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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2026



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IMPORTANT DAYS

World Heart Day 2026 on 29 September

- **World Heart Day** is observed every year on **29 September** to increase awareness about **cardiovascular diseases** and the importance of heart health.
- The **2026 theme** is **"Don't Miss a Beat"**, which forms part of the World Heart Federation's multi-year **"Use Heart for Action"** campaign for **2024–2026**.
- The idea of World Heart Day was proposed by **Dr. Antoni Bayés de Luna**, who served as President of the **World Heart Federation from 1997 to 1999**.
- World Heart Day was established in **1999** in partnership with the **World Health Organization**, with the objective of raising awareness and mobilising international action against cardiovascular disease.
- The **first official World Heart Day** was observed on **24 September 2000**, which was the last Sunday of September that year.

World Rabies Day 2026 on 28 September

- **World Rabies Day** is observed every year on **28 September** to increase awareness about the impact of **rabies on humans and animals**.
- **World Rabies Day was established in 2007 by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC)** and is recognised by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- **Louis Pasteur died on 28 September 1895**.
- The **2026 theme** of World Rabies Day is **"Stronger Together"**, highlighting that **eliminating rabies requires collective efforts and cooperation**.

World Contraception Day 2026 on 26 September

- **World Contraception Day** is observed annually on **26 September** to create awareness about available **contraceptive methods, family planning and sexual and reproductive health**.
- The first **World Contraception Day** was observed on **26 September 2007** by **10 international family planning organisations** to increase awareness about contraception.

- The **1994 International Conference on Population and Development** recognised the right of all couples and individuals to decide **freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children**.

International Coffee Day 2026 on 1 October

- **International Coffee Day** is observed annually on **1 October** to recognise the importance of coffee and the contributions of people involved in the coffee sector.
- The **International Coffee Organisation (ICO)**, established in **1963**, officially declared International Coffee Day. The observance was launched in **Milan**.
- The **2026 theme** is **"Celebrating Coffee, Honouring the People Behind Every Cup."** The theme highlights the **economic, social, environmental and cultural importance of coffee**, along with its contribution to **livelihoods, rural development, food security and sustainable agrifood systems**.
- In **2015**, the **International Coffee Organisation** officially announced that **International Coffee Day would be observed on 1 October**.

World Vegetarian Day 2026 on 1 October

- **World Vegetarian Day** is observed annually on **1 October** to promote awareness about vegetarianism and its health, humanitarian and ethical aspects.
- The **North American Vegetarian Society (NAVS)** founded **World Vegetarian Day in 1977**.
- In **1978**, the **International Vegetarian Union** endorsed World Vegetarian Day.

International Day of Older Persons 2026 on 1 October

- **International Day of Older Persons** is observed annually on **1 October** to recognise the contributions of older people and raise awareness about issues affecting ageing populations.
- The **United Nations General Assembly** adopted **Resolution 45/106 in 1990**, officially designating **1 October** as the **International Day of Older Persons**.
- The day was first observed on **1 October 1991**.
- The **2026 theme** is **"The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives."**

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International Translation Day 2026 on 30 September

- **International Translation Day** is observed annually on **30 September** to recognise the important role of translators in connecting people, cultures and nations.
- On **24 May 2017**, the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted **Resolution 71/288** and officially designated **30 September** as International Translation Day to recognise the contribution of translators in **interconnecting nations**.
- The observance is promoted by the **International Federation of Translators (FIT)**, which was established in **1953**.

International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October

- The **International Day of Non-Violence** is observed every year on **2 October** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi (Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi)**, a prominent advocate of non-violent resistance during India's freedom struggle.
- In **2004**, **Shirin Ebadi**, an Iranian Nobel laureate, proposed the idea of observing an **International Day of Non-Violence**.
- On **5 June 2007**, the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** adopted a resolution establishing the **International Day of Non-Violence**.

Gandhi Jayanti is observed on 2 October

- **Gandhi Jayanti** is observed every year on **2 October** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi (Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi)**, who was born on **2 October 1869**.
- Gandhi Jayanti is a **national holiday in India**. Mahatma Gandhi played a significant role in India's **freedom struggle** and promoted **non-violence and Satyagraha** as important means of resistance.
- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** adopted a resolution on **15 June 2007** declaring **2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence** in recognition of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence.

International Day for the Total Elimination of nuclear weapons is observed on 26 September

- The **United Nations (UN)** observes the **International Day for the Total Elimination of nuclear weapons** every year on **26 September** to spread awareness about the dangers posed by nuclear weapons and encourage their complete elimination.
- The **first observance** of the International Day for the Total Elimination of nuclear weapons was held on **26 September 2014**.
- On **26 September 2013**, the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** adopted **Resolution A/RES/68/32**, officially designating 26 September as the International Day.

World Teachers' Day 2026 – 5 October

- **World Teachers' Day**, also known as **International Teachers' Day**, is observed annually on **5 October** to recognise the important role of teachers in society.
- Teachers play a prominent role in people's lives by **guiding, encouraging and supporting students** in achieving their goals.
- The official **2026 theme** of World Teachers' Day is **"Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures".**

World Smile Day 2026 – 2 October

- **World Smile Day** is observed on the **first Friday of October every year**. In **2026, it was observed on 2 October**.
- The **smiley face** was created in **1963** by **Harvey Ball**, a commercial artist from **Massachusetts, United States of America**.
- To restore the original message of spreading **smiles and happiness**, Harvey Ball established the observance of **World Smile Day on the first Friday of October**.
- **Harvey Ball died in 2001**, and the **Harvey Ball World Smile Foundation** was established in his honour.

World Animal Day 2026 – 4 October

- **World Animal Day** is observed annually on **4 October** to raise awareness about **animal welfare and welfare standards**.
- The official World Animal Day portal has announced the **2026 theme** as **"See the World Through Their Eyes."**
- **World Animal Day** was first organised by **Heinrich Zimmermann**, a German writer, on **24 March 1925** in **Berlin, Germany**.
- The event was later moved from March to **4 October in 1929**. Heinrich Zimmermann continued working to promote World Animal Day every year.
- In **May 1931**, the **International Animal Protection Congress** held in **Florence, Italy**, adopted a resolution accepting Heinrich Zimmermann's proposal and officially declared **4 October as World Animal Day**.

World Habitat Day 2026 is observed on 5 October

- **World Habitat Day** is observed annually on the **first Monday of October** to highlight the importance of adequate housing and sustainable human settlements.
- In **2026, World Habitat Day is observed on 5th October**.
- The **theme of World Habitat Day 2026** is **"Adequate Housing for All."**
- The word **"habitat"** is derived from **Latin**.
- In **1985**, the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted **Resolution 40/202**, establishing World Habitat Day on the **first Monday of October**.
- The **first World Habitat Day** was celebrated in **Nairobi, Kenya, in 1986**, with the theme **"Shelter is my right."**

World Space Week 2026 observed from 4 to 10 October 2026

- **World Space Week 2026** is being observed from **4 to 10 October 2026**, highlighting developments in **space science, space technology and human space exploration**.
- The **2026 theme** is **"Rocket Revolution"**, focusing on the transformation of space launches through **reusable rockets, private space companies, startups and emerging space powers**.
- The dates of World Space Week commemorate two major milestones in space history:

- **4 October 1957:** The **Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1**, the first artificial satellite to orbit Earth, marking the beginning of the **Space Age**.
- **10 October 1967:** The **Outer Space Treaty** entered into force, establishing principles governing the **peaceful exploration and use of outer space**.

- **Sally Ride** became the **first American woman in space in 1983**.

World Cotton Day 2026 – 7 October

- **World Cotton Day** is observed every year on **7 October** to recognise the importance of cotton and its contribution to livelihoods, trade, economic development and the textile sector.
- The theme of **World Cotton Day 2026** is **"Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership."**
- The **first World Cotton Day** was celebrated on **7 October 2019** and was hosted by the **World Trade Organization**.

World Cerebral Palsy Day 2026 – 6 October

- **World Cerebral Palsy Day** is observed every year on **6 October** to raise awareness about cerebral palsy and promote greater inclusion, rights and opportunities for people living with the condition.
- The theme of **World Cerebral Palsy Day 2026** is **"Unique and United"**, highlighting the individuality of people with cerebral palsy and the importance of collective action and solidarity.
- **World Cerebral Palsy Day was established in 2012** by **Cerebral Palsy Alliance of Australia** and **United Cerebral Palsy of the United States**.

International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South 2026

- The **International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South** is observed annually on **16 September**.
- The day was proclaimed by the **United Nations General Assembly on 9 January 2024** through **Resolution A/RES/78/259**.
- The observance is rooted in the **Havana Declaration**, adopted by the leaders of the **Group of 77 and China** during the **Summit on Science, Technology and Innovation** held in **Havana, Cuba, in September 2023**.

International Day for Interventional Cardiology 2026

- The **International Day for Interventional Cardiology** is observed annually on **16 September** to raise awareness about **cardiovascular diseases** and the importance of interventional cardiology in addressing the global burden of **non-communicable diseases**.
- The day was proclaimed by the **United Nations General Assembly in September 2022** through **Resolution A/RES/76/302**.
- **16 September** also marks the anniversary of the **first coronary angioplasty**, performed by **Dr. Andreas Grüntzig on 16 September 1977**.

Indian Air Force Day 2026 is celebrated on 8 October

- **India celebrates the 94th Indian Air Force Day on 8 October 2026** to commemorate the establishment of the Indian Air Force and raise awareness about its role in safeguarding India's national security.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** was established on **8 October 1932**. Its primary mission is to protect the nation by controlling and exploiting air and space capabilities.
- The theme for **2026** is **"Indian Air Force – Infallible, Impervious and Precise"**, highlighting the force's operational preparedness, resilience and precision.
- The Indian Air Force conducted its first operational flight on **1 April 1933**.

World Egg Day 2026 – 9 October

- **World Egg Day** is observed annually **on the second Friday in October** This year, World Egg Day **is on 9th October 2026**, marking the **30th anniversary** of the global observance.
- The official theme for 2026 was **"Protein that Powers and Protects"**, highlighting eggs as a natural source of high-quality protein and essential nutrients that support health and well-being throughout life.
- World Egg Day is celebrated annually on the **second Friday of October**. As the date is based on the day of the week rather than a fixed calendar date, it changes every year.

- The observance was established in **Vienna, Austria, in 1996**, when it was decided that World Egg Day would be celebrated on the second Friday of October each year.

World Post Day 2026 – 9 October

- **World Post Day** is celebrated annually on **9 October** to highlight the importance of postal services in global communication.
- **2026 Theme**: **"World Post Day: One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities."**
- **History:** World Post Day was first declared by the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** Congress held in **Tokyo, Japan, in 1969**.
- The day marks the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in **1874 in Switzerland**, which helped transform international postal communication.
- The first organised postal service is traced to the period of **Augustus Caesar (62 BCE–14 CE) in Rome**. Postal systems subsequently expanded and developed across the world.

World Mental Health Day 2026 Observed on 10 October

- **World Mental Health Day** is observed annually on **10 October** to raise awareness of mental health issues and promote efforts to support mental well-being worldwide.
- **2026 Theme: "Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change."** The theme highlights the importance of listening to people with lived experience of mental health conditions and using their voices to bring meaningful improvements in mental health care and support.
- **First observance:** The first World Mental Health Day was observed on **10 October 1992**, following an initiative announced by **Richard Hunter**, who was then the Deputy Secretary-General of the WFMH.

World Sight Day 2026 Observed on 8 October

- **World Sight Day** is observed annually on the **second Thursday of October** to raise awareness about eye health and the prevention of vision impairment.
- **2026 Date:** This year its falls on **8 October 2026**.
- **Theme: "Love Your Eyes."**

- **First observance: Lions Clubs International** partnered with blindness-prevention organisations worldwide to organise the first World Sight Day in **1998**.

International Day of the Girl Child 2026 Observed on 11 October

- **The International Day of the Girl Child** is observed annually on **11 October** to promote girls' rights and address the challenges they face worldwide.
- **2026 Theme: "End child marriage and invest in girls' rights!"**
- **Background:** In **1995**, the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** highlighted the rights of girls and called for gender equality and better opportunities for girls worldwide.
- **Establishment:** Building on this global commitment, the **United Nations General Assembly** established the International Day of the Girl Child in **2011**.
- The first observance took place on **11 October 2012**.

World Arthritis Day 2026 – 12 October

- **World Arthritis Day** is observed annually on **12 October** to raise awareness about arthritis and its impact on people's lives.
- The theme of **World Arthritis Day 2026** is **"Achieve Your Dreams."**
- The **Arthritis Foundation** established World Arthritis Day to promote awareness of arthritis and related joint conditions.

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2026 Observed on 13 October

- The **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR)** is observed annually on **13 October** to raise awareness about disaster risk reduction and recognise efforts to reduce disaster vulnerability and losses of life, livelihoods, the economy and health.
- The theme for **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2026** is **"Resilience Starts at Home"**.
- On **21 December 2009**, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution designating **13 October** as the observance date and renaming it the **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction**.

Department of Posts Observes National Postal Week 2026 from 9 to 15 October

- The **Department of Posts** is observing **National Postal Week 2026 from 9 to 15 October**, commencing with **World Post Day on 9 October 2026**.
- The theme of **World Post Day 2026** is **"World Post Day: One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities."**
- National Postal Week 2026 focuses on making postal services more **convenient, accessible and responsive** to citizens' changing needs.

World Food Day 2026 – 16 October

- **World Food Day** is observed annually on **16 October** to raise awareness about global hunger, food security and the importance of ensuring access to nutritious food for everyone.
- The **2026 theme** is **"Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow."**
- The day commemorates the establishment of the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, a specialised agency of the **United Nations**, on **16 October 1945**.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day 2026 – 15 October

- **Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day (PAILRD)** is observed annually on **15 October**, particularly in the **United States and Canada**, to honour and remember babies lost through miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal death and other causes of infant loss.
- The observance was established in **2002** to commemorate affected infants and recognise the grief experienced by parents and families.

Global Handwashing Day 2026 – 15 October

- **Global Handwashing Day** is observed annually on **15 October** to raise awareness about the importance of handwashing with soap in preventing diseases and protecting public health.
- The **2026 campaign theme** is **"Be a Handwashing Hero"**, encouraging people to develop regular handwashing habits and promote clean hands in workplaces, schools and communities.
- The first **Global Handwashing Day was observed in 2008**.

World Students' Day 2026 – 15 October

- **World Students' Day** is observed annually on **15 October** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**, former President of India.
- Dr. Kalam was born on **15 October 1931** in **Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu**.

- The day recognises his contributions to education and his efforts to inspire students to learn, innovate and achieve their potential.
- World Students' Day was reportedly established in **2010** in recognition of Dr. Kalam's commitment to education and student development.

World Standards Day 2026 – 14 October

- **World Standards Day** is observed annually on **14 October** to recognise the contributions of experts and organisations involved in developing international standards and to highlight the importance of standardisation in global trade, economic development and cooperation.
- The **2026 theme** is **"Shared Vision for a Better World,"** with a special focus on **Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) – Affordable and Clean Energy**.
- The theme highlights the role of international standards in supporting access to reliable, sustainable and modern energy.

International Day of Rural Women 2026 – 15 October

- **International Day of Rural Women** is observed annually on **15 October** to recognise the contributions, achievements and resilience of rural women and highlight their role in agriculture, food production, food security and rural community development.
- The **2026 theme** is **"Rural Women Farmers Caring for Mother Nature,"** as announced by **United Nations Women (UN Women)**. The theme highlights the role of rural women farmers in caring for the natural environment.

World Anaesthesia Day 2026 – 16 October

- **World Anaesthesia Day** is observed annually on **16 October** to commemorate the development of modern anaesthesia and recognise its importance in surgical care.
- The **2026 theme**, announced by the **World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA)**, is **"Anaesthesiology Along the Patient Pathway."**
- World Anaesthesia Day commemorates **William Thomas Green Morton (W. T. G. Morton)**, who successfully demonstrated the use of **ether as an anaesthetic on 16 October 1846** at **Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, United States**.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2026 – 17 October

- **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed annually on 17 October** to raise awareness about poverty and promote global efforts to eradicate it.
- The 2026 theme is "**Safe Homes for All."**
- The **first commemoration took place in 198**7 at **the Trocadéro in Paris, France**, where more than 100,000 people gathered to honour those who had died due to extreme poverty, violence and hunger.

World Osteoporosis Day 2026 Observed on 20 October

- **World Osteoporosis Day is observed annually on 20 October** to raise global awareness about the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis and metabolic bone diseases.
- The official **theme for World Osteoporosis Day 2026 is "Build, Protect, Strengthen Your Bones for Life",** also expressed as "Build, Protect, Strengthen Your Bones."
- The campaign is promoted by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) through its official World Osteoporosis Day website, focusing on lifelong bone health and fracture prevention among people of all ages.

National Solidarity Day 2026 Observed on 20 October

- **National Solidarity Day is observed annually on 20 October in India to commemorate the 1962** India–China War and honour the courage and sacrifices of Indian Armed Forces personnel.
- The conflict involved border disputes between **India and China, particularly in Ladakh and the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA), now largely part of Arunachal Pradesh.**

Police Commemoration Day 2026 Observed on 21 October

- **Police Commemoration Day is observed annually on 21 October in India** to honour police personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.
- The theme for Police Commemoration Day 2026, highlighted by **the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), is "Fight Against Drugs."**
- The day commemorates the sacrifice of **10 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who were killed by Chinese troops on 21 October 1959 while guarding India's border in the Ladakh region.**

World Iodine Deficiency Day 2026 Observed on 21 October

- **World Iodine Deficiency Day (WIDD), also known as Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) Prevention Day,** is observed annually on **21 October** to raise awareness about iodine deficiency, its health effects and the importance of adequate iodine intake.
- Global efforts to eliminate iodine deficiency gained momentum at the **World Summit for Children in 1990, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).**
- The day was **formally declared World Iodine Deficiency Day in 2002**.

International Stuttering Awareness Day 2026 – 22 October

- **International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD)** is observed annually on **22 October** to raise awareness about stuttering, promote understanding of the condition and support people who experience speech disfluency.
- The official theme for **International Stuttering Awareness Day 2026** is **"SHADES OF STUTTERING – What's yours?"**
- The observance was established in **1998** to draw attention to the experiences of millions of people worldwide who live with stuttering, a communication disorder that can affect the flow of speech.

World Polio Day 2026 – 24 October

- **World Polio Day** is observed annually on **24 October** to raise awareness about poliomyelitis (polio), a highly contagious viral disease that can affect the central nervous system and cause **permanent paralysis**.
- The official theme for **World Polio Day 2026** is **"One day, one focus: ending polio for good"**.
- The observance was initiated by **Rotary International** in honour of **Jonas Salk**, the medical researcher who led the team that developed the first successful polio vaccine.

United Nations Day 2026 – 24 October

- **United Nations Day** is observed annually on **24 October** to commemorate the establishment of the **United Nations (UN)** and promote international peace, cooperation and collective action.
- The **2026 theme provided in the source is "Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation."** This wording should be verified against an official United Nations announcement before being used as a confirmed theme.

- The **United Nations Conference on International Organization** was held in **San Francisco, United States, in 1945**, with representatives from **50 countries** participating in the process of drafting the United Nations Charter.

World Development Information Day – 24 October 2026

- **World Development Information Day** is observed annually on **24 October** to draw public attention to development challenges and encourage international cooperation through improved access to information.
- The day was first observed on **24 October 1973**. The date also coincides with **United Nations Day**.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police Raising Day 2026 – 24 October

- The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** observed its **65th Raising Day on 24 October 2026**, commemorating its establishment in 1962 following the **India–China War**.
- The force operates under the motto **"Shaurya, Dridhta, Karmanishtha"**, which reflects courage, determination and dedication to duty.
- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police was established on **24 October 1962** in the aftermath of the India–China War to strengthen border security in the Himalayan region.

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2026 – 27 October

- **World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH)** is observed annually on **27 October** to raise awareness about the importance of preserving audiovisual materials, including films, television and radio recordings, and other moving images and sound documents.
- The **2026 theme** is **"Your Window to the World"**.
- The day commemorates the adoption of the **Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images** by the **21st General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1980**.

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NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Delhi Government Launches Delhi Udyog Mitra Portal to Promote Ease of Doing Business

- **Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta** launched the **'Delhi Udyog Mitra' portal** under the **Ease of Doing Business initiative** to bring multiple approvals, licences and **No Objection Certificates (NOCs)** onto a single platform.
- The **Delhi Udyog Mitra portal** functions as a **single-window platform** through which industrialists and entrepreneurs can apply for various **licences, approvals and No Objection Certificates (NOCs)**.
- **More than 15 departments and 50 services** have already been onboarded onto the portal.

About Delhi (National Capital Territory):

- **Chief Minister:** Rekha Gupta
- **Lieutenant Governor:** Taranjit Singh Sandhu
- **Capital:** New Delhi
- **National Parks:** None
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Asola Bhatti (Indira Priyadarshini) Wildlife Sanctuary

Production Linked Incentive Schemes Disburse ₹36,754 Crore in Incentives

- The **Government of India has disbursed ₹36,754 crore** in incentives under the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes** since their launch in **2020**, with the figures covering disbursements up to **30 June 2026**.
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** placed the data in the public domain on **25 September 2026**.
- The **Production Linked Incentive Scheme** is a Central Government initiative that provides financial incentives linked to **incremental production, sales or investment** by eligible companies.
- The PLI framework covers **14 key sectors** and has an approved financial outlay of **₹1.91 lakh crore**.

GI-Tagged Kaladi Cheese of Jammu and Kashmir Reaches Commercial Scalability

- Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office **Dr. Jitendra Singh** stated that **Kaladi**, the traditional **Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged dairy product of Udhampur district, Jammu and Kashmir**, has reached a stage where it can be commercially scaled for wider domestic and global consumption.
- **Kaladi**, also known as the **"Mozzarella of Jammu"**, is a traditional cheese of Udhampur known for its distinctive **meltability and stretchability** and is an important part of the region's food heritage and rural dairy economy.
- Kaladi received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag on 3 October 2023**, officially protecting its regional identity and authenticity.

About Jammu and Kashmir:

- **Chief Minister:** Omar Abdullah
- **Lieutenant Governor:** Manoj Sinha
- **Capitals:** Srinagar (Summer), Jammu (Winter)
- **National Parks:** Dachigam National Park, Kazinag National Park, Kishtwar National Park, Salim Ali National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, Lachipora Wildlife Sanctuary, Limber Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajparian Wildlife Sanctuary, Nandini Wildlife Sanctuary, Ramnagar Rakha Wildlife Sanctuary, Trikuta Wildlife Sanctuary

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana Completes 12 Years

- The **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)** completed **12 years in 2026**, continuing to connect rural youth with **industry- aligned skill training, employment opportunities and sustainable livelihood options**.
- The milestone is significant as India's youth population is projected to reach nearly **345 million by 2036**, highlighting the need to expand quality skilling opportunities for rural youth.

- **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana** was launched on **25 September 2014** by the **Ministry of Rural Development** under the **National Rural Livelihoods Mission** to provide **placement-linked skill training and employment opportunities** to rural youth.
- The scheme primarily targets **rural youth aged 15–35 years** from poor households and enables them to acquire industry-relevant skills and access sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Arogya Manthan 2026 Marks Eight Years of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and Five Years of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister **J. P. Nadda** inaugurated **Arogya Manthan 2026** at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**, marking **8 years of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** and **5 years of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**.
- The event was organised by the **National Health Authority (NHA)** to review India's health assurance and digital health ecosystem and discuss priorities for its next phase.
- Arogya Manthan 2026 brought together **government officials, healthcare providers, insurers, technology and digital health experts, academics, development partners and other stakeholders**.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant Inaugurates India's First Victim Rights Centre in Patna

- **Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant** inaugurated the country's **first Victim Rights Centre in Patna, Bihar**, to provide legal rights and essential support to victims of various crimes, including invisible victims, under one roof.
- The **Victim Rights Centre** has been established on the premises of the **Bihar State Legal Services Authority**.
- The centre will provide victims with access to **legal rights, essential assistance, psychological support, counselling and other required facilities** at a single location.
- The initiative has been launched in **Patna district as a one-year pilot project**.

About Bihar:

- **Chief Minister:** Samrat Choudhary

- **Governor:** Syed Ata Hasnain
- **Capital:** Patna
- **National Parks:** Valmiki National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Valmiki, Bhimbandh, Kaimur, Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuaries

Supreme Court Asks Centre to Examine 18-Year Age Threshold for Independent Social Media Accounts

- The **Supreme Court of India** has asked the Central Government to examine whether social media platforms should be legally required to ensure that users are **at least 18 years old** before independently creating accounts.
- A **three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant**, along with **Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohana**, heard a **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)** filed by the **Just Rights for Children Alliance (JRCA)** seeking stronger safeguards for minors on social media and other digital platforms.
- The proceedings **do not constitute a nationwide ban on social media access for persons below 18 years**.

Make in India Completes 12 Years, Driving Growth in Domestic Production, Investment and Exports

- The flagship **Make in India initiative** completed **12 years on 25 September 2026**, with the government highlighting its contribution to the expansion of domestic manufacturing, investment, exports and industrial capabilities across sectors.
- **Make in India** was launched on **25 September 2014** with the objective of establishing India as a global hub for **manufacturing, design and innovation**.
- The initiative has expanded to **27 sectors**, comprising **15 manufacturing sectors and 12 service sectors**, under **Make in India 2.0**.
- India's **electronics production** increased nearly **sevenfold**, from **₹1.9 lakh crore in 2014-15** to **₹13.11 lakh crore in 2025-26**.

- **Indigenous defence production** rose from **₹46,429 crore in 2014-15** to a record **₹1.78 lakh crore in 2025-26**.

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav Issues India's First PRAMAAN Certificates Under Forest Certification Scheme

- **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav**, Ministry of **Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, handed over India's first **PRAMAAN certificates** in **New Delhi, Delhi**, under the **Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)**.
- **PRAMAAN** stands for **Programme for Recognition and Accreditation of Sustainable Management practices for Agroforestry And Natural forestry resources**.
- The first issuance of **PRAMAAN certificates** marked the transition of India's **forest certification framework from policy to field-level implementation**.
- The **Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)** is implemented by the **Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
- The **Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC)** received a PRAMAAN certificate for plantations covering **33,000 hectares**.

Unique Identification Authority of India Launches Five New Initiatives at Aadhaar Samvaad in Kolkata to Strengthen Digital Identity and Good Governance

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**, under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, launched **five new initiatives** at the **Aadhaar Samvaad** stakeholders' conference in **Kolkata, West Bengal**, marking the **17th Aadhaar Day**.
- The **Aadhaar Samvaad** is a **stakeholder conference organised by UIDAI** to discuss **innovations, challenges, ideas, and service-delivery improvements** for strengthening the **Aadhaar ecosystem**.
- The **17th Aadhaar Day** commemorates the issuance of the **first Aadhaar number on 29 September 2010**.
- **Union Minister of State Jitin Prasada**, Ministry of **Commerce and Industry** and **MeitY**, attended the event as the **Chief Guest**.

About UIDAI :

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** was initially set up on **28 January 2009** through a **notification of the Planning Commission of India**.
- UIDAI was later constituted as a **statutory authority on 12 July 2016** under the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016**.
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chairman : Neelkanth Mishra
- CEO : Shri Saurabh Vijay

Tamil Nadu Expands Vetri Payanam Thittam for Women and Transgender Persons

- **Tamil Nadu** launched the expanded **Vetri Payanam Thittam** in **Chennai on 2 October 2026**.
- The scheme was earlier known as **Vidiyal Payanam Thittam**.
- The scheme provides **cost-free bus travel** for **women and transgender persons** on selected services operated by the **Tamil Nadu Government**.
- The expanded scheme covers **Ordinary, Express, Limited Stop Service and Deluxe buses**.
- It also covers buses operating within **corporations, municipalities, town panchayats and hill areas**, along with **ordinary suburban buses between districts** and buses travelling **beyond 40 kilometres**.

About Tamil Nadu:

- **Chief Minister:** C. Joseph Vijay
- **Governor:** Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar (Additional Charge)
- **Capital:** Chennai
- **National Parks:** Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Indira Gandhi (Anamalai) National Park, Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Palani Hills National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary, Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary, Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary, Pulicat Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary

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India Identifies 28 Geographical Places and Features in Ladakh

- The **Government of India**, in consultation with the **Union Territory Administration of Ladakh**, has officially identified **28 places and geographical features** in Ladakh using standard names on the **Survey of India** official map.
- The initiative, according to the **Ministry of Science and Technology**, aims to ensure **accurate identification of geographical features** and create greater public awareness about them.
- The 28 identified features include **peaks, mountains, passes, glaciers, valleys, rivers, lakes, land areas and other water bodies**.
- The **28 places and geographical features** are:

Place/Feature	Category
Atisha Giri	Peak
Brangsa	Land area
Chapchingal Pass	Pass
Kanishka Peak	Peak
Karun Pir	Mountain
Kuksel	Land area
Martand Giri	Peak
Parpik	Glacier
Skamri Glacier	Glacier
Shachmirk Pass	Pass
Shkorga Valley	Valley
Zorawar Peak	Peak
Dehra Compass	Land area
Drak Karpo	Mountain
Gogra	Land area
Jolmori	Mountain

Kumarayana Point	Land area
Panglung	Land area
Rinchen Zangpo	Peak
Sakyasri Giri	Peak
Guru Rinpoche	Lake
Shamal Lungpa	Land area
Yangpa River	River
Hot Spring	Water body
Marpa Lotsava Ri	Peak
Milarepa Kangri	Peak
Shiva Ri	Peak
Maheshvara Ri	Peak

About Ladakh:

- **Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena**
- **Capital:** Leh
- **National Parks:** Hemis National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary

Intelligent Traffic Management System Project Approved for Delhi Police

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved implementation of the **Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) Project** by **Delhi Police** at an estimated cost of **₹1,789.52 crore**, including taxes.
- The project will cover **42 identified traffic corridors** and will be implemented in **3 phases over 24 months**, followed by **5 years of operation and maintenance**.
- The technology-driven system aims to improve **traffic management, transport infrastructure and urban mobility** in the National Capital by using **real-time traffic data, adaptive traffic signals, automated enforcement and integrated command-and-control systems**.

- Delhi has around **71 lakh active registered vehicles**, while the growth in vehicles has significantly exceeded the expansion of road infrastructure.

Green Energy Corridor Phase-III Scheme Approved by Union Cabinet

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the **Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) Scheme** to strengthen India's **Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS)** and facilitate the evacuation of up to **135 Gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy** across States and Union Territories.
- The scheme includes deployment of **50 Gigawatt-hour (GWh) of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)** at renewable energy developer/generator locations or other strategically important locations to improve grid flexibility.
- The scheme is targeted for completion by **Financial Year 2032-33**, with a total project outlay of **₹1,86,405 crore**.
- The total outlay comprises:
    - **₹1,36,378 crore** for development of **Intra-State Transmission Systems** under Green Energy Corridor Phase-III.
    - **₹50,000 crore** for deployment of **50 Gigawatt-hour Battery Energy Storage Systems**.

Traditional Mandar Musical Instrument of Jharkhand Receives Geographical Indication Tag

- The traditional **Mandar musical instrument of Jharkhand**, which is deeply associated with the state's **folk culture and tribal life**, has received a **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**, providing official legal recognition to its distinctive geographical and cultural identity.
- The **Geographical Indications Registry, Government of India**, based in **Chennai**, granted the GI tag to **"Mandar of Jharkhand."**
- The application for the GI tag was filed on **24 September 2021**.
- **"Mandar Samrat" Manpuran Nayak** described Mandar as an integral part of **Jharkhand's cultural heritage** and stated that the GI recognition is a **tribute to the ancestors and the soil of Jharkhand**.

About Jharkhand:

- **Chief Minister:** Hemant Soren
- **Governor:** Santosh Kumar Gangwar
- **Capital:** Ranchi
- **National Parks:** Betla National Park, Hazaribagh National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary, Koderma Wildlife Sanctuary, Palamau Wildlife Sanctuary, Palkot Wildlife Sanctuary, Topchanchi Wildlife Sanctuary

Centre Sanctions Over ₹1,200 Crore Under Prime Minister Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana to 10 States

- The **Central Government** has sanctioned more than **₹1,200 crore** to **10 states** under the **Prime Minister Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana** as part of efforts to strengthen agricultural development, improve farmers' livelihoods and enhance food security.
- Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** made the announcement while addressing the second day of the **National Agriculture Conference – Rabi Campaign 2026**.
- Under the **Prime Minister Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana**, sanction letters were handed over to Agriculture Ministers of 10 states, with the following allocations:
    - **West Bengal – ₹290 crore**
    - **Haryana – ₹198 crore**
    - **Chhattisgarh – ₹181 crore**
    - **Arunachal Pradesh – ₹154 crore**
    - **Bihar – ₹114 crore**
    - **Karnataka – ₹104 crore**
    - **Mizoram – ₹75 crore**
    - **Himachal Pradesh – ₹64 crore**
    - **Jharkhand – ₹58 crore**
    - **Punjab – ₹43 crore**

Kerala Develops Artificial Intelligence-Based Dengue Early Warning System

- Scientists at the **Institute of Advanced Virology, Kerala** have developed a **Dengue Early Warning System** using **machine learning, epidemiological data and weather variables** to forecast dengue trends at the district level and help public-health authorities take preventive action before outbreaks intensify.
- The **Dengue Early Warning System** combines dengue surveillance data with climatic factors such as **rainfall, temperature and humidity** to generate **weekly forecasts** of dengue trends.
- The system was developed by **Abhinand C. S.**, a scientist at the Institute of Advanced Virology, using **six years of data from March 2020 to February 2026**.

About Kerala:

- **Chief Minister:** V. D. Satheesan
- **Governor:** Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- **Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram
- **National Parks:** Eravikulam National Park, Periyar National Park, Silent Valley National Park, Mathikettan Shola National Park, Anamudi Shola National Park, Pambadum Shola National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary, Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary, Chimmony Wildlife Sanctuary, Kurinjimala Wildlife Sanctuary

Gujarat Restructures Porbandar Forest Division to Strengthen Asiatic Lion Conservation in Barda

- The **Gujarat Government** has initiated the restructuring of the **Porbandar Forest Division** to strengthen forest management and facilitate the rehabilitation of **Asiatic lions in the Barda area**, which is being developed as a **"second home" for the big cats** amid the rising lion population in the state.
- The restructuring is part of a **fast-track exercise** to strengthen the management of the Barda area following the **natural return of Asiatic lions to Barda after 143 years**.

- The reorganisation aims to provide greater flexibility in implementing departmental schemes, improve forest management, resolve **forest and environment-related issues**, and support the rehabilitation of lions in Barda.
- The restructuring includes the **formation of new range-beats, allocation of area responsibilities, deployment of two Assistant Conservators of Forests, and consolidation of related staff and equipment**.

About Gujarat:

- **Chief Minister:** Bhupendra Patel
- **Governor:** Acharya Dev Vrat
- **Capital:** Gandhinagar
- **National Parks:** Gir, Blackbuck, Gulf of Kutch (Marine), Vansda National Parks
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Nal Sarovar Bird, Wild Ass, Kutch Desert, Barda, Purna Wildlife Sanctuaries

Ministry of Labour and Employment Launches 90-Day Shram Samvad Campaign on Four Labour Codes

- The **Ministry of Labour and Employment** has launched the **90-day "Shram Samvad" awareness campaign** to improve understanding and implementation of the **four Labour Codes**.
- The campaign will cover industrial clusters across **316 districts in all 36 States and Union Territories**.
- The campaign will involve **consultations with industry and other stakeholders** on implementing the new labour law framework, including **lawyers and Chartered Accountants** who advise businesses.

Ministry of Steel to Set Up Steel Industry Safety Council and Steel Industry Safety Directorate to Strengthen Safety in Steel Sector

- The **Ministry of Steel, Government of India**, on **28 September 2026**, announced the establishment of the **Steel Industry Safety Council (SISC)** as an apex-level industry safety body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel.
- The initiative aims to strengthen safety standards and practices, prevent accidents, and improve safety awareness across the steel industry.
- The **Steel Industry Safety Council** will be headed by the **Secretary, Ministry of Steel**, as its **Chairman**.
- The Council will comprise **senior officials of the Ministry of Steel**, **Chief Executives of integrated steel producers**, and representatives of key technical and statutory organisations, including the **Directorate General of Mines Safety**, **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation**, **National Disaster Management Authority**, and recognised **steel technology institutions**.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Discovers Natural Gas in Mahanadi Offshore Basin

- The **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has discovered **natural gas in a deepwater exploratory well in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin**, located around **43 km off the Konark coast of Odisha**.
- The discovery was made on **18 September 2026** from the **MN-DW18-1-H-D well**, also identified as **MDW-28**.
- ONGC reported encouraging gas flow and sustained reservoir pressure from the well.
- The well is situated in the **Mahanadi Offshore Basin**, a significant hydrocarbon-bearing region along India's eastern coast.

About Odisha:

- **Chief Minister:** Mohan Charan Majhi
- **Governor:** Hari Babu Kambhampati
- **Capital:** Bhubaneswar
- **National Parks:** Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park, Nandankanan National Park

- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary, Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary, Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary, Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary, Kuldiha Wildlife

Gujarat Becomes Second State to Receive Presidential Assent for Uniform Civil Code

- **Gujarat** has become the **second state in India, after Uttarakhand, to receive the President's assent for its Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**.
- The **Gujarat Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026** was passed by the **Gujarat Legislative Assembly in March 2026**.
- The legislation was subsequently published in the **Gujarat Government Gazette**.
- The Uniform Civil Code establishes a **common legal framework for civil matters** such as **marriage, divorce, succession, inheritance and live-in relationships** for citizens residing in Gujarat.
- The law also extends its jurisdiction to **Gujarat residents living outside the state**.
- The provisions of the Gujarat Uniform Civil Code **do not apply to Scheduled Tribes**, thereby preserving constitutional protections relating to their customary rights.

Mumbai Port Authority Declares Jawahar Dweep Marine Oil Terminal Plastic-Free

- **Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA)** declared its **Jawahar Dweep Marine Oil Terminal plastic-free**, marking an important step towards more **sustainable port operations**.
- The declaration was made during **Swachhata Abhiyan 2026**, a cleanliness programme organised at **Grey Gate, Indira Dock, Mumbai**, to mark the **birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**.
- **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal** led the event. **Dr. M. Angamuthu**, Chairperson of Mumbai Port Authority, **Ravish Kumar Singh**, Deputy Chairman, and other officials also participated.
- **Jawahar Dweep**, one of Mumbai Port Authority's key oil terminals, became plastic-free as part of the port's broader efforts to **reduce single-use plastic** across its operations.

About Maharashtra:

- **Chief Minister:** Devendra Fadnavis
- **Governor:** Jishnu Dev Varma
- **Capital:** Mumbai
- **National Parks:** Tadoba National Park, Gugamal National Park, Chandoli National Park, Navegaon National Park, Sanjay Gandhi National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary, Lonar Wildlife Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary, Phansad Wildlife Sanctuary, Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, Thane Creek Flamingo Wildlife Sanctuary

Odisha Announces Cash Rewards for Indian Women's Hockey Team After Asian Games Gold

- **Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi** announced a cash reward of **₹11 lakh each for the players of the Indian women's hockey team** for winning the **gold medal at the 2026 Asian Games**.
- Each **support staff member** of the Indian women's hockey team will receive a cash reward of **₹5.5 lakh**.
- India ended a **44-year wait** for the **Asian Games women's hockey gold medal** by defeating **defending champions and Olympic silver-medallists China 1–0** in the final.
- With the Asian Games gold medal victory, the Indian women's hockey team also **qualified for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' Completes 12 Years

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme, 'Mann Ki Baat', completed 12 years**, marking more than a decade of connecting with citizens across India.
- The **first episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' was broadcast in 2014 on the occasion of Vijayadashami**.
- The programme has completed **12 years of broadcasting**, with the **138th episode** being broadcast recently.

