provide foreign exchange liquidity support.**

4. **India–UAE Bilateral Trade Crosses $100 Billion(₹9.47 lakh crore) since Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**
- **Targets:** $100 billion non-oil trade by 2030 (CEPA goal) and $200 billion total trade by 2032 (set in January 2026).
- **India–UAE joint military exercise:** Desert Cyclone.

5. **PM Inaugurates ₹325 Crore Bharat Bovine Breeding and Research Centre at Bhildi, Gujarat**

APPOINTMENTS

1. **Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Takes Over as 29th Chief of the Air Staff; Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia was named the next Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS)**

2. **Air Marshal Vikram Gaur has been appointed Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Ministry of Defence.**

3. **Sudhakar Dalela Appointed Ambassador of India to Nepal**

4. **Kaizad Bharucha resigned as Deputy Managing Director of HDFC Bank**

5. **Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, was elected Chair of IOCINDIO, the IOC-UNESCO Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean**

6. **Pragyan Ojha Appointed Chairman of BCCI Senior Men's Selection Committee**
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed Pragyan Ojha as Chairman of the senior men's selection committee on 19 October 2026, succeeding Ajit Agarkar

7. **Dinesh Kumar Khara, former SBI Chairman, appointed Independent Director of Piramal Finance Board**
8. **Sunil Kumar Appointed Chairman of ONGC**
9. **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh Gets One-Year Extension**
10. **SSB DG Sanjay Singhal Gets Additional Charge of ITBP**

- Sanjay Singhal (IPS, 1993, UP cadre), DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), was given additional charge as DG of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) on the retirement of Shatrujeet Kapur on 31 October 2026, until a regular appointment.
- **ITBP is one of 7 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) under the MHA:** BSF, CRPF, CISF, SSB, ITBP, NSG and Assam Rifles.

11. **Justice M. Satyanarayana Murthy Takes Charge as Chairman, Andhra Pradesh State Human Rights Commission**
12. **Vijay Sankar Named FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) President-Elect for 2026-27**
13. **Christine Lagarde (France) to Step Down Early as ECB (European Central Bank) President on 7 February 2027**
14. **Supreme Court Appoints Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai as Sole Mediator in KG-D6 Gas Disput (Krishna-Godavari Basin, Bay of Bengal)**

- **parties:** Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and partners BP and Niko vs the Union Government (Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas).

15. **Vivek Kannan Appointed CEO of Hinduja Housing Finance**

ARTS AND CULTURE

1. **UNESCO Adds 3 Indian Sites to World Heritage Tentative List; Total Reaches 81**

- On 20 October 2026, three Indian sites were added, taking India's Tentative List to 81:
  - Karst-Mud-Volcano Complex of Baratang (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).
  - Andaman Subduction Volcanoes (Barren and Narcondam Islands).
  - Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape (Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh, on the Mahanadi; capital of Dakshina Kosala under the Sharabhapuriya and Panduvanshi dynasties).
- India has 45 World Heritage Sites (37 cultural, 7 natural, 1 mixed – Khangchendzonga National Park); 44th: Maratha Military Landscapes (2025); 45th: Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh (July 2026).
- 12 Indian sites were added to the Tentative List in 2026 (69 → 81):
  - **September 2026:** Rangpur-Sivasagar Historical Ensemble (Ahom capital, Assam), Colonial Penal Settlement (Andaman), Nicobarese Cultural Continuity and Painted Haveli Towns of Shekhawati (Rajasthan).
  - **29 September 2026:** Bagh Cave paintings, Group of Temples of the Chambal Valley, Udayagiri Caves, Ginnorgarh (Madhya Pradesh) and Sites of Satyagraha (India–South Africa).
  - **20 October 2026:** the 3 sites above.
- 13 Biosphere Reserves in UNESCO's network; 16 Intangible Cultural Heritage elements (16th: Deepavali, December 2025); 9 Creative Cities.
- **UNESCO Director-General:** Khaled El-Enany (Egypt; first Arab DG); HQ: Paris.

2. **USPS Issues Diwali Stamp; Deepavali on UNESCO's Intangible Heritage List**

- The United States Postal Service (USPS) issued a rangoli-themed Diwali Forever stamp on 21 October 2026 at the Embassy of India, Washington, D.C. – its 2nd Diwali stamp after 2016.
- Rangoli art by Houston-based artist Sangita Bhutada; stamp designed by Jennifer Arnold; attended by Indian Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra.
- Deepavali is India's 16th element on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list (December 2025).
- **US Ambassador to India:** Sergio Gor.

3. **Education Minister Pralhad Joshi launched the registration portal on 22 October 2026 for the 5th Kashi Tamil Sangamam (28 November – 12 December 2026), organised by the Ministry of Education with IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.**

- **Theme:** "Thirukkural Payilvom" (Let us learn the Thirukkural).

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4. **President Droupadi Murmu attended Bastar Dussehra and the Muria Darbar at Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh**
   - Lasts about 75 days (began 12 August 2026 with Pat Jatra) – among the world's longest festivals; dedicated to Goddess Danteshwari.
5. **Haridwar Kumbh 2027: CM Pushkar Singh Dhami unveiled the official logo (designed by Madhu Sharma, Jagjeetpur), website and theme song "Kumbh Ka Parv Aa Gaya" (by Raghav Raja) on 12 October 2026.**
   - **Kumbh sites:** Prayagraj (Triveni Sangam), Haridwar (Har Ki Pauri), Ujjain (Ramghat) and Nashik (Ramkund) – where drops of Amrit fell during the Samudra Manthan.
6. **Project SAMHiTA: India–Sri Lanka Digital Manuscript Heritage Project**
   - SAMHiTA (South Asian Manuscript Histories and Textual Archive) was launched at Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo, Sri Lanka to digitise 100 ancient manuscripts by end-November 2026.
   - A manuscript is generally defined as a handwritten document at least 75 years old (National Mission for Manuscripts).
   - **India's national manuscript mission:** Gyan Bharatam (₹482.85 crore, 2024–2031, Ministry of Culture).
7. **Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 Inaugurated in Guwahati**
8. **Bathukamma Floral Festival Celebrated in Telangana**
9. **Jantar Mantar, Delhi Added as Venue for 2nd India Biennale 2026**
   - Jantar Mantar, Delhi was built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II of Jaipur in 1724; protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
10. **Barkap Riju Festival of the Kom Community, Manipur**

AWARDS

1. **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").
2. **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (2024 and 2025) Conferred on 106 Artists**
   - Union Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat conferred the awards on 106 young artists in New Delhi on 19 October 2026.
   - **Key awardees:** Akram Khan Behrupiya (folk, Rajasthan), Manisha Srivastava (folk music, Bihar), Hito Kiho (choir music, Nagaland), Subhashree Swain (Chhau dance) and Ghanshyam Sahu (playwriting).
   - A total of 106 artists were honoured for 2024 and 2025; each receives ₹25,000 and a Tamrapatra.
3. **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.
4. **Nagaland's Department of Youth Resources & Sports won the SKOCH Silver Award 2026 for the grassroots football festival "Baby League".**
5. **The Coal Controller Organisation (CCO), Ministry of Coal, won the SKOCH Gold Award 2026 (presented on 26 September 2026) for SUVIKALP, its in-house Mine Repurposing Tool for mine closure planning and reuse of mined-out land.**
   - **Union Minister of Coal and Mines:** G. Kishan Reddy.
6. **Raji Doshi Wins 3M Young Scientist Challenge 2026**
   - Raji Doshi, a 13-year-old Indian-origin 8th grader from Farmington, Connecticut, USA, was named "America's Top Young Scientist" and won $25,000.
7. **"Angh" Wins TIFF Platform Prize; "Gondhal" is India's Oscar Entry**
   - Angh, the debut feature of Nagaland filmmaker Theja Rio, won the Platform Prize

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(CAD 20,000) at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2026

- Marathi film Gondhal (directed by Santosh Davakhar) was selected by the Film Federation of India on 18 September 2026 (from 33 films) as India's official entry for the 99th Academy Awards.

8. Hillary Rodham Clinton Award 2026 Conferred at Georgetown University

- Recipients:
  - Reema Nanavaty (Director, Self-Employed Women's Association – SEWA, India) – for the Hariyali green energy initiative.
  - Muhammad Yunus (founder, Grameen Bank; former Chief Adviser of Bangladesh).
  - Tory Burch (US designer and philanthropist).
- Muna Sukhtian (Microfund for Women, Jordan) received the inaugural Georgetown Ambassadors Award.

9. Director S.S. Rajamouli received the Leon Cakoff Award at the 50th São Paulo International Film Festival (Mostra), Brazil

10. The European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2026 was awarded to the International Criminal Court (ICC)

11. Devadas Chimakode (Bidar, Karnataka) was selected (21 October 2026) for the Karnataka Janapada Academy Annual Honorary Award 2026 (₹25,000) for 35 years in folk arts (Suggi Kunitha, Halage).

12. Radhakrishnan M. S. of the SEED APJ Abdul Kalam School of Environmental Design, Kochi, Kerala won the 28th Charles Correa Gold Medal (for an undergraduate architecture thesis) on 22 October 2026 in Mumbai, for "Energy Commons – Reimagining the Energy Infrastructure as a Place for Civic Engagement".

- **Theme:** "Equitability through Design"; prize: ₹25,000.

13. Pritzker Prize ("Nobel Prize of Architecture") 2026: Smiljan Radić Clarke (Chile).

14. Ameena Nazreen(india) Wins Global Youth Institute Award

15. Prof. Ashoke Sen Becomes First Indian to Receive Oskar Klein Medal

16. Usha Mangeshkar to Receive Inaugural Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Award

- **Dr. Bhupen Hazarika:** Bharat Ratna (posthumous, 2019); the Dhola–Sadiya Bridge (9.15 km, over the Lohit) is named Bhupen Hazarika Setu.
- **Assam Governor:** Lakshman Prasad Acharya.

17. Lionel Messi (Argentina) received the Princess of Asturias Award for Sports 2026

18. Tribal enterprise Shabari Naturals won the G-Mark (Good Design Award) of the Japan Institute of Design Promotion (JDP), Tokyo

19. Indian Pilot Capt. Smit Machchhar Honoured for Saving Flydubai Flight

- Honours:
  - First Class Order of Zayed II – conferred by UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the flydubai crew, presented by Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan on 27 October 2026.
  - Vishisht Gujarat Garima Award 2026 – Gujarat Government (described as highest state honour [Unverified]).
  - President's Award for Civilian Heroism – announced by Israeli President Isaac Herzog.
  - Invited by Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu as a guest for Israel's Independence Day (May 2027), along with PM Narendra Modi.
  - A US House of Representatives resolution (H.Res. 1612) honours him.

20. Earthshot Prize 2026 Awards to Be Held in Mumbai— the first time India hosts the ceremony

- Karan Johar will host the ceremony — the first Indian to do so.

21. International Booker Prize to Be Renamed Bukhman International Booker Prize

- **International Booker Prize 2026 (announced 19 May 2026):** "Taiwan Travelogue" by Yáng Shuāng-zǐ, translated by Lin King.

22. 5 non-fiction books were shortlisted for the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2026 (cash award ₹15 lakh); Jury Chair: Niraja Gopal Jayal.

- **"A Man for All Seasons:** The Life of K.M. Panikkar" — Narayani Basu.
- **"Shattered Lands:** Five Partitions and the Making of Modern Asia" — Sam Dalrymple.

- "Assembling India's Constitution" — Rohit De and Ornit Shani.
- "A Sixth of Humanity" — Devesh Kapur and Arvind Subramanian.
- **"The Secret Master:** Arun Kashalkar and a Journey to the Edge of Music" — Sumana Ramanan.

23. Prasar Bharati Engineer N.N. Singh Wins ABU Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award 2026

24. 26th IIFA Awards: "Dhurandhar" Wins Best Film and 12 Awards

- Winners of the 26th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards (2026) were announced (reported 30 October 2026) without a physical ceremony.
  - **Best Film:** "Dhurandhar" (won 12 awards in all).
  - **Best Director:** Aditya Dhar (*Dhurandhar*).
  - **Best Actor (Male):** Ranveer Singh (*Dhurandhar*).
  - **Best Supporting Actor:** Sanjay Dutt (*Dhurandhar*).
  - **Best Negative Role:** Akshaye Khanna (*Dhurandhar*).
  - **Best Actress:** Aneet Padda (*Saiyaara*).
  - **Best Supporting Actress:** Huma Qureshi (*Jolly LLB 3*).
  - **Best Female Debut:** Rasha Thadani (*Azaad*); Best Male Debut: Ahaan Panday (*Saiyaara*).
  - **Best International Film:** "Avatar: Fire and Ash".

25. Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairman, Bharti Enterprises, was conferred Chevalier (Knight) of the Légion d'honneur, France's highest civilian honour.

BANKING AND FINANCE

1. RBI MPC Raises Repo Rate by 25 bps to 5.50%; Stance "Calibrated Tightening"

- **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF):** 5.25%; Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Bank Rate: 5.75%.
- **RBI projections for FY27:** GDP growth 7.1%; CPI inflation 5.2%.

2. RBI Fixes Premature Redemption Prices of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs)

- **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%).
- As Per RBI's press release of 27 October 2026, premature redemption of SGB 2020-21 Series I fell due on 28 October 2026 at ₹14,159 per unit (1 unit = 1 gram of gold).
- **SGB 2020-21 Series VII:** premature redemption price ₹14,614 per unit (1 unit = 1 gram of gold).

3. 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.

4. SEBI Proposes Stricter Profitability Norms for SME IPOs

- 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.

5. Direct Tax Collections Rise 14.89% to ₹16.03 Lakh Crore (as of 14 October 2026)

6. NovaFusion Capital, the lending arm of Astranova Mobility, received a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) licence from the RBI within 90 days of application (announced 14 October 2026); it targets ₹5,000 crore AUM in 5 years for commercial EV lending (CEO: Shraddha Srimal).

7. BharatPe Deploys Agentic AI on "BharatPe for Business" App

- BharatPe operates as a Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) under the Unified Payments Interface (UPI); PhonePe is the largest TPAP (about 47% of UPI volume).

8. The RBI extended directions on The Konark Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Ulhasnagar (Maharashtra) by 3 months, till 23 January 2027

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9. **The RBI issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the merger of REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation) into Power Finance Corporation (PFC).**
10. **Freecharge Payment Technologies Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of Axis Bank, received in-principle RBI approval to operate as an online and offline Payment Aggregator (PA)**
11. **Karnataka Bank (MD & CEO: Raghavendra S. Bhat) launched "Nava Dhamaka 2026 – Enhancing Banking Experience" on 15 October 2026 in Bengaluru, with 9 products across payments, digital channels, credit and investment.**
12. **Third-Party Application Providers (TPAPs) must limit their share of UPI transaction volume to 30% by 31 December 2026, as per the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**
13. **RBI Imposes Restrictions on Puducherry Co-operative Urban Bank**
    - The RBI issued directions on 19 October 2026 under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, effective from close of business 21 October 2026 for 6 months.
    - Depositors can withdraw a maximum of ₹5,000.
    - eligible depositors can claim up to ₹5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
    - **DICGC:** Established in 1978; wholly owned subsidiary of RBI; HQ: Mumbai.
14. **Axis Bank and Visa launched the campaign "Iss festive season, har khushi ko banao badi" under "Dil Se Open Celebrations 2026", featuring actor Shahid Kapoor, promoting Axis Visa credit cards.**
15. **HSBC India Commits ₹200 Crore for Financial Literacy**
    - HSBC India will invest ₹200 crore over 4 years (2026–2030) to expand financial literacy.
    - **HSBC in India since 1853; HQ:** Mumbai; CEO: Hitendra Dave; installed India's first ATM in 1987.
    - **RBI Financial Literacy Week 2026 (9–13 February):** "KYC – Your First Step to Safe Banking".
16. **ICICI Prudential Life Renamed ICICI Life Insurance; New Tagline "Har Kal Aasaan"**
    - Sidharatha Mishra took charge as MD & CEO on 14 October 2026 for 5 years, after Anup Bagchi moved to HDFC Bank.
17. **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Notification 136/2026 (19 October 2026) exempts interest on New Development Bank (NDB) Maharaja bonds from TDS under Section 393(1) (residents) and Section 393(2) (FIIs) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, for bonds issued from tax year 2026-27.**
    - **Masala bonds:** rupee-denominated bonds issued offshore; Maharaja bonds: rupee bonds issued in India by foreign entities/multilaterals; both pioneered by the International Finance Corporation (IFC).
18. **Mumbai-based advisory firm 1 Finance received SEBI in-principle approval (around 21 October 2026) for a Mutual Fund Lite (MF Lite) AMC for passive products (index funds and ETFs); it could become India's first MF Lite AMC.**
19. **PhonePe renamed its stock-broking platform Share.Market as PhonePe Invest**
20. **Index of Core Industries (ICI) Grows 7.9% in September 2026**
    - **9 core industries (weights):** Electricity (30.93%), Refinery Products (22.57%), Steel (17.58%), Crude Oil (7.43%), Coal (5.60%), Iron Ore (4.91%, newly added), Cement (4.41%), Natural Gas (3.84%) and Fertilisers (2.73%).
    - **Top producing States:** iron ore – Odisha (Keonjhar); coal – Odisha; crude oil – Rajasthan; natural gas – Assam [Unverified]; cement – Rajasthan; steel – Odisha; fertilisers – Gujarat
    - Gujarat has the most refining capacity, including Reliance's Jamnagar complex (world's largest); India has 24 refineries (267.1 MMTPA, as of 1 April 2026)
21. **Payment Limits, Women's Savings Account and Credit Instruments**
    - **Contactless (NFC) card payments without PIN:** up to ₹5,000 (since 1 January 2021).
    - **UPI Lite wallet limit:** ₹5,000 (per transaction ₹1,000), raised from ₹2,000 in December 2024.

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- **UPI payments by biometric/face authentication:** up to ₹5,000 (NPCI circular, 7 October 2025).
- Bank of Baroda offers the "bob Women Sapphire" savings account for women.

22. State Bank of India (SBI) told stock exchanges on 21 October 2026 that 3,897 customer records containing personal information were among about 3.75 lakh records found on the dark web.

23. Larsen & Toubro (L&T) became India's first private-sector company to issue tokenised bonds on 9 September 2026 – ₹500 crore, 3-year tenor, under SEBI's framework on the NSE platform.

24. The 7th Global Fintech Fest (GFF) was held in Mumbai (8–11 September 2026); theme: "Potential to Impact: Agentic AI | Tokenisation | Quantum"

25. NABKISAN Finance Ltd (NABARD subsidiary) listed India's first Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Social Bond of ₹180 crore on NSE on 2 October 2026.

- **5 All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) regulated by RBI:** NABARD, SIDBI, EXIM Bank, NaBFID and National Housing Bank (NHB).

26. The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) launched two equity indices on 22 October 2026 in New Delhi:

- **NDEX:** 20 large, liquid stocks from the top 60 NSE-listed companies.
- **FINNDEX:** 15 financial sector stocks from the top 40 eligible financial companies (insurance companies excluded).

27. MCA (Ministry of Corporate Affairs) Extends Annual Filing Deadlines for FY 2025-26

- **Financial statements (Form AOC-4 and variants):** to 31 December 2026 (from 31 October 2026).
- **Annual returns (Form MGT-7 and MGT-7A):** to 31 January 2027 (from 30 November 2026).

28. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Data Centre and Enterprise Computing and Cybersecurity Training Institute at Info Valley-II, Jatni (Khordha), near Bhubaneswar, Odisha

29. RBI Payment Systems: e-Kuber, NEFT and RTGS

- **e-Kuber:** RBI's Core Banking Solution (CBS), implemented in 2012; used for government accounts, G-Sec auctions and inter-bank settlements. Commercial banks use vendor CBS products such as Infosys Finacle and TCS BaNCS.
- **National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT):** Deferred Net Settlement (DNS) in 48 half-hourly batches daily (24x7).
- **Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility:** account holders can remit up to ₹2 lakh per transaction; walk-in (cash) customers up to ₹50,000 per transaction (maximum 12 remittances a year).
- **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS):** real-time gross settlement of high-value transfers; minimum ₹2 lakh.
- **Indian Financial System Code (IFSC):** 11-character alphanumeric code.

30. Bank of Baroda (BoB) launched NBFC operations of its wholly owned subsidiary bob Securities & Giltedge Limited

- **BoB:** founded 1908; HQ: Vadodara, Gujarat; MD & CEO: Dr. Debadatta Chand; 2nd PSB (after SBI, 2008) to sponsor a pension fund; offers the "bob Women Sapphire" savings account.

31. "YONO Bharat": SBI is developing a simplified YONO for financial-inclusion customers and feature-phone users (announced by Chairman C. S. Setty; launch in 6–12 months).

32. CyRIS: SBI's Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence Set Up after Dark-Web Data Leak

33. Bihar Launches 100-Point Performance Index for Banks

- IDFC First Bank ranked 1st with 74 points, followed by J&K Bank and RBL Bank (68 each) and HDFC Bank (65).
- State Bank of India (SBI) scored 32 points, placing it in the Red Zone with several public sector banks.
- **Zones:** Green (50+ points), Yellow (40–49), Red (below 40).

34. The RBI extended directions under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 on Lokapavani Mahila

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Sahakari Bank Niyamitha (Mandya, Karnataka) and Sonpeth Nagari Sahakari Bank Maryadit (Sonpeth, Parbhani, Maharashtra)

35. **Cross-border payments firm Skydo received final Payment Service Provider (PSP) authorisation from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to operate in GIFT City, Gujarat**

36. **Index of Industrial Production (IIP) Grows 6.7% in September 2026**

- MoSPI revised the IIP base year from 2011–12 to 2022–23; the first release under the new series came on 1 June 2026 (April 2026 data).
- Item groups expanded from 407 to 463; items/products from 839 to 1,042.
- Revised base years of key macroeconomic indicators:
  - **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** 2022–23 (earlier 2011–12).
  - **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** 2022–23 (earlier 2011–12).
  - **Consumer Price Index (CPI):** 2024 (earlier 2012); new series released on 12 February 2026 (January 2026 inflation: 2.75%).

37. **RBI Sets Interest Rate on GoI Floating Rate Bond 2034 at 7.26%**

38. **RBI Extends Directions on The Irinjalakuda Town Co-operative Bank, Kerala**

39. **NPCI MD & CEO Dilip Asbe Appointed to SWIFT Supervisory Board**

- **SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication):** founded in 1973; HQ: La Hulpe, Belgium; uses 8–11 character Business Identifier Codes (BIC / SWIFT codes).
- **NPCI:** incorporated in December 2008 under the guidance of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
  - **10 core promoter banks:** State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Citibank and HSBC.

40. **SEBI Grants Online Bond Platform Provider (OBPP) Licence to PB Money**

- PB Money is run by PB Marketing and Consulting Pvt Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of PB Fintech Ltd (parent of Policybazaar and Paisabazaar); PB Fintech: founded in 2008, HQ Gurugram, Chairman & CEO: Yashish Dahiya.

41. **India Post and UTI Mutual Fund Extend Partnership for Doorstep KYC**

42. **Air India, SBI Card and Visa Announce Co-Branded Credit Card**

43. **City Union Bank and Mastercard Launch "Mastercard One Credential"**

DEFENCE

1. **India's Service Chiefs (October 2026)**

- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):** General N. S. Raja Subramani (3rd CDS).
- **Chief of the Army Staff:** General Dhiraj Seth; Army Day: 15 January.
- **Chief of the Naval Staff:** Admiral Krishna Swaminathan (27th, since 31 May 2026).
- **Chief of the Air Staff:** Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh; Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit appointed 29th Chief of the Air Staff, to take over on 31 October 2026.

2. **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.

3. **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".

4. **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.

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5. **India–UK Naval Exercise KONKAN-26 Held off Plymouth, UK**
- **India–UK exercises:** KONKAN (Navy; held since 2004), Ajeya Warrior (Army), Indradhanush (Air Force).
- **Participating ships:** INS Trishul (India) and HMS Sutherland (UK).

6. **Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 Begins in Thiruvananthapuram**
- 5th edition of the India–Australia joint military exercise, held at the Foreign Training Node, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- About 120 personnel each from the Garhwal Rifles (Indian Army) and the 13th Brigade (Australian Army); a New Zealand observer delegation attended for the first time.
- **India–Australia naval exercise:** AUSINDEX.

