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Weekly Current Affairs: 12–18 October 2026

188 stories

564 MCQs with answers

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12 October 2026

Coal Stocks at Power Plants Stay Above 18 MT in October 2026

12 October 2026 · Economy

Coal stocks at domestic coal-based power plants have held above 18 MT since 29 September 2026 and stood at 18.205 MT on 10 October as rake loading rose.

- Coal stock at domestic coal-based power plants has stayed above 18 MT since 29 September 2026, and stood at 18.205 MT on 10 October 2026 against 18.932 MT on 29 September.
- Stock fell by about 7.28 MT through September 2026, an average of 0.24 MT a day, but by only about 0.56 MT in the first ten days of October 2026, about 0.06 MT a day.
- Rakes loaded for the power sector averaged 469 a day in October 2026 against 426 a day in September 2026, a rise of nearly 10 per cent, within a daily band of 447 to 482.
- Coal supplied to the power sector averaged 2.49 MT a day in October 2026, above the plan of 2.37 MT a day and up from 2.21 MT a day in September 2026.
- Stock was added to on two days of October 2026, by 0.024 MT on 2 October and 0.017 MT on 10 October; the Ministry of Coal credited Indian Railways for the movement.

Reported by	Ministry of Coal, on 12 October 2026
Stock level held	Above 18 MT since 29 September 2026
Stock on 29 September 2026	18.932 MT
Stock on 10 October 2026	18.205 MT
September 2026 drawdown	About 7.28 MT in the month (about 0.24 MT a day)
October 2026 drawdown (1-10)	About 0.56 MT in all (about 0.06 MT a day)
Days of stock accretion	2 October 2026 (0.024 MT) and 10 October 2026 (0.017 MT)
Rakes a day to power sector	469 in October 2026 against 426 in September 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/coal-stocks-at-power-plants-stay-above-18-mt-in-october-2026/

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TDB Backs Peptris VIGOR Programme With Rs 86 Crore RDI Support

12 October 2026 · Science & Technology

The Technology Development Board has agreed to give Peptris Technologies of Bengaluru Rs 86 crore from the RDI Fund for its VIGOR drug discovery project.

- The Technology Development Board under DST signed an agreement on 12 October 2026 to give Peptris Technologies Private Limited, Bengaluru, Rs 86 crore from the RDI Fund.
- The project is named VIGOR: Advancing AI-Discovered Molecules from Bench to Clinic, and its total cost is Rs 172 crore, so TDB carries half the outlay.
- The support is routed as Optionally Convertible Debt (OCD), not as an outright grant, and the work is planned over three years.
- Four AI-discovered candidates are to be taken from Technology Readiness Level (TRL)-4 to TRL-6: PEPR111, PEPRX101, PEPR202 and PEPR112.
- PEPR111 targets neuromuscular disorders and oncology, PEPRX101 alopecia, PEPR202 neuropathy and PEPR112 DMD; Rajesh Kumar Pathak is Secretary, TDB.

Agreement signed by	Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology
Company	Peptris Technologies Private Limited, Bengaluru, Karnataka
Support	Rs 86 crore from the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund
Total project cost	Rs 172 crore
Mode of support	Optionally Convertible Debt (OCD)
Programme	VIGOR: Advancing AI-Discovered Molecules from Bench to Clinic
Readiness jump	Technology Readiness Level (TRL)-4 to TRL-6
Candidates covered	PEPR111, PEPRX101, PEPR202 and PEPR112

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/tdb-backs-peptris-vigor-programme-with-rs-86-crore-rdi-support/

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MY Bharat Holds Youth Parliaments at 1,469 Locations in 34 States

12 October 2026 · Government Schemes

MY Bharat organised Neighbourhood Youth Parliaments and Yuva Melas at 1,469 locations in 34 States on 10 October 2026, drawing over 3.65 lakh participants.

- MY Bharat held Neighbourhood Youth Parliaments and Yuva Melas on 10 October 2026 under the Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Abhiyan, as part of the 100 Weeks Campaign.
- The programmes covered 1,469 locations across 34 States, with more than 3.65 lakh youth and citizens taking part.
- A total of 4,552 activities were organised and 4,568 slogans were collected from participants during the day.
- Six public representatives attended, comprising one Member of Parliament and five Members of Legislative Assemblies; the parliaments were held at block level.
- Partners included Heartfulness, Project Point, CIPU, ASSOCHAM, FICCI and Brahma Kumaris; activities ranged from the Nasha Mukt Yuva Pledge to nukkad nataks.

Platform	MY Bharat, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Campaign	Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Abhiyan, under the 100 Weeks Campaign
Programmes held	Neighbourhood Youth Parliaments (NYPs) and Yuva Melas
Date of programmes	10 October 2026
Locations	1,469 across 34 States
Participation	Over 3.65 lakh youth and citizens
Activities organised	4,552
Slogans collected	4,568

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/my-bharat-holds-youth-parliaments-at-1469-locations-in-34-states/

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IGNFA Begins IFS Mid-Career Training for 68 Officers

12 October 2026 · Environment

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav met 68 Indian Forest Service officers from 18 cadres at the Mid-Career Training Phase-III programme in New Delhi on 12 October 2026.

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav interacted with Indian Forest Service officers of the Mid-Career Training Phase-III programme in New Delhi on 12 October 2026.
- The programme, the nineteenth of its series, is being organised by the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) from 12 October to 6 November 2026.
- It has 68 participants drawn from 18 cadres, and is meant for IFS officers with seven to nine years of service.
- The minister named Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, MISHTI, Aravalli Green Wall and Nagar Van Yojana among citizen-engaging conservation initiatives, and tied conservation to Viksit Bharat@2047.
- Thematic visits under the course go to Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh; modules cover line ministries, management and forestry including AI, climate finance and FCA amendments.

Minister	Bhupender Yadav, Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Course	Mid-Career Training (MCT) Phase-III, nineteenth of the series
Organised by	Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA)
Dates	12 October to 6 November 2026
Participants	68 IFS officers from 18 cadres
Eligibility	IFS officers with seven to nine years of service
Secretary, MoEFCC	Narendra Bhooshan
DG (Forests) and Special Secretary	Santosh Tiwari

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ignfa-begins-ifs-mid-career-training-for-68-officers/

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Asian Games 2026: Services Athletes Win Record 27 Medals

12 October 2026 · Sports

Defence forces athletes won 27 medals, six of them gold, at the 2026 Asian Games in Japan, their best ever showing, and Rajnath Singh felicitated them.

- Services athletes took 27 medals at the 2026 Asian Games in Japan: 6 gold, 11 silver and 10 bronze, the best the defence forces have ever managed.
- 92 athletes from the three Services competed in 19 disciplines; India finished fourth with 85 medals, made up of 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze.
- Naib Subedar Neeru Dhanda, with two gold and a silver, is the first Indian woman to win gold in the individual women's trap event at the Asian Games.
- Havildar Sawan Barwal's marathon silver came in a national record 2:11:37 and ended a 44-year wait for an Indian marathon medal at the Games.
- The Services contributed 32 per cent of India's medals and 28.57 per cent of its gold; Rajnath Singh set the Los Angeles Olympics 2028 as the next target.

Event	Asian Games 2026, held in Japan
Services medals	27 (6 gold, 11 silver, 10 bronze), their best ever
India's overall tally	85 medals (21 gold, 27 silver, 37 bronze), fourth place
Services participation	92 athletes in 19 disciplines
Share of India's medals	32 per cent of all medals, 28.57 per cent of gold
Felicitation	By Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on 12 October 2026
Marathon national record	Havildar Sawan Barwal, 2:11:37 (silver)
Talent pipeline	Mission Olympic Wing of the defence forces

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/asian-games-2026-services-athletes-win-record-27-medals/

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Indian Army Launches Bharat Rice for Troops, Signs FCI MoU

12 October 2026 · Defence

The Indian Army launched Bharat Rice for troops on 12 October 2026 and signed a five-year MoU with FCI to draw on its warehouses during operational contingencies.

- The Indian Army launched Bharat Rice for the defence forces in New Delhi on 12 October 2026, with Rajnath Singh and Pralhad Joshi present.
- An Army-FCI MoU, valid for five years and extendable, lets the force use FCI warehouses, labour and material-handling equipment during operational contingencies.
- The rice goes directly to Army Supply Depots, including in Ladakh and the North East, instead of depots collecting it from local FCI facilities.
- The Directorate General of Supplies and Transport leads the effort; supply is through NAFED in the financial year 2026-27, in 10 kg and 30 kg bags.
- Rajnath Singh cited the study of Operation Sindoor to argue that logistics is combat power and that warning times in future conflicts could be very short.

Initiative	Bharat Rice, for the defence forces
Launched on	12 October 2026, New Delhi
Launched in presence of	Rajnath Singh and Pralhad Joshi
MoU signed with	Food Corporation of India (FCI)
MoU validity	Five years, extendable by mutual consent
Lead agency	Directorate General of Supplies and Transport
Supplying agency	NAFED, during the financial year 2026-27
Bag sizes	10 kg and 30 kg

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/indian-army-launches-bharat-rice-for-troops-signs-fci-mou/

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PM GatiShakti at Five: 58 Ministries, 23,493 Data Layers

12 October 2026 · Government Schemes

PM GatiShakti, the GIS-based infrastructure planning platform launched on 13 October 2021, completes five years covering 58 ministries and all 36 states and UTs.

- The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan was launched on 13 October 2021 as a GIS-based platform for integrated infrastructure planning across sectors.
- It now covers 58 Central Ministries and Departments and all 36 States and Union Territories, and carried 23,493 data layers as of 12 October 2026.
- Its seven engines are roads, railways, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport and logistics infrastructure; the public platform offers 230 approved datasets.
- As of 11 August 2026 the Network Planning Group had appraised 396 projects worth about 18.66 lakh crore rupees; 256 were sanctioned and 198 under implementation.
- The Cabinet has approved an Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority to appraise projects of 500 crore rupees or more and build a National Transport Data Repository.

Launched on	13 October 2021
Coverage	58 Central Ministries and Departments, all 36 States and UTs
Infrastructure engines	Seven: roads, railways, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport, logistics
Data layers	23,493 as of 12 October 2026
Public datasets	230 approved datasets, opened to private users in October 2025
Projects appraised	396 worth about 18.66 lakh crore rupees as of 11 August 2026
Top tier	Empowered Group of Secretaries, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary
New authority	Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA)

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/pm-gatishakti-at-five-58-ministries-23493-data-layers/

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PM-SETU: Rs 440 Crore Cleared for Nine Government ITIs

12 October 2026 · Government Schemes

Shareholders' agreements signed under PM-SETU will upgrade nine government ITIs in Surat and Visakhapatnam with AM/NS India at an approved cost of Rs 440 crore.

- Shareholders' agreements under PM-SETU will upgrade nine Government ITIs: five in Surat, Gujarat and four in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The approved investment is about 440 crore rupees, made up of 240 crore rupees for Surat and 200 crore rupees for the Visakhapatnam cluster.
- In the Special Purpose Vehicles, AM/NS India holds 51 per cent while the Union Government and the state government hold 24.5 per cent equity each.
- PM-SETU has a total outlay of 60,000 crore rupees and aims to upgrade 1,000 Government ITIs and strengthen five National Skill Training Institutes.
- The first 14 Strategic Investment Plans under the scheme carry a total approved proposed investment of 3,446 crore rupees.

Scheme	PM-SETU: Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs
Industry partner	ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India)
Academic partner	New Age Makers' Institute of Technology (NAMTECH)
Clusters	Five Government ITIs in Surat, four in Visakhapatnam
Approved investment	About 440 crore rupees (240 crore for Surat, 200 crore for Visakhapatnam)
Equity in SPVs	AM/NS India 51 per cent; Centre and state 24.5 per cent each
Scheme outlay	60,000 crore rupees
Scheme target	1,000 Government ITIs and five National Skill Training Institutes

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/pm-setu-rs-440-crore-cleared-for-nine-government-itis/

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Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026: CAPSS-IAF Seminar on Air Power

12 October 2026 · Defence

CAPSS and the Indian Air Force held a seminar on air power on 9 October 2026 at Subroto Park, New Delhi, on the sidelines of Exercise Tarang Shakti-26.

- CAPSS and the Indian Air Force held a seminar on 9 October 2026 at the Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park, New Delhi, alongside Exercise Tarang Shakti-26.
- The theme was 'The Central Role of Air Power in the Evolving Battlespace', with partner air forces from all continents taking part.
- Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, gave the inaugural address; CAPSS Director General Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor (Retd.) welcomed the gathering.
- The first session was chaired by former Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and the second by Air Marshal Stephen Chappell of the Royal Australian Air Force.
- CAPSS was established in 2001 as an autonomous research body on national security, nuclear and aerospace issues, and 2026 is its Silver Jubilee year.

Exercise	Exercise Tarang Shakti-26 (seminar on the sidelines)
Organisers	Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies with the Indian Air Force
Date and venue	9 October 2026, Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park, New Delhi
Theme	The Central Role of Air Power in the Evolving Battlespace
Inaugural address	Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff
Welcome address	Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor (Retd.), Director General, CAPSS
First session chair	Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, former Chief of the Air Staff
Second session chair	Air Marshal Stephen Chappell, Chief of the Air Staff, Royal Australian Air Force

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/exercise-tarang-shakti-2026-capss-iaf-seminar-on-air-power/

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Centre Asks States to Display Healthcare Service Rates

12 October 2026 · National

The Union Health Secretary wrote to all states and UTs on 12 October 2026 to ensure clinical establishments display their service rates under the 2010 Act.

- The Union Health Secretary has written to Chief Secretaries of all states and UTs to ensure clinical establishments prominently display the rates they charge.
- The directive rests on the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 and the Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012.
- Under the Rules, rates for each service and facility must be displayed at a conspicuous place, in the local language as well as in English.
- Health being a State subject, implementation and enforcement rest with the states and UTs, which have been asked to issue advisories to the authorities concerned.
- States have also been urged to display package rates for foreign patients arriving on Medical and Ayush Visas, to cut billing grievances.

Directive by	Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Letter from	Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava
Sent to	Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories
Governing Act	Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010
Governing Rules	Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012
Display requirement	Rates for each service and facility, at a conspicuous place, in the local language and English
Enforcement	With States and UTs, as health is a State subject
International patients	Package rates for those on Medical or Ayush Visas to be displayed

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/centre-asks-states-to-display-healthcare-service-rates/

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PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana Completes One Year

12 October 2026 · Government Schemes

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana finished its first year, and Gaya, Nagaur and Umaria were named the best performers among its 100 farm districts.

- PMDDKY completed one year on 11 October 2026; it was launched on 11 October 2025 after being announced in the Union Budget 2025-26.
- The scheme covers 100 districts with low productivity, low cropping intensity and low farm credit, and converges 36 central schemes of 11 ministries with state schemes.
- Gaya in Bihar stood first, Nagaur in Rajasthan second and Umaria in Madhya Pradesh third among the best-performing PMDDKY districts.
- District performance is ranked monthly on a dashboard built around 121 indicators, and 18 districts were honoured across the scheme's six objectives.
- Khet Bachao Abhiyan will run in all states from 22 October to 30 November 2026 to promote balanced fertiliser use and soil health.

Scheme	Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)
Announced in	Union Budget 2025-26
Launched on	11 October 2025
Coverage	100 districts with low productivity, low cropping intensity and low farm credit
Convergence	36 central schemes of 11 ministries and departments, plus state schemes
Monitoring	Dashboard with 121 indicators and monthly district rankings
Best district	Gaya, Bihar (first)
Second and third	Nagaur, Rajasthan; Umaria, Madhya Pradesh

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/pm-dhan-dhaanya-krishi-yojana-completes-one-year/

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Retail Inflation Climbs to 5.54% in September 2026

12 October 2026 · Economy

Retail inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index stood at 5.54% in September 2026, with food inflation at 7.74% and rural prices rising faster than urban.

- Retail inflation based on the CPI was 5.54 per cent in September 2026, provisional, measured against September 2025 on the base year 2024=100.
- Rural inflation at 6.08 per cent ran well above urban inflation at 4.88 per cent, the gap being more than a full percentage point.
- Food inflation measured by the Consumer Food Price Index was 7.74 per cent, with 8.06 per cent in rural areas and 7.18 per cent in urban areas.
- Onion recorded the sharpest item-level rise, ahead of silver jewellery, ginger, garlic and lemon; potato and tomato prices fell the most.
- Prices are collected weekly from 1,407 urban markets and 1,465 villages by the National Statistical Office; the response rate was 100 per cent.

Month	September 2026 (provisional)
CPI inflation	5.54 per cent, year on year over September 2025
Rural and urban	6.08 per cent and 4.88 per cent
Food inflation (CFPI)	7.74 per cent
Rural and urban food inflation	8.06 per cent and 7.18 per cent
Base year	2024=100
Highest item inflation	Onion, followed by silver jewellery, ginger, garlic and lemon
Items that got cheaper	Potato, tomato, motor car and jeep, lady's finger, coconut

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/retail-inflation-climbs-to-554percent-in-september-2026/

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BRICS Theatre Festival 2026 Opens at NSD, New Delhi

12 October 2026 · Summits & Conferences

The BRICS Theatre Festival 2026, themed 'Shared Stories, Shared Futures', opened at the National School of Drama in New Delhi with nine countries taking part.

- The BRICS Theatre Festival 2026 opened on 12 October 2026 at the National School of Drama, New Delhi, and runs to 14 October 2026.
- Its theme is 'Shared Stories, Shared Futures', and nine BRICS member and partner countries are taking part.
- The participants are India, Thailand, Indonesia, Russia, Iran, Vietnam, South Africa, Kazakhstan and Ethiopia; Russia sent two groups and India staged two productions.
- Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat was the Chief Guest; the opening play was Samudra Manthan, directed by NSD Director Chittaranjan Tripathy.
- India's BRICS Presidency 2026 carries the theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'; NSD is the festival's nodal agency.

Event	BRICS Theatre Festival 2026
Theme	'Shared Stories, Shared Futures'
Dates	12 to 14 October 2026 (three days)
Main venue	National School of Drama, New Delhi
Organiser	Ministry of Culture, under India's BRICS Presidency 2026
Nodal agency	National School of Drama (NSD)
Participating countries	Nine: India, Thailand, Indonesia, Russia, Iran, Vietnam, South Africa, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia
Chief Guest	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/brics-theatre-festival-2026-opens-at-nsd-new-delhi/

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BRICS Traditional Games 2026 Held in Ahmedabad

12 October 2026 · Sports

The BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Demonstration Games 2026 were held at Ahmedabad's Veer Savarkar Sports Complex with 10 BRICS nations showing their sports.

- The BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Demonstration Games 2026 were held on 12 October 2026 at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Naranpura, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- Union Sports Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya opened the games in the presence of Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi; 10 BRICS nations took part.
- The minister said nearly 3.76 billion US dollars has been committed under the Khelo India initiative.
- He proposed a voluntary BRICS Repository of Traditional and Indigenous Sports, exchanges among practitioners, and periodic demonstrations at future BRICS sporting events.
- India demonstrated Mallakhamb, Yogasana and Kalaripayattu; 'Sundays on Cycle' has completed 94 editions with over 5 million cyclists at more than 3 lakh locations.

Event	BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Demonstration Games 2026
Date	12 October 2026
Venue	Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Naranpura, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
Opened by	Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports
Also present	Harsh Sanghavi, Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat
Participating nations	10 BRICS nations
Khelo India commitment	Nearly 3.76 billion US dollars
India's sports shown	Mallakhamb, Yogasana, Kalaripayattu

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/brics-traditional-games-2026-held-in-ahmedabad/

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ICMR High Altitude Medicine Centre to Come Up at Keylong

12 October 2026 · National

Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda laid the foundation stone of the ICMR Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research at Keylong in Himachal Pradesh.

- Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda laid the foundation stone of the ICMR Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research at Keylong, Himachal Pradesh.
- The centre is a partnership of ICMR and the Armed Forces Medical Services, with AIIMS Bilaspur studying high-altitude health impacts on patients.
- Research will cover low oxygen, extreme cold, acclimatisation, maternal and newborn health, child growth and nutrition, and disease patterns in Himalayan communities.
- It will explore drone-enabled medicine delivery, digital health and artificial intelligence to improve healthcare access in remote areas.
- Nadda also planted saplings under the Green ICMR Campus Initiative, launched the centre's website and video, and released a commemorative postal special cover.

Centre	ICMR Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research
Location	Keylong, Himachal Pradesh
Foundation stone laid by	Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister
Guest of Honour	Sanjay Seth, Union Minister of State for Defence
Partners	ICMR, Armed Forces Medical Services and AIIMS Bilaspur
DG, ICMR	Dr Rajiv Bahl, also Secretary, Department of Health Research
DGFMS	Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja
Built on	An ICMR field station set up at Keylong nearly a decade ago

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/icmr-high-altitude-medicine-centre-to-come-up-at-keylong/

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RDI Fund Names First 19 Second Level Fund Managers

12 October 2026 · Science & Technology

The Research, Development and Innovation Fund announced its first cohort of 19 Second Level Fund Managers with a total commitment of 7,131 crore rupees.

- The Research, Development and Innovation Fund announced its first cohort of 19 Second Level Fund Managers on 12 October 2026.
- The Empowered Group of Secretaries, meeting on 8 October 2026, approved 14 Alternative Investment Funds and 5 Focused Research Organisations.
- The total RDIF commitment to the first cohort is 7,131 crore rupees, out of the one lakh crore rupee RDI Scheme launched by PM Modi in November 2025.
- The fund is managed by an Independent Business Unit within the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, under the Department of Science and Technology.
- Money will go to Eligible Technology Enterprises at Technology Readiness Level 4 and above, and the managers must mobilise matching private capital.

Fund	Research, Development and Innovation Fund (RDIF)
Fund size	One lakh crore rupees
Scheme launched	By Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2025
First cohort	19 Second Level Fund Managers
Break-up	14 Alternative Investment Funds and 5 Focused Research Organisations
Commitment	7,131 crore rupees
Approved by	Empowered Group of Secretaries, meeting of 8 October 2026
Managed by	Independent Business Unit within ANRF, under the Department of Science and Technology

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/rdi-fund-names-first-19-second-level-fund-managers/

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INS Tarkash Sails for IBSAMAR IX Exercise in South Africa

12 October 2026 · Defence

INS Tarkash has reached South Africa for IBSAMAR IX 2026, the trilateral maritime exercise of the Indian, Brazilian and South African navies under the IBSA framework.

- INS Tarkash, a frontline guided missile stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, has been deployed to South Africa for IBSAMAR IX 2026
- IBSAMAR is a trilateral maritime exercise of the Indian, Brazilian and South African navies, held every two years since 2008 under the IBSA framework
- The theme of the ninth edition is Stronger Together Towards a Shared Future in the Maritime Domain
- South Africa has fielded SAS Amatola, SAS King Sekhukhune I, SAS Adam Kok III and the submarine SAS Manthatisi; Brazil has sent BNS Barroso with a Lynx helicopter
- Drills cover surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare, naval air operations, maritime interdiction, VBSS, anti-piracy, search and rescue, and firefighting

Exercise	IBSAMAR IX 2026, ninth edition
Full form	India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime Exercise
Host country	South Africa
Indian ship	INS Tarkash, guided missile stealth frigate, with a Chetak helicopter
Theme	Stronger Together Towards a Shared Future in the Maritime Domain
Held since	2008, once every two years
Framework	India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA)
Brazilian ship	BNS Barroso with an integral Lynx helicopter

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ins-tarkash-sails-for-ibsamar-ix-exercise-in-south-africa/

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NHRC Marks 33rd Foundation Day With Right to Water Meet

12 October 2026 · National

The National Human Rights Commission marked its 33rd Foundation Day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi with a national conference on the right to water, the CJI as chief guest.

- NHRC, India celebrated its 33rd Foundation Day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi; the Commission was set up on 12 October 1993
- The national conference theme was Water as the Elixir of Life: Advancing Human Dignity through the Right to Water
- Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant was the chief guest and called the Commission a guiding light for those adrift in the darkness
- NHRC Chairperson Justice V. Ramasubramanian said human rights institutions worldwide must reinvent themselves to stay relevant
- The NHRC, India mobile application was launched and the Commission is digitising its records; Secretary General Piyush Goyal named the two technical sessions

Occasion	33rd Foundation Day of NHRC, India
NHRC set up on	12 October 1993
Venue	Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
Conference theme	Water as the Elixir of Life: Advancing Human Dignity through the Right to Water
Chief guest	Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant
NHRC Chairperson	Justice V. Ramasubramanian
Secretary General	Piyush Goyal
Launched	NHRC, India mobile application

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/nhrc-marks-33rd-foundation-day-with-right-to-water-meet/

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TRAI Report: Phone Users Rise to 1,348.08 Million in June

12 October 2026 · Reports & Indices

TRAI's report for April-June 2026 puts total telephone subscribers at 1,348.08 million, tele-density at 94.31% and wireless ARPU at Rs 187.12 a month.

- TRAI released the Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicator Report for the quarter ending 30 June 2026
- Total telephone subscribers rose from 1,330.58 million to 1,348.08 million, a quarterly growth of 1.31 per cent; overall tele-density reached 94.31 per cent
- Internet subscribers increased to 1,114.17 million, with broadband at 1,087.50 million and narrowband at 26.67 million
- Monthly ARPU for wireless service rose to Rs 187.12 and average data use per subscriber reached 28.39 GB a month
- Sector Gross Revenue for the quarter was Rs 1,06,797 crore and Adjusted Gross Revenue was Rs 88,796 crore

Report	Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicator Report, quarter ending 30 June 2026
Released by	Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
Total telephone subscribers	1,348.08 million
Overall tele-density	94.31 per cent
Internet subscribers	1,114.17 million
Wireless ARPU a month	Rs 187.12
Data use per subscriber a month	28.39 GB
Gross Revenue	Rs 1,06,797 crore

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/trai-report-phone-users-rise-to-134808-million-in-june/

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India-UK 16th JETCO Aims to Double Trade by 2030

12 October 2026 · International

At the 16th India-UK JETCO in New Delhi, Piyush Goyal called for doubling bilateral trade by 2030 under CETA and named five priority areas of cooperation.

- The 16th India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) met in New Delhi, co-chaired by Piyush Goyal and UK Secretary of State Jonathan Reynolds
- Piyush Goyal called for doubling India-UK bilateral trade by 2030 and using India-UK Vision 2035 as the framework for greater ambition
- Five priority areas were named: infrastructure and clean energy, advanced manufacturing, technology and innovation, financial services, and healthcare and consumer sectors
- This was the first JETCO since CETA negotiations began in January 2022; the agreement has been in force for close to 100 days
- The 17th JETCO will be held in the United Kingdom in 2027, and the two sides will exchange data annually on how businesses use CETA

Event	16th meeting of the India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO)
Venue	New Delhi
Co-chairs	Piyush Goyal and Jonathan Reynolds
Target	Doubling India-UK bilateral trade by 2030
Framework	India-UK Vision 2035
Agreement	India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), talks begun in January 2022
First-ever export	Joha rice from Assam to the United Kingdom
Next meeting	17th JETCO in the United Kingdom in 2027

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-uk-16th-jetco-aims-to-double-trade-by-2030/

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IBCA Headquarters Opens at 55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi

12 October 2026 · Environment

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the new office of the International Big Cat Alliance at 55 Lodhi Estate in New Delhi, now the Alliance's headquarters.

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the new office premises of the International Big Cat Alliance at 55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi
- IBCA is a treaty-based inter-governmental international organisation headquartered in India for the conservation of seven big cats
- The seven big cats are the lion, tiger, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma
- India has pledged an initial contribution of Rs 150 crore for five years, from 2023-24 to 2027-28
- 29 countries including India are members, five are observers and eleven more have agreed to join; IBCA's Director General is Dr S. P. Yadav

Organisation	International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)
New headquarters address	55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi
Inaugurated by	Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav
Nature	Treaty-based inter-governmental international organisation headquartered in India
Big cats covered	Lion, tiger, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma
India's initial pledge	Rs 150 crore for five years, 2023-24 to 2027-28
Members	29 countries, with five observers and eleven more consenting to join
Director General	Dr S. P. Yadav

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ibca-headquarters-opens-at-55-lodhi-estate-new-delhi/

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APARC General Assembly 2026 Opens at IITM in Pune

12 October 2026 · Summits & Conferences

The APARC General Assembly 2026, a quadrennial meeting of the World Climate Research Programme, opened at IITM Pune with over 550 participants from across the world.

- The APARC General Assembly 2026 was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, with India hosting the quadrennial event
- APARC stands for Atmospheric Processes and their Role in Climate and is a core project of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)
- The five-day assembly runs from 12 to 16 October 2026 with more than 550 participants, of whom 380 are present in person, 250 Indian and 130 foreign
- Ministry of Earth Sciences Secretary Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala was chief guest and WMO Deputy Secretary-General Ko Barrett was guest of honour, both online
- The programme has 67 oral presentations and more than 400 posters across six core themes, with over 120 students and 150 early career researchers attending

Event	APARC General Assembly 2026
Full form	Atmospheric Processes and their Role in Climate
Venue	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune
Dates	12 to 16 October 2026, five days
Parent programme	World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)
Frequency	Once every four years, quadrennial
Participants	More than 550, with 380 in person, 250 Indian and 130 foreign
Chief guest	Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/aparc-general-assembly-2026-opens-at-iitm-in-pune/

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Indian Navy Commissions ASW Craft INS Mangrol at Mumbai

12 October 2026 · Defence

INS Mangrol (P82), the third Mahe-class anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft built by Cochin Shipyard, joined the Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.

- INS Mangrol (P82) is the third Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft of the Indian Navy and was commissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai
- Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, designed and built the ship, which carries more than 80 per cent indigenous content
- Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command, presided over the commissioning ceremony
- The ship handles anti-submarine warfare, underwater surveillance, low intensity maritime operations and mine warfare tasks, and runs on three diesel engine-driven waterjets
- It is named after Mangrol, a coastal town and fishing harbour in the Junagadh district of Gujarat; an earlier minesweeper INS Mangrol (M85) served until April 2004

Ship	INS Mangrol (pennant P82)
Class	Mahe class, third ship of the class
Type	Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)
Builder	Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi
Indigenous content	More than 80 per cent
Commissioned at	Naval Dockyard, Mumbai
Presided over by	Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command
Propulsion	Three diesel engine-driven waterjet units

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/indian-navy-commissions-asw-craft-ins-mangrol-at-mumbai/

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8th India-UK Science and Innovation Council Meets in Delhi

12 October 2026 · Science & Technology

The 8th India-UK Science and Innovation Council met in New Delhi, where Jitendra Singh and Jonathan Reynolds opened the BRIC-CDFD-ONT India Genomics Centre.

- The eighth meeting of the India-UK Science and Innovation Council (SIC) was held in New Delhi, led by Dr Jitendra Singh and the UK's Jonathan Reynolds
- The two ministers jointly inaugurated the BRIC-CDFD-ONT India Genomics Centre of Excellence in New Delhi, with Oxford Nanopore Technologies as the British partner
- Cooperation rests on the India-UK Research and Innovation MoU, the Technology Security Initiative and India-UK Vision 2035
- Eight joint industrial research projects have been cleared under the Department of Science and Technology's partnership with Innovate UK, covering advanced manufacturing, power electronics and net-zero technologies
- Areas of cooperation include artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, semiconductors, critical minerals, advanced materials, biotechnology, telecommunications and climate science

Meeting	8th India-UK Science and Innovation Council (SIC) Meeting
Venue	New Delhi
India led by	Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences
UK led by	Jonathan Reynolds, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Trade
Centre inaugurated	BRIC-CDFD-ONT India Genomics Centre of Excellence, New Delhi
British partner firm	Oxford Nanopore Technologies
Frameworks	India-UK Research and Innovation MoU, Technology Security Initiative, India-UK Vision 2035
With Innovate UK	Eight joint industrial research and development projects cleared

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/8th-india-uk-science-and-innovation-council-meets-in-delhi/

Coast Guard Team Scales 7,045-Metre Mount Mukut Peak

12 October 2026 · Defence

A 17-member Indian Coast Guard team scaled the 7,045-metre Mount Mukut, the last phase of its training for an Everest climb in the force's golden jubilee year.

- A 17-member Indian Coast Guard mountaineering team scaled Mount Mukut, a peak of 7,045 metres, on 7 October 2026
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami flagged in the team at a ceremony in Dehradun
- The climb was Phase V, the final phase, of an eighteen-month preparatory training programme
- The training is aimed at a Mount Everest expedition during the Indian Coast Guard's Swarnim Jayanti, its golden jubilee, in 2027
- The team was guided by the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling; it set out on 15 September 2026 and set up Base Camp-I on 1 October

Peak climbed	Mount Mukut, 7,045 metres
Force	Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
Team strength	17 members
Summit date	7 October 2026
Expedition began	15 September 2026
Base Camp-I set up	1 October
Guided by	Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), Darjeeling
Flagged in by	Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, at Dehradun

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/coast-guard-team-scales-7045-metre-mount-mukut-peak/

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National SARAS Mela 2026 Moves to Vijayawada for First Time

12 October 2026 · Government Schemes

The National SARAS Mela 2026 is being held at Punnami Ghat, Vijayawada, the first time outside Delhi-NCR, with over 1,500 women from self-help groups taking part.

- The National SARAS Mela 2026 is being held at Punnami Ghat, Vijayawada, from 13 to 31 October 2026, the first edition outside Delhi-NCR
- The Ministry of Rural Development is organising it with the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty, Andhra Pradesh
- More than 1,500 women from self-help groups in over thirty states and union territories are taking part; President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the fair on 15 October
- The fair is aligned with the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission and the goal of six crore Lakhpati Didis by 2029
- Attractions include a sixteen-foot installation named SHAKTI - The Spirit of Lakhpati Didi, fifty food stalls, and Lakhpati Didi, Knowledge, Convergence and Demo pavilions

Event	National SARAS Mela 2026
Venue	Punnami Ghat, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
First time	First National SARAS Mela held outside Delhi-NCR
Dates	13 to 31 October 2026
Organisers	Ministry of Rural Development with the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Andhra Pradesh
Participants	More than 1,500 self-help group women from over thirty states and union territories
To be inaugurated by	President Droupadi Murmu, on 15 October
Parent mission	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/national-saras-mela-2026-moves-to-vijayawada-for-first-time/

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IMD Launches Cyclone Warning Decision Support System

12 October 2026 · Science & Technology

The India Meteorological Department dedicated its WebGIS-based Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Services Decision Support System to the nation on 12 October 2026.

- IMD dedicated the Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Services Decision Support System, an interactive WebGIS platform, to the nation on 12 October 2026.
- The launch came at the bi-annual Pre-Cyclone Exercise Meeting for the post-monsoon season, chaired by Director General of Meteorology Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, who is also the 3rd Vice President of the World Meteorological Organisation.
- The platform displays storm track and intensity with a cone of uncertainty, wind distribution, storm surge alerts, district-wise rainfall warnings and catchment rainfall forecasts.
- About 230 people from more than 30 organisations attended, 180 of them online; IMD has held the exercise twice a year since 2008.
- Phailin crossed the coast on 12 October 2013 and Hudhud on 12 October 2014, which makes the launch date significant for India’s cyclone warning record.

Platform	Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Services Decision Support System (DSS)
Type	Interactive WebGIS-based web platform
Dedicated to the nation on	12 October 2026
Launched by	India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences
Occasion	Bi-annual Pre-Cyclone Exercise Meeting, post-monsoon season (October-December) 2026
Chaired by	Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology, IMD
His global role	3rd Vice President, World Meteorological Organisation
Participation	About 230 people, 180 online, from more than 30 organisations

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/imd-launches-cyclone-warning-decision-support-system/

Scindia Opens Rs 331 Crore Development Projects in Mizoram

12 October 2026 · State News

Union DoNER Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated and laid foundation stones for ten projects worth Rs 331 crore in Mizoram on 12 October 2026.

- Union DoNER Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated five projects worth about Rs 102 crore and laid foundation stones for five worth Rs 228.54 crore in Mizoram, Rs 331 crore in all.
- Mizoram Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma attended the function at Tuivamit; the works cover roads, power transmission, water supply, health, education, sport and culture.
- MDoNER has Rs 6,812.30 crore for the North Eastern Region in 2026-27; of 375 projects worth Rs 4,617.70 crore taken up in Mizoram, 295 worth Rs 2,692.31 crore are complete.
- The Rs 189.79 crore Mizoram Ginger Mission will bring nearly 20,000 farming households into an integrated value chain for Mizo ginger.
- The 51.38-kilometre Bairabi-Sairang railway line has carried more than 15 lakh passengers on over 1,100 trips, and Mizoram logged 4,94,362 domestic tourist visits in the first half of 2026.

Minister	Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister for Communications and DoNER
State	Mizoram; Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma present
Date	12 October 2026, first day of a two-day visit
Total value of projects	About Rs 331 crore (ten projects)
Dedicated to the people	Five projects worth about Rs 102 crore
Foundation stones laid	Five projects worth Rs 228.54 crore
MDoNER outlay for the North East, 2026-27	Rs 6,812.30 crore
Projects in Mizoram	375 worth Rs 4,617.70 crore taken up; 295 worth Rs 2,692.31 crore completed

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/scindia-opens-rs-331-crore-development-projects-in-mizoram/

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Rural Development Ministry Signs MoU With RUDSETI Academy

12 October 2026 · Government Schemes

The Ministry of Rural Development exchanged an MoU with the National Academy of RUDSETI on 12 October 2026 to lift training standards at RSETIs across India.

- The Ministry of Rural Development exchanged an MoU with the National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR) on 12 October 2026 to set uniform training standards at Rural Self Employment Training Institutes.
- A target of 6.35 lakh rural youth has been given to the RSETIs for the current year, higher than the target fixed for 2025-26, and it covers women, SC, ST, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.
- The MoU was exchanged between Joint Secretary (Rural Skills) S. Sasikumar and NAR Director General Raju N. Kori, with Rural Development Secretary Rohit Kansal present.
- Candidates will be registered through Kaushal Panjee and their attendance verified by Aadhaar-based face authentication under AEBAS.
- The institutes will run NSQF-aligned courses and Entrepreneurship Development Programme modules, with certification through the ministry’s Unified Portal and compliance with notified Common Norms.

Agreement	MoU between the Ministry of Rural Development and the National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR)
Date	12 October 2026
Institutes covered	Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs)
Training target this year	6.35 lakh rural youth
Signed by	S. Sasikumar, Joint Secretary (Rural Skills), and Raju N. Kori, Director General, NAR
Present	Rohit Kansal, Secretary, Department of Rural Development
Registration platform	Kaushal Panjee
Attendance	Aadhaar-based face authentication under AEBAS

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/rural-development-ministry-signs-mou-with-rudseti-academy/

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Sitharaman Concludes Singapore Visit on Investment Ties

12 October 2026 · International

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman concluded an official visit to Singapore held from 8 to 11 October 2026, meeting its President and Prime Minister.

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman concluded an official visit to Singapore from 8 to 11 October 2026, focused on investment and financial cooperation.
- She called on President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, and met Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong and Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan.
- The meetings reviewed the outcomes of the 4th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable and ways to deepen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- India-ASEAN ties were discussed in the run-up to Singapore's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2027.
- Sitharaman attended a luncheon hosted by President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, and promoted the NIIF pipeline and GIFT IFSC to investors.

Who	Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs
Visit	Singapore, 8 to 11 October 2026
President of Singapore	Tharman Shanmugaratnam
Prime Minister of Singapore	Lawrence Wong
Deputy Prime Minister	Gan Kim Yong, also Minister for Trade and Industry
Foreign Minister	Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan
Framework reviewed	Outcomes of the 4th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)
Bilateral status	India-Singapore Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/sitharaman-concludes-singapore-visit-on-investment-ties/

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13 October 2026

Ashtalakshmi Darshan Programme Takes 590 Students to Northeast

13 October 2026 · Government Schemes

The DoNER ministry says over 590 students have toured the North East in a year under Ashtalakshmi Darshan, as Jyotiraditya Scindia met students in Mizoram.

- More than 590 students from across India have toured the North East under MDoNER's Ashtalakshmi Darshan Programme in the past year.
- The programme is run by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) as a youth exposure and cultural exchange initiative.
- Union Minister for Communications and DoNER Jyotiraditya M. Scindia met students at Mizoram University during a two-day visit to Mizoram.
- The visiting students he spoke to had come to the region from Goa and Chandigarh under the programme.
- 'Ashtalakshmi' stands for the eight north-eastern states, and the ministry ties the programme to the Viksit Bharat 2047 goal.

Programme	Ashtalakshmi Darshan Programme
Run by	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)
Students covered	More than 590 in the past year
Minister	Jyotiraditya M. Scindia (Communications, and DoNER)
Interaction venue	Mizoram University, Mizoram
Visiting students from	Goa and Chandigarh
Ashtalakshmi	The eight north-eastern states
Vision linked	Viksit Bharat 2047

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ashtalakshmi-darshan-programme-takes-590-students-to-northeast/

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Khadi Sales Touch Record Rs 1.87 Lakh Crore in 2025-26

13 October 2026 · Government Schemes

Khadi and village industry sales reached an all-time high of Rs 1.87 lakh crore in 2025-26, up 501 per cent on 2013-14, with employment at 2.04 crore.

- Khadi and village industry sales hit a record Rs 1.87 lakh crore in 2025-26, a rise of 501 per cent over 2013-14, while production grew 380 per cent to Rs 1,25,296 crore.
- Employment in the sector rose 56 per cent to 2.04 crore, and women are over 80 per cent of the nearly five lakh artisans working in khadi.
- A spinner's pay went from Rs 4 per hank in 2013-14 to Rs 15 per hank, about 275 per cent more; one hank is 840 yards of yarn and one pound by weight.
- KVIC is a statutory body under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, and PMEGP has created work for nearly 97.95 lakh people through it since March 2008.
- Khadi Mahotsav is held every year from 2 October to 31 October; Gramodyog Vikas Yojana gave out 37,769 machines and toolkits in 2025-26.

Nodal body	Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
Parent Act	Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956
Sales, 2025-26	Rs 1.87 lakh crore, an all-time high (up to May 2026)
Production	Rs 1,25,296 crore, 380 per cent above 2013-14
Employment	2.04 crore, 56 per cent above 2013-14
Spinner's pay	Rs 15 per hank, against Rs 4 per hank in 2013-14
One hank	840 yards of yarn, one pound by weight
PMEGP	Nearly 97.95 lakh people employed through KVIC since March 2008

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/khadi-sales-touch-record-rs-187-lakh-crore-in-2025-26/

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Bloomberg New Economy Forum Held in India for the First Time

13 October 2026 · Summits & Conferences

The Bloomberg New Economy Forum was held in India for the first time, in New Delhi, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi set out the idea of Power to Empower.

- The Bloomberg New Economy Forum was held in India for the first time, in New Delhi, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing it on 13 October 2026.
- The Prime Minister's theme was Power to Empower: power used to enable, collaborate and help others succeed rather than to control or dominate.
- India's startups have grown from a few hundred before 2014 to more than 250,000, nearly half from small cities, and over 45 per cent have a woman director or partner.
- India met its Paris pledge of 40 per cent non-fossil installed capacity by 2030 in November 2021 itself, nine years early, the first G20 nation to do so.
- April-June quarter growth was 7.8 per cent, the current account deficit 0.61 per cent last year and foreign exchange reserves above 700 billion dollars.

Event	Bloomberg New Economy Forum, first edition held in India
Venue	New Delhi
Addressed by	Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Idea offered	Power to Empower
Startups	More than 250,000, over 45 per cent with a woman director or partner
Non-fossil milestone	40 per cent target for 2030 met in November 2021, first G20 nation
Renewable capacity	About 300 gigawatts, against nearly 75 gigawatts in 2014
Growth rate	7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/bloomberg-new-economy-forum-held-in-india-for-the-first-time/

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BHASHINI Runs Live Translation at NCGG Mussoorie Programme

13 October 2026 · Science & Technology

BHASHINI deployed its Shrutlekh platform for live English-Spanish translation at the NCGG capacity building programme for foreign civil servants in Mussoorie.

- BHASHINI's Shrutlekh platform provided real-time two-way English-Spanish translation at the NCGG capacity building programme for civil servants of several countries at Mussoorie.
- The course on Urban Service Delivery runs from 12 to 23 October 2026, is sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs and organised by NCGG under DARPG as part of the ITEC Programme.
- Participants come from countries including Peru, Cambodia, Nigeria, Kenya, Palestine, Lebanon, The Gambia, Ecuador and Spain.
- The Digital India BHASHINI Division works under the Digital India Corporation in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- BHASHINI is integrated with 2,353 government platforms including over 800 websites, covers 36 Indian languages in text, 23 in voice and 35 international languages.

Platform deployed	Shrutlekh, for real-time English-Spanish translation
Parent division	Digital India BHASHINI Division under Digital India Corporation, MeitY
Course	NCGG Capacity Building Programme on Urban Service Delivery
Venue and dates	Mussoorie, 12 to 23 October 2026
Organiser	NCGG under DARPG, sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs
Framework	Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme
Participating countries	Peru, Cambodia, Nigeria, Kenya, Palestine, Lebanon, The Gambia, Ecuador and Spain
Government platforms	2,353, including more than 800 government websites

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/bhashini-runs-live-translation-at-ncgg-mussoorie-programme/

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DARPG Releases 53rd CPGRAMS Monthly Report for September 2026

13 October 2026 · Reports & Indices

DARPG's 53rd CPGRAMS report shows 2,38,579 grievances settled by Central Ministries in September 2026, while States and UTs redressed 1,15,168 cases.

- The 53rd CPGRAMS report for September 2026 records 2,38,579 grievances redressed by Central Ministries and Departments against 2,27,837 received.
- Disposal in the Central Secretariat crossed one lakh cases for the 51st month in a row, and the average disposal time for 2026 is 13 days.
- The 50th report for States and UTs shows 1,15,168 cases redressed, the year's highest, with Uttar Pradesh closing 45,970 and total pendency at 2,37,128.
- Department of Posts, DFS (Insurance Division) and Department of Telecommunications topped Group A of the GRAI rankings for September 2026.
- Under Sevottam, 1,312 training courses have trained about 43,738 officers over the last five financial years.

Report	53rd CPGRAMS monthly report (Central Ministries/Departments)
Released by	Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)
Month covered	September 2026
Central disposals	2,38,579 grievances
Central receipts	2,27,837 grievances
Central pendency	85,687 cases
Average disposal time (2026)	13 days
States/UTs report	50th report: 99,134 received, 1,15,168 redressed

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/darpg-releases-53rd-cpgrams-monthly-report-for-september-2026/

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Indian Railways Freight Loading Rises 6.14% in September 2026

13 October 2026 · Economy

Indian Railways loaded 135.35 million tonnes of freight in September 2026 against 127.52 million tonnes a year earlier, a growth of 6.14 per cent.

- Indian Railways loaded 135.35 million tonnes of freight in September 2026 against 127.52 million tonnes in September 2025, a growth of 6.14 per cent.
- Food grain loading grew 25 per cent, clinker 20 per cent, domestic container 10 per cent and coal 9 per cent during the month.
- Daily coal rakes to power houses rose to 443 from 397 a year earlier, a growth of 11.6 per cent.
- Freight revenue in September 2026 was 1,266 crore rupees higher than a year earlier, a growth of 9.3 per cent.
- Cumulative loading for April-September 2026 reached 833.7 million tonnes, up 4.1 per cent, with freight revenue up 3.7 per cent.

Reported by	Ministry of Railways, 13 October 2026
Freight loading, September 2026	135.35 million tonnes
Freight loading, September 2025	127.52 million tonnes
Monthly growth	6.14 per cent
Fastest growing commodity	Food grain, up 25 per cent
Coal rakes per day	443 rakes, against 397 a year earlier (up 11.6 per cent)
Freight revenue rise	1,266 crore rupees, a growth of 9.3 per cent
April-September 2026 loading	833.7 million tonnes, up 4.1 per cent

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/indian-railways-freight-loading-rises-614percent-in-september-2026/

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NLMC's First End-to-End E-Auction Sells 150 RINL Land Plots

13 October 2026 · Economy

NLMC sold 150 land plots of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited in Visakhapatnam for 366.33 crore rupees on day one of its first end-to-end e-auction.

- NLMC sold 150 plots of RINL land on day one of its first end-to-end e-auction, with winning bids of 366.33 crore rupees.
- The successful bids carried an average premium of 17.23 per cent over the aggregate reserve price of 312.48 crore rupees.
- The highest price crossed 1.80 lakh rupees per square yard in Visakhapatnam, where RINL runs the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.
- The second and final phase, covering the remaining 216 parcels, is set for 30 October 2026, with registration closing on 27 October 2026.
- Bidding ran on RailTel's E-Nivida platform with Quikr India Private Limited as transaction consultant; NLMC works under the Department of Public Enterprises.

Agency	National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC)
Parent department	Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance
Asset owner	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), Visakhapatnam Steel Plant
Plots sold on day one	150
Successful bid value	366.33 crore rupees
Aggregate reserve price	312.48 crore rupees
Average premium	17.23 per cent over reserve price
Highest price	Over 1.80 lakh rupees per square yard

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/nlmcs-first-end-to-end-e-auction-sells-150-rinl-land-plots/

gk24.in

Delhi Gets 150 Electric Buses and 13 New CAAQMS Stations

13 October 2026 · Environment

Bhupender Yadav and Delhi CM Rekha Gupta flagged off 150 electric buses and opened 13 new air quality monitoring stations, taking Delhi's network to 60.

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta flagged off 150 electric buses at Anand Vihar under the Sewa Sankalp Abhiyaan.
- Thirteen new CAAQMS were inaugurated, taking Delhi's monitoring network from 47 to 60 stations, with data shared through the CPCB server and the SAMEER app.
- Air quality monitoring in Delhi now follows a grid of one station per 25 square kilometres, to be extended to other NCR cities.
- Public EV charging stations were opened at five locations: ISBT Anand Vihar and the Nand Nagri, Rohini Sector-37, Nangloi and Keshopur depots.
- The DPCC's AI-enabled Integrated Command and Control Centre at Shastri Park will link fifteen external data systems, nine of which are already connected.

Event date	13 October 2026
Union Environment Minister	Bhupender Yadav
Delhi Chief Minister	Rekha Gupta
Hotspot reviewed	Anand Vihar, Delhi
Electric buses flagged off	150, under Sewa Sankalp Abhiyaan
New monitoring stations	13 CAAQMS, taking the network to 60
Monitoring grid	One station per 25 square kilometres
Command centre	AI-enabled ICCC of DPCC at Shastri Park

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/delhi-gets-150-electric-buses-and-13-new-caaqms-stations/

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Rajnath Singh Holds Defence Talks With Czech Deputy PM

13 October 2026 · Defence

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Czech First Deputy Prime Minister Karel Havlicek in New Delhi and agreed to widen defence industrial cooperation.

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held bilateral talks with Czech First Deputy Prime Minister Karel Havlicek in New Delhi on 13 October 2026.
- Havlicek is also the Czech Republic's Minister of Industry and Trade and is on a four-day visit to India.
- Both sides agreed to expand defence industrial cooperation, including under the India-Czech Joint Defence Committee.
- The cooperation is aimed at promoting Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat through joint ventures between firms of the two countries.
- The visiting minister is scheduled to visit industries in Bengaluru and Mumbai during his stay in India.

Event	India-Czech Republic bilateral defence talks
Date and venue	13 October 2026, New Delhi
India represented by	Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
Czech Republic represented by	Karel Havlicek, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Trade
Mechanism named	India-Czech Joint Defence Committee
Policy focus	Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat
Length of visit	Four days
Cities on the itinerary	Bengaluru and Mumbai

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/rajnath-singh-holds-defence-talks-with-czech-deputy-pm/

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Strong Statistics Key to Viksit Bharat 2047: P K Mishra

13 October 2026 · National

Principal Secretary to the PM P K Mishra said a strong statistical system is essential for Viksit Bharat 2047, at a MoSPI conference of State Secretaries.

- Dr. P. K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, gave the keynote address at MoSPI's Conference of State Planning, Finance and IT Secretaries in New Delhi.
- He said a strong statistical system is essential for evidence-based policymaking and for achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.
- He cited the new National Accounts Series with 2022-23 as base year and updated CPI and IIP series as steps in modernising measurement.
- AI, machine learning, geospatial systems and satellite imagery can strengthen official statistics but cannot substitute for statistical quality.
- He called statistics an instrument of cooperative federalism and sought granular data for States, districts and local areas rather than national averages alone.

Event	Conference of State Planning, Finance and IT Secretaries
Organised by	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
Date and venue	13 October 2026, New Delhi
Keynote speaker	Dr. P. K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister
Goal cited	Viksit Bharat 2047
New National Accounts Series base year	2022-23
Other revised series	Consumer Price Index and Index of Industrial Production
Statistics described as	A strategic national asset and an instrument of cooperative federalism

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/strong-statistics-key-to-viksit-bharat-2047-p-k-mishra/

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Indian Navy to Commission First Multi-Purpose Vessel Samarthak

13 October 2026 · Defence

The Indian Navy will commission Samarthak, first of four Multi-Purpose Vessels built by Larsen and Toubro, at Naval Base Karwar on 16 October 2026.

- Samarthak, the first of four Multi-Purpose Vessels for the Indian Navy, is to be commissioned at Naval Base Karwar on 16 October 2026.
- The warship was built by Larsen and Toubro Ltd under the Government of India's Make in India initiative.
- Maritime surveillance and patrol are her main roles; she can also serve as a mothership for unmanned systems and be converted into a limited hospital ship.
- Her integrated combat suite uses indigenous sensors, weapons and electronic systems optimised for the maritime environment.
- The crest depicts an Indian elephant emerging from the waves, and the motto means Victory is Our Sole Aim.

Ship	Samarthak, Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV)
Service	Indian Navy
Commissioning venue	Naval Base, Karwar
Commissioning date	16 October 2026
Builder	Larsen and Toubro Ltd, under Make in India
Position in class	First of four Multi-Purpose Vessels
Primary role	Maritime surveillance and patrol
Other roles	LIMO, trials platform, unmanned systems mothership, HADR, limited hospital ship, salvage

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/indian-navy-to-commission-first-multi-purpose-vessel-samarthak/

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EPFO Pushes PF Trust Amnesty Scheme 2026 Before December Deadline

13 October 2026 · Economy

EPFO has stepped up its nationwide drive on the Amnesty Scheme, 2026, which lets recognised PF Trusts regularise their exempt status before 28 December.

- The Amnesty Scheme, 2026 closes on 28 December 2026, six months after the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 2026 was notified on 29 June 2026.
- It covers PF Trusts recognised under the Income Tax Act, 1961 that lack a formal exemption order under section 17 of the EPF and MP Act, 1952 or section 143 of the Code on Social Security, 2020.
- Benefits include retrospective regularisation of exempt status and waiver of the minimum headcount, corpus size and three-year compliance conditions of the Code on Social Security, 2020.
- Operational guidelines for applying were issued through a circular dated 11 July 2026.
- EPFO ran outreach with CII, ICAI and the Bombay Stock Exchange, and trained officers at the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Academy of Social Security.

Scheme	Amnesty Scheme, 2026 (under the EPF Scheme, 2026)
Body	Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Ministry of Labour and Employment
Notified on	29 June 2026
Guidelines circular	11 July 2026
Window	Six months from notification, closing 28 December 2026
Eligible	PF Trusts recognised under the Income Tax Act, 1961 without a formal exemption order
Relevant sections	Section 17 of the EPF and MP Act, 1952; section 143 of the Code on Social Security, 2020
Conditions waived	Minimum employee headcount, corpus size and the three-year compliance rule

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/epfo-pushes-pf-trust-amnesty-scheme-2026-before-december-deadline/

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Ayush Ministry Issues Skin Disorder Guidelines for Four Systems

13 October 2026 · National

The Ministry of Ayush released Standard Treatment Guidelines on skin disorders for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy on the 11th Ayurveda Day.

- The Ministry of Ayush has issued Standard Treatment Guidelines on the management of dermatological disorders for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy, with Yoga included.
- They were prepared by the Ayush Vertical of the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and released on the 11th Ayurveda Day.
- Conditions covered include psoriasis, dermatitis, vitiligo, urticaria and dermatophytosis, with advice on prevention, diagnosis, treatment, follow-up and rehabilitation.
- Protocols were validated in the field with Medical Officers in primary and secondary healthcare in partnership with the Directorate of Ayush, Government of NCT of Delhi.
- A separate guideline document has been published for each of the four systems on the Ministry's website.

Document	Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) on Management of Dermatological Disorders
Issued by	Ministry of Ayush
Prepared by	Ayush Vertical, Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Systems covered	Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy, with Yoga included
Occasion of release	11th Ayurveda Day
Conditions addressed	Psoriasis, dermatitis, vitiligo, urticaria and dermatophytosis
Scope of advice	Prevention, diagnosis, treatment, follow-up and rehabilitation
Minister of State (IC), Ayush	Shri Prataprao Jadhav

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ayush-ministry-issues-skin-disorder-guidelines-for-four-systems/

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NH-22 Four-Laning in Bihar Approved at Rs 3,590.73 Crore Cost

13 October 2026 · State News

The Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa stretch of NH-22 in Bihar is being widened to four lanes over 82.57 km at a cost of Rs 3,590.73 crore under HAM.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved four-laning of the 82.57-km Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa section of NH-22 in August 2026.
- The total capital cost is Rs 3,590.73 crore and the work is being taken up on the Hybrid Annuity Mode under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan.
- The project includes seven major bridges, among them a 340-metre bridge over the Bagmati river, three railway overbridges and two flyovers.
- The highway is designed for 100 kmph with an average operating speed of 80 kmph and no at-grade median openings.
- It will serve five economic nodes including four industrial estates and a Mega Food Park, and link to Bhithamore Land Port on the India-Nepal border.

Highway	National Highway-22 (NH-22), Bihar
Section	Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa
Length	82.57 km
Capital cost	Rs 3,590.73 crore
Mode	Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)
Approved by	Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, August 2026
Structures	Seven major bridges, three railway overbridges, two flyovers
Longest bridge	340 metres over the Bagmati river

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/nh-22-four-laning-in-bihar-approved-at-rs-359073-crore-cost/

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8th PM Mementos E-Auction Features 27 Uttarakhand Keepsakes

13 October 2026 · National

The eighth edition of the PM Mementos e-auction puts 27 gifts from Uttarakhand on offer, with the proceeds going to the Namami Gange Programme.