- Over the past 12 years, **'Mann Ki Baat' has provided a platform to highlight positive transformations taking place across the country** and encouraged citizens to actively participate in India's development journey.

Government Extends Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products Scheme Till 31 December

- The **Government of India** has extended the continuation of the **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme** up to **31 December 2026**.
- The extended scheme will be available for exports made by:
  - **Domestic Tariff Units**
  - **Advance Authorisation Holders**
  - **Special Economic Zone Units**
  - **Export Oriented Units**
- The **RoDTEP Scheme** provides refunds for **embedded and un-rebated Central, State and local duties, taxes and levies** borne on exported products.

Cabinet Approves Higher Minimum Support Prices for Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2027-28

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved an increase in the **Minimum Support Prices for all six mandated Rabi crops** for **Rabi Marketing Season 2027-28**.
- The increase is intended to provide **remunerative prices to farmers** for their produce and encourage greater diversification towards pulses and oilseeds.
- The **highest increase in Minimum Support Price** has been announced for **Safflower at ₹675 per quintal**, followed by **Rapeseed and Mustard at ₹413 per quintal**.
- **Wheat: ₹2,610** per quintal; increase of **₹25**; cost of production ₹1,264; margin over cost **106%**.

Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry Launches PRAGATI 50 Model City Framework

- **Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal** launched a new set of initiatives under **PRAGATI 50** to develop a **Model City Framework for 50 cities** across India.

- The framework covers cities selected for their **economic, cultural, heritage, pilgrimage, tourism and administrative significance**.
- The **50 cities are spread across 24 States** and are intended to emerge as **clean role-model cities** for other cities across the country.
- The initiative includes **major cities, culturally significant cities, major tourism destinations and economic centres**.
- PRAGATI 50 aims to bring visible improvements in **urban cleanliness, solid waste management, used water management, sanitation and citizen participation**.

About Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs:

- **Cabinet Minister:** Manohar Lal Khattar
- **Constituency:** Karnal, Haryana
- **Ministers of State (MoS):** Tokhan Sahu

National Coastal Mission 2.0 Guidelines Launched to Strengthen Coastal Resilience

- **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav** launched the **Guidelines for implementation of National Coastal Mission 2.0 (NCM 2.0)** in **New Delhi**.
- **National Coastal Mission 2.0** is a **Central Sector Scheme** with an approved financial outlay of **₹767 crore**.
- The scheme will be implemented up to **2030–31** across **9 coastal States and 4 Union Territories** of India.
- The Mission aims to strengthen the **resilience and sustainability of India's coastal regions** and unlock the potential of the **Blue Economy**.

About Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change:

- **Cabinet Minister:** Bhupender Yadav
- **Constituency:** Rajasthan
- **Ministers of State (MoS):** Kirti Vardhan Singh

Zuppa and Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Corporation Partner to Launch Drone Training

Programme for Defence Personnel

- Indian defence drone technology company **Zuppa Geo Navigation Technologies** has partnered with the **Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Corporation (TNUAVC)** to launch a structured **drone pilot training programme** for **Agniveers, serving defence personnel and personnel transitioning out of the armed forces**.
- The programme is expected to begin in **October 2026** and will initially be conducted at the **Madras Regimental Centre, Wellington**.
- The **first batch will train 200 personnel**, with the programme planned to scale up to approximately **1,000 personnel annually**.

Ministry of Education Approves Five Centres of Excellence for Studies in Classical Languages

- The **Ministry of Education** has approved the establishment of **five Centres of Excellence** for advanced studies and research in **Classical Languages**.
- The **Department of Higher Education** has approved Centres of Excellence dedicated to the study of **Classical Assamese, Classical Bengali, Classical Marathi, Classical Pali and Classical Prakrit**.
- The five Centres of Excellence will be established at:
    - **Tezpur University, Assam** – Classical Assamese
    - **Visva-Bharati University, West Bengal** – Classical Bengali
    - **Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune** – Classical Marathi
    - **Central University of Odisha** – Classical Pali
    - **Central University of Gujarat** – Classical Prakrit

About Ministry of Education:

- **Cabinet Minister:** Dharmendra Pradhan
- **Constituency:** Sambalpur, Odisha
- **Ministers of State (MoS):** Jayant Chaudhary
- **Ministers of State (MoS):** Sukanta Majumdar

19th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Convention to be Held in Kolkata in January 2027

- The **19th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Convention** will be held from **7 to 9 January 2027** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- The Convention will be organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs** in partnership with the **Government of West Bengal**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the 19th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Convention.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** will confer the **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards** and preside over the **Valedictory Session** of the Convention.
- The Convention will also include a **Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas** segment, providing a platform for young members of the Indian diaspora.

About West Bengal:

- **Chief Minister:** Suvendu Adhikari
- **Governor:** R. N. Ravi
- **Capital:** Kolkata
- **National Parks:** Sundarbans National Park, Jaldapara National Park, Gorumara National Park, Singalila National Park, Neora Valley National Park, Buxa National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary, Buxa Wildlife Sanctuary, Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary, Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary, Lothian Island Wildlife Sanctuary, West Sundarban Wildlife Sanctuary

Uttar Pradesh Renames Bhadohi District as Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** announced that **Bhadohi district** has been renamed **Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi**.
- The announcement was made by the Chief Minister during a programme held in **Bhadohi**, where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for **112 development projects** worth more than **₹1,340 crore**.
- According to the Chief Minister, **Sant Ravidas** worked towards **uniting society through spiritual devotion**.

- The name **Sant Ravidas Nagar** is also reflected in current Uttar Pradesh government administrative records.

About Uttar Pradesh:

- **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel
- **Capital:** Lucknow
- **National Parks:** Dudhwa National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Okhla Bird Sanctuary

Ministry of Power Notifies New Corporate Average Fuel Economy Norms for Passenger Vehicles

- The **Ministry of Power, Government of India** has notified new **Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Norms** for passenger vehicles, which will come into effect from **1 April 2027** and remain applicable until **31 March 2032**.
- The new norms will apply to **new passenger vehicles manufactured or imported for sale in India** and will replace the existing Corporate Average Fuel Economy norms from **1 April 2027**.
- The new framework will progressively improve fuel economy through **year-on-year tightening of targets** over the five-year period from **2027–28 to 2031–32**.
- The fuel-consumption benchmark will be tightened from **3.996 litres per 100 kilometres in 2027–28** to **3.3273 litres per 100 kilometres in 2031–32**, representing an improvement of around **16.7%**.

About Ministry of Power:

- **Cabinet Minister:** Manohar Lal Khattar
- **Constituency:** Karnal, Haryana
- **Ministers of State (MoS):** Shripad Yesso Naik

Department of Pharmaceuticals Introduces New Discovery Track Under Promotion of Research

and Innovation in Pharma and MedTech Scheme

- The **Department of Pharmaceuticals** has introduced a **New Discovery Track** under the **Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma and MedTech Scheme** to encourage the **discovery, development, and commercialisation of new medicines** and support **start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**.
- The New Discovery Track aims to encourage start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to enter the **high-risk innovation ecosystem** for the discovery of **new drugs and therapies**.
- The initiative seeks to address the critical **funding gap in early-stage novel drug discovery** by providing financial support of up to **₹50 crore per company, project, or portfolio of projects**.

NITI Aayog Organises National Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals Budgeting in Kolkata

- **NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with the **Government of West Bengal** and the **United Nations Development Programme**, organised a **National Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals Budgeting** in **Kolkata, West Bengal** under the **State Support Mission**.
- The workshop highlighted the importance of integrating **Sustainable Development Goals** into national and sub-national budgetary processes to ensure coordinated **policy implementation, resource allocation, and monitoring** across different sectors.
- The initiative is aligned with **India's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and reflects the increasing focus on **evidence-based governance and fiscal federalism** for achieving developmental outcomes.

Indian Parliamentary Delegation Participates in 153rd Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly

- An **Indian Parliamentary Delegation**, led by **Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh**, departed for **Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania**, to participate in the **153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union** and related meetings.
- The meetings are being held from **5 to 9 October 2026**.

- The theme of the **153rd Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly** is **"Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all."**

India Mobile Congress 2026 to Be Held in New Delhi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **10th edition of India Mobile Congress 2026** at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi** and address the gathering.
- The **four-day event** is being organised jointly by the **Department of Telecommunications** and the **Cellular Operators Association of India** from **7 to 10 October 2026**.
- The theme of **India Mobile Congress 2026** is **"Scale Without Boundaries"**, highlighting India's growing capabilities in **digital innovation, next-generation connectivity and technology-led growth**.
- The event is centred on four key pillars:
    - **Srishti – Building the Future**
    - **Samvardhan – Fueling Growth**
    - **Sashakt – Expanding Opportunities**
    - **Suraksha – Strengthening Trust**

Delhi Government Doubles Incentives for Accredited Social Health Activist Workers and Launches New Health Initiatives

- The **Delhi Government** doubled the monthly incentives for **6,690 Accredited Social Health Activist workers** from **₹3,000 to ₹6,000** recognising their role in delivering healthcare services and government schemes at the grassroots level.
- The announcements were made at the **ASHA Sammelan 2026 and ASHA Samman Samaroh** held at **Thyagraj Stadium, Delhi**, and were jointly launched by **Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu** and **Chief Minister Rekha Gupta**.

- **Accredited Social Health Activist workers** are community health workers under the **National Health Mission** who support **maternal health, child health, immunisation and household-level public health outreach**.

Uttarakhand Becomes India's Sixth Fully Literate State

- **Uttarakhand** has become **India's sixth fully literate state** under the **National Education Policy 2020** and the **ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) – New India Literacy Programme**.
- The state achieved the prescribed **adult literacy benchmarks**, marking a significant milestone in its educational journey.
- After fulfilling the literacy standards prescribed by the **Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India**, the **Governor of Uttarakhand, Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh (Retired)**, approved the official declaration of Uttarakhand as a **fully literate state on 8 July**.

Union Cabinet Congratulates Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Completing 25 Years as Head of Government

- The **Union Cabinet** passed a resolution congratulating **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on completing **25 years as the head of government**.
- Narendra Modi first became the **Chief Minister of Gujarat on 7 October 2001** and later became the **Prime Minister of India in 2014**.
- **7 October 2026** marks the completion of **25 years** since Narendra Modi first assumed the position of head of a government.
- **Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw** stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **25-year tenure** is a testimony to the **strength of Indian democracy**.

Government Launches JOSH Teams to Strengthen Grassroots Tuberculosis Elimination Efforts

- The **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** and the **Ministry of Defence**, will launch **JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Teams** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, to strengthen community participation in India's fight against **tuberculosis**.
- In the first phase, JOSH Teams will be rolled out across **55 districts in 11 States** to strengthen **youth-led community mobilisation** and take the **TB Mukt Bharat** message to grassroots communities.
- The launch event will bring together senior officials and stakeholders from the participating Ministries, **elected representatives, Class-I Officers, MY Bharat Volunteers and National Cadet Corps Cadets**, along with others involved in India's tuberculosis elimination efforts.

Airports Authority of India to Develop Shree Jagannath International Airport in Puri

- The proposed **Shree Jagannath International Airport** in **Puri, Odisha**, is set for a fresh start after the **Airports Authority of India** agreed to undertake its development and investment.
- The proposed **greenfield international airport** will be developed over approximately **1,164.72 acres**, including **68.82 acres of revenue forest land**.
- The project recently received **final environmental clearance and Coastal Regulation Zone clearance** from the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, removing a major regulatory hurdle.
- The project had earlier received in-principle Stage-I approval for diversion of forest land.
- The airport was earlier estimated to cost around **₹5,631 crore** and was being pursued by the **Government of Odisha** under a **public-private partnership model**.

Ladakh Begins Wildlife Week 2026 with Community-Focused Conservation Activities

- The **Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Union Territory of Ladakh** marked the beginning of **Wildlife Week 2026** with a series of community-focused activities under the theme **"Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife."**

- **Wildlife Week 2026** is being observed from **2 to 8 October 2026** to strengthen awareness about **wildlife conservation, environmental cleanliness and community participation** across Ladakh.
- In the **Hemis National Park** landscape, a cleanliness drive was conducted at **Shang**, an important **snow leopard zone**.
- The activity highlighted the need to protect natural spaces shared by people and wildlife.

India's First Three-Dimensional Concrete-Printed Rural Housing Pilot Project Launched in Andhra Pradesh

- **India's first national-level pilot project for rural housing using Three-Dimensional (3D) Concrete Printing** has been launched in **Andhra Pradesh** under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin**.
- The foundation stone was laid in **Burripalem, Guntur district**, on **4 October 2026**.
- The pilot project will construct **177 houses** at an estimated cost of **₹14 crore**, with the construction targeted for completion within **six months**.
- The project covers **Burripalem and Obulnayudupalem**.
- **Three-Dimensional Concrete Printing** is a construction-scale form of additive manufacturing in which a computer-controlled robotic printer converts digital **Building Information Modelling** designs into physical structures by depositing specially formulated concrete layer by layer.

About Andhra Pradesh:

- **Chief Minister:** Chandrababu Naidu
- **Governor:** Retd. S. Abdul Nazeer
- **Capital:** Amaravati
- **National Parks:** Papikonda National Park, Sri Venkateswara National Park, Rajiv Gandhi (Rameswaram) National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Coringa, Kolleru, Krishna, Kambalakonda, Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuaries

Pradhan Mantri Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)

Scheme Accelerates India's Electric Mobility

- India's transition towards **electric mobility** is gaining momentum under the **Pradhan Mantri Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement Scheme**, with **26.59 lakh electric vehicles** sold as of **June 2026**, against an incentive-supported target of around **28.30 lakh electric vehicles**.
- The scheme has an outlay of **₹11,900 crore** and has been extended until **31 March 2028**, supporting electric vehicle adoption, charging infrastructure, electric buses and the development of a **domestic electric vehicle manufacturing ecosystem**.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Reconstitutes Parliamentary Committees

- **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** has reconstituted several **Parliamentary Committees** related to different Ministries, with new chairpersons appointed to various Departmentally Related Standing Committees.
- **Bhartruhari Mahtab** has been appointed Chairperson of the **Committee on Finance**, which comprises **21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 members from the Rajya Sabha**.
- **Shashi Tharoor** has been appointed Chairperson of the **Committee on External Affairs**, which also consists of **21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 members from the Rajya Sabha**.

Odisha Launches India's First Dedicated Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions Incentive Portal

- The **Odisha Government** has launched what it described as **India's first dedicated incentive portal for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions**, aimed at attracting investment and promoting **business tourism** in the State.
- **Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Pravati Parida** launched the portal at the **Odisha Travel Bazaar 2026**, in the presence of senior government officials and industry representatives.
- The portal aims to promote **Odisha as a destination for corporate conventions** and simplify the process of applying for **financial incentives** by event organisers and tourism operators.

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- The initiative is expected to facilitate **faster approvals** for **Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions events, destination weddings, sports events and cultural heritage-related ventures**.

Annual Survey of Industries 2024-25 Reports Broad-Based Growth in India's Registered Manufacturing Sector

- According to the **Annual Survey of Industries 2024-25** released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**, India's registered manufacturing sector recorded broad-based growth in **industrial output, employment, wages, invested capital and Gross Value Added** during 2024-25.
- The number of registered manufacturing establishments increased by **2.64%**, from **2.60 lakh in 2023-24 to 2.67 lakh in 2024-25**.
- **Tamil Nadu** recorded the highest number of registered manufacturing establishments at **41,221**, followed by **Gujarat (33,084)** and **Maharashtra (27,379)**.
- **Maharashtra** recorded the highest share of manufacturing Gross Value Added, followed by **Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh**. Together, these five States contributed **more than 54%** of India's total manufacturing Gross Value Added.

Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded Industrial Training Institutes Completes One Year

- The **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded (PM-SETU) Industrial Training Institutes** has completed **one year**, with the Government focusing on modernising **Industrial Training Institutes**, strengthening industry participation and aligning vocational training with emerging workforce requirements.
- Launched on **4 October 2025**, the scheme aims to transform government Industrial Training Institutes into **modern, industry-aligned training institutions**.
- The scheme has a total outlay of **₹60,000 crore**, comprising **₹30,000 crore from the Central Government, ₹20,000 crore from State Governments and ₹10,000 crore from industry**.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Releases Strategy for Environmental-

Economic Accounts in India 2026-2030

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has released the **'Strategy for Environmental-Economic Accounts in India: 2026-2030'**.
- The strategy builds upon the earlier **2022-2026 roadmap** and aims to strengthen and systematically develop **environmental accounting in India**.
- The document provides a broad roadmap for **expanding the coverage and scope** of environmental-economic accounts during **2026-2030**.
- It focuses on new subjects and enhanced coverage of areas including **forests, minerals, soil resources, land, water, carbon stock, biodiversity, environment-related activities and environment statistics**.

About Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation:

- **Minister of State (Independent Charge):** Rao Inderjit Singh
- **Constituency:** Gurgaon, Haryana

National PNG Drive 3.0 Launched to Accelerate Piped Natural Gas Adoption

- **Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri** launched **National PNG Drive 3.0** to accelerate the adoption of **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)** and support the Government's goal of increasing natural gas's share in India's **primary energy mix** from around **6%**.
- The initiative aims to promote **cleaner, reliable and affordable energy** and was launched during the event marking the **20th Foundation Day of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board**.
- **National PNG Drive 3.0** is being conducted from **1 October 2026 to 31 March 2027** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board**, **City Gas Distribution entities**, **public sector oil marketing companies** and other stakeholders.
- The drive aims to encourage the **shift from Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to PNG** and ensure better utilisation of the existing **City Gas Distribution infrastructure**.

About Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas:

- **Cabinet Minister:** Hardeep Singh Puri
- **Constituency:** Rajya Sabha, Uttar Pradesh
- **Ministers of State (MoS):** Suresh Gopi

Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve Becomes Madhya Pradesh's Third Cheetah Habitat

- **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (VDTR)** in **Sagar district of the Bundelkhand region, Madhya Pradesh**, has become the **third habitat for cheetahs in the state**, after **Kuno National Park** and **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Mohan Yadav** released two cheetahs — **male Tholo and female CCB-3** — brought from **Kuno National Park**, into Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve.
- The release took place on the concluding day of **Wildlife Conservation Week** and marked an expansion of the **cheetah conservation and reintroduction programme** to another suitable forest area in Madhya Pradesh.

About Madhya Pradesh:

- **Chief Minister:** Mohan Yadav
- **Governor:** Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
- **Capital:** Bhopal
- **National Parks:** Kanha National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park, Pench National Park, Panna National Park, Satpura National Park, Sanjay National Park, Madhav National Park, Van Vihar National Park, Mandla Plant Fossils National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary, Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary, Pachmarhi Wildlife Sanctuary, Pench Wildlife Sanctuary, Panna Wildlife Sanctuary, Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary, Bori Wildlife Sanctuary

GIFT City Rises to 37th Global Financial Centre in Global Financial Centres Index 40

- **GIFT City** improved by **nine places** to rank **37th globally** in the latest **Global Financial Centres Index 40**, compared with **46th position** in Global Financial Centres Index 39.
- GIFT City also entered the **top 15 financial centres in the Asia-Pacific region**.

- In the **FinTech** category, GIFT City ranked **26th globally**, improving by **three places** from its previous rank of **29th**.
- The **Global Financial Centres Index** assessed **115 financial centres** based on factors such as **FinTech capabilities, access to finance, skilled talent, regulatory environment, and information and communication technology infrastructure**.

Commerce Ministry Proposes ₹23,000 Crore RoDTEP Allocation and Five-Year Extension

- The **Ministry of Commerce** has proposed increasing the allocation for the **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products** scheme to **₹23,000 crore for Financial Year 2026–27**, compared with the current allocation of **₹10,000 crore**.
- The **Department of Commerce** has raised the proposal with the **Department of Expenditure**, which will take the final decision on the higher allocation.
- The Ministry of Commerce has also proposed a **five-year extension** of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products scheme.
- The scheme was scheduled to remain valid until **30 September 2026**, with discussions on its continuation underway.

Government to Launch National Destination Digital Knowledge Grid for Tourism

- The Government of India has proposed the creation of a **National Destination Digital Knowledge Grid** to strengthen India's **tourism and hospitality infrastructure** and help travellers plan and execute their trips.
- The National Destination Digital Knowledge Grid is scheduled to be launched on **27 September 2026**, as announced by **Tourism and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** at the **Hotels Association of India Conclave**.
- The announcement comes amid an ongoing review of India's tourism sector by the **Prime Minister's Office**, along with discussions on reforms required over the **next five years and the next decade**.

- The government plans to focus not only on investment in **hospitality infrastructure and hotels**, but also on developing and equipping **human resources** in the tourism sector.

Ministry of Rural Development Notifies 375 Permissible Works Under Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025

- The **Ministry of Rural Development** notified the Schedule of Permissible Works under the **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB–G RAM G Act)**, providing for **375 permissible works** under the new rural works framework.
- The new Schedule represents a **41% increase** over the **266 works** under the previous framework.
- The works are organised under four thematic pillars: **Water Security, Core Rural Infrastructure, Livelihood-related Infrastructure, and Special Works for Extreme Weather Events and Disaster Preparedness**.
- Works will be identified through a **bottom-up, decentralised planning process** under the **Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan**, approved by the **Gram Sabha**, and digitally tracked through the **Viksit Bharat National Rural Infrastructure Stack**.

Supreme Court Dismisses Plea Seeking Investigation into FIRs Against Cockroach Janta Party Protesters

- The **Supreme Court of India** dismissed a plea seeking an investigation into the First Information Reports (FIRs) registered against student protesters who participated in the **20 July protest** organised by the **Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)**.
- The plea was filed as a review petition challenging the Supreme Court's **1 September order**, which cancelled all FIRs registered against protesters between **20 and 25 July**, except those involving individuals with **criminal antecedents**.

Ladakh Launches India's First High-Altitude Wildlife Safari

- Ladakh has launched **India's first high-altitude wildlife safari**, with **six specially designed open-back vehicles** flagged off for operations in three initial locations: **Rumbak, Shang and Uley**.
- The safari was approved in **August 2026**, with vehicles introduced approximately two months later.
- The safari will provide visitors access to **snow leopard habitats**.
- However, sightings are not guaranteed, as snow leopards are difficult to spot because their pale-grey coats blend into the rocky mountain landscape.
- **Rumbak**, near **Hemis National Park**, is known for winter snow leopard tracking, while **Uley**, in the Sham region, is an established base for wildlife tourism.

Unique Identification Authority of India Revises Aadhaar Name Update Procedure

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** revised the procedure for updating names in Aadhaar through a new **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** uploaded on **18 September 2026**.
- It replaces the earlier name update process under the exception-handling mechanism.
- The revised procedure distinguishes between **minor name corrections** and **major or complete name changes**, specifying the documents required for different cases.

Noida International Airport Renamed Narendra Modi International Airport

- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet**, chaired by Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**, approved a proposal to rename **Noida International Airport**, located at **Jewar, Uttar Pradesh**, as **Narendra Modi International Airport, Noida-Jewar**.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the decision on **9 October 2026**, stating that the state Cabinet expressed gratitude to Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** for the airport.
- The airport is expected to become **Uttar Pradesh's largest airport** and a major **aviation hub in India**.

West Bengal Cabinet Approves Bhagini Nivedita Scheme and Announces 14,454 Government Vacancies

- **West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari** announced the recruitment of **14,454 government employees within six to eight months** and approved the **Bhagini Nivedita Scheme**, which will provide **₹50,000 in financial assistance** to unmarried women pursuing higher education for three years.
- The **Public Service Commission (PSC)** and the **State Police Recruitment Board** will complete the examination and recruitment processes for the newly approved vacancies.
- The posts will be distributed across departments, including **forests, fire services, prisons, home and hill affairs**.

Delhi Government Launches Expanded Advanced Newborn Monitoring and Optimal Lifecare Scheme and Other Healthcare Initiatives

- **Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta** and **Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu** launched several healthcare initiatives under the **'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'**.
- The programme was held at **Thyagraj Stadium** and attended by Delhi Health Minister **Pankaj Singh**.
- The monthly incentive amount for **Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers** has been increased from **₹3,000 to ₹6,000**.
- The decision will benefit **6,690 ASHA workers** in Delhi and strengthen door-to-door healthcare services.

Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra in Ayodhya Certified as an Eat Right Place of Worship by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has certified **Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh**, as an **'Eat Right Place of Worship'** for maintaining adequate food safety and hygiene standards.

- The certificate is valid for **two years, from 11 October 2026 to 10 October 2028**, in accordance with FSSAI guidelines.
- **FSSAI Chief Executive Officer Rajit Punhani** handed over the certificate at a special ceremony in Ayodhya.

National Human Rights Commission of India Celebrates 33rd Foundation Day on 12 October 2026

- The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India**, is celebrating its **33rd Foundation Day on 12 October 2026** at **Vigyan Bhawan**.
- **Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant** will attend as the Chief Guest. The event will be attended by NHRC Chairperson **Justice V. Ramasubramanian**, Members **Justice (Dr.) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Vijaya Bharathi Sayani and Priyank Kanoongo**, Secretary General **Piyush Goyal**, senior officers and other dignitaries.
- The Foundation Day marks the Commission's journey since its establishment on **12 October 1993** and provides an opportunity to renew its commitment to protecting and promoting human rights.
- The Foundation Day function will be followed by a National Conference on **"Water as the Elixir of Life: Advancing Human Dignity through the Right to Water."**

Ambaji Mohanthal Prasad from Gujarat Receives Geographical Indication Tag

- **Ambaji Mohanthal Prasad**, the traditional sweet offering of **Ambaji Temple in Gujarat**, received a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**
- The GI application was filed on **1 October 2026** by the **Shree Arasuri Ambaji Mata Devsthan Trust**.
- The GI certificate was presented to **Mihir Patel, Banaskantha Collector and Managing Trustee of the Ambaji Temple Trust**, by **Professor (Dr.) Unnat P. Pandit**, Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks and Registrar of Geographical Indications.

Supreme Court of India Constitutes Standing Committee on Judicial Well-being

- **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** constituted a **Standing Committee on Judicial Well-being** under the aegis of the **Supreme Court of India** on the occasion of **World Mental Health Day**, observed on **10 October**.
- The initiative aims to institutionalise measures supporting the mental and physical well-being of judicial officers.
- **Composition of the Committee:**
    - **Chairperson:** Justice K. V. Viswanathan, Judge, Supreme Court of India.
    - **Dr. Savita Malhotra:** Former Dean of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, and Professor and Head of the Department of Psychiatry.
    - **Rajat Mitra:** Psychologist, Director and Co-founder of the Swanchetan Society for Mental Health.
    - **Mrinal Kanwar:** Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court of India.
    - **Aarti Singh:** Registrar (Judicial), Centre for Research and Planning, Supreme Court of India.

Lakshadweep Declared 100% Literate Union Territory Under ULLAS Programme

- **Lakshadweep** was declared a **100% literate Union Territory** by Administrator **Praful Patel** at a function held in **Kavaratti**, the capital of Lakshadweep.
- The achievement was recorded under **ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**, also known as the **New India Literacy Programme**, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for adult education.
- An initial survey identified **1,113 adult non-literate learners** across the islands, and all eligible learners cleared the **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)**.
- The **Department of Education** conducted intensive teaching and assessment programmes for the identified learners.

About Lakshadweep:

- **Administrator:** Praful Khoda Patel
- **Capital:** Kavaratti
- **National Parks:** None

- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Pitti (Bird) Wildlife Sanctuary

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Selects CoRover.ai to Develop Agentic Artificial Intelligence Platform for Government Services

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** selected **CoRover.ai** to develop a unified **agentic Artificial Intelligence (AI) platform** for government services, with **DigiLocker** chosen as its first implementation.
- The contract was awarded by the **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** following a quality-and-cost-based selection process.
- CoRover.ai ranked first with a score of **100**, followed by **Kyndryl Solutions** with **91.24**, according to the government's evaluation document.
- **CoRover.ai**, the developer of the **BharatGPT** platform, stated that more than **80 companies** participated in the tender, of which **six companies** were subsequently empanelled for pan-India implementation.

Centre Approves ₹65 Crore DRISHTI Project to Strengthen the PM-UDAY Scheme in Delhi

- The Central Government approved a **₹65 crore project** under **DRISHTI (Delhi Revenue and Imaging Survey, Spatial Technology Initiative)** to modernise property surveys and mapping in Delhi's unauthorised colonies under the **Pradhan Mantri-Unauthorized Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana (PM-UDAY)**.
- The project's total cost of ₹65 crore will be funded through a **₹52 crore grant (80%)** from the **Urban Development Fund (UDF)** of the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, while the remaining **₹13 crore (20%)** will be contributed by the Revenue Department of the Delhi Government.
- The Revenue Department of the Delhi Government will implement the project using modern **geospatial and Geographic Information System (GIS)** technology to make property surveys, mapping and documentation more transparent, systematic and time-bound.

About Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology:

- **Cabinet Minister:** Ashwini Vaishnaw
- **Constituency:** Rajya Sabha, Odisha
- **Ministers of State (MoS):** Jitin Prasada

Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses Completes One Year to Boost Domestic Production

- The **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses** completed its first year, advancing India's goal of achieving **self-sufficiency in pulses by 2030–31** by increasing domestic production, reducing import dependence and improving farmers' incomes.
- Launched on **11 October 2025**, the Mission has a total outlay of **₹11,440 crore** for the period **2025–26 to 2030–31**.
- By 2030–31, the Mission aims to increase pulses production to **350 lakh tonnes**, productivity to **1,130 kilograms per hectare** and cultivation area to **310 lakh hectares**, including expansion into **35 lakh hectares** of additional land.
- The Mission focuses on **Tur, Urad and Masur**, promoting high-yielding, pest-resistant and climate-resilient varieties.
- It plans to distribute **87.5 lakh free seed kits** and **126 lakh quintals of certified seeds** over six years. Seed traceability will be supported through the **Seed Authentication, Traceability and Holistic Inventory (SATHI) Portal**.

Right to Protest and Preventive Detention Under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

- Protests in **New Delhi**, including demonstrations against the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)**, reportedly resulted in the detention of young people, journalists and activists.
- The Delhi Police invoked **Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023**, to restrict unauthorised assemblies and used Sections **170 and 172** for preventive police action.
- The police action attracted criticism, with the **United Nations** expressing concern over mass detentions and legal experts questioning the procedural grounds.

- The **Supreme Court** intervened in the matter, bringing attention to the balance between maintaining public order and protecting the **right to protest**.

Kerala Government Launches WOMN Initiative to Promote Menstrual Hygiene and Women's Mobility

- The Kerala Government launched **WOMN (Women On the Move & Menstrual Needs)** to improve access to sanitary napkins for women and girls in public places and during travel.
- **Inauguration** Kerala Minister for Women and Child Development **Bindhu Krishna** inaugurated the state-level initiative at the **Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) Bus Terminal in Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram**.
- The facilities will be extended to **93 additional KSRTC depots** across Kerala. The government also plans to expand the initiative beyond bus terminals to major tourist destinations and other public spaces.

Kerala Legislative Assembly Passes Resolution Seeking Removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar

- **Kerala Chief Minister V. D. Satheesan** moved a resolution in the Kerala Legislative Assembly seeking the removal of **Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar**, describing it as a historic moment for the state.
- The resolution was supported by legislators of the **Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF)** and the **Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF)**, while the three **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** legislators opposed it.
- The **140-member Kerala Legislative Assembly** comprises 102 UDF members, 35 LDF members and 3 BJP members.
- The resolution raised concerns over alleged irregularities in the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls, the exclusion of eligible voters and the impartiality of the **Election Commission of India**. It called for corrective measures to ensure that no eligible citizen is denied the right to vote.

Prime Minister GatiShakti National Master Plan Completes Five Years

- The **Prime Minister GatiShakti National Master Plan** completed **five years on 13 October 2026**, marking progress in integrated infrastructure planning and development in India.
- It was launched on **13 October 2021** to transform the country's infrastructure landscape.
- The plan enables planners to view **infrastructure networks, geographical features, economic zones and other relevant data** on a single platform, supporting data-driven planning and decision-making for infrastructure projects.

First Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Home Ministers' Meeting Adopts Delhi Declaration

- The first **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Home Ministers' Meeting** concluded in **New Delhi** with the adoption of the **Delhi Declaration**, under the chairmanship of the union home minister.
- The seven BIMSTEC member countries—**Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand**—reaffirmed regional security cooperation based on **sovereign equality, territorial integrity, non-interference and peaceful coexistence**.
- The declaration strongly condemned terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, and called for effective implementation of **United Nations Security Council sanctions**, particularly those imposed by the **1267 Sanctions Committee**.

About BIMSTEC

- **BIMSTEC** was established on **6 June 1997** through the **Bangkok Declaration**. It serves as a bridge between **South Asia and Southeast Asia**, and its **Secretariat is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh**.

3rd International Bharat 6G Symposium 2026 Inaugurated in New Delhi

- The **3rd International Bharat 6G Symposium 2026** was inaugurated by **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, at **Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi**.
- Organised by the **Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)**, the symposium was held from **7 to 9 October 2026** to promote collaboration among policymakers, global technology alliances,

telecommunications operators, industry leaders, academia and research institutions for next-generation communication technologies and India's **6G ambitions**.

- During the inaugural ceremony, the Bharat 6G Alliance exchanged **five new Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with **GSMA, one6G Association, GTI Alliance Limited, 6G Industry Forum and VoICE** to strengthen international cooperation in research, innovation, standardisation, technology development and deployment.

Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana Completes One Year with Progress Across 100 Agricultural Districts

- The **Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)** completed its first year, with all **100 identified agricultural districts** preparing District Action Plans.
- The average score across six key objectives increased from **18.85 in April 2026 to 46.89 in August 2026**.
- The scheme was approved by the **Union Cabinet on 16 July 2025**, launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 11 October 2025**, and commenced in the **financial year 2025–2026**. It is a **six-year initiative**.

Nameri Tiger Reserve in Assam Receives Conservation Assured Tiger Standards Approval

- **Nameri Tiger Reserve** in **Assam** received **Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) Approved status** in **September 2026** for meeting prescribed standards for tiger conservation and protected area management.
- With this recognition, all **four tiger reserves in Assam—Kaziranga, Manas, Orang and Nameri**—have received Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards Approved status.
- **Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards** is a global framework used to assess the effectiveness of tiger reserve management and protection.
- The framework was launched at the **First Asian Parks Congress in Japan in 2013** to establish standards for effective tiger conservation.

About Assam:

- **Chief Minister:** Himanta Biswa Sharma
- **Governor:** Lakshman Prasad Acharya

- **Capital:** Dispur
- **National Parks:** Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang, Dibru-Saikhowa, Dihing Patkai, Raimona National Parks
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Pobitora, Hollongapar Gibbon, Chakrasila, Sonai Rupai, Amchang Wildlife Sanctuaries

Nagaland Launches Samaveshi Aajeevika Yojana to Support 4,000 Extremely Vulnerable Households

- **Nagaland** launched the **Samaveshi Aajeevika Yojana (SAY-SOBLOK)** through a **three-year Memorandum of Understanding** between the **Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission (NSRLM)** and **BRAC International**.
- The agreement was signed in **Kohima** by **Moa Sangtam**, Mission Director of the Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission, and **Shweta S. Banerjee**, India Country Lead of BRAC International, in the presence of **Thavaseelan K**, Commissioner and Secretary of the Rural Development Department, and other officials.
- The programme operates under the **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission** and aims to support **4,000 extremely vulnerable households** in Nagaland to move out of poverty.

About Nagaland:

- **Chief Minister:** Neiphiu Rio
- **Governor:** Nand Kishore Yadav
- **Capital:** Kohima
- **National Parks:** Ntangki National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary, Puliebadze Wildlife Sanctuary, Rangapahar Wildlife Sanctuary, Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary

PM-SETU Approves ₹440 Crore to Upgrade Nine Government Industrial Training Institutes in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh

- Under the **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)** initiative, **₹440 crore** has been approved to upgrade **nine Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** across the **Surat and Visakhapatnam clusters**.

- The initiative covers **five Government ITIs in Surat, Gujarat**, and **four Government ITIs in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
- Shareholders' Agreements were signed by the **Directorate General of Training (DGT)**, the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, the Governments of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, and **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India)**.

Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying Launches Digital Brand Identity Manual-Compliant Website

- The **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)**, under the Government of India, launched its website compliant with **Digital Brand Identity Manual (DBIM) Version 3.0**, introduced by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- **Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh**, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Panchayati Raj, launched the revamped website.

National Biodiversity Authority Disburses ₹2.02 Crore in Access and Benefit-Sharing Funds to 27 States and 3 Union Territories

- The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** disbursed **₹2.02 crore** in **Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)** funds to **27 States and 3 Union Territories** to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and local community livelihoods.
- With this release, the NBA's cumulative ABS disbursement has reached **₹202 crore**.
- The contributions cover varieties and hybrids of **rice, eggplant, cauliflower, cucumber, hot pepper, bottle gourd, bitter gourd, tomato and okra**.
- The contributions were received from **East West Seeds India Private Limited, Syngenta India Limited, Devgen Seeds and Crop Technology Private Limited, Limagrain India Private Limited, Bayer Science & Innovation Private Limited, Nunhems India Private Limited and Enza Zaden India Private Limited**.

Ayush Services Economy Valued at US$36.92 Billion in FY2024–25, Projects Research and Information System Study

- According to a study by the **Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)**, India's **Ayush services economy** was valued at **US$36.92 billion in Financial Year**

2024–25, recording a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of **16.91%** since Financial Year 2022–23.

- The study projects that the sector could expand to **US$216–318 billion by 2047**, contributing to the **Viksit Bharat @2047** vision.
- The report was released during the **11th Ayurveda Day celebrations in Nagpur on 23 September 2026**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Inaugurate Five Development Projects Worth ₹3,350 Crore in Ladakh

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate and dedicate **five major development projects worth approximately ₹3,350 crore** in **Ladakh** through video conferencing. He will also address the gathering.
- The projects focus on connectivity, energy infrastructure, cultural heritage conservation and water security
- The Prime Minister will inaugurate the **New Passenger Terminal Building at Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, Leh**, constructed at a cost of **₹640 crore**.

Union Cabinet Approves Continuation of National Social Assistance Programme with ₹53,428 Crore Outlay

- The **Union Cabinet** approved the continuation of the **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** for five years, from **2026–27 to 2030–31**, with a total outlay of **₹53,428 crore**.
- The programme has been renamed **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana**.
- The following schemes have been renamed:
    - **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme** – *Pradhan Mantri Vridhavastha Pension Yojana*.
    - **Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme** – *Pradhan Mantri Vidhawa Pension Yojana*.
    - **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme** – *Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana*.
    - **National Family Benefit Scheme** – *Pradhan Mantri Parivar Labh Yojana*.

President Droupadi Murmu to Inaugurate National SARAS Livelihoods Mela 2026 in Vijayawada

- **President Droupadi Murmu** will inaugurate the **National SARAS Livelihoods Mela 2026** at **Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh**.
- For the first time, the national-level fair is being organised **outside the Delhi–National Capital Region (Delhi-NCR)**.
- The mela is organised by the **Union Ministry of Rural Development** in association with the **Government of Andhra Pradesh**.

India Approves Accession to Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

- The **Central Government of India** has approved the country's accession to the **Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)** to strengthen India's presence in high-seas fisheries, expand access to valuable marine resources and enhance its participation in global fisheries governance.
- The decision aligns with the **Guidelines for High Seas Fisheries**, issued by the Government in **December 2025**, and is expected to provide a regional framework for expanding India's fishing operations into international waters, safeguarding strategic interests, creating economic opportunities and promoting sustainable harvesting of marine resources.
- India has been a **Contracting Party to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission since 1996**.