7. **Assam Regiment Wins Gold at Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026 held in Wales, UK**

8. **3rd edition of India–UAE joint military exercise Mountain Guardian held at the Foreign Training Node, Chaubattia, Uttarakhand**

9. **Other Recent Joint Military Exercises of India**
- **Maitree XV (India–Thailand):** Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand (18–31 August 2026); 9 Gorkha Rifles participated.
- **Yudh Abhyas (22nd edition, India–USA):** Auli (Uttarakhand) and Mahajan Field Firing Range (Rajasthan) (from mid-September 2026; 600 personnel per side).
- **Surya Kiran (India–Nepal):** annual joint military exercise.
- The naval phase of INDRA 2026 (13–18 October 2026) was held at Vladivostok and in the Sea of Japan, with INS Sahyadri and Russia's Aldar Tsydenzhapov, in harbour and sea phases

10. **Exercise Garuda Shakti 2026: India–Indonesia Special Forces Exercise**
- Garuda Shakti – Army special forces exercise; Samudra Shakti – India–Indonesia naval exercise.

11. **33rd SIMBEX: India–Singapore Maritime Bilateral Exercise at Visakhapatnam**
- **Ships:** INS Nilgiri (first stealth frigate of Project 17A), INS Kamorta (ASW corvette), submarine INS Sindhukirti, and RSS Supreme (Singapore).
- **Harbour phase:** Visakhapatnam (21–23 October); Sea phase: Bay of Bengal (24–26 October).
- **Visakhapatnam in 2026:** International Fleet Review and MILAN 2026 (February), Colombo Security Conclave TTX, 13th SLINEX (September) and 33rd SIMBEX (October)

12. **Indian Navy Overseas Deployments: 1st Training Squadron, INS Trishul and INS Tarkash**
- INS Tarkash reached Port Louis, Mauritius, on 30 October 2026 to take part in the 192nd Aapravasi Diwas celebrations on 2 November 2026.
- The First Training Squadron (1TS) — INS Tir, INS Sujata and Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Sarathi — concluded a port call at Colombo, Sri Lanka (around 30 October 2026)
- INS Tir, INS Sujata and ICGS Sarathi made a port call at Port Victoria, Seychelles, and conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Seychelles Coast Guard Ship Andromache before departing on 15 October 2026.
- INS Tir, INS Sujata and ICGS Sarathi visited Malé, Maldives (around 22–24 October 2026) for training and goodwill, and held a PASSEX with the Maldives Coast Guard.
- **India–Maldives exercises:** Ekuverin (bilateral Army) and Dosti (trilateral coast guard – India, Maldives, Sri Lanka).
- INS Trishul Concludes Port Call at Lisbon, Portugal

13. **INS Trishul in Italy, ICGS Shaunak in Jakarta and Exercise Keen Sword**
- INS Trishul made a port call at Civitavecchia, Italy (around 26 October 2026) after a PASSEX with Italian ship Carlo Margottini; earlier it took part in KONKAN (Royal Navy, Plymouth) and Varuna (French Navy, Toulon).
- ICGS Shaunak visited Jakarta (17–19 October 2026); the Indian Coast Guard–Bakamla MoU was renewed for 3 years.
- **Keen Sword:** biennial Japan–US exercise (2026 edition: 19–29 October, about 56,000 personnel).

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14. **INS Sudarshini made a port call at Salalah, Oman (14–17 October 2026) – its second visit there during Lokayan-26.**
- **Lokayan-26:** The 10-month voyage of about 22,000 nautical miles covers 18 ports in 13 countries; flagged off from Kochi on 20 January 2026.

15. **Indian Army Conducts Exercise Akhand Prahar-II in Jaisalmer), Rajasthan.**
- **Chief of the Army Staff:** General Dhiraj Seth; Army Day: 15 January.

16. **JWALA Anti-Drone Micro-Missile and Pakistan's Fatah-II Test**
- JWALA, India's first private-sector anti-drone micro-missile (by IG Defence), is designed to counter drone threats.
- Pakistan tested the extended-range Fatah-II surface-to-surface missile (range 400 km) on 13 October 2026.

17. **Indian Army Receives Nagastra-2 Loitering Munitions**
- Solar Defence and Aerospace Ltd (SDAL), Nagpur, began delivering Nagastra-2 indigenous anti-tank loitering munitions (kamikaze drones) to the Indian Army

18. **ITBP Celebrates 65th Raising Day; Army–ITBP Conference at Chushul**
- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) celebrated its 65th Raising Day on 24 October 2026.
- Army–ITBP Coordination Conference at Chushul, Eastern Ladakh
- **ITBP(Indo-Tibetan Border Police) :** Raised on 24 October 1962 under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA); guards high-altitude borders (9,000–18,800 ft [Unverified]); DG: Shatrujeet Singh Kapur (since 19 January 2026).

19. **France and UK Hold First Joint Nuclear Air Exercise "Rummy"**

20. **The 5th edition of Swavlamban was held on 26–27 October 2026 at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi; Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attended the plenary**
- **Theme:** "Strength & Power through Innovation and Indigenisation".

21. **The Indian Air Force (IAF) held the "Wings over Ganges" aerial display at Namo Ghat, Varanasi (22, 24 and 25 October 2026) to mark its 94th anniversary.**

22. **Raksha Expo 2026 will be held on 7–9 December 2026 at Bharat Future City, Hyderabad, organised by the Government of Telangana alongside the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026.**
- India's first defence and aerospace expo organised by a State government; includes an air show on 9 December.

23. **Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) 'Srishti' Launched at Goa Shipyard**
- **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS):** Admiral Krishna Swaminathan

24. **INS Sahyadri at Busan; 2nd India–Republic of Korea Navy Exercise**
- The 2nd edition of the India–Republic of Korea Navy (IN–ROKN) bilateral exercise is being held at Busan, South Korea

INTERNATIONAL

1. **Pakistan to Chair IMF and World Bank Boards of Governors in 2027**
- Pakistan will chair the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) in 2027 – its first time since 1953.
- Pakistan holds the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) chairmanship for 2026-27 and will host the 2027 SCO Summit; Lahore is the SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital 2026-27.

2. **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.**

3. **Bhotekoshi Flood in Nepal Called a "Himalayan Tsunami"**
- On 26 August 2026, a massive flood struck the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli river corridors in Nepal.

4. **UN Climate Change Conferences: COP30 to COP32**
- **COP30 (2025):** Belém, Brazil.
- **COP31 (2026):** Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 November 2026; leaders' summit 11–12 November); COP31 President: Murat Kurum (Türkiye); Australia's Chris Bowen is President of Negotiations; pre-COP in Fiji.

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- **COP32 (2027):** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

5. **World Bank Group President Ajay Banga announced the Group's first comprehensive Digital Strategy in Seoul, South Korea on 20 October 2026.**
- **World Bank:** Established in 1944 (Bretton Woods Conference); HQ: Washington, D.C.; 189 members
- Projects India's FY27 growth at 7.1%; supports Kerala's KERA project (including carbon credits for farmers).
- **5 arms:** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD); International Development Association (IDA) (concessional loans); International Finance Corporation (IFC) (private sector); Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) (guarantees); International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

6. **Polish PM Donald Tusk Visits India**
- Agreed to double bilateral trade by 2030; Poland decided to join the India-led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- **Poland:** Capital – Warsaw; Currency – Zloty

7. **Romania's Parliament approved the minority government of independent PM Luca Niculescu**
- **Romania:** Capital – Bucharest; Currency – Romanian Leu (RON).

8. **Greece Bans Social Media for Children under 15**
- **Australia:** world's first ban (under-16s), in force from 10 December 2025.
- Indonesia (first in South-East Asia, 28 March 2026) and Malaysia (1 June 2026) – under-16 bans.
- **UAE:** first Arab country to approve a ban (under-15s, 18 June 2026); Türkiye passed an under-15 law (April 2026; effective 1 November 2026).
- France passed an under-15 ban in July 2026, but it was struck down by its Constitutional Council in August 2026.

9. **Lula da Silva Wins Fourth Term as President of Brazil**
- **Brazil:** Capital – Brasília; Currency – Real.

10. **France Sees Nationwide Protests over Living Costs and Schools staff shortages**
- **President of :** Emmanuel Macron

11. **Nepal Becomes First Beneficiary of UN Loss and Damage Fund**
- Nepal became the first country to receive support from the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD); the board approved $21.6 million ($20 million for recovery + $1.6 million fees) on 22 October 2026.
- FRLD was established at COP27 (2022, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt), operationalised at COP28 (Dubai, 2023); hosted by the World Bank.

12. **US and Japan Agree to Co-Produce AMRAAM Missiles in Japan ("Operation Supercharge")**

MEETINGS

1. **India Hosts 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in New Delhi (26–27 October 2026)**
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced (22 October 2026) that India would host the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum on 26–27 October 2026 in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, New Delhi.
- **Theme:** "Strengthening Parliaments for People-Centric Development".
- India holds the BRICS chairship for 2026.
- **Members:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE and Indonesia.
- **4 sessions:** Resilience (institutional), Innovation (AI and digital), Cooperation (global governance) and Sustainability.
- BRICS expanded from 5 founding members (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) to 11, adding Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia (status unconfirmed), UAE and Indonesia (joined January 2025).
- The 18th BRICS Summit was held on 12–13 September 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi; theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".

2. **13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Held in Cebu, Philippines**
- The Philippines holds the ASEAN / ADMM Chairmanship for 2026. The meeting was chaired by Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr.
- **Theme:** "Navigating Our Future, Together".
- India was represented by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- **ADMM-Plus comprises the 11 ASEAN member states and 8 Dialogue Partners:** India,

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Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States.

- **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):** founded on 8 August 1967; HQ: Jakarta, Indonesia. Timor-Leste became the 11th member in October 2025.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led India at the 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), 28–29 October 2026, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, Philippines; theme: "Navigating Our Future, Together"

3. 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.

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

- **IMF Managing Director :** Kristalina Georgieva.

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

- **UK Prime Minister:** Andy Burnham.

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

- **Governor of Himachal Pradesh :** Kavinder Gupta

7. 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.

8. The 7th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was held in Baku, Azerbaijan

9. 8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council Meeting Held in New Delhi

- **UK Prime Minister:** Andy Burnham (since 20 July 2026).

10. World Health Summit 2026 Held in Berlin; Theme: "From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health"

- Fiji declared a national HIV crisis (September 2026); an Ebola (Bundibugyo strain) outbreak in DR Congo spread to Uganda, with South Sudan on preparedness alert.
- **World Health Organization (WHO):** Founded 7 April 1948 (World Health Day); HQ: Geneva, Switzerland; Director-General: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

11. RBI Hosts SAMVAAD 2026 International Central Banking Seminar

12. 153rd IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union) Assembly Held in Arusha, Tanzania

- **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU):** Founded 1889; HQ: Geneva; 184 members (newest: Nauru).
- Milton Dick (Speaker, Australian House of Representatives) elected IPU President on 9 October 2026 for 2026–29, succeeding Tulia Ackson (Tanzania).

13. India Hosts 61st International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML) Meeting – First Time

- **OIML:** Established 1955; HQ: Paris.
- **World Metrology Day:** 20 May.
- India became the 13th country authorised to issue OIML certificates (2023).
- India hosted the 61st International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML) meeting in New Delhi – the first time India has hosted it (60th meeting: Paris)

14. 7th AgriVoltaics World Conference Held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

- **Theme:** "Powering the Global South".
- PM-KUSUM scheme launched in 2019 by MNRE (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy).

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15. **19th Urban Mobility India Conference and 2nd National Urban Conclave Held in Bhubaneswar**
- **Theme:** "Urban Accessibility and Liveability in Digital Age".
- 19th Urban Mobility India (UMI) (23–24 October 2026) and the 2nd National Urban Conclave (24–25 October 2026) held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha by MoHUA; attended by Union Minister Manohar Lal

16. **Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2026 To be held at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**
- **Theme:** "Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific".

17. **30th FSDC Meeting Chaired by Nirmala Sitharaman**
- **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC):** set up in 2010 to strengthen financial stability and coordination among regulators (RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA).

18. **EAM Jaishankar to Attend G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta, USA**

19. **14th India Chem 2026 and BHAVYA Schemes**
- India Chem 2026 (14th edition) was held on 22–24 October 2026 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, organised by the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and inaugurated by J. P. Nadda; theme: "Advantage Bharat: An Emerging Global Chemicals Hub".
- **BHAVYA (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna):** ₹33,660 crore for 100 plug-and-play industrial parks (100–1,000 acres; approved March 2026).