- The eighth edition of the PM Mementos e-auction features 27 mementos from Uttarakhand, presented to the Prime Minister and offered by the Ministry of Culture.
- Proceeds from the auction go to the Namami Gange Programme for the rejuvenation and conservation of the river.
- Four temple models are on offer: two of Shri Kedarnath Dham, one of Omkareshwar Temple at Ukhimath and a wooden model of Ganga Ji Mandir at Mukhba.
- A photo print shows the four Char Dham shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, and a glass memento lit by LED shows the Kartik Swami Temple.
- A badminton racket signed by Uttarakhand's Lakshya Sen and seven Uttarakhandi or Pahari caps are part of the collection.

Event	Eighth edition of the PM Mementos e-auction
Ministry	Ministry of Culture
State featured	Uttarakhand, known as Devbhoomi
Mementos on offer	27
Proceeds to	Namami Gange Programme
Temple models	Two of Shri Kedarnath Dham, Omkareshwar Temple at Ukhimath, wooden Ganga Ji Mandir at Mukhba
Char Dham print	Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri
LED glass memento	Kartik Swami Temple

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/8th-pm-mementos-e-auction-features-27-uttarakhand-keepsakes/

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Namami Gange: Ganga Basin GPI Compliance Reaches 86% in 2025

13 October 2026 · Environment

Under Namami Gange, compliance among grossly polluting industries in the Ganga basin rose from 39% in 2017 to 86% in 2025, with BOD load down 72.46%.

- The 2025 inspection cycle assessed 3,703 grossly polluting industries, 1,296 in the Ganga basin and 2,407 in the Yamuna basin, across 113 districts in six states and one Union Territory.
- Compliance in the Ganga basin rose from 39% in 2017 to 86% in 2025, while its BOD load fell from 26 TPD to 7.16 TPD, a cut of 72.46%.
- Ganga basin effluent discharge dropped from 349 MLD to 274.88 MLD, down 21.24%, even as the count of operational GPIs grew from 888 to 3,154.
- For the 2026 cycle 40 technical institutes have been nominated to inspect GPIs, up from 25 engaged in the 2025 exercise, with CPCB as national regulatory authority.
- Of 41 common effluent treatment plants assessed, 40 were operational with 514.53 MLD capacity against 286.31 MLD utilisation, and 27 complied with the norms.

Programme	Namami Gange, Ministry of Jal Shakti
National regulatory authority	Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
GPIs assessed in 2025	3,703 (Ganga basin 1,296; Yamuna basin 2,407)
Spread	113 districts in six states and one Union Territory; 46 tributaries and sub-tributaries
Ganga basin compliance	39% in 2017 to 86% in 2025
Ganga basin BOD load	26 TPD to 7.16 TPD, a fall of 72.46%
Ganga basin effluent discharge	349 MLD to 274.88 MLD, down 21.24%
Operational GPIs	Up from 888 in 2017 to 3,154 in 2025

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/namami-gange-ganga-basin-gpi-compliance-reaches-86percent-in-2025/

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Soybean Varieties NRC 268 and NRC 270 Show 20 Quintal Yield Signs

13 October 2026 · Science & Technology

ICAR's Indore soybean institute found its improved varieties NRC 268 and NRC 270 pointing to about 20 quintals a hectare despite poor weather this season.

- ICAR-National Soybean Research Institute, Indore organised Soybean Harvest Day on 9 October 2026 to assess the yield potential of improved varieties.
- Preliminary data from one acre each of NRC 268 and NRC 270 indicate about 20 quintals per hectare despite adverse weather.
- India's average soybean productivity at present is about 10 to 11 quintals per hectare.
- Trials by the institute and the All India Coordinated Research Project on Soybean show 15 to 20 quintals per hectare is achievable, and about 22 to 25 under favourable conditions.
- Dr M. L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, called the results highly encouraging and said the data would guide future research strategy.

Institute	ICAR-National Soybean Research Institute, Indore
Event	Soybean Harvest Day, held on 9 October 2026
Varieties assessed	NRC 268 and NRC 270
Area harvested	One acre under each variety
Indicated yield	About 20 quintals per hectare
Present national average	About 10 to 11 quintals per hectare
Achievable with improved practices	15 to 20 quintals per hectare
Potential in favourable conditions	About 22 to 25 quintals per hectare

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/soybean-varieties-nrc-268-and-nrc-270-show-20-quintal-yield-signs/

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India Hosts First BIMSTEC Home Ministers Meeting in Delhi

13 October 2026 · International

India hosted the first BIMSTEC Home Ministers Meeting in New Delhi on 13 October 2026 under Amit Shah, and the Delhi Declaration was adopted there.

- The first BIMSTEC Home Ministers Meeting was hosted by India in New Delhi and chaired by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah.
- The ministers adopted the Delhi Declaration and approved a convention against human trafficking, an action plan on drug control and an MoU on countering money laundering and terrorist financing.
- Action plans on illicit financial flows and on disaster preparedness in the Bay of Bengal region were also cleared.
- The proposed BIMSTEC Disaster Management Centre, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the sixth summit in Bangkok on 4 April 2025, is planned at Jamnagar in Gujarat.
- BIMSTEC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand; Home Ministers' meetings were agreed at the fourth summit in 2018.

Event	First BIMSTEC Home Ministers Meeting
Venue	New Delhi
Chaired by	Amit Shah, Union Home and Cooperation Minister
Outcome document	Delhi Declaration
Members	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand
Proposed disaster centre	BIMSTEC Disaster Management Centre at Jamnagar, Gujarat
Proposed at	Sixth BIMSTEC Summit, Bangkok, 4 April 2025
Home Ministers' track agreed	Fourth BIMSTEC Summit, 2018

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-hosts-first-bimstec-home-ministers-meeting-in-delhi/

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PM GatiShakti Master Plan Completes Five Years With 1,800 Data Layers

13 October 2026 · Government Schemes

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, launched in October 2021, completed five years with 1,800 data layers and 58 Central Ministries on the platform.

- PM GatiShakti National Master Plan was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October 2021 and has now completed five years.
- The platform integrates more than 1,800 data layers covering 58 Central Ministries and Departments and all 36 States and Union Territories.
- The Network Planning Group has evaluated over 400 projects worth about 20.23 lakh crore rupees; in 2026 the count stood at 421 projects.
- The geospatial platform was developed indigenously by BISAG-N, and the public platform through the Unified Geospatial Interface was launched in September 2025.
- The Union Cabinet has approved an Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority to strengthen multimodal connectivity and reduce logistics costs.

Scheme	PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS NMP)
Launched	October 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Platform built by	BISAG-N, under Atmanirbhar Bharat
Data layers	More than 1,800
Ministries and Departments	58 Central Ministries and Departments
States and UTs	All 36
Appraisal body	Network Planning Group (NPG)
Projects evaluated	421 projects worth about 20.23 lakh crore rupees in 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/pm-gatishakti-master-plan-completes-five-years-with-1800-data-layers/

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JOSH Campaign Launched in 11 States for TB-Free India Drive

13 October 2026 · National

The JOSH campaign for a TB-free India was launched in 11 states and 55 districts, as new TB cases in the country fell by 21% between 2015 and 2024.

- The JOSH, or Joint Squad for Health, campaign was organised on 13 October 2026 in 11 states and 55 districts on a pilot basis.
- Each JOSH team has MY Bharat volunteers, National Cadet Corps cadets and a designated Class-I officer to spread awareness on screening and treatment.
- New TB cases in India fell 21% between 2015 and 2024 against a global decline of 12%, and treatment coverage is 92% against 78% globally.
- Cumulative screenings have crossed 28.1 crore, over 20 lakh people received TB Preventive Treatment and 46,118 Gram Panchayats are certified TB free.
- Under Nikshay Poshan Yojana, started in 2018, 4,454.68 crore rupees have been paid to 1.38 crore beneficiaries at 1,000 rupees a month.

Campaign	JOSH - Joint Squad for Health
Pilot coverage	11 states and 55 districts
JOSH team members	MY Bharat volunteers, NCC cadets and a Class-I officer
Fall in new TB cases	21% between 2015 and 2024, against 12% globally
Fall in TB deaths	28% in the same period
Treatment coverage	92% in India against 78% globally
Source of data	WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2025
AI chatbot	Khushi, on the TB Mukt Bharat App

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/josh-campaign-launched-in-11-states-for-tb-free-india-drive/

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Indian Oil to Give Rs 40 Crore Boost to Boxing in India

13 October 2026 · Sports

NSDF, the Sports Authority of India and Indian Oil signed an MoU under which the oil company will put Rs 40 crore into Indian boxing over two years.

- The National Sports Development Fund, Sports Authority of India and Indian Oil Corporation signed an MoU to strengthen boxing in India.
- Indian Oil will provide 40 crore rupees over two years from its CSR funds for talent identification, coaching, sports science and academies.
- The signing followed the inclusion of sports as a thematic area in the Department of Public Enterprises' Common CSR Theme Framework.
- Union Sports Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya linked the step to the revamped Khelo India Scheme approved by the Union Cabinet.
- At the Asian Games 2026 Indian boxers won six medals, three of them gold and three bronze; NSDF was set up in 1998 under the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890.

Partners	NSDF, Sports Authority of India and Indian Oil Corporation
Sport	Boxing
CSR support	40 crore rupees over two years
Union Sports Minister	Dr Mansukh Mandaviya
Policy link	Revamped Khelo India Scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet
Enabling framework	Common CSR Theme Framework of the Department of Public Enterprises
Asian Games 2026 boxing medals	Six in all - three gold and three bronze
NSDF established	1998, under the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/indian-oil-to-give-rs-40-crore-boost-to-boxing-in-india/

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IndiaSkills 2026-27 Registration Window Reopened Till 19 October

13 October 2026 · National

MSDE reopened IndiaSkills 2026-27 registration till 19 October 2026 after Team India finished tenth at WorldSkills Shanghai with six silver medals.

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has reopened IndiaSkills 2026-27 registrations till 19 October 2026.
- Team India finished tenth at the WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai with six silver medals and 20 Medallions for Excellence.
- India's largest ever contingent of 70 competitors took part across 63 skills, improving on the thirteenth place at WorldSkills Lyon in 2024.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the Shanghai competitors at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg in New Delhi on 9 October 2026.
- IndiaSkills 2026-27 has already drawn about four lakh registrations; the National Skill Development Corporation is the implementation partner and entries are filed on the Skill India Digital Hub.

Competition	IndiaSkills Competition 2026-27
Organised by	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)
Implementation partner	National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)
New last date	19 October 2026
Registration portal	Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)
Skill categories	63
Registrations received	About four lakh
WorldSkills Shanghai result	Tenth place, six silver medals and 20 Medallions for Excellence

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/indiaskills-2026-27-registration-window-reopened-till-19-october/

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10th Agrivision National Convention Opens at Pusa in New Delhi

13 October 2026 · Summits & Conferences

The 10th National Convention of Agrivision-2026 opened at the ICAR-NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi, drawing about 450 students from 25 states.

- The 10th National Convention of Agrivision-2026 is being held on 13 and 14 October at the ICAR-NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi.
- About 450 students of agriculture and allied sciences from 25 states are taking part, along with scientists, ICAR officials, entrepreneurs and farmers.
- Dr M. L. Jat, Secretary of DARE and Director General of ICAR, was the chief guest at the inaugural session.
- Dr Jat said Indian agriculture must move beyond a production centric approach to an agri food system and value chain perspective, backed by market research and market intelligence.
- The convention is organised under the aegis of Agrivision and the Agricultural Education Division of ICAR, with discussions on agricultural education, research, entrepreneurship and farmer centred development.

Event	10th National Convention of Agrivision-2026
Dates	13 and 14 October 2026
Venue	ICAR-NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi
Organised by	Agrivision with the Agricultural Education Division of ICAR
Students attending	About 450, from 25 states
Chief guest	Dr M. L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR
Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education)	Dr Y. S. Malik
Vice-Chancellor, CAU Imphal	Dr Anupam Mishra

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/10th-agrivision-national-convention-opens-at-pusa-in-new-delhi/

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21st Maritime State Development Council Meets in Mumbai

13 October 2026 · National

The 21st Maritime State Development Council met in Mumbai on 13 October 2026, its first sitting as a statutory body, and cleared two shipbuilding insurance covers.

- The 21st Maritime State Development Council meeting was held at Mumbai and chaired by Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.
- It was the first MSDC meeting after the body gained statutory status under the Indian Ports Act, 2025, notified on 15 May 2026; the Council was originally constituted in 1997.
- Targets of Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, covering over 500 initiatives, were adopted by the Council.
- One Nation One Port Process reforms and integration with the Maritime Single Window, Sagar Setu, must be completed at all ports by March 2027.
- Two shipbuilding credit risk insurance policies were launched: SbPCP by ECGC Ltd for export projects and BCSPS by The New India Assurance Company for domestic projects.

Event	21st Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) meeting
Venue	Mumbai, Maharashtra
Chaired by	Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Statutory basis	Indian Ports Act, 2025, notified on 15 May 2026
Council constituted	1997
Visions adopted	Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, with over 500 initiatives
Deadline fixed	One Nation One Port Process and Maritime Single Window (Sagar Setu) at all ports by March 2027
New insurance covers	Shipbuilding Project Credit Risk Insurance Policy by ECGC Ltd and Business Credit Shield Policy-Shipbuilders by The New India Assurance Company

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/21st-maritime-state-development-council-meets-in-mumbai/

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Two Offshore Mineral Blocks in Andaman Sea Put Up for Auction

13 October 2026 · Economy

The Ministry of Mines held an outreach programme in New Delhi on 13 October 2026 on the auction of two Andaman Sea offshore blocks covering 1,632 sq km.

- The Ministry of Mines organised an outreach programme at New Delhi on the auction of offshore mineral blocks, following its notice inviting tender dated 1 October 2026.
- The two blocks on offer are Sewell Rise-01 (632 sq km) and West Sewell Ridge-01 (1,000 sq km) in the Andaman Sea, a total of 1,632 sq km, both offered for a composite licence.
- Both blocks contain polymetallic nodules and crusts, which carry nickel, cobalt, copper and manganese.
- SBI Capital Markets Limited is the transaction adviser and MSTC provides the e-auction platform; the Geological Survey of India presented the geology of the blocks.
- The auction follows the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002, as amended in 2023, and the Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2024; bids close on 28 December 2026.

Event	Outreach programme on auction of offshore mineral blocks, New Delhi
Ministry	Ministry of Mines
Blocks offered	Sewell Rise-01 and West Sewell Ridge-01, Andaman Sea
Area	632 sq km and 1,000 sq km, total 1,632 sq km
Minerals	Polymetallic nodules and crusts containing nickel, cobalt, copper and manganese
Licence type	Composite Licence
Law	Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002, amended in 2023; Auction Rules, 2024
Transaction adviser	SBI Capital Markets Limited (SBICAPS)

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/two-offshore-mineral-blocks-in-andaman-sea-put-up-for-auction/

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HAL, NCF and ASI Sign Pact for Three Heritage Sites

13 October 2026 · National

HAL, the National Culture Fund and the Archaeological Survey of India signed a pact on 13 October 2026 to conserve Hampi, the Taj Mahal and Bekal Fort.

- HAL, the National Culture Fund and the Archaeological Survey of India signed a memorandum of agreement at Kartavya Bhawan-02, New Delhi, for heritage conservation work.
- The three sites covered are Hampi in Karnataka, the Taj Mahal at Agra in Uttar Pradesh and Bekal Fort in Kerala.
- HAL gave in-principle approval for financial support of 23.60 crore rupees for the projects, spread over the financial years 2026-27 to 2028-29.
- At Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, work is planned in the North and South Bazaar areas over stretches of about 270 metres and 250 metres.
- The projects will be executed under the technical guidance and supervision of the ASI, with the National Culture Fund facilitating implementation; the MoA was signed in the presence of Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal.

Agreement	Memorandum of Agreement among HAL, National Culture Fund and Archaeological Survey of India
Signed at	Kartavya Bhawan-02, New Delhi
Heritage sites	Hampi (Karnataka), Taj Mahal (Agra, Uttar Pradesh), Bekal Fort (Kerala)
HAL support	23.60 crore rupees, in-principle approval
Period	Financial years 2026-27 to 2028-29
Work at Hampi	North Bazaar about 270 metres and South Bazaar about 250 metres
Technical supervision	Archaeological Survey of India
Present at signing	Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/hal-ncf-and-asi-sign-pact-for-three-heritage-sites/

Tribal Affairs Ministry Signs iGOT Pact for Adi Karmayogi

13 October 2026 · Government Schemes

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Karmayogi Bharat signed an MoU on 13 October 2026 to train Adi Karmayogi Volunteers through a dedicated iGOT microsite.

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Karmayogi Bharat signed an MoU in New Delhi for a Tribal Affairs Capacity Building Platform under the iGOT Karmayogi framework.
- It extends Mission Karmayogi, so far meant for civil servants, to Adi Karmayogi Volunteers and functionaries working on tribal development schemes.
- Under the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan the ministry is setting up over 76,000 Adi Sewa Kendras and over 1,54,000 volunteers; 60,507 kendras and 1,22,072 volunteers are registered so far.
- A three-day in-person training by State Administrative Training Institutes is to be completed by Maharashtra, Odisha, Goa and Tripura by 31 October 2026 and by all states by 31 December 2026.
- Secretary Ranjana Chopra said the microsite has seen 646 course enrolments, 235 completions and 112 volunteers finishing at least one course; videos reached over 1,25,000 volunteers.

Agreement	MoU between Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Karmayogi Bharat, New Delhi
Platform	Tribal Affairs Capacity Building Platform on iGOT Karmayogi, with a dedicated AKV microsite
Scheme extended	Mission Karmayogi, so far for civil servants
Campaign	Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan
Targets	Over 76,000 Adi Sewa Kendras and over 1,54,000 Adi Karmayogi Volunteers
Registered so far	60,507 Adi Sewa Kendras and 1,22,072 volunteers
Priority states	Maharashtra, Odisha, Goa and Tripura, training by 31 October 2026
All-state deadline	31 December 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/tribal-affairs-ministry-signs-igot-pact-for-adi-karmayogi/

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INST Mohali Develops Filter to Clean Dye Wastewater

13 October 2026 · Science & Technology

Scientists at INST Mohali have built a machine learning aided nanofibre filter that removed 98.6 per cent of a textile dye from water within 120 minutes.

- The Institute of Nano Science and Technology, Mohali, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, developed the filter.
- It combines green-synthesised zinc oxide nanoparticles with biodegradable polylactic acid nanofibres, made into a membrane by electrospinning.
- Zinc oxide nanoparticles were synthesised using turmeric extract, in which curcumin, flavonoids and phenolic compounds acted as reducing and stabilising agents.
- Under combined light and ultrasonic excitation the membrane decolorised 98.6 per cent of methylene blue and 96.7 per cent of congo red within 120 minutes.
- It inactivated about 75 per cent of E. coli and 71 per cent of S. aureus after 6 hours; the work was published in Advanced Functional Materials.

Developed by	Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali
Parent body	Department of Science and Technology, an autonomous institute
Materials used	Green-synthesised zinc oxide nanoparticles and biodegradable polylactic acid nanofibres
Green synthesis route	Turmeric extract, with curcumin, flavonoids and phenolic compounds as reducing and stabilising agents
Process	Photocatalysis combined with piezocatalysis, using light and mechanical vibration
Dye removal	98.6 per cent of methylene blue and 96.7 per cent of congo red in 120 minutes
Antibacterial action	About 75 per cent of E. coli and 71 per cent of S. aureus inactivated after 6 hours
Published in	Advanced Functional Materials

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/inst-mohali-develops-filter-to-clean-dye-wastewater/

India Post and IndiGo Mark Philately Day With Digital Detox

13 October 2026 · Important Days

India Post and IndiGo handed postcard kits to flyers on 12 October 2026, marking Philately Day during National Postal Week with a digital detox campaign.

- The Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, ran a Digital Detox Campaign with IndiGo on 12 October, observed as Philately Day.
- The campaign was part of National Postal Week celebrations held from 9 to 15 October.
- Passengers on selected IndiGo flights received digital detox kits containing specially designed postcards showing iconic city landmarks.
- Flyers wrote their cards in the air, at about 30,000 feet, and posted them in India Post letter boxes placed at arrival airports for onward delivery.
- The campaign connected passengers travelling across Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai.

Campaign	Digital Detox Campaign
Partners	Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, and IndiGo
Date	12 October, observed as Philately Day
Occasion	National Postal Week, 9 to 15 October
Cities	Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai
What passengers got	Digital detox kits with postcards showing iconic city landmarks
Height mentioned	About 30,000 feet
Posting	India Post letter boxes placed at arrival airports for onward delivery

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-post-and-indigo-mark-philately-day-with-digital-detox/

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DRDO to Lead Semiconductor Session at ESTIC-2026

13 October 2026 · Science & Technology

DRDO will steer a thematic session on semiconductors and next-generation chips at ESTIC-2026, to be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi from 27 to 29 October.

- DRDO will lead a thematic session on 'Semiconductors and Next-Gen Chips' at the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave, ESTIC-2026.
- ESTIC-2026 is scheduled at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from 27 to 29 October 2026, and is organised jointly by 12 ministries and departments under the Principal Scientific Adviser.
- The keynote of the DRDO session will come from the Vice President and Managing Director of Micron India, with talks by the heads of Bharat Semi and Netrasemi and the Director of IIT Madras.
- A curtain-raiser was held at Bengaluru on 13 October 2026, presided over by Dr B K Das, Director General (Electronics and Communication Systems).
- Dr Anupam Sharma, Director General (Technology Management), said semiconductor business is expected to reach 200 billion dollars by 2035.

Event	ESTIC-2026, the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave
Venue and dates	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, 27 to 29 October 2026
Organised by	12 ministries and departments, guided by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India
DRDO session	Thematic session on 'Semiconductors and Next-Gen Chips'
Keynote speaker	Vice President and Managing Director, Micron India
Other speakers	CEOs of Bharat Semi and Netrasemi, and the Director of IIT Madras
Curtain-raiser	Held at Bengaluru, Karnataka on 13 October 2026, presided over by Dr B K Das, DG (Electronics and Communication Systems)
Market projection	Semiconductor business to rise to 200 billion dollars by 2035, as stated by Dr Anupam Sharma, DG (Technology Management)

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/drdo-to-lead-semiconductor-session-at-estic-2026/

North East Bankers' Conclave 3.0 Opens in Aizawl, Mizoram

13 October 2026 · Banking & Finance

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia opened the North East Bankers' Conclave 3.0 at Mizoram University in Aizawl and pressed banks for a higher credit flow.

- Union DoNER and Communications Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated the North East Bankers' Conclave 3.0 at Mizoram University, Aizawl.
- Only 47 rupees is given as credit for every 100 rupees deposited in banks across the Northeast, which grows at 9 to 11 per cent a year.
- Banking touchpoints now cover about 99.93 per cent of villages; 131 new branches, 126 ATMs and 247 new India Post Payments Bank centres have been added.
- Investment of about 40,000 crore rupees has been grounded in the eight states after the Rising North East Investors Summit of May 2025, and airports have gone from 9 to 17.
- The population floor for a physical bank branch has been cut from 3,000 to 2,000, and UPI accounts for 90.2 per cent of non-branch transactions.

Event	North East Bankers' Conclave 3.0
Venue	Mizoram University, Aizawl, Mizoram
Inaugurated by	Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region and Communications
Chief Minister present	Lalduhoma, Chief Minister of Mizoram
Credit-Deposit position	Only 47 rupees lent for every 100 rupees deposited in the region
Regional growth	9 to 11 per cent a year
Banking reach	6,674 branches and 5,823 ATMs working; touchpoints in about 99.93 per cent of villages
Branch norm eased	Minimum population for a physical branch reduced from 3,000 to 2,000

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/north-east-bankers-conclave-30-opens-in-aizawl-mizoram/

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14 October 2026

Coir Exports Up 305% in Ten Years to ₹6,614.40 Crore

14 October 2026 · Economy

India, the world’s largest coir producer, lifted coir exports 305.70% in twelve years to ₹6,614.40 crore in FY 2025-26, with over 21,000 units at work.

- India is the world’s largest producer and exporter of coir, accounting for about two-thirds of global output
- Coir exports rose from ₹1,630.33 crore in FY 2014-15 to ₹6,614.40 crore in FY 2025-26, a gain of 305.70%
- The coir industry’s turnover is about ₹16,000 crore, close to 1% of India’s GDP
- More than 21,000 coir units employ over 7 lakh workers directly and indirectly, 80% of them rural women
- The Ministry of MSME runs the Coir Vikas Yojana (CVY) for the sector; over 68,000 persons have been trained

Sector	Coir — fibre from the outer husk of the coconut
India’s rank	World’s largest producer and exporter of coir
Share of world output	About two-thirds
Industry turnover	About ₹16,000 crore; close to 1% of GDP
Exports, FY 2025-26	₹6,614.40 crore
Exports, FY 2014-15	₹1,630.33 crore
Growth	305.70% rise in twelve years
Top destinations	United States, China, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/coir-exports-up-305percent-in-ten-years-to-rs-661440-crore/

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WPI Inflation Rises to 11.39 Per Cent in September 2026

14 October 2026 · Economy

India's wholesale price inflation quickened to 11.39 per cent in September 2026 from 9.92 per cent in August, with the all-commodities index at 112.5.

- All-India WPI inflation for September 2026 stood at 11.39 per cent year on year, up from 9.92 per cent in August 2026.
- On the 2022-23 base year, the all-commodities wholesale price index rose to 112.5 in September 2026 from 110.8 a month earlier.
- Fuel and Power was the fastest-rising major group at 25.85 per cent, ahead of Manufactured Products at 9.76 per cent and Primary Articles at 8.67 per cent.
- The WPI Food Index, with a weight of 24.99 per cent, inflated by 8.66 per cent against 7.05 per cent in August 2026.
- July 2026 figures were left unchanged at an index of 110.0 and a rate of 9.78 per cent; October 2026 data is due on 16 November 2026.

Data released	Provisional WPI, Output PPI and trial Input PPI for September 2026
Released by	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Base year	2022-23
WPI inflation (September 2026)	11.39 per cent
WPI inflation (August 2026)	9.92 per cent
All-commodities index	112.5 (110.8 in August 2026)
Primary Articles	8.67 per cent, index 120.3
Fuel and Power	25.85 per cent, index 110.5

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/wpi-inflation-rises-to-1139-per-cent-in-september-2026/

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First ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum Opens in Delhi

14 October 2026 · Defence

Rajnath Singh opened the maiden ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum at MP-IDSA in New Delhi on 14 October 2026, with all eleven ASEAN members taking part.

- The maiden ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum was held at MP-IDSA, New Delhi, on 14 and 15 October 2026, with Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh addressing it.
- Delegates from all eleven ASEAN member states and India attended; MP-IDSA Director General Amb Sujan R Chinoy gave the welcome address.
- The forum follows an announcement at the second ASEAN-India Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 31 October 2025, on the sidelines of the 12th ADMM-Plus.
- The year 2026 has been designated the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation.
- The Raksha Mantri invoked the Act East policy along with SAGAR and MAHASAGAR, and named iDEX and the Technology Development Fund as routes for joint innovation.

Event	First ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum
Venue	Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi
Dates	14 and 15 October 2026
Addressed by	Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh
Welcome address	Amb Sujan R Chinoy, Director General, MP-IDSA
Participants	All eleven ASEAN member states and India
Announced at	Second ASEAN-India Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, 31 October 2025
Held alongside that announcement	12th ADMM-Plus

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/first-asean-india-defence-think-tank-forum-opens-in-delhi/

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BHAVYA Scheme: Rs 33,660 Crore for 100 Industrial Parks

14 October 2026 · Government Schemes

Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna, with an outlay of Rs 33,660 crore, will build 100 plug-and-play industrial parks across India between FY2026-27 and FY2031-32.

- Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) carries an outlay of Rs 33,660 crore to develop 100 plug-and-play industrial parks across India.
- The Cabinet approved it in March 2026 and it was notified on 10 April 2026, to run six years from FY2026-27 to FY2031-32.
- Assistance goes up to Rs 1 crore per acre, with up to 25 per cent of approved funding usable for external road, rail and last-mile logistics links.
- Up to 50 parks will be selected in the first phase through challenge mode in two rounds; each park will span 25 to 1,000 acres and be run by a Special Purpose Vehicle.
- The BHAVYA Portal was launched in June 2026, and in July 2026 the BHAVYA-Rasayan Scheme was approved for three chemical parks.

Scheme	Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA)
Outlay	Rs 33,660 crore
Target	100 plug-and-play industrial parks
Approved / notified	Cabinet approval in March 2026; notified on 10 April 2026
Period	Six years, FY2026-27 to FY2031-32
Assistance	Up to Rs 1 crore per acre
External infrastructure	Up to 25 per cent of approved funding
Phase one	Up to 50 parks through challenge mode in two rounds

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/bhavya-scheme-rs-33660-crore-for-100-industrial-parks/

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Indian Navy Hands Over Command of Combined Task Force 154

14 October 2026 · Defence

India gave up command of Combined Task Force 154 of the Combined Maritime Forces at Manama in Bahrain on 14 October 2026, closing its first such tenure.

- The Indian Navy relinquished command of Combined Task Force 154 at a ceremony in Manama, Bahrain, on 14 October 2026, completing its maiden command of a Combined Maritime Forces task force.
- CTF 154 is the CMF's dedicated multinational maritime training task force and serves a partnership of 47 nations.
- India joined the Combined Maritime Forces as an Associate Partner in 2022 and became a full member in 2023; it took charge of CTF 154 on 11 February 2026.
- The tenure ran 20 Staff Enhancement Training engagements, Operation Compass Rose 26-1, Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 and the first SPAR 2026 exchange on piracy and armed robbery.
- More than 7,800 training hours were generated and personnel from 39 countries took part in CTF 154 activities.

Task Force	Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154), the training task force of the Combined Maritime Forces
Handover venue	Manama, Bahrain
Date of handover	14 October 2026
Command assumed on	11 February 2026 (India's first command of a CMF task force)
CMF partnership	47 nations
India's CMF status	Associate Partner in 2022; full member in 2023
Training delivered	20 Staff Enhancement Training engagements; over 7,800 training hours
Participation	Personnel from 39 countries

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/indian-navy-hands-over-command-of-combined-task-force-154/

TDB Signs Rs 151 Crore RDI Deal With ideaForge for YETI UAV

14 October 2026 · Science & Technology

The Technology Development Board will put Rs 151 crore from the RDI Fund into YETI, a heavy-lift autonomous aerial logistics vehicle by ideaForge.

- The Technology Development Board under the Department of Science and Technology signed an agreement with ideaForge Technology Limited, Mumbai, for Rs 151 crore of support from the RDI Fund.
- The total project cost is Rs 302 crore and the TDB support comes as debt financing, aimed at taking YETI from Technology Readiness Level 4 to TRL-9.
- YETI is an autonomous vertical take-off and landing fixed-wing hybrid unmanned aerial vehicle built for heavy-lift, long-range aerial logistics.
- It is designed for payloads of up to 200 kg, a targeted range of up to 200 km and an operating altitude of up to 6,500 metres above mean sea level.
- The project falls in the deep technology sector with intelligent systems and robotics as the sub-sector; TDB Secretary is Shri Rajesh Kumar Pathak.

Agreement	Technology Development Board (TDB) with ideaForge Technology Limited, Mumbai, Maharashtra
TDB support	Rs 151 crore, as debt financing
Fund	Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund
Total project cost	Rs 302 crore
Platform	YETI, a heavy-lift long-range autonomous aerial logistics vehicle (VTOL fixed-wing hybrid UAV)
Technology goal	From Technology Readiness Level 4 to TRL-9
Payload and range	Up to 200 kg; targeted range up to 200 km
Operating altitude	Up to 6,500 metres above mean sea level

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/tdb-signs-rs-151-crore-rdi-deal-with-ideaforge-for-yeti-uav/

North East Bankers' Conclave 3.0 Held at Mizoram University

14 October 2026 · Banking & Finance

Dr Sukanta Majumdar told the North East Bankers' Conclave 3.0 at Mizoram University, Aizawl, that 6,905 of 9,479 villages now have banking access.

- The North East Bankers' Conclave 3.0 was held at Mizoram University, Aizawl, and was addressed by Union Minister of State Dr Sukanta Majumdar on 13 October 2026.
- 131 new bank branches have been opened and 126 ATMs installed in the Northeast; of 9,479 identified villages, 6,905 or about 73 per cent now have a bank branch or India Post Payments Bank.
- 2,574 villages remain uncovered, of which 2,515 are to be connected through India Post Payments Bank and 59 through physical bank branches.
- Manipur and Assam are at or above the national credit-deposit ratio of 79.5 per cent, while Mizoram and some other Northeastern states lag behind.
- The population norm for a bank branch in the Northeast is 2,000 on a cluster basis against the national norm of 3,000.

Event	North East Bankers' Conclave 3.0
Venue	Mizoram University, Aizawl
Date of address	13 October 2026
Addressed by	Dr Sukanta Majumdar, MoS for Development of North Eastern Region and Education
Banking added	131 new bank branches; 126 ATMs
Village coverage	6,905 of 9,479 identified villages, about 73 per cent
Villages pending	2,574 (2,515 through India Post Payments Bank, 59 through branches)
National credit-deposit ratio	79.5 per cent; Manipur and Assam at or above it

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/north-east-bankers-conclave-30-held-at-mizoram-university/

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Cabinet Clears Rs 53,428 Crore for Renamed NSAP Pension Scheme

14 October 2026 · Government Schemes

The Union Cabinet approved continuing the National Social Assistance Programme with Rs 53,428 crore for 2026-27 to 2030-31 and renamed it and its four sub-schemes.

- The Union Cabinet on 14 October 2026 approved continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme with an outlay of Rs 53,428 crore for the five years from 2026-27 to 2030-31.
- NSAP is renamed Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana, and its old age, widow and disability pensions and the family benefit scheme get Pradhan Mantri names.
- Divyangjan pension is now Rs 375 a month for ages 0-79 years and Rs 625 for 80 years and above, with the benchmark disability bar cut to 40 per cent from 80 per cent.
- The minimum age condition for disability pension is removed, making the benefit available since birth; guidelines are to be issued within three months.
- About 3.20 crore beneficiaries in all 36 States and Union Territories are expected to gain, with the Centre bearing the entire cost.

Decision	Continuation of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)
Outlay	Rs 53,428 crore
Period	2026-27 to 2030-31 (five years)
New name of NSAP	Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana
Proposing department	Department of Rural Development
Divyangjan pension	Rs 375 a month for ages 0-79 years; Rs 625 for 80 years and above
Benchmark disability	40 per cent, reduced from 80 per cent
Beneficiaries	3.20 crore across 36 States and Union Territories

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/cabinet-clears-rs-53428-crore-for-renamed-nsap-pension-scheme/

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Cabinet Approves 78-Day Productivity Bonus for Railway Staff

14 October 2026 · Economy

The Union Cabinet cleared a Productivity Linked Bonus of 78 days wages worth Rs 2,009.61 crore for 11,40,770 railway employees ahead of the Durga Puja break.

- The Union Cabinet on 14 October 2026 approved a Productivity Linked Bonus of 78 days' wages for railway employees.
- The payout totals Rs 2,009.61 crore and covers 11,40,770 railway employees, that is about 11.40 lakh non-gazetted staff.
- The maximum amount payable to one eligible employee for the 78 days is Rs 17,951.
- The bonus is paid every year before the Durga Puja and Dussehra holidays and reaches track maintainers, loco pilots, train managers, station masters, technicians, pointsmen and other Group C staff.
- Railways loaded a record 1,670 million tonnes of freight and carried nearly 7.41 billion passengers in 2025-26.

Decision	Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) for railway employees
Approved by	Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister
Bonus period	78 days' wages
Total outgo	Rs 2,009.61 crore
Employees covered	11,40,770 (about 11.40 lakh non-gazetted staff)
Maximum per employee	Rs 17,951
Paid before	Durga Puja and Dussehra holidays
Freight loading in 2025-26	A record 1,670 million tonnes

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/cabinet-approves-78-day-productivity-bonus-for-railway-staff/

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DRI Busts Pakistan Rock Salt Racket in Operation Deep Manifest

14 October 2026 · National

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence detected 295 containers carrying 7,311 tonnes of Pakistan-origin rock salt routed through Colombo, and arrested four persons.

- DRI's Operation Deep Manifest detected 295 containers carrying 7,311 metric tonnes of Pakistan-origin industrial or Himalayan rock salt, valued at about Rs 30 crore.
- The cargo was routed through Colombo Port in Sri Lanka with fabricated certificates of origin and invoices issued by UAE-based entities.
- Nine importers had brought the containers in through Mundra and Kandla ports since March 2026; five containers with 140 metric tonnes worth Rs 24.41 lakh were seized at Kandla.
- Four persons were arrested under the Customs Act, 1962, and sale proceeds of Rs 20.96 lakh in importers' bank accounts were seized.
- India barred all direct or indirect import of Pakistan-origin goods after the Pahalgam terror attack, through DGFT Notification No. 06/2025-26 dated 2 May 2025.

Operation	Operation Deep Manifest
Agency	Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)
Goods	Pakistan-origin industrial or Himalayan rock salt
Quantity detected	295 containers, 7,311 metric tonnes (over 73,00,000 kg)
Estimated market value	About Rs 30 crore
Routing	Through Colombo Port, Sri Lanka, with UAE-issued papers
Entry ports	Mundra and Kandla
Seized at Kandla	Five containers, 140 metric tonnes, worth Rs 24.41 lakh

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/dri-busts-pakistan-rock-salt-racket-in-operation-deep-manifest/

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CBN Destroys 5,165 Acres of Cannabis in Operation Parivartan

14 October 2026 · National

The Central Bureau of Narcotics destroyed 5,165 acres of illicit cannabis cultivation in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh under Operation Parivartan.

- The Central Bureau of Narcotics destroyed 5,165 acres, equal to 2,070 hectares, of illicit cannabis cultivation in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh under Operation Parivartan.
- The month-long drive identified plots through ground surveys and drone technology, with support from the Forest Department and the Police Department.
- Teams cleared cultivation up to a maximum altitude of about 3,500 metres in difficult Himalayan terrain.
- A Jan Samvad was held with villagers of Malana village on alternative crops and alternative development, a CBN mandate under the NDPS Policy 2012.
- CBN is the apex drug law enforcement and regulatory agency and functions under the Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance.

Operation	Operation Parivartan
Agency	Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN)
Parent department	Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance
Area destroyed	5,165 acres (2,070 hectares)
Location	Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh
Detection method	Ground surveys and drone technology
Maximum altitude	About 3,500 metres
Jan Samvad held at	Malana village

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/cbn-destroys-5165-acres-of-cannabis-in-operation-parivartan/

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NIPER Raebareli, AstraZeneca Tie Up for 25 Trial Sites

14 October 2026 · Science & Technology

NIPER Raebareli and AstraZeneca India signed an MoU to build trained staff and inspection-ready clinical trial sites in 25 emerging research geographies in India.

- NIPER Raebareli and AstraZeneca India signed an MoU in New Delhi on 14 October 2026 to extend clinical trial capability beyond the metros.
- The collaboration will adopt 25 clinical trial sites in emerging research geographies, assess them and provide training, mentoring and site-readiness support.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.
- It advances Biopharma SHAKTI, the flagship initiative whose goals include setting up 1,000 clinical trial sites across the country.
- Designed as a scalable national model, it can expand to more geographies and to therapeutic areas beyond oncology after the proof-of-concept phase.

Partners	NIPER Raebareli and AstraZeneca India
Instrument	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
Signed at	New Delhi
Sites to be adopted	25 clinical trial sites in emerging research geographies
Government department	Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers
Secretary present	Manoj Joshi
Director, NIPER Raebareli	Dr Shubhini Saraf
AstraZeneca India head	Praveen Rao Akkinepally, Country President and Managing Director

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/niper-raebareli-astrazeneca-tie-up-for-25-trial-sites/

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BHARAT TULIP Opens Digital Markets for Traditional Artisans

14 October 2026 · Government Schemes

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is running BHARAT TULIP through NBCFDC to brand and sell traditional artisans' products on digital platforms.

- BHARAT TULIP stands for Traditional Artisans' Upliftment Livelihood Programme and is implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It is run through the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and was launched on 5 November 2024.
- Artisans' products are branded as BHARAT TULIP to improve visibility and allow online sales through digital and e-commerce channels.
- Support covers product promotion, digital marketing, quality assurance, skill development, logistics and delivery, and participation in exhibitions, trade fairs and buyer-seller meets.
- Products include home decor and lifestyle items, handcrafted jewellery, handwoven textiles and fabrics, and traditional leather goods.

Programme	BHARAT TULIP
Full form of TULIP	Traditional Artisans' Upliftment Livelihood Programme
Implementing ministry	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Implementing agency	National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)
Launched on	5 November 2024
Main aim	Expanding market access and product visibility for traditional artisans
Sales route	Digital platforms and e-commerce channels under a common brand
Product range	Home decor and lifestyle items, handcrafted jewellery, handwoven textiles, traditional leather products

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/bharat-tulip-opens-digital-markets-for-traditional-artisans/

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IDBI Bank: CCEA Clears Sale of 60.72% Stake to Fairfax Arm

14 October 2026 · Banking & Finance

The CCEA cleared the sale of a 60.72 per cent stake in IDBI Bank to M/s 10955230 Canada Inc of the Fairfax group at Rs 81 per share on 14 October 2026.

- The CCEA on 14 October 2026 approved M/s 10955230 Canada Inc, whose parent is Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd, as the Strategic Buyer of IDBI Bank Ltd.
- An aggregate 60.72 per cent stake is sold, made up of 30.48 per cent held by the Government of India and 30.24 per cent held by LIC, for Rs 52,878.0806181 crore.
- The Centre retains 15 per cent and LIC 19 per cent as public shareholders, and both withdraw their nominee directors from the board.
- The winning offer of Rs 81 per share beat the benchmark of Rs 75.99 per share, the average of valuations by the Market Multiple Method and the Asset Valuation Method.
- The bank had been under the RBI Prompt Corrective Action framework from 5 May 2017 until the curbs were lifted on 10 March 2021; the deal will be the biggest FDI in India’s financial sector.

Decision	Strategic restructuring of IDBI Bank Ltd
Approved by	Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 14 October 2026
Strategic Buyer	M/s 10955230 Canada Inc (parent: M/s Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd)
Stake sold	60.72 per cent (GoI 30.48 per cent + LIC 30.24 per cent)
Purchase consideration	Rs 52,878.0806181 crore
Winning bid	Rs 81 per share, against a benchmark of Rs 75.99 per share
Residual stake	Government of India 15 per cent; LIC 19 per cent
Valuation methods	Market Multiple Method and Asset Valuation Method

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/idbi-bank-ccea-clears-sale-of-6072percent-stake-to-fairfax-arm/

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India Approves Accession to Fisheries Pact SIOFA

14 October 2026 · International

The Centre approved India’s accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, moving it from a cooperating non-contracting party to a full contracting party.

- The Central Government approved India’s accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), upgrading it from cooperating non-contracting party to contracting party.
- India had been a cooperating non-contracting party of SIOFA since 2022, with limited voice in its Scientific Committee and Compliance Committee.
- Indian-flagged vessels will be able to fish for squid, toothfish, alfonsino and other non-migratory stocks in the SIOFA area under authorisation.
- The high seas form about 65 per cent of the global ocean and are dominated by China with 21 per cent, Taiwan 13 per cent, Japan 11 per cent, South Korea 11 per cent and Spain 8 per cent.
- The Indian Ocean has two regional fisheries management organisations: the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, which India joined in 1996, and SIOFA.

Decision	Approval of India’s accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)
Earlier status	Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) since 2022
Ministry	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Species opened	Squid, toothfish, alfonsino and other non-migratory stocks
Key bodies joined	Scientific Committee and Compliance Committee of SIOFA
Enforcement scheme	High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) Scheme
High seas share	About 65 per cent of the global ocean
Top high seas fishing nations	China 21 per cent, Taiwan 13 per cent, Japan 11 per cent, South Korea 11 per cent, Spain 8 per cent

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-approves-accession-to-fisheries-pact-siofa/

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Ramesh Chand Panel Set Up on Sugarcane Farmers' Issues

14 October 2026 · National

The Centre set up a committee under agricultural economist Prof. Ramesh Chand, a former NITI Aayog Member, to examine sugarcane farmers' demands and the sugar sector.

- The Government of India has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Ramesh Chand, former Member of NITI Aayog, on issues raised by sugarcane farmers.
- The committee follows a meeting of sugarcane farmers' representatives from Karnataka and Maharashtra with the Union Agriculture Minister and the Union Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister.
- It will examine remunerative returns for cane growers, revision of the ex-mill Minimum Selling Price of sugar, sugar recovery testing and transparent verification of recovery.
- Cane weighment practices at mills, the adequacy of calibration and inspection, and deductions from the weight of mechanically harvested cane are also within its scope.
- Prof. Ramesh Chand was a Member of NITI Aayog from 2015 to 2026 and earlier Director of ICAR-NIAP and a Member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission.

Decision	Committee constituted on issues relating to sugarcane farmers and the sugar sector
Chairman	Prof. Ramesh Chand, agricultural economist and former Member, NITI Aayog
His NITI Aayog tenure	Member from 2015 to 2026
Earlier posts	Director, ICAR-NIAP; Member, Fifteenth Finance Commission
Trigger	Meeting of sugarcane farmers' representatives from Karnataka and Maharashtra with two Union Ministers
Members	Agriculture Commissioner; Joint Secretary (Sugar), DFPD; Joint Secretary (Legal Metrology), Department of Consumer Affairs
Key subject	Revision of the ex-mill Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar
Other subjects	Remunerative cane returns, sugar recovery testing, cane weighment, deductions on mechanically harvested cane

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ramesh-chand-panel-set-up-on-sugarcane-farmers-issues/

HLCDC Launches Portal on Demographic Changes Inputs

14 October 2026 · National

Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar launched the web portal of the High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes, inviting inputs on unnatural demographic change.

- Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar (Retd.), Chairman of the High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes, launched the committee's digital web portal in New Delhi.
- The portal, available at demography.mha.gov.in, is fully operational and open for public access, stakeholder submissions and data interaction.
- Central Ministries and Departments, State and Union Territory Governments, NGOs and institutions, and individuals can give inputs on unnatural demographic change and abnormal settlement patterns.
- The inputs will help the committee identify causes of demographic change and recommend a permanent system for legal, fair and time-bound identification, detention and deportation of illegal immigrants.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs constituted the committee on 26 May 2026, with eight terms of reference covering causes, structural analysis, border management and Centre-State coordination.

Event	Launch of the web portal of the High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes (HLCDC)
Launched by	Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar (Retd.), Chairman of the committee
Venue	New Delhi
Portal	demography.mha.gov.in
Constituted by	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
Date of constitution	26 May 2026
Who can give inputs	Central Ministries/Departments, State/UT Governments, NGOs and institutions, and individuals
Core mandate	Identify causes of demographic change and recommend a permanent system for identification, detention and deportation of illegal immigrants

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/hlcdc-launches-portal-on-demographic-changes-inputs/

MSCARO 2026: New Audit Order for Multi-State Co-ops

14 October 2026 · Economy

The Ministry of Cooperation mandated MSCARO 2026, a uniform risk-based audit reporting order for Multi-State Cooperative Societies, to begin above Rs 1,000 crore.

- The Ministry of Cooperation has mandated the Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2026 (MSCARO, 2026) for a uniform, risk-based statutory audit reporting framework.
- The order is issued under Section 73(6) of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023, with inputs from the RBI, ICAI, CAG and the societies.
- MSCARO is modelled on the Companies (Auditor's Report) Order (CARO) of the corporate sector and requires standard Yes or No reporting with remarks.
- Audit information will be integrated with the CRCS Portal to allow automated scrutiny, regulatory dashboards, risk scoring and artificial intelligence based analytics.
- Implementation is phased: the initial phase covers societies crossing Rs 1,000 crore, while the long-term aim is to cover those crossing the Rs 50 crore threshold.

Order	Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2026 (MSCARO, 2026)
Ministry	Ministry of Cooperation
Enabling provision	Section 73(6), Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023
Modelled on	Companies (Auditor's Report) Order (CARO) for the corporate sector
Inputs from	RBI, ICAI, CAG and Multi-State Cooperative Societies
Supervisory authority	Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS)
Technology	Integration with the CRCS Portal for automated scrutiny, dashboards, risk scoring and AI analytics
Initial phase threshold	Societies crossing Rs 1,000 crore

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/mscaro-2026-new-audit-order-for-multi-state-co-ops/

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Vice-President Releases Memoir ‘Dancing with Joy’

14 October 2026 · Books & Authors

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan released ‘Dancing with Joy’, the memoir of classical dancer Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant, at Uprashtrapathi Bhavan in New Delhi.

- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan released ‘Dancing with Joy’, an inspirational memoir by Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant, at Uprashtrapathi Bhavan.
- The author is a renowned classical dancer, author and former officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service, and the memoir traces her journey through cancer.
- The Vice-President referred to the book’s message that the D in DANCER helped its author overcome the C in cancer.
- He said over 700 District Clinics and 500 Day Care Cancer Centres have been established, with 19 State Cancer Institutes and 20 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres approved for operationalisation.
- He cited the Rs 5 lakh annual cover under Ayushman Bharat and the HPV vaccination campaign launched in February 2026, which aims to protect about 1.2 crore girls, with over 50 lakh already vaccinated.

Book	‘Dancing with Joy’, an inspirational memoir
Author	Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant, classical dancer, author and former Indian Railway Traffic Service officer
Released by	Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan
Venue	Uprashtrapathi Bhavan
Theme	Passion, resilience and life beyond cancer
District Clinics	Over 700 established
Day Care Cancer Centres	500 established
Approved institutes	19 State Cancer Institutes and 20 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/vice-president-releases-memoir-dancing-with-joy/

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World Standards Day 2026: BIS Launches Silver Refinery Scheme

14 October 2026 · Important Days

On World Standards Day 2026 the Bureau of Indian Standards launched its Silver Refinery Scheme, released seven new Indian Standards and two roadmaps.

- World Standards Day 2026 was marked at a national event in New Delhi on the theme 'Shared Vision for a Better World: SDG 7 (Clean & Affordable Energy)', with Union Minister Pralhad Joshi giving the presidential address.
- BIS launched the Silver Refinery Scheme, bringing silver bullion and coins of 999.9, 999.5 and 999.0 parts per thousand purity under hallmarking through Amendment No. 1 to IS 2112:2025.
- Seven new Indian Standards were released, among them IS 19967:2026 for EV charging cables up to 1,100 V AC and 1,500 V DC, and IS 19891:2026 for pedal assisted bicycles up to 0.25 kW with a 25 km/h cut-off.
- Roadmaps for sustainable agriculture, covering 15 categories and aligned with the National Action Plan on Climate Change, and for sustainable manufacturing were released; 16 technical committees won the Best Technical Committee Award.
- TEC, the telecom standards body under the Department of Telecommunications, marked the day having released 596 standards, designated 82 Conformity Assessment Bodies and issued over 5,400 certificates.

Occasion	World Standards Day 2026, national celebration in New Delhi
Theme	Shared Vision for a Better World: SDG 7 (Clean & Affordable Energy)
Presidential address	Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, New & Renewable Energy and Education
New scheme	BIS Silver Refinery Scheme, modelled on the Gold Refinery Scheme
Silver purity grades	999.9, 999.5 and 999.0 parts per thousand, under Amendment No. 1 to IS 2112:2025
New Indian Standards	Seven, covering EV charging cables, EPACs, wearable robots, Panchakarma Droni, therapeutic footwear, flexible plywood and insect screens
Roadmaps released	Sustainable agriculture (15 categories, aligned with NAPCC) and sustainable manufacturing
Awards	Best Technical Committee Award to 16 technical committees

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/world-standards-day-2026-bis-launches-silver-refinery-scheme/

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IIT Kanpur Launches $1 Billion 'Greater Than Us' Campaign

14 October 2026 · Defence

Rajnath Singh launched IIT Kanpur's 'Greater Than Us' campaign, the largest IIT fundraiser, which aims to raise US$1 billion by March 2029 for research.

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched IIT Kanpur's 'Greater Than Us' fundraising campaign in New Delhi on 14 October 2026.
- The campaign aims to raise US$1 billion by March 2029, the largest fundraising effort by any IIT; Rs 4,155 crore, nearly half the goal, is already committed.
- The approval process for a National Military Drone Technology Hub at IIT Kanpur, planned with the Ministry of Defence, is nearing completion; a School of Defence Technologies has also been proposed.
- The IIT ecosystem has supported over 6,000 start-ups, produced 56 unicorns and nearly 5,000 patents, the minister said.
- He referred to the Rs 1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation Scheme approved to draw private investment into research and advanced technology.

Campaign	'Greater Than Us', IIT Kanpur's fundraising campaign
Launched by	Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister (Raksha Mantri), in New Delhi
Date	14 October 2026
Target	US$1 billion by March 2029, the largest ever by any IIT
Already committed	Rs 4,155 crore, nearly half the goal
Defence facility planned	National Military Drone Technology Hub, with the Ministry of Defence; approval nearing completion
Also proposed	School of Defence Technologies at IIT Kanpur
Existing centres	DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence and C3i Cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/iit-kanpur-launches-dollar1-billion-greater-than-us-campaign/

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12th NLEPC: 62 Young Innovators Felicitated by Jitendra Singh

14 October 2026 · Awards & Honours

Jitendra Singh felicitated 62 young innovators at the 12th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition under INSPIRE-MANAK in New Delhi.

- Dr Jitendra Singh felicitated 62 young innovators at the 12th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition under INSPIRE-MANAK in New Delhi.
- The minister said 25 students have already taken products to market and young innovators have generated around 250 intellectual property rights.
- A total of 729 students took part; the event was organised by the Department of Science and Technology with the National Innovation Foundation-India, and the INSPIRE-MANAK 2026 Compendium was released.
- INSPIRE-MANAK, which stands for Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge, has selected 18,27,580 students up to 2025-26 and covers Classes VI to XII.
- Eleven earlier national exhibitions saw 7,444 students display projects; 46,926 students were selected in 2023-24 and 50,009 in 2024-25.

Event	12th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC), New Delhi
Scheme	INSPIRE-MANAK; MANAK stands for Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge
Felicitated by	Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences
Innovators honoured	62
Total participants	729 students
Organisers	Department of Science and Technology with the National Innovation Foundation-India
Released at the event	INSPIRE-MANAK 2026 Compendium
Students with products in the market	25

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/12th-nlepc-62-young-innovators-felicitated-by-jitendra-singh/

Sarvekshana: MoSPI Releases 121st Issue of Statistics Journal

14 October 2026 · Reports & Indices

The National Statistical Systems Training Academy released the 121st issue of Sarvekshana, the bi-annual journal of official statistics, with three papers.

- The 121st issue of Sarvekshana, the bi-annual Journal of Official Statistics, was released by the National Statistical Systems Training Academy under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The issue carries three peer-reviewed technical papers, on in-kind social transfers, on the role of factory size in efficiency using Annual Survey of Industries data for 2022-23, and on PPS circular systematic sampling.
- It also presents highlights of two National Sample Survey rounds: the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises 2025 and the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2025, both covering January to December 2025.
- Sarvekshana disseminates research based on National Sample Survey data and is circulated among researchers, data users, ministries, departments and reputed national and international institutions.
- The issue is available on the websites of the ministry and of the National Statistical Systems Training Academy.

Publication	Sarvekshana, the Journal of Official Statistics
Issue released	121st issue
Periodicity	Bi-annual
Released by	National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA)
Ministry	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
Technical papers	Three, all peer-reviewed
Paper topics	In-kind social transfers and level of living; factory size and efficiency from ASI 2022-23; PPS circular systematic sampling in ASI
Survey highlights carried	ASUSE 2025 and PLFS 2025, both for January to December 2025

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/sarvekshana-mospi-releases-121st-issue-of-statistics-journal/

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India-Brunei Hold Third Joint Trade Committee Meeting

14 October 2026 · International

India and Brunei Darussalam reviewed bilateral trade at the third Joint Trade Committee meeting and picked pharmaceuticals, healthcare and energy for cooperation.

- The third meeting of the India-Brunei Darussalam Joint Trade Committee reviewed bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.
- It was co-chaired by Amit Verma, Joint Secretary in India's Department of Commerce, and Dr May Fa'ezah Ahmad Ariffin, Permanent Secretary (Economy and Trade) of Brunei Darussalam.
- Pharmaceuticals, healthcare and energy were identified as the key areas for further cooperation, with talks on regulatory collaboration, procurement and healthcare services.
- Both sides discussed easing exports of agricultural and animal products from India to Brunei Darussalam to support food security and diversify trade.
- The next meeting of the Joint Trade Committee will be held in Brunei Darussalam.

Mechanism	India-Brunei Darussalam Joint Trade Committee (JTC)
Edition	Third meeting
Indian co-chair	Amit Verma, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Brunei co-chair	Dr May Fa'ezah Ahmad Ariffin, Permanent Secretary (Economy and Trade), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Key sectors identified	Pharmaceuticals, healthcare and energy
Export focus	Agricultural and animal products from India to Brunei Darussalam
Other areas	Tourism, trade fairs and exhibitions, reciprocal business delegations
Investment avenues noted	Manufacturing, infrastructure and services

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-brunei-hold-third-joint-trade-committee-meeting/

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AI for Good Build-a-thon 5.0 Held at India Mobile Congress

14 October 2026 · Science & Technology

DoT and the ITU held the AI for Good Build-a-thon 5.0 at India Mobile Congress 2026 in New Delhi on the theme of creating innovative agents in 5G.

- The Department of Telecommunications and the International Telecommunication Union held the AI for Good Build-a-thon 5.0 on the last day of India Mobile Congress 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, on the theme 'Creating innovative agents in 5G'.
- It was inaugurated by Dr Bilel Jamoussi, Deputy Director and Chief of the Study Groups and Policy Department in the ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Bureau.
- More than 25 teams registered when the exercise opened in early July; five online mentoring sessions and over ten hours of mentoring led to 16 AI prototype submissions.
- Mentoring covered the ITU-T Y.3172 standardised machine learning pipeline and the ITU AI Readiness 2.0 report, a global benchmark for AI ready use cases.
- Team Netaxis of RVCE Bangalore won the first prize, Team SNR the second and Team Agentnet the third, with a special women’s prize and a judges’ prize also awarded.

Event	AI for Good Build-a-thon 5.0
Organisers	Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, with the International Telecommunication Union
Occasion and venue	Last day of India Mobile Congress 2026, Yashobhoomi, New Delhi
Theme	Creating innovative agents in 5G
Inaugurated by	Dr Bilel Jamoussi, Deputy Director and Chief, Study Groups and Policy Department, ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau
Teams registered	More than 25, averaging four members each
Mentoring	Five online sessions, more than ten hours
Prototypes submitted	16

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ai-for-good-build-a-thon-50-held-at-india-mobile-congress/

RDI Scheme Widened to Cover Advanced Chemicals Technologies

14 October 2026 · Government Schemes

Advanced Chemicals, Petrochemicals and Material Technologies became an eligible funding area under the Rs 1 lakh crore RDI Scheme from 8 October 2026.

