1. International Day for Biosphere Reserves – 3 November
- India has 18 Biosphere Reserves (about 91,425 sq km); 13 are part of UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- First Biosphere Reserve: Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

2. International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists – 2 November
- UNESCO 2026 campaign theme: "Threats Evolve. Impunity Endures."

3. Department of Posts Releases Stamps for Breast Cancer Awareness
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month is observed from 1 to 31 October.

4. SEBI reduced the cooling-off period for Offer for Sale (OFS) of illiquid units of privately listed InvITs from 12 weeks to 8 weeks.

5. SBI Research, in its Ecowrap report (12 October 2026), recommended scrapping the Long-Term Capital Gains (LTCG) tax on equities and extending the holding period to 2–3 years.
- Current tax structure: LTCG – 12.5% on gains above ₹1.25 lakh per financial year (holding over 12 months); Short-Term Capital Gains (STCG) – 20%.

6. SEBI Signs MoU with Digital India BHASHINI(BHASHa INterface for India)
- BHASHINI is the National Language Translation Mission platform under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

7. SEBI granted Upstox a licence to operate as an Online Bond Platform Provider (OBPP)

8. IRDAI Eases Rules on Transfer of Shares in Insurance Companies
- Prior approval now needed only if the nominal value of shares transferred exceeds 5% of paid-up capital in a financial year (earlier 1%).
- Processing fee for transfers above 50% cut from ₹50 lakh to ₹10 lakh
- IRDAI: HQ – Hyderabad; Chairman: Ajay Seth.

9. IRDAI directed insurance companies to observe October as Cyber Security Awareness Month

10. All listed companies, including public sector banks such as Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), must maintain a minimum public shareholding of 25%.

11. The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, stood at 54.7 in October 2026

12. Windfall Tax on Fuel Exports Revised: Nil on Petrol, Higher on Diesel and ATF
- Petrol exports: ₹2.50/litre → Nil
- Diesel exports: ₹8.50/litre → ₹11.50/litre
- Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) exports: ₹10.50/litre → ₹11.00/litre

13. UPI Enabled at Burj Khalifa and Resorts World Sentosa
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) can now be used for online bookings at:
- Burj Khalifa ("At the Top"), UAE – via NEOPAY and Emaar Entertainment; announced by NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) on 29 July 2026; the first UAE attraction to accept UPI for e-commerce.
- Resorts World Sentosa, Singapore – via FOMO Pay (covering Universal Studios Singapore, Singapore Oceanarium and Adventure Cove Waterpark)
- Target: UPI in 20 countries by FY29 (RBI Annual Report).

14. Reliance Overtakes Tata as India's Most Valuable Business Group
- Reliance Group overtook the Tata Group as India's most valuable business group on 28 October 2026, after the listing of Jio Platforms.

15. Cotton: Import Duty Exemption Extended; Mission for Cotton Productivity
- Mission for Cotton Productivity: approved by the Union Cabinet on 5 May 2026 with an outlay of ₹5,659.22 crore for FY 2026-27 to 2030-31.
- Covers 140 districts in 14 states; targets production of 498 lakh bales (170 kg each) by 2031.
- The Ministry of Finance extended the exemption from basic customs duty and the Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on raw cotton imports up to 31 December 2026
- 5F Vision: Farm → Fibre → Factory → Fashion → Foreign.
- India's premium cotton brand: Kasturi Cotton Bharat (branding, traceability and certification).

Prepared by G V Satish, Director, NBCC

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16. Imported drugs must have a residual shelf life of at least 12 months at the time of import.

17. VB-G RAM G Grievance Redressal Rules, 2026 Notified

- The Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-G RAM G) was notified on 11 May 2026 and came into force on 1 July 2026, repealing MGNREGA, 2005.
- Raises guaranteed rural unskilled wage employment from 100 days to 125 days per household per financial year.
- Timelines: spot verification and disposal within 7 working days; corrective action within 15 days of the enquiry.
- Escalation: unresolved grievances move automatically to the next higher level after 15 days.
- Appeals: to be filed within 45 days and decided within 30 days.

18. Jatin Kumar Nayak, former Executive Director (Finance), REC Limited, took charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)

19. Dinesh Vithalrao Ganveer Becomes 55th Director General of GSI (Geological Survey of India)

- GSI: established in 1851 (175 years); under the Ministry of Mines (Union Minister: G. Kishan Reddy); HQ: Kolkata; 6 regional offices.

20. Iliana Iotova became Bulgaria's first woman President

- Bulgaria: Capital – Sofia; became the 21st member of the Eurozone on 1 January 2026.
- IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva is from Bulgaria.

21. IBM Quantum Computer for Amaravati Quantum Valley, Andhra Pradesh

- IBM (CEO: Arvind Krishna) is installing a quantum computer at the Amaravati Quantum Valley, Andhra Pradesh.

22. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

23. EPFO Launches Verified WhatsApp Service

- Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) verified WhatsApp service on EPFO's 74th Foundation Day (1 November 2026).

24. The ONGC Energy Centre commissioned India's first two geothermal wells (each 1,000 m deep) at Puga Valley, Ladakh (over 14,000 ft) around 22 July 2026.

25. Defence Production Hits Record ₹1.78 Lakh Crore in FY 2025-26

- Defence exports: ₹38,424 crore.
- Targets for 2029: defence production ₹3 lakh crore; exports ₹50,000 crore.