Kigali Amendment Completes 10 Years, Highlighting India's Need for Energy-Efficient Cooling

- The **Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol** completed **10 years on 15 October 2026**. Adopted in Kigali, Rwanda, on 15 October 2016, it aims to phase down the production and consumption of **hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)**, powerful greenhouse gases widely used in refrigeration and air- conditioning.
- The **Montreal Protocol**, adopted in **1987**, originally aimed to phase out chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other ozone-depleting substances.
- Countries have eliminated nearly **99% of controlled ozone-depleting substances**, contributing to the recovery of the ozone layer.

India Chem 2026 to Be Held in Mumbai from October 22 to 24

- **Shri Anupriya Patel**, Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare, launched the **14th edition of India Chem 2026**, the biennial flagship event of

India's chemicals and petrochemicals industry. It will be held in **Mumbai from 22 to 24 October 2026**.

- The event is organised by the **Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC)** in partnership with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**. Its theme is **"Advantage Bharat: An Emerging Global Hub."**

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Conducts Orientation for NAVYA 2.0 Rollout

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)**, organised a one-day orientation session at **Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi**, to prepare for the formal launch and rollout of **Nurturing Aspirations Through Vocational Training for Young Women and Adolescent Girls 2.0 (NAVYA 2.0)**.
- The initiative aims to provide vocational training and create pathways to **entrepreneurship, apprenticeships and sustainable livelihood opportunities** for young women and adolescent girls aged **16–25 years** across **100 Aspirational Districts in 24 States and Union Territories**.

Department of Commerce Establishes Free Trade Agreement Utilisation Cell to Boost Indian Exports

- The **Department of Commerce** has established a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Utilisation Cell** to explain the benefits and opportunities available under free trade agreements and help Indian businesses maximise their use. **Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal** announced the initiative.
- The cell will work with **industry associations, Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and State Governments** to improve FTA utilisation, identify new market opportunities and help Indian businesses benefit from the market access provided by these agreements.
- The announcement was made at the **second India–European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Prosperity Summit**, organised to mark the first anniversary of the **India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)**.
- India has concluded trade agreements covering **32 countries**, including the **four EFTA member countries, the 27-member European Union and the United Kingdom**.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay Launches Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Ecosystem

Scheme

- **C. Joseph Vijay**, **Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu**, launched the **Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Ecosystem Scheme** at the State Secretariat in Chennai to attract investments in semiconductor manufacturing and **strengthen Tamil Nadu's position as a hub for advanced electronics manufacturing.**
- The scheme provides **additional financial incentives** over and above assistance offered by the Central Government, with support tailored to the requirements of companies investing in Tamil Nadu's semiconductor sector.
- It aims to promote investment across the **semiconductor manufacturing value chain**, including wafer fabrication, raw materials, assembly, testing, packaging and supply.

Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Ramdas Athawale Inaugurates Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 in Mysuru, Karnataka

- **Shri Ramdas Athawale**, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, inaugurated the **Shilp Samagam Mela** at the **Dasara Exhibition Grounds in Mysuru, Karnataka**, and visited the handicraft exhibition stalls.
- The mela is being held from **11 to 19 October 2026**, coinciding with the famous **Mysuru Dasara festival**.
- It is the first Shilp Samagam Mela organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during the **financial year 2026–27**.

About Karnataka:

- **Chief Minister:** D. K. Shivakumar
- **Governor:** Dr Sudha Yadav
- **Capital:** Bengaluru
- **National Parks:** Bandipur National Park, Bannerghatta National Park, Nagarhole (Rajiv Gandhi) National Park, Kudremukh National Park, Anshi (Kali) National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary, Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Sharavathi Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, Talakaveri Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranebennur Blackbuck Wildlife Sanctuary

21st Maritime State Development Council Meeting Concludes in Mumbai with Key Reforms for India's Maritime Sector

- The **21st Maritime State Development Council (MSDC)** meeting concluded in **Mumbai**, marking the first meeting of the Council after it received statutory recognition under the **Indian Ports Act, 2025**, notified on **15 May 2026**.
- Originally constituted in **1997**, the Council now has an enhanced mandate to promote integrated maritime growth, coordinated policymaking and planned maritime infrastructure development.
- The meeting was chaired by **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda Lays Foundation Stone for India's First High-Altitude Health Research Centre in Himachal Pradesh

- **Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda**, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, laid the foundation stone of India's first **High-Altitude Health Research Centre** of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** at **Keylong in the tribal district of Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh**.
- The centre will study the distinctive health challenges of Himalayan regions, considering the geographical conditions of Lahaul-Spiti and the effects of extreme high-altitude environments on the health of personnel deployed in these areas.
- The research is expected to help improve healthcare services for **tribal communities and Armed Forces personnel** serving in high-altitude regions.

About Himachal Pradesh:

- **Chief Minister:** Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- **Governor:** Kavinder Gupta
- **Capital:** Shimla
- **National Parks:** Great Himalayan National Park, Pin Valley National Park, Inderkilla National Park, Khirganga National Park, Simbalbara National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Renuka Wildlife Sanctuary, Kalatop-Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary, Kais Wildlife Sanctuary, Daranghati Wildlife Sanctuary, Kugti Wildlife Sanctuary

India's Ramsar Site Network Expands to 103 with Addition of Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel

- India's total number of **Ramsar sites has increased to 103** following the inclusion of **Sukhna Wetland in Chandigarh** and **Sauj Jheel in Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Bhupender Yadav**, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, announced the latest additions and highlighted India's continued commitment to wetland conservation under the leadership of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- **Ramsar sites** are wetlands of international importance designated under the **Ramsar Convention**, an international treaty adopted in **1971** for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Union Government Constitutes Committee Headed by Ramesh Chand to Address Sugarcane Farmers' Concerns

- The **Union Government** constituted a committee headed by **Ramesh Chand, former member of NITI Aayog**, to examine sugarcane farmers' concerns and recommend measures to address them.
- The committee was formed following a meeting between sugarcane farmer representatives from **Karnataka and Maharashtra**, Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister **Pralhad Joshi**.
- The committee includes the **Agriculture Commissioner** in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the **Joint Secretary (Sugar)** in the Department of Food and Public Distribution, and the **Joint Secretary (Legal Metrology)** in the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Bureau of Indian Standards Launches Silver Refinery Scheme and Seven New Indian Standards on World Standards Day 2026

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** launched the **BIS Silver Refinery Scheme**, introduced seven new Indian Standards covering emerging technologies, clean energy mobility, healthcare and building materials, and released standardisation roadmaps for sustainable agriculture and manufacturing on **World Standards Day 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- The theme of World Standards Day 2026 was **"Shared Vision for a Better World – Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Clean and Affordable Energy)"**.

- The **BIS Silver Refinery Scheme** extends certification, purity assurance and hallmarking to silver bullion and coins across India, establishing a national framework modelled on the existing Gold Refinery Scheme.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Inaugurates First Battery-Powered Solar Project in Spiti Valley

- **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**, Chief Minister of **Himachal Pradesh**, inaugurated the **first battery-powered solar power project** in **Spiti Valley**, marking a step towards expanding renewable energy infrastructure in the high-altitude Himalayan region.
- The project combines **solar power generation with battery storage** to improve electricity availability in remote areas facing challenges due to difficult terrain, harsh climatic conditions and geographical isolation.
- The initiative supports the state's broader focus on **clean energy development, reliable electricity access and reduced dependence on conventional power source.**

Union Cabinet Approves 78 Days' Productivity-Linked Bonus for Railway Employees for 2025–26

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, approved a **78-day Productivity-Linked Bonus (PLB)** worth **₹2,009.61 crore** for **11,40,770 eligible railway employees**, recognising their performance during the financial year 2025–26.
- The bonus is paid annually to eligible non-gazetted railway employees before the **Durga Puja/Dussehra** holidays.
- The payment serves as an incentive to motivate employees to improve railway performance.
- The **maximum bonus payable to an eligible railway employee is ₹17,951** for 78 days.

Supreme Court Rules Against Automatic Backward Class Reservation Benefits After Religious Conversion

- The **Supreme Court of India** ruled that individuals **converting from Hinduism to Islam or another non-Hindu religion cannot automatically claim reservation benefits** under a **Backward Class category solely on the basis of their pre-conversion caste or community status.**

- A bench comprising **Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and Justice Shree Chandrashekhar** dismissed the Tamil Nadu Government's plea challenging the **Madras High Court's judgment** that quashed a State Government Order issued in March 2024.

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan Inaugurates KAUMARACON-2026 and Launches Digital Initiatives at the All India Institute of Ayurveda

- **C. P. Radhakrishnan**, Vice-President of India, inaugurated **KAUMARACON-2026**, the third edition of the international conference on **Kaumarabhritya (Ayurvedic paediatrics)**, organised by the **All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi**.
- The Vice-President called for greater **scientific research and validation of Ayurveda** to establish the efficacy of traditional healthcare practices, strengthen patient confidence and increase the global acceptance of India's traditional systems of medicine.
- During the event, the Vice-President inaugurated the **AYUSH Start-up Portal**, the **AIIA–iCAINE website** and the **Ayurveda Digital Innovation and Venture Acceleration Facility (AyuDIVA)**. He also launched the **Vamana App** and the **Panchakarma Assessment App**.

NITI Aayog Releases Data Centre Evaluation Framework to Promote Sustainable Data Centre Growth in India

- **NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub released the Data Centre Evaluation Framework** to help State governments plan and facilitate the sustainable growth of data centres across India.
- The Framework was released in the presence of **Professor Abhay Karandikar**, Member of NITI Aayog; **Shri Anurag Jain**, Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog; and **Ms Debjani Ghosh**, Distinguished Fellow at NITI Aayog.
- Representatives from the Ministry of Power, the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the Ministry of Commerce, industry and the media also attended the release.

India to Introduce Bharat Stage VII Emission Standards for New Cars and Sports Utility Vehicles from April 2029

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is planning to introduce stricter Bharat Stage VII (BS-VII) emission standards for new cars and Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) from 1 April 2029**, according to a draft Gazette notification.

- The **draft notification, dated 12 October**, proposes implementing the new emission standards in three phases over six years, **from April 2029 to April 2035.**
- The proposed implementation schedule is as follows:
    - **Phase I – April 2029**
    - **Phase II – April 2031**
    - **Phase III – April 2035**

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Releases Periodic Labour Force Survey Monthly Bulletin for September 2026

- The **National Statistics Office** (NSO) under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the 18th Monthly Bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for September 2026.**
- The PLFS is the primary source of data on **labour force participation, employment and unemployment conditions in India.**
- The survey methodology was modified from January 2025 to provide monthly and quarterly estimates of key labour market indicators.

Digital India BHASHINI Division Organises BHASHINI Rajyam Workshop in Manipur to Promote Multilingual Artificial Intelligence

- The **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India,** in collaboration with **the Department of Information Technology, Government of Manipur, organised the BHASHINI Rajyam Workshop, Manipur Chapter, in Imphal**.
- The workshop focused on advancing multilingual Artificial Intelligence (AI), strengthening language technology and integrating Indian-language solutions into government and citizen-facing digital services.
- The programme was attended by **Yumnam Khemchand Singh**, C**hief Minister of Manipur,** along with government representatives and other stakeholders who discussed the role of language technology in making digital services more accessible and inclusive.

- **BHASHINI supports 36 Indian languages for text, 23 Indian languages for voice and 35 international languages**, promoting the adoption of language technology across India's digital ecosystem.

About Manipur:

- **Chief Minister:** Yumnam Khemchand Singh
- **Governor:** Ajay Kumar Bhalla
- **Capital:** Imphal
- **National Parks:** Keibul Lamjao National Park, Sirohi National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Yangoupokpi-Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary, Khongjaingamba Ching Wildlife Sanctuary

Ministry of Cooperation Mandates Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2026 to Strengthen Transparency and Governance

- Guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of '**Sahkar se Samriddhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) and under the leadership of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Sha**h, the Ministry of Cooperation has **mandate**d the **Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2026 (MSCARO, 2026).**
- The Order aims to strengthen transparency, accountability, **financial discipline and good governance in Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS),** while safeguarding the interests of cooperative members.
- The **Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023 empowered the Central Government under Section 73(6) t**o prescribe auditing and accounting standards for Multi-State Cooperative Societies.

National Steering Committee Approves ₹1,194.92 Crore for Five Industrial Training Institute Clusters under Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded Industrial Training Institutes (PM-SETU) Scheme

- The **National Steering Committee** (NSC) of the **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded Industrial Training Institutes (PM-SETU) Scheme approved five Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs) worth ₹1,194.92 crore** to upgrade **Industrial Training Institute (ITI) clusters across Maharashtra, Odisha and Jammu and Kashmir.**

- With these approvals, the cumulative investment sanctioned under **PM-SETU has reached ₹3,687 crore**, aimed at transforming ITIs into modern, industry-aligned and future-ready skill development institutions.
- The **6th NSC meeting was chaired by Debashree Mukherjee**, Secretary of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and reviewed the progress of the scheme.
- The five approved ITI clusters and their industry partners are as follows:
    - **Cuttack, Odisha – ₹240.50 crore, in partnership with Tata Steel Foundation**.
    - **Pune, Maharashtra – ₹241 crore**, in partnership with BVG India Limited, in consortium with BVG Foundation.
    - **Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra – ₹238.01 crore**, in partnership with Belrise Industries Limited.
    - **Jammu – ₹240 crore, in partnership with Eagle Infra India Limited**.
    - **Srinagar – ₹235.41 crore**, in partnership with **Inderdeep Infra India Limited.**

Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana Covers Over 47,200 Villages Across India

- The **Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY), implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, has covered over 47,200 villages**, benefiting more than 47.79 lakh citizens across India under its **Adarsh Gram component.**
- As of 8 September 2026, **18,093 villages had been declared Adarsh Grams under the scheme.**
- A total of 46,944 development works have been completed, and **27,032 Village Development Plans (VDPs) have been prepared under PM-AJAY**.
- PM-AJAY is a 100% Centrally Funded Scheme, although States and Union Territories may provide additional resources wherever required.

Government of India Releases Commemorative Coin and Postage Stamp Honouring Ghanshyam Dass Jain

- The **Government of India (GoI) released a ₹100 commemorative coin and a ₹5 commemorative postage stamp honouring Ghanshyam Dass Jain,** a renowned musician, composer, philanthropist and cultural personality, during the National Annual Cultural Conclave held at the **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.**

- The commemorative coin and postage stamp were unveiled by Pallavi Jain Govil, Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA), Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm, and other dignitaries.
- The ₹100 commemorative coin is a non-circulating coin **made of 99.9% pure silver, weighing 40 grams and measuring 44 millimetres in diameter.**

Delhi Government Approves Go-Delhi Foundation to Promote Startups and Innovation

- The **Delhi Government, under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, has approved the establishment of the Go-Delhi Foundation** to promote startups, innovation and entrepreneurship in the national capital.
- The foundation will have an **initial budgetary allocation of ₹50 crore** to help young people, researchers and entrepreneurs transform their ideas into practical products and successful businesses.
- The decision was approved by the Delhi Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, with funds sanctioned to support product development and commercialisation.

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana Provides Incentives of up to ₹15,000 to First-Time Employees

- The **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY) was launched in August 2025** to encourage **formal employment and generate job opportunities.**
- The scheme covers eligible employment between **1 August 2025 and 31 July 2027, with a total budget allocation of ₹99,446 crore.**
- Employees earning a monthly **salary of up to ₹1 lakh may qualify for incentives under the scheme.**

Government Introduces Telecommunications (Regulatory Sandbox) Rules, 2026 to Promote Telecom Innovation

- **The Government of India introduced the Telecommunications (Regulatory Sandbox) Rules, 2026** to establish a **framework for testing emerging telecommunications technologies**, products and services **under controlled conditions before their wider deployment.**

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- **Under the new rules**, the government can **establish a regulatory sandbox** on its own initiative or consider proposals submitted by interested participants.
- A regulatory sandbox is a controlled testing environment that enables companies and developers to evaluate innovative technologies and services before introducing them into the wider market.

Government to Mandate Advanced Driver Assistance Systems in Cars from October 2030 to Strengthen Road Safety in India

- The **Government of India plans to make selected Advanced Driver Assistance Systems** (ADAS) safety **features mandatory in cars, particularly taxis, as part of its efforts to reduce road accidents and improve passenger safety.**
- The **Advanced Emergency Braking System (AEBS) is proposed to become mandatory for all new car models from October 2030**.
- For existing car models manufactured **before October 2030** that continue to remain in production, AEBS is proposed to become mandatory from October 2032.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Constitutes Special Team to Investigate eMudhra Global Digital Certificate Security Incident

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has constituted a** special investigation **team to investigate a security incident involving eMudhra's global digital certificate infrastructure**.
- The ministry clarified that **eMudhra's Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) issuance and eSign services remained unaffected**.
- These services are regulated by the **Controller of Certifying Authorities (**CCA) under MeitY.

Central Board of Direct Taxes Introduces Form 173A for Income-Tax Exemptions on Government Securities

- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) introduced Form 173A** to enable **eligible investors to claim income-tax exemptions on interest income and capital gains earned from government securities**.
- **Form 173A was prescribed under the Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2026**, which came into force upon publication in the **Official Gazette on 19 October 2026.**

- The form primarily applies to eligible **Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).**

Modified UDAN Scheme Launched with ₹28,840 Crore Outlay to Strengthen Regional Air Connectivity, develop 100 Airports and 200 Helipads, and Promote Indigenous Aircraft Manufacturing

- The **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), known as UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik), completed 10 years**, having been launched on **21 October 2016 in line with the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016 to make regional air travel affordable and commercially viable by connecting unserved and underserved airports**.
- The first **Regional Connectivity Scheme flight, operating on the Shimla–Delhi route, was inaugurated in April 2017**.
- India became the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, **with operational airports increasing from 74 in 2014 to 166 by 2026**.

About Rajasthan:

- **Chief Minister:** Bhajan Lal Sharma
- **Governor:** Haribhau Bagade
- **Capital:** Jaipur
- **National Parks:** Ranthambore National Park, Sariska National Park, Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Desert National Park, Mukundra Hills National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary, Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary, Kesarbagh Wildlife Sanctuary, Todgarh-Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary, Jawahar Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary, Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhensrodgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Phulwari Wildlife Sanctuary

About Arunachal Pradesh:

- **Chief Minister:** Pema Khandu
- **Governor:** Retd. Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
- **Capital:** Itanagar
- **National Parks:** Mouling National Park, Namdapha National Park

- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Mehao, Pakke, Eagle Nest, Kamlang, Sessa Orchid Wildlife Sanctuaries

Ministry of Agriculture Launches Khet Bachao Abhiyan – Rabi 2026 to Promote Sustainable Farming

- The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare will conduct the nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyan – Rabi 2026 from 22 October to 30 November 2026** to promote sustainable agriculture, improve soil health and encourage the judicious use of agricultural resources.
- **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, **will launch the campaign from Karnal, Haryana**.
- The campaign aims to educate farmers about the balanced and judicious use of fertilisers and other agricultural inputs based on soil testing, improve soil health, enhance water-use efficiency and encourage resource-efficient and climate-resilient farming practices.

About Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare:

- **Cabinet Minister:** Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- **Constituency:** Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh
- **Ministers of State (MoS):** Ram Nath Thakur, Bhagirath Choudhary

Punjab Government Launches SANGAT Mental Health Clubs in 40 Colleges to Promote Youth Wellbeing and Prevent Substance Abuse

- The **Punjab Government launched SANGAT Mental Health Clubs in 40 colleges across the state to strengthen mental health awareness among young people**, encourage early intervention and help prevent substance abuse under its flagship **campaign Yudh Nashean Virudh.**
- The initiative is led by the **Department of Higher Education, Punjab, in partnership with the Aditya Birla Education Trust (**ABET).
- The initiative was launched at **Plaksha University, Mohali, in the presence of Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains, former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, and other participants**.

About Punjab:

- **Chief Minister:** Bhagwant Singh Mann
- **Governor:** Gulab Chand Kataria

- **Capital:** Chandigarh
- **National Parks:** Abohar National Park, Harike Wetland National Park, Jhajjar Bacholi National Park, Bir Moti Bagh National Park, Bir Bhadson National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary, Harike Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Kathlaur-Kushlian Wildlife Sanctuary, Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary, Jhajjar Bacholi Wildlife Sanctuary, Takhni-Rehampur Wildlife Sanctuary

Jaipur Included in National Geographic's Best of the World 2027 List Ahead of Its 300th Foundation Anniversary

- **Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan**, was **included in National Geographic's Best of the World 2027 list of destinations worth visiting** in the coming year.
- The recognition comes ahead of **Jaipur's 300th foundation anniversary in 2027.**
- The city was founded in 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, ruler of the Kachwaha Rajput kingdom of Amber.

Digital India BHASHINI Division and Indian Institute of Science Develop Text-to-Speech Models for Sourashtra Language

- The **Digital India BHASHINI Division and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, jointly **developed text-to-speech (TTS) models for Sourashtra, a minority Indo-Aryan language spoken** predominantly by the **Sourashtra community in Tamil Nadu**.
- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** (MeitY) stated that the initiative aims to expand **speech technology for languages with limited digital resources.**

Ladakh to Operationalise Its First Government Medical College in Leh from Academic Year 2027–28

- **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India**, approved the **operationalisation of Ladakh's first Government Medical College in Leh from the academic year 2027–28**, following the intervention of **Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.**
- The approval enables the phased recruitment of staff against **103 sanctioned regular posts, based on academic requirements.**

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena Notifies 100 Constituencies for Autonomous Hill Development Councils Under the 2026 Amendment

- **Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor** (LG) of the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh, notified **100 constituencies for the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs**), nearly doubling the existing **strength of 52 constituencies.**
- The constituencies were notified under the **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, 2026** and will come into force from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.
- Under the **amended regulation, each council can have a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 24 seats**, along with provisions to nominate 4 members representing women and unrepresented communities.

Uttar Pradesh Ranks First in Mission Karmayogi Implementation and Government Employee Capacity Building

- **Uttar Pradesh** secured **first place in India** for implementing **Mission Karmayogi** and strengthening the capacity of government officials and employees.
- **Rajasthan** ranked second, followed by **Jammu and Kashmir** in third place.
- The recognition was announced at a **Northern Regional Workshop** jointly organised by the **Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Uttar Pradesh Academy of Administration and Management (RUPAM)** and the **Capacity Building Commission (CBC), Government of India**.

Rajasthan to Formulate Its First Dedicated State Veterinary Policy

- **Rajasthan** is set to formulate its **first dedicated State Veterinary Policy** to strengthen veterinary services, improve livestock health and support the rural economy.
- **Chief Secretary V. Srinivas** has directed officials of the **Department of Animal Husbandry, Rajasthan**, to take the necessary steps to prepare the policy.
- Rajasthan ranks **first in India in the number of livestock insurance policies issued**, according to the report.

Ladakh Declared India's First 100% Organic Union Territory

- **Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh**, declared Ladakh **India's first 100% organic Union Territory**, marking a significant step towards **sustainable agriculture and environmental protection in the Himalayan region**.

- The transition to fully organic agriculture is expected to create new opportunities for farmers by increasing the value of locally grown organic produce and improving market access, price realisation and sustainable livelihoods.

Kerala Government Approves Cooperative Sector's Entry into Airline Services

- The **Kerala Government** has granted permission to the **Kerala Civil Aviation Development Cooperative Society** to launch airline services, according to Chief Minister **V. D. Satheesan**.
- The initiative is intended to introduce airline operations through the cooperative sector for the first time in India, as claimed by the Chief Minister.
- The announcement was made during the silver jubilee celebrations of the **Calicut City Service Cooperative Society**, where the Chief Minister inaugurated the event.

Department of Commerce Extends Export Promotion Mission's Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation Scheme

- The **Department of Commerce**, under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, has extended the timelines under **Component II of the Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation initiative** until **31 March 2027**.
- The extension addresses continued **geopolitical disruptions in West Asia** and their impact on maritime logistics across the Gulf and neighbouring regions.
- The initiative is a time-bound intervention under the **Export Promotion Mission**.

National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli, Hosts India's First Artificial Intelligence and Food Technology Hackathon

- The **National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli**, hosted **Hack the Fork**, described as India's first **Artificial Intelligence and Food Technology Hackathon**, focused on using artificial intelligence to address real-world challenges in the alternative protein industry.
- The **24-hour hackathon** was inaugurated by **Alice Pjie**, Director of Hack the Fork, on **24 October 2026** and concluded on **25 October 2026**.

Digital India BHASHINI Division Launches Konkani Large Language Model at Goa Artificial Intelligence Technology Conclave 2026

- The **Digital India BHASHINI Division**, under **Digital India Corporation**, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, participated in the **Goa Artificial Intelligence Technology Conclave 2026**, held at **INOX, Panaji.**
- Organised by the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications, Government of Goa, the conclave was held under the theme **"Artificial Intelligence for People, Planet and Progress."**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Inaugurate Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan in New Delhi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, and address the gathering.
- The **three-day Global Sammelan**, scheduled from **23 to 25 October 2026**, will bring together more than **9,000 participants** from India and abroad.
- It marks the culmination of the year-long celebrations commemorating **75 years of the Chinmaya Mission**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Inaugurate Garment Manufacturing Facility, Air Force Day Aerial Display and Reserve Bank of India Facilities

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is scheduled to visit **Uttar Pradesh and Odisha** to inaugurate a garment manufacturing facility in Varanasi, witness the **Indian Air Force Day Aerial Display–2026**, and inaugurate the **Reserve Bank of India's Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute** in Bhubaneswar.
- The Prime Minister will inaugurate **Arvind Limited's garment manufacturing facility** in Varanasi.

India's Chemicals and Petrochemicals Sector Targets $1.6 Trillion Market Size by 2047

- Union Minister **J. P. Nadda** stated that **India's chemicals and petrochemicals sector needs to expand** from its current market size of approximately **$220 billion to $1 trillion by 2040 and $1.6 trillion by 2047**.
- Addressing the three-day **India Chem-2026** event in **Mumbai**, Nadda described the chemicals and petrochemicals industry as a **sunrise sector** with significant potential to drive economic growth and contribute to the vision of **Viksit Bharat by 2047**.

- **Japan** was the **partner country** for India Chem-2026, reflecting the established trade relations between India and Japan in the chemicals and petrochemicals sector.
- The **Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) Forum**, chaired by Nadda, focused on strengthening industrial competitiveness and positioning India as a globally competitive chemicals and petrochemicals hub.

India Creates 11 Crore Farmer IDs Under the Digital Agriculture Mission Five Months Ahead of Deadline

- **The Government of India has created 11 crore Farmer IDs** across the country under the **Digital Agriculture Mission**, achieving the target **five months ahead of the March 2027 deadline**.
- **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, announced the achievement through a video message.
- He stated that the target set by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** for creating 11 crore Farmer IDs by March 2027 was achieved a day before the announcement.

Union Cabinet Approves Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana with an Outlay of ₹7,395.55 Crore

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, approved the **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY)**, a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** aimed at transforming grassroots governance and supporting the national vision of **Viksit Bharat**.
- The scheme will be implemented from **2026–27 to 2030–31**, coinciding with the period of the **Sixteenth Finance Commission**.
- The total financial outlay is **₹7,395.55 crore**, comprising a **Central share of ₹4,869.48 crore** and a **state share of ₹2,526.07 crore**.

Supreme Court Seeks to Raise Retirement Age of District Judicial Officers from 60 to 62 Years

- The **Supreme Court of India** expressed satisfaction that **14 states** had agreed to increase the retirement age of district judicial officers from **60 to 62 years** and expressed hope that other states would follow.

- A bench comprising **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** and Justices **Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana** declined to list separate urgent petitions filed by judicial officers nearing retirement or who had recently retired, stating that the matter concerned the Supreme Court and the states.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Amends Rules to Permit Ethanol-Blended Fuel up to E100 in Flex-Fuel Vehicles

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** notified amendments to the **Central Motor Vehicles Rules**, allowing **flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs)** specifically designed and certified for ethanol blends of up to **E100**, or nearly 100% ethanol.
- Fuels containing more than **E20 (20% ethanol and 80% petrol)** and up to E100 can be used only in vehicles specifically designed and certified for those blends. Vehicles designed for E20 or conventional petrol are **not suitable for E85 or E100** unless approved for such use.

Omar Abdullah Expands Jammu and Kashmir Council of Ministers with Four National Conference Legislators

- **Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah** expanded the Council of Ministers by inducting four legislators from the **National Conference (NC)**, nearly two years after the NC-led government assumed office in **October 2024**.
- **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** administered the oath of office to **Ali Mohammad Sagar, Mir Saifullah, Shamima Firdous and Altaf Ahmad Wani**, popularly known as **Altaf Kaloo**, at **Lok Bhawan in Srinagar**.

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan Releases 'Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World'

- **Vice-President of India C. P. Radhakrishnan** released the book **'Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World'**, authored by **Anil K. Antony**, at **Uprashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi**.
- The book was published by **Rupa Publications**.
- The book examines India's transformation, emerging strengths and expanding role in the international order, drawing on the author's experience in **technology, business and public policy**.

Government Introduces Concessional FASTag Annual Pass for Local Residents from 1

November 2026

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** notified a concessional annual **FASTag local pass** under the **National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2026**.
- The scheme will take effect on **1 November 2026** and benefit eligible owners of **non-commercial vehicles residing within 20 kilometres of a National Highway toll plaza**.
- The annual fee will be **₹1,500** for eligible toll plazas outside municipal or local town limits and **₹3,000** for plazas within these limits.
- These rates are lower than the **standard FASTag annual pass fee of ₹3,075 for 2026–27**.

National Capital Region Transport Corporation Wins Passenger Service Award for Delhi–Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor

- The **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** received the award for **Metro Rail with the Best Passenger Service and Satisfaction** for the **Delhi–Meerut Namo Bharat corridor** at the **19th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference and Expo 2026**, held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- **Manohar Lal**, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Power, presented the award to **Shalabh Goel**, Managing Director of NCRTC.

President Droupadi Murmu Gives Assent to Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill 2026

- **President Droupadi Murmu** gave her assent to the **Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) Bill 2026**, which was unanimously passed by the **Nagaland Legislative Assembly on 3 September 2026**.
- **Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio** announced the President's assent through a post on the social media platform **X**.

Chhattisgarh Selects Orange Oakleaf as Its First State Butterfly

- **Chhattisgarh** has selected the **Orange Oakleaf (*Kallima inachus*)** as its proposed first official state butterfly.
- The proposal was finalised at the **15th meeting of the State Wildlife Board** and forwarded to the State Government for formal notification.

- The butterfly was selected through an online public voting process conducted from **31 July to 31 August 2026**. A total of **5,813 people** participated, and the Orange Oakleaf secured **3,000 votes**.

Union Cabinet Approves 3% Increase in Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief for Central Government Employees and Pensioners

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, approved an additional **3% instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA)** for Central Government employees and **Dearness Relief (DR)** for pensioners, effective from **1 July 2026**.
- Following the increase, **DA and DR will rise from 60% to 63%** of Basic Pay and Pension, respectively.
- The increase aims to compensate employees and pensioners for the impact of rising prices.

Union Cabinet Approves Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme with an Outlay of ₹10,000 Crore

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, approved the **Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)** with a budgetary outlay of **₹10,000 crore up to Financial Year 2039–40**.
- Announced in the **Union Budget 2026–27**, the scheme aims to establish a globally competitive container manufacturing ecosystem in India, reduce import dependence and strengthen supply-chain resilience.
- The scheme will support both **greenfield manufacturing facilities** (new facilities) and **brownfield expansion** (expansion of existing facilities) to increase domestic container manufacturing capacity and improve the competitiveness of Indian manufacturers.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Proposes Major Changes to Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises 2027–28

- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has proposed changes to the schedule of the **Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2027–28** to improve its policy relevance and address emerging data requirements.

- ASUSE has been conducted since **2021–22** to generate comprehensive statistical information on India's unincorporated non-agricultural sector, which contributes significantly to employment, gross value added, livelihoods and economic activity through its linkages with the incorporated sector.

Ayushman Vay Vandana Completes Two Years of Providing Health Coverage to Senior Citizens Aged 70 Years and Above

- **Ayushman Vay Vandana** completed **two years on 29 October 2026**.
- It was launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 29 October 2024** to extend the benefits of the **Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** to all citizens aged **70 years and above**, irrespective of their socio-economic status.
- The initiative is implemented by the **National Health Authority (NHA)** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- It aims to strengthen healthcare access and financial protection for approximately **6 crore senior citizens from around 4.5 crore families** across India.

World Bank Report Estimates 496 million People Lifted Out of Poverty in India Between 2011 and 2023

- According to the **World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief**, India lifted an estimated **496 million people out of poverty between 2011 and 2023**.
- The extreme poverty rate declined from **27.1% in 2011 to 2.6% in 2023**.
- The World Bank described India's achievement as **"one of the fastest poverty declines in the world"**, highlighting improvements in both monetary and non-monetary poverty indicators.

Ministry of Culture to Organise Second India Art, Architecture and Design Biennale in New Delhi

- The **Ministry of Culture** will organise the second edition of the **India Art, Architecture and Design Biennale (IAADB)**, now named **The India Biennale**, beginning on **4 December 2026**.
- The four-month-long event will transform Delhi's historic monuments, institutional spaces and heritage precincts into exhibition venues.
- The **Purana Qila**, a 16th-century fort, has been selected as the principal venue.
- It will **host the flagship exhibition curated by the Ministry of Culture**.

About Ministry of Culture:

- **Cabinet Minister:** Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- **Constituency:** Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- **Minister of State:** Rao Inderjit Singh

Ministry of Labour and Employment Constitutes National Social Security Board for Unorganised, Gig and Platform Workers

- The **Ministry of Labour and Employment** notified the constitution of the **National Social Security Board for Unorganised Workers and Gig and Platform Workers** under the **Code on Social Security**.
- The Board will be chaired by the **Union Minister for Labour and Employment** and comprise representatives from the **Central and State Governments, aggregator companies, employers, civil society organisations, workers' unions, and gig and platform worker associations**.

About Ministry of Labour and Employment:

- **Cabinet Minister:** Mansukh Mandaviya
- **Constituency:** Gujarat
- **Ministers of State (MoS):** Sushri Shobha Karandlaje

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India Adds 5 More Heritage Sites to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's World Heritage Tentative List

- The **Permanent Delegation of India to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)** announced the inclusion of **5 new Indian heritage sites/proposals** in the **Tentative List of UNESCO's World Heritage Convention (WHC)**.
- With these additions, the **total number of Indian sites on UNESCO's Tentative List increased to 78**.
- The **78 Indian sites** on the Tentative List comprise **58 Cultural**, **3 Mixed**, and **17 Natural** sites.
- **Four of the five newly added sites** are located in **Madhya Pradesh (MP)**, while the fifth is the **Sites of Satyagraha**, a **serial transnational proposal between India and South Africa**.

About UNESCO :

- Formation : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- **Director-General** : Khaled El-Enany

Japan Urges India to Expedite Internal Process for UNICORN Naval Radar Agreement

- **Japan** has asked **India** to fast-track its **internal official process** for the agreement related to the **UNICORN naval radar/antenna system**.
- **UNICORN** stands for **Unified Complex Radio Antenna** and is also known as **NORA-50**.
- **UNICORN** is an **integrated shipborne antenna system** designed to enhance a warship's **stealth capabilities and situational awareness**.
- The **UNICORN system** was jointly developed by three Japanese companies — **NEC Corporation**, **Sampa Kogyo K.K.**, and **The Yokohama Rubber Co. Ltd.**
- The system is already deployed on **Japan's Mogami-class frigates**.
- **UNICORN reduces a warship's radar cross-section (RCS) and electronic signature**, making the naval platform **more difficult for adversaries to detect**.

World Health Organisation -United Nations Children's Fund Report: India Records Highest Number of Children Without School Sanitation Services at 50 Million

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** jointly released the report titled **"Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools 2015–2025"** under the **WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP)**.
- The **JMP** monitors global progress and challenges in **Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** and provides internationally comparable estimates related to **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)** targets.
- In **2025**, around **244 million children worldwide** had **no sanitation service at their schools**, with **India accounting for 50 million children**, the **highest number among all countries**.
- Other countries with large numbers of children without school sanitation services were **Nigeria (34 million)**, **Ethiopia (26 million)**, **Democratic Republic of the Congo (11 million)**, and **Indonesia (8 million)**.

About WHO :

- Formation : 7 April 1948
- Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
- **Director-General** : Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- **Parent organization** : United Nations Economic and Social Council

United States Department of Defense Launches 120-Day Project Meridian to Assess Future Warfare Technologies

- The **United States (US) Department of Defense (DoD)** has launched **Project Meridian**, a **120-day initiative** to assess how **emerging technologies** could reshape **future warfare** and identify capabilities required for the **next-generation battlefield**.
- **US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth** announced **Project Meridian on 30 September 2026**.
- **Elon Musk**, **Palmer Luckey** (CEO of defence technology company **Anduril**) and **Newt Gingrich** (former **Republican Speaker of the US House of Representatives**) are involved in leading the initiative.

- The primary objective of **Project Meridian** is to identify the **technological and operational capabilities** required to achieve **technological dominance on the next-generation battlefield**.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Facilitates Export of 24 MT Frozen Food Consignment from Haryana to Canada

- **APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority)** facilitated the **flag-off of a 24 MT consignment of frozen food products** from **Sonipat, Haryana to Canada** on **1 October 2026**.
- The consignment was exported by **Aterna Foods Producer Company Limited**, a **Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)**.
- The shipment consisted of **2,295 boxes** of frozen food products and was valued at **CAD 35,140**.
- The exported products included **green peas, mixed vegetables, peas and carrots, sweet corn, and samosa**, among other frozen food items.
- The exporting unit received support from **APEDA under its Financial Assistance Scheme**, aimed at promoting and facilitating agricultural and processed food exports.

About Canada :

- **Prime Minister :** Mark Carney
- **Capital :** Ottawa
- **Currency :** Canadian dollar ($)

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Enables Export of Bihar's Makhana from Purnea to Greece

- **APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority)** facilitated the export of **1 metric tonne (MT) of popped (Phool) Makhana** from **Purnea, Bihar to Greece** on **2 October 2026**.
- The shipment was transported from **Mundra Port, India to Piraeus Port, Greece**, marking an important step in expanding **international market access for Bihar's traditional Makhana**.
- The consignment was sourced by **Indo Global Export, Belouri, Purnea**, and exported through **S. S. Foods Exports Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi**.

- **India is the world's largest producer of Makhana**, while **Bihar contributes around 80–85% of India's total Makhana production**.

About Greece :

- President : Konstantinos Tasoulas
- Prime Minister : Kyriakos Mitsotakis
- Capital : Athens
- Currency : Euro

HSBC Report 2026: 74% Indian Entrepreneurs Plan Overseas Residency as Artificial Intelligence Adoption Rises

- **HSBC Global Entrepreneurial Wealth Report 2026** surveyed more than **3,000 High Net Worth (HNW) and Ultra-High Net Worth (UHNW) entrepreneurs globally** and highlighted the changing global outlook and Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption among Indian entrepreneurs.
- **74% of Indian entrepreneurs** plan to **relocate or obtain an additional overseas residency**, compared with the **global average of 70%**.
- **Singapore** is the most preferred overseas destination among Indian entrepreneurs at **14%**, followed by **France, the UK, and the US at 11% each**.
- **99% of Indian entrepreneurs** have already made or plan to make **changes to their business operations because of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, compared with **95% globally**.

About HSBC :

- **HSBC (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation)** was established in **1865** and is headquartered in **London, United Kingdom**; **Noel Quinn** is its **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.

India Joins European Union, Australia, Brazil and Canada to Launch Platform for Multilateralism, Peace and UN Reform

- **India**, along with the **European Union (EU), Australia, Brazil and Canada**, launched a new platform to **defend multilateralism** and promote **peace, inclusive prosperity and reform of the UN system**.

- The initiative was launched on the margins of the **80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in **New York**.
- The inaugural **Partners for Multilateralism, International Law, Peace and Prosperity (P4M) Summit** was held in **New York on 21 September 2026**.
- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** represented **India** at the inaugural P4M Summit and stressed the importance of **participative deliberations** and **transparent decision-making**.