- Advanced Chemicals, Petrochemicals and Material Technologies have been added as an extra technology area eligible for funding under the RDI Scheme, effective from 8 October 2026.
- The Department of Science and Technology took the decision on a proposal from the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- The RDI Scheme was launched in November 2025 with a corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore to draw private investment into research, development and innovation.
- The scheme gives long-term financing and refinancing on favourable terms for transformative projects and aims at self-reliance in critical and emerging technologies.
- Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda welcomed the move, saying it would aid cheaper and more efficient technologies for chemicals, petrochemicals and polymers.

Scheme	Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme
New technology area	Advanced Chemicals, Petrochemicals and Material Technologies
Effective from	8 October 2026
Approved by	Department of Science and Technology (DST)
Proposed by	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Scheme launched	November 2025
Corpus	Rs 1 lakh crore
Union Minister	Jagat Prakash Nadda, Chemicals and Fertilizers, and Health and Family Welfare

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/rdi-scheme-widened-to-cover-advanced-chemicals-technologies/

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First MEA-CSIR Tech Familiarization Programme Held in Delhi

14 October 2026 · Science & Technology

CSIR and the MEA held the first MEA-CSIR Tech Familiarization Programme on 14 October 2026, drawing 33 envoys and embassy officials from 29 nations.

- The inaugural MEA-CSIR Tech Familiarization Programme was launched on 14 October 2026 by CSIR with the New, Emerging and Strategic Technologies (NEST) Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- It brought together 33 Ambassadors and senior embassy officials representing 29 countries, chiefly of the Global South.
- The delegation visited two CSIR laboratories in New Delhi: the Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI) and the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB).
- A live demonstration of Ecofix, a steel slag-based instant pothole repair mix for rapid road maintenance, was the highlight at CSIR-CRRI.
- At CSIR-IGIB the visitors saw genome sequencing, biosafety, zebrafish research, biobanking and Good Manufacturing Practice facilities.

Programme	MEA-CSIR Tech Familiarization Programme, inaugural edition
Date	14 October 2026
Organisers	CSIR with the NEST Division of the Ministry of External Affairs
Participation	33 Ambassadors and senior embassy officials from 29 countries
Focus grouping	Countries of the Global South
Laboratories visited	CSIR-CRRI and CSIR-IGIB, both in New Delhi
Technology demonstrated	Ecofix, a steel slag-based instant pothole repair mix
CSIR speaker	Dr Rama Swami Bansal, Head, International S and T Affairs Directorate

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/first-mea-csir-tech-familiarization-programme-held-in-delhi/

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Law Ministry Mission on Pendency in 100 Hotspot Districts

14 October 2026 · National

The Law Ministry launched a research-based mission on case pendency in the top 100 judicial districts and met Vice Chancellors of 19 National Law Universities.

- The Ministry of Law and Justice has launched a nationwide research-based mission targeting the top 100 judicial districts with the highest litigation pendency.
- More than 5.8 crore cases are pending in courts across India, most of them in district and subordinate courts, and the chosen 100 districts account for over half of all district-court pendency.
- A video-conference meeting was held with Vice Chancellors of nineteen National Law Universities from sixteen states, chaired by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Arjun Ram Meghwal.
- Measures deliberated included identifying infructuous cases, case profiling, alternative dispute resolution, control of adjournments, plea bargaining, mediation-assisted settlements and summary trials.
- NLUs were asked to use their pro bono clubs, researchers and students for district-specific diagnosis and to suggest feasible mechanisms to reduce pendency.

Initiative	Nationwide research-based mission on litigation pendency in district and subordinate judiciary
Districts targeted	Top 100 judicial districts with high pendency
Total pendency	Over 5.8 crore cases across courts in India
Share of these districts	More than half of all district-court pendency
Ministry	Ministry of Law and Justice
Minister	Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice
Partners	Vice Chancellors of nineteen National Law Universities from sixteen states
Mode of meeting	Video conferencing, chaired by the Law Minister

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/law-ministry-mission-on-pendency-in-100-hotspot-districts/

CEA Conference on Making Indian Power Sector AI Enabled

14 October 2026 · Science & Technology

The Central Electricity Authority opened a two-day international conference in New Delhi on making the Indian power sector AI enabled and launched a new portal.

- The Central Electricity Authority held the first day of its two-day international conference cum exhibition at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, on 14 October 2026.
- The theme of the event was 'Making Indian Power Sector AI Enabled', and six parallel thematic discussions were held on day one.
- CEA's Vidhyut Dwar Portal was launched and the CEA Manual on Transmission Planning Criteria, 2026 was released during the inaugural session.
- CEA has formed a team of 54 AI enthusiasts who will serve as brand ambassadors, and power utilities were urged to set up dedicated AI teams.
- Power Secretary Pankaj Agarwal, CEA Chairperson Ghanshyam Prasad and Ministers of State Shripad Yesso Naik and Jitin Prasada attended the inauguration.

Event	CEA international conference cum exhibition, two days
Theme	Making Indian Power Sector AI Enabled
Venue	Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi
Opening day	14 October 2026
Portal launched	Vidhyut Dwar Portal of CEA
Document released	CEA Manual on Transmission Planning Criteria, 2026
AI team	54 AI enthusiasts and brand ambassadors formed by CEA
CEA Chairperson	Ghanshyam Prasad

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/cea-conference-on-making-indian-power-sector-ai-enabled/

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Brihattar Bharat Conference Opens at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi

14 October 2026 · Summits & Conferences

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat opened IGNCA's three-day conference on India's cultural connections, marking the Greater India Society centenary.

- The three-day international conference 'Bharat's Cultural Connections across the Globe' was inaugurated by Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, and runs from 14 to 16 October 2026.
- It is organised by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture.
- The conference marks the centenary of the Greater India Society, established in Calcutta on 14 October 1926.
- The Brihattar Bharat Project involves collaborative research with scholars from around 51 countries and plans multinational nominations of shared intangible heritage to UNESCO's Representative List.
- Deliberations cover ten themes and fall under the Brihattar Bharat Scheme (2026-2031) of the Ministry of Culture's International Cultural Relations Division, implemented by IGNCA.

Conference	Bharat's Cultural Connections across the Globe, three days
Dates and venue	14 to 16 October 2026, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
Inaugurated by	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism
Organiser	Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), under the Ministry of Culture
Centenary marked	Greater India Society, established in Calcutta on 14 October 1926
Exhibition	Asia's Shared Cultural Heritage
Scholars involved	Researchers from around 51 countries under the Brihattar Bharat Project
Scheme	Brihattar Bharat Scheme (2026-2031), ICR Division of the Ministry of Culture, implemented by IGNCA

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/brihattar-bharat-conference-opens-at-vigyan-bhawan-in-delhi/

15 October 2026

DDU-GKY 2.0 Captive Employer CXO Meet Held in Jaipur

15 October 2026 · Government Schemes

A Captive Employer CXO Meet on DDU-GKY 2.0 was held in Jaipur on 15 October 2026, where it was stated that 18.49 lakh rural youth have been trained.

- The Ministry of Rural Development and RSLDC held a Captive Employer CXO Meet under DDU-GKY 2.0 at the Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur, on 15 October 2026.
- It was stated at the meet that 18.49 lakh rural youth have been trained under DDU-GKY so far and 12.44 lakh of them have been placed in jobs.
- Project Implementing Agencies have to secure a placement or an eligible self-employment outcome for at least 70 per cent of the candidates they train.
- 20 per cent of the targets of DDU-GKY 2.0 are reserved for Captive Employers, and the national target for Captive Employment is 1.83 lakh candidates.
- Agencies are paid in four instalments of 30:20:20:30, the last of them only after the compulsory six-month employment period is verified.

Event	Captive Employer CXO Meet under DDU-GKY 2.0
Date	15 October 2026
Venue	Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur
Organisers	Ministry of Rural Development with RSLDC
Scheme	Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) 2.0
Youth trained so far	18.49 lakh
Candidates placed	12.44 lakh
Placement norm	At least 70 per cent placement or eligible self-employment

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ddu-gky-20-captive-employer-cxo-meet-held-in-jaipur/

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BHASHINI Division and Manipur Sign MoU on Multilingual AI

15 October 2026 · Science & Technology

The Digital India BHASHINI Division and the Government of Manipur signed an MoU on multilingual AI at the BHASHINI Rajyam Workshop held in Imphal.

- The BHASHINI Rajyam Workshop, Manipur Chapter was held at Imphal on 14 October 2026 by the Digital India BHASHINI Division with the state IT department
- An MoU was signed by Amitabh Nag, CEO of DIBD, and Somorjit Salam, IAS, Secretary for Information Technology in the Government of Manipur
- Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh attended the programme and spoke on artificial intelligence and linguistic diversity
- A live demonstration showed real-time translation from English into Manipuri; Tangkhul, Thadou, Paite, Hmar and Liangmai were among the languages discussed
- BHASHINI powers more than 800 government websites and supports 36 Indian languages for text, 23 for voice and 35 international languages

Event	BHASHINI Rajyam Workshop, Manipur Chapter
Venue and date	Imphal, Manipur, 14 October 2026
Agreement	MoU between Digital India BHASHINI Division and the Government of Manipur
Signed by	Amitabh Nag, CEO, DIBD and Somorjit Salam, IAS, Secretary (IT), Manipur
Chief Minister of Manipur	Yumnam Khemchand Singh
Parent bodies	Digital India Corporation, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Live demonstration	Real-time translation from English into Manipuri
Platforms shown	BHASHINI Shilpi for developers and BHASHINI Mitra for language data

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/bhashini-division-and-manipur-sign-mou-on-multilingual-ai/

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Tribal Languages Working Group Meets for the First Time

15 October 2026 · National

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs held the first meeting of its Working Group on Tribal Languages and positioned Adi Vaani as a national language repository.

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs held the first meeting of the Working Group on Tribal Languages in hybrid mode, chaired by Secretary Ranjana Chopra
- Adi Vaani, developed by IIT Delhi with the ministry, is being positioned as the National Tribal Language Repository
- Adi Vaani translates text to text in nine tribal languages and carries more than 300 searchable primers prepared by Tribal Research Institutes
- State Tribal Research Institutes have contributed about 13.9 lakh sentences in ten languages and nearly 300 hours of speech data to the platform
- The platform has crossed 48,000 Android downloads and about 6,500 monthly users; over 525 Eklavya Model Residential Schools could use it in class

Body constituted	Working Group on Tribal Languages, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
First meeting	15 October 2026, held in hybrid workshop mode
Chaired by	Smt. Ranjana Chopra, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Platform reviewed	Adi Vaani, the National Tribal Language Repository
Developed by	IIT Delhi in collaboration with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Translation support	Text-to-text in nine tribal languages, with speech, OCR and video subtitling
Data contributed	About 13.9 lakh sentences in ten languages and nearly 300 hours of speech data
Usage	Over 48,000 Android downloads and nearly 6,500 monthly users

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/tribal-languages-working-group-meets-for-the-first-time/

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Bhupender Yadav Chairs 27th G.B. Pant Society Meeting

15 October 2026 · Environment

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav chaired the 27th meeting of the G.B. Pant Society of Himalayan Environment and Development in New Delhi.

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav chaired the 27th meeting of the G.B. Pant Society of Himalayan Environment and Development in New Delhi
- Four publications of the institute were released at the meeting, covering eco-sensitive zone biodiversity, a glaciated system, e-PBR governance and Ramsar wetlands
- The minister stressed access and benefit-sharing rights and People's Biodiversity Registers as ways to improve the livelihoods of native Himalayan villagers
- The policy framework for the Indian Himalayan Region aims to balance ecological security with sustainable socio-economic growth by 2047
- MoEFCC Secretary Narendra Bhooshan and Director General (Forests) and Special Secretary Santosh Tewari were among those who attended

Meeting	27th meeting of the G.B. Pant Society of Himalayan Environment and Development
Chaired by	Shri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Venue and date	New Delhi, 15 October 2026
Publications released	Four
Subjects covered	Bhagirathi Eco-sensitive Zone biodiversity, Gangotri Glaciated System, e-PBR governance, Ramsar wetlands of the Indian Himalayan Region
Themes stressed	Access and benefit-sharing rights, People's Biodiversity Registers, community participation
Policy horizon	2047, for the Indian Himalayan Region
Secretary, MoEFCC	Shri Narendra Bhooshan

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/bhupender-yadav-chairs-27th-gb-pant-society-meeting/

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Special Campaign 6 Review Covers 84 Ministries

15 October 2026 · National

The DARPG Secretary chaired the third review of Special Campaign 6, whose implementation phase runs from 2 October to 31 October 2026 across 84 ministries.

- The third review meeting of Special Campaign 6 was chaired by DARPG Secretary Nivedita Shukla Verma, with the department as nodal agency for the campaign
- The preparatory phase ended on 30 September 2026 and the implementation phase runs from 2 October to 31 October 2026
- More than 600 officers from over 240 locations, representing 84 ministries and departments, attended the review virtually
- A dedicated one-day drive, new this year, has ministries take up cleanliness and disposal work on a single day across all their field offices
- The Department of Posts launched DigiPost, under which traffic e-challans of the Gujarat Police are sent digitally and delivered physically

Campaign	Special Campaign 6 for Swachhata and disposal of pending matters
Nodal department	Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)
Review chaired by	Smt. Nivedita Shukla Verma, Secretary, DARPG
Meeting	Third review meeting with nodal officers, reported on 15 October 2026
Preparatory phase	Completed on 30 September 2026
Implementation phase	2 October 2026 to 31 October 2026
Participation	Over 600 officers from more than 240 locations, 84 ministries and departments
New feature	Dedicated one-day drive across all attached, subordinate and field offices

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/special-campaign-6-review-covers-84-ministries/

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Women's Labour Force Participation Rate Rises to 40 Per Cent

15 October 2026 · Economy

A PIB backgrounder put the female labour force participation rate at 40 per cent in 2025 against 23.3 per cent in 2017-18, with 20 crore women employed.

- Female Labour Force Participation Rate rose from 23.3 per cent in 2017-18 to 40 per cent in 2025, while the Worker Population Ratio went from 22 to 38.8 per cent
- About 20 crore women aged 15 years and above were employed in India during 2025, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey
- Around 3.69 crore registered MSMEs were women-owned as of October 2026, about 38 per cent of all registrations
- Under PMMY, launched in 2015, over 57.79 crore loans had been sanctioned by April 2026, with women taking two-thirds of them
- The four Labour Codes of November 2025 give eligible women up to 26 weeks of paid maternity leave and a medical bonus of 3,500 rupees

Document	PIB backgrounder on Women, Work and Enterprise, 15 October 2026
Female LFPR	23.3 per cent in 2017-18 to 40 per cent in 2025
Female Worker Population Ratio	22 per cent in 2017-18 to 38.8 per cent in 2025
Women employed	About 20 crore aged 15 years and above in 2025
Women-owned MSMEs	About 3.69 crore registrations, nearly 38 per cent of the total, as of October 2026
Startups with a woman director	Over 1.07 lakh by March 2026, about 48 per cent of recognised startups
PMMY	Launched in 2015; collateral-free credit up to 20 lakh rupees; over 57.79 crore loans by April 2026
Guarantee cover for women-led MSEs	90 per cent, with a 10 per cent concession on the guarantee fee

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/womens-labour-force-participation-rate-rises-to-40-per-cent/

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Rajnath Singh Flags 5D Security Threat at Defence Conclave

15 October 2026 · Defence

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh told a Defence Conclave in New Delhi that defence production has climbed past Rs 1.78 lakh crore and exports to Rs 39,000 crore.

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh addressed a Defence Conclave in New Delhi on 15 October 2026 and linked Operation Sindoor, Balakot and the surgical strikes
- He set out a 5D Security Threat: disinformation, destabilisation, disruption, deception and destruction, and warned of lone-wolf and white-collar terrorism
- Defence production has risen to over Rs 1.78 lakh crore from Rs 40,000 crore in 2014; exports stand at a record Rs 39,000 crore against Rs 686 crore in 2013-14
- Targets named were Rs 2 lakh crore of production this year, Rs 3 lakh crore by 2029 and Rs 50,000 crore of exports by 2029
- Five positive indigenisation lists cover 509 items, and 159 of 175 ammunition variants are now made in India

Event	Defence Conclave, New Delhi, 15 October 2026
Speaker	Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh
5D Security Threat	Disinformation, destabilisation, disruption, deception, destruction
New terror forms named	Lone-wolf attacks and white-collar terrorism
Defence production	Over Rs 1.78 lakh crore, from Rs 40,000 crore in 2014
Defence exports	Record Rs 39,000 crore, from Rs 686 crore in 2013-14
Production targets	Rs 2 lakh crore this year and Rs 3 lakh crore by 2029
Export target	Rs 50,000 crore by 2029

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/rajnath-singh-flags-5d-security-threat-at-defence-conclave/

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Vice-President Inaugurates KAUMARACON-2026 at AIIA Delhi

15 October 2026 · Summits & Conferences

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan opened the third edition of KAUMARACON at the All India Institute of Ayurveda and launched the AYUSH Start-up Portal.

- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the third edition of KAUMARACON-2026, the international conference on Kaumarabhritya, at AIIA, New Delhi
- The theme is Shaping the Future of Child Health: Global Perspectives, Research Innovations, and Clinical Frontiers in Kaumarabhritya
- He launched the AYUSH Start-up Portal, the AIIA-iCAINE website, AyuDIVA, the Vamana App and the Panchakarma Assessment App
- An MoU between Maharishi International University, USA and AIIA was exchanged; AIIA also marked its 10th Foundation Day
- He recalled the separate Ministry of AYUSH created in 2014 and the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine at Jamnagar

Event	KAUMARACON-2026, third edition of the international conference on Kaumarabhritya
Inaugurated by	Vice-President of India Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan
Organiser and venue	All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi
Theme	Shaping the Future of Child Health: Global Perspectives, Research Innovations, and Clinical Frontiers in Kaumarabhritya
Launches	AYUSH Start-up Portal, AIIA-iCAINE website, AyuDIVA, Vamana App, Panchakarma Assessment App
MoU	Maharishi International University (MIU), USA with AIIA, New Delhi
Milestone	AIIA 10th Foundation Day
Ministry of AYUSH	Set up as a separate ministry in 2014

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/vice-president-inaugurates-kaumaracon-2026-at-aiia-delhi/

ESTIC 2026 Curtain-Raiser Highlights Physical AI, Robotics

15 October 2026 · Science & Technology

The curtain-raiser for the second ESTIC, to be held at Bharat Mandapam from 27 to 29 October 2026, placed autonomous systems and physical AI at the centre.

- The curtain-raiser for ESTIC 2026, the second edition of the conclave, was held at DST Technology Bhawan, New Delhi on 15 October 2026
- ESTIC 2026 will be held from 27 to 29 October at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, and is being organised by CSIR this year
- The theme is Creative minds catalyzing science and empowering technology; Autonomous Systems, Physical AI and Robotics is one of 12 thematic areas
- Chief Guest was Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Member, NITI Aayog; DST Secretary Prof. Umesh Waghmare also spoke
- Under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems, DST has set up 25 Technology Innovation Hubs such as TiHAN, IHFC and ARTPARK

Event	Curtain-raiser for ESTIC 2026, second edition
Full form	Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave
Curtain-raiser venue	Technology Bhawan, Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi
Conclave dates and venue	27 to 29 October 2026, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
Organiser this year	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
Theme	Creative minds catalyzing science and empowering technology
Thematic area highlighted	Autonomous Systems, Physical AI and Robotics, one of 12 thematic areas
Chief Guest	Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Member, NITI Aayog

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/estic-2026-curtain-raiser-highlights-physical-ai-robotics/

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ARCI Workshop Marks National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day

15 October 2026 · Science & Technology

About 150 delegates met at IIT Madras Research Park for the 9th workshop on the hydrogen value chain, held by ARCI to mark Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day.

- A workshop to commemorate National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day was held at the IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai on 13 October 2026
- It was the 9th Workshop on Recent Advancements in Hydrogen Value Chain, organised by ARCI, an autonomous R&D centre of the Department of Science and Technology
- About 150 delegates from academia, R&D institutes and industry took part in the technical sessions
- ARCI Director Dr R. Vijay listed electrocatalysts, bipolar plates, membrane electrode assemblies, fuel-cell stacks and alkaline electrolysers as focus areas
- Prof. R. R. Sonde of IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi outlined five sovereign commitments and backed hydrogen production from locally available biomass

Occasion	National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day
Event	9th Workshop on Recent Advancements in Hydrogen Value Chain
Organiser	ARCI, International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials
Parent department	Department of Science and Technology, Government of India
Venue	IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai
Date of workshop	13 October 2026
Participation	About 150 delegates
ARCI Director	Dr R. Vijay

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/arci-workshop-marks-national-hydrogen-and-fuel-cell-day/

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TRAI Drive Tests Rate Mobile Quality in Kolkata, Andaman

15 October 2026 · Reports & Indices

TRAI released Independent Drive Test findings for the Kolkata LSA and for South Andaman, where Reliance Jio recorded the fastest average download speeds.

- TRAI released findings of two Independent Drive Tests on 15 October 2026, one for the Kolkata LSA in July 2026 and one for South Andaman under the West Bengal LSA in August 2026
- The Kolkata test covered a city drive of 309.7 km, 10 hotspots and a walk test of 2.8 km between 13 and 16 July 2026
- The Andaman test covered a city drive of 259.8 km, a coastal stretch of 52.8 km from Port Blair to Havelock and 10 hotspots between 17 and 21 August 2026
- Average download speeds in the Kolkata area were 297.95 Mbps for RJIL and 255.13 Mbps for Airtel, against 7.98 Mbps for BSNL
- Drive tests measure coverage gap, Call Setup Success Rate, Drop Call Rate, call silence, speech quality and data throughput on 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G

Regulator	Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
Exercise	Independent Drive Test (IDT) findings released on 15 October 2026
First area	Parts of Kolkata city, Howrah and Hooghly districts, Kolkata LSA, July 2026
Second area	South Andaman district and the Port Blair to Havelock coastal route, West Bengal LSA, August 2026
Kolkata coverage	City drive 309.7 km, 10 hotspots, walk test 2.8 km, 13 to 16 July 2026
Andaman coverage	City drive 259.8 km, coastal 52.8 km, walk test 1.1 km, 17 to 21 August 2026
Best download, Kolkata	RJIL 297.95 Mbps, followed by Airtel at 255.13 Mbps
Best download, Andaman	RJIL 77.61 Mbps, followed by Airtel at 67.06 Mbps

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/trai-drive-tests-rate-mobile-quality-in-kolkata-andaman/

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Defence Ministry Signs Rs 4,106 Crore GSAT-7C, Varunastra Deals

15 October 2026 · Defence

The Defence Ministry signed contracts worth about Rs 4,106 crore on 15 October 2026 for the GSAT-7C satellite for the Air Force and Varunastra torpedoes for the Navy.

- The Ministry of Defence signed two contracts worth about Rs 4,106 crore in all on 15 October 2026 at New Delhi.
- GSAT-7C, a dedicated communication satellite for the Indian Air Force, costs Rs 2,563 crore and was ordered from New Space India Limited, Bengaluru.
- The Rs 1,543 crore Varunastra order went to Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for ship-launched anti-submarine heavy weight torpedoes.
- Varunastra came out of the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory and can strike enemy submarines at long ranges.
- A. Anbarasu, Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition), Department of Defence, was present at the signing.

Date of signing	15 October 2026, New Delhi
Total value	About Rs 4,106 crore (two contracts)
GSAT-7C	Rs 2,563 crore, with New Space India Limited, Bengaluru, for the Indian Air Force
Varunastra	Rs 1,543 crore, with Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the Indian Navy
Varunastra type	Indigenous ship-launched anti-submarine heavy weight torpedo
Developed by	Naval Science and Technological Laboratory
Present at signing	A. Anbarasu, Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition), Department of Defence
Policy thrust	Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/defence-ministry-signs-rs-4106-crore-gsat-7c-varunastra-deals/

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PM Opens Rs 3,350 Crore Ladakh Projects by Video Link

15 October 2026 · National

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15 October 2026 inaugurated five projects worth about Rs 3,350 crore in Ladakh, including the new Leh airport terminal, by video link.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated five development projects worth about Rs 3,350 crore in Ladakh on 15 October 2026 through video conferencing.
- The 650 crore rupee Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport terminal at Leh triples flight capacity and lifts yearly passenger handling from 10 lakh to 35 lakh.
- The 2,500 crore rupee Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road brings a 12-hour journey down to about 3 hours.
- Forty reservoirs built under Project Amrit Him Sarovar and the Hanu hydroelectric project with its transmission line were dedicated.
- India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park was opened at Leh to protect ancient rock art.

Event	Inauguration of five development projects in Ladakh, 15 October 2026, via video conferencing
Total cost	About Rs 3,350 crore
Airport terminal	Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport, Leh, 650 crore rupees; first in India with geothermal heating plus solar energy
Passenger handling	Raised from 10 lakh to 35 lakh a year; flight capacity tripled
Road project	Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road, 2,500 crore rupees, travel time 12 hours to about 3 hours
Power project	Hanu hydroelectric project with transmission network
Water project	40 reservoirs under Project Amrit Him Sarovar
Heritage project	India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park, Leh

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/pm-opens-rs-3350-crore-ladakh-projects-by-video-link/

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President Murmu Graces National SARAS Mela at Vijayawada

15 October 2026 · Government Schemes

President Droupadi Murmu attended the National SARAS Mela at Vijayawada on 15 October 2026, where about 1500 self-help group women are selling at over 650 stalls.

- President Droupadi Murmu attended the National SARAS Mela at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, on 15 October 2026 and met Lakhpati Didis at the stalls.
- The fair is organised by the Union Ministry of Rural Development with the Government of Andhra Pradesh and runs until 31 October 2026.
- About 1500 women self-help group entrepreneurs from 34 States and Union Territories are selling at more than 650 stalls.
- Women linked to self-help groups have crossed 10 crore over the past 12 years and belong to more than 90 lakh groups.
- The President said self-help groups and SARAS Melas can lead the drive towards a developed India by 2047.

Event	National SARAS Mela, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
Date of visit	15 October 2026
Graced by	President Droupadi Murmu
Organisers	Union Ministry of Rural Development with the Government of Andhra Pradesh
Participants	Around 1500 women SHG entrepreneurs and Lakhpati Didis from 34 States and Union Territories
Stalls	More than 650
Open till	31 October 2026
SHG strength	More than 10 crore women in over 90 lakh self-help groups, built up over 12 years

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/president-murmu-graces-national-saras-mela-at-vijayawada/

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NITI Aayog Unveils Data Centre Evaluation Framework for States

15 October 2026 · Reports & Indices

NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub released the Data Centre Evaluation Framework, built on five pillars, to help States plan sustainable growth of data centres.

- NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub released the Data Centre Evaluation Framework on 14 October 2026 to guide States on sustainable data-centre growth.
- The framework rests on five pillars: Power and Energy; Water and Cooling; Siting and Environmental Sustainability; Economic and Strategic Value; and Policy, Governance and Implementation.
- India's data-centre capacity has risen from about 375 MW in 2020 to roughly 1.5 GW at present.
- Eligible foreign cloud service providers using India-based data centres enjoy a tax holiday until 2047.
- It was released in the presence of NITI Aayog Member Abhay Karandikar and Chief Executive Officer Anurag Jain, and was drafted with inputs from MeitY, the Ministry of Power, DPIIT and industry.

Document	Data Centre Evaluation Framework
Released by	Frontier Tech Hub, NITI Aayog
Date of release	14 October 2026
Pillars	Five: Power and Energy; Water and Cooling; Siting and Environmental Sustainability; Economic and Strategic Value; Policy, Governance and Implementation
Capacity growth	About 375 MW in 2020 to roughly 1.5 GW at present
Tax holiday	Until 2047 for eligible foreign cloud service providers using India-based data centres
NITI Aayog Member present	Prof. Abhay Karandikar
NITI Aayog CEO	Shri Anurag Jain

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/niti-aayog-unveils-data-centre-evaluation-framework-for-states/

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PLFS September 2026: Urban LFPR Rises to 50.7 Per Cent

15 October 2026 · Economy

The PLFS monthly bulletin for September 2026 put overall LFPR at 55.5 per cent, urban LFPR at 50.7 per cent and the unemployment rate steady at 5 per cent.

- The PLFS monthly bulletin for September 2026, the eighteenth in the series, was released on 15 October 2026 by MoSPI.
- Overall LFPR for those aged 15 years and above was 55.5 per cent, while urban LFPR rose to 50.7 per cent from 50.4 per cent in August 2026.
- Urban female LFPR increased to 25.9 per cent, its highest since October 2025, and rural female LFPR stood at 38.9 per cent.
- The unemployment rate stayed at 5 per cent, with rural UR at 4.2 per cent and urban UR at 6.9 per cent; rural female UR fell to 3.9 per cent, the lowest in 2026.
- The estimates are based on 3,70,513 persons surveyed, 2,11,333 of them rural and 1,59,180 urban.

Report	PLFS Monthly Bulletin, September 2026 (eighteenth in the series)
Released by	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 15 October 2026
Conducted by	National Statistical Office, using the Current Weekly Status approach
Overall LFPR	55.5 per cent (age 15 years and above)
Urban LFPR	50.7 per cent, up from 50.4 per cent in August 2026
Female LFPR	34.6 per cent overall; urban 25.9 per cent; rural 38.9 per cent
Worker Population Ratio	52.7 per cent overall; urban 47.2 per cent
Unemployment rate	5 per cent overall; rural 4.2 per cent; urban 6.9 per cent

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/plfs-september-2026-urban-lfpr-rises-to-507-per-cent/

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Seva Sankalp Abhiyan Gives Assistive Devices in Bastar

15 October 2026 · National

Amit Shah on 15 October 2026 addressed an assistive device distribution for Divyangjan under Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, with over 1,570 beneficiaries from Bastar alone.

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed by video conference a ceremony distributing assistive devices to Divyangjan, including Naxal violence victims, on 15 October 2026.
- The Seva Sankalp Abhiyan marks 25 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in public office, as Chief Minister and then Prime Minister.
- A camp at Jagdalpur from 5 to 7 October 2026 benefited more than 3,600 persons with disabilities, over 1,570 of them from Bastar alone.
- About 8,526 Naxalites have surrendered; 7,328 got bank accounts, 455 jobs, 129 land allotments and 4,014 houses came under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.
- Of more than 500 security camps, over 200 will become Shaheed Veer Gundadhur Seva Dera run by Central and State officials.

Event	Distribution of assistive devices to Divyangjan under Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, 15 October 2026
Addressed by	Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, via video conference
Campaign marks	25 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in public office
Earlier camp	Jagdalpur, 5 to 7 October 2026, more than 3,600 beneficiaries
From Bastar alone	More than 1,570 beneficiaries
Surrendered Naxalites	About 8,526; bank accounts for 7,328; jobs for 455; land for 129
Security camps	More than 500 set up; over 200 to become Shaheed Veer Gundadhur Seva Dera
State schemes cited	Bastar Olympics, Bastar Pandum, Niyad Nellanar, Chief Minister's Samuhik Bus Yojana

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/seva-sankalp-abhiyan-gives-assistive-devices-in-bastar/

Peyjal Samvad 13th Edition Reviews Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

15 October 2026 · Government Schemes

Five districts shared rural drinking water practices at the 13th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad chaired by DDWS Secretary Ashok K.K. Meena.

- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, held the 13th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad by video conferencing on 15 October 2026.
- Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary of the department, chaired it; Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary and Mission Director of the National Jal Jeevan Mission, also addressed it.
- Five districts presented field practices: Kanpur Nagar (Uttar Pradesh), West Tripura (Tripura), Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu), Bargarh (Odisha) and Palamu (Jharkhand).
- Districts must hold monthly District Water and Sanitation Mission meetings and upload the minutes on the DWSM Portal.
- The Decision Support System combines groundwater, rainfall, hydrological and Jal Jeevan Mission data so districts can plan for water-stressed areas.

Event	13th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad
Organised by	Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti
Chaired by	Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS
Also present	Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary and Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission
Mode	Video conferencing
Mission	Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 / Har Ghar Jal
Districts that presented	Kanpur Nagar, West Tripura, Thanjavur, Bargarh and Palamu
Platforms named	Decision Support System, Jal Arpan module, DWSM Portal, Jal Saarthi app, Jal Seva Aankalan

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/peyjal-samvad-13th-edition-reviews-jal-jeevan-mission-20/

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President Accepts Dr L. Murugan Resignation from Council

15 October 2026 · National

The President of India accepted Dr L. Murugan resignation from the Union Council of Ministers with immediate effect under clause (2) of Article 75.

- The President of India accepted Dr L. Murugan resignation from the Union Council of Ministers with immediate effect
- The resignation was accepted on the advice of the Prime Minister, under clause (2) of Article 75 of the Constitution
- Clause (2) of Article 75 provides that a Union Minister holds office during the pleasure of the President
- The change was announced through a press communique issued by the Presidents Secretariat on 15 October 2026
- Clause (1A) of Article 75 caps the Council of Ministers, the Prime Minister included, at fifteen per cent of the Lok Sabha strength

Who	Dr L. Murugan
What	Resignation from the Union Council of Ministers accepted
Effective from	With immediate effect
Accepted by	The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister
Provision used	Clause (2) of Article 75 of the Constitution of India
Announced through	Press communique of the Presidents Secretariat
Date of announcement	15 October 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/president-accepts-dr-l-murugan-resignation-from-council/

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National Strategic Trade Command Centre Opens at Vanijya Bhawan

15 October 2026 · Economy

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal launched the National Strategic Trade Command Centre at Vanijya Bhawan in New Delhi on 15 October 2026.

- The National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC) was launched at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal
- The NSTCC has been developed by the Department of Commerce and rests on existing digital systems, including those of the DGFT and the Trade Connect ePlatform
- First-phase dashboards cover Importer Exporter Code, Advance Authorisation, EPCG, Certificate of Origin, SCOMET and restricted imports and exports
- SCOMET stands for Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies; the Minister sought weekly Inter-Ministerial Committee meetings to clear pendency
- Its three design pillars are integrated monitoring, performance assessment and evidence-based policy inputs

Initiative	National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC)
Launched by	Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal
Venue	Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi
Developed by	Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Commerce Secretary	Rajesh Agrawal
DGFT Director General	Lav Agarwal
SCOMET	Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies
Systems used	DGFT systems and the Trade Connect ePlatform

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/national-strategic-trade-command-centre-opens-at-vanijya-bhawan/

gk24.in

India Exports 80.75 Billion Dollars Worth Goods, Services in September

15 October 2026 · Economy

India total exports of goods and services stood at 80.75 billion dollars in September 2026, a rise of 10.99 per cent over September 2025, trade data shows.

- India total exports of merchandise and services in September 2026 were 80.75 billion dollars, a growth of 10.99 per cent over September 2025
- Total imports in September 2026 stood at 94.05 billion dollars, a growth of 8.19 per cent, leaving an overall trade gap of 13.30 billion dollars
- Merchandise exports for the month were 44.40 billion dollars against 36.08 billion dollars in September 2025
- Cumulative exports for April to September 2026-27 are estimated at 476.20 billion dollars, up 13.84 per cent, with imports at 551.13 billion dollars
- Electronic goods exports grew fastest at 70.44 per cent, rising from 3.11 billion dollars to 5.31 billion dollars

Released by	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Total exports, September 2026	80.75 billion dollars, up 10.99 per cent
Total imports, September 2026	94.05 billion dollars, up 8.19 per cent
Merchandise exports, September 2026	44.40 billion dollars
Merchandise imports, September 2026	74.61 billion dollars
Trade balance, September 2026	Deficit of 13.30 billion dollars
Cumulative exports, April to September 2026-27	476.20 billion dollars, up 13.84 per cent
Fastest growing export group	Electronic goods, up 70.44 per cent

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-exports-8075-billion-dollars-worth-goods-services-in-september/

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Sports Ministry Reviews India Fourth Place Finish at Asian Games 2026

15 October 2026 · Sports

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya reviewed India fourth place finish at the 2026 Asian Games with National Sports Federations and set a top three goal for Doha.

- India finished in fourth place at the 2026 Asian Games, held at Aichi-Nagoya, and the Sports Ministry reviewed that performance with National Sports Federations on 15 October 2026
- Union Sports Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya asked federations to build a continuous pipeline of champions instead of relying on a few medallists such as Mirabai Chanu
- The conclave also assessed preparations for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, the 2030 Commonwealth Games and the 2030 Asian Games in Doha
- Sports Secretary Hari Ranjan Rao set the goal of finishing among the top three at the 2030 Asian Games in Doha and bettering India record from the 2010 Commonwealth Games
- The revised guidelines booklet for Assistance to National Sports Federations was released, and Col N. S. Johal, CEO of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, gave the performance review

Event reviewed	India performance at the 2026 Asian Games, Aichi-Nagoya
India finish	Fourth place
Union Sports Minister	Dr Mansukh Mandaviya
Minister of State	Smt Raksha Khadse
Secretary, Sports	Shri Hari Ranjan Rao
CEO, Target Olympic Podium Scheme	Col N. S. Johal
Next Olympics	Los Angeles 2028
Asian Games 2030 host	Doha

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/sports-ministry-reviews-india-fourth-place-finish-at-asian-games-2026/

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NHAI Orders Independent Design Check for Major Highway Bridges

15 October 2026 · National

NHAI has introduced independent checking of designs of major bridges and critical highway structures by empanelled IITs, effective from 1 December 2026.

- NHAI has introduced a uniform system for independent checking of designs and drawings of major bridges and critical structures on National Highway projects
- The checking will be done by empanelled Indian Institutes of Technology, reputed government technical institutions and experienced firms in bridge engineering and hydraulic studies
- Coverage includes major river bridges with a design discharge of 3,000 cubic metres per second or more and structures with an individual effective span of 40 metres or more
- Designs must meet the applicable Indian Roads Congress codes, technical specifications and contractual requirements
- The policy comes into force on 1 December 2026 for all new EPC, Hybrid Annuity Model and Build-Operate-Transfer projects

Authority	National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
Ministry	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Measure	Independent checking of designs of major bridges and critical structures
Checked by	Empanelled IITs, government technical institutions and experienced technical firms
River bridge threshold	Design discharge of 3,000 cubic metres per second or more
Span threshold	Individual effective span of 40 metres or more
Codes to be met	Indian Roads Congress (IRC) codes
Effective from	1 December 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/nhai-orders-independent-design-check-for-major-highway-bridges/

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NMMSS Scholarship Workshop in Bhopal Sets 31 October Deadline

15 October 2026 · Government Schemes

The Education Ministry held an NMMSS review workshop at Bhopal and fixed 31 October 2026 as the last date for scholarship registration for 2026-27.

- The Department of School Education and Literacy held a regional orientation and review workshop on the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, on 14 October 2026
- NMMSS is a Central Sector Scheme that pays an eligible student 12,000 rupees a year to prevent dropping out after Class VIII and to support study up to Class XII
- The last date to register applications for the academic year 2026-27 is 31 October 2026
- Verification deadlines are 15 November 2026 for Institute Nodal Officers and 30 November 2026 for District Nodal Officers
- The workshop was led by Economic Adviser Ms A. Srija and attended by about 40 District Nodal Officers and 5 Institute Nodal Officers from Bhopal district

Scheme	National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)
Type	Central Sector Scheme
Ministry	Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education
Scholarship amount	12,000 rupees per annum
Workshop venue and date	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, on 14 October 2026
Led by	Ms A. Srija, Economic Adviser, Department of School Education and Literacy
Registration deadline	31 October 2026 for the academic year 2026-27
Verification deadlines	15 November 2026 at INO level, 30 November 2026 at DNO level

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/nmmss-scholarship-workshop-in-bhopal-sets-31-october-deadline/

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TDB Supports Development of Indigenous 32-Slice CT Scanner

15 October 2026 · Science & Technology

The Technology Development Board has signed an agreement with Panacea Medical Technologies of Karnataka to build an indigenous 32-slice CT scanner.

- The Technology Development Board, under the Department of Science and Technology, has signed an agreement to support an indigenous 32-slice CT scanner
- The partner company is Panacea Medical Technologies Private Limited, based at Malur in Karnataka, a manufacturer working in radiotherapy and radiology
- The project covers the design, development and deployment of the scanner for diagnostic imaging across clinical disciplines
- Medical devices are a priority sector under the Make in India initiative, and the support aims to cut dependence on imported high end equipment
- Shri Rajesh Kumar Pathak, Secretary of the Technology Development Board, said the project fits the goal of making advanced medical devices within India

Supporting body	Technology Development Board (TDB)
Parent department	Department of Science and Technology
Company	Panacea Medical Technologies Private Limited
Location	Malur, Karnataka
Device	Indigenous 32-slice computed tomography (CT) scanner
Secretary, TDB	Shri Rajesh Kumar Pathak
Programme	Make in India, under which medical devices are a priority sector
Company expertise	Radiotherapy and radiology, high precision imaging

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/tdb-supports-development-of-indigenous-32-slice-ct-scanner/

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Indian and Korea Coast Guards Hold 14th High Level Meeting

15 October 2026 · Defence

The 14th High Level Meeting between the Indian Coast Guard and the Korea Coast Guard was held at Incheon in the Republic of Korea on 14 October 2026.

- The 14th High Level Meeting between the Indian Coast Guard and the Korea Coast Guard was held at Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 14 October 2026
- The Indian delegation was led by Inspector General T. Sashi Kumar and the Korean delegation by Senior Superintendent General Im Myeong Gil
- The Indian Coast Guard delegation was on an official visit to the Republic of Korea from 13 to 16 October 2026
- Cooperation was taken up in Maritime Search and Rescue, Marine Pollution Response, Maritime Law Enforcement, capacity building and operational coordination
- Both sides reaffirmed their existing Memorandum of Understanding and agreed on professional exchanges, joint training exercises, bilateral ship visits and real-time information sharing

Event	14th High Level Meeting (HLM), Indian Coast Guard and Korea Coast Guard
Venue	Incheon, Republic of Korea
Date of the meeting	14 October 2026
Indian delegation led by	Inspector General T. Sashi Kumar
Korean delegation led by	Senior Superintendent General Im Myeong Gil
Official visit	13 to 16 October 2026
Areas of cooperation	M-SAR, Marine Pollution Response, Maritime Law Enforcement, capacity building, operational coordination
Announced by	Ministry of Defence

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/indian-and-korea-coast-guards-hold-14th-high-level-meeting/

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India and Japan Hold 12th Roads Working Group Session

15 October 2026 · International

The 12th session of the India-Japan Joint Working Group on the roads and road transportation sector was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 15 October 2026.

- The 12th session of the India-Japan Joint Working Group on roads and road transportation was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 15 October 2026
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways organised the meeting, with participation from the Government of India and the Government of Japan
- Focus areas were advanced construction technologies, tunnel and bridge engineering, sustainable infrastructure and digital technologies in road management
- Under a whole of government approach, the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Power also took part in the meeting
- The session was aligned with the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, of India as a developed nation by the centenary of Independence

Event	12th session, India-Japan Joint Working Group on the Roads and Road Transportation Sector
Venue	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
Date	15 October 2026
Organised by	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Other ministries present	Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Power
Focus areas	Advanced construction technologies, tunnel and bridge engineering, sustainable infrastructure, digital road management
Policy vision	Viksit Bharat @2047
Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways	Nitin Gadkari

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-and-japan-hold-12th-roads-working-group-session/

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Mahila Kisan Diwas 2026 Marked at Ambedkar Centre, Delhi

15 October 2026 · Important Days

The Agriculture Ministry marked Mahila Kisan Diwas 2026 at the Dr B. R. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi under Secretary Atish Chandra.

- Mahila Kisan Diwas 2026 was observed on 15 October 2026 at the Dr B. R. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- The theme was Role of Women Farmers in Building Developed Agriculture and a Developed India, and the event was chaired by Secretary Atish Chandra
- A book titled Women Farmers of India: Journey from Challenges to Success was released and outstanding women farmers were felicitated
- The day was also marked by States and Union Territories, the Extension Education Institutes, the SAMETIs and MANAGE, with stress on women farmers from tribal areas
- Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan named the Drone Didi, Krishi Sakhi, Bank Sakhi and Pashu Sakhi cadres in his message for the day

Day	Mahila Kisan Diwas 2026, observed on 15 October 2026
Theme	Role of Women Farmers in Building Developed Agriculture and a Developed India
Venue	Dr B. R. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi
Organised by	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Chaired by	Atish Chandra, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Book released	Women Farmers of India: Journey from Challenges to Success
Also observed at	States and Union Territories, Extension Education Institutes, SAMETIs and MANAGE
Union Agriculture Minister	Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/mahila-kisan-diwas-2026-marked-at-ambedkar-centre-delhi/

India's Ramsar Site Tally Reaches 103 with Sukhna, Sauj Jheel

15 October 2026 · Environment

India's tally of Ramsar wetlands has risen to 103 after Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced that Sukhna in Chandigarh and Sauj Jheel in UP were designated.

- India's Ramsar site tally reached 103 with the designation of Sukhna Wetland in Chandigarh and Sauj Jheel in Uttar Pradesh
- The addition was announced on 15 October 2026 by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav
- Sukhna Wetland is in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, while Sauj Jheel lies in Uttar Pradesh
- The minister tied wetland protection to biodiversity conservation, water and climate security, and the livelihoods of nearby communities
- The announcement carried the hashtag #AmritDharohar and congratulated both Uttar Pradesh and Chandigarh

India's Ramsar site tally	103
New site 1	Sukhna Wetland, Chandigarh
New site 2	Sauj Jheel, Uttar Pradesh
Announced by	Shri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Date of announcement	15 October 2026
Hashtag used	#AmritDharohar

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/indias-ramsar-site-tally-reaches-103-with-sukhna-sauj-jheel/

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Sitharaman Attends 114th World Bank Development Committee Meet

15 October 2026 · International

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman took part as India's World Bank Governor in the 114th Development Committee Plenary held in Bangkok, Thailand.

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 114th Meeting of the Development Committee Plenary in Bangkok, Thailand, on 15 October 2026
- She participated as India's Governor of the World Bank; the meeting's agenda was 'Private Capital Mobilisation and Jobs'
- India urged stronger collaboration among IBRD, IFC and MIGA and faster operationalisation of the World Bank Group Guarantee Platform
- The minister sought a comprehensive review of the Worldwide Governance Indicators and similar composite assessments
- India asked that success be measured by jobs created and productivity gained rather than by the volume of financing mobilised

Meeting	114th Meeting of the Development Committee Plenary, World Bank
Venue	Bangkok, Thailand
Date	15 October 2026
India represented by	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, as Governor of the World Bank
Agenda	Private Capital Mobilisation and Jobs
World Bank Group arms named	IBRD, IFC and MIGA
Platform urged	World Bank Group Guarantee Platform

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/sitharaman-attends-114th-world-bank-development-committee-meet/

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CII White Paper Charts $100 Billion Media Entertainment Goal

15 October 2026 · Reports & Indices

A CII white paper released at the Big Picture Summit 2026 in Mumbai set out a roadmap for India's media and entertainment sector to reach $100 billion.

- A CII white paper, 'The New Economics of Media and Entertainment', maps a route for India's media and entertainment sector to reach $100 billion by the early 2030s
- It was released at the two day CII Big Picture Summit 2026 in Mumbai, themed 'The New Economics of Media and Entertainment: Building India's Future Global Media Companies'
- I&B Secretary Shri Chanchal Kumar urged the industry to focus on original intellectual property, sustainable business models and global expansion
- He linked the theme to the Prime Minister's WAVES 2025 vision of 'Create In India, Create For The World' and named WAVES, WAVES Bazaar, IICT and India Cine Hub
- The WAVES Global Investor and Investee Meet brought together more than 150 investors and investees, including about 20 from WaveX and WAVES Bazaar

White paper	The New Economics of Media and Entertainment, released by CII
Target	$100 billion media and entertainment sector by the early 2030s
Event	Two day CII Big Picture Summit 2026, Mumbai
Summit theme	The New Economics of Media and Entertainment: Building India's Future Global Media Companies
Inaugural address	Shri Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Vision cited	WAVES 2025, 'Create In India, Create For The World'
Initiatives named	WAVES, WAVES Bazaar, Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), India Cine Hub
Investor meet	WAVES Global Investor and Investee Meet, more than 150 investors and investees

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/cii-white-paper-charts-dollar100-billion-media-entertainment-goal/

16 October 2026

India Builds Safer Navigation on 111 National Waterways

16 October 2026 · National

India has 111 National Waterways of 20,187 km and moved 218 MMT of cargo in 2025-26, with the first riverine lighthouses coming up on the Brahmaputra.

- India has 111 National Waterways of 20,187 km across 23 States and 4 Union Territories, of which 32 are operational
- Inland waterway cargo rose from 29 MMT in 2014-15 to 218 MMT in 2025-26, a CAGR of 20.13 per cent, crossing the 200 MMT target of Maritime India Vision 2030
- India's first four riverine lighthouses, a ₹74 crore project, are coming up at Pandu, Bogibeel, Silghat and Biswanath Ghat on National Waterway-2, the Brahmaputra
- National Waterway-2 runs 891 km from Dhubri to Sadiya in Assam and is the longest navigable waterway stretch in India
- Naudarshika, the National River Traffic and Navigation System, was launched in 2025 and carries real-time Least Available Depth data

National Waterways	111, total length 20,187 km, 32 operational
Spread	23 States and 4 Union Territories
Cargo 2025-26	218 MMT, up from 29 MMT in 2014-15 (CAGR 20.13 per cent)
Target crossed	200 MMT under Maritime India Vision 2030
First riverine lighthouses	Pandu, Bogibeel, Silghat, Biswanath Ghat on NW-2 (Brahmaputra), ₹74 crore
NW-2	Dhubri to Sadiya in Assam, 891 km, longest navigable stretch in India
NW-3	West Coast Canal, Kerala, with 312 lighted FRP buoys and 17 beacon lamp posts
Digital systems	PANI portal, IWAI Vessel Tracker, Naudarshika (2025), River Information Services

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-builds-safer-navigation-on-111-national-waterways/

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APEDA Flags Off Maiden Palmyra Jaggery Export to Bulgaria

16 October 2026 · Economy

APEDA flagged off India's first consignment of 1.755 MT of organic Palmyra jaggery powder from Erode in Tamil Nadu to Varna in Bulgaria on 15 October 2026.

- APEDA flagged off the maiden export consignment of 1.755 MT of organic Palmyra jaggery powder on 15 October 2026
- The consignment went from Gobichettipalayam in Erode district, Tamil Nadu, to Varna in Bulgaria, shipped by sea through Chennai Port
- The product carries NPOP and European Union organic certification and is also known as Palmyra Blossom Nectar
- The initiative covers 137 acres under organic cultivation, with farmers earning about 15 to 22 per cent more than in the domestic market
- APEDA Chairman Shri Abhishek Dev flagged off the consignment; APEDA works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Agency	APEDA, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Product	Organic Palmyra jaggery powder (Palmyra Blossom Nectar)
Quantity	1.755 MT, maiden consignment
From	Gobichettipalayam, Erode district, Tamil Nadu
To	Varna, Bulgaria, shipped by sea via Chennai Port
Certification	NPOP and European Union organic
Exporter	M/s Wellbeing Foods, Erode, with M/s Chetty Exports Private Limited, Chennai
Importer	M/s Sow Life Ltd, Bulgaria

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/apeda-flags-off-maiden-palmyra-jaggery-export-to-bulgaria/

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Polish Youth Delegation Ends Jamsaheb Memorial Exchange in India

16 October 2026 · International

A 19-member Polish youth delegation completed the second Jamsaheb Memorial Youth Exchange Programme across Gujarat, Maharashtra and New Delhi from 7 to 14 October.

- The Jamsaheb Memorial Youth Exchange Programme, in its second edition, ran from 7 to 14 October 2026
- Nineteen young Poles made up the visiting delegation, which travelled through Gujarat, Maharashtra and New Delhi
- The exchange was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his State visit to Poland in August 2024 and is part of the Five-Year Action Plan (2024-2028) for the India-Poland Strategic Partnership
- The delegation visited the Balachadi Polish Children's Camp Memorial in Jamnagar, Gujarat, honouring Maharaja Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja, known in Poland as Dobry Maharaja
- Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya hosted the delegation in New Delhi and the group also called on External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar

Programme	Jamsaheb Memorial Youth Exchange Programme, second edition
Dates	7 to 14 October 2026
Delegation	19-member Polish youth delegation
States visited	Gujarat, Maharashtra and New Delhi
Announced	By Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his State visit to Poland in August 2024
Framework	Five-Year Action Plan (2024-2028) for the India-Poland Strategic Partnership
Memorials visited	Balachadi Polish Children's Camp Memorial, Jamnagar; Valivade Polish Refugee Camp Memorial, Kolhapur
Dobry Maharaja	Maharaja Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja, the Good Maharaja

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/polish-youth-delegation-ends-jamsaheb-memorial-exchange-in-india/

Ayush Patent Report Records 4,077 Filings Since 2014-15

16 October 2026 · Reports & Indices

A status report released on the 11th Ayurveda Day counts 4,077 Ayush patent applications and 711 grants between 2014-15 and 2025-26 in India.

- The Status Report on Ayush Related Inventions in India (2014-2026) was released during the 11th Ayurveda Day celebrations and records 4,077 patent applications and 711 grants.
- It was published by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Annual filings rose from 63 in 2014-15 to 590 in 2025-26, a growth of about 836.5 per cent, after peaking at 606 applications in 2022-23.
- Maharashtra leads the states with 744 filings and 142 grants, while natural persons filed 2,113 applications, or 51.9 per cent of the total.
- The period from 2020-21 to 2025-26 alone saw 2,854 filings, 70 per cent of the total, and 657 grants, 92.4 per cent of all patents granted.

Report	Status Report on Ayush Related Inventions in India (2014-2026)
Released during	Celebrations of the 11th Ayurveda Day
Published by	Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM), DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Applications filed	4,077 between 2014-15 and 2025-26
Patents granted	711
Leading state	Maharashtra, with 744 filings and 142 grants
Annual filings	Up from 63 in 2014-15 to 590 in 2025-26, a rise of about 836.5 per cent
Top applicant type	Natural persons, with 2,113 filings or 51.9 per cent of the total

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ayush-patent-report-records-4077-filings-since-2014-15/

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First Kanda Express Takes 440 MT Onions to Agartala

16 October 2026 · Economy

The first-ever Kanda Express carrying about 440 MT of buffer onions is due to reach Agartala in Tripura by 18 October 2026 from the PSF buffer.

- The first-ever Kanda Express to Agartala, Tripura, carries about 440 MT of buffer onions and is expected to arrive by 18 October 2026.
- The onions come from the buffer built under the Price Stabilization Fund and are released by the Department of Consumer Affairs.
- Two Kanda Express rakes of 840 MT and 452 MT and 44 truck consignments of 1,513.46 MT have moved over 2,800 MT of onions into the North-East.
- The consignment is expected to cover seven of Tripura eight districts, and earlier supplies reached points in Assam, Tripura and Nagaland.
- The all-India average mandi price fell from about Rs 3,600 per quintal in September to around Rs 3,300 per quintal in October.

Initiative	First-ever Kanda Express onion movement to Agartala, Tripura
Ministry	Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Quantity in consignment	About 440 MT of buffer onions
Expected arrival	By 18 October 2026
Source of stock	Buffer under the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF)
Moved to the North-East so far	Over 2,800 MT, through two rakes of 840 MT and 452 MT and 44 truck consignments of 1,513.46 MT
Districts to be covered in Tripura	Seven of eight, including Dhalai, South Tripura, Khowai, Unakoti, West Tripura, Gomati and Sepahijala
All-India mandi price	Down from about Rs 3,600 per quintal in September to about Rs 3,300 per quintal in October

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/first-kanda-express-takes-440-mt-onions-to-agartala/

BHASHINI and IISc Build Sourashtra Text-to-Speech Models

16 October 2026 · Science & Technology

BHASHINI and IISc Bengaluru have developed text-to-speech models for Sourashtra, a low-resource language spoken by about 2.48 lakh people in Tamil Nadu.

- The Digital India BHASHINI Division under MeitY and IISc Bengaluru have developed text-to-speech models for Sourashtra, a low-resource Indo-Aryan language.
- Sourashtra is spoken mainly by the Sourashtra community in Tamil Nadu and had about 2.48 lakh speakers according to the 2011 Census.
- The four models use the VITS architecture, cover a male and a female voice, and work with text in both the Tamil and the Sourashtra script.
- The male voice model was trained on about 10,000 utterances and the female voice model on about 11,400, with audio generated at 22,050 Hz.
- The SPICOR TTS 3.0 Sourashtra Corpus, over 28 hours of gender-balanced speech built at the SPIRE Lab of IISc Bengaluru, is now on the AIKOSH platform.

What	Text-to-speech (TTS) models for the Sourashtra language
Developed by	Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under Digital India Corporation, MeitY, with IISc Bengaluru
Language family	Indo-Aryan, a minority language spoken mainly in Tamil Nadu
Speakers	About 2.48 lakh, as per the 2011 Census
Architecture	VITS (Variational Inference with adversarial learning for end-to-end Text-to-Speech)
Models released	Four, that is a male and a female voice, each in Tamil script and Sourashtra script versions
Training data	About 10,000 utterances for the male voice and 11,400 for the female voice
Speech corpus	More than 28 hours of gender-balanced recordings from the SPIRE Lab, IISc Bengaluru

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/bhashini-and-iisc-build-sourashtra-text-to-speech-models/

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Textiles Ministry Holds Special Campaign 6 Cyber Workshops

16 October 2026 · National

The Ministry of Textiles held workshops on cyber security and e-waste management under Special Campaign 6, with over 85 officials taking part on 15 October.

- The Ministry of Textiles organised workshops on cyber security and secure digital disposal and on e-waste management awareness on 15 October 2026.
- The workshops were held under Special Campaign 6 and drew more than 85 officials, including all the Nodal Officers of the ministry.
- The cyber session covered phishing, malware, fraudulent messaging-app messages and digital arrest scams, and warned against sharing OTPs or personal details.
- Officials were advised to avoid unknown links and unverified files, to verify doubtful messages and to report cyber incidents promptly.
- The e-waste session stressed segregation, safe handling and disposal only through authorised channels, and linked reuse and recycling to a circular economy.

