1. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC) at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.

2. 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

3. 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.

3. The Index of Core Industries (ICI) grew 7.9% year-on-year 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%).

4. 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.
- 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.

5. 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.

6. Dinesh Kumar Khara, former SBI Chairman, appointed Independent Director of Piramal Finance Board

7. 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.

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

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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

12. India Hosts 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum

- 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.

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

- Singapore ranks 1st on the Henley Passport Index (October 2026).
- Seoul, South Korea hosted the World Knowledge Forum.
- New Development Bank (NDB) President: former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff.
- Safran: major aircraft engine manufacturer of France.
- Currencies: Vietnam – Dong; South Korea – Won; South Africa – Rand.

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

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- 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

15. 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.

16. 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).

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

18. Tamil Nadu Launches Dengue Vaccination Pilot at Kadayanallur

- Vaccine: Qdenga, by Japan's Takeda

19. 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.

20. 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).

21. UNESCO Tentative List: 3 New Indian Sites; 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.

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

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

- Top 5: 1. Malaysia, 2. Singapore, 3. India, 4. Vietnam, 5. Australia.

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24. DCGI Approves Dr. Reddy's Zytorvi (Toripalimab) for Oesophageal Cancer

25. 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.

26. 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.

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

Important Questions and Answers:

1. **With which company did Karmayogi Bharat sign an MoU to build AI skills among civil servants?**
   OpenAI
2. **How much did the Index of Core Industries grow in September 2026?**
   7.9%
3. **Which industry has the highest weight in the Index of Core Industries?**
   Electricity (30.93%)
4. **What is the wallet limit for UPI Lite?**
   ₹5,000
5. **Which was India's first private-sector company to issue tokenised bonds?**
   Larsen & Toubro (L&T)
6. **Where was the 7th Global Fintech Fest held?**
   Mumbai
7. **What is the name of the India–UAE joint military exercise?**
   Desert Cyclone
8. **What is the currency of Poland?**
   Zloty
9. **Which country holds the BRICS chairship for 2026?**
   India
10. **When was the UDAN scheme launched?**
    21 October 2016
11. **What is JWALA?**
    India's first private-sector anti-drone micro-missile
12. **When was the ITBP raised?**
    24 October 1962
13. **Which dengue vaccine is used in Tamil Nadu's pilot programme?**
    Qdenga (by Takeda, Japan)
14. **How many days of work are guaranteed under VB-G RAM G, which replaced MGNREGA?**
    125 days
15. **Which countries will co-host the ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup 2027?**
    Bangladesh and Nepal

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