About European Union :

- President of the European Council **:** António Costa
- **Headquarters :** Brussels, Belgium
- **Membership : 27 members**
- **Official Languages :** 24 languages

About Australia :

- **Prime Minister :** Anthony Albanese
- **Capital :** Canberra
- **Currency :** Australian dollar

About Brazil :

- **President :** Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva
- **Capital :** Brasília
- **Currency :** Real

About Canada :

- **Prime Minister :** Mark Carney
- **Capital :** Ottawa
- **Currency :** Canadian dollar ($)

India Reiterates Commitment to Whale Conservation at 70th International Whaling Commission Meeting in Australia

- **India** reaffirmed its commitment to the **conservation of whales and other cetaceans** at the **70th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC-70)** held in **Hobart, Australia, from 28 September to 2 October 2026**.
- **IWC-70** coincided with the **80th anniversary** of the signing of the **International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling**.
- The meeting adopted the **Hobart Declaration by consensus** to commemorate the **80th anniversary** and also passed resolutions concerning **cetacean bycatch, vessel strikes and cetacean strandings**.
- **Dr Urbain Brito of Benin** was elected **Chair of IWC-70**, while **Anne-Marie Svoboda of the Netherlands** was elected **Vice-Chair**.

About IWC :

- The **International Whaling Commission (IWC)** was established under the **International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling**, which was signed on **2 December 1946 in Washington, D.C., USA**.
- The **IWC currently has 89 member governments**, and **India joined the IWC in 1981**.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar Undertakes Official Visit to Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ethiopia from 6–10 October 2026

- **External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar**, Union Minister for the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, undertook a **5-day official visit** to three African countries — **Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ethiopia** — from **6 to 10 October 2026**.
- The visit aimed to **strengthen India–Africa bilateral relations**, particularly in **trade, investment, and infrastructure development**.
- During his visit to Ghana, **Dr. S. Jaishankar** held bilateral talks with **Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa**, Ghana's Foreign Minister.
- **India and Ghana** reviewed cooperation in **trade and investment, development partnership, pharmaceuticals, capacity building, defence, technology, and people-to-people ties**.

About Ghana :

- **President :** John Dramani Mahama
- **Capital :** Accra
- **Currency :** Cedi

About Ivory Coast, also known as Côte d'Ivoire :

- **President :** Alassane Ouattara
- **Prime Minister :** Robert Beugré Mambé
- **Capital :** Yamoussoukro
- **Currency :** West African CFA franc

About Ethiopia :

- **President :** Taye Atske Selassie
- **Prime Minister :** Abiy Ahmed
- **Capital :** Addis Ababa
- **Currency :** Birr

Swiss President Guy Parmelin Undertakes Official Visit to India from 5–7 October 2026

- **Guy Parmelin**, **President of Switzerland**, undertook a **3-day official state visit** to **India** from **5 to 7 October 2026** at the invitation of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- The visit aimed to strengthen **India–Switzerland bilateral cooperation** in **trade, investment, technology, and economic engagement** under the **India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)**.
- **Swiss President Guy Parmelin** received a ceremonial **Guard of Honour** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** from **President Droupadi Murmu**.

India and Japan Unveil Operational Manual for Joint Crediting Mechanism

- **India and Japan** jointly launched the **Operational Manual for the India–Japan Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** in **New Delhi**.
- The **JCM** is a **bilateral carbon cooperation framework** between India and Japan that promotes **advanced low-carbon technologies**, mobilises **climate finance**, facilitates **technology cooperation**, and supports **high-integrity emission reductions and removals**.

- The Operational Manual was jointly launched by **H.E. Keiichi Ono**, **Ambassador of Japan to India**, and **Tanmay Kumar**, then **Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
- The JCM operationalises India–Japan cooperation under **Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement**, which provides a framework for **cooperative approaches to greenhouse-gas emission reductions**.

About Japan :

- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)
- Prime Minister: Sanae Takaichi

India and Singapore Plan 2,000-MW Cross-Border Power Link Under Association of Southeast Asian Nations Power Grid Initiative

- **India** and **Singapore** are exploring a proposed **2,000-megawatt (MW)** cross-border electricity interconnection project as part of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Power Grid** initiative.
- The proposed project aims to establish a **cross-border electricity transmission link** between India and Singapore to promote **regional power connectivity**.
- One option under consideration is an approximately **3,000-km land-based transmission corridor** connecting **Imphal (India)** to Singapore through **Myanmar**, **Thailand**, and **Malaysia**.

About Singapore :

- President : Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- Prime Minister : Lawrence Wong
- Capital : Singapore
- Currency : Singapore dollar

India Showcases Advances in Forest Cover, Restoration and Climate Action at COFO 28

- **India** highlighted significant progress in **forest cover, forest restoration and climate action** at the **28th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 28)** held in **Rome, Italy**, from **28 September to 2 October 2026**.
- India's **forest and tree cover** has reached **82.74 million hectares**, accounting for **25.17% of India's geographical area**.
- **COFO 28** is a **biennial session**, held **every two years**, bringing together **128 member countries**, along with ministers, heads of forest services, senior government officials and partner organisations.
- The session was held alongside the **10th World Forest Week**, organised under the theme **"Forests for food, resilience and prosperity."**
- **COFO 28** was chaired by **Pierre Taty** of the **Republic of the Congo**.

United States Launches "Super Intelligence Force" Task Force to Coordinate Federal AI Response

- The **United States** (US) announced a new **"Super Intelligence Force" (SI Force) Task Force** on **4 October 2026** to coordinate the **US federal government's response to Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- The task force is led by **Director of National Intelligence Jay Clayton**, who serves as the **"AI Czar" or "SI Czar"**.
- The task force brings together officials from **intelligence, regulation, personnel administration and defence research**.
- Key members include **FTC Chairman Andrew Ferguson**, **Office of Personnel Management Director Scott Kupor**, and **Undersecretary of War for Research and Engineering Emil Michael**.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Participates in Group (G20) Trade Ministers' Meeting in Milwaukee, United States

- **Union Minister Piyush Goyal**, from the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)**, attended the Group **(G20) Trade Ministers' Meeting** held from **30 September to 1 October 2026** in **Milwaukee, United States of America (USA)**.

- The meeting was held under the **USA's G20 Presidency** as part of **Piyush Goyal's week-long official visit to the USA**.
- The meeting discussed key global trade challenges, including **food security**, **structural excess production capacity**, **forced labour in supply chains** and **reforms to the World Trade Organization (WTO)**.
- The other signatories were **Argentina**, **Australia**, **Canada**, the **European Union (EU)**, **France**, **Germany**, **Italy**, **Japan**, the **Republic of Korea (South Korea)**, **Mexico**, **Poland**, **Türkiye** and the **United Kingdom (UK)**.

United Nations Trade and Development Report 2026: India Accounts for 5.7% of Global Greenfield Investment, More Than Double China's Share

- According to the **Trade and Development Report 2026**, published by the **United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, **India** accounted for **5.7%** of global greenfield investment during **2020–2025**, more than double **China's share of 2.8%**.
- Among the selected countries, **India** was followed by **Malaysia (4%)**, **Indonesia (3.8%)** and **China (2.8%)** in global greenfield investment during **2020–2025**.
- **Greenfield investment** refers to investment in establishing **new business operations or facilities** in a foreign country.
- The **Trade and Development Report** is published **annually by UNCTAD** and was first launched in **1981** to analyse global economic trends and major international policy issues.

World Wide Fund for Nature Report Reveals a 73% Decline in Average Wildlife Population Sizes from 1970 to 2022

- The **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**, in partnership with the **Zoological Society of London (ZSL)**, released the **2026 Living Planet Report (LPR)** titled **"The Science of Hope."**
- The **Living Planet Report (LPR)** is a biennial report that monitors changes in global wildlife populations and biodiversity.
- According to the **2026 Living Planet Report**, the average size of monitored wildlife populations declined by **73%** between **1970 and 2022**, over a period of **52 years**.

- The **Living Planet Index (LPI)** tracks changes in the relative abundance of monitored vertebrate populations, including **mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and fish**.

India Extends ₹30 Billion Currency Swap Facility to the Maldives to Support Financial Stability

- The **Government of India** approved the **rollover of a ₹30 billion (₹3,000 crore) currency swap facility** for the **Maldives** to support its **financial stability** and **liquidity needs**.
- The **currency swap facility** falls under the **Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC Countries** and the **bilateral INR Currency Swap Framework for 2024–2027**.
- The arrangement was agreed between the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA)** during **Maldivian President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's state visit to India** in **October 2024**.

About Maldives :

- President : Mohamed Muizzu
- Capital : Malé
- Currency : Maldivian rufiyaa

Ministry of External Affairs Opens India's Resident Diplomatic Mission in Costa Rica to Enhance Bilateral Relations

- The **Ministry of External Affairs** (**MEA**) operationalised **India's resident diplomatic mission** in **San José**, the capital of **Costa Rica**, effective **10 October 2026**.
- The **new mission** aims to **expand India's diplomatic presence** in **Central America** and **strengthen bilateral relations** between **India** and **Costa Rica**.
- The mission will **promote bilateral trade**, **investment**, **commercial cooperation** and **economic ties** between the **two countries**.

Centre Amends India–Mauritius Tax Treaty with Principal Purpose Test to Prevent Treaty Abuse and Tax Avoidance

- The **Central Government** notified **amendments** to the **India–Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement** (**DTAA**) on **13 October 2026**, introducing the **Principal Purpose Test** (**PPT**) to **prevent treaty abuse** and **tax avoidance**.

- The **amended India–Mauritius DTAA** came into **force** on **10 August 2026**, following the completion of the necessary legal formalities by both countries.
- The **amendments** were **notified in India** under **Section 159(1)** of the **Income-tax Act, 2025**.
- **India** and **Mauritius** signed the **protocol** amending the **DTAA** on **7 March 2024** in **Port Louis, Mauritius**.

United States Suspends Cognizant, Infosys, Tata, Wipro and HCL from Green Card Sponsorship Programme

- The **United States (US)** suspended several **major IT companies** from the **Permanent Labour Certification Programme** on **8 October 2026**, affecting their ability to sponsor eligible foreign workers for **US green cards**.
- The affected companies include **Cognizant**, **Infosys**, **Tata**, **Wipro**, **HCL**, **Capgemini**, **Microsoft** and **Adobe**.
- The announcement was made by US Labour Secretary **Keith Sonderling**, alongside Vice-President **J.D. Vance**, who heads the **US Anti-Fraud Task Force**.
- The **Permanent Labour Certification Programme (PERM)** allows US employers to sponsor eligible foreign workers for **permanent employment** and **lawful permanent residency (green cards)**, subject to applicable requirements.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Adds Three New Indian Sites to the World Heritage Tentative List

- The **Permanent Delegation of India to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** announced the addition of **three Indian sites** to the **UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List**.
- The three newly added sites are the **Karst-mud-volcano Complex of Baratang** and **Andaman Subduction Volcanoes** in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, and the **Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape** in **Chhattisgarh**.
- Following these additions, the total number of Indian sites on the **UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List** increased to **81**, comprising **59 cultural sites**, **3 mixed sites**, and **19 natural sites**.

69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference Concludes in Cape Town, South Africa: Key Highlights

- The **69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC)** was held at the **Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC)** in **Cape Town, South Africa**.
- The conference was held under the presidency of **Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane**, Chairperson of the **National Council of Provinces of South Africa**.
- The week-long conference was hosted by the **Parliament of South Africa** in partnership with the **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) South Africa Branch**.
- The theme of the **69th CPC** was **"Strengthening International Law and Parliamentary Democracy in a Changing World Order: Commonwealth Leadership."**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Publishes 2026 Global Education Monitoring Gender Report on Equal Access to Education

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** released the **2026 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Gender Report**, titled **"Gender Equity in Access to Education"**, on the occasion of the **International Day of the Girl Child (11 October 2026)**.
- The report highlights global progress towards **gender parity in education**, while identifying persistent barriers such as **child marriage**, **poverty**, and **geographical disadvantages** that affect girls' access to and completion of education.
- The **2026 GEM Gender Report** examines **out-of-school rates**, **primary and secondary education completion**, **post-secondary enrolment**, and **educational attainment**.

United Nations Environment Programme Publishes 2026 Emissions Gap Report, 'The Point of Return,' Urging 45% Emission Reductions by 2035

- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** released the 17th edition of the **Emissions Gap Report (EGR) 2026**, titled **"The Point of Return."**
- The report warns that **temporarily exceeding the 1.5°C global warming limit** is now unavoidable without urgent reductions in **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**.

- Global greenhouse gas emissions reached **58.4 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Gt CO_2e)** in **2025**, representing a decline of only **0.1 Gt CO_2e** compared with **2024**.

About United Nations Environment Programme :

- **Formation :** 5 June 1972
- **Headquarters :** Nairobi, Kenya
- **Executive Director :** Inger Andersen

Summary of Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk's India Visit from October 21–23, 2026

- **Donald Franciszek Tusk**, Prime Minister (PM) of **Poland**, undertook a **three-day official visit** to India from **21 to 23 October 2026** at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- This was Donald Tusk's **second official visit** to India as Poland's Prime Minister, following his earlier visit in **2010**.
- Tusk was accompanied by **Andrzej Domański**, Poland's **Minister of Finance and Economy**, and a high-level delegation comprising around **100 CEOs** and industry representatives.
- During his visit to **Hyderabad House, New Delhi**, Donald Tusk met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to review the **India–Poland Strategic Partnership** established in **2024**.

About Poland :

- President : Karol Nawrocki
- Prime Minister : Donald Tusk
- Capital : Warsaw
- Currency : Złoty

National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Council for Agricultural Science and Technology Sign Five-Year Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Agricultural Research and Scientific Collaboration

- India's **National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS)** signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the United States-based **Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)** to strengthen **agricultural research**, **scientific collaboration**, **capacity development** and **knowledge exchange**.

- The MoU was signed on **20 October 2026** during the **2026 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue** held in **Des Moines, Iowa, USA**, from **20 to 22 October 2026**.
- The **2026 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue** was organised by the **World Food Prize Foundation (WFPF)** under the theme **"Before Hunger Wins."**

About NAAS :

- Established : **1990** and is a premier Indian institution promoting excellence in **agricultural sciences**.
- **H**eadquarters : **New Delhi, Delhi**, and works to recognise **distinguished scientists** and provide **scientific inputs** for **agricultural policymaking**.

France Reports Its First-Ever Human Infection with Shamonda Virus

- **France** confirmed its first human case of **Shamonda virus** on **22 October 2026**; the patient, who was **severely immunocompromised**, died earlier that month.
- The infection was described by French authorities as an **exceptional case**, and there was **no identified risk to the general population** at the time of the announcement.
- The suspected route of infection was a **bite from an infected biting midge** in **eastern France**, where the virus had circulated among animals during **spring and summer 2026**.

United Nation's Loss and Damage Fund Approves $21.6 Million for Nepal, Marking Its First-Ever Country-Specific Allocation

- The **Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)** has provisionally earmarked funds for **Nepal** to support recovery from the devastating **August 2026 flash floods**, marking the **first time the Fund has allocated money for a specific disaster in a specific country**.
- The FRLD Board approved a **$21.6 million payout** for Nepal, comprising **$20 million for the disaster response** and **$1.6 million in oversight fees** for organisations implementing and supervising the projects.
- The decision was taken at the FRLD Board's **first extraordinary meeting**, held virtually on **22 October 2026**.

Greece Approves Ban on Social Media Use by Children Under 15

- **Greece's Parliament** approved legislation on **23 October 2026** banning **children under 15 years of age** from using **social media platforms**.
- The ban will come into force on **1 January 2027** and applies to both **existing accounts** and **new users**.
- The restriction covers platforms including **Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn**.

International Union for Conservation of Nature Assessment Finds 96% of Evaluated Coral Reef Ecosystems Critically Endangered, with Collapse Projected by 2075

- The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** released the first global coral reef assessment under the **Red List of Ecosystems (RLE)** at the **17th Conference of the Parties (COP17)** to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** in **Yerevan, Armenia**.
- According to the assessment, **96% of the shallow-water coral reef ecosystems** assessed have been classified as **Critically Endangered (CR)** and are expected to **collapse by 2075**.
- The assessment covers **coral reef ecosystems** in warm, shallow waters across **127 tropical and subtropical ecoregions**.

14th International Tourism Mart to Be Held in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, from 29–31 October 2026

- The **14th International Tourism Mart (ITM) 2026** is being held from **29–31 October 2026** at **Hotel Vivanta, Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The event is organised by the **Ministry of Tourism**, Government of India, in association with the **Government of Arunachal Pradesh** and other **North Eastern States**.
- **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, Union Minister for Tourism and Culture, **Suresh Gopi**, Minister of State for Tourism and Petroleum & Natural Gas, and **Pema Khandu**, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, are attending the inaugural programme on **29 October 2026**.

Pentagon Launches FORTRESS Plan to Keep US Military Bases Operational for 90 Days

- The **FORTRESS America initiative** was formally launched by **US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth** on **30 September 2026**.
- **FORTRESS** stands for **Federal Operations for Resilience, Troop Resources, Energy, Supply, and Survivability**.

- The initiative requires **major US military installations** in the continental United States to **sustain essential operations independently** for at least **90 days**, without relying on **civilian infrastructure**.

BANKING AND BUSINESS NEWS

Reserve Bank of India Releases I. S. N. Prasad Committee Report on Ways and Means Advances to State Governments

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the **Report of the Advisory Committee on Ways and Means Advances (WMA) to State Governments**, chaired by **Shri I. S. N. Prasad**, former Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka.
- The Committee was constituted to review **State-wise WMA limits** and other **liquidity support/financial accommodation facilities** available to state governments.
- The RBI provides temporary liquidity support to states for **cash-flow mismatches** through **Special Drawing Facility (SDF), Ways and Means Advances (WMA) and Overdraft (OD)**, in the sequence **SDF → WMA → OD**.
- The Committee recommended increasing the **aggregate WMA limit for states** from **₹61,008 crore to ₹67,839 crore**, representing an **11.2% increase**, considering the growth in states' **budget sizes and liquidity requirements**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Approves Portfolio Management Services–Mutual Fund Investment Route and Revises Settlement Regulations

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** approved a series of **regulatory reforms** covering **Portfolio Management Services (PMS)**, **settlement proceedings**, **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)**, **commodity derivatives**, and **advertising norms**.
- SEBI approved a comprehensive **overhaul of Portfolio Managers Regulations** to **expand the PMS industry**, simplify compliance, consolidate regulations and remove outdated provisions.

- Under the revised PMS framework, **PRIM** will allow PMS providers to invest client funds in **direct mutual fund schemes and Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs)**, with a minimum **ticket size of ₹25 lakh**.
- PMS providers can invest up to **10% of client AUM** in **investment-grade unlisted debt** under discretionary PMS, subject to **client consent**.

About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), GoI.

India's Industrial Output Growth Accelerates to 8% in August on Strong Sectoral Performance

- **India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** grew by **8.0% year-on-year in August 2026**, accelerating from **6.7% in July 2026** as per the **Quick Estimates released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
- The **August 2026 IIP growth of 8.0%** was the **second-highest growth in the revised IIP series since April 2024**, after **8.8% recorded in June 2026**.
- The **IIP index** increased to **123.3 in August 2026**, compared with **114.2 in August 2025**.
- The data was released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.

Cabinet Approves ₹10,000 Crore SME Growth Fund to Support Small and Medium Enterprises

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the Government of India's **₹10,000 crore commitment** towards establishing the **SME Growth Fund (SGF)**.
- The **SME Growth Fund (SGF)** was announced under **Para 28 of Union Budget 2026–27** to provide **growth-oriented capital** to India's **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**.

- The Fund aims to help create **champion Indian enterprises** across **manufacturing, services, technology, innovation-driven sectors and strategic value chains**.
- The **₹10,000 crore Government commitment** will be provided to an **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** established under the **SGF framework**.

Reserve Bank of India Grants Indiabulls Certificate of Registration as a Core Investment Company

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** granted **Indiabulls Limited** a **Certificate of Registration (CoR)** as a **Core Investment Company (CIC)**, bringing it under the RBI's regulatory framework.
- The approval was disclosed by **Indiabulls Limited** in a regulatory filing dated **2 October 2026**.
- A **Core Investment Company (CIC)** is a category of **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** that primarily holds investments in and provides funding to **group companies**, rather than conducting conventional lending or other financial businesses.
- Under RBI norms, a CIC generally has **assets of ₹100 crore or more** and holds at least **90% of its net assets** in investments or loans to group companies.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Proposes Overhaul of Insurance Distribution Norms Through New Consultation Paper

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** proposed an overhaul of insurance distribution norms through its consultation paper titled **"Recalibrating Economics of Insurance Distribution."**
- The proposed reforms aim to create a **customer-centric, competitive, efficient and transparent insurance distribution ecosystem**, while improving outcomes for **policyholders, insurers and distributors**.
- For **life insurers**, IRDAI proposed shifting the **Expense of Management (EoM)** limit to a **company-level basis linked to Gross Direct Premium Income (GDPI)**.
- The EoM limit for life insurers is proposed to decline to **15% within two years** and **12.5% within five years**.

About IRDAI:

- Headquarters (HQ): Hyderabad, Telangana, India
- Chairperson:Ajay Seth
- Founded: 1999

Securities and Exchange Board of India Approves PRIM Framework to Create Mutual Fund-Focused Portfolio Management Route

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** approved the **Portfolio Managers Route for Investing in Mutual Fund Units (PRIM)**, popularly known as mutual funds and portfolio management services (**MF-PMS)**, creating a mutual-fund-focused portfolio management route between conventional **mutual funds and PMS**.
- Under **PRIM**, portfolio managers can invest clients' money in **direct plans of mutual funds**, **ETFs**, **index funds** and **Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs)**.
- The **minimum investment ticket size under PRIM is ₹25 lakh**, which is half the **₹50 lakh** minimum applicable to conventional PMS.

National Stock Exchange of India Becomes World's Sixth-Largest Stock Exchange by Market Capitalisation After BSE Listing

- The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** became the **sixth-largest stock exchange in the world by market capitalization** after its shares were listed on the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**.
- NSE is **India's largest stock exchange by total turnover** in the **cash and equity derivatives segments**.
- NSE currently commands a **price-to-earnings (P/E) multiple of around 43 times**, reflecting its strong market valuation.
- The **five larger listed global exchanges** by market capitalisation are **Intercontinental Exchange (NYSE parent) – $87.8 billion**, **Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing – $63.6 billion**,

Deutsche Börse – $59.5 billion, **Nasdaq – $53.3 billion**, and **London Stock Exchange Group – $53 billion**.

About National Stock Exchange (NSE) :

- Established : **1992**
- Headquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- NSE is India's **premier stock exchange** and a global leader in **derivatives and cash-equity trading volume**.

Reserve Bank of India Reports India's Net Foreign Direct Investment at Five-Year High of USD 7.3 Billion in July 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reported that India's **net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** rose to a **5-year high of US$7.35 billion in July 2026**, the highest since **May 2021 (US$8.80 billion)**.
- **Net FDI in July 2026** increased by **64% year-on-year**, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.
- **Gross FDI inflows** stood at **US$14.58 billion in July 2026**, making it the **third-highest monthly gross inflow in the last six years**.
- The increase in FDI was mainly supported by **robust gross inflows**, according to the RBI's **"State of the Economy"** article in its latest monthly bulletin.

IIFL Home Finance Secures $150 Million Japan International Cooperation Agency Loan to Expand Affordable Housing

- **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** has signed a **US$150 million loan agreement** with **IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIHFL)** to expand **affordable housing finance for low-income women in India**.
- The financing will support women belonging to **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** and **Low-Income Groups (LIG)** in purchasing **homes**.
- The **US$150 million JICA loan** will provide **long-term financing** to increase **homeownership opportunities for low-income women**.

- The project will be implemented through a **co-financing arrangement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and private financial institutions, including **MUFG Bank Ltd.**
- The **JICA funds** will be **on-lent through IIFL Home Finance** to finance **home acquisitions for low-income women** in **urban and peri-urban areas** across India.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to Launch ₹1 Trillion Rayalaseema Horticulture Hub

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** laid the **foundation stone** for the **₹1 trillion Rayalaseema Horticulture Hub** at **Madanapalle, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The **Rayalaseema Horticulture Hub** is a **three-year project** running from **2026 to 2029**, covering **201 clusters across 10 districts** of Andhra Pradesh.
- The project has a total investment framework of around **₹1 trillion**, comprising approximately **₹40,352 crore in public investment** and about **₹60,000 crore expected from the private sector**.
- The investment framework includes **₹20,884 crore for irrigation**, **₹14,906 crore for horticulture** and **₹4,562 crore for rural roads**.

Bank of India Introduces Programmable Digital Rupee with Auto-Payment Facility

- **Bank of India (BoI)** launched **programmable Digital Rupee (e₹) functionality with an auto-payment/auto-issuance facility** on **29 September 2026**.
- The facility operates on BoI's **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) platform**, developed by **Montran India**.
- The feature allows customers to **schedule automatic e₹ transfers** to a beneficiary's **CBDC wallet** at a **fixed amount and frequency**, without requiring manual intervention for each transaction.
- The facility also provides **purpose-based spending controls**, allowing the sender to **restrict how the recipient can use the funds**.
- The programmable e₹ facility can be used for **recurring payments**, including **education allowances, household transfers and other purpose-bound payments**.

About Bank of India:

- Founded: 1906
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Managing Director & CEO: Rajneesh Karnatak
- Tagline: "Relationships Beyond Banking"

ICICI Lombard Introduces 'VIBE' Health Insurance Plan for Gen Z

- **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** launched **VIBE**, a **mobile-first health insurance plan** designed mainly for **young consumers, particularly Gen Z**.
- **VIBE** is built on ICICI Lombard's **IL TakeCare platform** and combines **hospitalisation cover, outpatient care, mental-health support, teleconsultations, health screenings and lifestyle benefits**.
- VIBE is available in **six variants — Rookie, BasicFit, Upgrade, Flex, GOAT and Value**, with **sum insured options from ₹7 lakh to ₹1 crore**.
- All VIBE plans provide **unlimited teleconsultations** and a **yearly gym membership** for members **above 18 years of age**.
- ICICI Lombard is one of India's **largest private general insurers**, with **Gross Written Premium (GWP) of ₹306.18 billion** for the year ended **March 2026**.

Apple Introduces Apple Pay in India with Axis Bank Visa and Mastercard Credit Card Support

- **Apple Inc.**, a **United States-based multinational technology company**, officially launched **Apple Pay in India** as a new digital payment feature.
- **Apple Pay** enables users of **iPhone, iPad, and Apple Watch** to make payments using **Axis Bank-issued Visa and Mastercard credit cards**.
- **Apple Pay** uses an **encrypted Device Account Number** secured through **Mastercard's tokenisation technology** for secure transactions.
- Payments through Apple Pay can be authenticated using **Face ID, Touch ID, or device passcode** by holding the Apple device near a **contactless payment terminal**.

- To activate the service, customers can add their eligible **Axis Bank credit card** to **Apple Wallet** through the **Axis Bank app** or directly through the **Wallet app on iPhone**.

About Apple Inc :

- **Apple Inc.**, formerly known as **Apple Computer Inc.**, was founded in **1976** by **Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak**.

Centre's Fiscal Deficit Reaches 41.9% of FY2026-27 Target by August Amid Higher Subsidy Spending

- **The Centre's fiscal deficit** reached **41.9% of the Budget Estimates (BE)** for **FY 2026-27** by **August 2026**, compared with **38.1%** during the same period of **FY 2025-26**.
- In absolute terms, the **fiscal deficit** stood at **₹7.10 lakh crore (₹7,10,249 crore)** during **April–August 2026**.
- The rise in the fiscal deficit was mainly attributed to an increase in **subsidy expenditure**, particularly **fertiliser subsidies**.
- The **fiscal deficit** represents the difference between the government's **total expenditure and total receipts excluding borrowings**.
- The **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)** released the government's monthly accounts data for the **April–August 2026** period.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and Asian Development Bank Collaborate to Develop Grading Standards for Warehouses and Cold-Chain Facilities

- **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** is working with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to develop **grading and rating standards for warehouses and cold-chain facilities** in India.
- **DPIIT** is also formulating guidelines for **Multi-Modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs)** to improve **logistics efficiency** and promote better **integration of different modes of transport**.
- The **warehouse and cold-chain grading standards** are aimed at creating more **standardised and reliable logistics infrastructure** in India.

- The initiatives are expected to **modernise India's logistics sector**, improve supply-chain efficiency, and build a **more resilient logistics ecosystem**.

About ADB :

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is a **regional development bank** established to promote **social and economic development in Asia**.
- **Headquarters: Mandaluyong City, Philippines**.
- **Founded: 19 December 1966**.
- **President: Masato Kanda**.

HDFC Capital and Shalimar Corp Launch ₹750-Crore Platform for Real Estate Projects in Uttar Pradesh

- **HDFC Capital**, the **real estate private equity arm of HDFC Group**, has partnered with **Shalimar Corp** to establish a **₹750-crore investment platform**.
- The platform will focus on developing **residential and mixed-use projects** across three Uttar Pradesh cities — **Lucknow, Varanasi and Kanpur**.
- The projects under the platform are expected to cover **more than 5 million sq. ft. of development area** and create approximately **3,000 homes**.
- The partnership aims to tap the growing **housing demand in emerging urban centres of Uttar Pradesh**, supported by **rising incomes, urbanisation and infrastructure development**.

About HDFC Capital :

- **HDFC Capital**, a subsidiary of **HDFC Bank**, focuses on financing the development of **affordable and mid-income housing** on a sustainable basis.

About Shalimar Group :

- **F**ounded : **1988**
- Headquarters : **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Shalimar Group** operates across **real estate, infrastructure development, property management and glass processing**.

Jio Finance and Allianz Europe Invest ₹320.05 Crore Each in Jio Allianz General Insurance

- **Jio Finance** and **Allianz Europe B.V.** have each invested **₹320.05 crore** in **Jio Allianz General Insurance Ltd.** through a **rights issue**.
- **Jio Allianz General Insurance Ltd.** is a **50:50 joint venture** between **Jio Financial Services** and **Allianz Europe B.V.**, with both partners making an equal investment in the latest capital infusion.
- Each partner subscribed to and was allotted **32,00,50,000 equity shares** of **₹10 each** for cash at par, aggregating to **₹320.05 crore** per partner.
- The fresh capital infusion will be used by **Jio Allianz General Insurance Ltd.** to fund its **business operations and growth plans** and strengthen its **capital base**.

NABKISAN Lists India's First Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Social Bond, Raises ₹180 Crore

- **NABKISAN Finance Limited**, a subsidiary of **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**, listed **India's first Social Bond exclusively dedicated to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector** on the **National Stock Exchange (NSE), Mumbai** on **1 October 2026**.
- The **WASH-focused Social Bond** raised **₹180 crore** and was **oversubscribed 1.8 times**, reflecting strong investor participation.
- The bond has a **5-year tenure**, carries a **coupon rate of 8.10%**, and will **mature in September 2031**.
- The bond received the highest domestic credit ratings of **CRISIL AAA (Stable)** and **CARE AAA (Stable)**.

Ministry of Finance Retains Small Savings Scheme Interest Rates Unchanged for Q3FY27 for 14th Consecutive Quarter

- The **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** kept the **Small Savings Scheme (SSS) interest rates unchanged** for **Q3FY27**, covering **1 October 2026 to 31 December 2026**.

- The **Q3FY27 interest rates** remain the same as those applicable during **Q2FY27 (1 July–30 September 2026)**.
- This marks the **14th consecutive quarter** in which **Small Savings Scheme interest rates have remained unchanged**, with the last revision made in **Q4FY24**.
- **Small Savings Schemes (SSS)** are **government-backed financial instruments** designed to promote **household savings** and provide **secure investment options**.

Pramerica Life Insurance Introduces 'Poorna Rakshak' with Guaranteed Benefits Across 5 Variants

- **Pramerica Life Insurance Limited** launched **Poorna Rakshak**, a **non-linked, non-participating individual savings life insurance plan**.
- **Pramerica Life Insurance Limited** is a **Joint Venture (JV)** between **DIL** and **Prudential International Insurance Holdings Ltd. (PIIH)**.
- **Poorna Rakshak** combines **life protection**, **guaranteed benefits**, and a **choice of income structures** to meet customers' financial goals and future milestones.
- The plan offers **5 variants**, allowing customers to select benefits according to their **financial targets, income requirements, and future milestones**.
- **Smart Scholars** is designed for a **child's future milestones**, with income beginning between **16 and 18 years of age** and continuing until **20 to 25 years**, along with a **guaranteed lump-sum benefit at the end**.

About Pramerica Life Insurance Limited :

- Commenced its operations in India : **1 September 2008**.
- **Headquarters : Gurugram, Haryana**.

Government Lowers Windfall Tax on Diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel Exports, Keeps Petrol Duty Unchanged

- The **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** revised the **windfall tax/export levy** on **diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)**, with the revised rates effective from **1 October 2026**.

- The **diesel export duty** was reduced from **₹20 per litre to ₹16 per litre**.
- The **ATF export duty** was reduced from **₹15 per litre to ₹10.5 per litre**.
- The **petrol export duty** was kept **unchanged at ₹0.5 per litre** for the **fortnight beginning 1 October 2026**.

Bank of Baroda Becomes Second Public Sector Bank to Sponsor a Pension Fund Under Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority

- The **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** became the **second Public Sector Bank (PSB)** to enter the **pension fund business** after receiving the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**) **Certificate of Appointment as Sponsor of a Pension Fund** under **Section 27 of the PFRDA Act, 2013**.
- The certificate was presented to **Debadatta Chand, MD & CEO of Bank of Baroda**, by **Sanjay Lohiya, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS)** during the **National Pension System (NPS) Divas 2026** event.
- BoB established **BoB Pension Fund Management Company Limited** as a **PFRDA-regulated pension fund management entity** with an **authorised capital of ₹100 crore**.

About Bank of Baroda :

- Founded : **1908**
- Headquarters : **Vadodara, Gujarat**
- Tagline : **"India's International Bank."**
- **It** is a **Government of India-owned Public Sector Bank**

Finance Ministry Estimates India's GDP Growth at 7.3% for Q2 FY27

- The **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** projected India's **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at 7.3% in Q2 FY27 (July–September 2026)**, supported by **resilient domestic demand and investment**.
- The projection was given in the **Monthly Economic Review (MER) for September 2026** and is based on the **nowcasting model** unveiled in the **Economic Survey 2026**.

- India recorded **7.8% GDP growth in Q1 FY27 (April–June 2026)**, indicating strong economic momentum entering Q2.

M1xchange Becomes First Trade Receivables Discounting System Platform to Implement CGTMSE Guarantee Mechanism

- The **Government** has operationalised **CGTMSE-backed guarantee cover** for eligible receivables financed through the **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** to improve **working-capital access for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)**.
- The initiative was announced in the **Union Budget 2026–27** and is being implemented through the **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)**.
- **CGTMSE** was established to facilitate **credit flow to eligible Micro and Small Enterprises** by providing **credit guarantee support** to lenders.
- **TReDS** enables **MSME sellers** to obtain funds against **approved invoices** from buyers instead of waiting for payment, thereby meeting their **immediate working-capital requirements**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Consolidated Master Direction on Note Sorting Machines to Update Banknote Sorting and Cash Handling Rules

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **revised guidelines for Note Sorting Machines (NSMs)** under **Sections 35A and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- The revised framework aims to strengthen the **authentication, fitness sorting and proper recycling of banknotes** handled by banks.
- A **"fit note"** means a **genuine banknote** that is sufficiently clean and physically suitable for **recycling and reissue**.
- An **"unfit note"** is a banknote that cannot be reissued due to **physical deterioration** or because it belongs to a **banknote series phased out by RBI**.

Reserve Bank of India Allows Bank Boards to Delegate Monitoring of ATM Cassette-Swap Implementation

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, through its **Department of Currency Management**, issued a circular on **1 October 2026** partially modifying the earlier instructions on **"Cassette – Swaps in ATMs"** issued on **31 March 2022**.
- The major revision concerns the **governance mechanism for monitoring ATM cassette-swap implementation** by banks.
- Under the revised instructions, the **Board of a bank** may delegate the responsibility of monitoring the progress of **cassette swaps** to a **"Committee of Executives"** of the bank.
- The revised instructions became **effective from 1 October 2026**, allowing banks to align their internal governance arrangements with the new **delegation provision**.

Institute of Economic Growth and Ministry of Finance Conclude Fifth Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC 2026) in New Delhi

- The **Institute of Economic Growth (IEG)**, in partnership with the **Ministry of Finance, Government of India**, successfully organised the **Fifth Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC 2026)** from **3–5 October 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- The theme of KEC 2026 was **"Resilience in an Age of Flux."**
- The Conclave was inaugurated on **3 October 2026** by Vice-President of India **C. P. Radhakrishnan**, who delivered the inaugural address.
- The three-day Conclave brought together more than **200 policymakers, economists, academics, financial experts**, and **international thought leaders**, including over **80 international participants** from around **30 countries**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Introduces Revised Settlement Formula and Fast-Track Mechanism Under New Settlement Rules

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** notified the **Settlement Regulations, 2026**, on **6 October 2026** to **simplify settlement procedures** and make them **more transparent, predictable and less discretionary**.
- The revised regulations introduce a **fast-track settlement mechanism** for eligible cases involving settlement amounts of **₹10 lakh or less**.

- The fast-track settlement mechanism has two categories: **Violation-Based Fast-Track Settlement** and **Monetary Threshold-Based Fast-Track Settlement**.

Federal Bank Introduces 'Verto' Premium Savings Account Targeting Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs

- **Federal Bank Limited** launched **'Verto'**, a **premium savings account** offering integrated financial solutions for **young professionals and entrepreneurs**.
- The **Verto Premium Savings Account** is designed for **eligible resident individuals** who meet specified **minimum balance**, **salary**, or **banking relationship criteria**.
- Verto offers **complimentary insurance coverage** of up to **₹35 lakh** to provide additional financial protection to account holders.

About Federal Bank Limited :

- **Incorporated : 1931**
- Headquarters : **Aluva, Kerala**.
- **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer : KVS Manian**

World Bank Supports Kerala's Plan to Establish Carbon Credit Cell Under ₹2,365 Crore KERA Project

- The **World Bank (WB)** supported the **Government of Kerala's proposal** to establish a **Carbon Credit Cell** under the **Department of Agriculture** to promote **sustainable farming** and increase **farmers' income**.
- The proposed **Carbon Credit Cell** will be established under the **Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project**, with an outlay of **₹2,365 crore (approximately USD 285 million)**.
- The **KERA Project** is a **five-year initiative (2024–2029)** supported by the **World Bank** and implemented by the **Government of Kerala**.

- The main objectives of the **KERA Project** are to promote **climate-resilient agriculture**, strengthen **agricultural value chains**, address **climate-change challenges**, and improve **market access** and **supply-chain efficiency**, particularly for **small farmers**.
- The proposed **Carbon Credit Cell** aims to encourage **climate-friendly farming practices**, promote **carbon sequestration**, and provide farmers with **additional income opportunities** through **carbon credits**.

Reserve Bank of India Sells Government Securities Worth ₹50,000 Crore Through Open Market Operation Auction to Absorb Banking System Liquidity

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** sold **₹50,000 crore** worth of **Government Securities (G-Secs)** through an **Open Market Operation (OMO)** sale auction to absorb surplus liquidity from the banking system.
- The **₹50,000 crore** auction was the first of three OMO sale tranches, with the RBI planning to absorb a total of **₹1 trillion (₹1 lakh crore)** through OMO sales in September.
- The **10-year benchmark government bond yield** settled at **7.05%**, unchanged from the previous close.
- The banking system's **net liquidity surplus** stood at **₹7.37 trillion** on Wednesday, down from **₹9.85 trillion** on Tuesday, according to RBI data.