Organiser	Ministry of Textiles
Held under	Special Campaign 6
Date of the workshops	15 October 2026
Participation	More than 85 officials, including all Nodal Officers
Workshop topics	Cyber security and secure digital disposal; e-waste management awareness
Cyber threats covered	Phishing, malware, fraudulent messaging-app messages and digital arrest scams
What never to share	Money, one-time passwords (OTPs) and personal information sought through suspicious messages
E-waste harms cited	Soil and water contamination and release of hazardous substances

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/textiles-ministry-holds-special-campaign-6-cyber-workshops/

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INS Samarthak Joins Navy as First Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel

16 October 2026 · Defence

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan commissioned INS Samarthak, the Indian Navy's first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel built by L&T, at Karwar in Karnataka.

- INS Samarthak is the Indian Navy's first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel and was commissioned at Karwar, Karnataka, on 16 October 2026
- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan commissioned the ship; more than 75 per cent of its content is indigenous
- The vessel was built by the private shipyard Larsen & Toubro and is commanded by Commander Sushil Kumar Singh
- It will support trials of next-generation weapons, sensors and unmanned systems, plus surveillance, offshore patrolling and disaster relief
- Karwar's naval infrastructure is being expanded under Project Seabird; Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Chief of the Naval Staff, attended

Vessel	INS Samarthak, Indian Navy's first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel
Commissioned by	Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan
Place	Karwar, Karnataka
Builder	Larsen & Toubro (private shipyard)
Indigenous content	More than 75 per cent
Commanding Officer	Commander Sushil Kumar Singh
Base project at Karwar	Project Seabird
Chief of the Naval Staff	Admiral Krishna Swaminathan

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ins-samarthak-joins-navy-as-first-indigenous-multi-purpose-vessel/

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TDB Signs Rs 150 Crore Quantum Security Deal With QNu Labs

16 October 2026 · Science & Technology

The Technology Development Board signed an agreement with Bengaluru's QNu Labs for Rs 150 crore of RDI Fund support to build India's quantum-secure technology stack.

- The Technology Development Board under DST signed an agreement with QNu Labs Private Limited, Bengaluru, for Rs 150 crore of support from the RDI Fund
- The total project cost is Rs 300 crore and the TDB support will be given through Optionally Convertible Debt
- The project builds an indigenous backbone for India's Quantum Secure and Sensing Networks (IQSN), moving technologies from TRL 4-5 to TRL-9
- Its four pillars are identity security, location integrity, network security and time integrity
- Rajesh Kumar Pathak is the Secretary of the Technology Development Board

Agreement signed by	Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science and Technology
Company	QNu Labs Private Limited, Bengaluru, Karnataka
Support	Rs 150 crore from the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund
Total project cost	Rs 300 crore
Mode of funding	Optionally Convertible Debt (OCD)
Target	Technologies from TRL 4-5 to TRL-9
Programme	India's Quantum Secure and Sensing Networks (IQSN)
Four pillars	Identity security, location integrity, network security, time integrity

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/tdb-signs-rs-150-crore-quantum-security-deal-with-qnu-labs/

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PM-SETU Clears Rs 1,194.92 Crore for Five ITI Clusters

16 October 2026 · Government Schemes

The National Steering Committee of PM-SETU approved five Strategic Investment Plans worth Rs 1,194.92 crore for ITI clusters in Maharashtra, Odisha and Jammu & Kashmir.

- The 6th National Steering Committee of PM-SETU approved five Strategic Investment Plans worth Rs 1,194.92 crore on 16 October 2026
- Cumulative investment approved under PM-SETU has now reached Rs 3,687 crore
- The clusters are Kataka in Odisha, Pune and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar in Maharashtra, and Jammu and Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir
- Industry partners are Tata Steel Foundation, BVG India, Belrise Industries, Eagle Infra India and Inderdeep Infra India
- Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary of the skill development ministry, chaired the meeting; 3,744 trainers have been trained under Component II

Scheme	PM-SETU: Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs
Meeting	6th National Steering Committee meeting
Approved now	Five Strategic Investment Plans worth Rs 1,194.92 crore
Cumulative approvals	Rs 3,687 crore
States and UT covered	Maharashtra, Odisha, Jammu & Kashmir
Chairperson	Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Largest cluster plan	Pune ITI cluster, Rs 241 crore, with BVG India Limited
Trainers trained (Component II)	3,744 through National Skill Training Institutes

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/pm-setu-clears-rs-119492-crore-for-five-iti-clusters/

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PAIMANA Dashboard Update: Highway Awards Up 62.9 Per Cent

16 October 2026 · Reports & Indices

MoSPI's quarterly PAIMANA infrastructure dashboard update shows 2,236.3 km of national highways awarded, up 62.9 per cent, and 184 indicators now tracked.

- MoSPI released the quarterly update of the PAIMANA Performance Monitoring Dashboard, which was launched on 16 April 2026
- The dashboard now tracks 184 indicators after 21 new ones were added, and data was refreshed for 41 indicators
- National highway projects awarded rose 62.9 per cent to 2,236.3 km in April-September of FY 2026-27
- Major port cargo grew 7.2 per cent to 390.4 million tonnes and air cargo rose 12 per cent to 18.6 lakh tonnes
- Installed power capacity reached 5,32,739.7 MW, with renewables at 2,23,273 MW, about 42 per cent of the total

Dashboard	PAIMANA: Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring and Analytics for Nation-building
Released by	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
Launched on	16 April 2026
Indicators	184 in total, including 21 added in this update
Five dimensions	Access, Quality, Fiscal Cost and Revenue, Utilization, Affordability
National highways awarded	2,236.3 km, up 62.9 per cent (April-September, FY 2026-27)
Major port cargo	390.4 million tonnes, up 7.2 per cent
Installed power capacity	5,32,739.7 MW, renewables 2,23,273 MW (about 42 per cent)

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/paimana-dashboard-update-highway-awards-up-629-per-cent/

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Indian Scientists Identify Martian Analogue Sites in Tamil Nadu

16 October 2026 · Science & Technology

University of Kerala researchers used a DST-FIST laser Raman spectrometer to establish Neyveli, the Tiruchirappalli Badlands and Chile's Atacama as Mars analogue sites.

- Melanterite at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu and gypsum in Chile's Atacama Desert and the Tiruchirappalli Badlands have established these as Martian analogue sites
- Both minerals are hydrous sulphates that record water-rock interactions; gypsum can also preserve biosignatures
- The work was done by a University of Kerala team led by Dr. Sajin Kumar K. S., Project Coordinator of DST-FIST
- A laser Raman spectrometer funded under DST-FIST at the Department of Geology confirmed the minerals by their spectral fingerprints
- The findings appeared as two research papers in the Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets

Finding	Sites in Tamil Nadu and Chile established as Martian analogue sites
Minerals	Melanterite and gypsum, both hydrous sulphates
Melanterite site	Neyveli, Tamil Nadu (formed from marcasite in lignite substratum)
Gypsum sites	Atacama Desert, Chile, and the Tiruchirappalli Badlands, Tamil Nadu
Institution	Department of Geology, University of Kerala
Team leader	Dr. Sajin Kumar K. S., Project Coordinator, DST-FIST
Instrument	Laser Raman spectrometer supported by DST-FIST
Published in	Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets (two papers)

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/indian-scientists-identify-martian-analogue-sites-in-tamil-nadu/

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KVIC Opens Khadi Mahotsav-2026 in Mumbai With Gen-Z Podcast

16 October 2026 · Economy

KVIC Chairman Manoj Goel opened Khadi Mahotsav-2026 at Vile Parle in Mumbai, where 77 units from 12 states are selling Khadi and village industry products.

- KVIC Chairman Manoj Goel inaugurated Khadi Mahotsav-2026 at the KVIC Central Office in Vile Parle, Mumbai, on 15 October 2026
- The festival runs from 2 October to 31 October 2026 with 20 per cent discount on Khadi products and 10 per cent on village industry products
- A total of 77 units from 12 states are selling through 77 stalls: 36 Khadi units, 33 PMEGP units and 08 village industry units
- KVIC has launched the 'Baat Khadi Ki' podcast to connect Gen Z with the Swadeshi movement and the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision
- Sector turnover crossed Rs 1.87 lakh crore in 2025-26 with employment of over 2.04 crore people; the target is Rs 2.51 lakh crore

Event	Khadi Mahotsav-2026
Inaugurated by	Shri Manoj Goel, Chairman, KVIC
Venue	KVIC Central Office, Vile Parle, Mumbai
Inauguration date	15 October 2026; festival runs 2 to 31 October 2026
Participation	77 units from 12 states through 77 stalls
Break-up of units	36 Khadi, 33 PMEGP, 08 village industries and other schemes
Discounts	20 per cent on Khadi products, 10 per cent on village industry products
Podcast launched	'Baat Khadi Ki'

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/kvic-opens-khadi-mahotsav-2026-in-mumbai-with-gen-z-podcast/

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Puri at SRCC Conclave: Samudra Manthan Outlay Rs 84,084 Crore

16 October 2026 · Summits & Conferences

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri closed SRCC's two-day centenary conclave in New Delhi on 16 October 2026 and cited the Rs 84,084 crore Samudra Manthan Scheme.

- Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri delivered the valedictory address at SRCC's two-day centenary conclave in New Delhi on 16 October 2026
- The conference was titled 'Pathways to Viksit Bharat: A Centenary Conclave' and was held at the Stein Auditorium of the India Habitat Centre
- The Samudra Manthan Scheme, also called the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, carries an approved outlay of Rs 84,084 crore for offshore hydrocarbon exploration
- Puri linked the GOBARdhan scheme, launched on 1 October, to the ideas of 'Waste to Wealth' and 'Annadata to Urjadata'
- He said India kept essential fuel supplies steady through the recent West Asian crises by diversifying sources and strengthening domestic capacity

Event	'Pathways to Viksit Bharat: A Centenary Conclave', a two-day national conference
Organiser	Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), University of Delhi
Venue	Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
Valedictory address	Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas
Scheme highlighted	Samudra Manthan Scheme (National Offshore Exploration Scheme)
Outlay	Rs 84,084 crore
Scheme focus	Faster exploration, modern technology, shared infrastructure, domestic manufacturing
Other scheme cited	GOBARdhan, launched on 1 October

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/puri-at-srcc-conclave-samudra-manthan-outlay-rs-84084-crore/

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NHAI Wins Chittorgarh-Udaipur NH-76 Arbitration Case

16 October 2026 · National

A SAROD arbitral tribunal rejected claims of Rs 366.53 crore against NHAI in the Chittorgarh-Udaipur NH-76 dispute and awarded the authority Rs 33.54 crore.

- An arbitral tribunal ruled largely in favour of NHAI in the dispute over six-laning the 93.5 km Chittorgarh-Udaipur section of NH-76 in Rajasthan
- The concessionaire was Uchit Expressway Private Limited, promoted by TRIL Roads Pvt. Ltd.
- The three-member tribunal was constituted under the Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes (SAROD)
- Claims of Rs 366.53 crore were rejected, including a COVID-19 prolongation cost claim of Rs 238.18 crore; only Rs 14.51 crore was allowed
- NHAI was awarded Rs 33.54 crore as principal in counter-claims, including Rs 27 crore for work dropped from the project scope

Authority	National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
Project	Six-laning of the Chittorgarh-Udaipur section of NH-76, Rajasthan
Length	93.5 km
Concessionaire	Uchit Expressway Private Limited, promoted by TRIL Roads Pvt. Ltd.
Arbitration body	Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes (SAROD), three-member tribunal
Claims rejected	Rs 366.53 crore
COVID-19 prolongation claim refused	Rs 238.18 crore
Claims allowed	Rs 14.51 crore, plus a conditional refund of Rs 2.82 crore

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/nhai-wins-chittorgarh-udaipur-nh-76-arbitration-case/

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India and Mongolia Hold 14th Defence Joint Working Group Talks

16 October 2026 · Defence

India and Mongolia reviewed their defence partnership at the 14th Joint Working Group meeting in Ulaanbaatar and welcomed the completion of Exercise Nomadic Elephant.

- The 14th India-Mongolia Defence Joint Working Group meeting was held in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, on 16 October 2026
- Dr Ishita Ganguli Tripathy, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, co-chaired the meeting for India
- Brigadier General Gansukh E., Deputy State Secretary of Defence, co-chaired for Mongolia
- Both sides welcomed the successful conclusion of Exercise Nomadic Elephant, the joint army exercise of the two countries
- The Indian delegation reviewed the Cyber Security Training Centre set up with Indian help at Mongolia's National Defence University

Event	14th India-Mongolia Defence Joint Working Group meeting
Venue	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Date	16 October 2026
Indian co-chair	Dr Ishita Ganguli Tripathy, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence
Mongolian co-chair	Brigadier General Gansukh E., Deputy State Secretary of Defence
Joint exercise cited	Exercise Nomadic Elephant
Facility reviewed	Cyber Security Training Centre, National Defence University, Mongolia

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-and-mongolia-hold-14th-defence-joint-working-group-talks/

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PM-AJAY: 18,093 Villages Declared Adarsh Grams So Far

16 October 2026 · Government Schemes

The Social Justice Ministry said 18,093 villages have been declared Adarsh Grams under PM-AJAY and about Rs 1,730 crore released as Grants-in-Aid to States.

- As on 8 September 2026, 18,093 villages had been declared Adarsh Grams under PM-AJAY
- Over 47,200 villages and more than 47.79 lakh citizens have been covered; 46,944 development works are complete and 27,032 Village Development Plans prepared
- About Rs 1,730 crore was released to States as Grants-in-Aid between 2021-22 and 2025-26, helping over 2.5 lakh beneficiaries
- 785 student hostels were complete by September 2026, and Rs 61.46 crore is allotted in 2026-27 for two hostels for 264 students
- PM-AJAY is a 100 per cent centrally funded scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with three components

Scheme	Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)
Ministry	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Adarsh Grams declared	18,093 villages (as on 8 September 2026)
Villages covered	Over 47,200, benefiting more than 47.79 lakh citizens
Grants-in-Aid released	About Rs 1,730 crore (2021-22 to 2025-26)
Hostels completed	785 (as of September 2026)
Allocation for 2026-27	Rs 61.46 crore for two hostels housing 264 students
Funding pattern	100 per cent centrally funded

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/pm-ajay-18093-villages-declared-adarsh-grams-so-far/

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National e-Governance Reforms Conference Opens in Dharamshala

16 October 2026 · Summits & Conferences

The two-day National Conference on e-Governance Reforms began in Dharamshala, with Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu addressing the opening.

- The two-day National Conference on e-Governance Reforms began on 16 October 2026 at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh
- It is organised by DARPG under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Chief Secretary Kamlesh Kumar Pant and DARPG Secretary Nivedita Shukla Verma addressed the inaugural session
- Five State initiatives were showcased: Him Parivar, Sukhashraya, Vidya Samiksha Kendra, Green Himachal and the Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojna
- Day two on 17 October 2026 covers cybersecurity, replication of best practices and data analytics, followed by the valedictory session

Event	Two-day National Conference on e-Governance Reforms
Venue	Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh
Dates	16 and 17 October 2026
Organiser	DARPG, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Secretary, DARPG	Smt. Nivedita Shukla Verma
Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister	Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
State initiatives showcased	Him Parivar, Sukhashraya, Vidya Samiksha Kendra, Green Himachal, Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojna

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/national-e-governance-reforms-conference-opens-in-dharamshala/

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BSIP Study Reconstructs 4,600 Years of Monsoon History

16 October 2026 · Science & Technology

Scientists of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences used Karela Lake near Lucknow to reconstruct 4,600 years of monsoon and farming history in the Ganga Plain.

- Scientists of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow, reconstructed 4,600 years of climate history from Karela Lake
- Karela Lake is an oxbow lake at Hulas Khera in Mohanlal Ganj near Lucknow, in the Central Ganga Plain of Uttar Pradesh
- Four major environmental phases were identified, linked to the 4.2 ka arid event, the Roman Warm Period and the Little Ice Age
- The team used AMS radiocarbon dating, stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen, grain-size analysis, end-member modelling and palynology
- BSIP is an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, and the study appeared in the Journal of Asian Earth Sciences

Institute	Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), Lucknow
Parent department	Department of Science and Technology
Site studied	Karela Lake, an oxbow lake at Hulas Khera, Mohanlal Ganj, near Lucknow
Period reconstructed	4,600 years of climate and environmental history
Climate events identified	4.2 ka arid event, Roman Warm Period, Little Ice Age
Journal	Journal of Asian Earth Sciences
Region	Central Ganga Plain, Uttar Pradesh

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/bsip-study-reconstructs-4600-years-of-monsoon-history/

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Women Farmers' Day: Sanchi Gets 46 Rural Roads Under PMGSY

16 October 2026 · Government Schemes

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan marked Women Farmers' Day at Sanchi and performed bhoomi pujan for 46 rural roads under the Gram Sadak Yojana.

- Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan attended a Women Farmers' Day programme at Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh on 16 October 2026
- He performed the bhoomi pujan of 46 rural roads sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
- A pilot project in Raisen and Vidisha districts will try to link every family of every village to at least one livelihood
- In the Sanchi assembly segment, 3,081 houses were sanctioned in 2025-26 and 5,035 in 2024-25, with 218 under PM JANMAN and 246 under the Dharti Aaba scheme
- A recent survey found a need for 22,477 more houses in the Sanchi assembly segment

Occasion	Women Farmers' Day programme at Sanchi, Madhya Pradesh
Minister	Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development
Roads	Bhoomi pujan of 46 rural roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
Livelihood pilot	Raisen and Vidisha districts, one livelihood for every family
Houses sanctioned	3,081 in 2025-26 and 5,035 in 2024-25
Other housing schemes	218 houses under PM JANMAN, 246 under the Dharti Aaba scheme
Survey finding	22,477 additional houses needed in the Sanchi assembly segment

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/women-farmers-day-sanchi-gets-46-rural-roads-under-pmgsy/

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Asian Games Kabaddi Gold Team Honoured at Rail Bhawan

16 October 2026 · Sports

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw met the Indian women kabaddi squad that beat Iran 37-34 to retain the Asian Games gold at Aichi-Nagoya in Japan.

- The Indian women kabaddi team won the gold medal at the 2026 Asian Games held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan
- India defeated Iran 37-34 in the final played on 26 September 2026 and retained its Asian Games kabaddi title
- Pushpa Rana captained the side and Neeta Moreshwar Dadwe was the head coach
- Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw felicitated the players at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi, on 16 October 2026
- Indian Railways supports athletes through the Railway Sports Promotion Board, whose players have competed at the Olympics and Commonwealth Games

Event	Kabaddi (women) at the 2026 Asian Games
Host city	Aichi-Nagoya, Japan
Medal	Gold, title retained
Final	India beat Iran 37-34 on 26 September 2026
Captain	Pushpa Rana
Head coach	Neeta Moreshwar Dadwe (South Central Railway)
Felicitation	Rail Bhawan, New Delhi, 16 October 2026
Supporting body	Railway Sports Promotion Board

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/asian-games-kabaddi-gold-team-honoured-at-rail-bhawan/

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AIIA Report: 37.74 Lakh Patients Treated in a Decade

16 October 2026 · Reports & Indices

The All India Institute of Ayurveda said 37,74,524 patients were treated across its campuses between October 2016 and September 2026, with footfall up fourfold.

- The All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi, treated 37,74,524 patients between October 2016 and September 2026, its ten-year report says
- About 30,37,077 of them were seen at the main campus in Sarita Vihar, which has a 200-bed inpatient wing and OPD capacity of about 3,000 patients a day
- Outreach and affiliated centres, including a satellite centre in Goa and units at Safdarjung Hospital, the UPSC Building, Jhajjar, Mussoorie and Kevadia, served about 7.37 lakh patients
- Patient numbers rose from about 1.23 lakh in 2020 to over 5.40 lakh by September 2026, a more than fourfold increase, said Director Prof. (Vaidya) P. K. Prajapati
- AIIA is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Ayush; the report was released on Foundation Day along with KAUMARACON-2026

Institute	All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi
Parent ministry	Ministry of Ayush (autonomous institution)
Patients in ten years	37,74,524 (October 2016 to September 2026)
At main campus	30,37,077 at Sarita Vihar, New Delhi
Capacity	About 3,000 OPD patients a day; 200-bed IPD
Outreach centres	About 7.37 lakh patients; satellite centre in Goa
Growth	About 1.23 lakh patients in 2020 to over 5.40 lakh by September 2026
Director	Prof. (Vaidya) P. K. Prajapati

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/aiia-report-3774-lakh-patients-treated-in-a-decade/

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Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 106 Young Artists

16 October 2026 · Awards & Honours

The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2024 and 2025 will go to 106 young artists in music, dance and drama at a ceremony in New Delhi on 19 October 2026.

- The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2024 and 2025 will be conferred on 106 young artists in music, dance and drama
- Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will present the awards on 19 October 2026 at Meghdoot Complex, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi
- The award was instituted by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2006 for artists up to the age of 40
- Each awardee receives Rs 25,000 in cash along with a Tamrapatra and an Angavastram
- The Akademi General Council selected the 106 artists unanimously at its meeting held in New Delhi from 22 to 26 March 2026

Award	Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2024 and 2025
Given by	Sangeet Natak Akademi
Instituted	2006, for artists up to the age of 40
Awardees	106 young artists in music, dance and drama
Ceremony	19 October 2026, Meghdoot Complex, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi
Conferred by	Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
Akademi Chairman	Dr Sandhya Purecha (presiding)
Award carries	Rs 25,000, a Tamrapatra and an Angavastram

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/bismillah-khan-yuva-puraskar-for-106-young-artists/

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CAQM Orders PTZ Cameras at NCR Polluting Industries

16 October 2026 · Environment

CAQM has extended mandatory PTZ camera monitoring to all industries covered by Direction No. 98 in the NCR, to be installed and running by 30 November 2026.

- CAQM has extended the requirement for Pan-Tilt-Zoom cameras to all industries covered by its Statutory Direction No. 98 in the NCR
- Covered units include the 17 categories of highly polluting industries identified by CPCB, medium and large Red Category air-polluting units, food, food processing and textile units with boilers, and metal units with furnaces
- Cameras must be installed at fuel-feeding points, gas meters, stacks, OCEMS sampling ports and fume extraction areas, with live feeds streamed to CPCB and state boards over RTSP
- All covered units must have the cameras installed and operational by 30 November 2026; the order supersedes the one issued on 5 October 2026
- Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and the Delhi administration, with CPCB and the pollution control boards, are to enforce the order

Regulator	Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM)
Order	Extends PTZ camera monitoring under Statutory Direction No. 98
Supersedes	The Commission order dated 5 October 2026
Deadline	Installation and operation by 30 November 2026
Industries covered	17 CPCB categories of highly polluting industries, medium and large Red Category units, food and textile units with boilers, metal units with furnaces
Streaming	Real time video over Real Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP) to CPCB, SPCB and DPCC servers
Enforcement	Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and the Delhi administration with CPCB and the boards
Reason	Flying squad inspections found use of unapproved fuels in NCR industrial units

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/caqm-orders-ptz-cameras-at-ncr-polluting-industries/

India Mining Week Shifted to 24-26 February 2027

16 October 2026 · Summits & Conferences

The Ministry of Coal has moved India Mining Week from November 2026 to 24-26 February 2027 at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in New Delhi.

- India Mining Week has been rescheduled from 15 to 17 November 2026 to 24 to 26 February 2027
- The event will be held at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in New Delhi and is organised under the Ministry of Coal
- The change followed consultation with industry partners, exhibitors, speakers and government stakeholders
- The new dates avoid clashes with other major events and the festival and winter travel period, helping participation by ministries, PSUs and global delegates
- All registrations, exhibitor bookings and sponsorship commitments transfer automatically; the venue, themes and format remain unchanged

Event	India Mining Week, flagship mining event
Ministry	Ministry of Coal
New dates	24 to 26 February 2027
Original dates	15 to 17 November 2026
Venue	Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi
Reason for change	Avoiding clashes with other events and the festive and winter travel period
Components	Exhibition, conference and business networking sessions
Bookings	Registrations, exhibitor bookings and sponsorships carried over automatically

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-mining-week-shifted-to-24-26-february-2027/

GK24.in

Vice-President Opens Navaratri Sargotsavam in Kozhikode

16 October 2026 · National

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated Navaratri Sargotsavam 2026 at Kozhikode in Kerala, released a book and gave the Sarga Kesari Award.

- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated Navaratri Sargotsavam 2026 at Kozhikode in Kerala on 16 October 2026
- He released the book Sangha Noottandile Akshara Mudrakal at the festival
- He presented the Sarga Kesari Award to P. R. Rajendran for his contribution to the fine arts
- The festival is organised by Kesari Weekly, which he praised for its role in Malayalam journalism and freedom of expression
- Kerala and Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and Rajya Sabha MP C. Sadanandan Master were present at the event

Event	Navaratri Sargotsavam 2026
Inaugurated by	Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan
Place	Kozhikode, Kerala
Date	16 October 2026
Organiser	Kesari Weekly
Book released	Sangha Noottandile Akshara Mudrakal
Award presented	Sarga Kesari Award to P. R. Rajendran, for the fine arts
Governor present	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Governor of Kerala and Tamil Nadu

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/vice-president-opens-navaratri-sargotsavam-in-kozhikode/

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Revised NSF Assistance Scheme Gets Rs 7,386.74 Crore Outlay

16 October 2026 · Sports

The Sports Ministry issued guidelines for the revised Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations, continued till 2030-31 with an outlay of Rs 7,386.74 crore.

- The revised Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations runs from 2026-27 to 2030-31 with an outlay of Rs 7,386.74 crore
- The period matches the 16th Finance Commission cycle and the guidelines carry revised norms for every component
- A federation can get up to Rs 50 crore for hosting an international event in India and up to Rs 50 crore for conducting the National Games
- Single-sport Olympic Training Centres will be set up to cut the reliance of elite Indian athletes on training abroad
- New components back indigenous games, Global South cooperation and sports events for bodies such as BRICS and BIMSTEC

Scheme	Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF), revised
Ministry	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Outlay	Rs 7,386.74 crore
Period	2026-27 to 2030-31 (16th Finance Commission cycle)
Hosting an international event	Up to Rs 50 crore per event
National Games support	Up to Rs 50 crore
Proposals assessed by	Committee headed by Secretary (Sports)
Targets	Commonwealth Games 2030 and the 2036 Olympic bid

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/revised-nsf-assistance-scheme-gets-rs-738674-crore-outlay/

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PMAY-U 2.0: 1.93 Lakh More Houses Cleared at 10th CSMC

16 October 2026 · Government Schemes

The 10th CSMC meeting of PMAY-U 2.0 cleared 1.93 lakh more urban houses on 16 October 2026, pushing the mission's total sanctions to 20.80 lakh houses.

- The 10th CSMC meeting under PMAY-U 2.0, held in New Delhi on 16 October 2026, approved 1.93 lakh additional houses
- Total houses sanctioned under PMAY-U 2.0 now stand at 20.80 lakh, cleared for 11 participating states
- Uttar Pradesh took the largest share with 73,182 houses, followed by Bihar with 52,866 and Telangana with 18,120
- PMAY-U 2.0, launched in September 2024, gives up to Rs 2.50 lakh each to 1 crore urban families earning up to Rs 9 lakh a year
- 20.16 lakh houses, or 97 per cent of those sanctioned, are owned or co-owned by women

Scheme	Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0)
Meeting	10th CSMC meeting, New Delhi, 16 October 2026
Chaired by	Satendra Singh, Secretary, Department of Urban Development, MoHUA
New approvals	1.93 lakh houses across 11 states
Cumulative sanctions	20.80 lakh houses under PMAY-U 2.0
Launched	September 2024
Assistance	Up to Rs 2.50 lakh per family; income ceiling Rs 9 lakh a year
Verticals	BLC, AHP, Affordable Rental Housing, Interest Subsidy Scheme

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/pmay-u-20-193-lakh-more-houses-cleared-at-10th-csmc/

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ITRA Jamnagar Hosts Ayu-Tech Navonmesh 2026 on AI in Ayurveda

16 October 2026 · Summits & Conferences

ITRA Jamnagar marked its sixth Foundation Day as ITRA Day and held Ayu-Tech Navonmesh 2026, a national conference on artificial intelligence and Ayurveda.

- ITRA Jamnagar observed its sixth Foundation Day as ITRA Day on 15 October 2026 and held the national conference Ayu-Tech Navonmesh 2026 on AI and Ayurveda
- ITRA is the first Ayurveda institute in India to receive the status of Institute of National Importance; PM Narendra Modi dedicated it to the nation on 15 October 2020
- Its NABH-accredited 300-bed hospital has treated 18,47,807 patients through 22 OPDs in six years and 27,520 patients in the IPD
- Prof. Tanuja Nesari is the Director of ITRA, Jamnagar, which functions under the Ministry of Ayush
- The institute's television channel, Ayush Next Communication Network (ANCN), completed one year

Institute	Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar, Gujarat
Ministry	Ministry of Ayush
Conference	Ayu-Tech Navonmesh 2026, on AI and Ayurveda
Occasion	Sixth Foundation Day, observed as ITRA Day on 15 October 2026
Status	First Ayurveda institute declared an Institute of National Importance
Dedicated to the nation	By Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15 October 2020
Director	Prof. Tanuja Nesari
Hospital	NABH-accredited, 300 beds

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/itra-jamnagar-hosts-ayu-tech-navonmesh-2026-on-ai-in-ayurveda/

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17 October 2026

IDBI Bank Stake: Ministry Cites 2003 Repeal Act and Court Ruling

17 October 2026 · Banking & Finance

The Finance Ministry said on 17 October 2026 that the IDBI (Repeal) Act, 2003 carries no bar on the Government reducing or divesting its stake in IDBI Bank.

- The Ministry of Finance clarified on 17 October 2026 that the IDBI (Repeal) Act, 2003 contains no bar on the Government reducing or divesting its shareholding in IDBI Bank.
- An amendment moved during the 2003 parliamentary debate to restrict dilution of the Government's stake was rejected and did not form part of the enacted law.
- The Delhi High Court dismissed All India IDBI Officers' Association versus Union of India on 17 December 2018, holding in paragraphs 41 and 42 that statements in Parliament cannot override a statute.
- The court ruled the doctrine of promissory estoppel wholly inapplicable, so a parliamentary assurance cannot restrain the Government from diluting its holding.
- Union Budget 2016-17 spoke of considering a cut in the stake below 50 per cent, and Union Budget 2021-22 listed IDBI Bank among strategic disinvestment transactions.

Issued by	Ministry of Finance
Date of clarification	17 October 2026
Law in question	IDBI (Repeal) Act, 2003
Court	Delhi High Court
Case	All India IDBI Officers' Association versus Union of India and Others
Judgment date	17 December 2018
Paragraphs cited	41 and 42
Doctrine held inapplicable	Promissory estoppel

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/idbi-bank-stake-ministry-cites-2003-repeal-act-and-court-ruling/

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Kashmir Connectivity: USBRL, Chenab Bridge and Zojila Tunnel

17 October 2026 · National

PIB's backgrounder on Jammu and Kashmir connectivity sets out the Rs 43,780 crore USBRL rail link, the record Chenab arch bridge and the Zojila tunnel.

- The Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link opened in June 2025 at a cost of Rs 43,780 crore and runs 272 km with 36 tunnels and 943 bridges.
- The Chenab Rail Bridge in Reasi district is the world’s highest railway arch bridge: 1,315 m long, a 467 m arch and 359 m above the riverbed.
- Tunnel T50, 12.77 km from Khari to Sumber, is India’s longest transport tunnel, while Anji Khad is India’s first cable-stayed railway bridge.
- The Zojila Tunnel on National Highway-1 is 13.153 km long, costs Rs 6,808 crore and saw its main tunnel break through in June 2026.
- A Rs 1,677 crore expansion of the Srinagar airport civil enclave, with a 71,500 square metre terminal, was cleared in February 2026.

Released by	Press Information Bureau (PIB Research) backgrounder, 17 October 2026
USBRL	272 km, Rs 43,780 crore, inaugurated June 2025
On the USBRL alignment	36 tunnels totalling 119 km and 943 bridges
Chenab Rail Bridge	World’s highest railway arch bridge, 1,315 m long, 467 m arch, 359 m above riverbed, Reasi district
Anji Khad Bridge	India’s first cable-stayed railway bridge, 473.25 m, single 193 m inverted-Y pylon
Tunnel T50	India’s longest transport tunnel, 12.77 km, Khari to Sumber, opened 2024
Sonamarg (Z-Morh) Tunnel	6.4 km, altitude 2,634 m, cost over Rs 2,700 crore, opened January 2025
Zojila Tunnel	13.153 km on National Highway-1, Rs 6,808 crore, built by NHIDCL, breakthrough June 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/kashmir-connectivity-usbrl-chenab-bridge-and-zojila-tunnel/

FSSAI Draft Bars Added Sucrose, Fructose in Infant Foods

17 October 2026 · National

FSSAI has gazetted a draft amendment that would stop sucrose and fructose being added to food products meant for infants up to six months of age.

- FSSAI has notified a draft amendment that would prohibit added sucrose and fructose in food products intended for infants up to six months of age.
- The draft, carried by the Gazette of India on 16 October 2026, amends the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020.
- The parent rules cover infant foods for children from birth to twenty-four months and treat lactose and glucose polymers as the preferred carbohydrate sources.
- Objections and suggestions may be filed within sixty days of the Official Gazette copies becoming available to the public.
- The step runs alongside the advice on breastfeeding alone for the first six months and targets early exposure to added sugars.

Regulator	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
Ministry	Health and Family Welfare
Draft	Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Amendment Regulations, 2026
Parent rules	Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020
Gazette date	16 October 2026
What is barred	Added sucrose and fructose
Age group	Infants up to six months
Preferred carbohydrates	Lactose and glucose polymers

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/fssai-draft-bars-added-sucrose-fructose-in-infant-foods/

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Bhupender Yadav Meets Start-ups on Delhi-NCR Air Pollution

17 October 2026 · Environment

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav met start-up innovators on 17 October 2026 to find affordable, scalable technology answers to Delhi-NCR air pollution.

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav interacted with start-ups and innovation companies on 17 October 2026 for technology-driven answers to Delhi-NCR air pollution.
- The meeting came under the campaign theme 'Saaf Hawa mein Hissedaari, Hum Sabhi ki hai Zimmedaari', with Union MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh and Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa present.
- The Minister put out problem statements covering 9 key areas of air pollution management, placing the effort beside the Graded Response Action Plan, cleaner fuels and electric mobility.
- Solutions shown ranged from tamper-proof OCEMS and PUC systems to AI-based source apportionment, drone mapping and round-the-clock detection of stubble burning.
- Yadav sought guidelines on parali storage with MoAFW, CAQM and CPCB, an in-field crop-residue storage model, and OCEMS data joined to plant-operation data.

Who	Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav
What	Interaction with start-ups and innovation companies on air pollution mitigation
Focus region	Delhi-NCR
Campaign theme	Saaf Hawa mein Hissedaari, Hum Sabhi ki hai Zimmedaari
Problem statements	9 key areas of air pollution management
Union MoS present	Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh
Delhi minister present	Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa (Environment, Forest and Wildlife, GNCTD)
Bodies represented	MoEFCC, MoHUA, MoAFW, Delhi government, CAQM, CPCB, DPCC

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/bhupender-yadav-meets-start-ups-on-delhi-ncr-air-pollution/

GK24.in

India Eyes USD 40-45 Billion Space Economy in 7-8 Years

17 October 2026 · Science & Technology

Dr Jitendra Singh said India's space economy, now about USD 9 billion, should reach USD 40-45 billion in seven to eight years as private investment rises.

- India's space economy is worth about USD 9 billion now and is projected to touch USD 40-45 billion in the next seven to eight years.
- Dr Jitendra Singh spoke at the 'Space, Sovereignty and New Economy' roundtable organised by the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in New Delhi.
- The space sector was opened to private participation in 2019-2020; the Minister credited the five to six years since for the results.
- IN-SPACe Director (Promotion) Vinod Kumar and former NASA engineer Aisha Bowe, founder of STEMBoard and LINGO, were among the participants.
- India supplies space-based disaster management information to Myanmar, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Present size	About USD 9 billion
Projection	USD 40-45 billion in seven to eight years
Said by	Dr Jitendra Singh, MoS (IC) Science and Technology and Earth Sciences
Event	Media roundtable on 'Space, Sovereignty and New Economy'
Organiser and venue	Bloomberg New Economy Forum, New Delhi
Sector opened to private players	2019-2020
Regulator named	IN-SPACe, the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre
Disaster support given to	Myanmar, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/india-eyes-usd-40-45-billion-space-economy-in-7-8-years/

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Project Seabird Phase IIA Facilities Opened at Karwar Base

17 October 2026 · Defence

Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan opened 300 dwelling units and a health complex taking INHS Patanjali to 409 beds under Project Seabird Phase IIA at Karwar.

- Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, FOC-in-C Western Naval Command, inaugurated Project Seabird Phase IIA facilities at Karwar on 15 October 2026.
- Five towers with 300 dwelling units for naval defence civilians and a Station Health Organisation complex were opened.
- The health complex takes the naval hospital INHS Patanjali to a capacity of 409 beds.
- Phase IIA also covers a dual-use naval air station, a full naval dockyard and logistics facilities for ships and aircraft.
- The base houses about 10,000 uniformed and civilian personnel with families; over ninety per cent of material is sourced in India.

Project and phase	Project Seabird, Phase IIA
Location	Naval Base Karwar, Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka
Inaugurated by	Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, FOC-in-C, Western Naval Command
Date of inauguration	15 October 2026
Also present	Vice Admiral Vivek Dahiya, Director General Seabird
Housing	Five towers, 300 dwelling units for naval defence civilians
Hospital	INHS Patanjali, enlarged to 409 beds
Water reservoir	Hill-top reservoir of two lakh litres, with a sewage treatment plant

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/project-seabird-phase-iia-facilities-opened-at-karwar-base/

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IITM Pune Hosts First CSSIF Climate Services Consultation

17 October 2026 · Summits & Conferences

IITM Pune held the first stakeholder meeting of the Climate Science into Services for India Forum with 150 participants from over 80 institutions.

- The first Stakeholder Consultation Meeting of the Climate Science into Services for India Forum was held at IITM, Pune, on 17 October 2026.
- More than 150 participants from over 80 institutions took part, from ministries, agencies, research bodies, NGOs, civil society and industry.
- IITM, Pune, functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences; its Director Dr A. Suryachandra Rao gave the welcome address.
- Prof V. K. Dadhwal, former Director of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, was the Chief Guest.
- Sessions discussed the need for a Climate Services Information System for India and sector groups on water, agriculture, health, energy and disasters.

Event	First Stakeholder Consultation Meeting of the Climate Science into Services for India Forum (CSSIF)
Host and venue	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune
Parent ministry	Ministry of Earth Sciences
Date	17 October 2026
Participation	More than 150 participants from over 80 institutions
Director, IITM	Dr A. Suryachandra Rao
Chief Guest	Prof V. K. Dadhwal, former Director, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
System proposed	Climate Services Information System (CSIS) for the nation

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/iitm-pune-hosts-first-cssif-climate-services-consultation/

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FSSAI Draft Fixes Pesticide Residue Limits for Tea

17 October 2026 · National

FSSAI has proposed residue limits of 20 ppm for Acetamiprid and 50 ppm for Imidacloprid in tea, with the Acetamiprid cap tighter than Japan's and America's.

- FSSAI has notified a draft amendment proposing Maximum Residue Limits for Acetamiprid and Imidacloprid in tea.
- The draft regulations were published in the Gazette of India on 16 October 2026 and stakeholder comments have been invited.
- Proposed limits are 20 mg per kg (20 ppm) for Acetamiprid and 50 mg per kg (50 ppm) for Imidacloprid.
- The Acetamiprid limit is lower than the 30 ppm allowed in Japan and the 50 ppm allowed in the United States of America.
- India's average pesticide use is under 0.5 kg per hectare against a global average of 2.38 kg per hectare; 13 highly toxic pesticides were delisted earlier.

Regulator	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
Draft	Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulations, 2026
Gazette date	16 October 2026
Commodity	Tea
Acetamiprid limit proposed	20 mg per kg (20 ppm)
Imidacloprid limit proposed	50 mg per kg (50 ppm)
Comparison	Japan allows 30 ppm and the USA 50 ppm of Acetamiprid in tea
Reference standard	Codex standards, for the Imidacloprid limit

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/fssai-draft-fixes-pesticide-residue-limits-for-tea/

GK24.in

Khet Bachao Abhiyan to Run 22 October to 30 November

17 October 2026 · Government Schemes

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviewed the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, which runs from 22 October to 30 November 2026 with a target of 4,150 teams.

- The Khet Bachao Abhiyan will be held from 22 October to 30 November 2026 to spread awareness of improved and sustainable farming practices.
- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviewed preparations in a virtual meeting with agriculture ministers of eleven states.
- A target of 4,150 teams of Krishi Vigyan Kendras and ATMA has been set, with more than 12,000 scientists and ATMA functionaries expected to join.
- Two events a day on average, that is 1.5 lakh meetings in all, are planned; ATMA and ICAR are each to reach 50 lakh participants.
- Camps will cover the Farmer ID, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, Kisan Credit Card, soil health cards, seed and machinery distribution.

Campaign	Khet Bachao Abhiyan
Duration	22 October to 30 November 2026
Reviewed by	Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
Review meeting	Virtual meeting with state agriculture ministers on 17 October 2026
Also present	MoS Bhagirath Choudhary, Secretary Atish Chandra, ICAR Director General Dr M. L. Jat
Teams targeted	4,150 teams of Krishi Vigyan Kendras and ATMA
Scientists and staff	More than 12,000 expected to take part
Meetings targeted	1.5 lakh, at an average of two events a day

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/khet-bachao-abhiyan-to-run-22-october-to-30-november/

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Vande Mataram at 150: Youth Dialogue Held in Bhopal

17 October 2026 · National

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan joined a youth dialogue marking 150 years of Vande Mataram and planted saplings at Smart City Park, Bhopal.

- A Yuva Samvad was held to mark 150 glorious years of Vande Mataram, attended by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- The Minister planted saplings with youth from seven states at Smart City Park in Bhopal and answered their questions.
- He called MY Bharat a large platform for preparing the creative strength of youth for the building of a developed India.
- On crimes against women and girls he sought the harshest punishment and a faster process of justice, recalling the death penalty law made when he was Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.
- He asked young people to verify facts before sharing anything on social media and to use it for knowledge and positive ideas.

Occasion	150 glorious years of Vande Mataram
Programme	Yuva Samvad, a youth dialogue
Minister present	Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
Venue	Smart City Park, Bhopal
Participants	Youth and MY Bharat volunteers from seven states
Activity	Tree plantation with the young participants, followed by an open dialogue
Platform named	MY Bharat, described as a large platform for creative youth power
Day	Saturday; reported by the Ministry of Agriculture on 17 October 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/vande-mataram-at-150-youth-dialogue-held-in-bhopal/

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Yoga evam Aatm-Suraksha Diwas Opens Nasha Mukt Yuva Month 2

17 October 2026 · Government Schemes

MY Bharat and NSS marked Yoga evam Aatm-Suraksha Diwas on 16 October 2026 to open Month 2 of the Nasha Mukt Yuva Abhiyan, drawing 91,179 participants.

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, through MY Bharat and NSS, observed Yoga evam Aatm-Suraksha Diwas nationwide on 16 October 2026 to begin Month 2 of the Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat 100 Week Sankalp Abhiyan.
- Month 2 runs under the theme Fit Youth, Addiction-Free Youth (Shakti evam Seva); the campaign itself was inaugurated by the Prime Minister.
- Week 5 drew 91,179 participants across 183 educational institutions, NSS units and adopted villages in the country.
- The week held 332 yoga sessions for 34,290 participants and 311 self-defence demonstrations for 31,507 participants, besides 180 community awareness activities for 25,391 people.
- Women made up 57.1% of total participation, and 4,197 social media posts went out under the NashaMuktYuva hashtag.

Campaign	Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat 100 Week Sankalp Abhiyan, now in its second month
Ministry	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Implemented through	MY Bharat and the National Service Scheme (NSS)
Observance	Yoga evam Aatm-Suraksha Diwas (Yoga and Self-Defence Day), held nationwide on 16 October 2026
Month 2 theme	Fit Youth, Addiction-Free Youth (Shakti evam Seva)
Week 5 participation	91,179 people across 183 educational institutions, NSS units and adopted villages
Yoga sessions	332 sessions with 34,290 participants, including 19,882 women
Self-defence demonstrations	311 demonstrations with 31,507 participants, including 18,364 women

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/yoga-evam-aatm-suraksha-diwas-opens-nasha-mukt-yuva-month-2/

World Menopause Day 2026: Ayush Ministry Pushes Ayurveda Care

17 October 2026 · Important Days

For World Menopause Day 2026, observed on 18 October, the Ministry of Ayush and CCRAS set out Ayurvedic care, Rasayana therapy and yoga for menopausal health.

- World Menopause Day falls on 18 October every year; the Ministry of Ayush used the 2026 observance to press awareness, preventive care and research on menopausal health.
- Menopause is the permanent end of menstruation caused by the loss of ovarian follicular activity, and it usually begins between the ages of 45 and 55.
- Ayurveda discusses menopause and its clinical features as Rajonivritti and reads it as a natural transformation rather than a disorder.
- CCRAS, the Ayush research council, is validating classical formulations such as Ashokarista and Amalaki Rasayana for hormonal balance, bone health and emotional resilience.
- Perimenopause, as the WHO frames it, runs from the first menstrual change until one year after the final menstrual period.

Observance	World Menopause Day 2026
Date	18 October every year
Ministry	Ministry of Ayush
Research body	Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)
Ayurvedic term	Rajonivritti
Usual age of onset	Between 45 and 55 years
Ayush Secretary	Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha
CCRAS Director General	Prof. Rabinarayan Acharya

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/world-menopause-day-2026-ayush-ministry-pushes-ayurveda-care/

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CAQM Reviews NCR Enforcement: 124 Inspections, 55 Violations

17 October 2026 · Environment

The CAQM Enforcement Task Force, at its 141st meeting, reviewed 124 inspections across the NCR over a 15-day window that threw up 55 pollution violations.

- The CAQM Enforcement Task Force held its 141st meeting on 16 October 2026 to review air pollution enforcement across the National Capital Region.
- A total of 124 inspections were reported for 25 September to 9 October 2026: six at construction and demolition sites, 54 industrial and 64 on diesel generator sets.
- The inspections produced 55 violations, with closure proposed for two construction projects and three industrial units and sealing for 12 units.
- CAQM Flying Squads had inspected 28,868 units, projects and entities in all as on 16 October 2026, issuing 1,837 closure directions and 1,491 resumption orders.
- The Commission told its squads to focus inspections on Red and Orange category industries, particularly units running furnaces and boilers.

Body	Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM)
Enforcement wing	Enforcement Task Force (ETF)
Meeting	141st ETF meeting, held 16 October 2026
Reporting period	25 September to 9 October 2026 (15 days)
Inspections	124 in all: six C&D, 54 industrial, 64 DG sets
Violations	55 in all: five C&D, 35 industrial, 15 DG sets
Closure proposed	Two C&D projects and three industrial units
Flying Squad inspections	28,868 units, projects and entities as on 16 October 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/caqm-reviews-ncr-enforcement-124-inspections-55-violations/

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Supreme Court Panel HPEC Opens Portal on Jantar Mantar Case

17 October 2026 · National

The High Powered Enquiry Committee set up by the Supreme Court on the July 2026 Jantar Mantar violence has opened a portal for complaints from affected people.

- The High Powered Enquiry Committee, or HPEC, was constituted by the Supreme Court of India to enquire into the violence at Jantar Mantar in Delhi and elsewhere during July 2026.
- The Committee has launched a portal at hpec.nic.in so that affected persons, including affected police personnel, can upload complaints and representations.
- Its mandate covers the issues listed in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Supreme Court order of 18 August 2026 and paragraph 5(i) of the order of 10 September 2026.
- Priority will go to the use of pellet guns, targeted violence, harassment of female protestors, and excessive violence and destruction of property on either side.
- The portal keeps the identity of an affected person confidential if so wished, and papers can also be filed at the HPEC office at Shiksha Sadan, Rouse Avenue, New Delhi.

Body	High Powered Enquiry Committee (HPEC)
Constituted by	The Supreme Court of India
Subject of enquiry	Violence at Jantar Mantar, Delhi, and at places outside Delhi during July 2026
Portal	hpec.nic.in
Mandate from	Paragraphs 12 and 13 of the order of 18 August 2026 and paragraph 5(i) of the order of 10 September 2026
Priority matters	Pellet guns, targeted violence, harassment of female protestors, excessive violence and destruction of property
Office	Shiksha Sadan, 17, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, New Delhi
Counter timings	1400 hours to 1600 hours on working days

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/supreme-court-panel-hpec-opens-portal-on-jantar-mantar-case/

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Commerce Dept Holds FTA Outreach for Exporters in Jaipur

17 October 2026 · Economy

The Department of Commerce held a Leveraging FTAs outreach in Jaipur as exports for April to September 2026-27 touched US$ 476.20 billion, up 13.84 per cent.

- The Department of Commerce organised the Leveraging FTAs outreach programme in Jaipur, Rajasthan, addressed by Joint Secretary Shri Mohit Yadav.
- Cumulative exports for April to September 2026-27 are estimated at US$ 476.20 billion against US$ 418.31 billion a year earlier, a growth of 13.84 per cent.
- India ranks eighth among global gems and jewellery exporters with a 2.9 per cent share of a market of about US$ 1 trillion.
- India trade agreements and arrangements include partners such as the UAE, Australia, the EFTA countries and the United Kingdom.
- Rajasthan aims to be a US$ 350 billion economy by 2029 with exports of ₹1.5 lakh crore, under the Rajasthan Export Promotion Policy 2024.

Programme	Leveraging FTAs - Outreach Programme
Organiser	Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Venue	Jaipur, Rajasthan
Addressed by	Joint Secretary Shri Mohit Yadav
Exports, April to September 2026-27	US$ 476.20 billion (estimated)
Same period of 2025-26	US$ 418.31 billion
Export growth	13.84 per cent (estimated)
Gems and jewellery rank	India eighth globally, 2.9 per cent share

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/commerce-dept-holds-fta-outreach-for-exporters-in-jaipur/

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Yuva Samvaad: One Lakh Young Leaders Plan, Says Mandaviya

17 October 2026 · National

At the Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvaad in Porbandar, Mansukh Mandaviya said one lakh young leaders are being developed nationwide and urged youth to adopt Panch Pran.

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya addressed the Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvaad at Kutiyana in Porbandar district, Gujarat, on 17 October 2026.
- He said efforts are on under the Prime Minister guidance to develop one lakh young leaders across the country.
- The MY Bharat portal was named as the platform offering youth participation, career guidance and leadership development.
- He recalled the Panch Pran, the five pledges announced from the Red Fort, and the 25-year Amrit Kaal leading to the centenary of independence in 2047.
- The Minister linked Nasha Mukt Bharat to development, urging youth to adopt Nation First and help build a drug-free India.

Programme	Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvaad
Minister	Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports
Constituency	Member of Parliament from Porbandar
Venue	S. M. Jadeja Arts and Commerce College, Kutiyana, Porbandar district, Gujarat
Date	17 October 2026
Target announced	One lakh young leaders across the country
Platform	MY Bharat portal
Panch Pran	Developed India, no colonial mindset, pride in heritage, unity, civic duties

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/yuva-samvaad-one-lakh-young-leaders-plan-says-mandaviya/

GK24.in

Mines Ministry in Swachhata Hi Seva 2026: 136 Units Renewed

17 October 2026 · Government Schemes

The Ministry of Mines reported 136 Cleanliness Target Units transformed with 10,723 participants and 59 public spaces cleaned under Swachhata Hi Seva 2026.

- The Ministry of Mines and its field offices took part in the Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2026, covering drives, Cleanliness Target Units, public spaces and Safai Mitra welfare.
- A total of 136 Cleanliness Target Units were transformed under the campaign, with 10,723 participants contributing to that work.
- In addition, 59 public spaces were cleaned, with 5,498 individuals taking part in those drives.
- The campaign opened with the Swachhata pledge administered under Secretary Shri Keshav Chandra, while Union Coal and Mines Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy joined a drive at Yashwant Palace Market, Chanakyapuri.
- A health camp for Safai Mitras and ministry employees was held at Khanij Kaksh, GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi.

Campaign	Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) Campaign 2026
Ministry	Ministry of Mines, with its field offices
Cleanliness Target Units transformed	136
Participants in CTU work	10,723
Public spaces cleaned	59
Participants in public space cleaning	5,498
Secretary, Ministry of Mines	Shri Keshav Chandra
Union Minister for Coal and Mines	Shri G. Kishan Reddy

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/mines-ministry-in-swachhata-hi-seva-2026-136-units-renewed/

gk24.in

NPPA Caps Trade Margin on 137 Anti-Cancer Drugs at 30%

17 October 2026 · Economy

NPPA has capped the trade margin on 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs at 30% of MRP, and the cheaper prices will be charged from 9 November 2026.

- NPPA has rationalised the trade margin on 137 identified non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs and capped it at 30% of the Maximum Retail Price
- The cap uses Paragraph 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013; the gazette notification is dated 17 October 2026
- Retail prices of the listed medicines are expected to fall by up to 70%, and the new rates apply from 9 November 2026
- In the 2019 pilot the margin on 42 anti-cancer drugs was capped at 30% and the MRP of 526 brands fell by up to 90%
- Manufacturers must report revised prices within 7 days; buyers can check rates on the Pharma Sahi Daam app

Regulator	National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)
Ministry	Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Pharmaceuticals
Drugs covered	137 identified non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs
Trade margin cap	30% of Maximum Retail Price
Legal provision	Paragraph 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013
Notification date	17 October 2026
Effective from	9 November 2026
Expected price cut	Up to 70% of existing MRP

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/nppa-caps-trade-margin-on-137-anti-cancer-drugs-at-30percent/

GK24.in

First Training Squadron Departs Seychelles After Port Call

17 October 2026 · Defence

INS Tir, INS Sujata and ICGS Sarathi of the First Training Squadron left Port Victoria in Seychelles after a port call that included a PASSEX at sea.

- Ships of the Indian Navy First Training Squadron (1TS) left Port Victoria, Seychelles, on 15 October 2026 after a port call that began on 12 October 2026
- The squadron comprised INS Tir, INS Sujata and the Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi
- Officers called on Major General Michael Rosette, Chief of Defence Forces of the Seychelles Defence Force
- A Passage Exercise (PASSEX) was held with Seychelles Coast Guard Ship Andromache, with joint patrolling, communication drills and coordinated manoeuvres
- The deployment follows the MAHASAGAR vision, Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions

Squadron	Indian Navy First Training Squadron (1TS)
Ships	INS Tir, INS Sujata and ICGS Sarathi
Port visited	Port Victoria, Seychelles
Port call	12 October 2026 to 15 October 2026
Exercise	Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with SCGS Andromache
Officer met	Maj Gen Michael Rosette, Chief of Defence Forces, Seychelles Defence Force
Vision	MAHASAGAR: Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions
Ministry	Ministry of Defence

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/first-training-squadron-departs-seychelles-after-port-call/

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NBA Gives Rs 1.19 Crore to 29 State Biodiversity Boards

17 October 2026 · Environment

The National Biodiversity Authority has released Rs 1.19 crore of Access and Benefit Sharing money to 29 State Biodiversity Boards and one UT council.

- The National Biodiversity Authority disbursed Rs 1.19 crore under Access and Benefit Sharing to 29 State Biodiversity Boards and one Union Territory Biodiversity Council
- Maharashtra received the largest share, followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh; the whole distribution added up to Rs 1,18,61,655
- Shares were fixed in proportion to the estimated cultivation area of each resource, using data from the Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics
- The money must be spent only on purposes listed in Section 32(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- NBA has disbursed Rs 86 crore from the agriculture sector and more than Rs 203 crore in total so far

Body	National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)
Ministry	Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Mechanism	Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
Amount disbursed	Rs 1.19 crore (Rs 1,18,61,655)
Recipients	29 State Biodiversity Boards and one UT Biodiversity Council
Largest share	Maharashtra, first in the allocation list
Second and third	Rajasthan second and Madhya Pradesh third
Crops involved	Maize, rice, pearl millet and cotton

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/nba-gives-rs-119-crore-to-29-state-biodiversity-boards/

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CAQM Team Reviews Stubble Management in Firozpur, Faridkot

17 October 2026 · Environment

A CAQM team led by Dr T. S. Panwar reviewed paddy stubble management in Firozpur and Faridkot districts of Punjab and visited hotspot villages.

- A high level CAQM team led by Dr T. S. Panwar, Member (Technical), visited Firozpur and Faridkot districts of Punjab to review paddy stubble management
- The visit followed an earlier CAQM trip to Moga district; a joint review meeting was held at the Deputy Commissioner office in Firozpur
- Availability and deployment of Crop Residue Management machinery, field surveillance, hotspot monitoring and enforcement were reviewed
- The Commission pressed for drones and low cost sensors for technology based monitoring, and for farmer awareness about stubble burning and PM2.5
- The team then visited selected hotspot villages in both districts to assess ground level implementation

Body	Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM)
Team led by	Dr T. S. Panwar, Member (Technical), CAQM
Districts visited	Firozpur and Faridkot, Punjab
Earlier visit	Moga district, Punjab
Meeting venue	Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur
Machinery	Crop Residue Management (CRM) machinery
Technology for monitoring	Drones and low cost sensors
Pollutant highlighted	PM2.5

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/caqm-team-reviews-stubble-management-in-firozpur-faridkot/

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Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 at Mysuru Features 83 Stalls

17 October 2026 · National

The Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 at Mysuru has 83 stalls, of which 80 are with artisans including 37 women, with 12 States and Union Territories taking part.

- Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 is being held at the Mysuru Dasara Exhibition Grounds in Karnataka from 11 October to 19 October, organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- The fair has 83 stalls, of which 80 are allotted to artisans, and 37 of the participating artisans are women
- Artisans from 12 States and Union Territories are taking part; the fair is run jointly by NSFDC, NBCFDC and NSKFDC
- The Ministry has organised these fairs since 2022, with 975 artisans benefiting from 13 fairs so far; Mysuru is the first of the financial year 2026-27
- BHARAT TULIP, the Traditional Artisans Upliftment Livelihood Programme, is being promoted to sell artisan products on digital platforms

Event	Shilp Samagam Mela 2026
Venue	Mysuru Dasara Exhibition Grounds, Mysuru, Karnataka
Duration	Nine days, 11 October to 19 October
Ministry	Social Justice and Empowerment
Stalls	83 in all, 80 allotted to artisans
Women artisans	37
Participation	12 States and Union Territories
Organising corporations	NSFDC, NBCFDC and NSKFDC

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/shilp-samagam-mela-2026-at-mysuru-features-83-stalls/

GK24.in

CBN Holds Five Mission Yuva Raksha Drug Camps in MP

17 October 2026 · State News

The Central Bureau of Narcotics Madhya Pradesh Unit held five drug awareness programmes under Mission Yuva Raksha at colleges and schools in October 2026.