20. **The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held from 19 to 30 October 2026 in Yerevan, Armenia, along with meetings of the Cartagena Protocol and Nagoya Protocol.**
- **Slogan:** "Taking Action for Nature".
- **Logo:** inspired by the Erivan Anomalous Blue butterfly (*Polyommatus eriwanensis*), found only in and around Yerevan.
- Indian delegation led by Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **CBD Secretariat:** Montreal, Canada.
- **International Day for Biological Diversity:** 22 May.

21. **UNCCD COP17 Held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**
- The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

MISCELLANEOUS

1. **Books and Authors**
- "Without Fear or Favour" – memoir by retired Supreme Court Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul (Juggernaut Books; forthcoming), including observations on 50th CJI D. Y. Chandrachud.
- **"Advantage India:** Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World" – by Anil K. Antony; released by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan on 23 October 2026 (publisher: Rupa).
- **"Belonging:** A Journey of Love" – memoir of Sonia Gandhi (HarperCollins India), releasing on 10 November 2026.
- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan released Dancing with Joy, a memoir by classical dancer Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant about her life with cancer
- Other books released by the Vice-President in 2026:
  - The Sage Who Reimagined Hinduism (on Sree Narayana Guru) – Shashi Tharoor.
  - Tides of Time – Sudha Murty.
  - The Library Man of India (on P. N. Panicker) – P. P. Sathyan.
  - **A Century of Service:** The RSS in 100 Acts of Seva – Tamilisai Soundararajan.
- Arif Mohammed Khan (former Governor of Bihar and Kerala) released the English translation of "The Story of Vande Mataram" on 26 October 2026 in New Delhi – originally written in Malayalam by RSS leader Ranga Hari, translated by Dr. Mercy Jill
- "To Bishan with Love and Celebrating a Lifetime of Memories" — compiled by Anju Bedi (widow of Bishan Singh Bedi); released jointly by Capt. Amarinder Singh and Kapil Dev [Unverified].
  - **Bishan Singh Bedi:** 67 Tests (266 wickets) and 10 ODIs (7 wickets) — 273 international wickets.
- "The Relentless Sprinter" — Basu Shanker, former Head Strength & Conditioning Coach,

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Indian cricket team; foreword by Rahul Dravid [Unverified].

- "Arguments with Gandhi" — Ramachandra Guha; launched at the India International Centre, New Delhi (early October 2026).

2. Book "Timeless India" Released in New Delhi

- **Editor:** Tarun Vijay, former Rajya Sabha MP and senior journalist; 18 archaeologists contributed chapters on Vadnagar, Lothal, Dholavira, Kashi, Kedarnath and Mahakaleshwar (Ujjain).
- **Chief Guest:** Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism; Guest of Honour: Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS (Independent Charge), Science & Technology.
- **Full title:** "Timeless India: Protection and Revival of Indian Cultural Identity under the Leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

3. National Saras Livelihood Mela 2026 Held in Vijayawada

- Held in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh – the first time outside Delhi-NCR – under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), showcasing products of women SHGs and supporting the Lakhpati Didi initiative.

4. 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

5. 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.

6. Tamil Nadu Exports Organic Palmyra Jaggery Powder to Bulgaria

- **Bulgaria:** Capital – Sofia; IMF MD Kristalina Georgieva is from Bulgaria.

7. JioHotstar Launches in Nepal with DGO

- JioHotstar partnered with Nepali platform DGO to launch its OTT streaming services in Nepal from 18 October 2026

8. A 17-member Indian Coast Guard (ICG) team summited Mount Mukut (7,045 m), Garhwal Himalayas, Chamoli, Uttarakhand

9. Jaipur Named in National Geographic's "Best of the World 2027"

- Jaipur was included among 25 destinations in National Geographic's "Best of the World 2027" list

10. 14th International Tourism Mart (ITM) Held in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh

MOUS

1. 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.

2. India and Myanmar signed 5 MoUs for Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) under Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) in Naypyitaw, in the presence of Ambassador Abhay Thakur.

3. Karmayogi Bharat, a 100% government-owned not-for-profit company, signed an MoU with OpenAI on 21 October 2026 to build AI skills and literacy among civil servants

4. India and New Zealand signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on 19 October 2026 for electronic exchange of Certificate of Origin (CoO) data for trade in goods.

5. Bank of India Signs MoU with C-DAC for Quantum-Safe Banking

- **Bank of India:** Established 1906 (Swadeshi Movement); HQ: Mumbai; tagline "Relationship beyond banking"; MD & CEO: Rajneesh Karnatak.

6. SEBI Signs MoU with Bank of England on Clearing Corporations

7. Gyan Bharatam: India Signs Manuscript MoU with Bibliothèque nationale de France (National Library of France)

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NATIONAL

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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.

5. **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).

6. **IIT Ropar Introduces PhD without Thesis**

7. **University of Liverpool (UK) Opens Bengaluru Campus**

8. **The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) mandated Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) across all telecom operators from 1 November 2026, enabled by default.**

- Callers can hide their name through Calling Line Identification Restriction (CLIR).

9. **Piyush Goyal Launches National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC)**

10. **Sankoo Notified as Ladakh's 8th District**

- Ladakh became a Union Territory without a legislature on 31 October 2019 under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019
- **Landmarks:** Hemis National Park and Pangong Tso lake.
- Lt. Stanzin Tsangyang (Zanskar) became Kargil's first woman Army officer, commissioned at OTA Chennai on 5 September 2026.
- **State bird:** Black-necked Crane; state animal: Snow Leopard (declared 1 September 2021).

11. **Northeast's First Multi-Country Visa Application Centre Opens in Guwahati**

12. **August 2026 Recorded as India's Hottest August Since 1901**

- **India Meteorological Department (IMD):** Under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES); established in 1875; Director General: Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, known as the "Cyclone Man of India".

13. **Ladakh: India's First Petroglyph Conservation Park and Project Him Sarovar**

- India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park at Sindhu Ghat, Leh, preserves prehistoric rock carvings and animal art.
- **Project Him Sarovar:** 40 artificial water bodies across Leh and Kargil for snow harvesting and

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storing glacial meltwater (launched 10 April 2026).

14. The Centre constituted a committee under Prof. Ramesh Chand (former Member, NITI Aayog) on 14 October 2026, following demands of sugarcane farmers from Karnataka and Maharashtra

- **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for 2026-27:** ₹365 per quintal.
- **NITI Aayog:** Non-constitutional body set up on 1 January 2015, replacing the Planning Commission; Chairperson: PM Narendra Modi; Vice-Chairperson: Ashok Kumar Lahiri (since 25 April 2026); CEO: Anurag Jain (since July 2026).

15. PM Inaugurates New Terminal at Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, Leh

16. India's First Salt Container Train Flagged Off in Gujarat

- Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off India's first Salt Container Train on 15 September 2026, along with the inauguration of the Shivlakha Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal.
- **Route:** Shivlakha (Kutch) to Mithapur, Gujarat.

17. BS-VII Emission Norms: Phased Rollout from 1 April 2029

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued draft BS-VII norms (aligned with Euro 7), to be rolled out in 3 phases – 1 April 2029, 1 April 2031 and 1 April 2035.
- Particle measurement size lowered from 23 nm to 10 nm.
- **Passenger cars & SUVs (M1):** from 1 April 2029.
- **Light Commercial Vehicles (N1, up to 3.5 t):** phases from 1 April 2030, 1 April 2032 and 1 April 2035.
- **Trucks and buses (N2/N3/M2/M3):** phases from 1 April 2031, 1 April 2033 and 1 April 2035.
- **PARIVARTAN Scheme (Delhi-NCR):** replaces BS-IV or older commercial vehicles (goods vehicles and buses) with BS-VI or electric vehicles; outlay ₹9,585 crore (Centre ₹5,041 crore); approved by the Union Cabinet on 3 June 2026 and the Delhi Cabinet on 20 July 2026; benefits include 100% motor vehicle tax exemption for 10 years and a 5% interest subsidy.

18. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) targets 73.93 GW of storage by FY32 – 26.69 GW Pumped Storage Hydro (PSH) and 47.24 GW Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

- India's non-fossil capacity reached 300.50 GW as of 31 July 2026, towards the 500 GW by 2030 target.
- India ranks 4th globally in installed pumped-storage capacity (7.18 GW, end-2025).

19. India Begins National Red List Assessment of 1,211 Bird Species

- Kerala is the first State with an ecosystem-level Red List.
- West Bengal recorded the highest species count (543) in the Great Backyard Bird Count 2025.

20. CJI Inaugurates India's Highest-Altitude High Court Bench at Leh

- India has 25 High Courts.
- **Chief Justice of India:** Justice Surya Kant (53rd CJI, first from Haryana; since 24 November 2025).

21. Tamil Nadu Launches Dengue Vaccination Pilot at Kadayanallur

- **Vaccine:** Qdenga, by Japan's Takeda

22. Tiger Spotted in Maharashtra's Beed District after Nearly 100 Years

- **India's tiger population (2022 estimate):** 3,682 (average); Madhya Pradesh highest (785), followed by Karnataka (563) and Uttarakhand (560).

23. Under the Ministry of Civil Aviation's International Aviation Hub Strategy (hub-and-spoke model with Delhi as the hub), Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport, Varanasi became the 1st spoke (25 June 2026), followed by Amritsar (28 July 2026) and Ahmedabad (September 2026).

24. Dr. M. Srinivas Committee to Review Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices

- **Chair:** Dr. M. Srinivas (Member, NITI Aayog); members: Preeti Sudan (former Union Health Secretary) and Dr. Naresh Trehan (CMD, Medanta).
- Constituted by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Minister: J. P. Nadda, also Minister of Health and Family Welfare).

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25. Amit Shah Launches ₹8,941 Crore Yamuna Rejuvenation Projects in Delhi

- **Target:** clean Yamuna by May 2029, through coordinated action by the Centre, Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Yamuna:** Originates from the Yamunotri Glacier (Uttarakhand); length 1,376 km; joins the Ganga (and mythical Saraswati) at Triveni Sangam, Prayagraj.
- **Tributaries:** Tons (largest, right bank), Chambal, Betwa, Ken (right bank) and Hindon (left bank); Lakhwar project in Uttarakhand.

26. Parliamentary Standing Committees Reconstituted for 2026-27

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla (2nd term; MP from Kota, Rajasthan) reconstituted the committees effective 26 September 2026; Bhartruhari Mahtab (MP, Cuttack, Odisha) was reappointed Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance.
- **NITI Aayog:** Chairman – Prime Minister; Vice-Chairman – Ashok Kumar Lahiri; CEO – Anurag Jain.

27. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) (DG: Anurag Garg) conducted Operation Trident on 23 October 2026 at 38 locations in Assam, Mizoram and Manipur

- Navi Mumbai International Airport was notified (July 2026) as India's 42nd port of entry for import of drugs (medicines) under Rule 43A of the Drugs Rules, 1945.

28. Mann Ki Baat 139th Episode Highlights

- **e-Sanjeevani:** about 50 crore tele-consultations.
- **Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre, IIT Madras:** mapping 100 human brains using the PARAM Shakti supercomputer; data to be open-source.
- Khadi & Village Industries sales crossed ₹28 crore on Gandhi Jayanti.
- Punjab's Kheti Virasat Mission and Nav-Trinjan project (Malwa) using naturally coloured organic cotton.
- Purnia (Bihar) makhana exported to Greece; Kalaburagi (Karnataka) tur dal to the Maldives.
- Millet revival in Meghalaya (Khanduli, Sadolpara) and Nagaland (Kezoma); 2023 – International Year of Millets.
- Shabari Naturals (Maharashtra) won Japan's Good Design Award for tribal-product packaging.
- Community revival of the Heval river, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand.
- Narinder Singh Kapany (Moga, Punjab) – "Father of Fibre Optics"; 100th birth anniversary on 31 October 2026.
- 31 October – Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel).

29. Ladakh Declared India's First Fully Organic Union Territory

- Sikkim became India's first fully organic State in 2016.

30. Uttarakhand: the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) became India's first SDRF with ISO 9001:2015 certification (8 October 2026) after a Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) audit (BIS Minister: Pralhad Joshi).

31. Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "Arnab" Hits Andhra Pradesh Coast

- Cyclone "Arnab" (pronounced "Ornab"; meaning sea/ocean in Bengali; name suggested by Bangladesh)

32. Keralam Approves India's First Cooperative-Sector Airline "Co-Keralam"

33. Rajasthan was the first State to enact a gig workers' law (2023).

34. Jal Shakti Ministry Launches "Punah Bharan" App for Groundwater Recharge

35. FASTag: Annual Pass and Concessional Annual Local Pass

- **Eligibility:** owners of non-commercial vehicles living within a 20 km radius of an eligible National Highway (NH) fee plaza, with a valid FASTag.
- Annual fee:
  - **Fee plazas outside municipal/local town limits:** ₹1,500 per year.
  - **Fee plazas within municipal/local town limits:** ₹3,000 per year.
- **FASTag:** valid for 5 years; uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology under the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) programme of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- The FASTag Annual Pass crossed 1 crore users on 28 September 2026; fee revised from

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₹3,000 to ₹3,075 (from 1 April 2026), valid for 200 trips or one year

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) added a toll plaza feedback module to its Rajmargyatra app

36. Cochin International Airport Becomes First to Use Digi Yatra for International Passengers

- The first passenger flew to the Maldives on an IndiGo flight.
- International Digi Yatra trials run from 1 November to December 2026 at 7 airports: Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin, Mumbai, Chennai and Amritsar.
- Digi Yatra is operational at 38 airports; 27 more are to be added by 2027 (as on 30 May 2026).

37. Andhra Pradesh Bans Artificial (Analogue) Paneer for One Year

- Maharashtra (August 2026), Karnataka and Telangana (September 2026) had already imposed similar 1-year bans

38. The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, approved the PRAGATI Park

- PRAGATI = Platform for Robotics and AI Growth Through Technology and Innovation.

39. Chhattisgarh Adopts Orange Oakleaf as State Butterfly

- Chhattisgarh chose the Orange Oakleaf (*Kallima inachus*; family Nymphalidae; also called Indian Oakleaf or Dead Leaf) as its first State Butterfly.

40. UNEP(United Nations Environment Programme) Names India's Ganges River Dolphin Recovery Programme a World Restoration Flagship

- Project Dolphin was announced in 2020 under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- **Comprehensive Action Plan for Dolphin Conservation:** 2022–2047.
- **World Dolphin Day:** 12 September ; National Dolphin Day: 5 October.
- **UNEP:** founded on 5 June 1972; HQ: Nairobi, Kenya; Executive Director: Inger Andersen; 193 member states.

41. Tripura Opens First Tea Auction Centre; Ranks 5th in Tea Production

- Tripura is the 5th-largest tea-producing State in India and 2nd in the North-East (after Assam).
- **National tea production:** Assam 1st (about 50%)

42. Maharashtra Approves Kolamarka Wildlife Sanctuary and Tansa Sanctuary Expansion

PERSONS IN NEWS

1. Shakti Sharma Becomes First Woman Non-Medical Air Vice Marshal

2. 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".

3. President Droupadi Murmu accepted the resignation of Dr. L. Murugan, Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs

4. Veteran Marathi actress and Lavani artist Madhu Kambikar died

5. Veteran Music Composer Deva Passes Away

- The title "Thenisai Thendral" was conferred by M. S. Viswanathan.

6. Jeweller Vummidi Ethiraj, Associated with the Sengol, Passes Away

- Vummidi Ethiraj, patriarch of the Vummidi Bangaru Jewellers family, died in Chennai
- Associated with crafting the Sengol (gold-plated silver sceptre) presented to Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947 by Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam priests; installed in the new Parliament on 28 May 2023.

7. Obituaries: Jogen Chowdhury, Tom Skerritt and K. P. Sahadevan

- **Jogen Chowdhury:** eminent painter and former Rajya Sabha MP (2014–2020) died in Kolkata on 25 October 2026, aged 87; recipient of the Padma Bhushan (2020) and Banga Bibhushan (2012) (Kalidas Samman and former Curator of Art at Rashtrapati Bhavan [Unverified]).
- **Tom Skerritt:** Hollywood actor (Top Gun, Alien) died aged 93.

- **K. P. Sahadevan:** senior CPI(M) leader and former CITU State secretary died on 23 October 2026 in Kannur, aged 84.

8. **Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan (2007–2008), died**
9. **Neeraj Yadav (42), Indian para-athlete (F55 javelin and discus), died**
10. **Sir Patrick Stewart, English actor known for playing Captain Jean-Luc Picard in *Star Trek* and Professor Charles Xavier in the *X-Men* films, died**

RANKS AND REPORTS

1. **India's GDP Growth Forecasts for FY 2026-27**

- **BMI (Fitch Solutions):** 7.5% (raised from 6.8% on 13 October 2026).
- **Fitch Ratings:** 6.9% (raised from 6.4% on 23 September 2026).
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI):** 7.1% for FY27 (raised from 6.7%) and 7.2% for Q2 (MPC policy, 7 October 2026, Governor Sanjay Malhotra).
- **World Bank:** 7.1% (raised from 6.6%; South Asia Development Update, October 2026).
- **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):** 7.1% (raised from 6.3%; Interim Economic Outlook, September 2026).
- **International Monetary Fund (IMF):** 7.0% (raised from 6.4%; World Economic Outlook, October 2026).
- **UNCTAD:** 7.3% (calendar year 2026).
- Finance Ministry Projects Q2 FY27 GDP Growth at 7.35%

2. **Henley Passport Index (October 2026): India Ranked 84th**

- India ranked 84th with visa-free/visa-on-arrival access to 55 destinations, sharing the rank with Algeria and Mauritania
- **Top ranks:** 1st – Singapore (193); 2nd – Japan, South Korea and UAE (188); 3rd – Sweden (187); joint 4th – France, Germany, Italy and Spain (186); UK – 6th; USA – 10th.

3. **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for September 2026: Urban Female LFPR at 25.9%**

- **Urban female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** 25.9% – highest since October 2025 (August 2026: 25.4%).
- **Overall LFPR (age 15+):** 55.5%.
- **Urban Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** 47.2%.
- **Unemployment Rate:** 5.0%, down 0.2 percentage points from 5.2% in September 2025 (unchanged from August 2026); urban: 6.9%, rural: 4.2%.
- **Urban female unemployment:** 9.2%; rural female unemployment: 3.9% (lowest in 2026).

4. **WTO Raises 2026 Global Merchandise Trade Growth Forecast to 3.9%**

- **World real GDP growth:** 2.6% (2026) and 2.9% (2027).

5. **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.

6. **Action Against Hunger: Pakistan among 10 Worst Food Crises**
7. **NITI Aayog Releases Data Centre Evaluation Framework**

- **5 pillars:** Power and Energy; Water and Cooling; Siting and Environmental Sustainability; Economic and Strategic Value; Policy, Governance and Implementation.

8. **Mission Karmayogi Rankings: Uttar Pradesh Ranked 1st**

- Rankings announced at the 3rd regional workshop of the "Sadhana Shrinkhla" series in Lucknow
- 1st – Uttar Pradesh (19.23 lakh registered users; over 99% active); 2nd – Rajasthan; 3rd – Jammu & Kashmir.
- Mission Karmayogi (National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building) launched in 2020 to shift from rule-based to role-based governance; delivered through the iGOT Karmayogi platform under DoPT.

9. **ASI Report 2025-26: Most Visited Monuments**

- Top 10 for domestic visitors (FY 2025-26):
  - 1. Taj Mahal (Agra, UP) – 51.3 lakh domestic visitors
  - 2. Konark Sun Temple (Odisha)

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  - 3. Qutub Minar (Delhi)
  - 4. Red Fort (Delhi)
  - 5. Ellora Caves (Maharashtra)
  - 6. Agra Fort (Agra, UP)
  - 7. Golconda Fort (Hyderabad, Telangana) – only site from the Telugu States
  - 8. Chittorgarh Fort (Rajasthan)
  - 9. Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves (Odisha)
  - 10. Humayun's Tomb (Delhi)
- Top 5 for foreign visitors:
  - 1. Taj Mahal – 5.49 lakh foreign visitors
  - 2. Agra Fort
  - 3. Qutub Minar
  - 4. Humayun's Tomb
  - 5. Nalanda Excavation Site (Bihar) – 1.04 lakh
- **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):** founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham; DG – Yadubir Singh Rawat; Union Culture Minister – Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

10. World Bank Poverty and Equity Brief: India's Extreme Poverty Falls to 2.6%

11. Bihar Museum Ranked 9th in World's 100 Best Museums 2026

- Bihar Museum, Patna, ranked 9th in the world and 1st in Asia in the World's 100 Best Museums 2026 ; it is the only Indian museum in the top 100.
- **Top 5:** 1. Museo Nacional de Antropología (Mexico City); 2. Museo del Prado (Madrid); 3. Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (Denmark); 4. State Hermitage Museum (St. Petersburg); 5. Kunsthistorisches Museum (Vienna).
- **International Museum Day:** 18 May

SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

1. Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY): ₹15,000 for First-Time Employees

- Implemented by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for jobs created between 1 August 2025 and 31 July 2027, for employees with gross salary up to ₹1 lakh per month.
- **First-time employees get up to ₹15,000 (one month's EPF wage):** first instalment of up to ₹7,500 after 6 months; balance after 12 months and completion of a financial literacy course.
- Employers get up to ₹3,000 per month per additional employee for 2 years (up to 4 years for manufacturing).
- **Outlay:** ₹99,446 crore (approved by the Cabinet on 1 July 2025); target: 3.5 crore jobs.

2. PM-AJAY: 18,093 Villages Declared Adarsh Gram

- Under Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY), 18,093 villages had been declared Adarsh Gram as of 8 September 2026, out of over 47,200 villages covered; 785 hostels completed.
- **Eligible villages:** SC population of 40% or more and total population of at least 500; declared Adarsh Gram on scoring 70/100 and being open-defecation free.
- 100% centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Minister: Dr. Virendra Kumar).

3. Aadhaar Authentication Mandated for PM CARES for Children Scholarship

- **The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Union Minister:** Dr. Virendra Kumar) mandated Aadhaar authentication or proof of possession of Aadhaar for students of Classes 1–12 to receive the scholarship under the PM CARES for Children Scheme (October 2026).
- No child will be denied benefits for lack of Aadhaar; an enrolment ID with other documents is accepted.
- **Scholarship:** ₹20,000 per year (₹1,000 per month plus ₹8,000 per year for academic expenses).

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the upgraded Agri Welfare Portal – a single window for PM-

KISAN, AgriStack and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), connecting FPOs, PACS, scientists and startups; Krishi Vigyan Kendras will run the training campaign.

- **PMFBY farmer premium:** 2% (Kharif), 1.5% (Rabi), 5% (commercial/horticultural crops).
- Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed at least 1.5 times the cost of production for 22 mandated crops; safflower got the highest increase (₹675/quintal) in the Rabi 2027-28 MSP.

7. UDAN Completes 10 Years; Modified UDAN Scheme for Next Decade

- The regional connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation completed 10 years on 21 October 2026 (launched 21 October 2016; first flight Shimla–Delhi, 27 April 2017).
- 687 routes, 95 aerodromes (incl. 17 heliports and 2 water aerodromes), 1.72 crore passengers and over 3.68 lakh flights.
- **Modified UDAN (Cabinet approval 25 March 2026):** outlay ₹28,840 crore for FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 – 100 airports (₹12,159 crore), 200 helipads (₹3,661 crore), viability gap funding (₹10,043 crore), O&M support (₹2,577 crore) and aircraft (₹400 crore).
- **Nodal agency:** Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- **Union Civil Aviation Minister:** Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu; AAI Chairman (additional charge): Puneet Kansal

8. Tamil Nadu's "Vetri 150" Extends Rural Job Guarantee to 150 Days

- The Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) replaced MGNREGA nationwide from 1 July 2026, guaranteeing 125 days of work.

9. PM-DAKSH Integrated with PMKVY

- Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana – a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (launched 2020-21) – was integrated with PMKVY from FY 2024-25.
- Provides skill training and self-employment support to SC, OBC, EWS, De-notified Tribes, sanitation workers and waste pickers.
- 1,87,305 trained and 96,162 placed (FY21–FY24); expenditure ₹309.5 crore.

10. Samudra Manthan: National Offshore Exploration Scheme

- **The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (Minister:** Hardeep Singh Puri) is implementing Samudra Manthan (National Offshore Exploration Scheme), approved by the Cabinet on 31 July 2026, to explore offshore oil and gas and reduce import dependence.
- **Outlay:** ₹84,084 crore for 2026-27 to 2030-31.
- **60 wells in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** 56 exploratory deepwater (over 400 m) and ultra-deepwater (over 1,500 m) wells and 4 stratigraphic wells.