SBI Research Estimates ₹5 Trillion Potential Profit for Banks from USD 127 Billion FCNR(B) Deposits Over Five Years

- According to **SBI Research**, Indian banks mobilised approximately **USD 127 billion** through the **Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)]** deposit scheme, potentially generating a notional profit of around **₹5 trillion** over five years.
- The funds mobilised through the **concessional dollar-rupee swap scheme** could support approximately **₹25 trillion** in additional **bank credit**.
- The deposits were mobilised in **less than three months**, before the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** advanced the closure of the deposit window.

- At an assumed **7.5% lending yield**, the funds could generate approximately **₹1.8 trillion** in annual income.

India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Credit Portfolio Reaches ₹47.4 Trillion as Industrial and Trading Clusters Drive Growth: CRIF High Mark Report

- According to a report by **CRIF High Mark**, India's **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) credit portfolio** grew **12.5% year-on-year** to **₹47.4 trillion** as of **June 2026**.
- CRIF High Mark classifies MSMEs by credit exposure as **Micro: up to ₹2 crore**, **Small: ₹2–20 crore**, and **Medium: ₹20–100 crore**.
- **Small enterprises** recorded credit portfolio growth of **20.3%**, while **medium enterprises** grew by **21.3%**; lending to **micro enterprises** remained largely **stagnant**.
- **Micro enterprises** accounted for **84.4%** of active MSME credit accounts, indicating further scope for **credit expansion** and **formalisation**.

Indian Banks' Association Forms 12-Member Panel to Examine Five-Day Banking Week

- The **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** has constituted a **12-member high-level committee** to examine the implementation of a **five-day banking week** following discussions with the **United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU)**.
- The committee was formed on **29 September 2026**, following an understanding reached between the **IBA and UFBU on 27 September 2026**.
- **Rajneesh Karnatak**, **MD & CEO of Bank of India**, has been appointed as the **Chairman** of the committee.
- **Ashok Chandra**, **MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, has been nominated as the **Alternate Chairman**.
- Other IBA representatives on the committee include **Binod Kumar**, **MD & CEO of Indian Bank**; **Rakesh Sharma**, **MD & CEO of Bank of India**; and **G.S. Rana**, **Chief General Manager (HR & CDO) of SBI**.

India's first bank rate hike since 2023 signals growing inflation concerns

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.5%.**
- The latest repo rate hike was undertaken by the RBI to **contain rising inflation** amid geopolitical tensions and higher energy prices.
- **Sanjay Malhotra** is the current Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- **Key Policy Rates (Effective October 7, 2026)**
- **Policy Repo Rate:** 5.50% *(up by 25 bps from 5.25%)*
- **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate:** 5.25% *(up from 5.00%)*
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate:** 5.75% *(up from 5.50%)*
- **Bank Rate:** 5.75% *(up from 5.50%)*

Reserve Bank of India Sets Floating Rate Bond 2028 Interest Rate at 6.45% for October 2026–April 2027

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** fixed the interest rate on the **Government of India Floating Rate Bond 2028 (FRB 2028)** at **6.45% per annum** for the six-month period from **4 October 2026 to 3 April 2027**.
- The **6.45% coupon rate** is higher than the previous **6.17%** rate applicable from **4 April to 3 October 2026**.
- The coupon rate of **FRB 2028** is linked to **short-term Government borrowing rates** and is reset every six months.
- The base rate for FRB 2028 is the **average Weighted Average Yield (WAY)** of the **last three auctions of 182-day Treasury Bills**, calculated from the rate-fixing day.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Launches "Samajh Se Investing Simple" Investor Awareness Campaign Under Project Jagrook

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** launched the nationwide investor awareness and education campaign **"Samajh Se Investing Simple"** under **Project Jagrook** on **5 October 2026** at **Panjab University, Chandigarh**.
- The campaign was launched during **World Investor Week 2026**, with India observing its **10th edition from 5–11 October 2026** under the theme **"Samajh Se Investing Simple."**

- **SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey** unveiled the campaign in **Chandigarh** on **5 October 2026**.

World Bank Upgrades India's FY27 Gross Domestic Product Growth Projection to 7.1%

- **The World Bank (WB)** raised India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for FY27 to 7.1%**, up from its **April 2026 projection of 6.6%**.
- The upgraded **7.1% FY27 forecast** was supported by **resilient domestic demand, private consumption, exports, industry and services**, following **7.8% growth in Q1 FY27**.
- The forecast was published in the **World Bank's October 2026 South Asia Economic Update**.
- The World Bank highlighted **India's Artificial Intelligence (AI) readiness** and **medium-term growth prospects**, while identifying **agricultural and global risks** as potential challenges to growth.

Reserve Bank of India Removes Paytm Payments Bank from Scheduled Banks List Following Licence Cancellation and Winding-Up Order

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** excluded **Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)** from the **Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934**, following the **cancellation of its banking licence** and the **court-directed winding-up process**.
- The **RBI notification** was dated **31 July 2026** and was published in the **Gazette of India** in **September 2026**; the exclusion was announced in an **RBI statement** on **7 October 2026**.
- The **Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934** contains the list of **scheduled banks** recognised under the Act, which receive certain **operational privileges**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Relaxes Merchant Banker Appointment Rules for Eligible Private Debt Placements

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** eased the mandatory appointment of **merchant bankers** for certain eligible listed issuers raising funds through the **private placement of debt securities**.
- The revised framework was announced through a **SEBI circular** dated **7 October 2026** and came into effect immediately.

- The measure aims to promote **ease of debt issuance** and improve **retail investors' access** to **high-rated debt securities**.
- The exemption applies to **eligible issuers** privately placing **debt securities** or **non-convertible redeemable preference shares (NCRPS)** with a **face value of ₹10,000**; appointing a **merchant banker** remains the default requirement for issuers that do not qualify.
- **Eligible issuers** must be regulated by an **Indian financial-sector regulator**, such as **SEBI**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**, or the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**.

United Nations Development Programme and Generali Central Launch Insurance Innovation Challenge to Strengthen India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

- The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and **Generali Central** launched the **UNDP–Generali Insurance Innovation Challenge** to develop and scale **insurance solutions** that strengthen the resilience of **India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- **Generali Central** represents the **Generali Group's** general and life insurance businesses in **India**.
- **India** has more than **73 million MSMEs**, which contribute approximately **30% of GDP** and **44% of exports**, while employing around **60% of the workforce**.
- The challenge aims to bridge the **MSME insurance protection gap** caused by **low awareness**, **perceived costs** and **insurance products** that do not adequately meet **MSMEs' needs**.

About United Nations Development Programme :

- **Formation :** 22 November 1965
- **Headquarters :** New York City**, USA**
- **Administrator :** Alexander De Croo

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Chairs the 57th Goods and Services Tax Council Meeting in New Delhi

- The **57th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council Meeting** was held in **New Delhi** under the chairpersonship of **Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**.

- The GST Council focused on **process reforms**, **registration**, **return filing**, **refunds**, **dispute resolution**, **Input Tax Credit (ITC)**, **ease of doing business**, and **GST rate clarifications**.
- The **56th GST Council Meeting** had focused on **Next-Gen GST reforms** and **rate rationalisation**, while the 57th meeting primarily focused on **process and compliance reforms**.

Reserve Bank of India's New Services Export Reporting Framework Raises Concerns Among Freelancers and Small Exporters

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced a new **foreign exchange reporting framework**, effective **1 October 2026**, to improve monitoring of India's **non-software services exports**.
- Under the new **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) Regulations**, **service exporters** must submit an **Export Declaration Form (EDF)** to their **Authorised Dealer (AD) bank**.
- **Software exporters** must submit the EDF through the **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)**.
- Exporters must file the EDF within **30 days** from the end of the **invoice month**.

Reserve Bank of India Enhances Account Aggregator Network Interoperability to Simplify Financial Data Sharing for Customers

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced **interoperability** among **Non-Banking Financial Companies–Account Aggregators (NBFC-AAs)** on **7 October 2026** to improve **customer convenience** and enable **seamless sharing of financial information**.
- **Account Aggregators (AAs)** are RBI-regulated entities that facilitate the **digital sharing** of customers' financial information between **Financial Information Providers (FIPs)** and **Financial Information Users (FIUs)** based on the customer's **consent**.
- **Interoperability** will allow customers to use any **NBFC-Account Aggregator** of their choice, even when their **bank or financial institution** is connected to a different aggregator, reducing **platform-related barriers**.

India's Merchandise Trade Deficit Falls to a Five-Month Low of USD 26.86 Billion in August 2026

- According to the **Department of Commerce**, **India's merchandise trade deficit** eased to a **five-month low** of **USD 26.86 billion** in **August 2026**, compared with **USD 27.22 billion** in **August 2025** and **USD 32 billion** in **July 2026**.
- **India's merchandise exports** rose **26% year-on-year (YoY)** to **USD 43.81 billion** in **August 2026**, recording their **fastest growth since June 2022**.
- **India's merchandise imports** increased **14% YoY** to **USD 70.67 billion** in **August 2026**.
- **India's services exports** were estimated at **USD 38.87 billion** in **August 2026**, registering nearly **25% YoY growth**.

India's Net Direct Tax Collection Rises 13% to ₹12.12 Lakh Crore Till 17 September 2026

- According to the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**, India's **net direct tax collection** increased by **13%** to over **₹12.12 lakh crore** between **1 April and 17 September 2026** in the current financial year.
- **Gross direct tax collection** grew by **15%** to over **₹14.32 lakh crore** during the same period.
- **Corporate tax collection** increased by **19.48%** to approximately **₹5.56 lakh crore** between **1 April and 17 September 2026**.
- **Non-corporate tax collection**, which includes taxes paid by **individuals** and **Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs)**, rose by **6%** to over **₹6.16 lakh crore** during the same period.

India's Current Account Deficit Widens to USD 7 Billion in July 2026, More Than Doubling Year-on-Year

- According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, India recorded a **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** of **USD 7 billion** in **July 2026**, compared with a deficit of **USD 3.2 billion** in **July 2025**, according to preliminary **Balance of Payments (BoP)** data.
- India's **Balance of Payments (BoP)** recorded a surplus of **USD 20.8 billion** in **July 2026**, compared with a surplus of **USD 0.3 billion** in **July 2025**.
- During **April–July FY2026–27 (FY27)**, India's **Current Account Deficit** widened to **USD 11.2 billion**, compared with **USD 6.6 billion** during the corresponding period of **FY26**.

- India's **merchandise trade deficit** widened to **USD 31.7 billion** in **July 2026**, compared with **USD 28.2 billion** in **July 2025**.

Airtel Money Makes London Stock Exchange Debut Through £529 Million Initial Public Offering

- **Airtel Money**, the **mobile payments and financial services** business of **Airtel Africa**, began trading on the **London Stock Exchange (LSE)** on **9 October 2026** through an **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**.
- **Airtel Mobile Commerce NV** is the company's formal name, and its shares trade under the ticker symbol **"AMC"**.
- The IPO raised approximately **£529 million (US$700 million)** by selling **270 million existing shares** at **£1.96 per share**.
- The IPO valued Airtel Money at approximately **£5.3 billion**.
- **Conditional trading** in Airtel Money shares began on **9 October 2026**, while **full trading** and **formal admission** were expected on **14 October 2026**.

National Payments Corporation of India Launches National Payments Corporation of India Banking, India's First Sovereign Compact AI Model for Retail Banking, at Global Fintech Festival 2026

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** unveiled the **Finance Model for India (FiMi) Banking**, India's first **sovereign compact model** designed for **Indian retail banking use cases**, at the **Global Fintech Festival (GFF) 2026**.
- **FiMi Banking** is a **sovereign compact AI model** designed to perform **complex, long-context tasks** within a bank's defined rules and infrastructure.
- The model is built on **Gemma**, Google's family of open AI models, and was further trained by **NPCI** using **Indian retail banking scenarios**.
- **NPCI** will collaborate with **HDFC Bank** to strengthen and jointly develop **FiMi Banking** by combining NPCI's technology and AI expertise with HDFC Bank's **banking-domain and AI expertise**.

Reserve Bank of India Opens Special Forex Window to Meet Daily Dollar Needs of State-Run Oil Companies

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** opened a **special foreign exchange (forex) window** to meet the entire daily US dollar requirements of three public sector **Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)** amid evolving forex market conditions.
- The three OMCs covered under the special forex facility are **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC)**, **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)**, and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**.
- The special forex facility became effective on **12 October 2026** and will remain in operation until further notice.

Reserve Bank of India Expands Benchmark Issuance Strategy Framework to Seven More States and Jammu and Kashmir, Covering 26 States and Union Territories

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** extended its **Benchmark Issuance Strategy (BIS)** framework to **seven additional states** and the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**, increasing the total coverage to **26 states and Union Territories**.
- The newly included states are **Assam, Goa, Haryana, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura**, along with the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The latest expansion of the **BIS framework** will take effect from the **October–December quarter of FY 2026–27 (Q3 FY27)**.
- The **Benchmark Issuance Strategy (BIS)** aims to **improve transparency** in state government borrowing and provide **greater clarity to investors** regarding the issuance of **State Development Loans (SDLs)**.

Ageas Federal Life Insurance Launches Aurum Advantage Plan, GIFT City's First Multi-Currency Unit-Linked Insurance Plan

- **Ageas Federal Life Insurance (AFLI)** launched the **Aurum Advantage Plan**, a **multi-currency Unit-Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP)**, at **GIFT City, Gujarat**.

- The **Aurum Advantage Plan** is the company's **first product** launched at GIFT City's **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**.
- The launch marks the commencement of **Ageas Federal Life Insurance's operations** at **GIFT City**.
- The plan allows customers to **invest in three currencies**: **US dollars (USD)**, **euros (EUR)**, and **British pounds (GBP)**, while also providing **life insurance coverage**.

Reserve Bank of India Records All-Time High Net Dollar Purchases of USD 18.65 Billion in July: Monthly Bulletin

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** recorded a record **net purchase of USD 18.65 billion in July 2026**, compared with **USD 561 million in June 2026**, according to its monthly bulletin.
- The **July 2026 net dollar purchase** surpassed the previous record of **USD 18.63 billion in June 2021**.
- During **July 2026**, the **RBI** purchased **USD 38.42 billion** and sold **USD 19.77 billion** in the foreign exchange market.
- The RBI's **concessional swap facility**, launched in **early June 2026**, attracted **USD 40.82 billion in inflows** by the end of July, mainly through **FCNR(B) deposits**, **external commercial borrowings (ECBs)**, and **overseas foreign currency borrowings**.

Reserve Bank of India Bulletin Projects Private Sector Capital Expenditure to Increase to ₹3.2 Trillion in FY27

- According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) September 2026 Bulletin**, **private-sector capital expenditure (capex)** is projected to rise to **₹3.2 trillion in FY2026–27 (FY27)**, compared with **₹2.6 trillion in FY2025–26 (FY26)**.
- The aggregate cost of **private-sector projects** reached a record **₹4.4 trillion in FY26**, compared with **₹3.7 trillion in FY25**, reflecting sustained private-sector investment confidence.
- The **infrastructure sector** remained the largest contributor to private-sector investment in FY26, accounting for **54.2%** of the total project cost.

- Within infrastructure, the **power sector** was the primary driver of investment, followed by **roads and bridges**.
- **Maharashtra** ranked first among Indian states in attracting capital expenditure projects in FY26, followed by **Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu**.

Reserve Bank of India Data Shows Non-Resident Indian Deposit Inflows Surge Over Sixfold to USD 36.2 Billion in April–July FY27

- According to **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** data, inflows into **Non-Resident Indian (NRI) deposit schemes** surged by **678.2% to USD 36.24 billion** during **April–July FY2026–27**, compared with **USD 4.66 billion** in the corresponding period of **FY2025–26**.
- The sharp increase in **NRI deposits** was primarily driven by strong inflows into **Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] deposits**.
- The **RBI** introduced a **concessional swap facility** in **June 2026**, which led to the mobilisation of **USD 133 billion** by **31 August 2026**.
- Total **outstanding NRI deposits** reached **USD 200.89 billion** at the end of **July 2026**, compared with **USD 167.86 billion in July 2025** and **USD 168.51 billion in June 2026**.

Reserve Bank of India Panel Recommends Higher Ways and Means Advances Limits for States and Calls for More Balanced Borrowing Throughout the Year

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** advisory committee has recommended increasing the aggregate **Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit** for state governments by **11.2% to ₹67,839 crore**, from the existing **₹61,008 crore**.
- The committee recommended that **WMA limits** be reviewed **annually** based on the latest **three years of accounts data**, with the annual increase generally **capped at 4%**; however, a revised limit should **not be lower than the existing limit**.
- **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** enable state governments to meet **temporary mismatches** between cash receipts and expenditure and **should not be used to finance budget deficits**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Clarifications on Novation Rules for Over-the-Counter Derivative Contracts

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** clarified its directions on the **novation of Over-the-Counter (OTC) derivative contracts** following feedback on its draft directions.
- The **Mark-to-Market (MTM) value** of an OTC derivative contract must be **exchanged upfront** between the transferor and transferee when the contract is novated.
- The directions apply to **novations undertaken after the date of issuance**, covering both **existing outstanding contracts** and **contracts entered into subsequently**.
- **Novation undertaken by a Central Counterparty (CCP)** for settlement purposes is **excluded from the directions**; however, any subsequent novation of a contract already accepted for settlement by a CCP must comply with the revised directions.

Securities Appellate Tribunal Closes Appeals Filed by Five Foreign Portfolio Investors Named in the Hindenburg Report

- The **Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)** disposed of appeals filed by five **foreign portfolio investors (FPIs)** named in the **Hindenburg Research report** concerning the **Adani Group**.
- The appeals were disposed of after the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** agreed to share the **file, nothing** prepared by the adjudicating officer.
- The five FPIs were **LTS Investment Fund**, **Asia Investment Corporation Mauritius**, **APMS Investment Fund**, **Albula Investment Fund**, and **Cresta Fund**.
- The FPIs referred to **Rule 4(3)** of the **SEBI (Procedure for Holding Inquiry and Imposing Penalties) Rules, 1995**, in their appeals.

Reserve Bank of India Raises Minimum Daily Cash Reserve Ratio Maintenance Requirement for Banks from 90% to 99% Effective 16 October 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** increased the minimum daily **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** maintenance requirement for scheduled banks from **90% to 99%**, effective from the reporting fortnight beginning **16 October 2026**.

- The decision was announced through an RBI notification following a review of prevailing **liquidity conditions**.
- **CRR** is the percentage of a bank's **Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL)** that it must maintain as cash with the RBI.
- The prescribed CRR rate remains unchanged at **3%**, and banks must continue to meet the full CRR requirement on an average daily basis over the reporting fortnight.

International Monetary Fund's October 2026 World Economic Outlook Projects India's Gross Domestic Product Growth at 7% for FY 2026–27

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** released its **October 2026 World Economic Outlook (WEO)** titled **"Resilience Under Strain, Urgent Choices."**
- The IMF raised **India's** Gross Domestic Product (GDP) **growth forecast for FY 2026–27 (FY27)** to **7%**, up from **6.4%** projected in its July 2026 WEO update, marking an increase of **60 basis points (bps)**.
- The IMF raised **India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2027–28 (FY28)** to **7%**, up from its previous estimate of **6.7%**, an increase of **30 basis points (bps)**.
- **India's GDP growth for FY 2025–26 (FY26)** was estimated at **7.8%**, reflecting stronger-than-expected economic performance.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Forecasts India's Economic Growth at 7.3% in 2026, Leading Major Economies

- The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** released the **Trade and Development Report 2026**, titled **"The Geoeconomics of Development."**
- According to the report, **India's economy** is projected to grow by **7.3% in 2026**.
- The report projected **global economic growth** at **2.6% in 2026**, down from **2.9% in 2025**.
- **Developing economies** are projected to grow by **4% in 2026**, compared with **4.7% in 2025**.

World Trade Organization Raises Global Merchandise Trade Growth Forecast for 2026 to 3.9%

- The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** raised its forecast for **global merchandise trade volume growth in 2026** to **3.9%**, up from **1.9%** projected in its March outlook.
- The WTO projected **global merchandise trade growth** of **4.1% in 2027**.

- **Global merchandise trade** grew by **3.5%** in the **first half of 2026**, despite the West Asia conflict.

About WTO :

- The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** is the principal international organization responsible for regulating and facilitating international trade between nations.
- The WTO was established on **1 January 1995**, following the **1994 Marrakesh Agreement**, and is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** is the **Director-General** of the WTO.

Government Approves Strategic Disinvestment and Restructuring of IDBI Bank Limited

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved the strategic disinvestment of **IDBI Bank Limited** on **14 October 2026**, selecting **M/s 10955230 Canada Inc.**, whose parent entity is **Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd.**, as the strategic buyer.
- The transaction involves the sale of **60.72% equity stake** in IDBI Bank, comprising **30.48%** held by the **Government of India (GoI)** and **30.24%** held by **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**.
- The approved purchase consideration for the **60.72% stake** is **₹52,878.08 crore**.

Rising Food and Fuel Prices Drive Wholesale Inflation to a Record 11.4% in September 2026

- **India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation** rose to a series-high of **11.39% in September 2026**, compared with **9.92% in August 2026**, driven by rising prices of **food articles, manufactured products, and fuel and power**.
- The WPI base year is **2022–23**, and the new series provides data from **April 2024**; under the older series with the **2011–12 base year**, September 2026 inflation was reported as a **49-month high**.
- The **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** increased to **112.5 in September 2026** from **110.8 in August 2026**.
- The next release of **WPI, Output PPI and trial Input PPI data** for **October 2026** is scheduled for **16 November 2026** by the **Government of India**.

Reserve Bank of India Introduces Strict Forex Measures to Support the Rupee and Curb

Speculation

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced stricter **foreign exchange (forex) derivative regulations** on **10 October 2026** to curb excessive speculation, prevent duplicate hedging and ensure orderly functioning of the forex market amid pressure on the **Indian rupee**.
- The RBI prohibited **Authorised Dealer (AD) banks** from allowing users to **rebook cancelled forex derivative contracts** involving the Indian rupee after the issuance of the directions.
- The RBI reduced the threshold for undertaking forex derivative transactions without establishing underlying exposure from **USD 100 million to USD 5 million** across all Authorised Dealers.
- The RBI opened a **special US dollar supply window** to meet the entire daily dollar requirements of three public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs): **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)**, **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL)** and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL)**.

Life Insurance Corporation of India Introduces Three New Insurance Plans Covering Retirement Income, Health Protection and Cancer Risks

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** launched three new insurance plans: **New Jeevan Dhara-II (Plan 892)**, **Health Shield (Plan 907)**, and **New Cancer Cover (Plan 908)**.
- The three plans were launched by **R. Doraiswamy**, **CEO and Managing Director of LIC**, and will be available for purchase from **19 October 2026**.
- All three plans are **non-participating, non-linked and individual insurance plans**, designed to provide retirement income, health protection and financial support against cancer-related risks.

About LIC :

- Established : 1 September 1956
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : R. Doraiswamy

Karnataka Bank Introduces Trade Konnect Digital Platform for Foreign Exchange and Cross-Border Remittance Services

- **Karnataka Bank Limited** launched **Trade Konnect**, a digital platform that enables customers to submit import, export and outward cross-border remittance requests online without visiting a physical bank branch.
- **Raghavendra S. Bhat**, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Karnataka Bank, formally inaugurated the **Trade Konnect** platform.
- **Trade Konnect** was developed in partnership with **Kyzer Software (India) Private Limited**, which provided technology support for the platform.

About Karnataka Bank:

- **Founded**: 1924
- **Headquarters**: Mangaluru, Karnataka, India
- **Managing Director & CEO**: Raghavendra Srinivas Bhat
- **Tagline**: "Your Family Bank, Across India"

Fitch's Business Monitor International Revises India's Financial Year 2026–27 gross domestic product Growth Forecast Upward to 7.5%

- **Business Monitor International (BMI)**, a unit of **Fitch Solutions**, raised **India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for FY 2026–27 (FY27)** to **7.5%** from its earlier estimate of **6.8%**.
- BMI lowered **India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2027–28 (FY28)** to **6.3%** from **6.5%**, citing concerns over household consumption and external economic risks.
- **India's GDP** grew by **7.8% in Q1 FY27** (April–June 2026), while BMI's GDP tracker indicated approximately **8.3% growth in Q2 FY27** (July–September 2026).

Karur Vysya Bank Partners with Zurich Kotak General Insurance to Distribute General Insurance Products

- **Karur Vysya Bank (KVB)** entered into an agreement with **Zurich Kotak General Insurance Company (India)** to distribute general insurance products through the bank's existing banking channels.
- The agreement was disclosed on **12 October 2026** under **Regulation 30** of the **SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015**.

- The partnership aims to expand customer access to non-life insurance solutions and strengthen the bank's **bancassurance activities**.

About Karur Vysya Bank:

- Founded: 1916
- Headquarters: Karur, Tamil Nadu, India
- Managing Director & CEO: B. Ramesh Babu
- Tagline: "Smart Way to Bank"

About Zurich Kotak General Insurance Company :

- It is a **70:30 joint venture** between **Zurich Insurance Group** and **Kotak Mahindra Bank**.
- The company was renamed **Zurich Kotak General Insurance** in **August 2024**, following Zurich Insurance Group's acquisition of a **70% stake** in the company.

Securities Transaction Tax Revenue Rises 53% to ₹40,214 Crore in FY27 Following Tax Rate Increase

- **Securities Transaction Tax (STT)** collections rose by nearly **53%** to **₹40,214.36 crore** in **FY 2026–27** up to **17 September 2026**, compared with **₹26,305.72 crore** during the corresponding period of the previous year.
- The increase in **STT collections** followed a hike in **STT rates** effective from **1 April 2026**, announced in the **Union Budget 2026–27**.
- **STT on futures** increased from **0.02% to 0.05%** of the traded value.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Introduces Common Advertisement Code for Celebrity Brand Endorsements and Extends IPO Issue-Size Revision Deadline to March 2027

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** notified a **Common Advertisement Code (CAC)** for market intermediaries through amendments to the **SEBI (Intermediaries) Regulations, 2008**.
- The new **Common Advertisement Code (CAC)** will come into force **180 days** after the official notification, on **8 April 2027**.
- The **CAC** allows regulated market intermediaries to engage **celebrities** for **brand-level or entity-level promotion**, while **prohibiting endorsements** of specific financial products or services.

- The **CAC** applies to regulated entities, including **stock brokers, depository participants, investment advisers, research analysts, online bond platform providers, portfolio managers, Mutual Funds (MFs), and Asset Management Companies (AMCs)**.

Reserve Bank of India Approves NovaFusion Capital to Commence Non-Banking Financial Company Operations

- **Astranova Mobility** announced on **14 October 2026** that its lending subsidiary, **NovaFusion Capital**, received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**.
- **NovaFusion Capital** received **RBI approval** within **90 days**, enabling it to establish a dedicated lending platform focused on **electric mobility** and **climate-positive assets**.
- **NovaFusion Capital** aims to achieve **₹5,000 crore in Assets Under Management (AUM)** over **five years**, primarily by financing **commercial electric vehicles (EVs)** and other **climate-positive assets**.

NSE International Exchange and London Stock Exchange Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Explore Cross-Border Listings and Market Connectivity

- **NSE International Exchange (NSE IX)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **London Stock Exchange plc (LSE)** to strengthen capital market cooperation between **India** and the **United Kingdom (UK)**.
- The **MoU** aims to explore **cross-border listings**, **trading connectivity** and **new financial products** between the Indian and UK capital markets.
- The proposed collaboration includes **dual listings and cross-listings** of **equities**, **fixed-income securities** and **Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs)**.
- **FTSE Russell** is a wholly owned subsidiary of the **London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)**.

About NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) :

- Established in **June 2017** and was formerly known as **NSE IFSC Limited**.
- **NSE IX** is a wholly owned subsidiary of the **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)**.
- **H**eadquarters : **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**, **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Introduces Two Credit Risk Insurance Schemes to Strengthen India's Shipbuilding Sector

- **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal**, **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)**, launched two specialised credit risk insurance products: **Shipbuilding Project Credit Risk Insurance Policy (SbPCP)** and **Business Credit Shield Policy – Shipbuilders (BCSPS)**.
- The policies were launched under the **Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS)** at the **21st Maritime State Development Council (MSDC)** meeting held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **SbPCP**, developed by **Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited (ECGC)**, covers **export shipbuilding projects** against specified **credit and payment risks**.

ReNew Obtains USD 100 Million Financing from Dutch Development Bank FMO for Clean Energy Projects

- **ReNew Energy Global plc**, one of India's leading decarbonisation solutions companies, secured a **USD 100 million (approximately ₹955 crore)** debt financing facility from the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank **FMO** (Nederlandse Financierings-Maatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden) to support renewable energy projects under construction.
- The financing facility was extended to **ReNew Solar Power Private Limited** under the **Voluntary Retention Route (VRR)**.
- The facility has a **10-year tenure**, and its rupee-denominated proceeds will be used to finance **renewable energy projects under construction** across the ReNew Group.

Five States Granted Permanent Membership in Newly Formed Goods and Services Tax Standing Committee

- The **Government of India (GoI)** announced the formation of a new **Standing Committee** under the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** framework to strengthen **tax administration** and expand the **taxpayer base**.
- **Karnataka**, **Maharashtra**, **Uttar Pradesh (UP)**, **Gujarat**, and **Tamil Nadu (TN)** will be the **five permanent members** of the new **GST Standing Committee**.
- The committee will comprise **12 states**: **five large**, **four medium**, and **three small states**.

- The committee will have **five non-rotating members** and **seven rotational positions**, with the **rotational members changing every two years**.

About GST :

- **GST** is an **indirect, destination-based tax** levied on the **supply of goods and services** in **India**.
- **GST** was introduced in **India** on **1 July 2017** under the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016**.

Next-Generation Goods and Services Tax Reforms Aim to Simplify and Streamline Tax Processes

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** was introduced in **India** on **1 July 2017**, bringing several **Central and State taxes** under a common framework and advancing the principle of **"One Nation, One Tax."**
- The **57th GST Council meeting**, held in **October 2026**, recommended reforms to make **GST simpler, faster, and more taxpayer-friendly**.
- The **next-generation GST rate structure** includes **5% and 18% standard rates**, along with a **special 40% rate** for selected goods and services.

HSBC India Announces ₹200 Crore Financial Literacy Programme to Empower Communities Across India by 2030

- **HSBC India** (**Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, India**) announced a **₹200 crore philanthropic programme** for **2026–2030** to **strengthen financial literacy** across **India**.
- The **four-year flagship programme** focuses on **underserved communities** and **first-time users** of **formal financial services**.
- The programme will be **implemented nationwide** through **partnerships** with **non-profit organisations**, **academic institutions** and **research organisations**.
- The initiative aims to promote **digital financial safety**, **fraud prevention**, **informed financial decision-making** and **livelihood resilience**.

About HSBC India :

- Established : **1853**
- Headquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- CEO : **Hitendra Dave**
- **HSBC India** is a **subsidiary** of **HSBC Holdings plc** and is regulated by the **Reserve Bank of India** (**RBI**).

World Bank Targets $19 Billion in Critical Minerals Financing from 2026 to 2030

- The **World Bank Group** plans to increase its financial support for **critical minerals fivefold**, targeting **USD 19 billion** in financing between **2026 and 2030**.
- The announcement was made by **World Bank Group President Ajay Banga** on **16 October 2026** during the **Annual Meetings** of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the **World Bank Group** in **Bangkok, Thailand**.
- The **World Bank Group** has identified **20 countries** as potential partners for developing their **critical minerals sectors**.

Karnataka Bank Introduces Nine New Banking Solutions Under Nava Dhamaka 2026 to Improve Customer Experience

- **Karnataka Bank Limited** (**KBL**) launched **"Nava Dhamaka 2026 – Enhancing Banking Experience"** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**, introducing **nine banking solutions** across **investments**, **digital banking**, **payments**, **customer engagement** and **lending**.
- The **launch programme** was held at the bank's **Bull Temple Road Office** in **Bengaluru** to **improve customer convenience**, **digital payments**, **service delivery** and **technology-driven entrepreneurship**.
- An **integrated online trading and wealth management platform** combines **demat accounts**, **brokerage facilities** and **wealth management services**.
- The bank introduced an **upgraded Retail Internet Banking platform** with an **enhanced user interface** (**UI**) and **user experience** (**UX**).

State Bank of India Secures Global Finance's World's Best Consumer Bank Award for the Second Year in a Row

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** won Global Finance magazine's **World's Best Consumer Bank 2026** award for the second consecutive year and the **Best Bank in India 2026** award.
- The awards recognised SBI's **customer-centric banking approach**, **digital innovation**, **service excellence**, and **commitment to financial inclusion**.
- The awards were presented at the **World's Best Bank Awards Ceremony**, held alongside the **International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meeting 2026** in **Bangkok, Thailand**.

About SBI :

- **H**eadquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra**, and is India's **largest public sector bank** by assets and deposits.
- SBI traces its origins to the **Bank of Calcutta (1806)**, which later became part of the **Imperial Bank of India (1921)** before SBI was established on **1 July 1955**.

ICICI Life Insurance Introduces New Brand Identity and 'Har Kal Aasaan' Tagline to Simplify Insurance for Indians

- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited**, now known as **ICICI Life Insurance Limited**, introduced its new brand identity and tagline, **'Har Kal Aasaan'**, to make life insurance simpler and more accessible to Indian customers.
- The new tagline **'Har Kal Aasaan'** reflects the company's commitment to simplifying life insurance and long-term financial planning.
- The brand repositioning focuses on **transparency**, **flexibility**, **convenience**, **informed financial decisions**, and **easier access to life insurance**.

About ICICI Life Insurance Limited :

- Established : **2000**
- Headquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **MD & CEO : Siddhartha Mishra**

Asian Development Bank and Japan Finance Large-Scale Renewable-Powered Green Ammonia Plant in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh

- The **Asian Development Bank** (**ADB**) and the **Government of Japan** signed financing agreements with **AM Green Ammonia (India) Private Limited**, a **Hyderabad-based company**

established by the founders of **Greenko Group**, to develop a large **renewable-powered green ammonia plant** in **Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh**.

- The project includes a **USD 100 million loan** from the **Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund 2** (**LEAP 2**), financed by the **Japan International Cooperation Agency** (**JICA**) and administered by the **Asian Development Bank** (**ADB**).
- The project marks the **first investment** under the **Action for Creating Energy Security for Long-term Resilience** (**ACCEL**) initiative, launched by **ADB** and **Japan** in **May 2026**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Revises Equity Cash Market Closing Auction Session Framework from December 7, 2026

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** revised the **Closing Auction Session (CAS)** framework to improve **transparency, price discovery** and **orderly market closing**.
- The revised framework will come into effect on **7 December 2026**, except for provisions concerning the transition of unexecuted limit and iceberg orders, which will take effect on **8 February 2027**.
- The **Closing Auction Session (CAS)** will operate for **10 minutes, from 3:30 PM to 3:40 PM** on all trading days, replacing the existing session from **3:15 PM to 3:35 PM**.
- The new CAS will have three phases: **Phase 1 (3:30–3:31 PM)** for reference-price calculation and order transition; **Phase 2 (3:31–3:36 PM)** for placing market and limit orders; and **Phase 3 (3:36–3:40 PM)** for placing only limit orders.

Canara HSBC Life Insurance Introduces USD-Based Global Wealth Plan via GIFT City

- **Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited** launched the **Global Wealth Plan**, a **USD-denominated**, unit-linked, non-participating life insurance-cum-savings plan through **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gujarat**.
- The plan targets **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** by offering global investment opportunities and life insurance protection with investments and benefits denominated in **US dollars (USD)**, subject to policy terms and conditions.

About Canara HSBC Life Insurance :

- Headquarters : **Gurugram, Haryana**.
- MD & CEO : **Anuj Dayal Mathur**
- The company is jointly promoted by **Canara Bank**, **HSBC Insurance (Asia-Pacific) Holdings** and **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**.
- As of **September 2026**, Canara HSBC Life Insurance operated **107 branches** across India.

Japan Becomes India's Largest Foreign Direct Investment Source in Q1 FY27 with $5.71 Billion Inflows

- **Japan** emerged as the **largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** into **India** during **Q1 FY 2026–27 (April–June 2026)**, with inflows of **US$5.71 billion**.
- Japanese investments accounted for nearly **29% of India's total equity FDI inflows** of **US$19.81 billion** during the **first quarter of FY 2026–27**.
- **Japan's FDI inflows** into India during **April–June 2026** reached **US$5.71 billion**, exceeding the **US$3.74 billion** received from Japan during the **entire FY 2025–26**, as reported in the supplied information.
- **Singapore** ranked **second** among the sources of FDI into India during **Q1 FY 2026–27**, with inflows of **US$5.22 billion**.
- **Mauritius** ranked **third** with **US$2.40 billion**, followed by the **Netherlands** with **US$1.38 billion** and the **United States** with **US$1.35 billion**.

1 Finance Secures Securities and Exchange Board of India's In-Principle Approval to Launch an Mutual Funds Lite Asset Management Company

- **1 Finance Private Limited**, an advisory and wealth-tech firm, received **in-principle approval** from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to establish an **Asset Management Company (AMC)** under the **Mutual Funds Lite (MF Lite) framework**.
- With this approval, **1 Finance** could become the **first AMC** to operate under the **MF Lite framework**, subject to obtaining **SEBI's final registration** and fulfilling regulatory and operational requirements.
- **SEBI** introduced the **MF Lite framework** on **31 December 2024** to reduce regulatory and compliance requirements for mutual fund houses offering eligible passive investment schemes.

Traders Call Off October 2 'No UPI Day' Protest After Meeting Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

- The **All India Consumer Products Federation** and the **All India Mobile Retailers Association** withdrew their proposed **'No UPI Day' protest** following a meeting with Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** in **New Delhi**.
- The meeting was attended by around **20 senior trade leaders**, led by **Praveen Khandelwal**, BJP MP and Secretary General of the **Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT)**.
- The proposed **'No UPI Day'** was planned for **2 October (Gandhi Jayanti)** to protest the proposed **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) of 0.4%** on **UPI merchant transactions above ₹2,000**, scheduled to take effect from **15 October**.

India and New Zealand Sign Memorandum of Cooperation on Electronic Origin Data Exchange to Boost Bilateral Trade Under Free Trade Agreement

- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**, India, and the **New Zealand Customs Service (NZCS)** signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** on the **electronic exchange of origin data** for trade in goods.
- The MoC was signed on **19 October 2026** by **Vivek Chaturvedi**, Chairman of CBIC, and **Christine Stevenson**, Comptroller and Chief Executive of the New Zealand Customs Service.
- The agreement was signed in connection with the **India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, which came into force on **20 October 2026**.
- The MoC aims to strengthen **customs cooperation** and facilitate **bilateral trade** between India and New Zealand through **digitalisation** and improved **information exchange**.

World Bank Group Unveils Its First Digital Strategy to Boost Internet Access, Employment and Artificial Intelligence Readiness

- The **World Bank Group (WBG)** launched its first comprehensive **Digital Strategy** at the inaugural **Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Summit 2026** held in **Seoul, South Korea**, to expand digital connectivity, create jobs, and strengthen AI readiness in developing countries.

- The strategy aims to benefit **1 billion people** by **2030** by expanding access to digital technologies and improving digital infrastructure in developing countries.
- The **WBG Digital Strategy** focuses on **four key priorities**: expanding internet connectivity, reducing the cost of digital access, strengthening digital services and skills, and enhancing AI readiness.

About World Bank:

- The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low and middle-income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects.
- The World Bank consists of 5 institutions: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), The International Development Association (IDA), The International Finance Corporation (IFC), The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).
- Founded Year: 1944
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- President: Ajay Banga
- Members:189 countries

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Introduces National Pension System Central Digital Platform to Streamline Subscriber Login and Pension Account Management

- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** launched **NPS Central**, a unified digital platform for **National Pension System (NPS)** subscribers, on **NPS Diwas**, **1 October 2026**.
- The official website of the **NPS Central** platform is **npscentral.in**.
- **NPS Central** aims to simplify and streamline **NPS enrollment, investments, and pension account management** through a single digital platform.
- The platform was jointly developed and is managed by **three Central Recordkeeping Agencies (CRAs)**: **Protean eGov Technologies**, **KFin Technologies Limited**, and **Computer Age Management Services Limited (CAMS)**.