- The Central Bureau of Narcotics, Madhya Pradesh Unit, organised five drug awareness programmes under Mission Yuva Raksha during October 2026
- The venues were at Neemuch, Jaora, Jawad, Mandsaur and Garoth, and the Brahma Kumaris partnered in two of the programmes
- About 450 students attended at the CM Rise Government School, Jawad, and nearly 450 at the CM Rise School, Sabakheda in Mandsaur
- Around 200 students and teachers took part at Neemuch and about 230 at the Sanskar Valley Higher Secondary School, Garoth
- Sessions used question and answer competitions, videos, presentations, meditation and poster making, and ended with a pledge against drug use

Agency	Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), Madhya Pradesh Unit
Ministry	Ministry of Finance
Campaign	Mission Yuva Raksha
Linked campaign	Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan
Number of programmes	Five, during October 2026
Places	Neemuch, Jaora, Jawad, Mandsaur and Garoth
Partner organisation	Brahma Kumaris
Largest gatherings	About 450 students each at Jawad and at Sabakheda, Mandsaur

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/cbn-holds-five-mission-yuva-raksha-drug-camps-in-mp/

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Exercise KONKAN-26 Concludes off Plymouth with INS Trishul

17 October 2026 · Defence

The India-UK bilateral maritime exercise KONKAN-26 ended off Plymouth in Britain, with INS Trishul and the Royal Navy frigate HMS Sutherland taking part.

- KONKAN-26, the India-UK bilateral maritime exercise, concluded off Plymouth in the United Kingdom on 15 October 2026 after a run that began on 8 October
- The Indian Navy was represented by the stealth frigate INS Trishul and the Royal Navy by HMS Sutherland, a Duke-class anti-submarine warfare frigate
- The exercise was conducted by the Royal Navy's Fleet Operational Standards and Training (FOST) organisation
- The sea phase lasted four days, from 12 to 15 October 2026, and covered seamanship manoeuvres, joint tactical drills, anti-surface asymmetric warfare, anti-submarine warfare and weapon firings
- The stated aim was higher interoperability between the two navies and an exchange of professional expertise and best practices

Exercise	KONKAN-26 (India-UK bilateral maritime exercise)
Location	Off Plymouth, United Kingdom
Dates	8 to 15 October 2026; sea phase 12 to 15 October 2026
Indian ship	INS Trishul (stealth frigate)
UK ship	HMS Sutherland (Duke-class anti-submarine warfare frigate)
Conducted by	Fleet Operational Standards and Training (FOST), Royal Navy
Focus areas	Seamanship manoeuvres, joint tactical drills, anti-surface asymmetric warfare, anti-submarine warfare, weapon firings

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/exercise-konkan-26-concludes-off-plymouth-with-ins-trishul/

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AIIA Marks 10th Foundation Day with Two MoUs at KAUMARACON 2026

17 October 2026 · National

The All India Institute of Ayurveda observed its 10th Foundation Day in New Delhi, signing two MoUs and releasing over 15 publications as KAUMARACON 2026 closed.

- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi, celebrated its 10th Foundation Day on the concluding day of KAUMARACON 2026, a three-day international conference on Kaumarabhritya
- AIIA signed two MoUs, with Rashtriya Ayurved Vidyapeeth and with Arogya Bharati, for institutional collaboration and knowledge-sharing in Ayurveda
- The Department of Kaumarbhritya at AIIA Delhi and Goa has been recognised as a Centre of Excellence for Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth, and the partnership will frame an SOP for Swarnaprashan Samskar
- More than 15 academic publications were released, along with a DBIM-compliant website, the FESDAP e-course and an eBook titled Rooted and Rising
- An international MoU with Maharishi International University, Fairfield, Iowa, USA, provides for an Academic Chair in Ayurveda in its Department of Physiology and Health

Institute	All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi, under the Ministry of Ayush
Occasion	10th Foundation Day, on the concluding day of KAUMARACON 2026
Conference	KAUMARACON 2026, a three-day international conference on Kaumarabhritya (Ayurvedic child health)
MoUs signed	With Rashtriya Ayurved Vidyapeeth and with Arogya Bharati
Centre of Excellence	Department of Kaumarbhritya, AIIA Delhi and Goa, for Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth
Chief guest	Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha
Director, AIIA	Prof. (Vd.) P. K. Prajapati
International MoU	AIIA Goa with Maharishi International University, Fairfield, Iowa, USA, for an Academic Chair in Ayurveda

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/aiia-marks-10th-foundation-day-with-two-mous-at-kaumaracon-2026/

18 October 2026

Rajnath Singh to Lead India at 25th SCO CHG Meeting

18 October 2026 · International

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will represent India at the 25th SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 19 and 20 October 2026.

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will represent India at the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- The meeting is scheduled for 19 and 20 October 2026; the Ministry of Defence announced the visit on 18 October 2026.
- The agenda covers trade, the economy, investment, connectivity, innovation and cultural-humanitarian exchange, besides the financial and institutional working of the grouping.
- India contributes to the SCO through start-ups and innovation, digital public infrastructure and people-to-people exchanges.
- The previous CHG meeting was held in Moscow on 18 November 2025, where External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar represented India.

Meeting	25th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG)
Venue	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Dates	19 and 20 October 2026
India represented by	Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
Focus areas	Trade, economy, investment, connectivity, innovation, cultural and humanitarian exchange
Previous CHG meeting	Moscow, Russia, 18 November 2025
India's representative then	External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/rajnath-singh-to-lead-india-at-25th-sco-chg-meeting/

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STPI Tech Conclave at IIT BHU Puts AI to Work in Health Care

18 October 2026 · Science & Technology

STPI and CIIE, IIT BHU held a Tech Conclave on AI for Health and Assistive Technologies at Varanasi, where MeitY Secretary S. Krishnan gave the keynote.

- STPI, a science and technology organisation under MeitY, and CIIE of IIT (BHU) jointly held a Tech Conclave on AI for Health and Assistive Technologies on the IIT (BHU) campus in Varanasi.
- Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, delivered the keynote address and named disease screening, medical diagnostics, remote ICU monitoring and AI-assisted surgical planning as practical uses of AI.
- STPI Director General Shri Arvind Kumar said STPI has supported the growth of the IT and ITeS industry since 1991 and now runs 27 Centres of Entrepreneurship.
- Prof. Amit Patra, Director of IIT (BHU), and Shri Sumit Mahajan, CEO of the Uttar Pradesh Startup Mission, were among the other speakers.
- Two panel discussions were held: Empowering Citizens Through AI, and From Innovation to Impact, on turning AI research into usable health and assistive solutions.

Event	STPI Tech Conclave on AI for Health and Assistive Technologies
Organisers	STPI (under MeitY) with CIIE, IIT (BHU)
Venue	IIT (BHU), Varanasi
Keynote address	Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY
STPI Director General	Shri Arvind Kumar
Director, IIT (BHU)	Prof. Amit Patra
STPI supporting IT/ITeS since	1991
STPI Centres of Entrepreneurship	27

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/stpi-tech-conclave-at-iit-bhu-puts-ai-to-work-in-health-care/

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Kufri Jamunia: ICAR-CPRI's Biofortified Purple Potato

18 October 2026 · Science & Technology

Kufri Jamunia, the purple-fleshed biofortified potato released by ICAR-CPRI in 2024, carries 42.75 mg Vitamin C per 100 g against 23.15 mg in common potato.

- Kufri Jamunia, a biofortified purple-fleshed potato developed by ICAR-CPRI, was officially released in 2024 and is recommended for the North Indian plains.
- Its flesh carries 42.75 mg Vitamin C per 100 g against 23.15 mg in a common potato, with 2.28 mg zinc and 3.22 mg iron per 100 g.
- Anthocyanin content is 42.05 mg per 100 g in the flesh and 80.66 mg per 100 g in the skin; carotenoids are about 161 micrograms per 100 g.
- Yield is 32-35 tonnes a hectare under recommended practices, with about 49 tonnes recorded in 90-day station trials and dormancy of 6-8 weeks.
- ICAR-CPRI's earlier coloured potatoes are Kufri Neelkanth, its first purple-skinned variety released in 2018, and Kufri Manik, released in 2021.

Variety	Kufri Jamunia, biofortified purple-fleshed potato
Developed by	ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute (ICAR-CPRI)
Released	2024
Vitamin C	42.75 mg per 100 g in flesh, against 23.15 mg in common potato
Anthocyanins	42.05 mg per 100 g in flesh, 80.66 mg per 100 g in skin
Zinc and iron	22.77 ppm zinc and 32.23 ppm iron in the flesh
Yield	32-35 tonnes per hectare; about 49 tonnes in 90-day station trials
Dormancy	6-8 weeks, so tubers do not sprout quickly

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/kufri-jamunia-icar-cpris-biofortified-purple-potato/

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DRI Seizes 137 kg Crystal Meth in Nagapattinam

18 October 2026 · National

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 137 kg of crystal methamphetamine worth over Rs 100 crore in Tamil Nadu's Nagapattinam district and arrested four.

- The DRI seized 137 kg (gross) of crystal methamphetamine from a coastal village in Nagapattinam district, Tamil Nadu, in one of the state's biggest coastal narcotics seizures in recent years.
- The consignment was to be smuggled to Sri Lanka through a mid-sea transfer; its value in the illicit market is estimated at more than Rs 100 crore.
- Surveillance and enforcement work during 16 and 17 October 2026 recovered six duffel bags with 27 silver-foil packets of about 5 kg each.
- A search at the suspected organiser's premises yielded Rs 10 lakh in cash, along with two four-wheelers and one two-wheeler used for transport.
- Four persons were arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and remanded to judicial custody.

Agency	Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Ministry of Finance
Drug seized	137 kg (gross) crystal methamphetamine
Place	Coastal village in Nagapattinam district, Tamil Nadu
Operation dates	16 and 17 October 2026
Packaging	Six duffel bags with 27 silver-foil packets of about 5 kg each
Intended destination	Sri Lanka, through mid-sea transfer
Estimated value	More than Rs 100 crore in the illicit market
Also seized	Rs 10 lakh cash, two four-wheelers and one two-wheeler

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/dri-seizes-137-kg-crystal-meth-in-nagapattinam/

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Pithoragarh Coldwater Fisheries Cluster Gets PMMSY Push

18 October 2026 · Government Schemes

Fisheries Secretary Abhilaksh Likhi reviewed trout farming at Munsyari in Pithoragarh, where PMMSY has invested over Rs 2,299 crore in India's coldwater regions.

- Fisheries Secretary Dr Abhilaksh Likhi visited Munsyari in Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand, on 18 October 2026 to review coldwater aquaculture in the Himalayan region.
- Pithoragarh is notified as a Cold Water Fisheries Cluster under PMMSY; the Centre has notified 34 fisheries clusters in all across the country.
- PMMSY investment in coldwater regions has crossed Rs 2,299 crore, with over 5,600 raceways, 54 hatcheries, 293 cold storages and 260 feed mills sanctioned.
- Trout production has grown six-fold in a decade to nearly 5,000 MT a year, and Uttarakhand made its first export of trout to Nepal in June 2026.
- Uttarakhand's Trout Protsahan Yojna, with an outlay of Rs 170 crore, targets 1,500 raceways, 100 mini hatcheries and 600 cold-storage units by 2028-29.

Who visited	Dr Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary, Department of Fisheries
Place	Munsyari, Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand
Cluster	Pithoragarh, a Cold Water Fisheries Cluster under PMMSY
Clusters notified in India	34 fisheries clusters
PMMSY investment in coldwater regions	More than Rs 2,299 crore
Coldwater states and UTs	Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh
Trout output	Nearly 5,000 MT a year, a six-fold rise in a decade
First export	Uttarakhand's first trout export, to Nepal, in June 2026

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/pithoragarh-coldwater-fisheries-cluster-gets-pmmsy-push/

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Namo Bharat Diwas 2026: Three Years of Rapid Rail

18 October 2026 · National

NCRTC celebrated Namo Bharat Diwas 2026 in New Delhi on 17 October, marking three years of operations on the 82-km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor.

- NCRTC marked Namo Bharat Diwas 2026 on 17 October 2026 in New Delhi, three years after regional rapid rail services began
- Services opened in October 2023 on the 17-km Sahibabad-Duhai Depot priority section, inaugurated on 20 October 2023
- The full 82-km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor was dedicated to the nation on 22 February 2026, along with Meerut Metro
- The corridor has seen over 4.5 crore passenger journeys and now carries more than 1.1 lakh commuters a day, with a peak of about 1.68 lakh
- A 110 MW captive solar power plant and the Solar on Track programme are being taken up for the project

Event	Namo Bharat Diwas 2026
Date and place	17 October 2026, New Delhi
Organisation	NCRTC (National Capital Region Transport Corporation)
Corridor	Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut, 82 km
Services began	October 2023, on the 17-km Sahibabad-Duhai Depot section
Full corridor dedicated	22 February 2026, along with Meerut Metro
Passenger journeys	More than 4.5 crore
Daily ridership	Over 1.1 lakh; highest single day about 1.68 lakh

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/namo-bharat-diwas-2026-three-years-of-rapid-rail/

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Asian Para Games 2026 Begin in Aichi-Nagoya

18 October 2026 · Sports

The Asian Para Games 2026 opened in Aichi-Nagoya on 18 October, with the Prime Minister sending best wishes to the Indian contingent of para-athletes.

- The Asian Para Games 2026 got under way in Aichi-Nagoya on 18 October 2026
- India has sent a contingent of para-athletes to take part in the continental event
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished the Indian contingent well as the Games began
- The Prime Minister said the grit and dedication of India's para-athletes inspire 140 crore Indians
- The Games are a multi-sport competition for athletes with disabilities from across Asia

Event	Asian Para Games 2026
Host city	Aichi-Nagoya
Opened on	18 October 2026
Participants	Athletes with disabilities from across Asia
India	Represented by a contingent of para-athletes
Best wishes from	Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/asian-para-games-2026-begin-in-aichi-nagoya/

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IAF C-130J Airlifts Critical Patient from Leh to Palam

18 October 2026 · Defence

An Indian Air Force C-130J flew a critically ill 30-year-old civilian from Leh to Palam at night, and the patient was shifted to AIIMS for treatment.

- An Indian Air Force C-130J aircraft carried out a short-notice casualty evacuation from Leh to Palam
- A critically ill civilian patient aged thirty was airlifted late at night for further medical care
- The sortie was flown in darkness and in challenging weather, demanding operational readiness and close coordination
- After landing, the patient was taken to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences for treatment
- The mission is an example of the humanitarian and medical evacuation duties performed by the Indian Air Force

Mission	Short-notice casualty evacuation
Force	Indian Air Force
Aircraft	C-130J transport aircraft
Flown from	Leh
Landed at	Palam
Patient	Critically ill civilian, aged thirty
Conditions	Late night, darkness and challenging weather
Hospital	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/iaf-c-130j-airlifts-critical-patient-from-leh-to-palam/

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INS Sudarshini Departs Salalah on Lokayan-2026 Voyage

18 October 2026 · Defence

The Indian Navy's three-masted sail training ship INS Sudarshini left Salalah in Oman after a port call from 14 to 17 October 2026, on Lokayan-2026.

- INS Sudarshini, the Indian Navy's three-masted sail training ship, departed Salalah in Oman after a visit from 14 to 17 October 2026
- The ship is on Lokayan-2026, a historic transoceanic deployment that has now entered its tenth month
- Professional interactions and sporting engagements at Salalah strengthened ties between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman
- The voyage carries forward the civilisational ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and the vision of MAHASAGAR
- MAHASAGAR stands for Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions

Ship	INS Sudarshini, three-masted sail training ship of the Indian Navy
Deployment	Lokayan-2026, a transoceanic sailing deployment
Port left	Salalah, Oman
Dates of visit	14 to 17 October 2026
Stage of voyage	Tenth month of Lokayan-2026
Host navy	Royal Navy of Oman
Ministry	Ministry of Defence
MAHASAGAR	Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/ins-sudarshini-departs-salalah-on-lokayan-2026-voyage/

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Special Campaign 6.0: India Post Settles 1,00,214 Grievances

18 October 2026 · Government Schemes

The Department of Posts has settled 1,00,214 public grievances and held cleanliness drives at 73,814 sites under Special Campaign 6.0, up to 16 October 2026.

- Special Campaign 6.0 is being run by the Department of Posts at postal establishments nationwide from 2 to 31 October 2026
- Its targets are 1,50,000 public grievances resolved, 1,500 appeals disposed of and cleanliness drives at 1,35,000 sites
- Up to 16 October 2026 the department had settled 1,00,214 grievances, cleaned 73,814 sites and disposed of 764 appeals
- Scrap of 3,06,026 kg earned Rs 67.56 lakh, and 17,980 kg of e-waste earned Rs 27.64 lakh
- DigiPost, a phygital mail service, delivers traffic e-challans issued by the Gujarat Police on paper to citizens

Campaign	Special Campaign 6.0
Run by	Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications
Period	2 to 31 October 2026, nationwide
Grievance target	1,50,000 public grievances
Appeals target	1,500 appeals
Cleanliness target	1,35,000 sites
Grievances resolved	1,00,214 (about 67 per cent of target), up to 16 October 2026
Sites cleaned	73,814 (about 55 per cent of target)

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/special-campaign-60-india-post-settles-100214-grievances/

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Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 in Mysuru: 83 Stalls, 12 States

18 October 2026 · Government Schemes

Union Social Justice Secretary Sudhansh Pant visited the nine-day Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 at Mysuru in Karnataka, which has 83 stalls and artisans from 12 States.

- Union Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary Sudhansh Pant visited the nine-day Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 at the Mysuru Dasara Exhibition Grounds in Karnataka
- The Mysuru fair runs from 11 to 19 October 2026 and carries 83 stalls, of which 80 are allotted to artisans, 37 of them women
- Artisans from 12 States and Union Territories are taking part; NSFDC, NBCFDC and NSKFDC hold the fair jointly under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- BHARAT TULIP stands for Traditional Artisans Upliftment Livelihood Programme and sells artisans goods on digital platforms in India and abroad
- The Ministry has held 13 Shilp Samagam Melas since 2022, benefiting 975 artisans; Mysuru is the first of the financial year 2026-27

Event	Shilp Samagam Mela 2026, Mysuru edition
Venue	Mysuru Dasara Exhibition Grounds, Mysuru, Karnataka
Dates	11 to 19 October 2026 (nine days)
Visited by	Sudhansh Pant, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Stalls	83 in all, 80 allotted to artisans, 37 of them women artisans
Participation	Artisans from 12 States and Union Territories
Organised by	NSFDC, NBCFDC and NSKFDC
BHARAT TULIP	Traditional Artisans Upliftment Livelihood Programme

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/shilp-samagam-mela-2026-in-mysuru-83-stalls-12-states/

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Special Campaign 6: Schools E-Waste Drive on 28 October

18 October 2026 · Environment

The Department of School Education and Literacy will hold a nationwide e-waste awareness and collection drive in schools on 28 October 2026 under Special Campaign 6.

- A nationwide e-waste awareness and collection drive will be held in schools on 28 October 2026 by the Department of School Education and Literacy
- Special Campaign 6 is being run by the Department from 2 to 31 October 2026, covering pendency reduction, campus cleanliness and e-waste management
- Eco Clubs for Mission LiFE lead the cleanliness and e-waste activities in schools across the country
- An e-waste mural made from 50 kg of e-waste gathered by school pupils, along with e-waste bins, was installed at Kartavya Bhavan 2 for International e-Waste Day on 14 October 2026
- DoSEL Secretary T. K. Anil Kumar reviewed the preparations with States, Union Territories and autonomous bodies in a video conference on 16 October 2026

Campaign	Special Campaign 6, run from 2 to 31 October 2026
Department	School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education
Nationwide school drive	E-waste awareness and collection drive on 28 October 2026
Focus areas	Cutting pendency in official work, campus cleanliness, e-waste management
Led in schools by	Eco Clubs for Mission LiFE
International e-Waste Day	14 October 2026
Mural	Made from 50 kg e-waste gathered by school pupils, installed with e-waste bins at Kartavya Bhavan 2
Message	Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Read online: gk24.in/current-affairs/special-campaign-6-schools-e-waste-drive-on-28-october/

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Practice MCQs

Answers and short explanations follow the questions.

1. What was the coal stock at India's domestic coal-based power plants on 10 October 2026?

(A) 16.418 MT
(B) 18.205 MT
(C) 19.932 MT
(D) 21.640 MT

2. How many rakes a day, on average, were loaded for the power sector between 1 and 10 October 2026?

(A) 426 rakes
(B) 447 rakes
(C) 469 rakes
(D) 482 rakes

3. What was the average daily coal supply to the power sector in October 2026, and how did it compare with the supply plan?

(A) 2.21 MT a day, below the plan
(B) 2.37 MT a day, equal to the plan
(C) 2.49 MT a day, above the plan
(D) 2.65 MT a day, above the plan

4. The Technology Development Board has extended Rs 86 crore of RDI Fund support to which company for the VIGOR programme?

(A) Biocon Limited, Bengaluru
(B) Peptris Technologies Private Limited, Bengaluru
(C) Bharat Biotech International, Hyderabad
(D) Serum Institute of India, Pune

5. What is the total cost of the VIGOR drug development project for which TDB has committed Rs 86 crore?

(A) Rs 108 crore
(B) Rs 145 crore
(C) Rs 172 crore
(D) Rs 250 crore

6. In the VIGOR programme, the four AI-discovered drug candidates are to be advanced between which Technology Readiness Levels?

(A) TRL-1 to TRL-3
(B) TRL-4 to TRL-6
(C) TRL-6 to TRL-9
(D) TRL-2 to TRL-8

7. MY Bharat organised Neighbourhood Youth Parliaments and Yuva Melas on 10 October 2026 at how many locations?

(A) 1,049 locations
(B) 1,469 locations
(C) 2,146 locations
(D) 3,650 locations

8. The Neighbourhood Youth Parliaments and Yuva Melas of October 2026 were held under which campaign?

(A) Fit India Movement
(B) Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Abhiyan
(C) Khelo India Yuva Abhiyan
(D) Swachh Bharat Yuva Abhiyan

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9. How many public representatives attended the Neighbourhood Youth Parliaments and Yuva Melas held on 10 October 2026?

(A) Four, all Members of Legislative Assemblies
(B) Six, one Member of Parliament and five MLAs
(C) Eight, two Members of Parliament and six MLAs
(D) Ten, five Members of Parliament and five MLAs

10. The Mid-Career Training Phase-III programme for Indian Forest Service officers that began on 12 October 2026 is organised by which institution?

(A) Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration
(B) Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy
(C) Forest Research Institute
(D) Wildlife Institute of India

11. How many officers are attending the Mid-Career Training Phase-III programme, and from how many cadres do they come?

(A) 48 officers from 12 cadres
(B) 68 officers from 18 cadres
(C) 86 officers from 21 cadres
(D) 108 officers from 24 cadres

12. Which of the following was named by the Union Environment Minister as a citizen-engaging conservation initiative at the IFS training programme?

(A) Namami Gange Mission
(B) Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam
(C) Atal Bhujal Yojana
(D) Jal Jeevan Mission

13. How many medals did sportspersons of the Indian defence forces win at the 2026 Asian Games?

(A) 21
(B) 27
(C) 37
(D) 85

14. Who became the first Indian woman to win gold in the individual women's trap event at the Asian Games?

(A) Naib Subedar Neeru Dhanda
(B) Havildar Sawan Barwal
(C) Naib Subedar Gulveer Singh
(D) Naib Subedar Sarvesh Kushare

15. Which athlete's silver medal ended India's 44-year wait for a marathon medal at the Asian Games?

(A) Naib Subedar Gulveer Singh
(B) Naib Subedar Sarvesh Kushare
(C) Havildar Sawan Barwal
(D) Naib Subedar Neeru Dhanda

16. With which organisation did the Indian Army sign an MoU for the use of warehousing and material-handling resources during operational contingencies?

(A) NAFED
(B) Food Corporation of India
(C) Border Roads Organisation
(D) Central Warehousing Corporation

17. Which agency will supply Bharat Rice to the defence forces during the financial year 2026-27?

(A) Food Corporation of India
(B) NAFED
(C) Army Purchase Organisation
(D) State civil supplies corporations

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18. In which bag sizes will Bharat Rice be procured to ease handling at forward posts?

(A) 5 kg and 25 kg
(B) 10 kg and 30 kg
(C) 20 kg and 50 kg
(D) 15 kg and 40 kg

19. On which date was the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan launched?

(A) 13 October 2021
(B) 15 August 2021
(C) 13 October 2022
(D) 1 April 2020

20. How many Central Ministries and Departments does the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan cover?

(A) 36
(B) 46
(C) 58
(D) 230

21. The Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority will undertake technical appraisal of projects costing at least how much?

(A) 100 crore rupees
(B) 250 crore rupees
(C) 500 crore rupees
(D) 1000 crore rupees

22. What is the total outlay of the PM-SETU scheme?

(A) 440 crore rupees
(B) 3,446 crore rupees
(C) 60,000 crore rupees
(D) 1,000 crore rupees

23. In the Special Purpose Vehicles for the Surat and Visakhapatnam ITI clusters, what stake will AM/NS India hold?

(A) 24.5 per cent
(B) 49 per cent
(C) 51 per cent
(D) 74 per cent

24. How many Government ITIs are covered by the two clusters for which shareholders' agreements were signed under PM-SETU?

(A) Five
(B) Seven
(C) Nine
(D) Fourteen

25. The CAPSS-IAF seminar held in New Delhi was organised on the sidelines of which exercise?

(A) Exercise Tarang Shakti-26
(B) Exercise Vayu Shakti
(C) Exercise Gagan Shakti
(D) Exercise Desert Flag

26. In which year was the Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies established?

(A) 1991
(B) 2001
(C) 2011
(D) 2021

27. Who chaired the second working session of the seminar, on air power as a strategy of national power?

(A) Air Chief Marshal AP Singh
(B) Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari
(C) Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor
(D) Air Marshal Stephen Chappell

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28. The directive on displaying healthcare service rates is based on which Act?

(A) Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010
(B) National Medical Commission Act, 2019
(C) Consumer Protection Act, 2019
(D) Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940

29. In which languages must clinical establishments display their service rates under the Rules?

(A) English only
(B) Hindi and English only
(C) The local language as well as English
(D) Any one language of the Eighth Schedule

30. Whose package rates have states been urged to display prominently, besides those of ordinary patients?

(A) Patients covered by government insurance schemes
(B) Foreign patients arriving on Medical and Ayush Visas
(C) Patients referred from district hospitals
(D) Patients admitted to intensive care

31. Which district was ranked the best-performing district under the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana?

(A) Nagaur, Rajasthan
(B) Umaria, Madhya Pradesh
(C) Gaya, Bihar
(D) Banka, Bihar

32. How many districts does the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana cover?

(A) 50
(B) 100
(C) 250
(D) 500

33. The Khet Bachao Abhiyan, announced at the PMDDKY anniversary event, is aimed mainly at which objective?

(A) Promoting soil health through balanced use of fertilisers
(B) Doubling farm exports in three years
(C) Distributing free electricity connections to farmers
(D) Setting up new agricultural universities in every state

34. What was India's retail inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index in September 2026?

(A) 4.83%
(B) 5.54%
(C) 6.08%
(D) 7.74%

35. Which item recorded the highest rate of inflation at the all-India combined level in September 2026?

(A) Garlic
(B) Silver jewellery
(C) Onion
(D) Ginger

36. Which organisation collects the price data used to compile India's Consumer Price Index?

(A) Reserve Bank of India
(B) Field Operations Division of the National Statistical Office
(C) Labour Bureau, Shimla
(D) NITI Aayog

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37. What is the theme of the BRICS Theatre Festival 2026 held in New Delhi?

(A) Shared Stories, Shared Futures
(B) One Earth, One Stage
(C) Theatre for a New World
(D) Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability

38. Which institution is the nodal agency for the BRICS Theatre Festival 2026?

(A) Sangeet Natak Akademi
(B) Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
(C) National School of Drama
(D) Indian Council for Cultural Relations

39. Who is India's BRICS Sherpa for 2026, present at the festival's opening ceremony?

(A) Vivek Aggarwal
(B) Sudhakar Dalela
(C) Chittaranjan Tripathy
(D) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

40. Where were the BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Demonstration Games 2026 held?

(A) New Delhi
(B) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
(C) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
(D) Pune, Maharashtra

41. Which of these traditional sports was demonstrated by India at the BRICS games in Ahmedabad?

(A) Sambo
(B) Gorodki
(C) Mallakhamb
(D) Al Tabbah

42. Which of the following did the Union Sports Minister propose for cooperation among BRICS nations on traditional sports?

(A) A voluntary BRICS Repository of Traditional and Indigenous Sports
(B) A BRICS Olympic qualifying tournament
(C) A common BRICS anti-doping agency
(D) A single BRICS sports university in Ahmedabad

43. In which state is the ICMR Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research being set up?

(A) Uttarakhand
(B) Himachal Pradesh
(C) Sikkim
(D) Arunachal Pradesh

44. Which two bodies are the main partners in setting up the high-altitude research centre at Keylong?

(A) DRDO and the Indian Air Force
(B) ICMR and the Armed Forces Medical Services
(C) CSIR and the Indian Army
(D) ICAR and the Border Roads Organisation

45. Which technology was named as a way the Keylong centre will try to improve healthcare in remote areas?

(A) Drone-enabled medicine delivery
(B) Underground pneumatic tube transport
(C) Satellite-launched weather balloons
(D) Hyperloop ambulance corridors

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46. How many Second Level Fund Managers were announced in the first cohort of the Research, Development and Innovation Fund?

(A) 14
(B) 19
(C) 5
(D) 24

47. Which body houses the Independent Business Unit that manages the Research, Development and Innovation Fund?

(A) NITI Aayog
(B) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
(C) Anusandhan National Research Foundation
(D) Small Industries Development Bank of India

48. At what stage of technology maturity can enterprises receive support from the RDI Fund?

(A) Technology Readiness Level 1 and above
(B) Technology Readiness Level 4 and above
(C) Technology Readiness Level 7 and above
(D) Only after commercial launch

49. In which country is the ninth edition of the IBSAMAR naval exercise being held?

(A) Brazil
(B) South Africa
(C) India
(D) Namibia

50. Since which year has the IBSAMAR exercise been conducted once every two years?

(A) 2003
(B) 2008
(C) 2012
(D) 2016

51. What is the theme of IBSAMAR IX?

(A) Stronger Together Towards a Shared Future in the Maritime Domain
(B) Secure Seas, Shared Prosperity
(C) One Ocean, One Future
(D) Partners for a Safer Indian Ocean

52. In which year was the National Human Rights Commission of India established?

(A) 1990
(B) 1993
(C) 1997
(D) 2000

53. Who was the chief guest at the 33rd Foundation Day function of the NHRC?

(A) The President of India
(B) The Chief Justice of India
(C) The Union Home Minister
(D) The Vice-President of India

54. What was the theme of the national conference held by the NHRC on its 33rd Foundation Day?

(A) Water as the Elixir of Life: Advancing Human Dignity through the Right to Water
(B) Dignity for All: Human Rights in the Digital Age
(C) Clean Air, Clean Water, Clean Future
(D) Human Rights and Climate Justice for the Poorest

55. According to TRAI's performance indicator report, what was India's total telephone subscriber base at the end of June 2026?

(A) 1,330.58 million
(B) 1,300.25 million
(C) 1,348.08 million
(D) 1,114.17 million

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56. What was the overall tele-density in India at the end of the quarter ending June 2026?

(A) 90.96 per cent
(B) 93.26 per cent
(C) 94.31 per cent
(D) 153.43 per cent

57. As per the TRAI report for April-June 2026, what was the average monthly wireless data use per data subscriber?

(A) 21.45 GB
(B) 26.70 GB
(C) 28.39 GB
(D) 32.80 GB

58. By which year did Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal call for doubling India-UK bilateral trade?

(A) 2028
(B) 2030
(C) 2035
(D) 2040

59. Where and when will the 17th India-UK JETCO meeting be held?

(A) In India in 2027
(B) In the United Kingdom in 2027
(C) In the United Kingdom in 2028
(D) In India in 2029

60. Which Indian financial centre was proposed for closer cooperation with the City of London at the 16th JETCO?

(A) Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai
(B) GIFT City, Gandhinagar
(C) Cyber City, Gurugram
(D) Hitec City, Hyderabad

61. Where were the new office premises of the International Big Cat Alliance inaugurated?

(A) Dehradun, Uttarakhand
(B) 55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi
(C) Gandhinagar, Gujarat
(D) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

62. Which of the following is NOT among the seven big cats covered by the International Big Cat Alliance?

(A) Jaguar
(B) Puma
(C) Clouded leopard
(D) Snow leopard

63. What is the initial contribution pledged by the Government of India to the International Big Cat Alliance?

(A) Rs 100 crore for three years
(B) Rs 150 crore for five years
(C) Rs 250 crore for five years
(D) Rs 500 crore for ten years

64. At which institute was the APARC General Assembly 2026 inaugurated?

(A) Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune
(B) India Meteorological Department, New Delhi
(C) National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, Noida
(D) Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad

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65. APARC, whose General Assembly 2026 is being hosted by India, is a core project of which programme?

(A) World Climate Research Programme
(B) Global Atmosphere Watch Programme
(C) International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
(D) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

66. How often is the APARC General Assembly held?

(A) Every year
(B) Once in two years
(C) Once in four years
(D) Once in five years

67. Which shipyard designed and built INS Mangrol, the warship commissioned by the Indian Navy in October 2026?

(A) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai
(B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata
(C) Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi
(D) Hindustan Shipyard, Visakhapatnam

68. INS Mangrol is the third ship of which class of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft?

(A) Arnala class
(B) Mahe class
(C) Kamorta class
(D) Abhay class

69. INS Mangrol takes its name from a coastal town and fishing harbour in which district of Gujarat?

(A) Junagadh
(B) Porbandar
(C) Devbhumi Dwarka
(D) Valsad

70. Which edition of the India-UK Science and Innovation Council meeting was held in New Delhi in October 2026?

(A) Sixth
(B) Seventh
(C) Eighth
(D) Ninth

71. Which British company is a partner in the India Genomics Centre of Excellence inaugurated in New Delhi?

(A) Oxford Nanopore Technologies
(B) Illumina
(C) AstraZeneca
(D) GlaxoSmithKline

72. Under which partnership have eight joint industrial research and development projects been cleared for support?

(A) Department of Science and Technology with Innovate UK
(B) Anusandhan National Research Foundation with UK Research and Innovation
(C) Technology Development Board with the British Council
(D) Department of Biotechnology with the Royal Society

73. What is the height of Mount Mukut, the peak scaled by the Indian Coast Guard mountaineering team?

(A) 6,512 metres
(B) 7,045 metres
(C) 7,816 metres
(D) 8,126 metres

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74. Which institute guided the Indian Coast Guard team during its Mount Mukut expedition?

(A) Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi
(B) Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling
(C) Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering, Pahalgam
(D) Indian Mountaineering Foundation, New Delhi

75. The Mount Mukut climb was preparation for an Indian Coast Guard Everest expedition in which year?

(A) During its Swarnim Jayanti in 2027
(B) During its platinum jubilee in 2028
(C) During its diamond jubilee in 2030
(D) During its centenary in 2032

76. In which city is the National SARAS Mela 2026 being held, the first such fair outside Delhi-NCR?

(A) Visakhapatnam
(B) Vijayawada
(C) Hyderabad
(D) Tirupati

77. Who will inaugurate the National SARAS Mela 2026 at Vijayawada?

(A) The Prime Minister
(B) The President of India
(C) The Vice-President
(D) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

78. The National SARAS Mela is aligned with which mission of the Ministry of Rural Development?

(A) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission
(B) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin
(C) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana
(D) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

79. Which organisation dedicated the Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Services Decision Support System to the nation in October 2026?

(A) National Disaster Management Authority
(B) India Meteorological Department
(C) Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services
(D) National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting

80. Who chaired the Pre-Cyclone Exercise Meeting for the post-monsoon season of 2026, at which the new Decision Support System was launched?

(A) The Union Minister of Earth Sciences
(B) The Director General of Meteorology, IMD
(C) The Chairperson of the National Disaster Management Authority
(D) The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

81. Very Severe Cyclonic Storms Phailin and Hudhud, both of which crossed the Indian coast on 12 October, occurred in which years respectively?

(A) 2011 and 2012
(B) 2013 and 2014
(C) 2014 and 2015
(D) 2012 and 2013

82. What was the total value of the development projects inaugurated and begun by the Union DoNER Minister in Mizoram in October 2026?

(A) Rs 102 crore
(B) Rs 228.54 crore
(C) Rs 331 crore
(D) Rs 512 crore

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83. What is the outlay of the Mizoram Ginger Mission announced for the state's ginger growers?

(A) Rs 89.79 crore
(B) Rs 189.79 crore
(C) Rs 289.79 crore
(D) Rs 389.79 crore

84. The railway line that brought Mizoram onto India's railway map connects Bairabi with which station, and how long is it?

(A) Sairang, 51.38 kilometres
(B) Silchar, 74 kilometres
(C) Sairang, 21 kilometres
(D) Zemabawk, 32.70 kilometres

85. How many rural youth are the Rural Self Employment Training Institutes expected to train in the current year?

(A) 3.35 lakh
(B) 4.50 lakh
(C) 6.35 lakh
(D) 8.75 lakh

86. With which body did the Ministry of Rural Development exchange an MoU in October 2026 to strengthen the Rural Self Employment Training Institutes?

(A) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
(B) National Academy of RUDSETI
(C) National Skill Development Corporation
(D) National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

87. Under the new agreement, candidates for RSETI training will be registered through which platform?

(A) Kaushal Panjee
(B) Udyam Panjee
(C) Skill Setu
(D) Gram Kaushal Portal

88. Who is the President of Singapore, on whom the Union Finance Minister called during her October 2026 visit?

(A) Lawrence Wong
(B) Tharman Shanmugaratnam
(C) Gan Kim Yong
(D) Vivian Balakrishnan

89. Singapore is due to take the Chairmanship of ASEAN in which year?

(A) 2026
(B) 2027
(C) 2028
(D) 2030

90. Which bilateral mechanism's outcomes were reviewed during the Finance Minister's talks with the Singapore leadership?

(A) 2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable
(B) 3rd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable
(C) 4th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable
(D) 6th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable

91. Which Union ministry runs the Ashtalakshmi Darshan Programme?

(A) Ministry of Culture
(B) Ministry of Education
(C) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
(D) Ministry of Tourism

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92. How many students have taken part in the Ashtalakshmi Darshan Programme in the past year?

(A) More than 290
(B) More than 450
(C) More than 590
(D) More than 860

93. In the term 'Ashtalakshmi', used for India's North East, 'ashta' refers to which of the following?

(A) The eight states of the region
(B) Eight border districts of the region
(C) Eight major rivers of the region
(D) Eight autonomous tribal councils

94. What were the sales of khadi and village industry products in 2025-26?

(A) Rs 1.87 lakh crore
(B) Rs 1.25 lakh crore
(C) Rs 2.04 lakh crore
(D) Rs 1.45 lakh crore

95. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is a statutory body set up under an Act of which year?

(A) 1948
(B) 1951
(C) 1956
(D) 1962

96. In khadi spinning, one hank of yarn is equal to how much in length?

(A) 640 yards
(B) 840 yards
(C) 1,000 yards
(D) 1,200 yards

97. In which city was the Bloomberg New Economy Forum held when it came to India for the first time?

(A) Mumbai
(B) New Delhi
(C) Bengaluru
(D) Gandhinagar

98. India became the first G20 nation to source 40 per cent of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuels. When did it reach this mark?

(A) November 2021
(B) November 2019
(C) March 2023
(D) August 2015

99. According to the Prime Minister's address, what was India's growth rate in the April-June quarter this year?

(A) 6.5 per cent
(B) 7.2 per cent
(C) 7.8 per cent
(D) 8.4 per cent

100. Which BHASHINI platform provided real-time English to Spanish translation at the NCGG programme in Mussoorie?

(A) Shrutlekh
(B) Anuvaad
(C) Vaani
(D) Samvaad

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101. BHASHINI-enabled language technologies have been integrated across how many government platforms?

(A) 1,253
(B) 2,353
(C) 3,500
(D) 800

102. The capacity building programme on urban service delivery at Mussoorie is organised by NCGG under which department?

(A) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
(B) Department of Personnel and Training
(C) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
(D) Department of Expenditure

103. How many grievances were redressed by Central Ministries and Departments in September 2026, as per the 53rd CPGRAMS monthly report?

(A) 2,27,837
(B) 2,38,579
(C) 1,15,168
(D) 85,687

104. Which State recorded the highest number of public grievance disposals in September 2026 under CPGRAMS?

(A) Andhra Pradesh
(B) Haryana
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Karnataka

105. Under the Sevottam Scheme, how many officers have been trained over the last five financial years, according to the September 2026 CPGRAMS report for States and UTs?

(A) About 43,738 officers in 1,312 courses
(B) About 23,230 officers in 454 courses
(C) About 92,822 officers in 1,312 courses
(D) About 12,996 officers in 500 courses

106. How much freight did Indian Railways load in September 2026?

(A) 127.52 million tonnes
(B) 135.35 million tonnes
(C) 833.7 million tonnes
(D) 143.70 million tonnes

107. Which commodity recorded the highest percentage growth in rail freight loading in September 2026?

(A) Coal
(B) Clinker
(C) Food grain
(D) Iron ore

108. What was the average number of coal rakes supplied to power houses per day in September 2026?

(A) 397 rakes
(B) 443 rakes
(C) 116 rakes
(D) 480 rakes

109. How much did day one of NLMC's first end-to-end e-auction of RINL land parcels fetch in successful bids?

(A) 312.48 crore rupees
(B) 366.33 crore rupees
(C) 180.50 crore rupees
(D) 216.00 crore rupees

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110. Which public sector company's surplus land was offered in the e-auction conducted by NLMC in October 2026?

(A) Steel Authority of India Limited
(B) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited
(C) RailTel Corporation of India
(D) Hindustan Shipyard Limited

111. When is the second and final phase of the RINL land e-auction scheduled, and how many parcels does it cover?

(A) 27 October 2026, covering 150 parcels
(B) 30 October 2026, covering 216 parcels
(C) 13 October 2026, covering 366 parcels
(D) 30 November 2026, covering 216 parcels

112. How many electric buses were flagged off at Anand Vihar in Delhi on 13 October 2026?

(A) 100
(B) 150
(C) 250
(D) 500

113. After the stations inaugurated on 13 October 2026, how many Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations does Delhi have?

(A) 47
(B) 53
(C) 60
(D) 75

114. Where is the AI-enabled Integrated Command and Control Centre of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee located?

(A) Anand Vihar
(B) Shastri Park
(C) Keshopur
(D) Nand Nagri

115. With which country's First Deputy Prime Minister did Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hold bilateral defence talks in New Delhi on 13 October 2026?

(A) Poland
(B) Czech Republic
(C) Slovakia
(D) Hungary

116. Under which mechanism did India and the Czech Republic agree to expand defence industrial cooperation?

(A) India-Czech Joint Defence Committee
(B) India-Czech Strategic Partnership Council
(C) India-Czech Defence Procurement Board
(D) India-Czech Military Cooperation Group

117. Which two Indian cities is the visiting Czech First Deputy Prime Minister scheduled to visit for industry engagements?

(A) Chennai and Hyderabad
(B) Bengaluru and Mumbai
(C) Pune and Kolkata
(D) Ahmedabad and Nagpur

118. Who delivered the keynote address at the Conference of State Planning, Finance and IT Secretaries organised by MoSPI in October 2026?

(A) The Union Finance Minister
(B) The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister
(C) The Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog
(D) The Chief Statistician of India

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119. Which year has been adopted as the base year for the new National Accounts Series referred to at the conference?

(A) 2011-12
(B) 2017-18
(C) 2022-23
(D) 2024-25

120. What did Dr. P. K. Mishra say about artificial intelligence and advanced analytics in official statistics?

(A) They can replace survey-based statistics entirely
(B) They can strengthen official statistics but cannot substitute for quality
(C) They should not be used in government statistics
(D) They are useful only for census operations

121. At which naval base will the Indian Navy commission the Multi-Purpose Vessel Samarthak?

(A) Visakhapatnam
(B) Kochi
(C) Karwar
(D) Mumbai

122. Samarthak is the first of how many Multi-Purpose Vessels being inducted into the Indian Navy?

(A) Two
(B) Three
(C) Four
(D) Six

123. Which company built the Indian Navy's Multi-Purpose Vessel Samarthak?

(A) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
(B) Larsen and Toubro Ltd
(C) Cochin Shipyard Limited
(D) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers

124. On which date does the window under the EPFO Amnesty Scheme, 2026 close?

(A) 30 September
(B) 28 December
(C) 31 January
(D) 31 March

125. A formal exemption order for a Provident Fund Trust is granted under section 17 of which Act?

(A) The Income Tax Act, 1961
(B) The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952
(C) The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972
(D) The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948

126. Which of these conditions is NOT waived for a trust regularised under the Amnesty Scheme, 2026?

(A) Minimum employee headcount
(B) Size of the corpus
(C) The three-year compliance rule
(D) Recognition by the Income Tax Department

127. The new Standard Treatment Guidelines on dermatological disorders cover which four traditional systems?

(A) Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy and Siddha
(B) Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy
(C) Ayurveda, Unani, Naturopathy and Sowa-Rigpa
(D) Siddha, Unani, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy

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128. On which occasion were the Ayush Standard Treatment Guidelines on skin disorders made public?

(A) World Health Day
(B) National Doctors' Day
(C) The 11th Ayurveda Day
(D) International Yoga Day

129. Who is the Union Minister of State with Independent Charge for Ayush who spoke on the new guidelines?

(A) Shri Prataprao Jadhav
(B) Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha
(C) Dr Loveneesh G. Krishna
(D) Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda

130. What is the length of the NH-22 section in Bihar approved for four-laning?

(A) 62.57 km
(B) 82.57 km
(C) 92.57 km
(D) 112.57 km

131. Under which mode of implementation has the four-laning of NH-22 in Bihar been approved?

(A) Engineering, Procurement and Construction
(B) Build, Operate and Transfer (Toll)
(C) Hybrid Annuity Mode
(D) Build, Own, Operate and Transfer

132. The 340-metre major bridge in the NH-22 four-laning project crosses which river?

(A) Kosi
(B) Gandak
(C) Bagmati
(D) Burhi Gandak

133. How many mementos from Uttarakhand feature in the eighth edition of the PM Mementos e-auction?

(A) 17
(B) 21
(C) 27
(D) 37

134. Proceeds from the PM Mementos e-auction support which programme?

(A) Swachh Bharat Mission
(B) Namami Gange Programme
(C) Jal Jeevan Mission
(D) Atal Bhujal Yojana

135. Which sportsperson's signed badminton racket is part of the Uttarakhand mementos collection?

(A) Lakshya Sen
(B) Kidambi Srikanth
(C) H. S. Prannoy
(D) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy

136. Under the Namami Gange programme, what was the compliance level of grossly polluting industries in the Ganga basin in 2025?

(A) 39%
(B) 86%
(C) 70%
(D) 95%

137. How many grossly polluting industries were assessed in the 2025 inspection cycle under Namami Gange?

(A) 1,296
(B) 2,407
(C) 3,703
(D) 3,154

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138. Which organisation acts as the national regulatory authority for the annual inspection of grossly polluting industries?

(A) National Mission for Clean Ganga
(B) Central Pollution Control Board
(C) Central Ground Water Board
(D) National Green Tribunal

139. Which institute developed the improved soybean varieties NRC 268 and NRC 270?

(A) ICAR-Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur
(B) ICAR-National Soybean Research Institute, Indore
(C) ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
(D) ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad

140. What is the present average soybean productivity in India?

(A) About 5 to 6 quintals per hectare
(B) About 10 to 11 quintals per hectare
(C) About 18 to 19 quintals per hectare
(D) About 30 to 32 quintals per hectare

141. Who is the Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director General of ICAR who commented on the soybean yield data?

(A) Dr M. L. Jat
(B) Dr Himanshu Pathak
(C) Dr Trilochan Mohapatra
(D) Dr Abhilaksh Likhi

142. Which document was adopted at the first BIMSTEC Home Ministers Meeting held in New Delhi?

(A) Bangkok Vision
(B) Delhi Declaration
(C) Bay of Bengal Charter
(D) Jamnagar Protocol

143. The proposed BIMSTEC Disaster Management Centre is to be set up in which Indian state?

(A) Odisha
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Gujarat
(D) West Bengal

144. How many countries are members of BIMSTEC, whose Home Ministers met for the first time in New Delhi?

(A) Five
(B) Six
(C) Seven
(D) Eight

145. How many data layers are integrated on the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan platform?

(A) More than 800
(B) More than 1,200
(C) More than 1,800
(D) More than 2,500

146. Which body appraises infrastructure projects on PM GatiShakti principles?

(A) Network Planning Group
(B) Public Investment Board
(C) National Infrastructure Council
(D) Project Monitoring Group

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147. Which authority has the Union Cabinet approved to strengthen long term transport and logistics planning?

(A) National Logistics Board
(B) Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority
(C) Multimodal Connectivity Commission
(D) Bharat Transport Regulatory Authority

148. What is the full form of JOSH, the teams deployed in the TB awareness campaign?

(A) Joint Outreach for State Health
(B) Joint Squad for Health
(C) Youth Organisation for Social Health
(D) Jan Outreach and Screening for Health

149. By what percentage did new tuberculosis cases in India decline between 2015 and 2024?

(A) 12%
(B) 17%
(C) 21%
(D) 28%

150. How many Gram Panchayats have been awarded TB free certification?

(A) 28,110
(B) 46,118
(C) 57,000
(D) 1,38,000

151. How much will Indian Oil Corporation provide over two years to strengthen boxing in India?

(A) Rs 20 crore
(B) Rs 40 crore
(C) Rs 60 crore
(D) Rs 100 crore

152. How many medals did Indian boxers win at the Asian Games 2026?

(A) Four, including two gold
(B) Six, including three gold
(C) Eight, including one gold
(D) Three, all bronze

153. Under which Act was the National Sports Development Fund established?

(A) The Societies Registration Act, 1860
(B) The Charitable Endowments Act, 1890
(C) The Indian Trusts Act, 1882
(D) The Companies Act, 1956

154. Till which date has the registration window for IndiaSkills 2026-27 been reopened?

(A) 9 October 2026
(B) 15 October 2026
(C) 19 October 2026
(D) 31 October 2026

155. What position did Team India secure at the WorldSkills Competition held in Shanghai?

(A) Fifth
(B) Tenth
(C) Thirteenth
(D) Twentieth

156. Which body is the implementation partner for the IndiaSkills Competition 2026-27?

(A) National Skill Development Corporation
(B) National Council for Vocational Education and Training
(C) Directorate General of Training
(D) All India Council for Technical Education

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157. Which edition of the Agrivision National Convention is being held in New Delhi in October 2026?

(A) Eighth
(B) Ninth
(C) Tenth
(D) Twelfth

158. About how many students, and from how many states, are attending the Agrivision-2026 convention?

(A) About 250 students from 20 states
(B) About 450 students from 25 states
(C) About 600 students from 28 states
(D) About 1,000 students from 36 states

159. Who is the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, who was chief guest at the convention?

(A) Dr Y. S. Malik
(B) Dr Anupam Mishra
(C) Dr M. L. Jat
(D) Dr A. K. Singh

160. In which city was the 21st Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) meeting held?

(A) Chennai
(B) Mumbai
(C) Kochi
(D) Visakhapatnam

161. Under which law did the Maritime State Development Council become a statutory consultative body?

(A) The Major Port Authorities Act, 2021
(B) The Indian Ports Act, 2025
(C) The Merchant Shipping Act, 2024
(D) The Inland Vessels Act, 2021

162. Which organisation developed the Shipbuilding Project Credit Risk Insurance Policy announced at the 21st MSDC meeting?

(A) The New India Assurance Company
(B) ECGC Ltd
(C) Life Insurance Corporation of India
(D) General Insurance Corporation of India

163. The two offshore mineral blocks offered for auction by the Ministry of Mines lie in which sea?

(A) Arabian Sea
(B) Andaman Sea
(C) Laccadive Sea
(D) Bay of Bengal off Odisha

164. What is the total area of the two offshore mineral blocks offered for auction?

(A) 632 square kilometres
(B) 1,000 square kilometres
(C) 1,632 square kilometres
(D) 2,632 square kilometres

165. Which institution is the transaction adviser for the offshore mineral block auction?

(A) Geological Survey of India
(B) SBI Capital Markets Limited
(C) MSTC
(D) National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust

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166. Which three heritage sites are covered by the memorandum of agreement signed by HAL, NCF and ASI?

(A) Hampi, Taj Mahal and Bekal Fort
(B) Hampi, Khajuraho and Golconda Fort
(C) Taj Mahal, Konark and Chittorgarh Fort
(D) Ajanta Caves, Taj Mahal and Bekal Fort

167. How much financial support has HAL approved in principle for the heritage conservation projects?

(A) 13.60 crore rupees
(B) 23.60 crore rupees
(C) 33.60 crore rupees
(D) 123.60 crore rupees

168. At which of the three sites in the agreement is the work planned in the North Bazaar and South Bazaar areas?

(A) Taj Mahal
(B) Bekal Fort
(C) Hampi
(D) Kartavya Bhawan

169. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs signed its capacity building MoU with which organisation?

(A) Karmayogi Bharat
(B) National Institute of Rural Development
(C) TRIFED
(D) National Skill Development Corporation

170. Which four states are expected to complete the in-person training of Adi Karmayogi Volunteers by 31 October 2026?

(A) Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Assam
(B) Maharashtra, Odisha, Goa and Tripura
(C) Gujarat, Rajasthan, Kerala and Manipur
(D) Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Goa and Nagaland

171. How many Adi Sewa Kendras have been registered on the portal so far under the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan?

(A) 76,000
(B) 60,507
(C) 1,22,072
(D) 1,54,000

172. Which institute developed the machine learning aided filter for treating dye contaminated wastewater?

(A) Institute of Nano Science and Technology, Mohali
(B) Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
(C) National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur
(D) Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

173. Which natural material was used to synthesise the zinc oxide nanoparticles in this work?

(A) Neem leaf extract
(B) Turmeric extract
(C) Tulsi extract
(D) Banana peel extract

174. How much methylene blue did the new membrane decolorise under combined light and ultrasonic excitation?

(A) 71 per cent in 120 minutes
(B) 75 per cent in 60 minutes
(C) 96.7 per cent in 120 minutes
(D) 98.6 per cent in 120 minutes

175. The Digital Detox Campaign of the Department of Posts was organised in collaboration with which airline?

(A) Air India
(B) IndiGo
(C) SpiceJet
(D) Akasa Air

176. On which day of the National Postal Week was the Digital Detox Campaign held?

(A) World Post Day
(B) Philately Day
(C) Mail Day
(D) Antyodaya Diwas

177. Where were the postcards written by passengers posted for onward delivery?

(A) In letter boxes on board the aircraft
(B) At post offices near the departure airports
(C) In India Post letter boxes placed at the arrival airports
(D) With the cabin crew, who handed them to post offices

178. At which venue is ESTIC-2026, where DRDO will lead a session on semiconductors, scheduled to be held?

(A) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
(B) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
(C) Yashobhoomi, Dwarka
(D) Bengaluru Palace Grounds

179. How many ministries and departments are jointly organising ESTIC-2026?

(A) Eight
(B) Ten
(C) Twelve
(D) Fifteen

180. According to the figure cited at the DRDO curtain-raiser, semiconductor business is expected to rise to 200 billion dollars by which year?

(A) 2030
(B) 2035
(C) 2040
(D) 2047

181. The North East Bankers' Conclave 3.0 was inaugurated at which venue?

(A) Mizoram University, Aizawl
(B) Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati
(C) North Eastern Hill University, Shillong
(D) Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar

182. According to the conclave, how much credit is extended for every 100 rupees deposited in banks in the Northeast?

(A) 27 rupees
(B) 37 rupees
(C) 47 rupees
(D) 57 rupees

183. The minimum population required to open a physical bank branch in the Northeast has been reduced to which level?

(A) From 5,000 to 3,000
(B) From 3,000 to 2,000
(C) From 2,000 to 1,000
(D) From 4,000 to 2,500

184. Which country is the world’s largest producer and exporter of coir and coir products?

(A) Indonesia
(B) India
(C) the Philippines
(D) Sri Lanka

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185. What was the value of India's exports of coir and coir products in FY 2025-26?

(A) ₹1,630.33 crore
(B) ₹3,284.75 crore
(C) ₹6,614.40 crore
(D) ₹16,000 crore

186. The Coir Vikas Yojana (CVY) is a central sector scheme of which Union ministry?

(A) Ministry of Textiles
(B) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
(C) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(D) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

187. What was the All-India Wholesale Price Index inflation rate for September 2026?

(A) 9.92 per cent
(B) 11.39 per cent
(C) 8.67 per cent
(D) 9.78 per cent

188. Which major group recorded the highest year-on-year wholesale inflation in September 2026?

(A) Primary Articles
(B) Manufactured Products
(C) Fuel and Power
(D) Electricity

189. What is the base year of the Wholesale Price Index series used in this release?

(A) 2011-12
(B) 2004-05
(C) 2022-23
(D) 2017-18

190. Where was the first ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum held in October 2026?

(A) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
(B) MP-IDSA, New Delhi
(C) Jakarta, Indonesia
(D) Manila, Philippines

191. What is the full form of MAHASAGAR, cited by the Raksha Mantri at the forum?

(A) Maritime Harmony and Security Alliance for Growth and Regional Advancement
(B) Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions
(C) Maritime Highway for South Asian Growth and Regional Access
(D) Mission for Advancement of Harbours, Shipping and Growth Across Regions

192. The year 2026 has been designated as the ASEAN-India Year of which kind of cooperation?

(A) Digital Cooperation
(B) Maritime Cooperation
(C) Tourism Cooperation
(D) Green Energy Cooperation

193. What is the outlay of the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA)?

(A) Rs 2,500 crore
(B) Rs 33,660 crore
(C) Rs 7.82 lakh crore
(D) Rs 97,328 crore

194. How many industrial parks are to be developed under BHAVYA, and how many in its first phase?

(A) 100 in all, up to 50 in the first phase
(B) 260 in all, up to 100 in the first phase
(C) 370 in all, up to 50 in the first phase
(D) 50 in all, up to 25 in the first phase

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195. What share of GDP does the National Manufacturing Mission aim for manufacturing to reach, and by when?