11. Khet Bachao Abhiyaan (Rabi 2026) Launched from Karnal, Haryana

- **Focus:** soil health, natural/organic farming and sustainable use of resources.
- **Khet Bachao Abhiyaan (Rabi 2026):** launched by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan from Taraori, Karnal, Haryana (till 30 November 2026), promoting soil testing, residue management, efficient input use and organic farming
- **World Cotton Day:** 7 October.
- Khet Bachao Abhiyaan was conducted nationwide from 1 to 30 June 2026 under the slogan "Save the Soil, Save Farming, Save Farmers"
- Launched by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 1 June 2026 at Ramasiya village, Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh.

12. RELIEF (Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) Scheme Component II Extended to 31 March 2027

- **Component II:** 95% cover for FCL, LCL and refrigerated containers (energy shipments excluded); Egypt and Jordan added as eligible destinations.

13. Mission Mausam: approved in September 2024, outlay ₹2,000 crore over 2 years, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

14. Cabinet Approves Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme

- Approved on 28 October 2026 with an outlay of ₹1,856.67 crore for 2026 to 2033-34,

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implementing a Union Budget 2026-27 announcement.

- **Union Sports Minister:** Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.
- Jalandhar (Punjab) and Meerut (Uttar Pradesh) are India's main sports-goods hubs.
- **Outlay:** ₹1,856.67 crore over about 8 years (2026–27 to 2033–34).
  - ₹1,130 crore for Anchor Investment Support and Turnover Linked Support.
  - ₹105 crore for International Sports Federation certification.

15. 11 crore Farmer IDs were generated under AgriStack (reported 24 October 2026), 5 months ahead of the 31 March 2027 target.

- **Digital Agriculture Mission:** approved on 2 September 2024; outlay ₹2,817 crore; components – AgriStack (farmer registry, crop sown survey), Krishi Decision Support System (Krishi DSS) (satellite data on weather, soil, water) and Soil Profile Mapping.

16. Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY) for Senior Citizens

- AVYAY is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Minister: Dr. Virendra Kumar) for senior citizens.

17. National Green Hydrogen Mission: Targets and State Policies

- Approved by the Union Cabinet on 4 January 2023 under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), with an initial outlay of ₹19,744 crore.
- **Target:** green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) per annum by 2030.
- Supports India's target of Net-Zero emissions by 2070.

18. Ayushman Vay Vandana Scheme Completes Two Years

- Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 29 October 2024 as an expansion of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- Covers all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of income, through Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards.
- **Cover:** ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation; seniors in families already under PM-JAY get an additional ₹5 lakh top-up per year for themselves (not shared with members below 70).
- PM-JAY was launched on 23 September 2018 from Ranchi, Jharkhand

19. The Ministry of Labour & Employment extended the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) New Amnesty Scheme 2025 by 3 months, up to 31 December 2026

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. ISRO Launches Navigation Satellite NVS-03 on GSLV-F18

- **Chairman, ISRO:** Dr. V. Narayanan. ISRO established on 15 August 1969; HQ: Bengaluru.
- **Director, SDSC SHAR:** S. Muthuchezhian.
- **Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC):** Dr. U. P. Rajeev (appointed June 2026).
- ISRO Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan confirmed the launch of navigation satellite NVS-03 on 30 October 2026 aboard GSLV-F18 (GSLV Mk II) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, strengthening the NavIC constellation

2. ISRO Plans 4 Launch Pads by 2029; Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan-5 Roadmap

- ISRO Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan said (24 October 2026, Chennai) ISRO will have 4 functional launch pads by 2029.
- A 2,000-acre spaceport for Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) is being built at Kulasekarapattinam, Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu.
- **Gaganyaan:** first uncrewed test flight within about 2 months, followed by 2 more uncrewed flights before the crewed mission.
- **Chandrayaan-5:** with Japan's JAXA; a 350 kg rover to conduct 100 days of surface experiments.

3. Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) Roadmap Unveiled

- **Target:** fully operational by 2035 in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at about 450 km altitude (51.5° inclination).
- **Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) Project Director:** K. Kalpana

4. Kufri Jamunia, developed by the Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla

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(ICAR) and released in 2024, is India's first potato with purple flesh.

- **ICAR Director General:** Dr. Mangi Lal Jat.

5. **India's Space Economy Projected to Reach $40–45 Billion**
6. **NASA awarded $20 million under its Astrophysics Pioneers programme to PUFFINS (Polarimetry in the Ultraviolet to Find Features in INterStellar dust), planned for launch in April 2030.**
7. **JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) Launches Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) Mission**
8. **University of Kerala Identifies Martian Analogue Sites in Tamil Nadu and Chile**
9. **DCGI Approves Dr. Reddy's Zytorvi (Toripalimab) for Oesophageal Cancer**
10. **France Reports World's First Human Case of Shamonda Virus**
11. **NASA completed a full-duration (500 seconds) test of an RS-25 engine at up to 111% rated power at Stennis Space Center, Mississippi**

SPORTS

1. **U-23 World Wrestling Championships (Las Vegas, USA): India Wins 6 Medals**

- Vishvajit Ramchandra More – Silver, men's 55 kg Greco-Roman.
- Amruta Pujari – Silver; Komal – Bronze.

2. **World Skate Games 2026 (Asunción, Paraguay): Medals for India**

- At the World Skate Games in Asunción, Paraguay:
  - Anirudh Vinod won Gold (30.394 s) and Lohnath Arun Prasad Silver (30.419 s) in the junior men's 1-lap road race [Unverified].
  - The junior girls' team (Lakshita, Pragathi, Rutva, Charita) won Bronze in the 3,000 m relay – India's first relay medal at this level.
- Anandkumar Velkumar (Tamil Nadu) won Silver in the Men's 1000 m sprint at the World Skate Games 2026 in Asunción, Paraguay

3. **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).

4. **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.

5. **"Test Twenty" Mixed-Gender Cricket Tournament in Sri Lanka**
6. **Mighty Marathas Win Archery Premier League Season 2**

- Mighty Marathas (led by Dhiraj Bommadevara) beat Kakatiya Knights 6–2 in the final in Hyderabad

7. **Kenya's Charles Matata won the men's title at the Delhi Half Marathon on 18 October 2026 in 58:52, breaking the course record of 58:53 set by Amedework Walelegn in 2020.**
8. **ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup 2027 Schedule Announced**

- The 3rd edition will be held from 21 January to 6 February 2027, co-hosted by Bangladesh and Nepal – 41 matches (26 in Bangladesh, 15 in Nepal) across 4 venues: Chattogram and Sylhet (Bangladesh); Kirtipur (TU International Cricket Ground) and Mulpani (Kathmandu, Nepal).
- 16 teams; defending champion India is in Group A with Ireland, West Indies and Nepal.
- Super Six stage, then semi-finals (4 February) and final (6 February 2027) at Chattogram.
- India won the 1st (2023) and 2nd (2025) editions.
- **International Cricket Council (ICC):** Chairman – Jay Shah; CEO – Sanjog Gupta; HQ – Dubai.

9. **Arshi Gupta (10, Faridabad, Haryana) won the Mini Max category of the FMSCI Rotax Max Challenge (RMC) Indian National Karting Championship 2026 (Round 5) in Bengaluru, setting a track record with 8 consecutive fastest laps.**

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10. Inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship was Held at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

- **13 countries, 23 squads, 62 matches; motto:** "One Breath, One Raid, One Commonwealth".
- **India captains:** men – Surjeet Singh (VC: Naveen Kumar); women – Nidhi Sharma (VC: Ritu).
- **The Commonwealth has 56 members (newest:** Togo and Gabon, 2022).

11. Harry Brook Hits Fastest ODI Double Century

- England's Harry Brook reached the fastest ODI double century off 114 balls against Sri Lanka at Rawalpindi, Pakistan on 22 October 2026, breaking Shubman Gill's record (117 balls, 30 September 2026); England's first ODI double century.

12. Indian cricketer Sabbhineni Meghana (Andhra Pradesh) announced her retirement

13. Pankaj Advani Wins 29th World Title; Shruthi L Completes Hat-Trick

- Pankaj Advani won the 2026 World Billiards Championship in England, beating Robert Hall (1906–1206) – his 29th world title (21st in billiards).
- Shruthi L (Chennai) won the 2026 World Women's Billiards Championship in England – her 3rd consecutive title

14. Durga Esha Kandrapu Wins Hellas International; Sindhu Runner-Up at French Open

- Kandrapu Durga Esha (Andhra Pradesh) won the Hellas International badminton tournament in Greece (a BWF Future Series event).
- P. V. Sindhu reached the French Open 2026 (Super 750) final, beating Japan's Hina Akechi 21-10, 20-22, 21-16 at Arena Grand Paris; she lost the final to An Se Young (South Korea, World No. 1) 21-16, 11-21, 12-21 on 25 October 2026.
- Sindhu won Olympic silver (Rio 2016) and bronze (Tokyo 2020).
- **Badminton World Federation (BWF) HQ:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

15. London-based Indian-origin prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan became the youngest female International Master (IM) ever at 11 years, 7 months, 16 days

16. Kimi Antonelli (Italy, Mercedes) won the 2026 US Grand Prix (Austin) – his 9th win of the season.

17. Ahmedabad to Host 2029 World Weightlifting Championships

18. 2026 Grand Slam singles champions:

- **Men:** Australian Open – Carlos Alcaraz; French Open and US Open – Alexander Zverev; Wimbledon – Jannik Sinner.
- **Women:** Australian Open and US Open – Elena Rybakina; French Open – Mirra Andreeva; Wimbledon – Linda Nosková.

19. 70th Ballon d'Or 2026

- Organised by France Football at the London Palladium.
- **Men's Ballon d'Or and Gerd Müller Trophy:** Harry Kane (England / Bayern Munich; 61 goals for Bayern, 73 in all [Unverified]) – first Englishman to win in 25 years, since Michael Owen (2001).
- **Women's Ballon d'Or:** Alexia Putellas (Spain / London City Lionesses) – her 3rd title, equalling Aitana Bonmatí.
- **Kopa Trophy (best under-21 player):** Lamine Yamal (men); Vicky López (women).
- **Yashin Trophy (goalkeeper):** Unai Simón (men); Cata Coll (women).
- **Women's Gerd Müller Trophy:** Charlyn Corral.
- **Club of the Year:** Paris Saint-Germain (men); FC Barcelona (women).
- **Coach of the Year:** Luis de la Fuente (men); Pere Romeu (women).

20. Bukayo Saka Wins Sócrates Award 2026

21. Nishchay Sets U18 National Record in Discus Throw

- Nishchay (Haryana) set a new U18 national record of 66.75 m at the 41st National Junior Athletics Championships, Chennai

22. Aditya Wins Gold at World Boxing U19 Championships, Budva (Montenegro)

- Aditya won gold in the 55 kg category at the World Boxing U19 Championships in Budva, Montenegro
- **India's tally:** 4 medals (1 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze).
  - **Silver:** Megha Sheokand (women's 80 kg).
  - **Bronze:** Harshika (65 kg) and Prachi Tokas (80+ kg).

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23. The official slogan "Stars Align" for the Los Angeles 2028 (LA28) Olympic and Paralympic Games was unveiled; the campaign film uses Red Hot Chili Peppers' song "Can't Stop".

- **Upcoming Games — Summer:** 2028 Los Angeles (USA), 2032 Brisbane (Australia); Winter: 2026 Milano Cortina (Italy), 2030 French Alps (France), 2034 Salt Lake City–Utah (USA).

24. Hockey Midfielder Nilakanta Sharma Retires from International Hockey

25. Women's Premier League (WPL) 2027 Auction Highlights

- **Most expensive player (and overseas player):** Sophie Molineux (Australia) — UP Warriorz, ₹1.10 crore.
- **Most expensive Indian player:** Kiran Navgire — Delhi Capitals, ₹75 lakh.
- **Youngest-ever WPL signing:** Uma Kashvi (Kashvi Kandikuppa), aged 15, from Karnataka — Delhi Capitals, ₹10 lakh.

26. Arshdeep Singh First Indian to 150 T20I Wickets; Rashid Khan First to 200

- Arshdeep Singh became the first Indian bowler to take 150 wickets in men's T20 Internationals (T20Is), in his 103rd T20I — the 4th T20I against New Zealand at Eden Park, Auckland, on 30 October 2026; his 150th wicket was NZ captain Mitchell Santner.

