1. Om Prakash Mathur Sworn In as 29th Governor of Keralam
- Oath administered by Kerala High Court Chief Justice Soumen Sen.

2. The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, constituted a 3-member committee on 23 October 2026 to review pharmaceutical marketing practices and curb unethical incentives/gifts to doctors.
- Chair: Dr. M. Srinivas (Member, NITI Aayog); members: Preeti Sudan (former Union Health Secretary) and Dr. Naresh Trehan (CMD, Medanta).

3. 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).

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Khet Bachao Abhiyaan (Rabi Season) Launched from Karnal, Haryana by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Focus: soil health, natural/organic farming and sustainable use of resources.

7. 19th Urban Mobility India Conference Held in Bhubaneswar
- Theme: "Urban Accessibility and Liveability in Digital Age".

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

9. 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

10. 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.

11. 65th Raising Day of ITBP
- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) celebrated its 65th Raising Day on 24 October 2026.

12. 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".

13. INS Trishul Concludes Port Call at Lisbon, Portugal

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

15. 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).

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- France passed an under-15 ban in July 2026, but it was struck down by its Constitutional Council in August 2026.

16. First Human Case of Shamonda Virus Reported in France

17. UN Loss and Damage Fund Approves $20 Million for Flood-Hit Nepal

18. NASA completed a full-duration (500 seconds) test of an RS-25 engine at up to 111% rated power at Stennis Space Center, Mississippi

19. 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).

20. 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.

21. 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in New Delhi

- Theme: "Strengthening Parliaments for People-Centric Development".
- 4 sessions: Resilience (institutional), Innovation (AI and digital), Cooperation (global governance) and Sustainability.

22. Sunil Kumar Appointed Chairman of ONGC

23. Kochi Student Wins 28th Charles Correa Gold Medal

24. 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.

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

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

27. 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.

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

29. 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

30. 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.

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- Sindhu won Olympic silver (Rio 2016) and bronze (Tokyo 2020).
- Badminton World Federation (BWF) HQ: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Important Questions and Answers

1. **Who was sworn in as the 29th Governor of Kerala?**
   Om Prakash Mathur
2. **Who chairs the committee set up to review pharma marketing practices?**
   Dr. M. Srinivas
3. **What is the name of the National Offshore Exploration Scheme?**
   Samudra Manthan
4. **By when should the Yamuna be clean, as per the target set by the government?**
   May 2029
5. **From where was Khet Bachao Abhiyaan (Rabi season) launched?**
   Karnal, Haryana
6. **Where was the 19th Urban Mobility India Conference held?**
   Bhubaneswar
7. **What is Nagastra-2?**
   An indigenous anti-tank loitering munition (kamikaze drone)
8. **Who is India's Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)?**
   General N. S. Raja Subramani
9. **Who has been appointed the 29th Chief of the Air Staff?**
   Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
10. **What is the name of the first joint nuclear air exercise of France and the UK?**
    Rummy
11. **Which country was the first in the world to ban social media for children under 16?**
    Australia
12. **When was India certified polio-free by WHO?**
    27 March 2014
13. **Who was appointed Chairman of ONGC?**
    Sunil Kumar
14. **Who hit the fastest ODI double century (off 114 balls)?**
    Harry Brook (England)
15. **Who won the 2026 World Billiards Championship, his 29th world title?**
    Pankaj Advani

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