(A) 20 per cent by 2030
(B) 25 per cent by 2035
(C) 30 per cent by 2047
(D) 17 per cent by 2032

196. In which city did the Indian Navy hand over command of Combined Task Force 154?

(A) Doha
(B) Manama
(C) Muscat
(D) Djibouti

197. How many nations make up the Combined Maritime Forces partnership served by CTF 154?

(A) 27
(B) 37
(C) 47
(D) 57

198. In which year did India become a full member of the Combined Maritime Forces?

(A) 2020
(B) 2021
(C) 2022
(D) 2023

199. How much financial support has the Technology Development Board agreed to give for the YETI project?

(A) Rs 101 crore
(B) Rs 151 crore
(C) Rs 251 crore
(D) Rs 302 crore

200. What is the maximum payload YETI is designed to carry?

(A) 50 kg
(B) 100 kg
(C) 200 kg
(D) 500 kg

201. Up to what altitude above mean sea level is YETI designed to operate?

(A) 4,500 metres
(B) 5,500 metres
(C) 6,500 metres
(D) 8,500 metres

202. Where was the North East Bankers' Conclave 3.0 held?

(A) Mizoram University, Aizawl
(B) Gauhati University, Guwahati
(C) Tripura University, Agartala
(D) Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar

203. How many of the identified villages in the Northeast are now connected to a bank branch or India Post Payments Bank?

(A) 5,905 of 9,479
(B) 6,905 of 9,479
(C) 7,905 of 9,479
(D) 8,479 of 9,479

204. What is the national credit-deposit ratio cited at the conclave, which Manipur and Assam are at or above?

(A) 69.5 per cent
(B) 74.5 per cent
(C) 79.5 per cent
(D) 84.5 per cent

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205. The National Social Assistance Programme has been renamed as which of the following?

(A) Pradhan Mantri Samajik Suraksha Yojana
(B) Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana
(C) Pradhan Mantri Jan Kalyan Yojana
(D) Pradhan Mantri Vridhavastha Pension Yojana

206. Under the revised divyangjan pension, what is the monthly assistance for a beneficiary aged 80 years and above?

(A) Rs 375
(B) Rs 500
(C) Rs 625
(D) Rs 1,000

207. The duty of the Central Government that the National Social Assistance Programme gives effect to is contained in which Article of the Constitution?

(A) Article 21
(B) Article 41
(C) Article 44
(D) Article 51A

208. The Productivity Linked Bonus approved for railway employees is equal to how many days' wages?

(A) 60 days
(B) 72 days
(C) 78 days
(D) 90 days

209. What is the total amount sanctioned for the Productivity Linked Bonus to railway employees?

(A) Rs 1,879.23 crore
(B) Rs 2,009.61 crore
(C) Rs 2,245.50 crore
(D) Rs 3,102.40 crore

210. According to the decision, how much freight did Indian Railways load in 2025-26?

(A) 1,512 million tonnes
(B) 1,670 million tonnes
(C) 1,845 million tonnes
(D) 2,100 million tonnes

211. Which agency carried out Operation Deep Manifest against the smuggling of Pakistan-origin rock salt?

(A) Central Bureau of Investigation
(B) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence
(C) Enforcement Directorate
(D) Narcotics Control Bureau

212. Through which third country's port were the Pakistan-origin rock salt consignments routed?

(A) Sri Lanka
(B) Bangladesh
(C) Oman
(D) Singapore

213. Under which law were the four persons in the rock salt case arrested?

(A) Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999
(B) Customs Act, 1962
(C) Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
(D) Essential Commodities Act, 1955

214. Operation Parivartan, under which illicit cannabis cultivation was destroyed, was carried out in which district?

(A) Kullu, Himachal Pradesh
(B) Chamba, Himachal Pradesh
(C) Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
(D) Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir

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215. The Central Bureau of Narcotics functions under which ministry of the Government of India?

(A) Ministry of Home Affairs
(B) Ministry of Finance
(C) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(D) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

216. Which policy requires the Central Bureau of Narcotics to promote alternative crop development?

(A) National Agriculture Policy 2000
(B) NDPS Policy 2012
(C) National Health Policy 2017
(D) National Forest Policy 1988

217. How many clinical trial sites will be adopted under the NIPER Raebareli and AstraZeneca India collaboration?

(A) 10
(B) 25
(C) 50
(D) 100

218. The clinical research collaboration signed at New Delhi advances which flagship government initiative?

(A) Biopharma SHAKTI
(B) Ayushman Bharat
(C) Mission Indradhanush
(D) PRIP Scheme

219. Who is the Director of NIPER Raebareli, quoted on the proposed Centre of Excellence?

(A) Manoj Joshi
(B) Dr Shubhini Saraf
(C) Praveen Rao Akkinepally
(D) Dr M L Jat

220. In BHARAT TULIP, the abbreviation TULIP stands for which of the following?

(A) Traditional Artisans' Upliftment Livelihood Programme
(B) Textile Upgradation and Livelihood Investment Programme
(C) Tribal Upliftment and Local Industry Programme
(D) Training for Urban Livelihood and Industrial Production

221. BHARAT TULIP is being implemented by which ministry?

(A) Ministry of Textiles
(B) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(C) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
(D) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

222. Which corporation implements BHARAT TULIP for the ministry?

(A) NSFDC
(B) NBCFDC
(C) TRIFED
(D) KVIC

223. Which entity has been approved as the Strategic Buyer for IDBI Bank Ltd?

(A) M/s 10955230 Canada Inc, a Fairfax Financial Holdings entity
(B) Life Insurance Corporation of India
(C) Prem Watsa Capital Partners Ltd
(D) Emirates NBD Bank PJSC

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224. What is the total stake being sold in IDBI Bank Ltd under the approved restructuring?

(A) 45.48 per cent
(B) 51 per cent
(C) 60.72 per cent
(D) 94.71 per cent

225. Which two methods were used to arrive at the benchmark price for the IDBI Bank transaction?

(A) Discounted Cash Flow Method and Book Value Method
(B) Market Multiple Method and Asset Valuation Method
(C) Reserve Price Method and Stock Market Price Method
(D) Dividend Yield Method and Replacement Cost Method

226. India's accession has been approved to which fisheries agreement?

(A) Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
(B) Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
(C) Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention
(D) Bay of Bengal Fisheries Compact

227. Which country has the largest share of high seas fishing?

(A) Japan
(B) Spain
(C) China
(D) South Korea

228. Which scheme adopted under SIOFA will India take part in to strengthen coastal security?

(A) Deep Ocean Surveillance Programme
(B) High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme
(C) Marine Stock Certification Scheme
(D) Blue Flag Vessel Scheme

229. Who has been made chairman of the committee constituted to examine issues relating to sugarcane farmers and the sugar sector?

(A) Prof. Ramesh Chand
(B) Dr. Ashok Dalwai
(C) Prof. Abhijit Sen
(D) Dr. Himanshu Pathak

230. Representatives of sugarcane farmers from which two States met the Union Ministers before the committee was constituted?

(A) Uttar Pradesh and Bihar
(B) Karnataka and Maharashtra
(C) Punjab and Haryana
(D) Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh

231. Which price of sugar is the committee asked to examine for revision?

(A) The retail ceiling price of sugar
(B) The export floor price of sugar
(C) The ex-mill Minimum Selling Price of sugar
(D) The levy sugar price for ration shops

232. Who is the Chairman of the High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes (HLCDC), which launched its web portal?

(A) Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar (Retd.)
(B) Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman (Retd.)
(C) The Union Home Secretary
(D) The Registrar General of India

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233. Which ministry constituted the High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes?

(A) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

(B) Ministry of Home Affairs

(C) Ministry of External Affairs

(D) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

234. Who can submit inputs on the new demography portal?

(A) Only Central Ministries and Departments

(B) Only State and Union Territory Governments

(C) Central Ministries, State and UT Governments, NGOs and institutions, and individuals

(D) Only members of the committee and its research staff

235. MSCARO, 2026 mandated by the Ministry of Cooperation relates to which subject?

(A) Election of office bearers in cooperative banks

(B) Statutory audit reporting by Multi-State Cooperative Societies

(C) Registration of new primary agricultural credit societies

(D) Minimum capital norms for urban cooperative banks

236. Under which provision has the Central Government been empowered to prescribe auditing and accounting standards for Multi-State Cooperative Societies?

(A) Section 73(6) of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023

(B) Section 35 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949

(C) Section 143 of the Companies Act, 2013

(D) Article 243ZH of the Constitution

237. Which societies are covered in the initial phase of MSCARO, 2026?

(A) Those crossing Rs 100 crore

(B) Those crossing Rs 250 crore

(C) Those crossing Rs 1,000 crore

(D) All registered societies from the first day

238. Who is the author of the memoir ‘Dancing with Joy’, released by the Vice-President?

(A) Dr. Sandhya Purecha

(B) Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant

(C) Dr. P. Raghu Ram

(D) Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi

239. How many Day Care Cancer Centres were said to have been established, as cited at the event?

(A) 200

(B) 350

(C) 500

(D) 900

240. Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant, author of ‘Dancing with Joy’, belonged to which civil service?

(A) Indian Administrative Service

(B) Indian Revenue Service

(C) Indian Railway Traffic Service

(D) Indian Information Service

241. What was the theme of World Standards Day 2026?

(A) Shared Vision for a Better World: SDG 7 (Clean & Affordable Energy)

(B) Standards for Climate Resilient Infrastructure

(C) Quality for a Self-Reliant India

(D) Standards for a Digital Decade

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242. Which purity grades of silver are covered by the BIS Silver Refinery Scheme announced on World Standards Day 2026?

(A) 995.0, 990.0 and 985.0 parts per thousand
(B) 999.9, 999.5 and 999.0 parts per thousand
(C) 916, 875 and 750 parts per thousand
(D) 999.99 and 999.95 parts per thousand only

243. How many standards has the Telecommunication Engineering Centre released, as stated on World Standards Day 2026?

(A) 82
(B) 596
(C) 5,400
(D) 600

244. What is the fundraising target of IIT Kanpur's 'Greater Than Us' campaign?

(A) US$500 million by March 2029
(B) US$1 billion by March 2029
(C) US$2 billion by March 2030
(D) Rs 4,155 crore by March 2028

245. The National Military Drone Technology Hub, whose approval process is nearing completion, is being set up at which institute?

(A) IIT Madras
(B) IIT Delhi
(C) IIT Kanpur
(D) IIT Bombay

246. How many unicorns has the IIT ecosystem produced, according to the Defence Minister?

(A) 36
(B) 46
(C) 56
(D) 66

247. How many young innovators were felicitated at the 12th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition?

(A) 42
(B) 52
(C) 62
(D) 72

248. What does MANAK stand for in the INSPIRE-MANAK scheme?

(A) Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge
(B) Mission for Advancing National Aptitude and Knowledge
(C) Model Academy for Nurturing Applied Knowledge
(D) Manthan for National Aspirations and Capability

249. How many students have been selected under INSPIRE-MANAK up to 2025-26?

(A) 7,444
(B) 46,926
(C) 50,009
(D) 18,27,580

250. Which issue of Sarvekshana, the Journal of Official Statistics, has been released?

(A) 111th
(B) 118th
(C) 121st
(D) 125th

251. Which body released the 121st issue of Sarvekshana?

(A) National Statistical Commission
(B) National Statistical Systems Training Academy
(C) Central Statistics Office
(D) National Sample Survey Office

252. The highlights of which two surveys are presented in the 121st issue of Sarvekshana?

(A) Annual Survey of Industries and the Consumer Expenditure Survey

(B) Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises 2025 and Periodic Labour Force Survey 2025

(C) National Family Health Survey and the Periodic Labour Force Survey

(D) Household Consumption Expenditure Survey and the Economic Census

253. Which edition of the India-Brunei Darussalam Joint Trade Committee met to review bilateral trade?

(A) First

(B) Second

(C) Third

(D) Fifth

254. Which sectors were identified as key areas for further India-Brunei cooperation at the meeting?

(A) Textiles, leather and gems

(B) Pharmaceuticals, healthcare and energy

(C) Defence, space and shipping

(D) Fisheries, mining and railways

255. Where will the next meeting of the India-Brunei Darussalam Joint Trade Committee be held?

(A) New Delhi

(B) Brunei Darussalam

(C) Singapore

(D) Jakarta

256. What was the theme of the AI for Good Build-a-thon 5.0 held at India Mobile Congress 2026?

(A) Agentic AI for Digital Bharat

(B) Creating innovative agents in 5G

(C) AI for Inclusive Connectivity

(D) Standards First, AI Next

257. Which team won the first prize at the AI for Good Build-a-thon 5.0?

(A) Team SNR

(B) Team Agentnet

(C) Team Netaxis, RVCE Bangalore

(D) Team Nethealers

258. How many AI prototype submissions came out of the Build-a-thon 5.0 preparation phase?

(A) 12

(B) 16

(C) 25

(D) 30

259. Under which scheme have Advanced Chemicals, Petrochemicals and Material Technologies been made eligible for funding?

(A) Production Linked Incentive Scheme

(B) Research, Development and Innovation Scheme

(C) Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech Sector

(D) National Manufacturing Mission

260. Which department approved the inclusion of the chemicals and petrochemicals sector under the RDI Scheme?

(A) Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

(B) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

(C) Department of Science and Technology

(D) Department of Scientific and Industrial Research

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261. What is the corpus of the Research, Development and Innovation Scheme?

(A) Rs 50,000 crore
(B) Rs 1 lakh crore
(C) Rs 2 lakh crore
(D) Rs 10,000 crore

262. Which two bodies jointly launched the inaugural Tech Familiarization Programme for Global South diplomats?

(A) ICAR and the Ministry of Agriculture
(B) CSIR and the Ministry of External Affairs
(C) DRDO and the Ministry of Defence
(D) ISRO and the Department of Space

263. How many Ambassadors and embassy officials, and from how many countries, attended the inaugural programme?

(A) 29 officials from 33 countries
(B) 33 officials from 29 countries
(C) 43 officials from 39 countries
(D) 23 officials from 19 countries

264. Ecofix, demonstrated live during the programme, is a technology for which purpose?

(A) Instant pothole repair using steel slag
(B) Rapid genome sequencing of crops
(C) Treatment of industrial waste water
(D) Fireproof coating for highway bridges

265. How many judicial districts has the Ministry of Law and Justice targeted under its new research-based mission on pendency?

(A) Top 50 districts
(B) Top 75 districts
(C) Top 100 districts
(D) Top 150 districts

266. Approximately how many cases are pending across courts in India, according to the Law Ministry?

(A) Over 2.8 crore
(B) Over 4.5 crore
(C) Over 5.8 crore
(D) Over 7.2 crore

267. Who chaired the video-conference meeting with Vice Chancellors of the National Law Universities?

(A) The Chief Justice of India
(B) Arjun Ram Meghwal
(C) The Attorney General of India
(D) The Secretary, Department of Justice

268. What was the theme of the two-day international conference organised by the Central Electricity Authority?

(A) Making Indian Power Sector AI Enabled
(B) Clean Energy for a Viksit Bharat
(C) Grid of the Future: Storage and Flexibility
(D) Digital India for Rural Electrification

269. Which portal was launched by the Central Electricity Authority during the inaugural session of the conference?

(A) Urja Mitra Portal
(B) Vidhyut Dwar Portal
(C) PRAAPTI Portal
(D) Saubhagya Portal

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270. How large is the team of artificial intelligence enthusiasts and brand ambassadors formed by the CEA?

(A) 24 members
(B) 36 members
(C) 54 members
(D) 72 members

271. The Brihattar Bharat conference inaugurated in New Delhi marks the centenary of which organisation?

(A) Asiatic Society of Bengal
(B) Greater India Society
(C) Indian Council for Cultural Relations
(D) Archaeological Survey of India

272. Which institution organised the three-day conference on Bharat's Cultural Connections across the Globe?

(A) Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
(B) National Museum, New Delhi
(C) Sahitya Akademi
(D) Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

273. Scholars from about how many countries are involved in the collaborative research under the Brihattar Bharat Project?

(A) Around 21 countries
(B) Around 36 countries
(C) Around 51 countries
(D) Around 75 countries

274. The Captive Employer CXO Meet held at Jaipur on 15 October 2026 was organised under which scheme?

(A) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
(B) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana 2.0
(C) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission
(D) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

275. How many rural youth have been trained so far under DDU-GKY, as stated at the Jaipur meet?

(A) 12.44 lakh
(B) 18.49 lakh
(C) 20.50 lakh
(D) 1.83 lakh

276. What share of the targets of DDU-GKY 2.0 has been earmarked for Captive Employers?

(A) 10 per cent
(B) 20 per cent
(C) 30 per cent
(D) 50 per cent

277. At the BHASHINI Rajyam Workshop held in October 2026, the Digital India BHASHINI Division signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the government of which state?

(A) Mizoram
(B) Meghalaya
(C) Manipur
(D) Nagaland

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278. The Digital India BHASHINI Division functions under which ministry of the Government of India?

(A) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(B) Ministry of Education
(C) Ministry of Culture
(D) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

279. How many Indian languages does BHASHINI support for text, as stated in October 2026?

(A) 22
(B) 23
(C) 28
(D) 36

280. The Adi Vaani platform, positioned as the National Tribal Language Repository, has been developed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with which institution?

(A) IIT Kanpur
(B) IIT Delhi
(C) Tezpur University
(D) Central Institute of Indian Languages

281. Who chaired the first meeting of the Working Group on Tribal Languages held in October 2026?

(A) The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs
(B) The Chairman of the Bhasha Samiti
(C) The Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(D) The Director of the Central Institute of Indian Languages

282. How many Eklavya Model Residential Schools were said to be able to use the Adi Vaani platform in classrooms?

(A) More than 325
(B) More than 425
(C) More than 525
(D) More than 625

283. Who chaired the 27th meeting of the G.B. Pant Society of Himalayan Environment and Development held in New Delhi in October 2026?

(A) The Union Minister for Jal Shakti
(B) The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(C) The Union Minister for Earth Sciences
(D) The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs

284. How many publications of the institute were released at the 27th meeting of the G.B. Pant Society of Himalayan Environment and Development?

(A) Two
(B) Three
(C) Four
(D) Six

285. By which year does the policy framework discussed at the meeting seek to balance ecological security with sustainable socio-economic growth in the Indian Himalayan Region?

(A) 2030
(B) 2035
(C) 2040
(D) 2047

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286. Which department is the nodal department for Special Campaign 6 on Swachhata and disposal of pending matters?

(A) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
(B) Department of Personnel and Training
(C) Department of Posts
(D) Department of Expenditure

287. Until which date does the implementation phase of Special Campaign 6 continue?

(A) 15 October 2026
(B) 30 October 2026
(C) 31 October 2026
(D) 30 November 2026

288. The DigiPost initiative, under which traffic e-challans issued by the Gujarat Police are transmitted digitally and delivered physically, was launched by which department?

(A) Department of Defence
(B) Department of Posts
(C) Ministry of Railways
(D) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

289. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey figures cited in October 2026, what was the female Labour Force Participation Rate in 2025?

(A) 22 per cent
(B) 23.3 per cent
(C) 38.8 per cent
(D) 40 per cent

290. Under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, what is the ceiling on collateral-free credit for micro and small enterprises?

(A) 10 lakh rupees
(B) 20 lakh rupees
(C) 50 lakh rupees
(D) 1 crore rupees

291. What is the enhanced guarantee coverage available to women-led micro and small enterprises under the Credit Guarantee Scheme?

(A) 75 per cent
(B) 80 per cent
(C) 85 per cent
(D) 90 per cent

292. Which of the following is NOT part of the 5D Security Threat named by the Raksha Mantri at the Defence Conclave?

(A) Disinformation
(B) Deception
(C) Deterrence
(D) Destabilisation

293. According to the Raksha Mantri, India annual defence production has risen to which level?

(A) Over Rs 1.78 lakh crore
(B) Over Rs 1.25 lakh crore
(C) Over Rs 2.45 lakh crore
(D) Over Rs 95,000 crore

294. How many ammunition variants used by the Indian defence forces are now produced indigenously, out of the total in service?

(A) 125 of 175
(B) 159 of 175
(C) 175 of 195
(D) 140 of 160

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295. Who inaugurated the third edition of KAUMARACON-2026 at the All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi?

(A) The President of India
(B) The Vice-President of India
(C) The Prime Minister of India
(D) The Union Health Minister

296. KAUMARACON-2026 was an international conference on which branch of Ayurveda?

(A) Panchakarma
(B) Rasashastra
(C) Kaumarabhritya
(D) Shalya Tantra

297. Which of these was NOT launched by the Vice-President at the AIIA event?

(A) AYUSH Start-up Portal
(B) AyuDIVA facility
(C) Vamana App
(D) AYUSH Grid Portal

298. Where and when will ESTIC 2026 be held?

(A) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, from 20 to 22 October
(B) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from 27 to 29 October
(C) Technology Bhawan, New Delhi, from 27 to 29 November
(D) Science City, Ahmedabad, from 15 to 17 October

299. What is the theme of ESTIC 2026?

(A) Science for self-reliance and sustainability
(B) Creative minds catalyzing science and empowering technology
(C) Innovation for a developed India
(D) Research, innovation and entrepreneurship for all

300. How many Technology Innovation Hubs has DST established under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems?

(A) 12
(B) 18
(C) 25
(D) 32

301. The 9th Workshop on Recent Advancements in Hydrogen Value Chain was organised by which centre?

(A) ARCI, the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials
(B) National Institute of Solar Energy
(C) Central Power Research Institute
(D) National Physical Laboratory

302. Where was the workshop commemorating National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day held?

(A) IIT Delhi, New Delhi
(B) IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai
(C) IISc Bengaluru
(D) ARCI campus, Hyderabad

303. Which of the following was NOT among the five sovereign commitments outlined at the workshop?

(A) Energy independence
(B) Net-zero emissions and industrial decarbonisation
(C) Universal energy access
(D) Nuclear fuel self-sufficiency

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304. Under which Licensed Service Area was the TRAI drive test in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands conducted?

(A) Tamil Nadu LSA
(B) West Bengal LSA
(C) Kolkata LSA
(D) Andhra Pradesh LSA

305. Which operator recorded the highest average download speed in the Kolkata area drive test?

(A) Airtel
(B) BSNL
(C) RJIL
(D) VIL

306. Which of these is NOT a parameter captured during a TRAI Independent Drive Test?

(A) Call Setup Success Rate
(B) Drop Call Rate
(C) Spectrum auction price
(D) Download and upload throughput

307. Which organisation received the Rs 2,563 crore contract for the GSAT-7C communication satellite?

(A) Bharat Dynamics Limited
(B) New Space India Limited
(C) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
(D) Bharat Electronics Limited

308. Varunastra, ordered for Rs 1,543 crore from Bharat Dynamics Limited, is what kind of weapon?

(A) A surface-to-air missile
(B) A ship-launched anti-submarine heavy weight torpedo
(C) An anti-tank guided missile
(D) A submarine-launched ballistic missile

309. Which laboratory developed the Varunastra heavy weight torpedo?

(A) Naval Science and Technological Laboratory
(B) Aeronautical Development Establishment
(C) Defence Research and Development Laboratory
(D) Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory

310. What is the approximate total cost of the five development projects inaugurated in Ladakh on 15 October 2026?

(A) Rs 1,250 crore
(B) Rs 2,500 crore
(C) Rs 3,350 crore
(D) Rs 5,600 crore

311. The new terminal inaugurated at Leh belongs to which airport?

(A) Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport
(B) Zanskar Valley Airport
(C) Nubra Shyok Airport
(D) Changthang Airport

312. Travel time on the newly dedicated Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road falls from 12 hours to about how many hours?

(A) 8 hours
(B) 6 hours
(C) 3 hours
(D) 1 hour

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313. In which city did President Droupadi Murmu attend the National SARAS Mela on 15 October 2026?

(A) Visakhapatnam
(B) Vijayawada
(C) Guntur
(D) Tirupati

314. How many stalls are women entrepreneurs using at this edition of the National SARAS Mela?

(A) More than 250
(B) More than 450
(C) More than 650
(D) More than 850

315. According to the President, how many women are now linked to self-help groups in India?

(A) More than 2 crore
(B) More than 5 crore
(C) More than 10 crore
(D) More than 25 crore

316. The Data Centre Evaluation Framework has been released by which body?

(A) Frontier Tech Hub of NITI Aayog
(B) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
(C) Central Electricity Authority
(D) Bureau of Energy Efficiency

317. How many pillars does the Data Centre Evaluation Framework rest on?

(A) Three
(B) Four
(C) Five
(D) Seven

318. India's data-centre capacity has grown from about 375 MW in 2020 to roughly what level now?

(A) Around 800 MW
(B) Around 1.5 GW
(C) Around 5 GW
(D) Around 12 GW

319. As per the PLFS bulletin for September 2026, what was the overall unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above?

(A) 3.2 per cent
(B) 5 per cent
(C) 6.4 per cent
(D) 7.8 per cent

320. Urban labour force participation rate in September 2026 rose to which level?

(A) 47.2 per cent
(B) 50.7 per cent
(C) 55.5 per cent
(D) 58 per cent

321. Urban female LFPR in September 2026 reached its highest level since October 2025 at what rate?

(A) 23.5 per cent
(B) 25.9 per cent
(C) 34.6 per cent
(D) 38.9 per cent

322. The Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, under which assistive devices are being distributed, marks what milestone?

(A) Ten years of the Ministry of Cooperation
(B) Twenty-five years of the Prime Minister in public office
(C) Seventy-five years of the Constitution
(D) Fifty years of the Right to Education

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323. How many persons with disabilities were helped at the Jagdalpur camp held from 5 to 7 October 2026?

(A) More than 1,200
(B) More than 2,400
(C) More than 3,600
(D) More than 9,000

324. Over 200 former security camps in Bastar will be converted into what?

(A) Shaheed Veer Gundadhur Seva Dera
(B) Eklavya Model Residential Schools
(C) Bastar Pandum Culture Centres
(D) Niyad Nellanar Krishi Kendras

325. The District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad is organised by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, which works under which Union ministry?

(A) Ministry of Rural Development
(B) Ministry of Jal Shakti
(C) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
(D) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

326. At the 13th Peyjal Samvad, which district reported round-the-clock piped water supply to IIM Sambalpur?

(A) Palamu, Jharkhand
(B) Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu
(C) Bargarh, Odisha
(D) West Tripura, Tripura

327. Which district told the Peyjal Samvad about village-level water budgeting to assess present and future water demand?

(A) Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu
(B) Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh
(C) Bargarh, Odisha
(D) Palamu, Jharkhand

328. Dr L. Murugan resignation from the Union Council of Ministers was accepted under which provision of the Constitution?

(A) Clause (1) of Article 74
(B) Clause (2) of Article 75
(C) Clause (3) of Article 77
(D) Article 78

329. Who accepted Dr L. Murugan resignation from the Union Council of Ministers, and on whose advice?

(A) The Prime Minister, on the advice of the Cabinet
(B) The Vice-President, on the advice of the Prime Minister
(C) The President of India, on the advice of the Prime Minister
(D) The Speaker of the Lok Sabha, on the advice of the President

330. Which clause of Article 75 makes the Union Council of Ministers collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha?

(A) Clause (1A)
(B) Clause (2)
(C) Clause (3)
(D) Clause (5)

331. Where was the National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC) launched?

(A) Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi
(B) Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi
(C) Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
(D) Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

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332. Which department has developed the National Strategic Trade Command Centre?

(A) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
(B) Department of Commerce
(C) Department of Revenue
(D) Department of Economic Affairs

333. In the context of the NSTCC dashboards, what does SCOMET stand for?

(A) Strategic Commodities, Metals and Export Technologies
(B) Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies
(C) Specified Commercial Materials and Engineering Trade
(D) Security Controlled Materials, Equipment and Trade

334. What were India total exports of merchandise and services in September 2026?

(A) 72.76 billion dollars
(B) 80.75 billion dollars
(C) 94.05 billion dollars
(D) 44.40 billion dollars

335. Which group of exports recorded the highest percentage growth in September 2026?

(A) Engineering goods
(B) Petroleum products
(C) Electronic goods
(D) Drugs and pharmaceuticals

336. India cumulative exports during April to September of 2026-27 are estimated at:

(A) 418.31 billion dollars
(B) 476.20 billion dollars
(C) 551.13 billion dollars
(D) 259.89 billion dollars

337. Where did India finish on the medal standings of the 2026 Asian Games?

(A) Second place
(B) Third place
(C) Fourth place
(D) Fifth place

338. Which city has been named as the host of the 2030 Asian Games?

(A) Doha
(B) Riyadh
(C) Aichi-Nagoya
(D) Hangzhou

339. Who heads the Target Olympic Podium Scheme and presented the performance review at the conclave?

(A) Shri Vineel Krishna
(B) Shri Hari Ranjan Rao
(C) Col N. S. Johal
(D) Smt Raksha Khadse

340. From which date does the NHAI policy on independent checking of bridge designs take effect?

(A) 1 November 2026
(B) 1 December 2026
(C) 1 January 2027
(D) 1 April 2027

341. A major river bridge comes under independent design checking when its design discharge is at least:

(A) 1,000 cubic metres per second
(B) 2,000 cubic metres per second
(C) 3,000 cubic metres per second
(D) 5,000 cubic metres per second

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342. Under the new NHAI system, the designs of critical highway structures will be independently checked mainly by:

(A) Empanelled IITs and reputed government technical institutions
(B) The Comptroller and Auditor General
(C) The Bureau of Indian Standards alone
(D) State public works departments

343. How much is the annual scholarship under the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme?

(A) 6,000 rupees
(B) 12,000 rupees
(C) 20,000 rupees
(D) 36,000 rupees

344. What is the last date for registration of NMMSS applications for the academic year 2026-27?

(A) 15 October 2026
(B) 31 October 2026
(C) 15 November 2026
(D) 30 November 2026

345. Where was the regional orientation and review workshop on NMMSS held?

(A) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
(B) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
(C) Jaipur, Rajasthan
(D) New Delhi

346. The Technology Development Board functions under which department?

(A) Department of Biotechnology
(B) Department of Science and Technology
(C) Department of Health Research
(D) Department of Pharmaceuticals

347. Which company has been supported for the development of an indigenous 32-slice CT scanner?

(A) Panacea Medical Technologies Private Limited
(B) Bharat Electronics Limited
(C) Hindustan Antibiotics Limited
(D) HLL Lifecare Limited

348. Which of the following best describes how a computed tomography scanner produces its images?

(A) Strong magnetic fields align hydrogen nuclei in the body
(B) High frequency sound waves are reflected off tissue
(C) A rotating X-ray system with digital detectors, reconstructed by computer algorithms
(D) Radioactive tracers injected into the bloodstream are tracked

349. Which city hosted the 14th High Level Meeting between the Indian Coast Guard and the Korea Coast Guard?

(A) Busan
(B) Incheon
(C) Seoul
(D) Jeju

350. Who led the Indian Coast Guard delegation at the 14th High Level Meeting with the Korea Coast Guard?

(A) Senior Superintendent General Im Myeong Gil
(B) Inspector General T. Sashi Kumar
(C) The Director General of the Indian Coast Guard
(D) The Chief of the Naval Staff

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351. In the context of the Indian Coast Guard, what does the abbreviation M-SAR stand for?

(A) Maritime Safety and Regulation
(B) Marine Surveillance and Reconnaissance
(C) Maritime Search and Rescue
(D) Marine Spill Assessment Response

352. Which session of the India-Japan Joint Working Group on the roads and road transportation sector was held in New Delhi on 15 October 2026?

(A) The 9th session
(B) The 10th session
(C) The 12th session
(D) The 14th session

353. Which two ministries, besides the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, took active part in the India-Japan Joint Working Group session on roads?

(A) Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Power
(B) Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Civil Aviation
(C) Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce
(D) Ministry of Housing and Ministry of Environment

354. The vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, referred to at the session, looks to India becoming a developed nation by which landmark?

(A) The centenary of the Constitution coming into force
(B) The centenary of Indian Independence
(C) The seventy-fifth year of the Republic
(D) The bicentenary of the first Indian railway line

355. What was the theme of Mahila Kisan Diwas 2026?

(A) Women Farmers for a Hunger Free India
(B) Role of Women Farmers in Building Developed Agriculture and a Developed India
(C) Empowering Women Through Farm Mechanisation
(D) Women in Climate Resilient Agriculture

356. Which book was released during the Mahila Kisan Diwas 2026 programme in New Delhi?

(A) Women Farmers of India: Journey from Challenges to Success
(B) Daughters of the Soil
(C) Annadata: The Women Who Feed India
(D) Krishi Sakhi: A Handbook for Extension Workers

357. Who chaired the Mahila Kisan Diwas 2026 programme at the Dr B. R. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi?

(A) The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(B) Atish Chandra, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(C) The Director General of MANAGE
(D) The Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices

358. After the addition of Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel, how many Ramsar sites does India have?

(A) 101
(B) 102
(C) 103
(D) 105

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359. Sukhna Wetland, newly designated a Ramsar site, is located in which Union Territory?

(A) Delhi
(B) Chandigarh
(C) Puducherry
(D) Ladakh

360. Sauj Jheel, one of the two wetlands added to the Ramsar list in October 2026, lies in which state?

(A) Uttar Pradesh
(B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Bihar
(D) Rajasthan

361. Which city hosted the 114th Meeting of the Development Committee Plenary of the World Bank?

(A) Jakarta
(B) Bangkok
(C) Manila
(D) Singapore

362. What was the agenda of the 114th Development Committee Plenary that India addressed?

(A) Debt Sustainability and Climate Finance
(B) Private Capital Mobilisation and Jobs
(C) Food Security and Rural Credit
(D) Digital Public Infrastructure and Trade

363. In the 114th Development Committee Plenary, India sought closer collaboration among which three World Bank Group institutions?

(A) IBRD, IFC and MIGA
(B) IBRD, IDA and IMF
(C) IFC, ICSID and ADB
(D) MIGA, IDA and AIIB

364. Which industry body released the white paper 'The New Economics of Media and Entertainment'?

(A) FICCI
(B) CII
(C) ASSOCHAM
(D) NASSCOM

365. According to the CII white paper, what size should India's media and entertainment sector reach by the early 2030s?

(A) $50 billion
(B) $75 billion
(C) $100 billion
(D) $250 billion

366. Which city hosted the two day CII Big Picture Summit 2026, at which the media and entertainment white paper was released?

(A) New Delhi
(B) Mumbai
(C) Hyderabad
(D) Chennai

367. How many National Waterways does India have at present?

(A) 101
(B) 106
(C) 111
(D) 121

368. India's first riverine lighthouses are being set up on which river?

(A) Ganga, National Waterway-1
(B) Brahmaputra, National Waterway-2
(C) West Coast Canal, National Waterway-3
(D) Godavari, National Waterway-4

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369. How much cargo moved on India's inland waterways in 2025-26?

(A) 118 MMT
(B) 168 MMT
(C) 218 MMT
(D) 318 MMT

370. To which country did APEDA flag off India's maiden consignment of organic Palmyra jaggery powder?

(A) Bulgaria
(B) Bahrain
(C) Belgium
(D) Brazil

371. The maiden organic Palmyra jaggery powder consignment was sourced from which district?

(A) Erode, Tamil Nadu
(B) Krishna, Andhra Pradesh
(C) Mysuru, Karnataka
(D) Thrissur, Kerala

372. APEDA functions under which Union ministry?

(A) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(B) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(C) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
(D) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

373. The Jamsaheb Memorial Youth Exchange Programme is held between India and which country?

(A) Poland
(B) Hungary
(C) Czech Republic
(D) Lithuania

374. Where is the Balachadi Polish Children's Camp Memorial located?

(A) Jamnagar, Gujarat
(B) Kolhapur, Maharashtra
(C) Porbandar, Gujarat
(D) Nashik, Maharashtra

375. Which Union Minister hosted the Polish youth delegation in New Delhi?

(A) The Minister of External Affairs
(B) The Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports
(C) The Minister of Culture
(D) The Minister of Education

376. According to the Status Report on Ayush Related Inventions in India (2014-2026), how many Ayush patent applications were filed between 2014-15 and 2025-26?

(A) 2,854
(B) 4,077
(C) 711
(D) 1,223

377. Which state recorded the highest Ayush patent activity, with 744 filings and 142 grants?

(A) Maharashtra
(B) Kerala
(C) Tamil Nadu
(D) Gujarat

378. By roughly how much did annual Ayush patent filings grow between 2014-15 and 2025-26?

(A) About 606 per cent
(B) About 836.5 per cent
(C) About 92.4 per cent
(D) About 51.9 per cent

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379. The first-ever Kanda Express onion consignment is being sent to which city?

(A) Guwahati
(B) Agartala
(C) Kohima
(D) Dimapur

380. Buffer onions moved by the Kanda Express are released from which fund?

(A) Price Stabilization Fund
(B) Market Intervention Scheme Fund
(C) Agriculture Infrastructure Fund
(D) National Food Security Fund

381. How much buffer onion has been dispatched across the North-East through the two Kanda Express rakes and the 44 truck consignments together?

(A) Over 1,200 MT
(B) Over 2,800 MT
(C) Over 4,400 MT
(D) Over 840 MT

382. BHASHINI has developed text-to-speech models for Sourashtra in collaboration with which institution?

(A) IIT Madras
(B) Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
(C) IIIT Hyderabad
(D) Anna University

383. Sourashtra, for which the new text-to-speech models were built, belongs to which language family and is spoken mainly in which state?

(A) Dravidian, Tamil Nadu
(B) Indo-Aryan, Tamil Nadu
(C) Indo-Aryan, Gujarat
(D) Dravidian, Karnataka

384. Which architecture was used for the new Sourashtra text-to-speech models?

(A) VITS
(B) Tacotron
(C) WaveNet
(D) Transformer-XL

385. The Ministry of Textiles held workshops on cyber security and e-waste management under which government campaign?

(A) Swachh Bharat Mission
(B) Special Campaign 6
(C) Digital India Mission
(D) Mission Karmayogi

386. Which of the following was NOT among the cyber threats discussed at the Ministry of Textiles session?

(A) Phishing attacks
(B) Malware
(C) Digital arrest scams
(D) Cryptojacking of office servers

387. According to the e-waste awareness session, obsolete electronic and electrical equipment must be disposed of in which manner?

(A) Through authorised channels after proper segregation
(B) Along with ordinary office waste
(C) By burning it within the office premises
(D) By storing it indefinitely in godowns

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388. Which ship was commissioned as the Indian Navy's first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel?

(A) INS Nistar
(B) INS Samarthak
(C) INS Arnala
(D) INS Sandhayak

389. At which place was INS Samarthak commissioned into the Indian Navy?

(A) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
(B) Kochi, Kerala
(C) Karwar, Karnataka
(D) Mumbai, Maharashtra

390. Under which project is modern naval infrastructure being developed at Karwar?

(A) Project Varsha
(B) Project Seabird
(C) Project Sagarmala
(D) Project Dolphin

391. The Technology Development Board signed an agreement for quantum-secure technology support with which company?

(A) QNu Labs Private Limited, Bengaluru
(B) QpiAI India Private Limited, Pune
(C) BosonQ Psi Private Limited, Bhopal
(D) Quantum Ecosystems Technology Council of India

392. What is the amount of TDB support and the total cost of the QNu Labs quantum project?

(A) Support of Rs 100 crore in a project of Rs 250 crore
(B) Support of Rs 150 crore in a project of Rs 300 crore
(C) Support of Rs 200 crore in a project of Rs 400 crore
(D) Support of Rs 250 crore in a project of Rs 500 crore

393. Which of the following is NOT one of the four pillars of the quantum programme supported by TDB?

(A) Identity security
(B) Location integrity
(C) Time integrity
(D) Climate resilience

394. How much investment did the 6th National Steering Committee of PM-SETU approve for five ITI clusters?

(A) Rs 1,194.92 crore
(B) Rs 1,492.11 crore
(C) Rs 2,194.92 crore
(D) Rs 3,687 crore

395. Which industry partner will upgrade the Kataka ITI cluster in Odisha under PM-SETU?

(A) BVG India Limited
(B) Tata Steel Foundation
(C) Belrise Industries Limited
(D) Eagle Infra India Limited

396. Under PM-SETU, what does the full form of the scheme's name stand for?

(A) Pradhan Mantri Skill Education and Technical Upgradation
(B) Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs
(C) Pradhan Mantri Scheme for Employment Training in Universities
(D) Pradhan Mantri Skill Enhancement and Trainee Upliftment

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397. The PAIMANA Performance Monitoring Dashboard is released by which ministry?

(A) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
(B) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
(C) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
(D) NITI Aayog

398. How many kilometres of national highway projects were awarded in April-September of FY 2026-27, according to the dashboard?

(A) 1,236.3 km
(B) 2,236.3 km
(C) 3,326.2 km
(D) 4,236.3 km

399. Renewable energy sources accounted for roughly what share of India's total installed power capacity in the dashboard update?

(A) About 32 per cent
(B) About 38 per cent
(C) About 42 per cent
(D) About 50 per cent

400. Which mineral identified at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu helped establish it as a Martian analogue site?

(A) Melanterite
(B) Gypsum
(C) Hematite
(D) Olivine

401. Which institution's research team identified the Martian analogue sites using a laser Raman spectrometer?

(A) Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad
(B) University of Kerala, Department of Geology
(C) Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru
(D) National Centre for Earth Science Studies

402. Which desert, identified as a gypsum-bearing Martian analogue site in this study, lies outside India?

(A) Atacama Desert, Chile
(B) Sahara Desert, Africa
(C) Gobi Desert, Mongolia
(D) Kalahari Desert, Botswana

403. Who inaugurated Khadi Mahotsav-2026 at the KVIC Central Office in Mumbai?

(A) The Union Minister for MSME
(B) Shri Manoj Goel, Chairman of KVIC
(C) The Chief Minister of Maharashtra
(D) The CEO of KVIC

404. How many units and from how many states are taking part in Khadi Mahotsav-2026?

(A) 57 units from 10 states
(B) 67 units from 11 states
(C) 77 units from 12 states
(D) 87 units from 14 states

405. Which podcast has KVIC launched to connect Gen Z with the Swadeshi movement?

(A) 'Baat Khadi Ki'
(B) 'Khadi Ki Awaaz'
(C) 'Swadeshi Samvaad'
(D) 'Vocal for Local'

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406. What is the approved outlay of the Samudra Manthan Scheme, also called the National Offshore Exploration Scheme?

(A) Rs 48,048 crore
(B) Rs 84,084 crore
(C) Rs 64,064 crore
(D) Rs 94,094 crore

407. Which institution organised the two-day national conference 'Pathways to Viksit Bharat: A Centenary Conclave'?

(A) Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi
(B) Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
(C) Jawaharlal Nehru University
(D) Delhi School of Economics

408. The Samudra Manthan Scheme is also known by which other name?

(A) National Deep Water Mission
(B) Blue Economy Exploration Programme
(C) National Offshore Exploration Scheme
(D) Offshore Energy Security Mission

409. The arbitration case that NHAI defended in the Chittorgarh-Udaipur stretch concerned which national highway?

(A) NH-44
(B) NH-48
(C) NH-76
(D) NH-27

410. Under which body was the three-member arbitral tribunal in the Chittorgarh-Udaipur case constituted?

(A) Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes (SAROD)
(B) Indian Council of Arbitration
(C) International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution
(D) National Company Law Tribunal

411. What is the length of the Chittorgarh-Udaipur section taken up for six-laning?

(A) 73.5 km
(B) 83.5 km
(C) 93.5 km
(D) 103.5 km

412. Where was the 14th India-Mongolia Defence Joint Working Group meeting held?

(A) New Delhi
(B) Ulaanbaatar
(C) Kathmandu
(D) Astana

413. Which joint military exercise of India and Mongolia was welcomed at the 14th Joint Working Group meeting?

(A) Exercise Nomadic Elephant
(B) Exercise Mitra Shakti
(C) Exercise Surya Kiran
(D) Exercise Garuda Shakti

414. Which facility, set up with Indian assistance, did the Indian delegation review at Mongolia's National Defence University?

(A) A satellite tracking station
(B) A Cyber Security Training Centre
(C) A naval dockyard
(D) A missile testing range

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415. How many villages had been declared Adarsh Grams under PM-AJAY as on 8 September 2026?

(A) 9,540
(B) 18,093
(C) 27,032
(D) 47,200

416. Which ministry implements the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana?

(A) Ministry of Rural Development
(B) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(C) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(D) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

417. How much has been allocated in 2026-27 for the two hostel projects under PM-AJAY?

(A) Rs 61.46 crore
(B) Rs 170 crore
(C) Rs 12.80 crore
(D) Rs 320 crore

418. Where did the two-day National Conference on e-Governance Reforms begin on 16 October 2026?

(A) Shimla
(B) Dharamshala
(C) Mussoorie
(D) New Delhi

419. Which department organised the National Conference on e-Governance Reforms?

(A) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
(B) Department of Telecommunications
(C) Department of Science and Technology
(D) Department of Expenditure

420. Which of the following Himachal Pradesh initiatives was showcased on day one of the conference?

(A) Him Parivar
(B) Jal Jeevan Mission
(C) Atal Innovation Mission
(D) Smart Cities Mission

421. Which institute reconstructed 4,600 years of monsoon and environmental history from Karela Lake?

(A) Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology
(B) Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences
(C) National Institute of Oceanography
(D) Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology

422. Karela Lake, the site of the study, is located near which city?

(A) Patna
(B) Prayagraj
(C) Lucknow
(D) Kanpur

423. Which of these climate events was identified among the four major phases in the study?

(A) The Little Ice Age
(B) The Carboniferous glaciation
(C) The Cretaceous thermal maximum
(D) The Permian extinction

424. Under which scheme were the 46 rural roads at Sanchi given bhoomi pujan?

(A) Bharatmala Pariyojana
(B) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
(C) Setu Bharatam
(D) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

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425. In which two districts is the pilot project to link every family to a livelihood being launched?

(A) Raisen and Vidisha
(B) Rewa and Satna
(C) Ujjain and Dewas
(D) Betul and Harda

426. How many additional houses were found to be needed in the Sanchi assembly segment in a recent survey?

(A) 5,035
(B) 3,081
(C) 22,477
(D) 12,900

427. Which country did India defeat in the women kabaddi final at the 2026 Asian Games?

(A) Bangladesh
(B) Iran
(C) Chinese Taipei
(D) Thailand

428. Who captained the Indian women kabaddi team that won gold at the 2026 Asian Games?

(A) Ritu Negi
(B) Pinky Roy
(C) Pushpa Rana
(D) Raj Rani

429. Where were the 2026 Asian Games, at which India won the women kabaddi gold, held?

(A) Hangzhou, China
(B) Aichi-Nagoya, Japan
(C) Jakarta, Indonesia
(D) Doha, Qatar

430. Under which ministry does the All India Institute of Ayurveda function as an autonomous institution?

(A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(B) Ministry of Ayush
(C) Ministry of Science and Technology
(D) Ministry of Education

431. According to its decade report, how many patients did AIIA treat between October 2016 and September 2026?

(A) 17,74,524
(B) 27,74,524
(C) 37,74,524
(D) 47,74,524

432. How large is the inpatient department at the AIIA main campus in Sarita Vihar?

(A) 100 beds
(B) 150 beds
(C) 200 beds
(D) 500 beds

433. Which body instituted the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar?

(A) Lalit Kala Akademi
(B) Sahitya Akademi
(C) Sangeet Natak Akademi
(D) National School of Drama

434. How many young artists will receive the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2024 and 2025?

(A) 72
(B) 84
(C) 106
(D) 128

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435. What is the cash component of the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar?

(A) Rs 10,000
(B) Rs 25,000
(C) Rs 50,000
(D) Rs 1,00,000

436. By which date must NCR industries covered by the new CAQM order install and operationalise PTZ cameras?

(A) 31 October 2026
(B) 30 November 2026
(C) 31 December 2026
(D) 31 March 2027

437. Which body has issued the order extending PTZ camera-based remote monitoring in the National Capital Region?

(A) National Green Tribunal
(B) Central Pollution Control Board
(C) Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas
(D) Delhi Pollution Control Committee

438. Over which protocol must the PTZ cameras transmit video to the regulators under the CAQM order?

(A) File Transfer Protocol
(B) Real Time Streaming Protocol
(C) Simple Mail Transfer Protocol
(D) Hypertext Transfer Protocol

439. India Mining Week has been rescheduled to which dates?

(A) 15 to 17 November 2026
(B) 10 to 12 January 2027
(C) 24 to 26 February 2027
(D) 5 to 7 April 2027

440. At which venue will India Mining Week be held?

(A) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
(B) Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi
(C) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
(D) Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar

441. Which ministry organises India Mining Week?

(A) Ministry of Mines
(B) Ministry of Coal
(C) Ministry of Steel
(D) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

442. In which city was Navaratri Sargotsavam 2026 inaugurated by the Vice-President?

(A) Thiruvananthapuram
(B) Kochi
(C) Kozhikode
(D) Thrissur

443. Who received the Sarga Kesari Award at Navaratri Sargotsavam 2026?

(A) A. K. Prasanth
(B) P. R. Rajendran
(C) C. Sadanandan Master
(D) Vidhu-bala

444. Which book did the Vice-President release at Navaratri Sargotsavam 2026?

(A) Sangha Noottandile Akshara Mudrakal
(B) Kesari Smaranakal
(C) Akshara Deepam
(D) Virasat Bhi Vikas Bhi

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445. What is the total outlay of the revised Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations?

(A) Rs 3,062 crore
(B) Rs 7,386.74 crore
(C) Rs 12,500 crore
(D) Rs 980 crore

446. Under the revised scheme, what is the maximum assistance a federation can receive for hosting an international sports event in India?

(A) Rs 10 crore
(B) Rs 25 crore
(C) Rs 50 crore
(D) Rs 100 crore

447. Which of the following is a new component introduced in the revised scheme?

(A) Setting up single-sport Olympic Training Centres
(B) Free air tickets for all domestic athletes
(C) A cash award for every medal won at school games
(D) Monthly pension for all serving coaches

448. How many additional houses were approved under PMAY-U 2.0 at the 10th meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee?

(A) 1.93 lakh
(B) 2.93 lakh
(C) 1.19 lakh
(D) 3.91 lakh

449. Which state received the largest number of houses sanctioned at the 10th CSMC meeting of PMAY-U 2.0?

(A) Bihar
(B) Uttar Pradesh
(C) Telangana
(D) West Bengal

450. Under the Interest Subsidy Scheme vertical of PMAY-U 2.0, what is the maximum interest subsidy a family can receive?

(A) Rs 1.80 lakh
(B) Rs 2.50 lakh
(C) Rs 2.67 lakh
(D) Rs 1.20 lakh

451. ITRA, Jamnagar, which observed its sixth Foundation Day as ITRA Day, is the first institute of which system of medicine to be granted the status of Institute of National Importance?

(A) Ayurveda
(B) Yoga and Naturopathy
(C) Homoeopathy
(D) Unani

452. How many patients have been treated in the inpatient department of ITRA Jamnagar's hospital over the past six years?

(A) 27,520
(B) 18,47,807
(C) 2,752
(D) 1,84,780

453. Under which title was the national conference on artificial intelligence and Ayurveda held at ITRA Jamnagar?

(A) Ayu-Tech Navonmesh 2026
(B) Ayush Grid Samvaad 2026
(C) Ayur Digital Manthan 2026
(D) Navonmesh Bharat 2026

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454. During the parliamentary debate on which law was an amendment moved to restrict dilution of the Government's shareholding in IDBI?

(A) IDBI (Repeal) Act, 2003
(B) Banking Regulation Act, 1949
(C) State Bank of India Act, 1955
(D) Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

455. Which court decided All India IDBI Officers' Association versus Union of India and Others, dismissing the challenge to dilution of the Government's stake?

(A) Supreme Court of India
(B) Delhi High Court
(C) Bombay High Court
(D) National Company Law Tribunal

456. Which legal doctrine did the court hold wholly inapplicable while rejecting the challenge to the dilution of the Government's stake in IDBI?

(A) Doctrine of eclipse
(B) Doctrine of pith and substance
(C) Promissory estoppel
(D) Basic structure doctrine

457. Which structure built under the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link is the world's highest railway arch bridge?

(A) Anji Khad Bridge
(B) Chenab Rail Bridge
(C) Pamban Bridge
(D) Bogibeel Bridge

458. What are the route length and the cost of the USBRL project?

(A) 272 km at Rs 43,780 crore
(B) 119 km at Rs 6,808 crore
(C) 216 km at Rs 2,700 crore
(D) 190 km at Rs 1,677 crore

459. Tunnel T50, India's longest transport tunnel, links which two places?

(A) Baltal and Minamarg
(B) Khari and Sumber
(C) Udhampur and Ramban
(D) Srinagar and Sonamarg

460. Which two sugars does the FSSAI draft amendment propose to keep out of products meant for infants up to six months of age?

(A) Lactose and maltose
(B) Sucrose and fructose
(C) Glucose polymers and lactose
(D) Sorbitol and mannitol

461. The FSSAI draft amendment of 2026 modifies which parent regulations on foods for infant nutrition?

(A) Foods for Infant Nutrition Regulations, 2011
(B) Foods for Infant Nutrition Regulations, 2016
(C) Foods for Infant Nutrition Regulations, 2020
(D) Foods for Infant Nutrition Regulations, 2024

462. Within how many days of the Official Gazette copies reaching the public may stakeholders file objections to the FSSAI draft on infant nutrition?

(A) 30 days
(B) 45 days
(C) 60 days
(D) 90 days

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463. Who held the interaction with start-ups on affordable, scalable solutions for air pollution in Delhi-NCR on 17 October 2026?

(A) Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh
(B) Shri Bhupender Yadav
(C) Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa
(D) The Chairperson of CAQM

464. Under which campaign theme was the Environment Ministry's interaction with air-pollution start-ups held?

(A) Saaf Hawa mein Hissedaari, Hum Sabhi ki hai Zimmedaari
(B) Swachh Vayu, Swasth Jeevan
(C) Mera Shehar, Meri Hawa
(D) Hawa Badlo, Desh Badlo

465. The problem statements placed before the innovators by the Union Environment Minister covered how many key areas of air pollution management?

(A) 5
(B) 7
(C) 9
(D) 12

466. What size is India's space economy expected to reach over the next seven to eight years?

(A) USD 15-20 billion
(B) USD 40-45 billion
(C) USD 90-100 billion
(D) USD 5-9 billion

467. In which period was India's space sector opened to private participation, as recalled by the Minister?

(A) 2014-2015
(B) 2016-2017
(C) 2019-2020
(D) 2022-2023

468. Which body organised the media roundtable on 'Space, Sovereignty and New Economy' in New Delhi?

(A) World Economic Forum
(B) Bloomberg New Economy Forum
(C) NITI Aayog
(D) IN-SPACe

469. Project Seabird, whose Phase IIA facilities were inaugurated in October 2026, is located at which naval base?

(A) Visakhapatnam
(B) Karwar
(C) Kochi
(D) Mumbai

470. To what bed strength has the naval hospital INHS Patanjali at Karwar been enlarged?

(A) 209 beds
(B) 300 beds
(C) 409 beds
(D) 509 beds

471. Who inaugurated the Project Seabird Phase IIA infrastructure at Karwar?

(A) The Chief of the Naval Staff
(B) Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, FOC-in-C Western Naval Command
(C) Vice Admiral Vivek Dahiya, Director General Seabird
(D) The Defence Minister

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472. The first Stakeholder Consultation Meeting of the Climate Science into Services for India Forum was hosted by which institute?

(A) India Meteorological Department, New Delhi
(B) Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune
(C) National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Goa
(D) Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram

473. IITM, Pune, which hosted the consultation, functions under which Union ministry?

(A) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(B) Ministry of Science and Technology
(C) Ministry of Earth Sciences
(D) Ministry of Jal Shakti

474. Which nationwide system was argued for at the technical session of the consultation?

(A) National Disaster Alert Network
(B) Climate Services Information System
(C) Integrated Weather Grid
(D) National Monsoon Mission

475. In the FSSAI draft amendment, what Maximum Residue Limit is proposed for Acetamiprid in tea?

(A) 10 ppm
(B) 20 ppm
(C) 30 ppm
(D) 50 ppm

476. Which authority has notified the draft amendment on pesticide residue limits in tea?

(A) Tea Board of India
(B) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(C) Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee
(D) Indian Council of Agricultural Research

477. India's average pesticide use is reported as less than 0.5 kg per hectare. What is the global average quoted for comparison?

(A) 1.08 kg per hectare
(B) 2.38 kg per hectare
(C) 3.74 kg per hectare
(D) 5.20 kg per hectare

478. What is the duration of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan announced by the Ministry of Agriculture?

(A) 2 October to 31 October 2026
(B) 22 October to 30 November 2026
(C) 1 November to 31 December 2026
(D) 22 November to 30 December 2026

479. How many teams of Krishi Vigyan Kendras and ATMA have been targeted for the Khet Bachao Abhiyan?

(A) 1,450 teams
(B) 2,150 teams
(C) 4,150 teams
(D) 41,500 teams

480. Who is the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research who attended the review meeting?

(A) Atish Chandra
(B) Dr M. L. Jat
(C) Bhagirath Choudhary
(D) Shivraj Singh Chouhan

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481. The Yuva Samvad attended by Shivraj Singh Chouhan marked how many years of Vande Mataram?

(A) 100 years
(B) 125 years
(C) 150 years
(D) 175 years

482. Where did the Minister plant saplings along with youth from seven states?

(A) Lal Parade Ground, Bhopal
(B) Smart City Park, Bhopal
(C) Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal
(D) Shaurya Smarak, Bhopal

483. Which youth platform did the Minister call a large platform for preparing creative youth power for a developed India?

(A) MY Bharat
(B) Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan
(C) National Service Scheme
(D) Fit India Movement

484. On which date was Yoga evam Aatm-Suraksha Diwas observed across India to begin the second month of the Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat 100 Week Sankalp Abhiyan?

(A) 14 October 2026
(B) 15 October 2026
(C) 16 October 2026
(D) 18 October 2026

485. How many participants did Week 5 of the Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat 100 Week Sankalp Abhiyan draw?

(A) 34,290
(B) 91,179
(C) 31,507
(D) 25,391

486. Under which theme is the second month of the Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat campaign being run?