27. MCA (Mumbai Cricket Association) Team C Wins Inaugural Captain Diana Trophy (Women's T20)

- Awards:
  - **Player of the Tournament:** Hurley Gala (113 runs and 1 wicket).
  - **Best Batter:** Siya Modi (121 runs; also Emerging Player).
  - **Best Bowler:** Ashwini Nishad (4 wickets).
  - **Best Fielder:** Sharvi Save (2 run-outs).

STATIC NEWS

1. United Nations Day (24 October)

- Marks the entry into force of the UN Charter on 24 October 1945; 2026 is the 81st anniversary; HQ: New York.
- **193 member states (193rd:** South Sudan, 2011); India is a founding member (1945).
- **81st UNGA:** opened on 8 September 2026; General Debate from 22 September 2026; Theme: "Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation: A United Nations that Delivers for All"; India's delegation led by EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar.
- **UNGA President (81st session):** Khalilur Rahman (Foreign Minister of Bangladesh; 2nd Bangladeshi to hold the post); Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit (India) was the first woman UNGA President.
- **UN Secretary-General:** António Guterres (9th, Portugal; since 2017).
- **United Nations Day (24 October):** 81st anniversary of the UN Charter coming into force (1945); 193 members; UN Security Council – 15 members (5 permanent: China, France, Russia, UK, US; 10 non-permanent)

2. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October)

- **Theme (2026–2028):** "United for Peace and Human Rights"; 2026 focus: "Safe Homes for All" (adequate housing).
- **United Nations:** Established 24 October 1945; HQ: New York; Secretary-General: António Guterres (9th SG, Portugal; term ends 31 December 2026).
- **President of the 81st UNGA:** Khalilur Rahman (Bangladesh), the 2nd Bangladeshi after Humayun Rasheed Choudhury.
- Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit (1953) is the only Indian and the first woman to serve as UNGA President.

3. World Polio Day (24 October)

- Established by Rotary International to commemorate Dr. Jonas Salk, who developed the first Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) in 1955; Dr. Albert Sabin later developed the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV).
- **2026 Theme:** "Together, We End Polio"
- Wild polio remains endemic only in Pakistan and Afghanistan; India was certified polio-free by WHO on 27 March 2014.

4. Disarmament Week and Vigilance Awareness Week 2026

- **UNODA Disarmament Week:** 24–30 October 2026, by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.
- **Vigilance Awareness Week:** 26 October – 1 November 2026, by the Central Vigilance

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Commission (CVC); theme "Probity for Prosperity" (Satyanishtha Se Samriddhi).

- **CVC:** set up in 1964 on the recommendation of the K. Santhanam Committee; statutory status under the CVC Act, 2003.

5. UNESCO Global Media and Information Literacy Week (24–31 October 2026)

- **Observed on 24–31 October 2026; Theme:** "We All Play a Part: Media and Information Literacy for the People".
- **UNESCO:** HQ – Paris; DG – Khaled El-Enany (Egypt; first Arab DG).
- **International Literacy Day:** 8 September.

6. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas 2026: 151st Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- Given the title "Sardar" by the women of Bardoli during the Bardoli Satyagraha (1928).
- Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) was observed on 31 October 2026, marking the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (born 31 October 1875, Nadiad, Gujarat).
- On 31 October 2026, the PM dedicated the "Rain Forest" theme park at Ekta Nagar
- **Statue of Unity:** world's tallest statue (182 m, about 597 ft), at Kevadia (Ekta Nagar), Narmada district, Gujarat; inaugurated on 31 October 2018.
- **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) — 31 October (2026:** 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel); observed since 2014

7. International Day of Care and Support – 29 October

- **Theme 2026:** "Building sustainable care and support systems through decent work".

8. Mahila Kisan Divas Observed on 15 October

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

9. World Spine Day (16 October)

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

10. World Food Day 2026 (16 October)

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

11. World Trauma Day is observed globally on 17 October

12. Global Handwashing Day (15 October): Theme: "Be a Handwashing Hero"

13. Police Commemoration Day (21 October)

14. National targets: 2028 – piped drinking water to every rural household (Har Ghar Jal); 2029 – drug-free India; 2025 – India's TB elimination goal (5 years ahead of the SDG target of 2030); 2047 – elimination of sickle cell anaemia.

15. International Tiger Day: 29 July; World Lion Day: 10 August.

16. International Day of the Snow Leopard (23 October)

17. 80th Infantry Day (Shaurya Diwas) – 27 October

18. International Animation Day – 28 October

19. Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada (1–15 November)

- Observed from 1 to 15 November, with over 300 tribal projects planned; precedes Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas (15 November) – birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda (born at Ulihatu, Khunti, Jharkhand).

20. Key Agriculture-Related Observance Dates

- **National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas):** 23 December.
- **World Food Day:** 16 October.
- **World Soil Day:** 5 December.
- **National Agriculture Day:** 1 July [Unverified].
- **2026:** International Year of the Woman Farmer (UN).

21. World Stroke Day — 29 October ; 2026 campaign: "Every M1nute Counts" (#ActFAST)

22. World Thrift Day — observed worldwide on 31 October and in India on 30 October (shifted after Indira Gandhi's assassination on 31 October 1984)

23. World Cities Day — 31 October; 2026 Theme: "Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All"; general slogan: "Better City, Better Life".

24. Standard Identification Number Formats

- **Aadhaar / e-Aadhaar:** 12 digits.
- **APAAR ID:** 12 digits.
- **PAN:** 10 alphanumeric characters.
- **UAN (EPFO) and PRAN (Pension):** 12 digits.
- **CVV:** 3 digits.

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- **UPI PIN:** 4 or 6 digits.
- **DGFT Importer Exporter Code (IEC):** 10 alphanumeric characters.
- **BIS Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID):** 6-character alphanumeric.
- **Postal PIN Code:** 6 digits; DIGIPIN: 10-character alphanumeric.

25. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC): Founded on 8 December 1985; Secretariat: Kathmandu, Nepal; 8 members – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

26. Global Notes: Indices, Forums, Institutions and Currencies

- Seoul, South Korea hosted the World Knowledge Forum.
- **Safran:** major aircraft engine manufacturer of France.
- **Currencies:** Vietnam – Dong; South Korea – Won; South Africa – Rand.

27. NATO: Founded 4 April 1949 (Washington Treaty); HQ: Brussels; military HQ (SHAPE): Mons, Belgium; 32 members (32nd: Sweden, 2024).

28. Heads of major global financial institutions:

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF):** Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria); HQ: Washington, D.C.
- **World Bank:** 14th President Ajay Banga (Indian-American; since 2 June 2023); HQ: Washington, D.C.
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB):** President Masato Kanda (Japan; since 24 February 2025); HQ: Manila, Philippines.
- **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):** President Zou Jiayi (China; since 16 January 2026, succeeding Jin Liqun); HQ: Beijing, China.
- **New Development Bank (NDB / BRICS Bank):** President Dilma Rousseff (Brazil); HQ: Shanghai, China.

29. Union Minister of Jal Shakti: C.R. Patil (Chandrakant Raghunath Patil).

30. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) HQ: Geneva, Switzerland ; Secretary-General: Prof. Celeste Saulo (Argentina)

200 MOST EXPECTED GENERAL AWARENESS QUESTIONS

Q1. Which company is buying a 60.72% stake in IDBI Bank?
Ans: Fairfax Financial Holdings

Q2. After the IDBI Bank stake sale, how much stake will LIC retain?
Ans: 19%

Q3. What is the FDI limit in public sector banks?
Ans: 20%

Q4. Who was appointed Chairperson of the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)?
Ans: Subhash Chandra Lal (SCL) Das

Q5. The FSIB replaced which body?
Ans: Banks Board Bureau (BBB)

Q6. Who chairs the High Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat?
Ans: Suresh N. Patel

Q7. Who took over as MD & CEO of HDFC Bank?
Ans: Anup Bagchi

Q8. Which bank was named "World's Best Consumer Bank 2026" by Global Finance?
Ans: State Bank of India (SBI)

Q9. What is the new name of ICICI Prudential Life?
Ans: ICICI Life Insurance

Q10. What is the minimum leverage ratio for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)?
Ans: 4%

Q11. What is the minimum leverage ratio for other commercial banks?
Ans: 3.5%

Q12. From when will the Basel III Standardised Approach for operational risk apply?
Ans: 1 April 2027

Q13. The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) is hosted by which body?
Ans: Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

Q14. What is the name of the RRB reform agenda for FY27?
Ans: Utkarsh

Q15. How many Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are there now?
Ans: 28

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Q16. On whose recommendation were Regional Rural Banks set up?
Ans: Narasimham Working Group

Q17. Which was the 2nd public sector bank to sponsor a pension fund?
Ans: Bank of Baroda

Q18. What did PFRDA launch on NPS Diwas (1 October 2026)?
Ans: NPS Central

Q19. What is the entry age for the Atal Pension Yojana?
Ans: 18–40 years

Q20. Who is the Chairperson of PFRDA?
Ans: Sivasubramanian Ramann

Q21. Which month has IRDAI declared as "Grievance Resolution Month"?
Ans: November 2026

Q22. Where is the headquarters of IRDAI?
Ans: Hyderabad

Q23. Who is the Chairman of IRDAI?
Ans: Ajay Seth

Q24. What is the repo rate after the October 2026 RBI policy?
Ans: 5.50%

Q25. What is the premature redemption price of SGB 2020-21 Series VII?
Ans: ₹14,614

Q26. What is the premature redemption price of SGB 2020-21 Series I?
Ans: ₹14,159

Q27. What is the interest rate on Sovereign Gold Bonds?
Ans: 2.5% per annum

Q28. Up to what amount can depositors claim from DICGC?
Ans: ₹5 lakh

Q29. Which company listed India's first WASH Social Bond?
Ans: NABKISAN Finance

Q30. What are the two equity indices launched by NCDEX?
Ans: NDEX and FINNDEX

Q31. What is the minimum amount for an RTGS transfer?
Ans: ₹2 lakh

Q32. How many characters does an IFSC code have?
Ans: 11

Q33. What is the name of RBI's Core Banking Solution?
Ans: e-Kuber

Q34. Where did PM Modi inaugurate the RBI Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute?
Ans: Jatni (Khordha), Odisha

Q35. What is the name of SBI's cybersecurity Centre of Excellence?
Ans: CyRIS

Q36. What is the name of SBI's simplified YONO for feature-phone users?
Ans: YONO Bharat

Q37. Which bank ranked 1st in Bihar's Performance Index for Banks?
Ans: IDFC First Bank

Q38. By 31 December 2026, TPAPs must limit their UPI volume share to what percentage?
Ans: 30%

Q39. What is the wallet limit for UPI Lite?
Ans: ₹5,000

Q40. Which was India's first private-sector company to issue tokenised bonds?
Ans: Larsen & Toubro

Q41. What was the listing premium of Jio Platforms?
Ans: 21.36%

Q42. NPCI MD & CEO Dilip Asbe was appointed to which board?
Ans: SWIFT Supervisory Board

Q43. REC Limited is being merged into which company?
Ans: Power Finance Corporation

Q44. What minimum average operating profit has SEBI proposed for SME IPOs?
Ans: ₹3 crore

Q45. Which company got SEBI's Online Bond Platform Provider (OBPP) licence?
Ans: PB Money

Q46. SEBI signed an MoU on clearing corporations with which central bank?
Ans: Bank of England

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Q47. How much did the Index of Core Industries grow in September 2026?
Ans: 7.9%

Q48. Which industry has the highest weight in the Index of Core Industries?
Ans: Electricity

Q49. Which industry was newly added to the Index of Core Industries?
Ans: Iron Ore

Q50. How much did the IIP grow in September 2026?
Ans: 6.7%

Q51. What is the new base year of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)?
Ans: 2022–23

Q52. What is the new Dearness Allowance rate for Central Government employees?
Ans: 63%

Q53. What is the new EPF wage ceiling for mandatory coverage?
Ans: ₹25,000

Q54. What is the Finance Ministry's Q2 FY27 GDP growth projection?
Ans: 7.35%

Q55. What is the IMF's FY27 GDP growth forecast for India?
Ans: 7.0%

Q56. What is India's extreme poverty rate as per the World Bank?
Ans: 2.6%

Q57. What is the new name of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)?
Ans: Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana

Q58. What is the outlay of the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY)?
Ans: ₹7,395.55 crore

Q59. What is the AI-enabled communication platform under PM-VGSY called?
Ans: PANCHAM

Q60. What is the outlay of the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)?
Ans: ₹10,000 crore

Q61. What is the outlay of the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme?
Ans: ₹1,856.67 crore