26. INS Sudarshini Completes 'Lokayan 26' Trans-Oceanic Expedition

- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Krishna Swaminathan (27th CNS, took charge 31 May 2026).

27. INS Trishul Port Call in Greece

28. AUSTRAHIND 2026: 5th Edition of India–Australia Military Exercise

- The 5th edition of Exercise AUSTRAHIND between the Indian Army and the Australian Army was held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

29. 2nd edition of the India–Republic of Korea Navy (IN–RoKN) bilateral exercise held off Busan, South Korea, with harbour and sea phases.

30. The 5th edition of Tiger Triumph, the India–US tri-services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise, began in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

31. The first-ever BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise was held at Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- BIMSTEC: 7 member nations; Secretariat: Dhaka, Bangladesh.

32. On 30 October 2026, the UN Security Council failed to renew the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO):

33. Fiji: declared a national HIV emergency on 17 September 2026.

34. Malaysia: declared an air-quality emergency in Serian district, Sarawak on 4 September 2026 due to haze from Indonesian forest fires.

35. Cyclone Murasu Makes Landfall on South Andhra Pradesh Coast

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- Cyclone Murasu made landfall on the south Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Narsapur, near Ongole (Prakasam district)
- Name proposed by India; previous cyclone Arnab (named by Bangladesh); next name Akvan (proposed by Iran).

36. Prashant Chaudhary Wins 5th Rohini Nayyar Prize

37. Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak 2026 Awarded to 490 Personnel

38. Kullu's (Himachal Pradesh) Sinduri Pomegranates Exported to Dubai

39. Guwahati Airport Notified as Export Point for Agarwood Chips and Oil

40. Ved Rahi, renowned Dogri and Hindi writer and filmmaker, passed away

41. Kimi Antonelli Becomes Youngest F1 World Champion

- Mercedes driver Andrea Kimi Antonelli (Italy) clinched the 2026 Formula One World Championship at the Mexico City Grand Prix on 1 November 2026, finishing 3rd.
- At 20 years 68 days, he is the youngest F1 World Champion, breaking Sebastian Vettel's record (23 years 134 days).

42. India at Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games

- Dhinidhi Desinghu (16) won bronze in the women's 100m freestyle in a national record 56.27 seconds, the first Indian swimmer to win a Youth Olympic Games medal
- Khushbu Darjada (Gujarat) won silver in women's 63 kg judo, losing the final to Jolina Reinhold (Germany)

43. Hylo Open 2026 (BWF Super 500) was held in Saarbrücken, Germany

- Men's singles: Lakshya Sen won the title, defeating defending champion Jonatan Christie (Indonesia) in the final [Unverified – result]; beat Toma Junior Popov 21-17, 21-13 in the semi-final.
- Women's singles: PV Sindhu won the title against Line Højmark Kjærsfeldt (Denmark)

44. Ishan Kishan Sets Indian Record for Most T20I Runs in a Calendar Year

- Ishan Kishan became India's highest T20I run-scorer in a calendar year with 1,220 runs in 37 innings , surpassing Suryakumar Yadav's 1,164 runs (2022).

Important Questions and Answers:

1. **How many Biosphere Reserves does India have?**
   18
2. **How many of India's Biosphere Reserves are in UNESCO's network?**
   13
3. **Which was India's first Biosphere Reserve?**
   Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
4. **What is the LTCG tax rate on equities?**
   12.5% (on gains above ₹1.25 lakh)
5. **With which language platform did SEBI sign an MoU?**
   Digital India BHASHINI
6. **Which company got SEBI's licence as an Online Bond Platform Provider (OBPP)?**
   Upstox
7. **Above what share of paid-up capital does a share transfer in an insurance company now need IRDAI's approval?**
   5% (earlier 1%)
8. **What is the minimum public shareholding for listed companies?**
   25%

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9. **What was India's Manufacturing PMI in October 2026?**
   54.7
10. **What is the new windfall tax on petrol exports?**
    Nil
11. **Which was the first UAE attraction to accept UPI for online bookings?**
    Burj Khalifa
12. **What is the outlay of the Mission for Cotton Productivity?**
    ₹5,659.22 crore
13. **What is India's premium cotton brand?**
    Kasturi Cotton Bharat
14. **What minimum shelf life must imported drugs have at the time of import?**
    12 months
15. **How many days must an appeal under the VB-G RAM G grievance rules be decided in?**
    30 days
16. **Who became Bulgaria's first woman President?**
    Iliana Iotova
17. **Bulgaria became which member of the Eurozone?**
    21st (1 January 2026)
18. **Where is IBM installing a quantum computer in India?**
    Amaravati Quantum Valley, Andhra Pradesh
19. **Where are India's first geothermal wells?**
    Puga Valley, Ladakh
20. **What was India's defence production in FY 2025-26?**
    ₹1.78 lakh crore (a record)
21. **What is Tiger Triumph?**
    India–US tri-services HADR exercise
22. **Where is the BIMSTEC Secretariat?**
    Dhaka, Bangladesh
23. **Who became the youngest F1 World Champion?**
    Kimi Antonelli (Italy)
24. **Who became the first Indian swimmer to win a Youth Olympic Games medal?**
    Dhinidhi Desinghu
25. **Who set the Indian record for most T20I runs in a calendar year?**
    Ishan Kishan (1,220 runs)

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