(A) Fit Youth, Addiction-Free Youth (Shakti evam Seva)
(B) Swasth Yuva, Swasth Bharat (Yoga evam Shakti)
(C) Young India, Drug-Free India (Seva evam Samarpan)
(D) Nasha Mukt Bharat, Viksit Bharat (Shakti evam Suraksha)

487. On which date is World Menopause Day observed every year?

(A) 8 October
(B) 18 October
(C) 28 October
(D) 15 October

488. Which research council works under the Ministry of Ayush on Ayurvedic approaches to menopausal health?

(A) Indian Council of Medical Research
(B) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
(C) Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences
(D) Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation

489. In Ayurveda, menopause and its associated clinical features are discussed under which term?

(A) Rajonivritti
(B) Rasayana
(C) Ashokarista
(D) Yoga Nidra

490. CAQM, which reviewed NCR pollution enforcement at its Enforcement Task Force meeting, stands for which body?

(A) Central Agency for Quality Monitoring
(B) Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas
(C) Committee on Air Quality and Mobility
(D) Central Air Quality Mission

491. How many inspections did CAQM report for the fortnight from 25 September to 9 October 2026?

(A) 88
(B) 124
(C) 216
(D) 341

492. How many units, projects and entities had the CAQM Flying Squads inspected in all, as on 16 October 2026?

(A) 18,372
(B) 24,910
(C) 28,868
(D) 31,445

493. The High Powered Enquiry Committee that has launched the portal hpec.nic.in was constituted by which authority?

(A) The Supreme Court of India
(B) The National Human Rights Commission
(C) The Delhi High Court
(D) The Election Commission of India

494. The violence being enquired into by the HPEC took place at which Delhi location?

(A) Ramlila Maidan
(B) Jantar Mantar
(C) Boat Club
(D) Raj Ghat

495. Which of the following is NOT listed among the HPEC priority matters?

(A) The use of pellet guns
(B) Harassment of female protestors
(C) Fixing compensation for industrial accidents
(D) Destruction of property on either side

496. What were India estimated cumulative exports during April to September of 2026-27?

(A) US$ 418.31 billion
(B) US$ 476.20 billion
(C) US$ 512.60 billion
(D) US$ 389.75 billion

497. In which city was the Leveraging FTAs outreach programme of the Department of Commerce held?

(A) Jodhpur
(B) Udaipur
(C) Jaipur
(D) Bhilwara

498. According to the sector presentation at the programme, where does India rank among global exporters of gems and jewellery?

(A) Third
(B) Fifth
(C) Eighth
(D) Twelfth

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499. Which Union Minister addressed the Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvaad programme in Porbandar district, Gujarat?

(A) Dr Mansukh Mandaviya
(B) Shri Piyush Goyal
(C) Shri Bhupender Yadav
(D) Shri G. Kishan Reddy

500. How many young leaders did the Minister say are being developed across the country?

(A) Ten thousand
(B) Fifty thousand
(C) One lakh
(D) Ten lakh

501. The Panch Pran, recalled by the Minister, were announced by the Prime Minister from which place?

(A) The Red Fort
(B) Parliament House
(C) Rashtrapati Bhavan
(D) Sabarmati Ashram

502. How many Cleanliness Target Units were transformed by the Ministry of Mines under Swachhata Hi Seva 2026?

(A) 96
(B) 136
(C) 186
(D) 236

503. Which Union Minister took part in the Swachhata Hi Seva drive at Yashwant Palace Market, Chanakyapuri?

(A) Shri Keshav Chandra
(B) Shri Bhupender Yadav
(C) Shri G. Kishan Reddy
(D) Dr Mansukh Mandaviya

504. How many individuals took part in the cleaning of 59 public spaces under the campaign?

(A) 2,498
(B) 5,498
(C) 8,723
(D) 10,723

505. NPPA has capped the trade margin on 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs at what share of the Maximum Retail Price?

(A) 15%
(B) 20%
(C) 30%
(D) 50%

506. From which date will the revised prices of the 137 anti-cancer drugs become effective?

(A) 17 October 2026
(B) 1 November 2026
(C) 9 November 2026
(D) 1 January 2027

507. Under which law has NPPA fixed the trade margin ceiling on these anti-cancer drugs?

(A) Paragraph 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013
(B) Section 12 of the Essential Commodities Act
(C) Paragraph 4 of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy
(D) Rule 65 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules

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508. The Indian Navy First Training Squadron completed a port call at Port Victoria, which is the main port of which country?

(A) Mauritius
(B) Seychelles
(C) Maldives
(D) Madagascar

509. Which ships formed the First Training Squadron during its Seychelles port call?

(A) INS Tir, INS Sujata and ICGS Sarathi
(B) INS Shivalik, INS Kamorta and ICGS Samarth
(C) INS Tarangini, INS Sudarshini and ICGS Vikram
(D) INS Delhi, INS Satpura and ICGS Abhinav

510. MAHASAGAR, the vision mentioned with this deployment, stands for which of the following?

(A) Maritime Harmony and Secure Access for Growth and Regional Advancement
(B) Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions
(C) Maritime Alliance for Shared Action, Growth and Regional Resilience
(D) Mutual Assistance for Humanitarian Aid, Security and Growth in Regions

511. How much money did the National Biodiversity Authority disburse to the State Biodiversity Boards under the Access and Benefit Sharing mechanism?

(A) Rs 1.19 crore
(B) Rs 11.9 crore
(C) Rs 86 lakh
(D) Rs 2.3 crore

512. Which State received the largest share of this Access and Benefit Sharing disbursal?

(A) Rajasthan
(B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Karnataka

513. Under which provision must the State Biodiversity Boards spend the money they have received?

(A) Section 32(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002
(B) Section 15 of the Environment Protection Act
(C) Section 8 of the Wild Life Protection Act
(D) Section 41 of the Forest Conservation Act

514. Which officer led the CAQM team that reviewed paddy stubble management in Firozpur and Faridkot?

(A) Dr T. S. Panwar, Member (Technical)
(B) The Chairperson of CAQM
(C) The Deputy Commissioner of Moga
(D) The Chief Secretary of Punjab

515. CRM machinery, discussed during the review, stands for which of the following?

(A) Crop Rotation Management machinery
(B) Crop Residue Management machinery
(C) Climate Risk Mitigation machinery
(D) Central Rural Mechanisation machinery

516. Which two technologies did the CAQM review highlight for monitoring stubble burning?

(A) Satellites and ground radar
(B) Drones and low cost sensors
(C) Weather balloons and lidar
(D) Mobile laboratories and smog towers

517. How many stalls are there at the Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 being held at Mysuru?

(A) 63
(B) 73
(C) 83
(D) 93

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518. The Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 is being held at which venue?

(A) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
(B) Mysuru Dasara Exhibition Grounds, Karnataka
(C) Dilli Haat, New Delhi
(D) Surajkund, Haryana

519. How many artisans have benefited from the Shilp Samagam Melas held since 2022?

(A) 575
(B) 775
(C) 875
(D) 975

520. The Central Bureau of Narcotics held its drug awareness programmes in Madhya Pradesh under which mission?

(A) Mission Yuva Shakti
(B) Mission Yuva Raksha
(C) Mission Nasha Mukti
(D) Mission Swasth Yuva

521. The Central Bureau of Narcotics functions under which Union ministry?

(A) Ministry of Home Affairs
(B) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(C) Ministry of Finance
(D) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

522. Which organisation partnered the Central Bureau of Narcotics in the awareness programmes at Jawad and Garoth?

(A) Brahma Kumaris
(B) Art of Living
(C) Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan
(D) National Service Scheme

523. Exercise KONKAN-26 was a bilateral maritime exercise between India and which other country?

(A) France
(B) The United Kingdom
(C) The United States
(D) Japan

524. Which Indian warship represented the Indian Navy in Exercise KONKAN-26?

(A) INS Tabar
(B) INS Talwar
(C) INS Trishul
(D) INS Teg

525. Off which British port city did Exercise KONKAN-26 conclude?

(A) Portsmouth
(B) Plymouth
(C) Southampton
(D) Liverpool

526. Which foundation day was marked by the All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi, as KAUMARACON 2026 concluded?

(A) 5th Foundation Day
(B) 10th Foundation Day
(C) 15th Foundation Day
(D) 25th Foundation Day

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527. On its 10th Foundation Day, the All India Institute of Ayurveda signed Memorandums of Understanding with which two organisations?

(A) Rashtriya Ayurved Vidyapeeth and Arogya Bharati

(B) The National Medical Commission and Arogya Bharati

(C) Rashtriya Ayurved Vidyapeeth and the Indian Council of Medical Research

(D) The Ministry of Ayush and the National Medical Commission

528. An Academic Chair in Ayurveda is to be set up under an international MoU signed by AIIA Goa with which university?

(A) Maharishi International University, United States

(B) University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

(C) University of Melbourne, Australia

(D) Heidelberg University, Germany

529. Which city is hosting the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation?

(A) Tashkent

(B) Dushanbe

(C) Astana

(D) Bishkek

530. Who represents India at the 25th SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in October 2026?

(A) The Prime Minister

(B) The External Affairs Minister

(C) The Defence Minister

(D) The Commerce and Industry Minister

531. Which of the following is NOT listed among the focus areas of the 25th SCO CHG meeting?

(A) Trade, economy and investment

(B) Connectivity and innovation

(C) Cultural and humanitarian exchanges

(D) Admission of new member states

532. Which organisation, working under MeitY, held the Tech Conclave on AI for Health and Assistive Technologies with CIIE, IIT (BHU)?

(A) National Informatics Centre

(B) Software Technology Parks of India

(C) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

(D) Education and Research Network

533. Shri S. Krishnan, who delivered the keynote address at the Tech Conclave, holds which post?

(A) Director General, STPI

(B) Director, IIT (BHU)

(C) Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

(D) Chief Executive Officer, Uttar Pradesh Startup Mission

534. Since which year, as stated at the conclave, has STPI supported the growth of India's IT and ITeS industry?

(A) 1986

(B) 1991

(C) 1998

(D) 2005

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535. In which year was the biofortified purple-fleshed potato variety Kufri Jamunia officially released?

(A) 2018
(B) 2021
(C) 2024
(D) 2026

536. How much Vitamin C does the flesh of Kufri Jamunia contain per 100 grams?

(A) 23.15 mg
(B) 32.23 mg
(C) 42.75 mg
(D) 80.66 mg

537. What yield does Kufri Jamunia give under recommended cultivation practices?

(A) 12-15 tonnes per hectare
(B) 22-25 tonnes per hectare
(C) 32-35 tonnes per hectare
(D) 52-55 tonnes per hectare

538. How much crystal methamphetamine did the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seize in Nagapattinam district?

(A) 37 kg
(B) 137 kg
(C) 157 kg
(D) 237 kg

539. The seized consignment of crystal methamphetamine was to be smuggled to which country through a mid-sea transfer?

(A) Bangladesh
(B) Myanmar
(C) Maldives
(D) Sri Lanka

540. Under which law were the contraband seized and the four accused arrested in this case?

(A) The NDPS Act, 1985
(B) The Customs Act, 1962
(C) COFEPOSA, 1974
(D) The Arms Act, 1959

541. Which district has been notified as a Cold Water Fisheries Cluster under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana?

(A) Nainital
(B) Pithoragarh
(C) Chamoli
(D) Almora

542. What is the outlay of Uttarakhand's Trout Protsahan Yojna?

(A) Rs 70 crore
(B) Rs 170 crore
(C) Rs 270 crore
(D) Rs 317 crore

543. Uttarakhand made its first international export of trout, in June 2026, to which country?

(A) Bhutan
(B) Nepal
(C) Bangladesh
(D) Sri Lanka

544. How long is the Namo Bharat corridor between Delhi and Meerut?

(A) 62 km
(B) 72 km
(C) 82 km
(D) 92 km

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545. On which date was the entire Namo Bharat corridor dedicated to the nation along with Meerut Metro?

(A) 20 October 2023
(B) 22 February 2026
(C) 17 October 2026
(D) 15 August 2025

546. Which organisation runs the Namo Bharat regional rapid rail service?

(A) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
(B) National Capital Region Transport Corporation
(C) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited
(D) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation

547. The Asian Para Games 2026 are being held in which city?

(A) Hangzhou
(B) Jakarta
(C) Aichi-Nagoya
(D) Incheon

548. On which date did the Asian Para Games 2026 begin?

(A) 16 October 2026
(B) 17 October 2026
(C) 18 October 2026
(D) 19 October 2026

549. The Asian Para Games are a multi-sport event meant for which group of athletes?

(A) Athletes below nineteen years of age
(B) Athletes with disabilities
(C) Athletes serving in the armed forces
(D) Athletes above forty years of age

550. Which Indian Air Force aircraft carried out the short-notice casualty evacuation from Leh?

(A) C-17 Globemaster III
(B) C-130J
(C) An-32
(D) IL-76

551. The critically ill patient was airlifted from Leh and landed at which place?

(A) Hindon
(B) Palam
(C) Chandigarh
(D) Srinagar

552. To which hospital was the patient taken after the Indian Air Force flight landed?

(A) All India Institute of Medical Sciences
(B) Safdarjung Hospital
(C) Lady Hardinge Medical College
(D) Base Hospital, Leh

553. INS Sudarshini, in the news in October 2026, is which type of naval vessel?

(A) An aircraft carrier
(B) A three-masted sail training ship
(C) A nuclear-powered submarine
(D) A guided-missile destroyer

554. INS Sudarshini departed from which port during her Lokayan-2026 deployment in October 2026?

(A) Muscat, Oman
(B) Djibouti, Djibouti
(C) Salalah, Oman
(D) Port Victoria, Seychelles

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555. In the context of India's maritime vision, MAHASAGAR stands for which of the following?

(A) Maritime Advancement for Harmony, Security and Growth Around Regions

(B) Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions

(C) Maritime Alliance for Shared Growth and Regional Resilience

(D) Mutual Assistance for Harbour Security and Growth Across Regions

556. Special Campaign 6.0 of the Department of Posts is being run during which period in 2026?

(A) 1 to 30 September 2026

(B) 2 to 31 October 2026

(C) 15 October to 15 November 2026

(D) 2 to 31 December 2026

557. What is the target for resolution of public grievances under Special Campaign 6.0 of the Department of Posts?

(A) 1,00,214

(B) 1,35,000

(C) 1,50,000

(D) 1,500

558. How much revenue did the Department of Posts earn from scrap disposal under Special Campaign 6.0 up to 16 October 2026?

(A) Rs 27.64 lakh

(B) Rs 45.20 lakh

(C) Rs 67.56 lakh

(D) Rs 1.06 crore

559. In which city is the Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 visited by the Union Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary being held?

(A) Mysuru, Karnataka

(B) Guwahati, Assam

(C) Jodhpur, Rajasthan

(D) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

560. How many stalls in all does the Mysuru Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 have, and how many of them are allotted to artisans?

(A) 80 stalls in all, 72 to artisans

(B) 83 stalls in all, 80 to artisans

(C) 90 stalls in all, 83 to artisans

(D) 75 stalls in all, 37 to artisans

561. BHARAT TULIP, an initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, stands for which of the following?

(A) Tribal Upliftment and Local Industry Promotion

(B) Traditional Artisans Upliftment Livelihood Programme

(C) Technology Upgradation for Livelihood Improvement Programme

(D) Textile Units Livelihood Investment Programme

562. On which date will the Department of School Education and Literacy hold its nationwide e-waste awareness and collection drive in schools?

(A) 14 October 2026

(B) 16 October 2026

(C) 28 October 2026

(D) 31 October 2026

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563. Which body leads the campus cleanliness and e-waste collection activities in schools under Special Campaign 6?

(A) National Service Scheme units

(B) Eco Clubs for Mission LiFE

(C) National Green Corps Rangers

(D) Bharat Scouts and Guides troops

564. The e-waste mural installed by DoSEL at Kartavya Bhavan 2 was made from how much e-waste gathered by school students?

(A) 25 kg

(B) 50 kg

(C) 75 kg

(D) 150 kg

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Answer key

1.	**B**	**18.205 MT** – The Ministry of Coal placed the stock at domestic coal-based power plants at 18.205 MT on 10 October 2026, which is why the ministry could say that the level has not fallen below 18 MT at any time since 29 September 2026, when the reading was 18.932 MT.
2.	**C**	**469 rakes** – Loading for the power sector averaged 469 rakes a day over the first ten days of October 2026, and it is this heavier movement that lifted daily coal supply and slowed the drawdown of stock.
3.	**C**	**2.49 MT a day, above the plan** – Coal actually delivered to the power sector averaged 2.49 MT a day in October 2026 while the plan for the month provided for 2.37 MT a day, so supply ran ahead of the programme and bettered it on nine of the first ten days.
4.	**B**	**Peptris Technologies Private Limited, Bengaluru** – The Technology Development Board, which works under the Department of Science and Technology, signed its agreement with this Bengaluru company in Karnataka and committed Rs 86 crore from the Research Development and Innovation Fund towards the VIGOR programme...
5.	**C**	**Rs 172 crore** – The project titled VIGOR: Advancing AI-Discovered Molecules from Bench to Clinic has been costed at that figure in full, and the Technology Development Board is carrying Rs 86 crore of it from the Research Development and Innovation Fund, which works out to e...
6.	**B**	**TRL-4 to TRL-6** – Every one of the four molecules, PEPR111 for neuromuscular disorders and oncology, PEPRX101 for alopecia, PEPR202 for neuropathy and PEPR112 for DMD, stands at Technology Readiness Level four today, and the stated purpose of the money is to carry each of them...
7.	**B**	**1,469 locations** – The programmes were spread over that many places in thirty-four States on a single day, and more than three and a half lakh young people and other citizens joined them.
8.	**B**	**Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Abhiyan** – The parliaments and the melas were organised as a part of this campaign, and specifically under the leg of it called the 100 Weeks Campaign, with the stated aim of turning young people into active workers against substance abuse in their own localities.
9.	**B**	**Six, one Member of Parliament and five MLAs** – The ministry recorded the presence of exactly six elected representatives at the programmes, and gave their break-up as a single Member of Parliament together with five Members of Legislative Assemblies.
10.	**B**	**Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy** – The correct answer is the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, abbreviated as IGNFA, which is conducting the nineteenth Phase-III course from the twelfth of October to the sixth of November in 2026 for sixty-eight officers drawn from eighteen cadres.
11.	**B**	**68 officers from 18 cadres** – The course has that many participants, and the officers have come from eighteen different State cadres, which is why the ministry described the group as carrying a mix of field and policy experience ranging from wildlife conservation governance to climate-res...
12.	**B**	**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam** – Speaking to the officers, the minister pointed to initiatives that draw citizens into conservation work, and named this tree-planting drive alongside MISHTI, the Aravalli Green Wall and Nagar Van Yojana while listing India's gains in forest and tree cover, ca...
13.	**B**	**27** – Athletes of the three Services returned from the Asian Games in Japan with 27 medals, broken up as 6 gold, 11 silver and 10 bronze, which is the best the defence forces have ever managed at the event.
14.	**A**	**Naib Subedar Neeru Dhanda** – She finished the Games with two gold and one silver, and her win in the individual women's trap event made her the first Indian woman to take gold in that shooting event at the Asian Games.

15.	**C**	**Havildar Sawan Barwal** – He took silver in the men's marathon in a national record time of 2:11:37, and that medal closed the long gap of 44 years since India had last stood on an Asian Games marathon podium.
16.	**B**	**Food Corporation of India** – The MoU signed alongside the launch of Bharat Rice gives the Army a formal framework to use identified FCI warehouses, labour resources and material-handling equipment when operations require them, and it holds for five years with the option of extension by m...
17.	**B**	**NAFED** – The correct answer is NAFED, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, which will supply the rice during the financial year 2026-27 after it is milled to prescribed defence specifications and cleared by quality-control check...
18.	**B**	**10 kg and 30 kg** – Procurement in these two bag sizes is meant to make the grain easier to lift, load and carry, which matters most where rations have to be taken to remote and difficult terrain such as Ladakh and the North East.
19.	**A**	**13 October 2021** – The correct answer is 13 October 2021, which is why the plan completes five years in October 2026.
20.	**C**	**58** – The master plan brings 58 Central Ministries and Departments into a single planning framework, so that infrastructure proposals can be assessed across sectors rather than ministry by ministry.
21.	**C**	**500 crore rupees** – The Union Cabinet has approved setting up the Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority, which will take a long-term view of transport planning.
22.	**C**	**60,000 crore rupees** – PM-SETU, which stands for Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs, is a flagship scheme with that total outlay, and it seeks to change vocational education through deep industry participation and institutional reform.
23.	**C**	**51 per cent** – Dedicated Special Purpose Vehicles are being set up to manage the upgradation and operations of the two ITI clusters, and in them the industry partner AM/NS India holds a majority stake of 51 per cent.
24.	**C**	**Nine** – The partnership covers a cluster of five Government ITIs in Surat in Gujarat and a cluster of four Government ITIs in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, which adds up to nine institutes in two states.
25.	**A**	**Exercise Tarang Shakti-26** – The seminar was held on 9 October 2026 at the Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park, New Delhi, while this multinational flying exercise was under way, so the participating teams moved from flying sorties to a conceptual discussion on doctrine.
26.	**B**	**2001** – CAPSS was set up in that year as an autonomous research and analysis body working on national security, nuclear and aerospace questions, which is why the year 2026 marks its Silver Jubilee.
27.	**D**	**Air Marshal Stephen Chappell** – The correct answer is Air Marshal Stephen Chappell, Chief of the Air Staff of the Royal Australian Air Force, who chaired the second session.
28.	**A**	**Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010** – The correct answer is the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010, read with the Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012.
29.	**C**	**The local language as well as English** – The Rules require a clinical establishment to put up its rates at a conspicuous place in both, so that patients and the people accompanying them can read the charges without having to ask.
30.	**B**	**Foreign patients arriving on Medical and Ayush Visas** – The Union Health Secretary's letter asks states and union territories to encourage the prominent display, wherever applicable, of the package rates offered to international patients travelling to India on these visas.

31.	**C**	**Gaya, Bihar** – The correct answer is Gaya in Bihar, which secured first position among the best-performing districts when the scheme completed its first year.
32.	**B**	**100** – The scheme was designed for one hundred districts selected on three measures: low agricultural productivity, low cropping intensity and limited disbursement of agricultural credit.
33.	**A**	**Promoting soil health through balanced use of fertilisers** – The campaign is to be organised across all states from 22 October to 30 November 2026, and the minister asked state governments and the authorities concerned to take part actively so that it reaches farmers.
34.	**B**	**5.54%** – The correct answer is 5.54 per cent, the provisional year-on-year rate for September 2026 measured against September 2025 at the all-India combined level.
35.	**C**	**Onion** – The correct answer is onion, which topped the list of key items by inflation rate for the month, with prices roughly doubling over the year.
36.	**B**	**Field Operations Division of the National Statistical Office** – The correct answer is the Field Operations Division of the National Statistical Office, which works under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
37.	**A**	**Shared Stories, Shared Futures** – The correct answer is Shared Stories, Shared Futures, the theme under which the three-day festival opened at the National School of Drama in New Delhi and runs from 12 to 14 October 2026.
38.	**C**	**National School of Drama** – The correct answer is the National School of Drama, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture, which both hosts the opening and serves as the nodal agency for organising the festival.
39.	**B**	**Sudhakar Dalela** – The correct answer is Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, who serves as India's BRICS Sherpa for 2026 and attended the inaugural ceremony.
40.	**B**	**Ahmedabad, Gujarat** – The correct answer is Ahmedabad in Gujarat, where the games were staged at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in the Naranpura area on 12 October 2026.
41.	**C**	**Mallakhamb** – The correct answer is Mallakhamb, which India demonstrated along with Yogasana and Kalaripayattu.
42.	**A**	**A voluntary BRICS Repository of Traditional and Indigenous Sports** – The correct answer is a voluntary BRICS Repository of Traditional and Indigenous Sports, the first of three practical areas of cooperation the minister placed before the member countries.
43.	**B**	**Himachal Pradesh** – The correct answer is Himachal Pradesh, where the centre is coming up at Keylong, the administrative centre of the Lahaul and Spiti area.
44.	**B**	**ICMR and the Armed Forces Medical Services** – The correct answer is the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Armed Forces Medical Services, a pairing meant to join scientific research capacity to the practical experience of personnel who work at extreme altitudes.
45.	**A**	**Drone-enabled medicine delivery** – The correct answer is drone-enabled medicine delivery, listed along with digital health and artificial intelligence as the emerging technologies the centre will examine for reaching remote and difficult terrain.
46.	**B**	**19** – The Empowered Group of Secretaries approved the cohort at its meeting on 8 October 2026, and the nineteen are made up of two kinds of institution: 14 Alternative Investment Funds and 5 Focused Research Organisations.

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47.	**C**	**Anusandhan National Research Foundation** – The correct answer is the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, which works under the Department of Science and Technology in the Ministry of Science and Technology.
48.	**B**	**Technology Readiness Level 4 and above** – Eligible Technology Enterprises working at that level or higher can receive capital channelled by the Second Level Fund Managers, which means the fund steps in once an idea has moved past paper and early concept work and has been validated in a laboratory set...
49.	**B**	**South Africa** – INS Tarkash, a frontline guided missile stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, has been sent on an overseas deployment to South Africa to join the ninth edition of the India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime Exercise.
50.	**B**	**2008** – IBSAMAR has been held once in two years since that year, under the India-Brazil-South Africa framework, and has become a settled platform for joint training and for sharing operational practices among the three navies.
51.	**A**	**Stronger Together Towards a Shared Future in the Maritime Domain** – The correct answer is Stronger Together Towards a Shared Future in the Maritime Domain.
52.	**B**	**1993** – The National Human Rights Commission was set up on 12 October of that year, and the Commission therefore observes 12 October as its foundation day; this year it marked the 33rd such occasion at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, where it also held a national confere...
53.	**B**	**The Chief Justice of India** – The correct answer is the Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, who addressed the function as chief guest.
54.	**A**	**Water as the Elixir of Life: Advancing Human Dignity through the Right to Water** – The correct answer is Water as the Elixir of Life: Advancing Human Dignity through the Right to Water.
55.	**C**	**1,348.08 million** – The report for the quarter ending June 2026 records this as the total of wireless and wireline connections, a rise of 1.31 per cent over the previous quarter and of 10.65 per cent over the same quarter a year earlier.
56.	**C**	**94.31 per cent** – Tele-density measures telephone connections for every hundred people, and the overall figure improved from 93.26 per cent at the end of March 2026 to 94.31 per cent at the end of June 2026.
57.	**C**	**28.39 GB** – Average monthly mobile data use for each wireless data subscriber rose to this level in the quarter ending June 2026 from 26.70 GB in the quarter ending March 2026.
58.	**B**	**2030** – Addressing the business plenary of the 16th India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee, the Minister asked businesses in both countries to aim at doubling bilateral trade by the end of this decade, noting that about 1,500 days were left to work with.
59.	**B**	**In the United Kingdom in 2027** – The joint statement of the 16th meeting records the decision that the next session of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee will be hosted by the British side in that year.
60.	**B**	**GIFT City, Gandhinagar** – Financial services were the fourth of the five priority areas the Commerce and Industry Minister listed, and under it he sought greater collaboration between the City of London and GIFT City, naming fintech, insurance, cross-border payments, transition financ...
61.	**B**	**55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi** – The correct answer is 55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi, which now becomes the headquarters address of the Alliance.
62.	**C**	**Clouded leopard** – The Alliance was set up for the conservation of seven big cats, and the list runs lion, tiger, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma.
63.	**B**	**Rs 150 crore for five years** – The correct answer is Rs 150 crore for five years, covering the period from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

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64. **A** **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune** – The inaugural function of the assembly was held there, and the institute's Director delivered the opening keynote on modelling the monsoon and on narrowing the gap between how far the monsoon can be predicted in principle and the skill of actual forecasts.

65. **A** **World Climate Research Programme** – The correct answer is the World Climate Research Programme, usually shortened to WCRP.

66. **C** **Once in four years** – The correct answer is once in four years, which is why the meeting is described as quadrennial and why India's turn as host was called a historic moment by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

67. **C** **Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi** – The ship was designed in India and constructed by that yard, and it carries more than 80 per cent indigenous content, which the Navy cites as evidence of India's own strength in warship design, construction and systems integration.

68. **B** **Mahe class** – INS Mangrol, with pennant number P82, is the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft of that class to enter service with the Indian Navy.

69. **A** **Junagadh** – Mangrol is a coastal town and a well known fishing harbour in the Junagadh district of Gujarat, and the warship carries its name.

70. **C** **Eighth** – The Council met in New Delhi with Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State with Independent Charge for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, on the Indian side and Jonathan Reynolds, the British Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Trade, on...

71. **A** **Oxford Nanopore Technologies** – The centre is named BRIC-CDFD-ONT India Genomics Centre of Excellence, and the letters ONT stand for that company, whose Chief Financial Officer attended the opening.

72. **A** **Department of Science and Technology with Innovate UK** – The correct answer is the Department of Science and Technology with Innovate UK.

73. **B** **7,045 metres** – A team of seventeen climbers of the Indian Coast Guard reached the summit of Mount Mukut at that height on 7 October 2026, working through extreme weather on the way up.

74. **B** **Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling** – The correct answer is the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, usually shortened to HMI.

75. **A** **During its Swarnim Jayanti in 2027** – The correct answer is that the Everest attempt is planned during the force's Swarnim Jayanti, the golden jubilee, in the year given in option A. The Mount Mukut climb was the fifth and concluding phase of an eighteen-month preparatory programme built around t...

76. **B** **Vijayawada** – The Ministry of Rural Development is holding the fair at Punnami Ghat in that city, working with the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty of Andhra Pradesh, and this is the first time the National SARAS Mela has been staged outside Delhi and the National...

77. **B** **The President of India** – Droupadi Murmu, who holds that office, will inaugurate the fair on the fifteenth of October.

78. **A** **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission** – The correct answer is the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission, shortened to DAY-NRLM.

79. **B** **India Meteorological Department** – The IMD, which works under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, dedicated the Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Services Decision Support System to the nation on 12 October 2026.

80. **B** **The Director General of Meteorology, IMD** – The bi-annual Pre-Cyclone Exercise Meeting for the post-monsoon season, covering October to December 2026, was held under the chairmanship of Dr.

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Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology at the India Meteorological Department, who is also the 3rd...

81. **B** **2013 and 2014** – Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Phailin crossed the coast on 12 October 2013, and Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Hudhud crossed on 12 October 2014.

82. **C** **Rs 331 crore** – Union Minister for Communications and DoNER, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, took up ten projects of about this value in Mizoram on 12 October 2026 in the presence of Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma.

83. **B** **Rs 189.79 crore** – The Mizoram Ginger Mission of this size is meant to draw nearly 20,000 farming households into a single value chain that covers cultivation, processing, branding, connectivity and access to national and international markets.

84. **A** **Sairang, 51.38 kilometres** – The Bairabi-Sairang railway line of that length was called a historic milestone that placed Mizoram on the railway map of the country and changed the state's access to major economic centres.

85. **C** **6.35 lakh** – This is the training target given to the Rural Self Employment Training Institutes for the current year, and it is larger than the target that had been fixed for the previous year, 2025-26.

86. **B** **National Academy of RUDSETI** – The correct answer is the National Academy of RUDSETI, written in short as NAR.

87. **A** **Kaushal Panjee** – A key aim of the partnership is better candidate registration through this platform, together with Aadhaar-based face authentication under the Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System, so that enrolment and attendance at the institutes are both verifiable.

88. **B** **Tharman Shanmugaratnam** – Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman called on him during her visit from 8 to 11 October 2026 and also attended a luncheon he hosted along with the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

89. **B** **2027** – During the Union Finance Minister's visit, the two sides exchanged views on strengthening India-ASEAN cooperation and regional economic ties in the run-up to Singapore's ASEAN Chairmanship, which falls in that year.

90. **C** **4th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable** – The correct answer is the 4th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable, known in short as the ISMR.

91. **C** **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region** – The correct answer is the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER).

92. **C** **More than 590** – That is the participation figure the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region gave for the Ashtalakshmi Darshan Programme over the past year, and it is the number an examiner is most likely to lift from this news.

93. **A** **The eight states of the region** – The North East is described as the country's Ashtalakshmi, the eightfold form of prosperity, with each of its eight states standing for one form of that wealth.

94. **A** **Rs 1.87 lakh crore** – Sales of khadi and village industry products in 2025-26 reached this level, the highest ever recorded for the sector, with the count taken up to May 2026.

95. **C** **1956** – KVIC is a statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of that year, and the Act is what gives the commission its mandate to plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist village industries.

96. **B** **840 yards** – A hank is the unit in which a khadi spinner's work is measured, and one hank equals 840 yards of yarn in length and one pound by weight.

97. **B** **New Delhi** – The Bloomberg New Economy Forum, which gathers business leaders, policymakers and delegates from many countries for discussions on the economy, technology, energy and global affairs, was held in India for the first time, and the Prime Minister addressed the g...

98. **A** **November 2021** – Under the Paris Agreement, India committed in 2015 to meeting 40 per cent of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030, and the Prime Minister told the forum that the country touched that level in November 2021 itself, nine years ahea...

99. **C** **7.8 per cent** – Speaking at the forum, the Prime Minister said India's growth rate in the April-June quarter of this year stood at that level, and he described the growth as resting on a strong base.

100. **A** **Shrutlekh** – During the ice-breaking session of the capacity building programme on urban service delivery, the Digital India BHASHINI Division deployed Shrutlekh to translate speech as it was spoken, working in both directions between English and Spanish so that delegates...

101. **B** **2,353** – BHASHINI, which serves as India's Language Digital Public Infrastructure, has had its language technologies built into that many government platforms, and these include more than 800 government websites, so option D names only the websites and not the full co...

102. **A** **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances** – The National Centre for Good Governance works under this department and organises the Capacity Building Programme on Urban Service Delivery for Civil Servants of Multiple Countries, held at Mussoorie from 12 to 23 October 2026.

103. **B** **2,38,579** – The 53rd monthly CPGRAMS report brought out by DARPG for September 2026 puts the number of grievances closed by Central Ministries and Departments at 2,38,579 for the month.

104. **C** **Uttar Pradesh** – The 50th CPGRAMS report on States and Union Territories records that Uttar Pradesh closed the largest number of cases in September 2026 at 45,970, far ahead of every other State.

105. **A** **About 43,738 officers in 1,312 courses** – The 50th CPGRAMS report on States and Union Territories states that 1,312 training courses were completed under the Sevottam Scheme over the last five financial years, training roughly 43,738 officers in grievance handling and service delivery.

106. **B** **135.35 million tonnes** – The Ministry of Railways reported that loading in September 2026 reached 135.35 million tonnes, which was 6.14 per cent higher than the same month a year earlier.

107. **C** **Food grain** – The correct answer is food grain, whose loading grew 25 per cent during September 2026, the steepest rise among the commodity groups listed by the Ministry of Railways.

108. **B** **443 rakes** – Indian Railways raised its domestic coal supply to power stations during September 2026, moving an average of 443 coal rakes every day.

109. **B** **366.33 crore rupees** – On the first day of the auction, 150 plots belonging to Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited were sold and the winning bids together came to 366.33 crore rupees.

110. **B** **Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited** – The correct answer is Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, the corporate entity that operates the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

111. **B** **30 October 2026, covering 216 parcels** – After the response to the first phase, the second and final phase was rescheduled to that date, with bidding open from 11 in the morning until 5 in the evening, and it offers the land parcels left unsold from the first round.

112. **B** **150** – The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, along with Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, flagged off 150 new electric buses at Swami Vivekanand ISBT in Anand Vihar under the Sewa Sankalp Abhiyaan, as part of the capital's p...

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113. **C** — **60** – Delhi had forty-seven monitoring stations run by various agencies, among them the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, the Central Pollution Control Board, the India Meteorological Department, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and the ministry dealin...

114. **B** — **Shastri Park** – The correct answer is Shastri Park, where the Delhi Pollution Control Committee has set up its AI-enabled Integrated Command and Control Centre, visited by the Union Environment Minister and the Delhi Chief Minister.

115. **B** — **Czech Republic** – Rajnath Singh met Karel Havlicek, who is the First Deputy Prime Minister as well as the Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, in New Delhi, and the two reviewed the entire range of defence industrial cooperation between their countries.

116. **A** — **India-Czech Joint Defence Committee** – The correct answer is the India-Czech Joint Defence Committee, named in the talks as the mechanism through which the two sides would take their defence industrial engagement further.

117. **B** — **Bengaluru and Mumbai** – Karel Havlicek, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, is in India on a four-day visit during which he is meeting ministries, trade bodies and businesses, and his itinerary includes visits to industrial units...

118. **B** — **The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister** – The correct answer is the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr. P. K. Mishra, who spoke at the inaugural session of the conference held in New Delhi and organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

119. **C** — **2022-23** – In his address, Dr. P. K. Mishra pointed to the introduction of the new National Accounts Series with 2022-23 as the base year, together with updated Consumer Price Index and Index of Industrial Production series, as an important step in keeping statistical m...

120. **B** — **They can strengthen official statistics but cannot substitute for quality** – The correct answer is that they can strengthen official statistics but cannot substitute for quality.

121. **C** — **Karwar** – Samarthak is to be commissioned at Naval Base, Karwar, and the ceremony has been fixed for 16 October 2026.

122. **C** — **Four** – Samarthak is the first of four Multi-Purpose Vessels that are joining the Indian Navy, which means three more ships of the same class will be delivered after her.

123. **B** — **Larsen and Toubro Ltd** – The firm built Samarthak under the Government of India's Make in India initiative, and the Navy presents the commissioning as a milestone in the drive towards self-reliance in defence.

124. **B** — **28 December** – The amnesty was made available for a period of six months counted from the date on which the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 2026 was notified, and that notification was issued on 29 June 2026.

125. **B** — **The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952** – The correct answer is the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

126. **D** — **Recognition by the Income Tax Department** – That recognition is not waived at all; it is the very qualification a trust must already possess to be eligible, since the scheme is aimed at trusts recognised under the Income Tax Act, 1961 that nevertheless lack a formal exemption order.

127. **B** — **Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy** – The Ministry of Ayush has published a separate Standard Treatment Guidelines document for each of these four systems, and Yoga has been brought into the guidelines as an inclusion rather than as a fifth system with its own document.

128. **C** — **The 11th Ayurveda Day** – The Ministry of Ayush chose this occasion to put the guidelines in the public domain, which ties the release to the ministry's own calendar of observances.

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129. **A** **Shri Prataprao Jadhav** – The correct answer is Shri Prataprao Jadhav, who holds independent charge of the Ministry of Ayush as Minister of State and is also Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.

130. **B** **82.57 km** – The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the upgradation of this length of the Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa section of National Highway-22 to four lanes in August 2026, at a total capital cost of Rs 3,590.73 crore on the Hybrid Annuity Mode.

131. **C** **Hybrid Annuity Mode** – This is the model under which the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs cleared the upgradation of the 82.57-km stretch at a total capital cost of Rs 3,590.73 crore.

132. **C** **Bagmati** – Among the seven major bridges in the project is a 340-metre structure over the perennial Bagmati river, which the corridor must cross on its way from Muzaffarpur towards the border.

133. **C** **27** – The collection drawn from Uttarakhand in this edition runs to twenty-seven mementos, all of them gifts presented to the Prime Minister, and they include framed artworks, photo prints, temple models and other keepsakes that reflect the state's sacred landmarks...

134. **B** **Namami Gange Programme** – Money raised through the auction of mementos presented to the Prime Minister goes towards the rejuvenation and conservation of the Ganga under this programme, which is why the wooden model of the Ganga Ji Mandir at Mukhba is described as tying the Uttarakhand...

135. **A** **Lakshya Sen** – The correct answer is Lakshya Sen, the badminton player from Uttarakhand whose signed racket is the one object from the world of sport in a collection otherwise shaped by the state's religious and cultural heritage.

136. **B** **86%** – The Ministry of Jal Shakti review records that compliance among grossly polluting industries in the Ganga basin climbed from 39% in 2017 to 86% in 2025, a steady gain produced by annual inspection, independent technical assessment and sector charters.

137. **C** **3,703** – The 2025 inspection cycle covered 3,703 grossly polluting industries in all, spread over 113 districts in six states and one Union Territory, with the potential to discharge into 46 tributaries and sub-tributaries of the Ganga and Yamuna.

138. **B** **Central Pollution Control Board** – The annual inspection mechanism for grossly polluting industries in the Ganga basin began in 2017 with the support of the Central Pollution Control Board, described in the review as the national regulatory authority for this work.

139. **B** **ICAR-National Soybean Research Institute, Indore** – Both varieties were bred at this institute, which functions under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and it was the institute that organised the Soybean Harvest Day on 9 October 2026 at which their yield potential was assessed.

140. **B** **About 10 to 11 quintals per hectare** – This is the figure for the country's average soybean productivity at present, and it is the benchmark against which the new reading of roughly 20 quintals per hectare from NRC 268 and NRC 270 is being judged.

141. **A** **Dr M. L. Jat** – He holds both posts, Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and it was he who welcomed the early figures from the two varieties.

142. **B** **Delhi Declaration** – The first meeting of BIMSTEC Home Ministers, hosted by India in New Delhi and chaired by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, adopted this declaration, which lays down the principles behind security cooperation in the grouping.

143. **C** **Gujarat** – At the first BIMSTEC Home Ministers Meeting the Union Home Minister said the proposed BIMSTEC Disaster Management Centre is planned at Jamnagar, which lies in Gujarat, and he asked member countries to take an active part in making the centre work.

144. **C** **Seven** – Delegations of all member countries of BIMSTEC, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, attended the first Home Ministers Meeting in New Delhi, so the membership of the grouping stands at seven.

145. **C** **More than 1,800** – As the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan completed five years, the government stated that the platform integrates more than 1,800 data layers covering 58 Central Ministries and Departments and all 36 States and Union Territories, along with more than 65 soft...

146. **A** **Network Planning Group** – The NPG evaluates infrastructure projects against PM GatiShakti principles and has appraised over 400 projects worth about 20.23 lakh crore rupees, with the count standing at 421 projects in 2026.

147. **B** **Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority** – The correct answer is the Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority, abbreviated as ITLA.

148. **B** **Joint Squad for Health** – The nationwide campaign organised on 13 October 2026 placed JOSH teams in 11 states and 55 districts on a pilot basis, and every team has MY Bharat volunteers, cadets of the National Cadet Corps and a designated Class-I officer.

149. **C** **21%** – Yearly emerging cases of tuberculosis in India came down by 21% between 2015 and 2024, as recorded in the World Health Organisation's Global Tuberculosis Report 2025, and this is one of the steepest declines in incidence recorded anywhere, faster than in othe...

150. **B** **46,118** – Under the intensified TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, that many Gram Panchayats have been awarded TB free certification, and the same drive has taken cumulative screenings past 28.1 crore, provided TB Preventive Treatment to over 20 lakh people and added 5.7 lakh ne...

151. **B** **Rs 40 crore** – Under the memorandum of understanding signed with the National Sports Development Fund and the Sports Authority of India, Indian Oil Corporation will provide this amount over a period of two years from its corporate social responsibility funds.

152. **B** **Six, including three gold** – Indian boxers finished the Asian Games 2026 with six medals in total, three of them gold and the other three bronze, and this showing is the reason the new partnership is described as coming at an important time for the sport.

153. **B** **The Charitable Endowments Act, 1890** – The National Sports Development Fund was established by the Government of India in 1998 under this Act, and its purpose is to mobilise resources from individuals and corporate organisations for the development of sport in the country.

154. **C** **19 October 2026** – The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship reopened the registration window for the IndiaSkills Competition 2026-27 up to this date, after many requests from institutions and from young people who had not been able to apply earlier.

155. **B** **Tenth** – The Indian contingent secured the tenth position globally at WorldSkills Shanghai, winning six silver medals and 20 Medallions for Excellence.

156. **A** **National Skill Development Corporation** – IndiaSkills 2026-27 is organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship with NSDC as the implementation partner, and the competition covers 63 industry relevant skill categories spanning manufacturing, engineering, construct...

157. **C** **Tenth** – The National Convention of Agrivision-2026 being held on 13 and 14 October at the ICAR-NASC Complex at Pusa in New Delhi is the tenth national convention of Agrivision, and for that reason it is described as a significant milestone for the organisation.

158. **B** **About 450 students from 25 states** – Students of agriculture and allied sciences in that number, representing that many states, are taking part in the tenth National Convention of Agrivision-2026, alongside eminent speakers, scientists, senior officers of the Indian Council of Agricultural Resea...

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159. **C** **Dr M. L. Jat** – The correct answer is Dr M. L. Jat, who is Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education as well as Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and who attended the inaugural session as chief guest.

160. **B** **Mumbai** – The twenty-first meeting of the Maritime State Development Council was held in Mumbai, where delegates were also taken on study visits to the cruise terminal of the Mumbai Port Authority and to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority before the session began.

161. **B** **The Indian Ports Act, 2025** – The Council was recognised as a statutory consultative body under this Act, which was notified on 15 May 2026, and the Mumbai session was the first one it held in that new character.

162. **B** **ECGC Ltd** – Two credit risk insurance products for shipyards were announced at the meeting under the National Shipbuilding Mission, both framed under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme.

163. **B** **Andaman Sea** – The two blocks put up for auction, Sewell Rise-01 and West Sewell Ridge-01, both lie in the Andaman Sea, and both hold polymetallic nodules and crusts.

164. **C** **1,632 square kilometres** – Sewell Rise-01 accounts for 632 square kilometres of that area and West Sewell Ridge-01 for the remaining 1,000 square kilometres, so the two blocks together make up the figure asked for.

165. **B** **SBI Capital Markets Limited** – The correct answer is SBI Capital Markets Limited, which acts as the transaction adviser and explained the policy framework, the auction process and the bidding requirements at the outreach programme.

166. **A** **Hampi, Taj Mahal and Bekal Fort** – The agreement signed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, the National Culture Fund and the Archaeological Survey of India covers conservation and development work at Hampi in Karnataka, the Taj Mahal at Agra in Uttar Pradesh and Bekal Fort in Kerala.

167. **B** **23.60 crore rupees** – Hindustan Aeronautics Limited accorded in-principle approval for financial support of this amount, to be used over the financial years 2026-27 to 2028-29, and the spending forms part of the company's corporate social responsibility effort.

168. **C** **Hampi** – The correct answer is Hampi, the site in Karnataka that stands on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

169. **A** **Karmayogi Bharat** – The correct answer is Karmayogi Bharat, which signed the memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in New Delhi for a Tribal Affairs Capacity Building Platform under the iGOT Karmayogi framework.

170. **B** **Maharashtra, Odisha, Goa and Tripura** – These four states were placed first in the queue for the three day in-person training of volunteers, which State Administrative Training Institutes are to design and deliver along with state tribal welfare departments, and they are expected to finish it by th…

171. **B** **60,507** – Going by what the states have reported on the portal, that many Adi Sewa Kendras stand registered, along with 1,22,072 Adi Karmayogi Volunteers.

172. **A** **Institute of Nano Science and Technology, Mohali** – The correct answer is the Institute of Nano Science and Technology, Mohali, which is an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology.

173. **B** **Turmeric extract** – The nanoparticles were synthesised in the laboratory of Aviru Kumar Basu using an extract of turmeric, in which naturally occurring compounds such as curcumin, flavonoids and phenolic compounds worked as the reducing and stabilising agents.

174. **D** **98.6 per cent in 120 minutes** – Under light and ultrasonic excitation applied together, the membrane of polylactic acid and zinc oxide removed the colour of 98.6 per cent of methylene blue in that time.

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175. **B** **IndiGo** – The Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications worked with this airline for the campaign, under which travellers on selected flights were given specially designed digital detox kits containing postcards.

176. **B** **Philately Day** – The correct answer is Philately Day, which was observed on 12 October during the National Postal Week celebrations held from 9 to 15 October.

177. **C** **In India Post letter boxes placed at the arrival airports** – The correct answer is in India Post letter boxes placed at the arrival airports.

178. **B** **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** – The Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave, shortened to ESTIC-2026, is to be held there from 27 to 29 October 2026, and DRDO will lead its thematic session on semiconductors and next-generation chips.

179. **C** **Twelve** – The conclave is being organised jointly by 12 ministries and departments, and the whole exercise is guided by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

180. **B** **2035** – Dr Anupam Sharma, Distinguished Scientist and Director General (Technology Management), said at the Bengaluru curtain-raiser that business in the semiconductor-related segment is expected to rise to 200 billion dollars by 2035.

181. **A** **Mizoram University, Aizawl** – Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region and Communications Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated the conclave there, with Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma, State Minister Prof. Lalnilawma, MDoNER Secretary Srinivas Katikithala and NEC Secretary S...

182. **C** **47 rupees** – Mr Scindia used this figure to argue that financial inclusion in the region has not yet turned into economic inclusion: deposits are being collected, but lending lags behind.

183. **B** **From 3,000 to 2,000** – Lowering the population floor lets banks open branches in smaller habitations, which matters in a region where settlements are scattered across hills.

184. **B** **India** – India stands first in the world both in making coir and in selling it abroad, and about two-thirds of global coir output comes from Indian units.

185. **C** **₹6,614.40 crore** – The correct answer is ₹6,614.40 crore, the value of coir and coir product exports in FY 2025-26.

186. **D** **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** – The correct answer is the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, which runs the Coir Vikas Yojana as a central sector scheme for the steady growth of the coir sector and for the support of coir artisans and coir enterprises.

187. **B** **11.39 per cent** – Wholesale price inflation for September 2026 was measured at 11.39 per cent on a year-on-year basis, a clear step up from the previous month.

188. **C** **Fuel and Power** – The correct answer is Fuel and Power, which inflated by 25.85 per cent in September 2026, far above the headline rate of 11.39 per cent.

189. **C** **2022-23** – Every index figure in the release, for the Wholesale Price Index as well as for the Output Producer Price Index and the trial Input Producer Price Index, is stated on the 2022-23 base year.

190. **B** **MP-IDSA, New Delhi** – The maiden ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum was convened at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi, where Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh addressed delegates from India and all eleven ASEAN member states across a two-day...

191. **B** **Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions** – The correct answer is Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

192. **B** **Maritime Cooperation** – Speaking at the forum, the Raksha Mantri noted that this year has been designated the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation and treated it as a chance to convert shared

interest into practical steps: better sharing of maritime information, closer work betw...

193. **B** **Rs 33,660 crore** – That is the outlay with which BHAVYA was notified on 10 April 2026 after Cabinet approval in March 2026, and it funds the development of 100 plug-and-play industrial parks with assistance of up to Rs 1 crore per acre.

194. **A** **100 in all, up to 50 in the first phase** – The correct answer is 100 in all, up to 50 in the first phase.

195. **B** **25 per cent by 2035** – India's manufacturing sector at present contributes roughly 16 to 17 per cent of GDP and employs more than 27 million workers, and the National Manufacturing Mission sets the goal of lifting that contribution to a quarter of the economy by 2035.

196. **B** **Manama** – The ceremony at which the Indian Navy gave up command of Combined Task Force 154 was held at Manama in Bahrain on 14 October 2026, and it closed the first spell in which India headed a task force of the Combined Maritime Forces.

197. **C** **47** – The Combined Maritime Forces is a partnership of 47 nations, and CTF 154 is the one task force within it that is given over wholly to training, running professional courses and capacity building so that member navies can work with one another at sea.

198. **D** **2023** – India's association with the Combined Maritime Forces came in two steps: it first joined as an Associate Partner in 2022 and then took up full membership in 2023.

199. **B** **Rs 151 crore** – That is the support the Technology Development Board has agreed to extend to ideaForge Technology Limited under the Research Development and Innovation Fund, and it comes in the form of debt financing.

200. **C** **200 kg** – YETI is designed to lift payloads of up to 200 kg, and by a neat coincidence the same figure is its targeted range in kilometres, which makes the pair easy to remember together.

201. **C** **6,500 metres** – YETI is designed for an operating altitude of up to 6,500 metres above mean sea level, which is what allows it to be considered for high-altitude work in the mountains, and its weather-resistant build is also meant for deserts and marine conditions.

202. **A** **Mizoram University, Aizawl** – The third edition of the conclave was held there, and Dr Sukanta Majumdar, Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region and for Education, addressed it on 13 October 2026, asking banks to widen their reach and lend more readily in the regio...

203. **B** **6,905 of 9,479** – The minister said that out of the 9,479 villages identified for coverage in the Northeast, 6,905 now have either a bank branch or an India Post Payments Bank point, which comes to roughly 73 per cent.

204. **C** **79.5 per cent** – That is the national credit-deposit ratio quoted at the conclave, and among the Northeastern states Manipur and Assam stand at or above it while Mizoram and several others fall short.

205. **B** **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana** – When the Union Cabinet approved carrying the programme forward for five years, it renamed the umbrella scheme itself to Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana, so option B is the one to mark.

206. **C** **Rs 625** – The approved structure of the disability pension has two slabs by age.

207. **B** **Article 41** – The programme was launched for assistance to poor households as a way of discharging the responsibility the Central Government carries under Article 41 of the Constitution, which sits among the Directive Principles of State Policy and speaks of public assista...

208. **C** **78 days** – The Union Cabinet cleared a Productivity Linked Bonus equal to 78 days' wages for railway employees, and this is the figure every other number in the decision hangs on: the total sanctioned amount, the per-employee ceiling and the count of employees covered a...

209. **B** **Rs 2,009.61 crore** – That is the amount the Union Cabinet approved for paying a bonus of 78 days' wages to railway employees, and it is spread across 11,40,770 employees.

210. **B** **1,670 million tonnes** – The bonus was approved on the strength of the railways' performance in 2025-26, and the government cited a record freight loading of 1,670 million tonnes for that year together with a passenger count of nearly 7.41 billion.

211. **B** **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence** – DRI ran Operation Deep Manifest and detected 295 containers carrying 7,311 metric tonnes of Pakistan-origin industrial or Himalayan rock salt, worth roughly Rs 30 crore, that had been brought into the country in breach of the import ban.

212. **A** **Sri Lanka** – The salt was shipped through Colombo Port in Sri Lanka and then sent on to India, a third-country route meant to break the visible link with Pakistan.

213. **B** **Customs Act, 1962** – Four persons were arrested under its provisions, namely two proprietors or partners of importing firms, a customs broker's G-card holder, and the owner of a Dubai-based supplier who had also floated an importing firm in his father's name.

214. **A** **Kullu, Himachal Pradesh** – The Central Bureau of Narcotics carried out its destruction drive in Kullu district, clearing 5,165 acres, or 2,070 hectares, of illicit cannabis cultivation over one month.

215. **B** **Ministry of Finance** – The Central Bureau of Narcotics is the country's apex drug law enforcement and regulatory agency and it sits under the Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance, a placement that surprises candidates and therefore makes a good question.

216. **B** **NDPS Policy 2012** – Promoting alternative development, including the growing of alternative crops in place of illicit ones, is a mandate the bureau carries under this policy, which is why the public dialogue at Malana village formed part of the operation rather than being an ext...

217. **B** **25** – The partnership begins by adopting 25 clinical trial sites in emerging research geographies, assessing what each can do, and then giving the staff targeted training and mentoring while tightening documentation and the processes around ethics, safety and trial...

218. **A** **Biopharma SHAKTI** – It is described as the central government's flagship initiative for building a stronger biopharma ecosystem, and among its goals is the creation of a thousand clinical trial sites across the country; the partnership between NIPER Raebareli and AstraZeneca Ind...

219. **B** **Dr Shubhini Saraf** – As Director of NIPER Raebareli she said the proposed Centre of Excellence would serve as a dedicated platform for structured training and certification in clinical research, and that bringing academic and industry expertise together would produce a model capa...

220. **A** **Traditional Artisans' Upliftment Livelihood Programme** – That is what the abbreviation stands for in BHARAT TULIP, the programme the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment runs through the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation to broaden the market reach of traditional artisans.

221. **B** **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** – It implements the programme through the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, which handles the market linkage work on digital platforms and e-commerce channels.

222. **B** **NBCFDC** – The correct answer is NBCFDC, the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation.

223. **A** **M/s 10955230 Canada Inc, a Fairfax Financial Holdings entity** – The correct answer is M/s 10955230 Canada Inc, a Fairfax Financial Holdings entity.

224. **C** **60.72 per cent** – This is the aggregate equity block going to the Strategic Buyer, and it is made up of two parts: the Government of India contributes 30.48 per cent and LIC contributes 30.24 per cent, with the

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sale proceeds divided in that same ratio.

225. **B** **Market Multiple Method and Asset Valuation Method** – Two independent professional agencies valued the bank, one comparing it against the closing accounts of all public sector banks as on 31 March 2026 under relative valuation, the other weighing tangible and intangible assets, land and property included, agains...

226. **A** **Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement** – The correct answer is the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, usually written as SIOFA.

227. **C** **China** – The correct answer is China, with a share of 21 per cent of high seas fishing.

228. **B** **High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme** – The correct answer is the High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme, shortened to HSBI.

229. **A** **Prof. Ramesh Chand** – The Government of India constituted the committee under his chairmanship to examine the issues raised by sugarcane farmers and to recommend suitable measures.

230. **B** **Karnataka and Maharashtra** – The committee was constituted following the decisions taken during a meeting in which representatives of sugarcane farmers from these two States met the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare together with the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Fo...

231. **C** **The ex-mill Minimum Selling Price of sugar** – The committee has been asked to examine the demand for revising this price in the light of the cost of producing sugar, what mills actually realise in the market, and the financial viability of the mills themselves.

232. **A** **Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar (Retd.)** – As Chairman of the committee he launched its dedicated digital web portal in New Delhi, a portal that is now fully operational for public access, stakeholder submissions and data interaction.

233. **B** **Ministry of Home Affairs** – The correct answer is the Ministry of Home Affairs, which formally constituted the committee on 26 May 2026.

234. **C** **Central Ministries, State and UT Governments, NGOs and institutions, and individuals** – The correct answer is that Central Ministries and Departments, State and Union Territory Governments, NGOs and institutions, and individuals can all send material.

235. **B** **Statutory audit reporting by Multi-State Cooperative Societies** – MSCARO stands for the Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Auditor's Report) Order, and the version mandated now creates a uniform, structured and risk-based framework in which auditors report on financial, administrative, governance and statutory compliance p...

236. **A** **Section 73(6) of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023** – The correct answer is Section 73(6) of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023.

237. **C** **Those crossing Rs 1,000 crore** – Implementation has deliberately been made phased, and the first phase covers larger societies that cross this threshold in the relevant financial parameters, so that smaller institutions have extra time to strengthen their internal systems and processes befor...

238. **B** **Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant** – The correct answer is Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant, a renowned classical dancer and author who also served as an officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service.