Q62. From where was the 24th instalment of PM-KISAN released?
Ans: Banaskantha, Gujarat

Q63. How much does a farmer family get each year under PM-KISAN?
Ans: ₹6,000

Q64. On whose recommendation was the Kisan Credit Card scheme introduced in 1998?
Ans: R.V. Gupta Committee

Q65. Which state ranks 1st in Digital Kisan Credit Card applications?
Ans: Uttar Pradesh

Q66. What is the new collateral-free limit for KCC loans?
Ans: ₹2 lakh

Q67. How much does a first-time employee get under PM-VBRY?
Ans: ₹15,000

Q68. How many villages have been declared Adarsh Gram under PM-AJAY?
Ans: 18,093

Q69. What is the name of the National Offshore Exploration Scheme?
Ans: Samudra Manthan

Q70. What is the outlay of Samudra Manthan?
Ans: ₹84,084 crore

Q71. How many days of work are guaranteed under VB-G RAM G, which replaced MGNREGA?
Ans: 125 days

Q72. When was the UDAN scheme launched?
Ans: 21 October 2016

Q73. Senior citizens of what age are covered under the Ayushman Vay Vandana Scheme?
Ans: 70 years and above

Q74. From where was PM-JAY launched?
Ans: Ranchi, Jharkhand

Q75. What is the scholarship amount per year under PM CARES for Children?
Ans: ₹20,000

Q76. What is the target of the National Green Hydrogen Mission by 2030?
Ans: 5 MMT

Q77. How many Farmer IDs have been generated under AgriStack?
Ans: 11 crore

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Q78. What is the annual fee for the local toll pass at fee plazas outside town limits?
Ans: ₹1,500

Q79. What is the new fee for the FASTag Annual Pass?
Ans: ₹3,075

Q80. What is the name of the Jal Shakti Ministry's app for groundwater recharge?
Ans: Punah Bharan

Q81. Which Union Territory was declared fully literate under ULLAS?
Ans: Lakshadweep

Q82. Which was the first state declared fully literate under ULLAS?
Ans: Mizoram

Q83. Under which Article is the GST Council set up?
Ans: Article 279A

Q84. Which place was notified as Ladakh's 8th district?
Ans: Sankoo

Q85. Which was India's first fully organic Union Territory?
Ans: Ladakh

Q86. Where is India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park?
Ans: Sindhu Ghat, Leh

Q87. Where is India's highest-altitude High Court bench?
Ans: Leh

Q88. From which date must all telecom operators provide Calling Name Presentation (CNAP)?
Ans: 1 November 2026

Q89. How many Ramsar sites does India have now?
Ans: 103

Q90. Which state has the most Ramsar sites?
Ans: Tamil Nadu

Q91. Asiatic lions returned to which sanctuary after 144 years?
Ans: Barda Wildlife Sanctuary

Q92. What is the reference date for the main Census enumeration?
Ans: 1 March 2027

Q93. Who is the brand ambassador of Census 2027?
Ans: Sudarsan Pattnaik

Q94. Who is the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India?
Ans: Mritunjay Kumar Narayan

Q95. Census 2027 is India's which census overall?
Ans: 16th

Q96. From when will the BS-VII emission norms be rolled out?
Ans: 1 April 2029

Q97. By when should the Yamuna be clean as per the government's target?
Ans: May 2029

Q98. From where was Khet Bachao Abhiyaan (Rabi 2026) launched?
Ans: Karnal, Haryana

Q99. Who chairs the committee set up to review pharma marketing practices?
Ans: Dr. M. Srinivas

Q100. Who heads the committee formed after sugarcane farmers' demands?
Ans: Prof. Ramesh Chand

Q101. Which state's SDRF became India's first with ISO 9001:2015 certification?
Ans: Uttarakhand

Q102. Which state ranked 1st in the Mission Karmayogi rankings?
Ans: Uttar Pradesh

Q103. What is the name of the NCB operation in Assam, Mizoram and Manipur?
Ans: Operation Trident

Q104. What is India's first cooperative-sector airline?
Ans: Co-Keralam

Q105. Which airport was the first to use Digi Yatra for international passengers?
Ans: Cochin International Airport

Q106. Which country suggested the name of Cyclone "Arnab"?
Ans: Bangladesh

Q107. What is Chhattisgarh's state butterfly?
Ans: Orange Oakleaf

Q108. Which was the first state to enact a gig workers' law?
Ans: Rajasthan

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Q109. Which IIT introduced a PhD without a thesis?
Ans: IIT Ropar

Q110. What is India's first potato with purple flesh?
Ans: Kufri Jamunia

Q111. Which state is the largest tea producer in India?
Ans: Assam

Q112. Who took oath as Governor of Karnataka on 16 October 2026?
Ans: Dr. Sudha Yadav

Q113. Who was sworn in as the 29th Governor of Kerala?
Ans: Om Prakash Mathur

Q114. Who was appointed Governor of Sikkim?
Ans: Dushyant (Kumar) Gautam

Q115. Who was sworn in as Governor of Odisha on 18 October 2026?
Ans: Braj Mohan Ram

Q116. Who was sworn in as Governor of Uttarakhand on 19 October 2026?
Ans: Dhal Singh Bisen

Q117. Who took over as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff?
Ans: Ashutosh Dixit

Q118. Who is India's Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)?
Ans: General N. S. Raja Subramani

Q119. Who has been appointed India's Ambassador to Nepal?
Ans: Sudhakar Dalela

Q120. Who was appointed Chairman of ONGC?
Ans: Sunil Kumar

Q121. Who was appointed Chairman of the BCCI senior men's selection committee?
Ans: Pragyan Ojha

Q122. Who was given additional charge as DG of ITBP?
Ans: Sanjay Singhal

Q123. Who was named FICCI President-Elect for 2026-27?
Ans: Vijay Sankar

Q124. Who will step down early as President of the European Central Bank?
Ans: Christine Lagarde

Q125. Who was appointed sole mediator in the KG-D6 gas dispute?
Ans: Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai

Q126. Who became the first woman non-medical Air Vice Marshal?
Ans: Shakti Sharma

Q127. Who was elected President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for 2026–29?
Ans: Milton Dick

Q128. What is India's first multi-purpose vessel in the Navy?
Ans: INS Samarthak

Q129. Where was the IBSAMAR IX naval exercise held?
Ans: Simon's Town, South Africa

Q130. What is the name of the India–UK naval exercise?
Ans: KONKAN

Q131. Which two countries take part in Exercise AUSTRAHIND?
Ans: India and Australia

Q132. Which two countries take part in Exercise Mountain Guardian?
Ans: India and UAE

Q133. What is the name of the India–Singapore maritime bilateral exercise?
Ans: SIMBEX

Q134. Which two countries take part in Exercise Garuda Shakti?
Ans: India and Indonesia

Q135. What is Nagastra-2?
Ans: Anti-tank loitering munition (kamikaze drone)

Q136. What is JWALA?
Ans: India's first private-sector anti-drone micro-missile

Q137. What is the name of the first joint nuclear air exercise of France and the UK?
Ans: Rummy

Q138. What is the name of the Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel launched at Goa Shipyard?
Ans: Srishti

Q139. When was the ITBP raised?
Ans: 24 October 1962

Q140. Where is the NSG Academy located?
Ans: Manesar, Haryana

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Q141. Where will Raksha Expo 2026 be held?
Ans: Bharat Future City, Hyderabad

Q142. Where was the 25th SCO Heads of Government meeting held?
Ans: Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Q143. Where was the 7th CICA Summit held?
Ans: Baku, Azerbaijan

Q144. Where will COP31 (2026) be held?
Ans: Antalya, Türkiye

Q145. Where was COP17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity held?
Ans: Yerevan, Armenia

Q146. Where was the 153rd IPU Assembly held?
Ans: Arusha, Tanzania

Q147. Where was the 13th ADMM-Plus meeting held?
Ans: Cebu, Philippines

Q148. Which country became the 11th member of ASEAN?
Ans: Timor-Leste

Q149. Which country holds the BRICS chairship for 2026?
Ans: India

Q150. Which country was the first to receive support from the Loss and Damage Fund?
Ans: Nepal

Q151. Which country was the first in the world to ban social media for children under 16?
Ans: Australia

Q152. Where was the World Health Summit 2026 held?
Ans: Berlin

Q153. Which country will chair the IMF and World Bank Boards of Governors in 2027?
Ans: Pakistan

Q154. Where was the 19th Urban Mobility India Conference held?
Ans: Bhubaneswar

Q155. What is India's rank in the Global Hunger Index 2026?
Ans: 100th

Q156. What is India's rank in the Henley Passport Index (October 2026)?
Ans: 84th

Q157. Which country tops the Henley Passport Index (October 2026)?
Ans: Singapore

Q158. What is India's rank in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2026?
Ans: 88th

Q159. Which country tops the WJP Rule of Law Index 2026?
Ans: Denmark

Q160. What is India's rank in the Global Innovation Index 2026?
Ans: 38th

Q161. What is India's rank in the SDG Index 2026?
Ans: 94th

Q162. Which Indian museum ranked 9th in the World's 100 Best Museums 2026?
Ans: Bihar Museum, Patna

Q163. Which was the most visited monument in India in FY 2025-26?
Ans: Taj Mahal

Q164. Who won the World Food Prize 2026?
Ans: Huub Lelieveld

Q165. Who won the Sakharov Prize 2026?
Ans: International Criminal Court

Q166. Who won the men's Ballon d'Or 2026?
Ans: Harry Kane

Q167. Which film won Best Film at the 26th IIFA Awards?
Ans: Dhurandhar

Q168. Which film is India's official entry for the 99th Academy Awards?
Ans: Gondhal

Q169. Who became the first Indian to receive the Oskar Klein Medal?
Ans: Ashoke Sen

Q170. Who will receive the inaugural Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Award?
Ans: Usha Mangeshkar

Q171. Which French honour was conferred on Sunil Bharti Mittal?
Ans: Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur

Q172. Which city will host the Earthshot Prize 2026 awards?
Ans: Mumbai

Q173. Who won the 3M Young Scientist Challenge 2026?
Ans: Raji Doshi

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Q174. Which navigation satellite was launched on GSLV-F18?
Ans: NVS-03

Q175. Where is the SSLV spaceport being built?
Ans: Kulasekarapattinam

Q176. With which country's space agency will India carry out Chandrayaan-5?
Ans: Japan

Q177. By which year will the Bharatiya Antariksh Station be fully operational?
Ans: 2035

Q178. How many medals did India win at the 5th Asian Para Games 2026?
Ans: 114

Q179. Where will the 6th Asian Para Games (2030) be held?
Ans: Doha, Qatar

Q180. Who became India's first woman Senior World Wrestling Champion?
Ans: Manisha Bhanwala

Q181. Who became the first Indian bowler to take 150 T20I wickets?
Ans: Arshdeep Singh

Q182. Who hit the fastest ODI double century (off 114 balls)?
Ans: Harry Brook

Q183. Who won the 2026 World Billiards Championship, his 29th world title?
Ans: Pankaj Advani

Q184. Which countries will co-host the ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup 2027?
Ans: Bangladesh and Nepal

Q185. Where was the inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship held?
Ans: Ahmedabad

Q186. What is the official slogan of the LA 2028 Olympics?
Ans: Stars Align

Q187. Who was the most expensive player in the WPL 2027 auction?
Ans: Sophie Molineux

Q188. Who founded the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)?
Ans: Alexander Cunningham

Q189. What is the height of the Statue of Unity?
Ans: 182 m

Q190. When is Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas observed?
Ans: 15 November

Q191. When was India certified polio-free by WHO?
Ans: 27 March 2014

Q192. What is the theme of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026?
Ans: Probity for Prosperity

Q193. On whose recommendation was the CVC set up in 1964?
Ans: K. Santhanam Committee

Q194. On which date is World Thrift Day observed in India?
Ans: 30 October

Q195. Where is the SAARC Secretariat?
Ans: Kathmandu, Nepal

Q196. Where is the headquarters of the New Development Bank (BRICS Bank)?
Ans: Shanghai

Q197. How many World Heritage Sites does India have?
Ans: 45

Q198. Which was India's 45th World Heritage Site?
Ans: Sarnath

Q199. To which goddess is Bastar Dussehra dedicated?
Ans: Goddess Danteshwari

Q200. What is the theme of the 5th Kashi Tamil Sangamam?
Ans: Thirukkural Payilvom

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