About PFRDA:

- Established: 2003 (Statutory status from PFRDA Act, 2013)

- Under which Ministry: Ministry of Finance, Government of India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairman: Sivasubramanian Ramann
- Purpose: To promote, develop, and regulate the pension sector in India, especially the National Pension System (NPS) and other old-age income security schemes.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's Proposed Commission Caps Could Reduce Insurance Fee Income of Banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has proposed **insurance commission caps** that could reduce the **insurance fee income** of banks and **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**.
- The proposed reforms include **reducing commissions** on **credit life insurance** and **short-tenure savings products** and **banning compulsory bundling** of insurance with loans.
- Among NBFCs, **L&T Finance** is the most exposed to the proposed changes, followed by **Piramal Enterprises** and **Cholamandalam Investment and Finance**.

National Stock Exchange of India Shares to Trade on Metropolitan Stock Exchange Alongside Bombay Stock Exchange

- The shares of the **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** will be available for trading on the **Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India (MSE)** under the **'Permitted to Trade'** category from **24 September**.
- **NSE** has designated the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** as its **designated stock exchange**, while other exchanges are also permitted to allow trading in NSE shares.

Bank of Baroda Launches 'bob Cyber Veeru' Mascot to Promote Cybersecurity Awareness and Safe Digital Banking

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** launched **'bob Cyber Veeru'**, a cybersecurity mascot, in **October 2026** during **National Cybersecurity Awareness Month** to promote safe digital banking and prevent online fraud.
- The initiative aims to help customers **identify, prevent, and report digital fraud** and adopt safe and responsible **digital banking practices**.

- **bob Cyber Veeru** educates customers about common cyber threats, including **phishing and fake links**, **fraudulent KYC update requests**, **fake customer care calls**, **QR code and UPI-related scams**, and **screen-sharing fraud**.

AU Small Finance Bank Teams Up with Paytm to Introduce India's First RuPay Credit Card Offering Family Lounge Access

- **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB)** partnered with **Paytm (One 97 Communications Ltd.)** to launch the **Paytm AU SFB Credit Card**, described as India's first **Family Lounge Access RuPay Credit Card**.
- The credit card offers rewards on **digital payments** and **complimentary airport lounge access** for families.
- The **Paytm AU SFB Credit Card** is a **lifetime-free credit card** with **no joining fees** and **no annual fees**.

About AU Small Finance Bank :

- Headquarters : **Jaipur, Rajasthan**, and commenced operations as a **Small Finance Bank (SFB)** in **2017**.
- **MD & CEO : Sanjay Agarwal**

Bank of Baroda Introduces Festive Campaign 'Bob Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang – Shubh bhi, Labh bhi'

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** launched its festive campaign **"bob Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang – Shubh bhi, Labh bhi"**, offering benefits on **home loans**, **car loans**, **MSME financing**, **savings products**, and **debit card spending**.
- Under the campaign, **BoB home loans** start at an interest rate of **7.40% per annum**, with **quick sanctions**, **minimal documentation**, and a **100% processing fee waiver**.
- The **bob Swabhoomi Loan** offers financing for **plot purchases**, with **lower margin requirements**, **longer repayment tenures**, and **zero processing fees**.

Department of Financial Services Initiates Nationwide Financial Inclusion Drive Across 2.70 Lakh Gram Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** launched a nationwide **Financial Inclusion (FI) Saturation Campaign** from **21 October to 31 December 2026**.
- The campaign covers approximately **2.70 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs)** and **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** across India.
- The campaign aims to expand access to **formal banking services**, **social security schemes**, **insurance**, **pension facilities**, and **financial literacy** at the grassroots level.

Reserve Bank of India Directs Banks to Maintain 20% Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve in Addition to Mandatory Cash Reserve Ratio Balance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** clarified that banks must maintain a **Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve (FERR)** equal to **20%** of the rupee value of eligible foreign exchange derivative contracts in their **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** accounts, over and above the mandatory CRR balance.
- The **FERR requirement** applies to specified rupee-linked foreign exchange derivative contracts used to hedge current account transactions when the notional value exceeds **US$2 million**.
- The reserve requirement also covers eligible foreign exchange derivative contracts undertaken by banks to hedge **currency risks** on their own assets and liabilities.

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Chairs 30th Financial Stability and Development Council Meeting in New Delhi

- The **Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs**, **Nirmala Sitharaman**, chaired the **30th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** in **New Delhi**.
- The FSDC deliberated on **macroeconomic and financial stability** and India's preparedness to address **emerging domestic and global financial risks**.
- The Council discussed measures to promote **innovation in the fintech sector**, encourage **digital modernisation**, and explore the potential of **tokenisation of financial assets** and other **real-world assets**.

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Centre for Development of Advanced Computing and Bank of India Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Quantum Innovation and Emerging Banking Technologies

- The **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** and **Bank of India (BOI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on **22 October 2026** to collaborate on **quantum financial innovation** and the adoption of **emerging technologies in banking**.
- **C-DAC** is an **autonomous scientific society** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, Government of India.
- The MoU establishes a framework for **joint research**, **development**, **pilot implementations**, **technology demonstrations** and **capacity-building initiatives** for the **banking and financial services sector**.

India's Core Industrial Growth Reaches a Record 7.9% in September 2026

- India's **core industrial growth** accelerated to **7.9%** in **September 2026**, marking the highest growth in the new data series since **April 2024**, driven by improved performance in the **coal**, **refinery products** and **iron ore** sectors.
- According to the latest **Index of Core Industries (ICI)** data, **September 2026** recorded the highest core industrial growth in nearly **three years** when compared with the older data series.
- The **coal sector** recorded growth of **10.7%** in **September 2026**, reaching a **13-month high**, compared with a contraction of **1.1%** in **September 2025**.
- The **refinery products sector** recorded growth of **10.3%** in **September 2026**, up from **5.6%** in **August 2026**; however, its average growth during the first half of **FY 2026–27** remained at only **1%**.

BSE and MMTC-PAMP Join Hands to Expand India's Electronic Gold Receipts Market

- **BSE Limited**, formerly known as the **Bombay Stock Exchange**, signed an agreement with **MMTC-PAMP India Private Limited** to jointly develop and expand India's **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR)** market.
- The partnership aims to increase **market participation**, improve **price transparency**, enhance **liquidity**, and enable seamless conversion between **physical gold** and **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)**, subject to regulatory requirements.

Food, Fuel and Precious Metals Push India's September Retail Inflation to a 23-Month High of 5.5%

- **Retail inflation** in India rose to a nearly **two-year high of 5.5%** in **September 2026**, compared with **4.8%** in **August 2026**, according to official data released on **12 October 2026**.
- Retail inflation is measured by the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, and the **September 2026** rate was the highest since **October 2024**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has an upper comfort limit of **6%** for retail inflation.

Reserve Bank of India Fixes Final Redemption Price of Sovereign Gold Bonds 2018–19 Series II at ₹14,425 per Gram

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** fixed the final redemption price of **Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) 2018–19 Series II** at **₹14,425 per gram**, with maturity on **23 October 2026**.
- The SGB 2018–19 Series II bonds were issued on **23 October 2018** under the Government of India's Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme and completed their **eight-year maturity period** in October 2026.
- The final redemption price is calculated using the **simple average of the closing prices** of **999-purity gold** for the **three preceding business days**, as published by the **India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd. (IBJA)**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Opens Reserve Bank of India's ₹169-Crore Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Odisha

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) ₹169-crore data centre** and **Cybersecurity Training Institute** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, on **25 October 2026**.
- The facility is spread across **18.55 acres** at **Info Valley-II in Jatni, Odisha**, and its foundation stone was laid by then RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** on **22 March 2023**.
- The **Jatni data centre** will be the RBI's **second data centre** of this kind, following the existing facility in **Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

PhonePe and Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council Partner to Strengthen Regulatory Compliance and Grievance Redressal in India's Over-the-Top Sector

- **PhonePe** and the **Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council (DPCGC)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to promote **regulatory compliance** and **grievance redressal** in India's **Over-the-Top (OTT)** sector.
- **DPCGC** is a **Level II Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO)** established under the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**, and is registered with the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)**.

National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange Introduces NDEX and FINNDEX Indices, Expanding into Equity Markets

- **National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)** launched two rule-based equity indices, **NDEX** and **FINNDEX**, on **22 October 2026**, marking its entry into the **equity and equity derivatives markets**.
- **NDEX** comprises **20 large and liquid Indian equities** selected from the **top 60 NSE-listed companies**.
- **FINNDEX** tracks **15 financial-sector stocks**, excluding insurance companies, selected from the **top 40 eligible companies**.
- The indices use a multi-factor selection and weighting methodology comprising **free-float market capitalisation (30%)**, **average daily traded value (30%)**, **beta (20%)** and **volatility (20%)**.

India's First Maritime Non-Banking Financial Company,Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited, Disburses ₹5,107 Crore and Targets ₹60,205 Crore by FY 2030–31

- **Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated the corporate office of **Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL)** on **23 October 2026** at the **Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi**.
- **Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL)** is India's **first dedicated Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** for the **maritime sector**.

State Bank of India Launches CyRIS Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence in Mumbai to Tackle Emerging Digital Threats

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** inaugurated **CyRIS (Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence)** in **Mumbai** on **26 October 2026** to strengthen **cybersecurity capabilities** and address **emerging digital threats**.
- The centre was inaugurated by **Sanjay Lohiya**, Secretary of the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, in the presence of **SBI Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty**.
- **CyRIS** aims to strengthen **digital banking security**, **fraud prevention** and **cyber resilience** across the **Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI)** ecosystem

PhonePe Introduces Tatkal NPS to Enable Pension Account Opening with a Minimum ₹250 Contribution

- **PhonePe**, a **Walmart-owned fintech company**, launched **'Tatkal NPS'**, a digital facility that enables users to open a **National Pension System (NPS)** account with a **minimum initial contribution of ₹250**.
- **Tatkal NPS** is an initiative developed by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** to simplify digital access to retirement savings.
- The service enables users to open an NPS account through a **fully digital and paperless process**, eliminating the need to upload fresh documents or complete a separate **KYC process**.

International Financial Services Centres Authority Grants Final Payment Service Provider Authorisation to Skydo at GIFT City, Gujarat

- **Skydo**, a cross-border payments platform serving Indian businesses, received final authorisation from the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** to operate as a **Payment Service Provider (PSP)** at **GIFT City, Gujarat**.
- The final authorisation followed the in-principle approval granted in **May 2026**, allowing Skydo to develop **cross-border payment products** from the **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)** at GIFT City.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Allows Early Pay-in Shares to Be Used for Margin Requirements on Subsequent Trades

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** introduced a **real-time margin waiver framework** allowing clients to use the value of shares delivered through **Early Pay-in (EPI)** towards **margin requirements** for subsequent buy and sell positions in the **cash market**.
- The revised framework will come into effect on **22 February 2027**, four months after the issuance of the circular.
- **Early Pay-in (EPI)** refers to the delivery of securities to the **Clearing Corporation (CC)** before the prescribed settlement deadline.

Finance Ministry Sets 1 November 2026 for Goods and Services Tax Amendments on Post-Supply Discounts and Refunds

- The **Ministry of Finance** has notified **1 November 2026** as the effective date for amendments under the **Finance Act, 2026**, relating to **post-supply discounts**, **provisional GST refunds** under the **Inverted Duty Structure (IDS)**, and **export refunds**.
- The amendments were announced in the **Union Budget 2026–27**, passed under the **Finance Act, 2026**, and approved by the **GST Council**.
- The amendments aim to **simplify GST compliance**, **provide relief to businesses**, **accelerate refunds** and **improve working capital availability**.

PB Money Receives Securities and Exchange Board of India Approval as an Online Bond Platform Provider to Boost Retail Bond Investments

- **PB Money** has received an **Online Bond Platform Provider (OBPP)** licence from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to simplify bond investments and expand access to **fixed-income products** for retail investors.
- The **OBPP licence** enables PB Money to manage the **end-to-end bond investment process**, including **investor onboarding**, **Know Your Customer (KYC) verification**, **bond discovery**, **evaluation**, **order placement**, **payment coordination** and **post-investment services**.

About PB Money :

- Incorporated : **2008**
- Headquarters : **Gurugram, Haryana**.
- CEO : **Vishwajeet Goel**

- PB Money is operated by **PB Marketing and Consulting Private Limited**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **PB Fintech Limited**.

India's Soybean Imports Surge to an All-Time High of 1.1 Million Tonnes in 2025–26

- India's **soybean imports** reached a record **1.1 million metric tonnes** in the **2025/26 marketing year**, compared with approximately **2,000 tonnes** in the previous year.
- The sharp increase in imports was driven by a **rally in domestic soybean prices**, which encouraged **Indian mills** to increase **overseas purchases**.
- The **Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA)** provided data on India's soybean imports.

Securities and Exchange Board of India and Bank of England Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Regulatory Cooperation and Information Sharing on Clearing Corporations

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** and the **Bank of England (BoE)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **regulatory cooperation** and **information exchange** concerning **SEBI-recognised Clearing Corporations**.
- The agreement establishes a **framework for cooperation** between the two authorities on matters relating to **Central Counterparties (CCPs)**, in accordance with their respective **laws and regulations**.
- The MoU enables the **Bank of England** to rely on **SEBI's regulatory and supervisory activities** while safeguarding the **financial stability of the United Kingdom**.
- In India, Clearing Corporations (CCs) are regulated by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 (SCRA), and SEBI (Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations) Regulations, 2018.**
- Clearing Corporations (CCs) in India act as **Central Counterparties (CCPs)** to guarantee trade settlement, eliminate counterparty risk, and enforce robust risk management across the capital markets**.**

India's Industrial Production Growth Falls to a Four-Month Low of 6.7% in September

- India's **industrial output growth** slowed to a **four-month low of 6.7%** in **September 2026**, according to data released by the **National Statistics Office (NSO)**.
- The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** grew by **5% in May 2026**, making September's 6.7% growth the weakest since May.
- Industrial output growth for **August 2026** was **revised downward to 7.8%** from the earlier estimate of 8%, while it stood at **6.1% in September 2025**.

India's Net Foreign Direct Investment Reaches $3.3 Billion, Remaining Positive for Third Straight Month in September 2026

- According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI).** India's **net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** remained positive for the **third consecutive month** in **August 2026**, with inflows exceeding outflows by **US$3.3 billion**.
- Net FDI was positive in **seven of the last eight months**, marking a significant recovery from the **five consecutive months of negative net FDI** from **August to December 2025**.
- **Gross FDI inflows** into India stood at **US$11.1 billion** in **August 2026**, declining by **24% month-on-month** but increasing by nearly **68% year-on-year**.
- The **United States, Singapore and Mauritius** were the major source countries, accounting for approximately **72%** of India's gross FDI inflows in **August 2026**.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

United Nations Environment Programme-Led Cool Coalition Launches Inaugural Cool Leaders Award in Singapore

- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-led Cool Coalition** launched the inaugural **Cool Leaders Award** during the **Global Cooling Pledge Assembly 2026**, held in **Singapore**.
- The award recognises leadership, policy initiatives, technological innovation and practical efforts in sustainable cooling and climate resilience.

- The **Cool Leaders Award** was established under the aegis of **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and is administered through the **UNEP-led Cool Coalition**, in collaboration with **Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL)**.

Captain Smit Machchhar to Receive Visisht Gujarat Garima Award

- **Gujarat Government** will honour **Captain Smit Machchhar** with the **Visisht Gujarat Garima Award** for his extraordinary courage and bravery during the **Flydubai flight FZ1073** incident.
- **Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel** announced the award, praising Captain Machchhar for his courage in protecting the lives of **174 passengers** despite sustaining serious injuries during an attack in the cockpit.
- Captain Machchhar is from **Gujarat**, although his family moved to **Mumbai** several years ago.

Singapore Airlines Named World's Best Airline at Skytrax World Airline Awards 2026

- **Skytrax**, an international air transport rating organisation, announced the **World Airline Awards 2026** at a ceremony held at the **Langham Hotel in London, United Kingdom**.
- Based on global passenger survey results, **Singapore Airlines (Singapore)** was named the **World's Best Airline for 2026**.
- The **top five airlines in the world** in 2026 were:
    - **1st – Singapore Airlines (Singapore)**
    - **2nd – Qatar Airways (Qatar)**
    - **3rd – Cathay Pacific Airways (Hong Kong)**
    - **4th – ANA All Nippon Airways (Japan)**
    - **5th – Turkish Airlines (Turkey)**
- **India and South Asia's airline rankings** in 2026 were:
    - **1st – Air India**
    - **2nd – IndiGo**
    - **3rd – Akasa Air**
    - **4th – Air India Express**
    - **5th – SriLankan Airlines**

- **6th – SpiceJet**
- **7th – BeOnd**
- **8th – Biman Bangladesh Airlines**
- **9th – Pakistan International Airlines**
- **10th – Maldivian**

Francis Halzen Awarded Nobel Prize in Physics 2026 for Discoveries Using the IceCube Neutrino Observatory

- The **2026 Nobel Prize in Physics** has been awarded to **Francis Halzen** for his **decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the discovery of high-energy neutrinos of astrophysical origin**.
- The award was announced by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.
- **Francis Halzen**, who conceived the idea behind the **IceCube Neutrino Observatory**, developed the concept of using glacial ice at the **South Pole** to detect neutrinos, extremely elusive subatomic particles.
- The **IceCube Neutrino Observatory** is designed to track neutrinos originating from the **distant cosmos**.

Three Scientists Awarded Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026 for Discoveries in Optogenetics

- The **2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** was awarded to **Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel** for their research on the mechanisms through which the brain switches the activity of individual nerve cells **on and off**.
- **Karl Deisseroth (54)**, **Peter Hegemann (71)** and **Georg Nagel (73)** conducted pioneering research on **light-gated ion channels and optogenetics**.
- **Karl Deisseroth** is associated with **Stanford University, California**, while **Peter Hegemann** is associated with **Humboldt University of Berlin** and **Georg Nagel** with the **University of Würzburg**, Germany.

- The **previous year's Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** was awarded to **three scientists for their research on the immune system**.

Mahesh Kakde of Indian Institute of Science Receives Ramanujan Prize 2026

- **Professor Mahesh Kakde** of the **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru** has been awarded the **Ramanujan Prize 2026** for his contributions to **algebraic number theory**.
- The award recognises his research in an important area of **modern mathematics**.
- The **Ramanujan Prize** is awarded by the **International Centre for Theoretical Physics** in association with the **International Mathematical Union**.
- The prize recognises **outstanding mathematicians from developing countries**.

Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai Awarded Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026

- The **2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** has been awarded to **French chemist Henri B. Kagan** and **Japanese chemist Kenso Soai** for their pioneering discoveries of **non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis**.
- The **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** stated that their discoveries helped solve a **century-old mystery** concerning how **molecular asymmetry, or homochirality**, can emerge spontaneously in nature.
- Many molecules, including **amino acids**, exist in two **mirror-image forms**. Although these forms are chemically similar, living organisms overwhelmingly use only one of the two forms.
- For decades, scientists sought to understand how this natural molecular selectivity emerged.

Canadian Poet Anne Carson Wins 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature

- **Canadian poet and writer Anne Carson** has won the **2026 Nobel Prize in Literature**.
- The **Swedish Academy** awarded her the prize, recognising her "bold and inventive" body of work that engages creatively with the classical tradition and creates new forms for contemporary literature.
- The Nobel citation recognised Carson **"for her bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature."**

- The **Nobel Prize in Literature carries 12 million Swedish kronor**, equivalent to approximately **US$1.2 million**.

Navanethem "Navi" Pillay Wins Nobel Peace Prize 2026

- **Navanethem "Navi" Pillay**, a South African jurist of **Indian Tamil origin**, was announced as the **2026 Nobel Peace Prize** winner by the **Norwegian Nobel Committee** in Oslo, Norway.
- The award recognises her efforts to **promote peace, protect human rights, strengthen international law, and ensure accountability for serious international crimes**, inzcluding war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.
- **Birth:** 23 September 1941, **Durban, South Africa**. Pillay grew up under **apartheid**, a system of racial segregation and discrimination.

Israel to Honour Indian Pilot Captain Smit Machchhar with Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism

- **Israeli President Isaac Herzog** announced that **Captain Smit Machchhar**, an Indian pilot working for flydubai, will receive the **State of Israel's Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism**, Israel's highest bravery award for civilians.
- The award will be presented after he regains his strength.
- Captain Machchhar saved the lives of **174 passengers and crew members** after his co-pilot, **Hammam Al-Hammami, an Omani national**, attacked him with a crash axe inside the cockpit.

Sunil Bharti Mittal Conferred France's Highest Civilian Honour, Legion of Honour

- **Sunil Bharti Mittal**, Founder and Chairman of **Bharti Enterprises**, has been conferred **Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur (Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour)**, the highest civilian honour of France, by **French President Emmanuel Macron**.
- Established in **1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte**, the **Legion of Honour** is the highest civilian distinction bestowed by the French Republic.
- Mittal received the honour in recognition of his longstanding contribution to strengthening **economic relations between India and France** and his achievements in **telecommunications and digital infrastructure**.

Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford Win 2026 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences

- **American economists Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford** won the **2026 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel** for their work on the **microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation**.
- **Robert E. Hall** is affiliated with **Stanford University, California**, while **Michael Woodford** is affiliated with **Columbia University, New York**.
- The award was announced by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** in **Stockholm, Sweden**, on **12 October 2026**.

Oscar Whitfield Named Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026

- **Oscar Whitfield**, a **14-year-old British photographer living in Zimbabwe**, was named **Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026** for his black- and-white photograph titled **"Labour of Love"**, featuring a dung beetle pushing a ball of dung.
- Whitfield captured the winning photograph in **Zimbabwe** by lying on the ground and positioning his camera at the beetle's eye level to photograph its behaviour.
- The **Wildlife Photographer of the Year** competition is organised by the **Natural History Museum in London, United Kingdom**. Its **62nd edition in 2026** received a record **65,403 entries from 121 countries and territories**.

United States President Donald Trump Presents National Science and Technology Medals to Elon Musk and Other Technology Leaders

- **United States President Donald Trump** presented the **National Medal of Science** to **Elon Musk**, Chief Executive Officer of SpaceX and Tesla, at a ceremony held in Washington, United States, under the summit titled **"Science: A New Golden Age."**
- Musk was among six technology leaders who received prestigious national awards. Trump described Musk as a **"national treasure"** and compared him to American inventor **Thomas Edison**.
- Along with Elon Musk, **Sergey Brin**, co-founder of Google; **Jensen Huang**, Chief Executive Officer of Nvidia; and **Lisa Su**, Chief Executive Officer of Advanced Micro Devices, received the **National Medal of Science**.

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to Confer Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2024 and 2025 on 106 Young Artists in Music, Dance and Drama

- Union Minister of Culture and Tourism **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will confer the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2024 and 2025 on 106 young artists for their contributions to the fields of music, dance and drama.**
- The award ceremony is scheduled at the Meghdoot Complex, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar was instituted by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2006** to recognise talented young artists aged up to 40 years for their contributions to the performing arts.

Ameena Nazreen A S Receives US$500 Award at the 2026 Global Youth Institute in the United States

- **Ameena Nazreen A S received a US$500 cash award at the Global Youth Institute** in Des Moines, Iowa, **United States**.
- The institute was held as part of the 2026 **Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue, organised by the World Food Prize Foundation under the theme "Before Hunger Wins".**
- The Global Youth Institute brings together high school students from different countries annually in Des Moines to discuss food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and agricultural innovation.

Kochi-Based Architecture Student Wins 28th Charles Correa Gold Medal 2026 for Thesis on Energy Infrastructure and Civic Engagement

- **A Kochi-based architecture student won the 28th Charles Correa Gold Medal in Mumbai** for the undergraduate thesis titled **"Energy Commons: Reimagining Energy Infrastructure as a Place for Civic Engagement."**
- The annual award recognises outstanding undergraduate architectural thesis projects that address challenges in the built environment.
- **The theme for the 2026 edition was "Equitability through Design",** centred on the question "Who are we designing for?"
- The **Charles Correa Gold Medal was instituted in 1998 by Indian architect Charles Correa**.
- The **Charles Correa Foundation** (CCF) has administered the award annually since its inception.

Ashoke Sen Becomes the First Indian Physicist to Receive the Oskar Klein Medal 2026

- **Ashoke Sen**, a renowned **Indian theoretical physicist** and **International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS)–Infosys Madhava Chair Professor** based in Bengaluru, has become the **first Indian physicist to receive the Oskar Klein Medal**.
- Sen delivered the **2026 Oskar Klein Memorial Lecture**, titled *"Gravity from Strings and Strings from Gravity"*, at **Stockholm University's AlbaNova Centre, Sweden, on 22 October 2026**.

Usha Mangeshkar to Receive the First Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award in 2026

- The **Assam Government** will present the first **Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award** to Indian playback singer **Usha Mangeshkar** in **New Delhi**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will present the award.
- The announcement was made by **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** following a state cabinet meeting.
- The award has been instituted by the Assam Government in memory of **Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika**, the legendary singer, composer and cultural icon from Assam.
- The award carries **₹10 lakh in cash and a citation** and will be presented **once every three years**.

Lionel Messi Receives the 2026 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports

- **Lionel Messi**, the Argentine footballer, received the **2026 Princess of Asturias Award** at a ceremony held in **Oviedo, the capital of the Principality of Asturias, Spain**.
- He attended the event in person and received the honour from **Princess Leonor**.
- The award was announced, recognising Messi's outstanding contribution to sport and the values he represents, including **friendship, teamwork and fair play**.

Shabari Naturals Wins Japan's Global Design Award for Tribal Art-Inspired Packaging

- **Shabari Naturals**, a **Maharashtra Government** initiative promoting products associated with tribal communities and forest gatherers, has won the **Global Design Award (G-Mark)** for its distinctive **packaging inspired by traditional tribal art.**
- The initiative is managed by the Nashik-headquartered **Shabari Tribal Finance and Development Corporation**. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** highlighted the achievement during his monthly radio programme, **Mann Ki Baat**.

- The product packaging features traditional art forms such as **Warli, Gond and Chitrakathi**, along with legends from tribal culture.

Indian Pilot Smit Machchhar Receives the United Arab Emirates' First-Class Order of Zayed II for Bravery

- **Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar** received the **First Class Order of Zayed II**, a high-level civilian decoration of the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, for protecting **174 passengers** aboard a Flydubai flight during an alleged attack by his co-pilot.
- **UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** conferred the honour on Captain Machchhar and other Flydubai crew members on **27 October 2026**.
- **Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum** presented the awards in recognition of their actions during the incident on **30 September 2026**.

Harry Kane Wins First Ballon d'Or as Alexia Putellas Claims Third Women's Ballon d'Or

- **England captain Harry Kane** won the **men's Ballon d'Or for the first time**, becoming the first Englishman in **25 years** to receive football's top individual honour. **Spain's Alexia Putellas** won the Women's Ballon d'Or for the third time.
- **Harry Kane**, a 33-year-old striker for **Bayern Munich**, finished ahead of **Kylian Mbappé** of France and Real Madrid, while **Lamine Yamal** of Spain and Barcelona finished third.

New India Foundation Announces Five-Book Shortlist for 2026 Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize

- The **New India Foundation (NIF)** announced the shortlist of **five books** for the **2026 Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize (KCBP)**.
- The award recognises outstanding non-fiction works that deepen understanding of India's history, democracy, politics and society.
- The winner will receive a cash prize of **₹15 lakh**.

Sunil Bharti Mittal Receives France's Highest Civilian Honour, the Legion of Honour

- **Sunil Bharti Mittal**, Founder and Chairman of **Bharti Enterprises**, was conferred the **Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur (Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour)**, France's highest civilian honour.

- The French government recognised his contributions to **India–France economic relations** and his work in **telecommunications, digital infrastructure and satellite communications**.
- **Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India**, presented the insignia to Mittal at a ceremony held at the **Residence of France on 28 October 2026**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

CRIF Credit Information Services Appoints Suresh Venkatesan as Chief Executive Officer

- **CRIF Credit Information Services Private Limited**, formerly known as **CRIF High Mark**, appointed **Suresh Venkatesan** as its **Whole-time Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, effective **29 September 2026**.
- The **Mumbai-based credit information company** is **licensed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- The appointment aims to strengthen CRIF's focus on **data-driven decision-making** and **inclusive financial growth**.
- **Suresh Venkatesan** brings **over three decades of experience** in **credit, risk, data analytics, regulatory reporting and business transformation**.
- Venkatesan has held senior leadership positions at global financial institutions and consulting firms including **Standard Chartered, HSBC, EY and Grant Thornton**.

Edward Rukidi Kijanangoma Becomes 13th King of Uganda's Tooro Kingdom

- **Edward Rukidi Kijanangoma**, a **former television news anchor**, was crowned as the **13th King (Omukama) of the Tooro Kingdom** in **Uganda**.
- The coronation ceremony was held at **Karuziika Palace in Fort Portal, Uganda**, and brought an end to a **succession dispute** in the Tooro Kingdom.
- He succeeded **King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV**, who **died on 27 August 2026**.

Mahesh Muralidhar Pai Appointed Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of South Indian Bank

- **South Indian Bank** has appointed **Mahesh Muralidhar Pai** as its new **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)**, effective from **1 October 2026**.
- **Mahesh Muralidhar Pai** succeeds **P. R. Seshadri** as the **MD & CEO of South Indian Bank**.
- Before joining South Indian Bank, **Mahesh Pai** served as **Chief General Manager (CGM) at Canara Bank**, where he handled several **strategic and business-critical responsibilities**.
- **Mahesh Pai** brings nearly **three decades of experience** across various areas of **universal banking**, including **business strategy, governance, digital banking, treasury, foreign exchange, retail banking, agriculture and MSME credit**.

About South Indian Bank:

- Founded Year: 1929
- Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala, India
- Slogan: "Experience Next-Gen Banking"

Geojit Financial Services Names Jones George as Managing Director, C J George as Executive Chairman

- **Geojit Financial Services** has announced a **leadership transition**, with **Jones George** appointed as **Managing Director (MD)** and founder **C J George** moving to the position of **Executive Chairman**.
- The new appointments will be effective from **1 October 2026** and were approved by the **Board of Directors on 22 July 2026**, based on the recommendation of the **Nomination and Remuneration Committee**.
- **C J George** founded **Geojit in 1987** along with **Ranajit Kanjilal** and has led the **Kerala-based financial services company** for nearly four decades.

HDFC Bank Appoints Anup Bagchi as New Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer

- **HDFC Bank** has appointed **Anup Bagchi** as its new **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)** following approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- **Anup Bagchi** will be appointed as an **Additional Director of HDFC Bank from 2 October 2026** and will take charge as **MD & CEO on 27 October 2026**.

- Bagchi will succeed **Sashidhar Jagdishan**, whose term as **HDFC Bank MD & CEO ends on 26 October 2026**.
- **Anup Bagchi** will serve as HDFC Bank's **MD & CEO for a three-year term**, with his **remuneration and other terms** subject to RBI approval.

About HDFC Bank:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Tagline: "We understand your world"

Anup Saha Appointed Kotak Mahindra Bank Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer for Three-Year Term

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the appointment of **Anup Kumar Saha** as the **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited.** for a **three-year term** effective from **1 January 2027**.
- The RBI approval was received on **30 September 2026** under **Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- The appointment of **Anup Kumar Saha** is subject to further formalities, including **approval from the members of Kotak Mahindra Bank**.
- **Anup Kumar Saha**, currently serving as **Whole-Time Director (Executive Director)** of Kotak Mahindra Bank, will **succeed Ashok Vaswani** as MD & CEO from **1 January 2027**.

About Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited :

- **Founded :** 1985
- **Headquarters :** Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Lieutenant General Akhilesh Kumar Assumes Command of Indian Army's 1 Corps

- **Lieutenant General Akhilesh Kumar** assumed charge as the **General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 1 Corps** of the **Indian Army** on **1 October 2026**.
- **1 Corps**, also known as **Strike One Corps**, is headquartered at **Mathura, Uttar Pradesh**, and is one of the Indian Army's principal **offensive/strike formations**.

- Lt Gen **Akhilesh Kumar** succeeded **Lieutenant General V. Hariharan** as the **GOC of 1 Corps**.
- A **Strike Corps** is a major military formation maintained for **rapid offensive operations** and a high level of **operational readiness**.

Bimal Patel Sworn In as Judge of International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

- **Bimal N. Patel**, an Indian jurist and academician, was sworn in as a **Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)** on **1 October 2026** at its headquarters in **Hamburg, Germany**.
- Patel will serve a **nine-year term from 2026 to 2035** at ITLOS, which adjudicates disputes relating to the **law of the sea**.
- **Bimal Patel** was elected as an ITLOS Judge on **18 June 2026** at the **36th Meeting of States Parties to UNCLOS** held at the **United Nations Headquarters, New York**.
- Patel secured **115 votes out of 168 valid votes** in the election, while **seven members** were elected to the Tribunal at the meeting.

Narendra Bhooshan Takes Charge as Environment Secretary

- **Narendra Bhooshan**, a **1992-batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre**, assumed charge as **Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** on **1 October 2026**.
- He was appointed to the post on **30 September 2026** by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** and succeeded **Tanmay Kumar**, a **1993-batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre**, who **superannuated on 30 September 2026**.
- Before joining MoEFCC, **Narendra Bhooshan** was serving as **Secretary, Department of Land Resources**, under the **Ministry of Rural Development** from **1 April 2026**.

Reserve Bank of India Appoints Sudhakar Malli as Executive Director

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** appointed **Shri Sudhakar Malli** as **Executive Director (ED)** with effect from **1 October 2026**.

- Before his appointment as ED, **Sudhakar Malli** was serving as **Chief General Manager-in-Charge (CGM-in-Charge)** of the **RBI's Department of Supervision**.
- As **Executive Director**, Shri Sudhakar Malli will be responsible for the **Department of Supervision (Supervisory Assessment)** at the RBI.
- Shri Sudhakar Malli is a **career central banker** with around **three decades of experience** in the RBI.

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Appoints Sidharatha Mishra as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for Five Years

- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited** appointed **Sidharatha Mishra** as **Additional Director, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** for a **five-year term**, subject to the required regulatory approvals.
- Sidharatha Mishra's appointment as **MD & CEO** will be effective from **14 October 2026 or the date of IRDAI approval, whichever is later**.
- He was appointed as the company's **Chief Operating Officer (COO)** with effect from **6 October 2026**.
- **Sidharatha Mishra** will succeed **Anup Bagchi**, who resigned as **MD & CEO** with effect from the close of business on **13 October 2026** to pursue a career opportunity outside the organisation.

About ICICI Prudential Life Insurance :

- It was established as a **joint venture between ICICI Bank Limited and Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited**.

Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri Becomes Morocco's First Woman Prime Minister

- **Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri**, a senior leader of the **Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM)**, was appointed **Prime Minister/Head of Government of Morocco** by **King Mohammed VI** following the **23 September 2026 parliamentary elections**.

- **Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri** became **Morocco's first woman Head of Government/Prime Minister** and the **second woman to serve as head of government in the Arab world**, after **Najla Bouden of Tunisia (2021–2023)**.
- **King Mohammed VI** appointed El Mansouri under **Article 47 of the Moroccan Constitution**, which requires the King to appoint the Head of Government from the party that wins the **largest number of seats in the House of Representatives**.
- In the **2026 parliamentary election**, **PAM won 97 out of 395 seats**, emerging as the **largest party**, but it fell short of the **198-seat majority threshold** and therefore needs to form a **coalition government**.

About Morocco :

- **Morocco** is a **constitutional monarchy**, in which the **King is the Head of State** and the **Prime Minister/Head of Government** leads the government.
- Morocco has a **bicameral Parliament**, consisting of the **House of Representatives** and the **House of Councillors**.
- Capital : Rabat
- Currency : Moroccan dirham

GAIL Director Sanjay Kumar Appointed Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Petronet LNG

- **Sanjay Kumar**, currently **Director (Marketing) at GAIL (India) Ltd**, has been appointed as the next **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Petronet LNG Limited**.
- Sanjay Kumar's **five-year term** as MD & CEO of Petronet LNG will begin on **13 May 2027**, after the extended tenure of incumbent CEO **A.K. Singh** ends on **12 May 2027**.
- The appointment was approved by the **Petronet LNG Board** during a meeting held on **2 October 2026**.

Ministry of Law and Justice Announces Appointment of Three High Court Chief Justices as Supreme Court Judges

- The **Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J)** notified the appointment of **3 High Court Chief Justices** as **Judges of the Supreme Court**.
- **Justice Sunita Agarwal**, Chief Justice of the **Gujarat High Court**, was appointed as a **Judge of the Supreme Court**.
- **Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya**, Chief Justice of the **Delhi High Court**, was appointed as a **Judge of the Supreme Court**.
- **Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh**, Chief Justice of the **Telangana High Court**, was appointed as a **Judge of the Supreme Court**.
- The three judges were appointed by **President Droupadi Murmu** under **Article 124(2) of the Constitution of India**, which deals with the appointment of Supreme Court judges.

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet Approves One-Year Re-employment of Dhirendra Ojha as Press Information Bureau Principal Director General

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** approved the **re-employment of Dhirendra Ojha** as **Principal Director General (PDG), Press Information Bureau (PIB)**, on a **contract basis for one year** after his superannuation.
- **Dhirendra Ojha**, a **1990-batch Indian Information Service (IIS) officer**, will continue as **Principal Director General, PIB**, the **principal spokesperson of the Central Government**.
- His re-employment is effective from **1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027**, or **until further orders**, whichever is earlier.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Reforms Press Council of India by Appointing 13 Journalist Members

- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)** reconstituted the **Press Council of India (PCI)** on **8 October 2026** by nominating **13 journalists**, comprising **six editors** and **seven other working journalists**.
- The nominations were made under **Sections 5 and 6** of the **Press Council Act, 1978**, to strengthen **journalist representation** in the **statutory body**.

- The **Press Council of India (PCI)** is a **statutory, autonomous and quasi-judicial body** established under the **Press Council Act, 1978**.
- The **PCI** is responsible for **preserving press freedom**, **improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies**, and **promoting responsible journalism** in **India**.
- The **PCI** comprises **one Chairperson** and **28 other members**, making a total of **29 members**.

About Press Council of India :

- **Established :** 1966
- **Headquarters :** New Delhi, Delhi

National Payments Corporation of India Chief Dilip Asbe Appointed Independent Director on SWIFT's 15-Member Supervisory Board

- **Dilip Asbe**, **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)** of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, was appointed as an **independent director** on the **15-member Supervisory Board** of **SWIFT**.
- **SWIFT** stands for **Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication**, an **international messaging network** that enables **banks and financial institutions** to exchange **standardised instructions** for **cross-border payments**.
- The **SWIFT Supervisory Board** is chaired by **Graeme Munro**, **Managing Director** of **J.P. Morgan's Commercial and Investment Bank**.

Rajeshwari Kumari Elected as South Asia Representative to Olympic Council of Asia Athletes Commission

- **Rajeshwari Kumari**, former Indian **trap shooter**, was elected to the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Athletes Commission** to represent **South Asia** for the **2026–2030 term**.
- Her election followed the conclusion of the **Athletes Committee elections** held during the **20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026**.
- She became the **2nd Indian** to serve on the **OCA Athletes Commission**, after Indian luger **Shiva Keshavan**, who is the **Vice-Chairman** of the Commission.

- **Rajeshwari Kumari** began her **trap shooting career before 2014** and won a **bronze medal** at the **2014 National Shotgun Championship** in **Patiala, Punjab**.

About Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) :

- Established : **16 November 1982** in **New Delhi, India**
- **Permanent headquarters** : **Kuwait City, Kuwait**.
- Current **OCA President** : **HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani** of **Qatar**.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Appointed as 29th Chief of Air Staff

- The **Government of India (GoI)** appointed **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** as the **29th Chief of the Air Staff (CAS)** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, effective from 31 **October 2026**.
- Air Marshal **Ashutosh Dixit** will take charge in the rank of **Air Chief Marshal** and is expected to serve until **December 2028**.
- He will succeed **Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh (A.P. Singh)**, who will **superannuate on 31 October 2026**.
- Before his appointment as CAS, **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** was serving as the **Vice Chief of the Air Staff**, a position he assumed on **1 July 2026**, succeeding **Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor**.

Prakash Rajpurohit Appointed as Deputy Election Commissioner Until 8 April 2030

- The **Government of India** appointed **Prakash Rajpurohit**, a **2010-batch IAS officer** of the **Rajasthan cadre**, as **Deputy Election Commissioner (DEC)**, replacing **Sanjay Kumar**, with his tenure until **8 April 2030**.
- **Prakash Rajpurohit** previously served as **Joint Secretary** in the **Department of Defence Production** and **Director** in the **Department of Economic Affairs**.
- **Vivek Khare**, a **1996-batch Indian Telecom Service officer**, was appointed **Joint Secretary** to the **National Testing Agency (NTA)**, with his overall tenure extending until **2 December 2029**.

Meta Appoints Chirantan "CJ" Desai to Head Enterprise Platform, Reporting to Mark Zuckerberg

- **Meta** appointed **Chirantan "CJ" Desai** to lead its **Meta Enterprise Platform**, reporting directly to **Mark Zuckerberg**, CEO of Meta.

- **Chirantan Desai** previously served as **President and CEO of MongoDB**, a database software provider, having assumed the role in **November 2025**, succeeding **Dev Ittycheria**.
- Desai's appointment is aimed at strengthening Meta's **enterprise software**, **artificial intelligence (AI)**, **cloud infrastructure**, **cybersecurity** and **business applications**.
- **Meta Enterprise Platform** is being developed as a **new major business pillar** to convert Meta's **AI and infrastructure capabilities** into **commercial products for businesses**.

President Droupadi Murmu Appoints Four New State Governors and Reassigns Governors in Two States

- **President Droupadi Murmu** appointed **Governors in six States** as part of a **major gubernatorial reshuffle**.
- **Om Prakash Mathur**, the former **Governor of Sikkim**, has been appointed as the **Governor of Kerala (Keralam)**.
- **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**, the former **Governor of Kerala**, has been appointed as the **Governor of Tamil Nadu** after holding its additional charge since **March 2026**.
- **Dushyant Gautam** has been appointed as the **Governor of Sikkim**.
- **Braj Mohan Ram**, a senior BJP leader from the **Palamu region of Jharkhand**, has been appointed as the **Governor of Odisha**.
- **Sudha Yadav**, a former BJP MP, has been appointed as the **Governor of Karnataka**.
- **Dhal Singh Bisen**, a BJP leader from **Madhya Pradesh**, has been appointed as the **Governor of Uttarakhand**.

Prof. Achyuta Samanta Becomes the Inaugural President of the Indian UniSport Federation

- **Prof. Achyuta Samanta**, founder of the **Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT)** and the **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS)**, was elected the first **President** of the **Indian UniSport Federation (IUSF)**.
- The election took place at the first **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of the **IUSF**, held in **New Delhi, Delhi**.

- The **Indian UniSport Federation (IUSF)** was established in **2026** with the approval of the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)**.

President Droupadi Murmu Approves Union Minister L. Murugan's Resignation

- **President Droupadi Murmu** accepted the resignation of **L. Murugan** from the **Union Council of Ministers** with **immediate effect**.
- **L. Murugan** served as the **Minister of State (MoS)** for **Information and Broadcasting** and **Parliamentary Affairs**.
- The resignation was accepted under **Article 75(2)** of the **Constitution of India**, on the advice of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services Director T. M. Balakrishnan Nair Elected Chair of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean

- **Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair**, Director of the **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)**, was elected **Chair** of **UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)**.
- The election took place during the **2nd Intergovernmental Session of IOCINDIO** in **Bali, Indonesia**, from **12–14 October 2026**.
- **Dr. Nair** is a founding member of **INCOIS** with **over 30 years of experience** in **operational oceanography**, **marine science** and **real-time ocean observation systems**.

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet Names Subhas Chandra Lal Das as Financial Services Institutions Bureau's Part-Time Chairperson

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** approved the appointment of **Subhas Chandra Lal Das (SCL Das)**, a retired **1992-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officer of the **AGMUT cadre**, as the part-time **Chairperson** of the **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)**.
- **Subhas Chandra Lal Das** was appointed for a **three-year term**, effective from the date of notification or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, formally issued the appointment.
- The **ACC** also approved the appointment of **six part-time members** to the FSIB, comprising **three members for public sector banks and financial institutions** and **three members for public sector insurance companies**.

About FSIB :

- The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** is a government body responsible for identifying and recommending candidates for **senior leadership positions** in **public sector banks (PSBs)**, **public sector insurance companies**, and **financial institutions**.
- The FSIB recommends candidates for **Whole-Time Director (WTD)** and **Non-Executive Chairperson (NEC)** positions.
- The financial institutions covered by FSIB recommendations include **NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development)**, **SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India)**, **EXIM Bank (Export-Import Bank of India)**, and **NaBFID (National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development)**.

Pakistan to Lead International Monetary Fund and World Bank Boards of Governors in 2027 for the First Time Since 1953

- **Pakistan** was named the incoming **Chair of the Boards of Governors** of the **International Monetary Fund** (**IMF**) and the **World Bank Group** (**WBG**) for **2027** during the **2026 IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings** held in **Bangkok, Thailand**.
- **Pakistan's appointment** marks its **first return** to the **chairmanship** since **1953**.
- **Ahad Khan Cheema**, **Pakistan's Federal Minister for Economic Affairs** and **Governor to the World Bank**, was named the incoming **chair**.
- The **incoming chairmanship** was formally announced during the **plenary session** of the **2026 WBG–IMF Annual Meetings**, held from **12 to 18 October 2026**.

Hinduja Tech Appoints Faiz Ahmad as Chief Executive Officer Effective 1 November 2026

- **Hinduja Tech Limited.**, a mobility-focused engineering and **Research & Development (R&D)** technology company, has appointed **Faiz Ahmad** as its **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, effective **1 November 2026**.
- **Faiz Ahmad** will succeed **Kumar Prabhas**, who will retire as CEO on **31 October 2026** after serving in the role for **nine years**.
- **Hinduja Tech Ltd.** is a subsidiary of **Ashok Leyland** and is part of the **Hinduja Group ecosystem**.

Nagaraju Maddirala Appointed Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Chairman and Managing Director for Two Years

- **Nagaraju Maddirala**, former Secretary of the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, has been appointed **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS)** for a period of **two years**.
- His appointment was confirmed by the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** through an order dated **12 October 2026**.
- He succeeds **Nand Kishore**, whose tenure as IL&FS CMD ended on **30 September 2026**; Kishore will continue as a **director on the IL&FS board**.

Lavanya R. Mundayur Appointed as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of New India Assurance Company Limited

- The **Central Government** appointed **Lavanya R. Mundayur** as the **Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD)** of **New India Assurance Company Limited (NIACL)**.
- Her appointment was approved by the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance**.
- **Lavanya R. Mundayur** assumed charge as CMD of **New India Assurance Company Limited** with effect from **30 September 2026**.
- Her tenure will continue until **31 May 2029**, the date of her **superannuation**, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Sharad Mathur Appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of IndusInd General Insurance

- **IndusInd General Insurance Company Limited.** appointed **Sharad Mathur** as its **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)** on **20 October 2026**, following statutory approvals.
- **Sharad Mathur** brings approximately **three decades of experience** in the **insurance and financial services industry**.
- Before this appointment, he served as **MD & CEO** of **Universal Sompo General Insurance** for over six years.

About IndusInd General Insurance :

- It is a private-sector general insurance provider headquartered in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **It** was formerly known as **Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd.** and is part of the **IndusInd International Holdings Ltd. (IIHL) Group**.

Sunil Kumar Appointed as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited Chairman for a Three-Year Tenure by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, approved the appointment of **Sunil Kumar** as the next **Chairman** of **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)** for a combined tenure of **three years**.
- **Sunil Kumar**'s appointment will take effect from the date he assumes charge on or after **7 December 2026**, until his superannuation in **December 2028**, followed by a contractual tenure, subject to the combined **three-year term**.
- He will succeed **Arun Kumar Singh**, the current **Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **ONGC**, whose extended tenure is scheduled to end on **6 December 2026**.

Anca-Maria Verma Named UN IIMSAM Ambassador-at-Large for India for a Five-Year Tenure

- **Anca-Maria Verma** has been appointed **Ambassador-at-Large** of the **Inter-Governmental Institution for the Use of Micro-Algae Spirulina Against Malnutrition (IIMSAM)** for **India** for a five-year term, from **20 October 2026 to 19 October 2031**.
- The appointment was announced by the **Office of the Verma Family** and **IIMSAM** and was issued by **Remigio Maradona**, Secretary-General of IIMSAM.

- In her new role, **Anca-Maria Verma** will support humanitarian initiatives, **nutrition programmes**, institutional partnerships, **international cooperation**, and stakeholder engagement across **India**.
- **IIMSAM** is an intergovernmental institution focused on using **micro-algae Spirulina** to combat **malnutrition** and support improved nutrition.
- **IIMSAM** holds **Permanent Observer status** with the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva Wins Fourth Non-Consecutive Presidential Term

- **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**, the incumbent **President of Brazil** and leader of the **Workers' Party (Partido dos Trabalhadores – PT)**, was **re-elected for a fourth non-consecutive presidential term** in the **2026 Brazilian Presidential Election**, held on **25 October 2026**.
- Lula defeated **Flávio Bolsonaro** of the **Liberal Party (PL)** in the **second-round presidential runoff**.
- Lula secured **51.79% of the votes**, receiving over **51.49 million votes**, while Flávio Bolsonaro received **48.21% of the votes**.

Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav Appointed as Jammu and Kashmir's New Chief Secretary by Ministry of Home Affairs

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** appointed **Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav**, a **1995-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer** of the **Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre**, as the new **Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**.
- His appointment will take effect from **1 November 2026**, or the date he assumes charge, whichever is later.
- Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav will succeed **Atal Dulloo**, a **1989-batch IAS officer**, whose tenure is scheduled to end on **31 October 2026**.

Centre Extends Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh's Tenure by One Year Until 31 October 2027

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** approved a **one-year extension** for **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh** until **31 October 2027**.

- **Rajesh Kumar Singh** is a **1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer** belonging to the **Kerala cadre**.
- His scheduled tenure was due to end on **31 October 2026**, but it has been extended until **31 October 2027**, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- The extension order was issued by the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**.

Ministry of Home Affairs Assigns Additional Charge of Indo-Tibetan Border Police Director General to Sashastra Seema Bal Chief Sanjay Singhal

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** assigned the additional charge of **Director General (DG)** of the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** to **Sanjay Singhal**, Director General of the **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**.
- The appointment was approved on **27 October 2026** and will take effect from **31 October 2026**.
- **Sanjay Singhal** is a **1993-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer** belonging to the **Uttar Pradesh cadre**.
- He will succeed **Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor**, a **1990-batch IPS officer** of the **Haryana cadre**, who is scheduled to retire on **31 October 2026**.

Air Marshal Vikram Gaur Appointed Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

- **Air Marshal Vikram Gaur** was appointed **Additional Secretary** in the **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** in **October 2026**, becoming the **first Indian Air Force (IAF) officer** to hold this position.
- Before his appointment, he served as **Joint Secretary (Air and Staff Duties)** in the DMA from **October 2024** and was promoted to **Air Marshal in July 2026**.

BOOKS AND AUTHOR

Former Prasar Bharati Chairman Surya Prakash Releases Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey's Book on the Evolution of Television News in India

- **Former Prasar Bharati Chairman Surya Prakash** released the book "**The Evolution of TV News in India: From Doordarshan to Digital Disruption – An Insider's Account",** authored by **veteran broadcaster and former Doordarshan producer Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey**.
- The book was released at the **India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi, Delhi.**
- The book was published by **Om Books International**.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

World Health Summit 2026 Concludes in Berlin, Germany, with Focus on Global Health Resilience

- The **World Health Summit (WHS) 2026**, a leading global health platform, was held from **11 to 13 October 2026** in **Berlin, Germany**, under the theme **"From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health."**
- The summit was led by **Professor Axel R. Pries**, President of the World Health Summit (WHS), and brought together **political leaders, scientists, private-sector representatives and civil society members**.
- The event attracted more than **4,000 in-person participants** from over **130 countries and territories**, with over **50,000 virtual participants**.

India Hosts the 2026 Agrivoltaics World Conference for the First Time in the Global South

- The **7th AgriVoltaics World Conference (AWC) 2026** was inaugurated at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, from **21 to 23 October 2026**, under the theme **"Powering the Global South."**
- The conference was hosted by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, Government of India, with support from Germany's **Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety**, in partnership with **Conexio-PSE**.

19th Urban Mobility India Conference and Exhibition 2026 Opens in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

- The **19th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference and Exhibition 2026** was inaugurated by **Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, on **23 October 2026**.

- The **two-day conference** was held on **23–24 October 2026** at Hotel Mayfair Sanctuary, Bhubaneswar, and was organised by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** through the **Institute of Urban Transport (India)**, with support from the **Government of Odisha**.
- The theme of the conference was **"Urban Accessibility and Liveability in the Digital Age"**, focusing on improving **urban transport infrastructure** and **quality of life** through digital technologies.

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

The ePlane Company Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Noida International Airport to Develop Electric Air Taxi Infrastructure

- **The ePlane Company** and **Noida International Airport** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to develop infrastructure and operational frameworks for **electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft** and future **Advanced Air Mobility** services.
- The agreement covers the development of **vertiports, charging facilities, regulatory procedures and operational systems** required to support electric aircraft operations.
- Under the agreement, Noida International Airport will provide space within its premises for **proof-of-concept trials, vertiports and charging stations**. The airport will also work to align its **Standard Operating Procedures** with electric aircraft operations.

ReNew Wind Energy Private Limited Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Maharashtra Government to Develop ₹70,000 Crore Green Data Centre Park

- **ReNew Wind Energy Private Limited**, a wholly owned subsidiary of clean energy company ReNew, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **Maharashtra Government** to develop an integrated green data centre park worth **₹70,000 crore** in the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region**.
- The proposed data centre park will have a planned capacity of **750 megawatts** and will be developed across locations including **Panvel, Khalapur, Taloja and Bhokharpada**, covering Navi Mumbai and the wider Mumbai Metropolitan Region.
- The project is expected to begin operations in phases from **2028**, combining digital infrastructure development with renewable energy utilisation.

Chhattisgarh Signs Skill Development MoU with Singapore's ITE Education Services, Receives ₹43,600 Crore Investment Proposals

- **Chhattisgarh** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with Singapore-based **ITE Education Services** to strengthen technical and vocational education and training during Chief Minister **Vishnu Deo Sai's** visit to Singapore.
- The partnership aims to equip Chhattisgarh's youth with **modern, industry-oriented skills**, improve employability and create better career opportunities.
- Chhattisgarh plans to adopt Singapore's model of industry participation in **curriculum development, practical training and equipment support** to strengthen its skill development ecosystem.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, National Culture Fund and Archaeological Survey of India Sign Agreement to Conserve Three Heritage Sites

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, the **National Culture Fund (NCF)** and the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** signed a **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** to undertake heritage conservation and development works at three prominent sites:
  - **Hampi**, Karnataka.
  - **Taj Mahal**, Agra, Uttar Pradesh.
  - **Bekal Fort**, Kerala.
- The MoA was signed at **Kartavya Bhawan-02, New Delhi**, in the presence of **Vivek Aggarwal**, Secretary, Ministry of Culture. **Pradeep Kumar**, Executive Director (Human Resources), signed the agreement on behalf of HAL.

National Sports Development Fund, Sports Authority of India and Indian Oil Corporation Partner to Strengthen Boxing in India

- The **National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)**, **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** and **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** entered into a partnership to strengthen boxing in India through structured talent identification and athlete development.
- Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), **Indian Oil will provide ₹40 crore over two years** to support talent identification, athlete development, coaching, sports science, international

exposure, strengthening boxing academies and capacity building for coaches, referees and technical officials.

- The partnership follows the inclusion of sports as a dedicated thematic area under the **Common Corporate Social Responsibility Theme Framework** of the **Department of Public Enterprises**, marking a step towards greater corporate participation in sports development.

Ministry of Rural Development Signs Memorandum of Understanding with National Academy of RUDSETI to Strengthen Rural Self-Employment Training Institutes

- The **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** exchanged a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR)** to establish uniform training standards, improve administrative quality and facilitate systematic capacity building across **Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs)** across India.
- The MoU exchange took place in the presence of **Rohit Kansal**, Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development. It was exchanged by **S. Sasikumar**, Joint Secretary (Rural Skills), Department of Rural Development, and **Raju N. Kori**, Director General, National Academy of RUDSETI.
- The partnership aims to improve candidate registration through **Kaushal Panjee** and introduce Aadhaar-based face authentication through the **Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS)**.

India and Canada Sign Commercial Agreements as Both Countries Aim to Conclude Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement by 2026

- **Indian and Canadian entities** signed commercial **agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in Karnataka**, in the presence of Maninder Sidhu, Canada's Minister of International Trade.
- The agreements were signed as **India and Canada work towards concluding a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by the end of 2026.**
- **Trade between India and Canada reached USD 7.96 billion in Financial Year 2025–26 (FY26),** according to government data cited in the report.

India and Myanmar Sign Five Memoranda of Understanding for Quick Impact Projects under Mekong-Ganga Cooperation

- **India and Myanmar signed five Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for implementing Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC)** framework for the **Financial Year 2026–27 (FY 2026–27)**.
- The five projects have a **total financial allocation of USD 247,502.47 and were signed in Naypyitaw, Myanmar.**
- The projects cover **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), boiler operations, road upgrades, sports facilities and software support.**

Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Karmayogi Bharat Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Grassroots Tribal Development

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** and **Karmayogi Bharat** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi** to develop and operate the **Tribal Affairs Capacity Building Platform** under the **Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT) Karmayogi** framework.
- The initiative extends the capacity-building framework of **Mission Karmayogi**, which was previously focused on civil servants, to **Adi Karmayogi Volunteers (AKVs)** and grassroots functionaries responsible for implementing tribal development schemes.
- The initiative is part of the **Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan**, which aims to institutionalise more than **76,000 Adi Sewa Kendras (ASKs)** and a network of over **1,54,000 AKVs** as sustainable village-level platforms for facilitation, citizen engagement and last-mile convergence.

Ministry of Minority Affairs Signs Multiple MoUs with Premier Academic and Innovation Institutions

- The **Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India**, signed multiple **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with leading academic, research and innovation institutions at **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**.
- The collaborations bring together the expertise of **Centre for Urbanization, Buildings & Environment (CUBE), Indian Institute of Technology Madras; Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (FSID), Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru; Indian Institute of Management Bangalore; and IIMB Innovations (NSRCEL)**.

- The **Ministry of Minority Affairs and Indian Institute of Management Bangalore** signed an agreement for **independent third-party monitoring of training under the Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme across the South zone**.

Ministry of Tourism and Airbnb Sign Two-Year Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen India's Homestay Ecosystem

- The **Ministry of Tourism** and **Airbnb** have signed a **two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen India's homestay ecosystem, promote lesser-known destinations and expand tourism opportunities for local communities.
- Under the partnership, **Airbnb** will serve as a **capacity-building and digital onboarding partner** to the Ministry of Tourism, supporting existing and prospective homestay hosts with the skills and digital tools needed to participate in the tourism economy.
- The collaboration will provide **host workshops and training resources** covering areas such as **listing creation, pricing, platform tools and hospitality practices**.

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Statistical Business Register

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** to strengthen the **Statistical Business Register (SBR)**.
- The MoU was signed by **Rajneesh**, **Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner, MoMSME**, and **Dalip Singh**, **Additional Director General (ADG), MoSPI**.
- The main objective of the MoU is to **institutionalise a mechanism for sharing relevant data** for the development and strengthening of the **Statistical Business Register (SBR)**.
- Under the agreement, **unit-level data from the Udyam Registration ecosystem** of the Ministry of MSME will be shared with **MoSPI through Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)**.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and SkyPulse Solutions Sign MoU for Deployment of 30 Helicopters Worth ₹2,491 Crore

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** and **SkyPulse Solutions IFSC Private Limited** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to develop a framework for the acquisition, financing, leasing, deployment and lifecycle support of HAL-manufactured helicopters.
- The proposed programme covers **up to 30 helicopters**, with an estimated value of **₹2,491 crore**.
- The helicopter acquisition programme will be implemented in two phases:
    - **10 helicopters** are targeted for acquisition during **2027–2029**.
    - The remaining **20 helicopters** are planned for acquisition from **2030 onwards**.

Tata Projects and MDS Aero Support Corporation Partner to Develop Aero-Engine Testing Infrastructure

- **Tata Projects**, an India-based technology-driven **Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC)** company, and **MDS Aero Support Corporation (MDS)**, a global specialist in **gas turbine engine testing solutions**, have entered into a strategic partnership through a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**.
- The partnership will focus on the **joint development and delivery of advanced aero-engine testing infrastructure in India**, supporting the country's expanding **aerospace and propulsion ecosystem**.
- Tata Projects will contribute its experience in engineering and executing **mission-critical and technology-intensive facilities**, while MDS will provide specialised expertise in **gas turbine engine testing**.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Food Corporation of India Sign Agreement for Sustainable Grain Storage Pest Management

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to conduct research on alternative fumigation technologies for the **safe and sustainable management of storage pests in wheat and rice**.
- The research initiative is supported by the **Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.

- The **two-year Phase-I project** will be implemented by the **ICAR–Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (ICAR-CIPHET), Ludhiana**.

Coal India and Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Sign Non-Binding Memorandum of Understanding for Coal Gasification-Based Urea Production

- **Coal India Limited (CIL)** and **Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL)** signed a **non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to explore the development of a **coal gasification-based urea production facility at Sindri, Jharkhand**.
- Coal India disclosed the MoU through a **regulatory filing**.
- Under the MoU, both companies will jointly examine the **feasibility of the proposed project**. The agreement does **not involve any firm commitment regarding investment, production capacity or project timelines** at this stage.
- The proposed project will use **coal gasification technology**, which converts coal into **synthesis gas (syngas)**, consisting mainly of **carbon monoxide and hydrogen**.

National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency and Indian Institute of Management Kolkata Sign Agreement for Rural Roads Impact Assessment

- The **National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency**, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, and the **Indian Institute of Management Kolkata** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to undertake a comprehensive **four-year longitudinal Impact Assessment Study** of roads constructed under the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV** and **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan**.
- The four-year longitudinal study will assess the **long-term outcomes of rural road connectivity** under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV and Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan.
- The study will cover **10 States and Union Territories, 50 districts, 150 blocks, and 250 roads**.
- The States and Union Territories covered are **Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand**.

India and Ghana Strengthen Cooperation in Scientific Research, Agriculture and Education

- **India and Ghana** exchanged **two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** to strengthen cooperation in **scientific research, academics, capacity building, agricultural research and education**.
- The agreements were exchanged during **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar's visit to Ghana**, as both countries sought to further deepen their **South-South cooperation**.
- Dr. S. Jaishankar witnessed the exchange of the agreements with **Ghana's Foreign Minister Sam Okudzeto Ablakwa**.
- The first agreement covers cooperation between the **Zoological Survey of India** and the **University of Ghana** in **academics, scientific research and capacity building**.

Indian Institute of Creative Technologies Signs Five Memoranda of Understanding to Strengthen India's AVGC-XR Ecosystem

- The **Indian Institute of Creative Technologies** has signed **five Memoranda of Understanding** with industry and technology organisations to strengthen India's talent pipeline and the country's **Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality ecosystem**.
- The five agreements were signed, the second day of **FICCI FRAMES 2026**, held at the **Grand Hyatt, Mumbai.**

Pondicherry University and National Institute of Technology Nagaland Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Academic and Research Collaboration

- **Pondicherry University** and **National Institute of Technology Nagaland** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to strengthen **academic and research collaboration** between the two institutions.
- The agreement has been developed under the **Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research network scheme**, supported by the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation**.
- Under the scheme, **Pondicherry University and National Institute of Technology Nagaland** are participating as **Spoke Institutions**, while the **Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru** is serving as the **Hub Institution**.

Nālandā University and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–Traditional Knowledge Digital Library Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Heritage

- **Nālandā University** and the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–Traditional Knowledge Digital Library Unit** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to establish structured cooperation in **academics, research and capacity building**.
- The collaboration will cover **Traditional Knowledge, Intellectual Property Rights, People's Rights and Cultural Heritage**, including **Traditional Cultural Expressions**, with a particular focus on the cultural heritage of **Bihar**.
- The collaboration with the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library will provide a platform for integrating **Traditional Knowledge with contemporary academic research, documentation, Intellectual Property awareness and interdisciplinary scholarship**.

Coal Ministry Signs Agreements for Six Coal Mines and Launches 16th Commercial Coal Mine Auction

- The **Ministry of Coal** signed **Coal Mine Development and Production Agreements** with successful bidders of **six coal mines** auctioned during earlier commercial coal mine auction rounds.
- The agreements were signed for **Tara (Revised), Margo West, Margo East, Mandla South, Dongeri Tal-II, and Dip Side of PKoC**.
- The successful bidders included **CG Syn-Gas & Chemicals, Jharkhand Exploration & Mining Corporation, Qube Commercial, Gallant Ispat, and The Singareni Collieries**.
- The six coal mines have combined **geological reserves of 1,504 million tonnes** and a total **peak rated capacity of 11.62 million tonnes per annum**.
- Once operational, the six mines are expected to generate **annual revenue of ₹1,984 crore**, attract **capital investment of ₹1,743 crore**, and create around **15,700 employment opportunities**.

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Partners with Blinkit to Market PM

Vishwakarma Products

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** has partnered with quick-commerce platform **Blinkit** to help artisans and craftspeople covered under the **PM Vishwakarma scheme** access a wider customer base and expand their market reach.
- The initiative is being **piloted in Bengaluru** and is planned to be expanded to **other cities**. The Ministry has not disclosed the **duration of the pilot, number of participating artisans, or cities proposed for the next phase**.
- Under the collaboration, **handcrafted products made by PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries** will be listed on the **Blinkit application**, enabling customers to purchase these products through the quick-commerce platform.

Indian Olympic Association and Korean Sport & Olympic Committee Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Sports Cooperation

- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** and the **Korean Sport & Olympic Committee (KSOC)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen cooperation in athlete development, high-performance sports and sports administration.
- The agreement was signed at **Korea House in Nagoya, Japan**, during the **2026 Asian Games**.
- It was signed by **IOA President P. T. Usha** and **KSOC President Ryu Seung-min**.

National Capital Region Transport Corporation Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts to Promote Indian Culture at Namo Bharat Stations

- The **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** to promote Indian art, culture and heritage at **Namo Bharat stations**.
- The partnership aims to develop stations into cultural hubs through **exhibitions, literary events, educational workshops and public lectures**, offering commuters opportunities to explore Indian history and cultural traditions during their journeys.
- The collaboration is particularly significant for the **Delhi–Meerut Namo Bharat corridor**, which connects Delhi, a major centre of Indian politics and culture, with Meerut, known for its historical monuments and association with the **First War of Independence in 1857**.

National Statistics Office Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Pahle India Foundation to Strengthen Statistical Research

- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Pahle India Foundation (PIF), New Delhi**, to strengthen cooperation in official statistics, research, data analysis, capacity building and knowledge sharing.
- The MoU establishes a broad framework for collaboration in areas of mutual interest, with specific activities to be undertaken according to the priorities of MoSPI.
- The signing ceremony was attended by **Dr. Saurabh Garg**, Secretary, MoSPI; **P. R. Meshram**, Director General, MoSPI; **Dr. Rajiv Kumar**, Chairperson, Pahle India Foundation; and **Ashish Kumar**, Chief Statistician, Pahle India Foundation.

Hyderabad-Based BharathCloud Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Russia's Kazan IT-Park to Explore Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Infrastructure Cooperation

- **BharathCloud, a Hyderabad-based company,** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **High-Technology Technopark IT-Park in Kazan, located in the Republic of Tatarstan, Russia**, to explore cooperation in **Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud infrastructure, investment and cross-border business partnerships**.
- The agreement was signed at the **second Russia-India Business Forum**, titled "**TIME — Russia-India Mutual Efficiency Business Forum 2026**", which brought together business and industry representatives to discuss bilateral cooperation in technology and digital infrastructure.
- The MoU establishes a framework for the **two organisations to explore joint ventures, facilitate partnerships between Indian and Russian companies, and identify opportunities for AI and cloud infrastructure solutions across industries.**

Ministry of Earth Sciences Partners with Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research to Expand Doctoral Research in Earth System Sciences

- **The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR**) have formalised **a strategic partnership to expand doctoral research opportunities in Earth System Sciences.**
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **was officially announced at Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi, following its signing on 21 August 2026.**
- Under the agreement, all **10 research institutes under the Ministry of Earth Sciences have been recognised as AcSIR Associated Research Institutes (AcSIR-ARIs).**

India and Poland Agree to Strengthen Cooperation in Defence, Space, Nuclear Energy and Critical Technologies

- **India and Poland agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in defence, space, nuclear energy and emerging technologies** during comprehensive discussions between **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk in New Delhi.**
- The two leaders discussed bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the **India–Poland Strategic Partnership.**
- In a joint statement issued after the talks, **both countries agreed to strengthen cooperation in critical and emerging technologies, cybersecurity and defence innovation.**

Karmayogi Bharat Partners with OpenAI to Expand Artificial Intelligence Learning for Government Employees

- **Karmayogi Bharat and OpenAI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expand Artificial Intelligence** (AI) **learning opportunities for India's government workforce by integrating approved OpenAI Academy** resources into the **iGOT Karmayogi digital learning platform**.
- The initiative aligns with **Mission Karmayogi, which aims to develop a competent, professionally equipped and future-ready civil service**.

Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar and Indonesia Sign Badr Memorandum of Understanding for Defence Cooperation

- **Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar and Indonesia** signed the **Badr Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in **Doha, Qatar**, to strengthen defence industrial cooperation, joint military production, research and development, technology sharing and technical training.

- The agreement aims to combine the participating countries' **technical expertise, industrial resources and financial capabilities** to strengthen domestic defence industries, improve military manufacturing capacity and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers.

Centre for Development of Telematics Partners with Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) to Establish Sixth Centre of Excellence

- The **Centre for Development of Telematics**, the research and development centre of the **Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi**, to establish its **sixth Centre of Excellence**.
- The partnership aims to strengthen India's indigenous telecommunications innovation ecosystem by combining the **Centre for Development of Telematics' domestic telecommunications** research capabilities with the academic expertise of the **Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University).**

International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore Signs Academic Cooperation Agreement with Poland's AGH University of Krakow

- The **International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with **AGH University of Krakow, Poland**, to collaborate on research and academic activities in **Artificial Intelligence, quantum technologies and other emerging fields**.
- The agreement was exchanged on **23 October 2026** during the **Polish-Indian Business Meeting in Bengaluru**, in the presence of Polish Prime Minister **Donald Tusk** and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister **D. K. Shivakumar**.

India and Sri Lanka Launch SAMHiTA Project to Preserve Shared Buddhist Manuscript Heritage

- **India and Sri Lanka** are strengthening cultural cooperation through the **SAMHiTA Project (South Asian Manuscript Histories and Textual Archive)**, launched at **Gangaramaya Temple in Colombo, Sri Lanka**, to preserve their shared Buddhist and civilisational heritage.
- The project aims to **digitise ancient manuscripts** and preserve their historical, religious and cultural knowledge for future generations.

- The initiative is being implemented by the **India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi**, with grant assistance from the **Government of India**. **Gangaramaya Temple** has become the first institution in Sri Lanka to partner with the project.

NLC India Limited Signs ₹37,000 Crore Investment Agreements with Odisha

- **NLC India Limited (NLCIL)** and the **Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited (IPICOL)** signed **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** in **Mumbai** to undertake major industrial projects in Odisha with a proposed investment of **₹37,000 crore**.
- The MoUs were signed by **I. S. Jasper Rose**, Executive Director (Mines and Land) of NLC India Limited, and **Aboli Sunil Naravane**, Managing Director of IPICOL.

Canada–India Trade Mission Announces 34 Commercial Agreements Worth Nearly $300 Million

- As part of the **Team Canada Trade Mission**, **Minister Sidhu** announced **34 commercial agreements, partnerships and foreign direct investment (FDI) outcomes** between Canadian and Indian organisations, with a combined estimated value of nearly **$300 million**.
- The agreements included **11 signings in Mumbai** and **23 signings in Bengaluru**, covering **aerospace and space, clean technology and energy transition, education, information and communications technology, infrastructure, life sciences and tourism**.

Sarvam AI Signs Five-Year Memorandum of Understanding with Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff to Develop Artificial Intelligence Tools for Armed Forces

- **Sarvam AI**, an Indian artificial intelligence company, signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS)** to develop and deploy Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications for the **Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force**.
- The agreement was signed on **26 October 2026** and announced publicly by Sarvam on **28 October 2026**.
- HQ IDS functions under the **Ministry of Defence**; the MoU was signed with HQ IDS and not directly with the Ministry of Defence.

Ministry of Culture Signs Memorandum of Understanding with France's National Library under Gyan Bharatam Mission

- The **Ministry of Culture, Government of India**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), or National Library of France**, **in Paris**, under the **Gyan Bharatam Mission**.
- The agreement aims to strengthen institutional cooperation in the **preservation, digitisation, research and dissemination of manuscript and documentary heritage**.
- The MoU was signed by **Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture**, and **Gilles Pécout, President of the National Library of France**.

RANKING AND REPORTS

Indian Institute of Science Ranked Highest Among Indian Institutions in Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2027

- The **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru** has secured the **254th position globally** in the **Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2027**, making it the **highest-ranked Indian institution** in the latest global rankings.
- The **Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2027** were released on **30 September 2026** and assessed **2,297 universities across 118 countries and territories**, compared with 2,191 institutions in the previous edition.
- Other Indian institutions featured in the rankings include:
    - **Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences – 326–350 band**
    - **Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences – 451–500 band**
    - **Jamia Millia Islamia – 510–550 band**
    - **Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology – 510–550 band**
    - **Lovely Professional University – 510–550 band**

India Ranks Among Top 10 Emerging-Market Performers in Artificial Intelligence Readiness: World Bank

- According to the World Bank's report **India and Artificial Intelligence: Seizing the Development Opportunity**, India ranks among the **top 10 emerging-market performers in Artificial Intelligence (AI) readiness**.
- India's AI readiness is supported by its **large technical workforce, globally integrated Information Technology (IT) sector and digital public infrastructure**.
- **Private investment in AI in India more than tripled in 2025**, rising to **₹36,231.70 crore (US$4.1 billion)** from **₹10,604.40 crore (US$1.2 billion) in 2024**, reflecting growing investor interest in India's AI ecosystem.

Indian Passport Ranks 84th in October 2026 Henley Passport Index

- **India** ranked **84th** in the **October 2026 Henley Passport Index**, sharing the position with **Algeria and Mauritania**.
- This marks an improvement from **85th place in October 2025**, although India's destination-access score declined from **57 to 55 destinations**.
- India's October 2026 ranking was **three places lower than its July 2026 position of 81st**. D
- During 2026, India's passport ranking was **80th in January, 75th in February, 81st in July and 84th in October**.
- The ranking highlights the distinction between a passport's **global rank and destination-access score**.

Welthungerhilfe Releases Global Hunger Index 2026, India Ranks 100th

- **Welthungerhilfe (WHH),** a Germany-based humanitarian organisation, released the **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026 in collaboration with the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) and Helvetas.**
- The report, titled "**No Security Without Food Security,"** was released at a hybrid event in **Berlin, Germany, ahead of World Food Day, observed on 16 October.**
- **India ranked 100th among 122 countries**, with a **GHI score of 24.**1, placing it in the serious hunger category.
- The GHI is an annual, peer-reviewed assessment of hunger at global, regional and national levels. It combines indicators of inadequate calorie intake, child undernutrition and child mortality.

- The GHI score ranges from 0 to 100. A score of 0 indicates the best possible outcome, representing no hunger, while 100 indicates the worst. The score is an index value and not the percentage of people experiencing hunger.

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

State Bank of India Acquires Nearly 40% of Reliance Industries' ₹13,000 Crore Bond Issue

- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, India's **largest lender**, led demand for **Reliance Industries' ₹13,000 crore 10-year bond issue** completed in **September 2026**.
- **SBI** is estimated to have purchased nearly **₹5,000 crore** of the bonds, accounting for around **40% of the total offering**.
- The **Reliance Industries bonds** were rated **AAA** by **CRISIL** and **CareEdge**, indicating **very strong credit quality** and a **very low risk of default**.
- The bonds carry an annual **coupon rate of 7.90%** and have a **10-year maturity period**.
- An **AAA credit rating** is the **highest credit rating**, indicating an exceptionally strong capacity to meet **debt obligations** and a very low risk of default.

Competition Commission of India Approves BNP Paribas Cardif's Acquisition of 26% Stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved **BNP Paribas Cardif's** acquisition of a **26% stake** in **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited**.
- **BNP Paribas Cardif** will acquire the **26% stake** from private equity firm **Warburg Pincus**, as per the definitive agreement signed in **July 2026**.
- After completion of the transaction, the shareholding of **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited** will be **Bank of Baroda (BoB) – 65%**, **BNP Paribas Cardif – 26%**, and **Union Bank of India (UBI) – 9%**.
- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** will remain the majority shareholder, holding a **65% stake** in **IndiaFirst Life**.

About CCI :

- **CCI** is a statutory body established under the **Competition Act, 2002**, which was amended in **2007**.
- **CCI** is India's national competition regulator and functions under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**.

Abu Dhabi Investment Authority Sells 2.01% Stake in Lenskart Solutions Through Open-Market Deal

- **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)**, through its affiliate **Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust**, sold a **2.01% stake** in **Lenskart Solutions Limited** through an **open-market transaction**.
- ADIA sold **3.5 crore shares** of Lenskart Solutions at an average price of **₹683.02 per share**, with the transaction valued at approximately **₹2,390.57 crore**.
- Following the transaction, **ADIA's holding** in Lenskart declined from **9.77% to 7.76%**.
- Earlier, in **June 2026**, **SoftBank Group** sold a **3.25% stake** in Lenskart for approximately **₹2,873 crore**.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Signs Agreement to Fully Acquire Helicopter Academy to Train by Simulation Flying Helicopter Training Institute

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, a defence **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)**, signed a **Share Transfer Agreement** with **Helicopter Academy to Train by Simulation Flying (HATSOFF) Helicopter Training Private. Limited.** to acquire the remaining stake in the helicopter training institute.
- HAL will acquire **50% stake** in HATSOFF from **CAE, Canada**, comprising **3,84,04,205 equity shares** with a face value of **₹10 each**, at **nil consideration**.
- After completion of the transaction, **HATSOFF** will become a **100% wholly-owned subsidiary of HAL**, giving HAL complete **management control**.

SBI Mutual Fund Raises Stake in Swiggy to 5.12% After Acquiring Shares Worth ₹300.6 Crore

- **SBI Mutual Fund** increased its shareholding in **Swiggy** from approximately **4.7% to 5.1%** by purchasing shares worth around **₹300 crore**.

- The investment was made through **open-market transactions**, making **SBI Mutual Fund** a **significant institutional shareholder** in **Swiggy**, a food delivery and quick-commerce company.
- **SBI Mutual Fund's** shareholding crossed the **5% threshold** in **Swiggy** following the share purchase.