239. **C** **500** – While speaking on the spread of cancer care, the Vice-President said that over 700 District Clinics and 500 Day Care Cancer Centres have been established, and that 19 State Cancer Institutes and 20 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres have been approved for operation...

240. **C** **Indian Railway Traffic Service** – Besides being a renowned classical dancer and author, she served as an officer of that service, and this detail is the kind of cross-link a paper setter likes, because it ties a book release to the services list.

241. **A** **Shared Vision for a Better World: SDG 7 (Clean & Affordable Energy)** – The correct answer is Shared Vision for a Better World: SDG 7 (Clean & Affordable Energy).

242. **B** **999.9, 999.5 and 999.0 parts per thousand** – These three grades of fine silver bullion and coins were brought within the scope of the standard after the gazette notification of Amendment No. 1 to IS 2112:2025, which deals with silver and silver alloys, jewellery and artefacts, their fineness and their m...

243. **B** **596** – The Telecommunication Engineering Centre is the national standardisation body for the telecommunications sector and works under the Department of Telecommunications in the Ministry of Communications.

244. **B** **US$1 billion by March 2029** – The campaign was launched by the Defence Minister in New Delhi and is the largest fundraising effort ever undertaken by any Indian Institute of Technology.

245. **C** **IIT Kanpur** – The Defence Minister said the proposal to set up a National Military Drone Technology Hub at IIT Kanpur, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence, has made significant progress and that its approval process is nearing completion.

246. **C** **56** – While describing how the institutes have grown into engines of innovation and enterprise, the Defence Minister said the IIT ecosystem has supported over 6,000 start-ups, produced 56 unicorns and generated nearly 5,000 patents.

247. **C** **62** – The Union Minister of State for Science and Technology felicitated 62 young innovators at the twelfth edition of the National Level Exhibition and Project Competition, held under the INSPIRE-MANAK scheme in New Delhi.

248. **A** **Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge** – The scheme is a flagship initiative of the Department of Science and Technology, carried out with the National Innovation Foundation-India, an autonomous body under the department.

249. **D** **18,27,580** – That is the cumulative number of students selected under the INSPIRE-MANAK scheme up to 2025-26, a figure the Department of Science and Technology reported at the felicitation ceremony.

250. **C** **121st** – It was brought out by the National Statistical Systems Training Academy, which works under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

251. **B** **National Statistical Systems Training Academy** – The correct answer is the National Statistical Systems Training Academy, usually written as NSSTA, which functions under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

252. **B** **Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises 2025 and Periodic Labour Force Survey 2025** – The correct answer is the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises 2025 and the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2025.

253. **C** **Third** – The Joint Trade Committee is the standing bilateral mechanism through which India and Brunei Darussalam review trade and economic cooperation, and this round was convened to take stock of commercial ties and identify ways of strengthening them.

254. **B** **Pharmaceuticals, healthcare and energy** – On the first two the two sides examined regulatory collaboration, procurement and healthcare services, recognising the scope for much greater engagement between them.

255. **B** **Brunei Darussalam** – At the close of the third meeting both sides agreed that the next round of the Joint Trade Committee would be convened there, and that the nodal agencies and working groups concerned would remain in regular communication in the meantime to monitor follow-up a...

256. **B** **Creating innovative agents in 5G** – The Build-a-thon was organised by the Department of Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications along with the International Telecommunication

Union, and was held on the closing day of India Mobile Congress 2026 at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi.

257. **C** **Team Netaxis, RVCE Bangalore** – The correct answer is Team Netaxis of RVCE Bangalore, which won for an entry on context aware agentic orchestration of quality of service and adaptive security in resource constrained 5G.

258. **B** **16** – The Build-a-thon opened in early July with more than 25 registered teams, each with about four members, and in the preparation phase experts from the International Telecommunication Union and the Department of Telecommunications held five online mentoring ses...

259. **B** **Research, Development and Innovation Scheme** – The correct answer is the Research, Development and Innovation Scheme, usually called the RDI Scheme.

260. **C** **Department of Science and Technology** – The correct answer is the Department of Science and Technology, or DST, which administers the RDI Scheme and therefore took the decision to widen its scope.

261. **B** **Rs 1 lakh crore** – The RDI Scheme was launched in November 2025 with a corpus of that size, meant to catalyse private-sector investment in research, development and innovation rather than to fund government laboratories alone.

262. **B** **CSIR and the Ministry of External Affairs** – The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research worked with the New, Emerging and Strategic Technologies Division of the MEA to run the first edition of the programme, which was held on 14 October 2026 and designed to deepen India's scientific links with co...

263. **B** **33 officials from 29 countries** – The first edition brought together thirty-three Ambassadors and senior embassy officials who between them represented twenty-nine nations, most of them in the Global South.

264. **A** **Instant pothole repair using steel slag** – Ecofix is a steel slag-based mix developed for quick repair of road surfaces and was shown working at the CSIR-Central Road Research Institute, where the delegation also saw a driving simulator, a cyclic load test facility, a steel slag laboratory, a three-di...

265. **C** **Top 100 districts** – The ministry decided against a uniform nationwide drive and instead identified the judicial districts where the number of pending cases is largest, settling on one hundred of them.

266. **C** **Over 5.8 crore** – The ministry stated that this many matters are awaiting decision in courts across the country and that the majority of them lie in the district and subordinate judiciary rather than in the constitutional courts.

267. **B** **Arjun Ram Meghwal** – The correct answer is Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State with Independent Charge for Law and Justice, who both guided the mission and chaired the meeting held through video conferencing.

268. **A** **Making Indian Power Sector AI Enabled** – This was the declared theme under which the Central Electricity Authority held its international conference cum exhibition at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, the first of its two days falling on 14 October 2026.

269. **B** **Vidhyut Dwar Portal** – The correct answer is the Vidhyut Dwar Portal, launched by the Central Electricity Authority during the inaugural session of its international conference on artificial intelligence in the power sector.

270. **C** **54 members** – The authority told the conference that it had already put together a team of that many artificial intelligence enthusiasts, who would also act as brand ambassadors and take the agenda forward across every area of the power sector.

271. **B** **Greater India Society** – The correct answer is the Greater India Society, which was established in Calcutta on 14 October 1926 and whose hundred years the conference commemorates.

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272. **A** **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts** – The correct answer is the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, known as IGNCA, an autonomous institution working under the Ministry of Culture.

273. **C** **Around 51 countries** – The Culture Secretary explained that the Brihattar Bharat Project aims to win international recognition for India's ancient cultural links through collaborative, evidence-based research involving scholars from roughly that many nations.

274. **B** **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana 2.0** – The Captive Employer CXO Meet at the Rajasthan International Centre in Jaipur was held by the Ministry of Rural Development along with the Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation, and its subject was the Captive Employment window of DDU-GKY 2....

275. **B** **18.49 lakh** – That is the number of rural young people trained under the scheme to date, as disclosed at the Captive Employer CXO Meet held in Jaipur on 15 October 2026.

276. **B** **20 per cent** – The Ministry of Rural Development has reserved that share of the targets of DDU-GKY 2.0 for Captive Employers, under whom a company trains rural candidates and absorbs them into its own workforce.

277. **C** **Manipur** – The Digital India BHASHINI Division signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Manipur at the Manipur Chapter of the BHASHINI Rajyam Workshop, held in Imphal on 14 October 2026.

278. **A** **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** – The Digital India BHASHINI Division works under the Digital India Corporation, which comes under that ministry, and it is advancing what the government calls a Language-First Digital Public Infrastructure for the country.

279. **D** **36** – The platform supports 36 Indian languages for text, and that figure should be kept apart from the other language counts given for it.

280. **B** **IIT Delhi** – Adi Vaani has been built by IIT Delhi together with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and at the first meeting of the Working Group on Tribal Languages the institute asked the group for help in validating datasets, settling spelling and orthography, and develop...

281. **C** **The Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs** – The correct answer is the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Smt. Ranjana Chopra, who chaired the hybrid workshop and closed it by asking members to share details of the languages they have worked on so that these could be folded into the platform along w...

282. **C** **More than 525** – Representatives of the National Education Society for Tribal Students, which runs these schools, told the meeting that the platform could be taken into more than 525 Eklavya Model Residential Schools, which together teach over 1.7 lakh students, and that pupi...

283. **B** **The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change** – The correct answer is the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, who chaired the meeting in New Delhi and released four publications of the institute there.

284. **C** **Four** – The volumes released at the meeting deal with biodiversity and its conservation practices in the Bhagirathi Eco-sensitive Zone, with the Gangotri Glaciated System, with e-PBR governance for the Indian Himalayan Region, and with the Ramsar wetlands of the Indi...

285. **D** **2047** – The minister told the meeting that there has been a concerted focus on a policy framework which holds ecological security together with sustainable socio-economic growth in the Indian Himalayan Region by that year, which is the hundredth year of independence...

286. **A** **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances** – The correct answer is the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, which the government named as the nodal department for the campaign.

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287. **C** **31 October 2026** – The campaign has two phases: the preparatory phase, which was completed at the end of September, and the implementation phase, which began on 2 October and runs to the end of that month.

288. **B** **Department of Posts** – The correct answer is the Department of Posts, which launched DigiPost during the campaign as a phygital mail service, meaning that the challan moves digitally and is then handed over in physical form to the citizen.

289. **D** **40 per cent** – For women aged 15 years and above the Labour Force Participation Rate reached that level in 2025.

290. **B** **20 lakh rupees** – The scheme, which began in 2015, seeks to widen access to collateral-free credit up to that amount for micro and small enterprises in non-corporate and non-farm income generating activities.

291. **D** **90 per cent** – The scheme was framed to strengthen credit delivery to micro and small enterprises and to reach entrepreneurs who are unserved or underserved, and within it women-led units receive guarantee cover at that higher level together with a concession of 10 per cent...

292. **C** **Deterrence** – Speaking at a Defence Conclave in New Delhi, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh described the security landscape of the digital age as hybrid, high-tech and hyper warfare, and listed a 5D Security Threat made up of disinformation, destabilisation, disruption, d...

293. **A** **Over Rs 1.78 lakh crore** – At the Defence Conclave the Raksha Mantri said defence production had reached a record of more than that figure, measured against Rs 40,000 crore in 2014, and that the sector is aiming at Rs 2 lakh crore this year and Rs 3 lakh crore by 2029.

294. **B** **159 of 175** – The Raksha Mantri told the conclave that of the ammunition variants in use with the defence forces, that many are now made within the country, which works out to more than 90 per cent self-reliance in ammunition variants.

295. **B** **The Vice-President of India** – The correct answer is the Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, who opened the conference in New Delhi and used the address to call for stronger scientific research into Ayurveda so that the efficacy of traditional practices is established and th...

296. **C** **Kaumarabhritya** – The correct answer is Kaumarabhritya, the branch of Ayurveda devoted to child health, which gives the conference its name.

297. **D** **AYUSH Grid Portal** – The correct answer is the AYUSH Grid Portal, which does not figure among the launches at this event.

298. **B** **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from 27 to 29 October** – The correct answer is Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from 27 to 29 October.

299. **B** **Creative minds catalyzing science and empowering technology** – Professor Abhay Karandikar, Member of NITI Aayog and the Chief Guest at the curtain-raiser, called the theme apt because it speaks of the creative minds that work on scientific innovations and then turn them into technologies that serve society.

300. **C** **25** – The DST Secretary, Professor Umesh Waghmare, said the department has set up that many Technology Innovation Hubs under the mission, and named TiHAN at IIT Hyderabad, IHFC at IIT Delhi and ARTPARK at IISc Bengaluru as examples.

301. **A** **ARCI, the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials** – The correct answer is ARCI, the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials, which is an autonomous research and development centre of the Department of Science and Technology.

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302. **B** **IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai** – The correct answer is the IIT Madras Research Park in Chennai, where the 9th Workshop on Recent Advancements in Hydrogen Value Chain was held on 13 October 2026.

303. **D** **Nuclear fuel self-sufficiency** – Professor R. R. Sonde of IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi, the Guest of Honour, outlined five sovereign commitments covering energy independence, economic development, net-zero emissions and industrial decarbonisation, universal energy access, and a clean environment.

304. **B** **West Bengal LSA** – For telecom licensing the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are grouped with West Bengal, and the drive test across South Andaman district and the coastal route from Port Blair to Havelock was conducted under that service area during August 2026, supervised by the...

305. **C** **RJIL** – The correct answer is RJIL, which averaged 297.95 Mbps on its 5G and 4G networks in parts of Kolkata city and the Howrah and Hooghly districts.

306. **C** **Spectrum auction price** – The correct answer is spectrum auction price, which has nothing to do with a drive test.

307. **B** **New Space India Limited** – The Bengaluru-based company signed a contract worth Rs 2,563 crore with the Ministry of Defence on 15 October 2026 for GSAT-7C, a dedicated communication satellite for the Indian Air Force.

308. **B** **A ship-launched anti-submarine heavy weight torpedo** – Varunastra is launched from a warship and is meant to destroy submarines, and it was developed in India by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory.

309. **A** **Naval Science and Technological Laboratory** – The correct answer is the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, which developed Varunastra, the indigenous ship-launched anti-submarine torpedo now being bought for the Indian Navy under a contract worth Rs 1,543 crore with Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyde...

310. **C** **Rs 3,350 crore** – The correct answer is Rs 3,350 crore, the approximate value of the five projects that Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicated in Ladakh through video conferencing.

311. **A** **Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport** – The correct answer is Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport at Leh, whose new terminal was built at a cost of 650 crore rupees.

312. **C** **3 hours** – The Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road, dedicated to the people of Ladakh at a cost of 2,500 crore rupees, brings a journey that earlier took 12 hours down to roughly three hours.

313. **B** **Vijayawada** – The correct answer is Vijayawada, in Andhra Pradesh, where the National SARAS Mela is being held and where the President went on 15 October 2026.

314. **C** **More than 650** – Around 1500 women self-help group entrepreneurs and Lakhpati Didis, drawn from 34 States and Union Territories, are showing their products at these stalls in Vijayawada, and the fair remains open until 31 October 2026.

315. **C** **More than 10 crore** – Speaking at the National SARAS Mela, the President said the number of women attached to self-help groups has risen to this level over the past 12 years, and that they are connected to over 90 lakh such groups.

316. **A** **Frontier Tech Hub of NITI Aayog** – The correct answer is the Frontier Tech Hub of NITI Aayog, which released the Data Centre Evaluation Framework on 14 October 2026 to help States plan for sustainable growth of data centres.

317. **C** **Five** – The framework is built around Power and Energy; Water and Cooling; Siting and Environmental Sustainability; Economic and Strategic Value; and Policy, Governance and Implementation.

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318. **B** **Around 1.5 GW** – From roughly 375 MW in 2020, India's data-centre capacity has multiplied to about this level, carried by rising demand from artificial intelligence, cloud computing, high-performance computing and applications that consume large volumes of data.

319. **B** **5 per cent** – The overall unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above stayed at this level in September 2026, the same as in the previous month, and it was 0.2 percentage points lower than in September 2025.

320. **B** **50.7 per cent** – Urban LFPR gained 0.3 percentage points over the month, rising from 50.4 per cent in August 2026, and this improvement was the main point of the bulletin.

321. **B** **25.9 per cent** – Urban female labour force participation improved by 0.5 percentage points over the month, from 25.4 per cent, and reached its highest level since October 2025.

322. **B** **Twenty-five years of the Prime Minister in public office** – The correct answer is twenty-five years of the Prime Minister in public office.

323. **C** **More than 3,600** – The camp at Jagdalpur ran from 5 to 7 October 2026 and benefited that many persons with disabilities, and more than 1,570 of the beneficiaries were from Bastar alone, a figure the Home Minister described as a measure of what the district has endured.

324. **A** **Shaheed Veer Gundadhur Seva Dera** – The Home Minister said more than 500 security camps were established in the region and that over 200 of them will be turned into these service centres, so that officials of the Central and Chhattisgarh governments will now sit where security personnel once sa…

325. **B** **Ministry of Jal Shakti** – The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, written short as DDWS, is a department of that ministry, and it ran the thirteenth edition of the District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad over video conferencing, with Secretary Ashok K.K. Meena in the chair.

326. **C** **Bargarh, Odisha** – Its District Magistrate and Collector, Aditya Goyal, described a three-stage approach of execution, commissioning and then operation and maintenance, and said large multi-village schemes had carried round-the-clock piped water to IIM Sambalpur.

327. **A** **Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu** – The correct answer is Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, whose District Collector R. Revathi explained water budgeting done village by village to weigh present and future demand, to spot groundwater stress and to decide where recharge and conservation money should go.

328. **B** **Clause (2) of Article 75** – The press communique states that the President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, accepted the resignation under that clause, which lays down that a Minister holds office during the pleasure of the President.

329. **C** **The President of India, on the advice of the Prime Minister** – The correct answer is the President of India, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

330. **C** **Clause (3)** – The correct answer is clause (3), which provides that the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the House of the People, that is, the Lok Sabha.

331. **B** **Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi** – The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, inaugurated the National Strategic Trade Command Centre there, in the presence of the Commerce Secretary, Rajesh Agrawal, and the Director General of Foreign Trade, Lav Agarwal.

332. **B** **Department of Commerce** – The correct answer is the Department of Commerce, which sits in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and built the command centre to strengthen the monitoring, analysis and governance of India international trade through integrated data analytics.

333. **B** **Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies** – SCOMET is the list under which India regulates the export of dual-use and strategically sensitive items, and its dashboard is one of

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those placed on the command centre in the first phase, alongside the Importer Exporter Code, Advance Authorisation, Export Pro…

334. **B** **80.75 billion dollars** – The correct answer is 80.75 billion dollars, the estimate for merchandise and services exports taken together in the month, which works out to growth of 10.99 per cent over the same month of the previous year.

335. **C** **Electronic goods** – The correct answer is electronic goods, whose exports expanded by 70.44 per cent during the month, moving up from 3.11 billion dollars a year earlier to 5.31 billion dollars.

336. **B** **476.20 billion dollars** – The correct answer is 476.20 billion dollars, the estimate for merchandise and services exports together over the first six months of the financial year, a growth of 13.84 per cent.

337. **C** **Fourth place** – India ended the Asian Games of that year in that position, and it was precisely this result that the Union Sports Minister sat down to examine with the heads of the National Sports Federations.

338. **A** **Doha** – The review conclave treated the Asian Games of 2030 at Doha as one of the three events to prepare for, alongside the Los Angeles Olympics of 2028 and the Commonwealth Games of 2030 that India is to host.

339. **C** **Col N. S. Johal** – The correct answer is Col N. S. Johal, the Chief Executive of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, who went through India showing at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games and the state of preparation for the Los Angeles Olympics.

340. **B** **1 December 2026** – From that date the requirement of independent verification applies to every new highway project awarded under the Engineering, Procurement and Construction model, the Hybrid Annuity Model and the Build-Operate-Transfer model, and also to projects in which des…

341. **C** **3,000 cubic metres per second** – That is the threshold of design discharge at which a major river bridge is drawn into the new verification regime.

342. **A** **Empanelled IITs and reputed government technical institutions** – The correct answer is empanelled IITs and reputed government technical institutions, together with other experienced technical firms that have expertise in bridge engineering and hydraulic studies.

343. **B** **12,000 rupees** – The scheme is a Central Sector Scheme run by the Department of School Education and Literacy for meritorious students of economically weaker families, and the money is meant to keep a child in school rather than leaving after the eighth class.

344. **B** **31 October 2026** – The correct answer is 31 October 2026, the closing date for registering applications for that academic year.

345. **A** **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh** – The correct answer is Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, where the Department of School Education and Literacy held the one day regional workshop on a Wednesday in the middle of October.

346. **B** **Department of Science and Technology** – The Board sits within that department and finances Indian enterprises that are developing and commercialising home grown technology, which is why it was the body to sign an agreement for an indigenous computed tomography scanner.

347. **A** **Panacea Medical Technologies Private Limited** – The correct answer is Panacea Medical Technologies Private Limited, a manufacturer based at Malur in Karnataka whose earlier work has been in radiotherapy and radiology.

348. **C** **A rotating X-ray system with digital detectors, reconstructed by computer algorithms** – The correct answer is a rotating X-ray system with digital detectors, reconstructed by computer algorithms.

349. **B** **Incheon** – The 14th High Level Meeting between the Indian Coast Guard and the Korea Coast Guard was held in that Korean port city on 14 October 2026, during an official visit by the Indian delegation to the

Republic of Korea that ran from 13 to 16 October 2026.

350. **B** **Inspector General T. Sashi Kumar** – The correct answer is Inspector General T. Sashi Kumar, who led the Indian Coast Guard delegation on its official visit to the Republic of Korea.

351. **C** **Maritime Search and Rescue** – It was the first of the areas listed for deeper cooperation at the 14th High Level Meeting, alongside Marine Pollution Response, Maritime Law Enforcement, capacity building and operational coordination.

352. **C** **The 12th session** – The correct answer is the 12th session, held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi and organised by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

353. **A** **Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Power** – The correct answer is the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Power, which joined the session under a whole of government approach.

354. **B** **The centenary of Indian Independence** – The vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, envisages India as a developed nation by the hundredth year of its Independence, and the session on roads was explicitly aligned with it through the goals of supporting economic g...

355. **B** **Role of Women Farmers in Building Developed Agriculture and a Developed India** – The correct answer is Role of Women Farmers in Building Developed Agriculture and a Developed India.

356. **A** **Women Farmers of India: Journey from Challenges to Success** – The correct answer is Women Farmers of India: Journey from Challenges to Success.

357. **B** **Atish Chandra, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** – The correct answer is Atish Chandra, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, who chaired the programme and addressed it on the contribution of women to agriculture and allied sectors, particularly in ensuring food security, sustaining...

358. **C** **103** – The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, announced on 15 October 2026 that the national tally of Ramsar sites had reached 103 once Sukhna Wetland in Chandigarh and Sauj Jheel in Uttar Pradesh were taken into the lis...

359. **B** **Chandigarh** – Announcing the new designations, Union Environment Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav named Sukhna Wetland, better known as Sukhna Lake, as a site in Chandigarh, and he congratulated Chandigarh along with Uttar Pradesh on the recognition.

360. **A** **Uttar Pradesh** – When the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced that India's Ramsar tally had reached 103, he identified Sauj Jheel as a wetland of Uttar Pradesh and Sukhna Wetland as a site in Chandigarh, offering his congratulations to both.

361. **B** **Bangkok** – The meeting of the Development Committee Plenary was held in Bangkok in Thailand, and the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, took part in it there as India's Governor of the World Bank.

362. **B** **Private Capital Mobilisation and Jobs** – That was the stated agenda of the plenary, and India's intervention was delivered on precisely this topic, arguing that productive and better paid employment is the most effective pathway to cutting poverty and spreading prosperity.

363. **A** **IBRD, IFC and MIGA** – In her statement the Finance Minister encouraged stronger collaboration among these three arms and pressed for the World Bank Group Guarantee Platform to be operationalised faster, pointing out that developing economies are constrained by a shortage of risk c...

364. **B** **CII** – The white paper was released at the CII Big Picture Summit held in Mumbai, and it lays out a roadmap for the Indian media and entertainment sector along with calls for quicker reform, stronger regional markets and implementation that can be measured.

365. **C** **$100 billion** – The white paper released by the Confederation of Indian Industry outlines a roadmap for India's media and entertainment sector to reach that size by the early 2030s, and it argues that faster reforms, stronger regional markets and measurable implementation ar...

366. **B** **Mumbai** – The summit was held there over two days, and the Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Chanchal Kumar, addressed its inaugural session before also opening the WAVES Global Investor and Investee Meet in the same city.

367. **C** **111** – India has declared 111 National Waterways to promote shipping and navigation, and their combined length comes to 20,187 km spread over 23 States and 4 Union Territories.

368. **B** **Brahmaputra, National Waterway-2** – Four riverine lighthouses, the first of their kind on an inland waterway in India, are being built at Pandu, Bogibeel, Silghat and Biswanath Ghat under a ₹74 crore project announced in March 2026.

369. **C** **218 MMT** – Cargo movement on inland waterways stood at 29 million metric tonnes in 2014-15 and climbed to 218 MMT in 2025-26, which works out to a compound annual growth rate of 20.13 per cent.

370. **A** **Bulgaria** – The maiden consignment of 1.755 MT of organic Palmyra jaggery powder was sent to Varna in Bulgaria, where M/s Sow Life Ltd is the importer and distributor.

371. **A** **Erode, Tamil Nadu** – The consignment was drawn from Gobichettipalayam in Erode district and was manufactured and exported by M/s Wellbeing Foods of Erode in collaboration with M/s Chetty Exports Private Limited of Chennai.

372. **B** **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** – The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority is an export promotion body, and it is placed under the commerce ministry rather than under the ministry that handles farming itself.

373. **A** **Poland** – The programme brings a Polish youth delegation to India every year, and the second edition was held from 7 to 14 October 2026 with 19 members visiting Gujarat, Maharashtra and New Delhi.

374. **A** **Jamnagar, Gujarat** – The Balachadi memorial commemorates the shelter, schooling and medical care that Maharaja Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja provided to Polish children displaced during the Second World War, and the visiting delegation treated it as the high point...

375. **B** **The Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports** – The correct answer is the Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, who hosted the visiting Polish delegation over dinner in New Delhi and spoke with them about how India approaches youth development and participation.

376. **B** **4,077** – The status report counts 4,077 Ayush patent applications filed across the twelve financial years from 2014-15 to 2025-26, and this is the headline figure of the whole study.

377. **A** **Maharashtra** – The report names Maharashtra as the state leading Ayush patent activity, crediting it with 744 filings and 142 grants, a wider lead than any other state in the country holds.

378. **B** **About 836.5 per cent** – Yearly filings went up from 63 applications in 2014-15 to 590 in 2025-26, and the report puts that increase at roughly 836.5 per cent.

379. **B** **Agartala** – The Department of Consumer Affairs has dispatched the first-ever Kanda Express movement to Agartala with about 440 MT of buffer onions, expected to arrive by 18 October 2026.

380. **A** **Price Stabilization Fund** – The onions carried by the Kanda Express come out of the onion buffer built under this fund, and the Department of Consumer Affairs releases that stock in a calibrated way when market prices rise or supplies tighten.

381. **B** **Over 2,800 MT** – Two Kanda Express rail rakes carried 840 MT and 452 MT of onions, and 44 truck consignments carried 1,513.46 MT, which adds up to more than 2,800 MT supplied across the North-East.

382. **B** **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru** – The Digital India BHASHINI Division, which works under the Digital India Corporation in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, built the models jointly with IISc Bengaluru, and the speech corpus used for training was developed at the institut...

383. **B** **Indo-Aryan, Tamil Nadu** – The release describes Sourashtra as a minority Indo-Aryan language spoken predominantly by the Sourashtra community in Tamil Nadu, which makes it unusual: it is an Indo-Aryan tongue surviving inside a state whose major language, Tamil, is Dravidian.

384. **A** **VITS** – The correct answer is VITS, which stands for Variational Inference with adversarial learning for end-to-end Text-to-Speech.

385. **B** **Special Campaign 6** – The two workshops, one on cyber security and secure digital disposal and the other on e-waste management awareness, were organised by the Ministry of Textiles under this campaign on 15 October 2026, and more than 85 officials attended, among them all the Noda...

386. **D** **Cryptojacking of office servers** – The correct answer is cryptojacking of office servers, which was not among the threats listed.

387. **A** **Through authorised channels after proper segregation** – Officials were made aware that obsolete electronic and electrical equipment needs to be segregated, handled safely and disposed of only through authorised channels, in keeping with the e-waste management rules that apply.

388. **B** **INS Samarthak** – The vessel was commissioned by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan at Karwar in Karnataka and is described as the Indian Navy's first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel, with more than 75 per cent of its content made in India.

389. **C** **Karwar, Karnataka** – The commissioning ceremony was held at Karwar, and the Vice-President used the occasion to explain why the location matters: Karwar has a deep natural harbour and lies close to the Arabian Sea, which makes it an important element of India's maritime security...

390. **B** **Project Seabird** – While speaking about the strategic value of Karwar, the Vice-President pointed to the ongoing development of modern naval infrastructure under Project Seabird, which is raising the Navy's capacity to base and maintain its ships and submarines and is also gene...

391. **A** **QNu Labs Private Limited, Bengaluru** – The Technology Development Board, which functions under the Department of Science and Technology, signed the agreement with this Karnataka-based company for financial support from the Research Development and Innovation Fund.

392. **B** **Support of Rs 150 crore in a project of Rs 300 crore** – The correct answer is support of Rs 150 crore in a project of Rs 300 crore.

393. **D** **Climate resilience** – The correct answer is climate resilience, which is not part of this programme at all.

394. **A** **Rs 1,194.92 crore** – The committee approved five Strategic Investment Plans of that combined value for ITI clusters spread across Maharashtra, Odisha and Jammu and Kashmir.

395. **B** **Tata Steel Foundation** – The Kataka cluster in Odisha was approved with a Strategic Investment Plan in partnership with the foundation, and the plan is meant to strengthen infrastructure, bring in new-age training programmes and deepen industry linkages so that training matches the s...

396. **B** **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs** – The correct answer is Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs.

397. **B** **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** – PAIMANA, which expands to Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring and Analytics for Nation-building, is that ministry's dashboard for tracking the performance of infrastructure sub-sectors through a standard set of indicators, and it is updated every qu...

398. **B** **2,236.3 km** – The road transport and highways section of the dashboard records that much length of national highway projects awarded in the first six months of the financial year, which is a growth of 62.9 per cent over the same period a year earlier.

399. **C** **About 42 per cent** – The power section of the dashboard shows total installed capacity rising 12.1 per cent to 5,32,739.7 MW, while capacity from renewable energy sources grew much faster, by 29.5 per cent, to reach 2,23,273 MW.

400. **A** **Melanterite** – At Neyveli the mineral forms from marcasite in the lignite substratum through sulphide oxidation, and it records short-lived wet, acidic and oxidising conditions of the kind believed to have produced sulphates on Mars.

401. **B** **University of Kerala, Department of Geology** – The laser Raman spectrometer used for the work is supported under the DST-FIST programme at that department, and the research team was led by Dr. Sajin Kumar K. S., who is the Project Coordinator of DST-FIST.

402. **A** **Atacama Desert, Chile** – Gypsum was identified there and also in the Tiruchirappalli Badlands, a semi-arid geological and palaeoclimatic terrain in Tamil Nadu, and both places therefore qualify as Martian analogue sites for the study of past water activity.

403. **B** **Shri Manoj Goel, Chairman of KVIC** – He inaugurated the festival at the Khadi and Village Industries Commission's Central Office in Vile Parle, Mumbai, with the stated aim of carrying the Prime Minister's call of 'Har Ghar Swadeshi, Ghar-Ghar Swadeshi' and 'Vocal for Local' to younger buyers.

404. **C** **77 units from 12 states** – The correct answer is 77 units from 12 states, selling through the same number of stalls.

405. **A** **'Baat Khadi Ki'** – The Chairman said the podcast was launched to carry the Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 and 'Vocal for Local' to younger listeners, through conversations about Khadi's heritage, innovation, modern fashion and youth entrepreneurship.

406. **B** **Rs 84,084 crore** – The Union Government has approved the Samudra Manthan Scheme, which is also known as the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, with this outlay.

407. **A** **Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi** – The college, known by the short form SRCC, organised the two-day national conference to mark its centenary year, and the sessions were held at the Stein Auditorium of the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.

408. **C** **National Offshore Exploration Scheme** – Samudra Manthan is the popular name of this scheme, and the National Offshore Exploration Scheme is its formal description.

409. **C** **NH-76** – The dispute arose from the six-laning of the Chittorgarh-Udaipur section of this highway in Rajasthan, a stretch of 93.5 km.

410. **A** **Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes (SAROD)** – The tribunal that examined the claims and counter-claims flowing from the concession agreement for the Chittorgarh-Udaipur six-laning project was constituted under SAROD and had three members.

411. **C** **93.5 km** – This is the length of the Chittorgarh-Udaipur stretch of NH-76 in Rajasthan that was to be widened to six lanes under the concession agreement with Uchit Expressway Private Limited.

412. **B** **Ulaanbaatar** – The fourteenth meeting of the Joint Working Group between the defence ministries of India and Mongolia took place in Ulaanbaatar, the Mongolian capital, on 16 October 2026, where the two delegations reviewed their running defence cooperation activities and id...

413. **A** **Exercise Nomadic Elephant** – At the fourteenth Joint Working Group meeting in Ulaanbaatar, both delegations appreciated the successful conclusion of this exercise and treated it as evidence of how firmly the two armies have built their cooperation.

414. **B** **A Cyber Security Training Centre** – During the visit tied to the Joint Working Group meeting, the Indian delegation went to Mongolia's National Defence University and examined how the Cyber Security Training Centre, established there with Indian assistance, is functioning.

415. **B** **18,093** – The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment stated that this many villages had been declared Adarsh Grams under the scheme by that date, reflecting its work on infrastructure, basic services and quality of life in Scheduled Caste-majority villages.

416. **C** **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** – PM-AJAY is run by this ministry and aims at the socio-economic and educational empowerment of Scheduled Caste communities through village infrastructure, livelihood promotion, education and better access to basic services.

417. **A** **Rs 61.46 crore** – For the financial year 2026-27 the Centre has allocated this sum as central assistance for two hostel projects under the scheme, one for girls and one for boys, which together will provide accommodation for two hundred and sixty-four students.

418. **B** **Dharamshala** – The conference opened in this town of Himachal Pradesh and brought together representatives of the Central Government, States and Union Territories along with experts on digital transformation and technology-enabled service delivery.

419. **A** **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances** – The correct answer is the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, known by its short form DARPG, which works under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

420. **A** **Him Parivar** – Day one of the conference put five initiatives of the Himachal Pradesh government on display, namely Him Parivar, Sukhashraya, the Vidya Samiksha Kendra, Green Himachal and the Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojna, together covering health, social justice, educa…

421. **B** **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences** – The correct answer is the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology based in Lucknow.

422. **C** **Lucknow** – Karela Lake is an oxbow lake at Hulas Khera in Mohanlal Ganj, near Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, and lies in the Central Ganga Plain.

423. **A** **The Little Ice Age** – The researchers identified four major environmental phases in the lake record, associated with key climate events that include the arid event of about four point two thousand years ago, the Roman Warm Period and the Little Ice Age.

424. **B** **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana** – The Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development performed the foundation ceremony for forty-six village roads sanctioned under this rural roads programme during his visit to Sanchi, and said better roads would make movement easier for villagers.

425. **A** **Raisen and Vidisha** – The Minister announced that a pilot would begin in these two districts with the goal of connecting every family in every village to at least one source of livelihood, so that the villages concerned can become free of poverty.

426. **C** **22,477** – A recent survey showed that this many more houses are required in the Sanchi assembly segment, and the Minister assured that surveyed families living in kuchcha houses would be helped to build permanent homes, since providing pucca houses to the poor is a pri…

427. **B** **Iran** – India met Iran in the women kabaddi final of the Asian Games and finished ahead 37-34 in a contest that remained close until the final raids, a result that let India keep the continental title it already held.

428. **C** **Pushpa Rana** – The correct answer is Pushpa Rana, who led the side as captain while Neeta Moreshwar Dadwe served as head coach of the gold-winning team.

429. **B** **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan** – The correct answer is Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, the host of the Asian Games at which the Indian women kabaddi team took the gold medal by beating Iran in the final.

430. **B** **Ministry of Ayush** – The All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi is an autonomous institution under that ministry, and its stated work is healthcare, education, research and innovation in Ayurveda along with building recognition for India traditional systems of medicine.

431. **C** **37,74,524** – The correct answer is 37,74,524 patients, the figure the institute recorded for the ten years from October 2016 to September 2026 across its main campus and its affiliated and outreach centres.

432. **C** **200 beds** – The clinical infrastructure at the institute main campus in Sarita Vihar, New Delhi, has an outpatient department able to attend to about 3,000 patients a day and an inpatient wing of that bed strength for people who need admission.

433. **C** **Sangeet Natak Akademi** – The correct answer is the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the national academy for music, dance and drama, which created the Yuva Puraskar in 2006 for artists up to the age of 40 and has conferred it every year since at a ceremony reserved for young performers.

434. **C** **106** – The correct answer is 106 young artists, drawn from music, dance and drama, who will be given the award for the two years taken together at the New Delhi ceremony.

435. **B** **Rs 25,000** – Alongside the purse, every awardee receives a Tamrapatra, the copper plaque that carries the citation, and an Angavastram, the ceremonial shawl presented at the function.

436. **B** **30 November 2026** – The order requires every covered industrial unit to have the cameras installed and working, with arrangements for real time transmission of the video feeds already in place, by that date.

437. **C** **Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas** – The correct answer is the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas, usually shortened to CAQM, which issued the order under its own statutory direction and widened the scope of camera-based surveillance.

438. **B** **Real Time Streaming Protocol** – The correct answer is the Real Time Streaming Protocol, commonly written as RTSP, which the order names for continuous live transmission of the camera feeds to the designated servers and portals of the pollution control authorities.

439. **C** **24 to 26 February 2027** – The correct answer is 24 to 26 February 2027, the revised dates announced by the Ministry of Coal for its flagship mining event.

440. **B** **Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi** – The correct answer is the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in New Delhi, and the announcement makes clear that the venue has not changed even though the dates have.

441. **B** **Ministry of Coal** – The correct answer is the Ministry of Coal, which issued the announcement on the rescheduling of its flagship mining event.

442. **C** **Kozhikode** – The correct answer is Kozhikode, the city in Kerala where Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the festival and where he also released a book and gave away an award.

443. **B** **P. R. Rajendran** – The correct answer is P. R. Rajendran, on whom the Vice-President conferred the Sarga Kesari Award in recognition of his contribution to the fine arts.

444. **A** **Sangha Noottandile Akshara Mudrakal** – The correct answer is Sangha Noottandile Akshara Mudrakal, the book released by the Vice-President at the festival in Kozhikode.

445. **B** **Rs 7,386.74 crore** – The Government approved the continuation of the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations for the five years from 2026-27 to 2030-31, which corresponds to the Sixteenth Finance Commission cycle, at this outlay, and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and…

446. **C** **Rs 50 crore** – The revised scheme substantially raised the financial support available for staging international tournaments in India, and a national sports federation can now be given up to this amount for one event.

447. **A** **Setting up single-sport Olympic Training Centres** – Until now, athletes preparing for major international competitions trained at National Centres of Excellence, academies, private facilities and foreign venues.

448. **A** **1.93 lakh** – At the 10th meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee, held in New Delhi on 16 October 2026 under the chairmanship of Urban Development Secretary Satendra Singh, over 1.93 lakh additional houses were cleared under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana...

449. **B** **Uttar Pradesh** – Of the houses cleared at this meeting, Uttar Pradesh received 73,182, the biggest single share among the 11 participating states.

450. **A** **Rs 1.80 lakh** – The Interest Subsidy Scheme, one of the four verticals of PMAY-U 2.0, gives EWS, LIG and MIG families an interest subsidy of up to Rs 1.80 lakh on housing loans of up to Rs 25 lakh.

451. **A** **Ayurveda** – The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda at Jamnagar is the first institute in the field of Ayurveda to be given the status of an Institute of National Importance, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated it to the nation on 15 October 2020.

452. **A** **27,520** – The NABH-accredited hospital of ITRA Jamnagar has 300 beds, and over the past six years it has treated 27,520 patients in its inpatient department.

453. **A** **Ayu-Tech Navonmesh 2026** – The national conference on AI and Ayurveda was held under this title at ITRA Jamnagar alongside the institute's sixth Foundation Day.

454. **A** **IDBI (Repeal) Act, 2003** – The Finance Ministry's clarification records that while the Union Budget of 2003 was being discussed and Parliament was debating this repeal legislation, an amendment was moved that sought to limit any reduction of the Government's holding in IDBI.

455. **B** **Delhi High Court** – According to the clarification, the association of IDBI officers took the shareholding question to the Delhi High Court, which decided the case on 17 December 2018 and dismissed the writ petition.

456. **C** **Promissory estoppel** – Those challenging the decision argued that assurances given in Parliament amounted to a promise binding on the Government.

457. **B** **Chenab Rail Bridge** – It carries the USBRL across the Chenab river in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir and is the world’s highest railway arch bridge.

458. **A** **272 km at Rs 43,780 crore** – That is the length and the cost of the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link, which was inaugurated in June 2025 and spreads over the districts of Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Srinagar, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam and Baramulla.

459. **B** **Khari and Sumber** – Tunnel T50 is a rail tunnel of 12.77 km driven under the USBRL project between those two points in Jammu and Kashmir, and it is India’s longest transport tunnel.

460. **B** **Sucrose and fructose** – The draft Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Amendment Regulations, 2026, which reached the Gazette of India on 16 October 2026, proposes that these two sugars not be added to any product intended for an infant up to the age of six months.

461. **C** **Foods for Infant Nutrition Regulations, 2020** – The correct answer is the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020.

462. **C** **60 days** – The notification on sucrose and fructose in infant foods has been published as a draft for public consultation, and objections as well as suggestions from stakeholders are invited within sixty days of the date on which copies of the Official Gazette carrying...

463. **B** **Shri Bhupender Yadav** – The correct answer is Shri Bhupender Yadav, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, who met start-ups and innovation companies working on air pollution mitigation and himself put a set of problem statements covering nine key areas befor...

464. **A** **Saaf Hawa mein Hissedaari, Hum Sabhi ki hai Zimmedaari** – The correct answer is Saaf Hawa mein Hissedaari, Hum Sabhi ki hai Zimmedaari.

465. **C** **9** – Shri Bhupender Yadav presented a set of specific problem statements covering nine key areas of air pollution management and discussed with the innovators how their technologies could be adapted, scaled and deployed on the ground against each of them.

466. **B** **USD 40-45 billion** – Dr Jitendra Singh told the roundtable that the Indian space economy, valued at roughly USD 9 billion at present, is expected to climb to USD 40-45 billion over the next seven to eight years as private capital, assured demand and quicker regulatory clearances...

467. **C** **2019-2020** – The Minister said the space sector was thrown open to private participation in 2019-2020 and that the five to six years since have already produced significant results, which is why the focus has shifted to building globally competitive commercial companies.

468. **B** **Bloomberg New Economy Forum** – The correct answer is Bloomberg New Economy Forum, which held its meeting in New Delhi and organised the roundtable on 'Space, Sovereignty and New Economy' in which the Minister took part.

469. **B** **Karwar** – The correct answer is Karwar, in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka, where the Indian Navy is raising its largest infrastructure project.

470. **C** **409 beds** – The Station Health Organisation complex inaugurated under Phase IIA augments the existing naval hospital INHS Patanjali to that capacity, so that the growing population of the base can be treated on site.

471. **B** **Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, FOC-in-C Western Naval Command** – The correct answer is Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command, who opened the residential accommodation for defence civilians, the Station Health Organisation, and the trunk utility and access works.

472. **B** **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune** – The correct answer is the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, which organised the meeting on its own campus under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

473. **C** **Ministry of Earth Sciences** – The correct answer is the Ministry of Earth Sciences, under which the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology works and which was named as the parent body in the announcement of the consultation.

474. **B** **Climate Services Information System** – The introductory talk of the technical session, given by Dr Rupa Kumar Kolli, formerly Chief of the Climate Applications and Services Division at the World Meteorological Organization, set out why the country needs such a system to carry climate information t...

475. **B** **20 ppm** – The correct answer is 20 ppm, that is 20 milligrams per kilogram, which the draft proposes as the Maximum Residue Limit for Acetamiprid in tea.

476. **B** **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** – The correct answer is the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, the regulator under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that sets food standards and notified this draft amendment to the regulations on contaminants, toxins and residues.

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477. **B** **2.38 kg per hectare** – The correct answer is 2.38 kg per hectare, the estimated world average against which India's use of less than half a kilogram per hectare was set.

478. **B** **22 October to 30 November 2026** – The correct answer is 22 October to 30 November 2026, the window announced for the campaign in the review meeting chaired by the Union Agriculture Minister.

479. **C** **4,150 teams** – The correct answer is 4,150 teams, the figure set in the plan placed before the meeting for the Krishi Vigyan Kendras and the Agricultural Technology Management Agency taken together.

480. **B** **Dr M. L. Jat** – The correct answer is Dr M. L. Jat, the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, who attended the virtual review meeting.

481. **C** **150 years** – The youth dialogue was held to mark the completion of one hundred and fifty glorious years of Vande Mataram, and the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare joined it at Smart City Park in Bhopal, where he planted saplings with young people drawn...

482. **B** **Smart City Park, Bhopal** – The correct answer is Smart City Park, Bhopal, where the plantation and the open dialogue with the young took place during the programme marking the anniversary of Vande Mataram.

483. **A** **MY Bharat** – The volunteers who met the Minister belonged to this platform, and he described it as a large one for preparing the creative strength of youth for the building of a developed India, adding that its object is to make the young good citizens who work for the co...

484. **C** **16 October 2026** – On that day the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, working through MY Bharat and the National Service Scheme, held Yoga evam Aatm-Suraksha Diwas, or Yoga and Self-Defence Day, at locations across the country, and that nationwide observance is what opened t...

485. **B** **91,179** – That is the number of people the fifth week of the campaign reached, spread over 183 educational institutions, NSS units and adopted villages in different parts of the country.

486. **A** **Fit Youth, Addiction-Free Youth (Shakti evam Seva)** – This is the theme the ministry has set for the second month of the campaign, and it treats bodily fitness, mental strength, discipline and self-confidence as the building blocks of a society free of addiction.

487. **B** **18 October** – World Menopause Day is marked on this date every year, and the Ministry of Ayush issued its statement on the eve of the day to press for awareness, preventive care and research on the health of women during menopause.

488. **C** **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences** – The correct answer is the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS).

489. **A** **Rajonivritti** – Ayurveda places the menopausal phase and the complaints that accompany it, such as irregular menstruation, hot flushes, disturbed sleep, mood changes and joint pain, under this heading, and treats the stage as a natural transformation rather than a disease.

490. **B** **Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas** – The correct answer is the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas.

491. **B** **124** – For this 15-day reporting window the Commission recorded 124 inspections in all, made up of six visits to construction and demolition sites, 54 in the industrial sector and 64 relating to diesel generator sets.

492. **C** **28,868** – This is the running total of units, projects and entities across the region that the Flying Squads of the Commission had visited up to that date.

493. **A** **The Supreme Court of India** – The court set up the High Powered Enquiry Committee to enquire into all aspects of the incidents of violence at Jantar Mantar in Delhi and at places outside Delhi during July 2026, and the Committee has now opened a portal so that affected persons, including…

494. **B** **Jantar Mantar** – The Committee has been asked to enquire into every aspect of the incidents relating to violence at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, and also at places outside Delhi, during July 2026.

495. **C** **Fixing compensation for industrial accidents** – Nothing of that kind falls within the reference to this Committee, which is confined to the incidents of violence under enquiry.

496. **B** **US$ 476.20 billion** – This is the estimated cumulative figure for merchandise and services exports taken together during the first six months of the financial year.

497. **C** **Jaipur** – The Department of Commerce organised the outreach programme in the Rajasthan capital to build awareness of the benefits available under India free trade agreements and to help exporters use them in practice.

498. **C** **Eighth** – The presentation by the Joint Director General of Foreign Trade at Jaipur placed India eighth among exporters of gems and jewellery worldwide, with a share of 2.9 per cent in a global market worth about one trillion dollars, and noted that the recently conclu…

499. **A** **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** – The correct answer is Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, who is also the Member of Parliament from Porbandar.

500. **C** **One lakh** – The Minister said that efforts were under way, under the guidance of the Prime Minister, to develop one lakh young leaders across the country, and he placed the MY Bharat portal at the centre of that effort as the route through which the young can find openin…

501. **A** **The Red Fort** – The five pledges, together called Panch Pran, were articulated by the Prime Minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort, and the Minister recalled them at this programme: the resolve to build a developed India, freedom from the colonial mindset, pride in the h…

502. **B** **136** – The Ministry of Mines reported that this many Cleanliness Target Units were given a makeover under the campaign, and that the work drew 10,723 participants.

503. **C** **Shri G. Kishan Reddy** – The correct answer is Shri G. Kishan Reddy, the Union Minister for Coal and Mines, who joined the drive at the market in Chanakyapuri in the national capital along with the Secretary of the ministry and senior officials.

504. **B** **5,498** – The Ministry of Mines reported that 59 public spaces were cleaned under the campaign with this many individuals taking part in the effort.

505. **C** **30%** – The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has rationalised the trade margin on the identified non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines and held it to thirty per cent of the Maximum Retail Price, using the power given by Paragraph 19 of the Drugs (Prices Contro…

506. **C** **9 November 2026** – Retailers, chemists, hospitals and medical institutions have to charge the reduced prices from that day and must display the revised rates at their counters, while hospitals must also show them on their websites.

507. **A** **Paragraph 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013** – The correct answer is Paragraph 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013.

508. **B** **Seychelles** – Port Victoria is the port where the ships of the First Training Squadron stayed during their training deployment, arriving on the twelfth of October and sailing out on the fifteenth.

509. **A** **INS Tir, INS Sujata and ICGS Sarathi** – These three were the ships named by the Ministry of Defence as the vessels of the First Training Squadron that stayed at Port Victoria and then sailed out on completion of the visit.

510. **B** **Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions** – The correct answer is Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

511. **A** **Rs 1.19 crore** – The correct answer is Rs 1.19 crore, the sum released to twenty nine State Biodiversity Boards and one Union Territory Biodiversity Council.

512. **C** **Maharashtra** – The correct answer is Maharashtra, which stood first in the allocation list with nineteen lakh forty six thousand one hundred and forty nine rupees.

513. **A** **Section 32(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002** – The Authority has stated that the funds given to the State Biodiversity Boards and to the Union Territory Biodiversity Council are to be used only for the activities listed in that provision.

514. **A** **Dr T. S. Panwar, Member (Technical)** – The correct answer is Dr T. S. Panwar, Member (Technical) of the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas.

515. **B** **Crop Residue Management machinery** – These are the machines that handle paddy straw left in the field after the harvest, and the Commission reviewed both their availability and their actual deployment in the two districts.

516. **B** **Drones and low cost sensors** – The review covered their deployment for technology based monitoring and for analysing trends in farm fires, in addition to field level surveillance by officials and a close watch over the hotspot areas.

517. **C** **83** – The fair at the Mysuru Dasara Exhibition Grounds has eighty three stalls in all, and of these eighty have been allotted to artisans, with thirty seven women among those artisans.

518. **B** **Mysuru Dasara Exhibition Grounds, Karnataka** – The correct answer is the Mysuru Dasara Exhibition Grounds in Karnataka, where the nine day fair began on the eleventh of October and will close on the nineteenth.

519. **D** **975** – The correct answer is 975 artisans, who have taken part across the thirteen fairs organised since the Ministry began the series.

520. **B** **Mission Yuva Raksha** – The correct answer is Mission Yuva Raksha, under which the Madhya Pradesh Unit of the Bureau organised five awareness programmes at educational institutions during the month.

521. **C** **Ministry of Finance** – The correct answer is the Ministry of Finance, which is the ministry named with this announcement about the awareness drive in Madhya Pradesh.

522. **A** **Brahma Kumaris** – The programme at the CM Rise Government School in Jawad was organised in association with the Brahma Kumaris of Neemuch, and the office of the District Opium Officer at Garoth also worked with the same organisation for the session at the Sanskar Valley Higher...

523. **B** **The United Kingdom** – KONKAN is the bilateral maritime exercise held between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy, and the edition named KONKAN-26 concluded off Plymouth in the United Kingdom.

524. **C** **INS Trishul** – The Indian Navy was represented in KONKAN-26 by the stealth frigate INS Trishul, which exercised with HMS Sutherland of the Royal Navy off Plymouth.

525. **B** **Plymouth** – KONKAN-26 ended in the waters off Plymouth in the United Kingdom, where the Royal Navy’s Fleet Operational Standards and Training organisation put the participating ships through their serials.

526. **B** **10th Foundation Day** – The All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi celebrated ten years of work in Ayurveda teaching, research, clinical care and international collaboration, and the day fell on the

concluding day of KAUMARACON 2026, the three-day international conference on K...

527. **A** **Rashtriya Ayurved Vidyapeeth and Arogya Bharati** – Both agreements were signed at the Foundation Day ceremony to strengthen cooperation between institutions and the sharing of knowledge in Ayurveda.

528. **A** **Maharishi International University, United States** – The international agreement was signed between AIIA Goa and that university, which is located at Fairfield in the state of Iowa, and it provides for an Academic Chair in Ayurveda in the university's Department of Physiology and Health.

529. **B** **Dushanbe** – The Ministry of Defence has said that the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation takes place in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, on 19 and 20 October 2026, and that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh travel...

530. **C** **The Defence Minister** – Rajnath Singh, who holds the defence portfolio, visits Dushanbe in Tajikistan to speak for India at the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation on 19 and 20 October 2026.

531. **D** **Admission of new member states** – The fields set out for the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government are the strengthening of multilateral cooperation among the member countries in trade, the economy, investment, connectivity, innovation and cultural as well as humanitarian exchang...

532. **B** **Software Technology Parks of India** – It is a science and technology organisation under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and it held the conclave on AI for Health and Assistive Technologies jointly with the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship of IIT (BHU)...

533. **C** **Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** – Shri S. Krishnan spoke in that capacity, holding that artificial intelligence can make health care easier to reach, strengthen clinical decision-making and improve the delivery of services, particularly for communities with little access to health facilities.

534. **B** **1991** – Shri Arvind Kumar, Director General of STPI, said at the conclave that the organisation has had a pivotal part in the growth of the country's industry in information technology and IT-enabled services since that year, and that the same success can now be repe...

535. **C** **2024** – Kufri Jamunia, the purple-fleshed biofortified potato developed by the ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, was officially released in that year, and it carries higher ascorbic acid, anthocyanin and carotenoid levels than the institute's two earlier colour...

536. **C** **42.75 mg** – The flesh of Kufri Jamunia holds that much Vitamin C, or ascorbic acid, in every 100 grams, which is nearly double what a conventional yellow-skinned potato offers.

537. **C** **32-35 tonnes per hectare** – That is the yield the variety returns when the recommended package of practices is followed, and nearly 90% of what is produced in trials proved marketable.

538. **B** **137 kg** – That is the gross weight of crystal methamphetamine the agency recovered from a coastal village in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu, in what is described as one of the biggest narcotics seizures in the state's coastal region in recent years.

539. **D** **Sri Lanka** – The intelligence that set off the operation said the narcotics had been brought to a coastal location in Nagapattinam for storage and onward smuggling, and the handover was to take place at sea rather than at any port.

540. **A** **The NDPS Act, 1985** – The correct answer is the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

541. **B** **Pithoragarh** – The district in Uttarakhand has been notified as a Cold Water Fisheries Cluster under the scheme, and the Secretary of the Department of Fisheries reviewed its progress on the spot at Munsyari.

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542. **B** **Rs 170 crore** – That is the outlay of the state's own trout scheme, under which Uttarakhand plans 1,500 raceways, 100 mini hatcheries and 600 cold-storage facilities by 2028-29.

543. **B** **Nepal** – The state's fisheries department sent its first consignment of trout abroad to the neighbouring country, an achievement the Secretary described as opening new avenues of international trade for hill farmers.

544. **C** **82 km** – The Namo Bharat regional rapid rail corridor runs from Delhi to Meerut through Ghaziabad and measures 82 km end to end.

545. **B** **22 February 2026** – On that day the Prime Minister dedicated the full Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor to the nation, and Meerut Metro was handed over at the same time.

546. **B** **National Capital Region Transport Corporation** – The correct answer is the National Capital Region Transport Corporation, known as NCRTC.

547. **C** **Aichi-Nagoya** – The Asian Para Games 2026 opened there, and the Indian contingent of para-athletes is competing at that venue.

548. **C** **18 October 2026** – The Asian Para Games of this edition got under way on that day in Aichi-Nagoya, and the Indian contingent of para-athletes began its campaign there.

549. **B** **Athletes with disabilities** – The Asian Para Games are the continental competition for para-athletes, and the 2026 edition opened in Aichi-Nagoya with an Indian contingent of such sportspersons taking part.

550. **B** **C-130J** – The Ministry of Defence said an aircraft of this type undertook the evacuation, lifting a critically ill civilian patient out of Leh late at night and landing at Palam, from where the patient was taken to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

551. **B** **Palam** – The Indian Air Force aircraft flew the patient from Leh and landed at Palam, after which the patient was moved to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences for further treatment.

552. **A** **All India Institute of Medical Sciences** – The correct answer is the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, usually called AIIMS.

553. **B** **A three-masted sail training ship** – INS Sudarshini belongs to the Indian Navy and is rigged with three masts, and her role is to train officers and sailors at sea rather than to fight.

554. **C** **Salalah, Oman** – The sail training ship called at Salalah from 14 to 17 October 2026 and sailed from there to continue Lokayan-2026, the transoceanic deployment that has now reached its tenth month.

555. **B** **Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions** – The correct answer is Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

556. **B** **2 to 31 October 2026** – Special Campaign 6.0 is being carried out at postal establishments throughout the country over that month by the Department of Posts, which comes under the Ministry of Communications.

557. **C** **1,50,000** – Under Special Campaign 6.0 the Department of Posts set three targets: resolution of 1,50,000 public grievances, disposal of 1,500 appeals and cleanliness drives at 1,35,000 sites across the country.

558. **C** **Rs 67.56 lakh** – Since 2 October 2026 the Department of Posts disposed of 3,06,026 kg of scrap and that fetched revenue of Rs 67.56 lakh.

559. **A** **Mysuru, Karnataka** – The nine-day Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 is laid out at the Mysuru Dasara Exhibition Grounds, and the Union Secretary of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Sudhansh Pant, went round its stalls during a two-day official visit to the city.

560.	**B**	**83 stalls in all, 80 to artisans** – The Mysuru fair carries 83 stalls, of which 80 have gone to artisans, and 37 of those artisans are women.
561.	**B**	**Traditional Artisans Upliftment Livelihood Programme** – BHARAT TULIP is the brand the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has built to widen the market for goods made by target-group artisans, taking them to digital platforms in India and abroad.
562.	**C**	**28 October 2026** – The Department of School Education and Literacy has fixed that day for a drive in schools across the country to raise awareness about electronic waste and to collect it, as part of Special Campaign 6.
563.	**B**	**Eco Clubs for Mission LiFE** – The school level work under Special Campaign 6 is carried out under their aegis.
564.	**B**	**50 kg** – To mark International e-Waste Day, which falls on 14 October, the Department of School Education and Literacy put up a mural made out of 50 kg of discarded electronics that school pupils had gathered, and installed e-waste bins alongside it at Kartavya Bhavan…

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