Reserve Bank of India Sanctions Amalgamation of Emirates NBD's Indian Branches into RBL Bank Effective December 1, 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India** (**RBI**) approved the **Scheme of Amalgamation** of the **Indian branches of Emirates NBD Bank** (National Bank of Dubai) **P.J.S.C.** (Public Joint Stock Company) with **RBL Bank Limited**, effective **1 December 2026**.
- The **RBI** sanctioned the **amalgamation** under **Section 44A(4)** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- Following the **amalgamation**, all **Indian branches** of **Emirates NBD Bank** will operate as **branches of RBL Bank Limited** from **1 December 2026**.

CARE Ratings to Divest 19.8% Stake in CareEdge Global International Financial Services Centre to State Bank of India and NSE IFSC

- **CARE Edge Ratings Limited (CARE Ratings)** has signed a **share purchase agreement** and a **shareholders' agreement** with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **NSE IFSC (NSEIX)** to sell a **19.8% stake** in its wholly owned subsidiary, **CareEdge Global International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Limited (CGIL)**.
- Under the agreement, **CARE Edge Ratings** will sell a **9.9% equity stake each** to **SBI** and **NSE IFSC**.
- After completion of the transaction, **CARE Edge Ratings** will retain an **80.2% stake** in **CGIL** and continue as its **majority shareholder**.

About CARE Ratings Limited :

- **E**stablished : **1993**
- Headquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

- **CARE Ratings** is **India's second-largest credit rating agency**, providing services in **credit ratings, analytics, consulting and sustainability**.

Embraer to Take a 51% Controlling Stake in Mahindra's Novavayu Aerospace for the Indian Air Force's Medium Transport Aircraft Programme

- Brazilian aerospace manufacturer **Embraer S.A.** signed an agreement with **Mahindra Defence Systems Limited (MDSL)**, the defence arm of **Mahindra & Mahindra Limited (M&M)**, to acquire a **51% controlling stake** in **Novavayu Aerospace Limited (NAL)**.
- The acquisition is valued at approximately **₹5.10 lakh**, according to the supplied information, and the deal is expected to be completed by **1 December 2026**.
- The partnership will establish a **Joint Venture (JV)** between **Embraer** and **Mahindra Defence Systems** to promote Embraer's **C-390 Millennium military transport aircraft** for the **Indian Air Force's (IAF) Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA)** programme.

About Novavayu Aerospace Limited (NAL) :

- Headquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Incorporated : **29 July 2026** as a wholly owned subsidiary of MDSL to support the IAF's **MTA programme**.

Competition Commission of India Approves Maybach Asia Holdings II Pte. Ltd.'s Acquisition of 100% Stake in Sahrudaya Health Care

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the acquisition of **100% of the equity share capital** of **Sahrudaya Health Care Private Limited** by **Maybach Asia Holdings II Pte. Ltd.**
- **Maybach Asia Holdings II Pte. Ltd.** is the acquirer and a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** incorporated solely for the proposed transaction.

ENVIRONMENT

Scientists Discover New Lizard Species "Liolaemus arequipensis" in Peru

- Scientists associated with the **Natural History Museum of San Marcos University (UNMSM), Peru**, discovered a new **cryptic lizard species** named **Liolaemus arequipensis**.

- The new species was discovered at an elevation of **4,818 metres above sea level** in the **Arequipa region of southern Peru**.
- The discovery of **Liolaemus arequipensis** was published in the Swiss scientific journal **Diversity**.
- The newly discovered lizard belongs to the **Liolaemus genus**, a diverse group of **South American lizards** commonly found in the **Andes Mountains**.
- **Liolaemus arequipensis** has a compact body measuring around **6–8 centimetres (2.4–3.2 inches)** in length.

Zoological Survey of India and Malabar Christian College Researchers Discover Three New Centipede Species in Kerala and Karnataka

- Researchers from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**, **Western Ghats Regional Centre**, and **Malabar Christian College, Kozhikode, Kerala**, discovered **three new centipede species** in **Kerala** and **Karnataka**.
- The three newly discovered species are **Rhysida quadrispinosa**, **Rhysida coorgensis**, and **Rhysida neyyarensis**, increasing the number of known **Rhysida species** in India to **23**.
- The research findings were published in the **International Journal of Tropical Insect Science**.

About Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) :

- Established : **1916**
- Headquarters : **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- The **ZSI** conducts **research, surveys, and documentation** of India's **faunal diversity**.

New Eyeless, Nearly Transparent Freshwater Cave Snail Discovered in China's Yunnan Province

- **Erhaia dijiang** is a newly described **freshwater cave snail** belonging to the family **Erhaiidae**, discovered for the first time in **China**.
- The species was discovered deep inside a **high-altitude mountain cave** in **Yuxi City, Yunnan Province**, at an elevation of **2,062 metres above sea level**.
- **Erhaia dijiang** is the **first freshwater cave snail** documented in China and has the **highest recorded elevation** for a cave snail in the family **Erhaiidae**.

New Flowering Plant Species 'Osbeckia assamensis' Identified in Assam's Manas National Park

- Researchers **Namita Nath** of **Gauhati University, Assam**, and **Barnali Das** of **Pragjyotish College, Assam**, documented a new flowering plant species named ***Osbeckia assamensis*** in **Manas National Park, Assam**.
- The discovery was made through floristic surveys conducted between **2021 and 2025** and published in the peer-reviewed international journal ***Phytotaxa***.
- ***Osbeckia assamensis*** belongs to the family **Melastomataceae** and the genus ***Osbeckia***.

APPS AND PORTALS

Sanchar Saathi Portal Surpasses 30 Crore Visits as Citizens Help Combat Telecom Fraud

- The **Sanchar Saathi Portal**, developed by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, was launched in **May 2023** to protect citizens from **telecom fraud, identity misuse and mobile theft**.
- The **Sanchar Saathi Portal** has recorded **more than 30 crore visits**, highlighting its role in preventing **telecom-related frauds**.
- The **Chakshu facility** enables citizens to report **fraudulent calls, SMS and WhatsApp messages**, including fake **KYC alerts, impersonation, investment scams, job scams and loan scams**.

High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes Chairman Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar Launches Official Portal to Boost Public Participation and Scientific Data Collection

- **Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar (Retd.)**, **Chairman** of the **High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes (HLCDC)**, launched the Committee's dedicated **digital web portal** in **New Delhi**.
- The official portal is **demography.mha.gov.in** and is open for **public access** and **stakeholder submissions**.
- The portal allows **Central Government Ministries and Departments**, **State/UT Governments**, **NGOs**, **institutions**, and **individuals** to submit **data and information** on **demographic changes**.

National Highways Authority of India Launches Toll Plaza Feedback Feature on Rajmargyatra

App to Enhance Highway Commuters' Experience

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** introduced the **'Toll Plaza Feedback' feature** on the **Rajmargyatra mobile app** to allow **National Highway (NH) users** to share feedback on **toll plaza services** and improve their overall travel experience.
- The **Toll Plaza Feedback feature** encourages **citizen participation** and helps **NHAI** identify **service gaps**, monitor toll plazas that require improvements, and address **commuter concerns**.
- The initiative aims to promote **safer, smoother, and more convenient highway journeys** by improving toll plaza services based on user feedback.
- The **FASTag Annual Pass** is valid for **one year** or **200 toll crossings**, whichever comes first.

About National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) :

- Established in **1995** under the **National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988**.
- **NHAI** is a **statutory authority** under the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)**.
- Headquarters : **New Delhi, Delhi**
- Chairman : **Santosh Kumar Yadav**.

About Ministry of Road Transport & Highways :

- Cabinet Minister : Nitin Gadkari
- Minister of State : Ajay Tamta, Harsh Malhotra

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Unveils Enhanced Agri Welfare Portal to Provide Farmers with Integrated Digital Services

- **Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW)**, launched the upgraded **Agri Welfare Portal** on **19 October 2026** to provide farmers with **single-window access** to government schemes, financial assistance, and reliable agricultural information.
- The **Agri Welfare Portal** serves as a **single-window digital platform** through which farmers can obtain information about government schemes and submit applications to access eligible benefits.
- The portal integrates three major agricultural initiatives: **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**, **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**, and **AgriStack**.

Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Unveils Upgraded National Mobile

Monitoring System App with Enhanced Security for Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)

- **Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the upgraded **National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) 2.0** mobile application on **23 October 2026** to strengthen attendance monitoring under the **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G)**.
- The upgraded NMMS 2.0 app aims to prevent **fake attendance**, **app tampering** and **fraudulent recording** of workers' attendance under the rural employment programme.
- The enhanced application was developed with technical support from the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)**, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and relevant technical agencies.

Jal Shakti Ministry Introduces Punah Bharan App for Scientific Groundwater Recharge Planning

- The **Union Minister of Jal Shakti** launched the **Punah Bharan Mobile Application** to promote **scientific groundwater recharge planning** and **sustainable water management**.
- The application was developed by **BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics)** in collaboration with the **National Water Mission (NWM)**.
- The initiative comes under the **Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD&GR)**, **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

About Ministry of Jal Shakti :

- Cabinet Minister : C. R. Patil

Minister of State : V. Somanna, Raj Bhushan Choudhary

DEFENCE NEWS

INS Ranvijay Visits Oman's Salalah to Boost India-Oman Maritime Cooperation

- **INS Ranvijay**, a **frontline destroyer of the Indian Navy**, made a **port call at Salalah, Oman, on 29 September 2026** during its ongoing deployment.
- The visit strengthened **maritime cooperation and defence ties between India and Oman**.
- During the port call, **professional engagements** were held between **INS Ranvijay and Oman's RNOV Sadh**.

- A **PASSEX (Passing Exercise)** was conducted **off Salalah** between the **Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Oman**.
- **INS Ranvijay** is a destroyer designed for **fleet escort, anti-air warfare, anti-submarine warfare and surface combat**.
- **Oman's strategic location** near the **Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman** makes it important for **international maritime trade and sea-lane security**.
- Earlier in September 2026, a **National Defence College (NDC)** delegation visited Oman as part of a **Strategic Neighbourhood Study Tour**.

BonV Aero Delivers 45 Logistics Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Eastern Command for High-Altitude Operations

- **Odisha-based start-up BonV Aero** supplied **45 logistics Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)** to the **Indian Army's Eastern Command** on **28 September 2026** for **tactical logistics and mission-specific operations** in Northeast India.
- The UAVs are designed to transport **critical supplies, operational equipment and mission-configured payloads** across **difficult and inaccessible terrain**.
- The UAVs can operate at **10,000–15,000 feet**, including in **Electronic Warfare (EW)-challenged environments**, and have a **payload capacity of up to 10 kg** with an **endurance of 40–45 minutes**.
- BonV Aero has supplied **70 logistics drones to the armed forces over the last three years**, with some deployed along the borders during **Operation Sindoor**.
- BonV Aero has conducted drone operations and trials for the Army at **Tawang, Siliguri, Dimapur, Kargil, Dras, Nyoma, Baramulla and Kupwara**.

Second ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise AIME-2026 Begins at Subic Bay, Philippines

- The **Second Edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026)** commenced at **Subic Bay, Philippines, on 28 September 2026** with the participation of **INS Sahyadri**, **INS Kulish** and maritime forces from **ASEAN Member States**.

- **AIME-2026** is being conducted under the theme **"Anchored in Trust, United at Sea"** to enhance **mutual understanding, cooperation and interoperability** between Indian and ASEAN maritime forces.
- The opening ceremony was attended by **Shri Harsh Kumar Jain, Ambassador of India to the Philippines**, as the **Guest of Honour**.
- **AIME-2026** consists of two phases: the **Harbour Phase** and the **Sea Phase**.

About ASEAN :

- **ASEAN** stands for **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** and is a **regional intergovernmental organisation** in Southeast Asia.
- **ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand**, through the signing of the **ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration)**.
- **ASEAN Headquarters** is located in **Jakarta, Indonesia**, and its **Secretary-General is Dr. Kao Kim Hourn**.
- The ASEAN member states and their years of joining are **Indonesia (1967), Malaysia (1967), Philippines (1967), Singapore (1967), Thailand (1967), Brunei Darussalam (1984), Viet Nam (1995), Lao PDR (1997), Myanmar (1997), Cambodia (1999) and Timor-Leste (2025)**.

Defence Accounts Department to Celebrate Its 279th Annual Day on 1 October 2026

- The **Defence Accounts Department (DAD)** will celebrate its **279th Annual Day** on **1 October 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** will grace the celebrations at **Dr. D.S. Kothari Auditorium, DRDO Bhawan**.
- **Rajnath Singh** will launch key **IT initiatives of DAD**, including the integration of **Indian Army Financial Information System (IAFIS)** with the **SAKSHAM platform**.
- The **revamped National Compilation System (NCS)** for the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** will also be launched.
- The **Payment Routing and Integrated System Management (PRISM) Platform** will be introduced for **Treasury-Single Account Payments** in the **Ministry of Defence**.

- The **Comprehensive Statistical Handbook on Defence Expenditure (COSHE) 2026**, **Raksha Lekha Bharati** (DAD's in-house Hindi magazine), and the **Market Intelligence Report 2025-2026** will be released.

Operation Drishti: Armed Forces Conduct Two Major Mega Eye Surgical Camps in Kashmir

- The **11th Mega Eye Surgical Camp** under **Operation Drishti** concluded at **92 Base Hospital, Srinagar, on 30 September 2026**, completing the **Kashmir leg** of the initiative.
- The **Army Hospital (Research & Referral) (AHRR)** surgical team, led by **Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra**, performed **364 eye surgeries** across the **Tangdhar and Srinagar** camps.
- Teams from **92 Base Hospital and 328 Field Hospital** conducted **18 screening camps** across remote and forward areas of the **Kashmir Valley**, screening nearly **6,000 people**.
- The **first phase** was held at **Tangdhar on 24–25 September 2026**, along the **Line of Control (LoC)**, where **220 sight-restoring surgeries** were performed.

Indian Army Conducts Exercise Jai Se Vijay Near India-Pakistan Border in Rajasthan

- The **Indian Army** conducted **Exercise Jai Se Vijay** on **29 September 2026** near the **India-Pakistan International Border** in **Rajasthan**.
- The exercise was conducted by the **South Western Command**, also known as **Sapta Shakti Command**.
- A stretch of **National Highway-911 (NH-911)** near **Dantour, Rajasthan**, was converted into a **temporary military runway** for helicopter operations.
- The exercise was conducted under the theme **"Mission Ready, Future Ready"**, highlighting operational preparedness and flexibility for **future battlefield conditions**.

India-United Arab Emirates Joint Military Exercise MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN 2026 Begins in Uttarakhand

- **India-United Arab Emirates (UAE) Joint Military Exercise MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN 2026** commenced at the **Foreign Training Node, Chaubatia, Uttarakhand**.

- The exercise is being conducted from **5 to 18 October 2026** and focuses on **Mountain Warfare**, with the objective of enhancing **interoperability, mutual understanding and military cooperation**.
- A total of **92 personnel** are participating in the exercise, with **equal representation from the Indian Army and UAE Army**.
- The **Indian Army contingent** comprises troops from a **Bhairav Battalion**, while the **UAE Army contingent** comprises troops from a **Mountain Infantry Battalion**.

Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth Welcomes Successful Indo-Argentine Mountaineering Expedition

- **General Dhiraj Seth**, **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)**, flagged in the members of the **Joint Indo-Argentine Army Mountaineering Expedition** in **New Delhi** after their successful ascent of two Himalayan peaks.
- The expedition successfully summited **Mt Abi Gamin (7,355 metres)** on **17 September 2026** and **Mt Kamet (7,756 metres)** on **21 September 2026**.
- **Mt Kamet**, located in **Chamoli district, Uttarakhand**, is the **third-highest peak in India**, after **Mt Kanchenjunga** and **Mt Nanda Devi**.
- The expedition consisted of **35 personnel**, including **25 personnel from the Indian Army** and **10 personnel from the Argentine Army**.
- The expedition was led by **Lieutenant Colonel Chirag Chatterjee** and was flagged off from the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**, on **21 August 2026**.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Mark Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Koraput's Delivery of 2,000th Aero-Engine

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** witnessed the delivery of the **2,000th aero-engine** by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Koraput Division, Odisha**, on **6 October 2026** and announced the establishment of a **second production line for Shakti engines**.

- The delivery of the **2,000th aero-engine** marks a significant milestone in India's **indigenous aerospace and defence manufacturing capabilities** and reflects nearly **six decades of HAL Koraput's contribution**.
- **HAL Koraput** has produced engines that have powered frontline aircraft including the **MiG-21, MiG-27, MiG-29 and Su-30MKI**.
- HAL Koraput has overhauled **more than 9,000 engines**, strengthening India's indigenous **repair and overhaul capabilities** and contributing to the **operational readiness and extended service life** of defence assets.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Launch Fleet Support Ship-1, Lay Keel of FSS-5 and Inaugurate Upgraded Shipbuilding Facilities in Visakhapatnam

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** launched **Fleet Support Ship-1 (FSS-1)**, laid the **keel of Fleet Support Ship-5 (FSS-5)** and inaugurated the upgraded **Slipway-4** and **300-tonne Goliath Crane** at **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam**, on **6 October 2026**.
- The milestones demonstrate India's growing **indigenous shipbuilding capabilities** and strengthen the country's **defence manufacturing self-reliance**.
- The upgraded **Slipway-4**, with extended length and enhanced **load-bearing capability**, along with the **300-tonne Goliath Crane**, will enable HSL to build and launch vessels of up to **45,000 DWT (Deadweight Tonnage)**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation's Kaveri Dry Engine Successfully Completes Russia Trials for Ghatak Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle

- The **Kaveri Dry Engine (KDE)**, also known as the **Kaveri Derivative Engine**, was developed by **Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), Bengaluru**, under the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- The **KDE** successfully completed **high-altitude test facility evaluations and flight trials in Russia** for India's **Ghatak Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV)**.

- The high-altitude testing was conducted at the **Central Institute of Aviation Motors (CIAM)** in **Russia** under simulated high-altitude conditions.

Ministry of Defence Signs ₹661.5 Crore Deal with BrahMos Aerospace for Navy Fire Control Systems and Launchers

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a **₹661.50 crore contract** with **BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL)** on **6 October 2026** for the procurement of **BrahMos Fire Control Systems and launchers** for **Indian Navy warships**.
- The contract was signed in **New Delhi** in the presence of **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh**.
- The procurement has been placed under the **Buy (Indian-IDDM)** category, with a minimum of **68% Indigenous Content (IC)**.
- The contract aims to strengthen the Indian Navy's **maritime strike capability**, **maritime security architecture** and **indigenous defence technology**.
- The systems are reportedly intended for **two Veer-class missile corvettes** and **two Ranvir-class destroyers**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Successfully Tests Indigenous High-Altitude Platform for Long-Endurance Stratospheric Operations

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted the **flight trial of an indigenously developed High-Altitude Platform (HAPS)**, marking a significant milestone in India's development of **long-endurance stratospheric airship technology**.
- The indigenous **HAPS** reached an altitude of **21 km above mean sea level (AMSL)** and maintained **20 km AMSL for more than 30 minutes** during the experimental flight.
- After completing the high-altitude flight, the HAPS was **commanded to descend and successfully recovered**, followed by analysis of its **flight performance data**.

- The platform transmitted **real-time video data and vehicle parameters** to the **Ground Control Station (GCS)** throughout the flight, demonstrating its intended performance.

Embraer and Mahindra Identify Nagpur for Proposed C-390 Millennium Assembly Line

- **Brazil's Embraer** and India's **Mahindra Group** have identified **Nagpur, Maharashtra**, as the potential location for a **Final Assembly Line (FAL)** for the **C-390 Millennium military transport aircraft** in India.
- The proposed FAL is part of the companies' plan to create an **industrial and support ecosystem** for the **C-390 Millennium** as they jointly pursue the **Indian Air Force (IAF) Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) programme**.
- The **Nagpur FAL is currently only a proposed facility** and will be established **only if the Government of India selects the C-390 Millennium and places an order** under the IAF's MTA programme.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Successfully Conducts First Live Jump of Advanced High-Altitude Parachute

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted the **maiden live jump** of the **Advanced High-Altitude Parachute (AHAP)** at **Nyoma (Mudh DZ)**, one of the highest-altitude drop zones.
- The AHAP live jump was executed from an altitude of **16,000 feet above mean sea level (AMSL)**, demonstrating its capability in **extremely high-altitude terrain**.
- The **AHAP parachute was deployed at 15,500 feet AMSL**, while the landing was carried out at **Nyoma (Mudh DZ)** located at **13,700 feet**.
- The successful jump demonstrated the **efficacy and tactical employability** of the AHAP system for **high-altitude military operations**.

Indian Coast Guard Conducts 12th National Maritime Search & Rescue Exercise SAREX-2026 off Paradip

- **SAREX-2026** is the **12th National Maritime Search & Rescue Exercise**, organised by the **Indian Coast Guard** and conducted **off Paradip, Odisha, on 8 October 2026**.
- **Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth** inaugurated **SAREX-2026** on **7 October 2026**.
- The exercise involved **32 delegates from 30 foreign friendly nations**, promoting **international cooperation and interoperability** in maritime Search & Rescue.
- **SAREX-2026** is a **multi-agency exercise** aimed at validating **operational preparedness**, enhancing **international interoperability**, testing **joint response mechanisms**, and exchanging **best practices**.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Approves Revised Standard Operating Procedure for Defence Industry Use of Ministry of Defence Proof Ranges, Firing Ranges & Test Facilities

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** approved the **revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** for utilisation of **MoD Proof Ranges, Field Firing Ranges and Laboratory Test Facilities** by the **Indian Defence Industry**.
- The revised SOP provides a **detailed, simplified and transparent procedure** for the **allotment and utilisation** of proof ranges and laboratory testing facilities, along with the required formats.
- **Proof and testing charges have been waived** for **iDEX, Technology Development Fund (TDF), Make** and other **MoD developmental projects** to promote **Atmanirbharta in Defence**.

Hical Technologies and Safran Aerosystems Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Manufacture Rafale Systems in India

- **Hical Technologies Private Limited**, a **Bengaluru-based Indian aerospace and defence manufacturer**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **French aeropace and defence company Safran Aerosystems** to explore establishing a **Joint Venture (JV)** in **India**.
- The proposed **JV** aims to manufacture **complex systems for Dassault Rafale fighter aircraft** in **India** under the **Make in India initiative**.
- The proposed manufacturing scope includes **complex fluid systems**, **fuel systems**, and **related assemblies** for **Rafale aircraft**.

- **Hical Technologies'** newly inaugurated **aerospace manufacturing facility** at **Devanahalli, near Bengaluru, Karnataka**, will support the proposed partnership and expand its manufacturing capabilities.

Indian Navy Launches Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Shreyas' (Yard 3040) at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata

- **Yard 3040**, named **'Shreyas'**, a **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)**, was launched on **10 October 2026** at **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, **Kolkata**.
- The vessel was launched by **Mrs Reyman Kochhar** in the presence of **Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar**, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (**VCNS**).
- Senior dignitaries from the **Indian Navy**, **Ministry of Defence**, **GRSE**, and **industry partners** attended the launch ceremony.
- The construction of **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs)** is being undertaken concurrently at two shipyards: **GRSE, Kolkata, West Bengal**, and **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa**.

Defence Correspondents Course for 24 Journalists Concludes at Tezpur After Navy, Air Force and Army Training

- The **Defence Correspondents Course**, comprising **24 journalists**, concluded at **Tezpur** after completing its **Navy**, **Air Force**, and **Army** training legs.
- The course lasted **three weeks** and aimed to familiarise journalists with the **roles**, **capabilities**, and **operational environments** of India's **three Defence Services**.
- The participating journalists gained insights into the functioning of the **Defence Forces** through **briefings**, **field visits**, and **interactions** with military personnel.
- The course strengthened **mutual understanding** between the Defence Forces and the media, promoting **public awareness** while respecting **operational sensitivities** and **national security considerations**.

Rajnath Singh Presents SIDM Champion Awards 2026, Urges Increased Private Sector Participation, R&D and Defence Production Capacity

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** presented the **SIDM Champion Awards 2026** at the **8th Annual Session** of the **Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM)** in **New Delhi** on **9 October 2026**.
- A total of **15 Champion Awards** were presented to recognise achievements in **indigenous technology development**, **product innovation**, **design**, **import substitution**, **manufacturing excellence**, and **defence exports**.
- The theme of the 8th Annual Session was **"Sovereign Capabilities, Contested Frontiers: Accelerating India's Strategic Autonomy in an Era of Disruption."**
- **Rajnath Singh** emphasised that **national security** depends on India's ability to **design, develop, manufacture**, and **control critical defence technologies and equipment**.

Chief of Defence Staff General NS Raja Subramani Inaugurates Residential and Utility Infrastructure Under Project Seabird Phase IIA at Karwar

- **General NS Raja Subramani**, **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** and **Secretary, Department of Military Affairs**, inaugurated **residential accommodation** and **critical utility and amenity infrastructure** under **Project Seabird Phase IIA** at **Naval Base, Karwar, Karnataka**, on **8 October 2026**.
- The inauguration took place in the presence of **Vice Admiral Vivek Dahiya**, **Director General Seabird**, and other senior officers.
- The residential facilities at **East of Manzil Creek (EOMC)** and **Amadalli** include **60 dwelling units (DUs) for Senior Sailors**, **60 DUs for Naval Defence Civilians**, accommodation for **156 Defence Security Corps (DSC) personnel**, and a **Kindergarten (KG) School**.

India and the United Kingdom Begin Joint Naval Exercise KONKAN-26 off the Coast of Plymouth

- The **Indian Navy (IN)** and the **United Kingdom's Royal Navy (RN)** commenced the bilateral maritime exercise **KONKAN-26** from **8 to 15 October 2026**.
- Exercise **KONKAN-26** is being conducted off the coast of **Plymouth, United Kingdom (UK)**, to strengthen maritime cooperation between India and the UK.
- The Indian Navy participated in the exercise with **INS Trishul**, a guided-missile stealth frigate, which arrived at Plymouth, UK.

- The main objective of KONKAN-26 is to enhance **interoperability**, **operational coordination**, **maritime cooperation**, and the **exchange of best practices** between the two navies.

Indian Army Introduces 'Bharat Rice' Initiative for Troops in the Presence of Defence and Consumer Affairs Ministers

- The **Indian Army (IA)** launched the **Bharat Rice initiative** on **12 October 2026** in **New Delhi, Delhi**, to provide superior-quality rice directly to defence personnel.
- The initiative was launched in the presence of **Rajnath Singh**, **Union Minister of Defence**, and **Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi**, **Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.
- The **Directorate General of Supplies and Transport (DGST)** is spearheading the Bharat Rice initiative, incorporating continuous feedback from troops to improve ration quality.

About Food Corporation of India (FCI) :

- Established : **1965** under the **Food Corporations Act, 1964**
- Headquarters : **New Delhi, Delhi**.

Indian Coast Guard Successfully Completes High-Altitude Mount Mukut Expedition

- A **17-member Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** mountaineering team successfully scaled **Mount Mukut**, at an elevation of **7,045 metres**, on **7 October 2026**.
- The expedition was named **"Tat Se Parwat"**, meaning **"From Sea to Summit"**, and was part of the ICG's preparations for a proposed **Mount Everest expedition in 2027**.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** flagged in the successful mountaineering team at a ceremony held in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**, on **12 October 2026**.
- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** was established in **1977** and serves as India's **maritime law-enforcement and search-and-rescue force**.

Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026 Comes into Effect on 8 October 2026

- The **Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026** came into force on **8 October 2026**, following a notification issued by the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** gave her assent to the Act on **9 April 2026**.

- The Act establishes a common legal framework for regulating the recruitment and service conditions of **Group A General Duty officers** and other officers in the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)**.
- Under the Act, **50% of posts** at the **Inspector General (IG)** rank and a minimum of **67% of posts** at the **Additional Director General (ADG)** rank are to be filled by **Indian Police Service (IPS)** officers on deputation.

INS Tarkash to Participate in IBSAMAR IX 2026, Strengthening India's Commitment to Maritime Cooperation

- The **Indian Navy** deployed **INS Tarkash**, a frontline guided-missile stealth frigate, to **South Africa** to participate in the 9th edition of the **India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime Exercise (IBSAMAR IX) 2026**.
- **IBSAMAR** is a trilateral multinational maritime exercise involving the **Indian Navy, Brazilian Navy and South African Navy**.
- The IBSAMAR exercise has been conducted biennially since **2008** under the **India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA)** framework.
- The theme of **IBSAMAR IX 2026** is **"Stronger Together Towards a Shared Future in the Maritime Domain."**

Indian Navy Concludes Its First-Ever Command of Combined Maritime Forces Task Force 154

- The **Indian Navy** successfully completed its maiden command of a **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)** Task Force by relinquishing command of **Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154)** on **14 October 2026** in **Manama, Bahrain**.
- The **Indian Navy** assumed command of **CTF 154** on **11 February 2026**, marking the first time the Indian Navy led a **CMF Task Force**.
- **CTF 154**, established in **May 2023**, is CMF's dedicated **multinational maritime training task force**, responsible for strengthening maritime training, interoperability and capacity building among partner nations.

Indian Coast Guard Inducts Homegrown Advanced Light Helicopter MK-III Helicopter at Ratnagiri, Maharashtra

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, inducted an indigenous **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK-III**, designated **CG 875**, into Coast Guard Region (West) at **Coast Guard Air Station (ICGAS), Ratnagiri, Maharashtra**.
- The helicopter was manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** and received a traditional **water cannon salute** at its induction ceremony.
- **CG 875** is the first of five allotted ALH MK-III helicopters to be positioned with **831 Squadron (CG)** at Ratnagiri.
- The helicopter is equipped with **advanced radar**, an **Electro-Optical (EO) Pod** for long-range imaging and identification, and an **Automatic Identification System (AIS)**.

Defence Accounts Department Conducts Nationwide Cleanliness Drive Under 'Swachhata Hi Seva' Campaign

- The **Defence Accounts Department (DAD)** organised a nationwide **Shramdaan** under the **Swachhata Hi Seva 2026** campaign.
- Field offices participated in the two-week-long **Swachhata Pakhwada** and planted **over 25,000 trees** under the **'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'** initiative.
- The campaign concluded with a cleanliness drive at **MCD Primary School, Bagdola, Dwarka, New Delhi**, led by **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) Smt Alka Nangia Arora**, in association with the **Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)**.

Ministry of Defence Signs ₹4,106 Crore Defence Contracts for GSAT-7C Satellite and Varunastra Heavy-Weight Torpedoes

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed defence contracts worth approximately **₹4,106 crore** on **15 October 2026** for the **GSAT-7C communication satellite** for the **Indian Air Force** and **Varunastra heavy-weight torpedoes** for the **Indian Navy**.
- The **GSAT-7C contract**, worth **₹2,563 crore**, was signed with **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, **Bengaluru**.
- **GSAT-7C** is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured **communication satellite** that will provide **secure, resilient and seamless communication** for Indian Air Force assets.

Indian Coast Guard and Korea Coast Guard Hold 14th High-Level Meeting in Incheon, South

Korea

- The **14th High-Level Meeting (HLM)** between the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** and the **Korea Coast Guard (KCG)** was held on **14 October 2026** at **Incheon, Republic of Korea**.
- The **Indian Coast Guard** delegation was led by **Inspector General T. Sashi Kumar**, while the **Korea Coast Guard** delegation was led by **Senior Superintendent General Im Myeong Gil**.
- Both Coast Guards agreed to strengthen cooperation in **Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR)**, **Marine Pollution Response (MPR)** and **Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE)**.

Indian Navy Commissions INS Samarthak, India's First Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel

- **Indian Naval Ship** (**INS**) **Samarthak**, the **first of class Multi-Purpose Vessel** (**MPV**), was **commissioned** into the **Indian Navy** on **16 October 2026**.
- The **commissioning ceremony** was **presided over** by **Vice President of India C. P. Radhakrishnan**, in the presence of **Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**, **Chief of the Naval Staff**.
- **INS Samarthak** was **designed and constructed** by **Larsen & Toubro** (**L&T**) **Shipyard**, marking a **major milestone** in **indigenous shipbuilding**.

14th India–Mongolia Joint Working Group Meeting Reiterates Commitment to Deepening Bilateral Defence Cooperation

- The **14th Joint Working Group** (**JWG**) **Meeting** between the **Defence Ministries** of **India** and **Mongolia** was held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, on **16 October 2026**.
- The **meeting** was **co-chaired** by **Dr Ishita Ganguli Tripathy**, **Joint Secretary**, **Ministry of Defence**, **India**, and **Brigadier General Gansukh E.**, **Deputy State Secretary of Defence**, **Mongolia**.
- Both countries **reviewed ongoing bilateral defence cooperation** and **discussed measures** to **strengthen** their **India–Mongolia Strategic Partnership**.

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur Announces Defence Drone Hub and $1 Billion Fundraising Campaign to Boost Research and Innovation

- Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, from the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, launched the **'Greater Than Us'** fundraising campaign of the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur)**.

- The **'Greater Than Us'** campaign aims to raise **USD 1 billion** by **March 2029** to strengthen **research, innovation, and technological infrastructure** at IIT Kanpur.
- The campaign aims to mobilise funds from **alumni, industry, donors, and institutional partners** to support **advanced research, modern infrastructure, faculty development, scholarships, and entrepreneurship**.

INS Sudarshini Departs Salalah, Oman, After Port Visit During Its Historic Lokayan-2026 Transoceanic Voyage

- The Indian Navy's three-masted sail training ship **INS Sudarshini** departed **Salalah, Oman**, after a port visit from **14 to 17 October 2026**, as part of its historic transoceanic deployment, **Lokayan-2026**.
- **Lokayan-2026** is a historic transoceanic voyage that showcases the Indian Navy's **maritime heritage** and promotes **professional seamanship**, **resilience**, and **leadership** among naval trainees.

Indian Air Force Carries Out Emergency Casualty Evacuation from Leh to Delhi

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** carried out a **short-notice casualty evacuation mission** using a **C-130J aircraft**, airlifting a **critically ill 30-year-old civilian patient** from **Leh to Palam, Delhi**, for further medical treatment.
- The **medical evacuation** was conducted **late at night**, despite **darkness** and **challenging weather conditions**.

The mission required a **high degree of operational preparedness**, **professional coordination**, and **timely execution**.

5th India–Australia Joint Military Exercise AUSTRAHIND Begins in Thiruvananthapuram

- The **5th edition** of **India–Australia Joint Military Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026** commenced on **19 October 2026** at the **Foreign Training Node, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**, and will continue until **1 November 2026**.
- **AUSTRAHIND 2026** involves approximately **120 personnel each** from the **Indian Army** and **Australian Army**.

- The **Indian Army contingent** comprises troops from the **Garhwal Rifles** and other arms and services, while the **Australian Army contingent** comprises troops from **13 Brigade**.
- The theme of **Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026** is **"Joint Sub-Conventional Operations in Island and Coastal Environment under Chapter VII of the UN Mandate."**
- The **4th edition of Exercise AUSTRAHIND** was held at **Irwin Barracks, Perth, Australia**, from **13 to 26 October 2025**.
- The **first edition of Exercise AUSTRAHIND** was held in **2022** at the **Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan, India**.

India and Russia Hold 15th Edition of INDRA Joint Military Exercise in Russia

- **India** and **Russia** conducted the **15th edition** of the bilateral naval exercise **INDRA-2026** at **Vladivostok** and the **Sea of Japan (East Sea)**, Russia, to strengthen **maritime cooperation**, **operational interoperability** and **coordination** between their navies.
- **Exercise INDRA-2026** was scheduled from **13 to 18 October 2026**, with the **maritime phase** conducted on **16–17 October 2026**.
- **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri** arrived at **Vladivostok, Russia**, on **10 October 2026** to participate in the exercise.

Indian Navy to Hold 5th Swavlamban Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Seminar on 26–27 October 2026

- The **Indian Navy** will organise the **5th edition of Swavlamban 2026**, its flagship **Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Seminar**, on **26–27 October 2026** at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**.
- The **curtain-raiser press conference** was held on **19 October 2026** in New Delhi, chaired by **Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar**, **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS)**.
- **Swavlamban 2026** aims to promote **indigenous technological innovation**, strengthen **naval operational capabilities**, and advance **Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance)**.

Defence Ministry Signs ₹770 Crore Deal with Bharat Electronics Limited to Supply Advanced Low-Level Lightweight Radars to the Indian Army

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a contract worth approximately **₹770 crore** with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** to procure the **Improved Low Level Light Weight Radar (LLLR-I)** on **21 October 2026**.
- The contract was signed in **New Delhi** in the presence of Defence Secretary **Rajesh Kumar Singh**.
- The **LLLR-I radar system** is designed to strengthen the **Indian Army's air defence capabilities** against aerial threats, including **fighter-sized targets** and **mini/micro drones**.
- The radar can **detect and track** fighter-sized aircraft, mini drones, and micro drones, enabling the armed forces to monitor a range of aerial threats.

About Bharat Electronics Limited :

- **Founded :** 1954
- **Headquarters :** Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- **Chairman & Managing Director :** Manoj Jain
- **Owners :** Government of India (51.14%), Life Insurance Corporation (7.5%), Bank of Baroda (4%)

Indian Air Force Holds Industry Outreach Programme to Advance Unmanned and Autonomous Systems Roadmap on 21 October 2026

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** conducted an **Industry Outreach Programme** at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**, on **21 October 2026** to engage with industry stakeholders, **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**, startups, and industry partners regarding its long-term requirements for **unmanned and autonomous systems**.
- The programme was chaired by **Air Marshal Premkumar K, VM, VSM**, Director General (Weapon Systems), Air Headquarters.

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh Inaugurates 'GYANDEEP' Hindi Library at Sena Bhawan, New Delhi, Under Special Campaign 6

- Defence Secretary **Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh** inaugurated **'GYANDEEP'**, a newly established **Hindi library**, at **Sena Bhawan, New Delhi**, on **22 October 2026**.

- The inauguration was conducted as part of **Special Campaign 6**, organised by the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** from **2 October to 31 October 2026**.
- The **GYANDEEP Hindi library** aims to **promote Hindi books and literature**, encourage the **use of Hindi in official work**, and strengthen the culture of working in Hindi to improve the implementation of **Rajbhasha**.

33rd Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-2026) Begins in Visakhapatnam

- The **33rd edition** of the **Singapore–India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-2026)** commenced on **21 October 2026** at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)**, involving the **Indian Navy (IN)** and the **Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)**.
- **SIMBEX-2026** is a six-day naval exercise scheduled from **21 to 26 October 2026**, aimed at strengthening **maritime cooperation**, **operational interoperability**, and **security** in the **Indo-Pacific region**.
- The opening ceremony was held on **21 October 2026** onboard **INS Nilgiri** and **INS Kamorta** at **Visakhapatnam**.
- The **32nd edition of SIMBEX (SIMBEX-25)** was held in **Singapore** from **28 July to 1 August 2025**.

Indian Navy's First Training Squadron Arrives in Malé, Maldives, for Long Range Training Deployment

- Ships of the **Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS)**, comprising **INS Tir**, **INS Sujata**, and **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Sarathi**, arrived off **Malé, Maldives**, on **21 October 2026** as part of the squadron's **Long Range Training Deployment**.
- The Indian naval squadron received a warm welcome from the **Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)**, reflecting the strong **maritime partnership** and close regional ties between **India and the Maldives**.

Indian Navy to Organise Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2026 to Strengthen Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

- The **Indian Navy** will conduct the **Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD-2026)** from **3 to 5 November 2026** at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**.

- **IPRD** is the Indian Navy's **annual apex-level international outreach conference** held at the **strategic level**.
- The **National Maritime Foundation (NMF)** is the Indian Navy's **knowledge partner** and **principal organiser** of **IPRD-2026**.
- The theme of **IPRD-2026** is **"Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.**

Ministry of Home Affairs and Indian Army Launch Joint Training Programme for 600 Civil Defence Master Trainers in 12 States/Union Territories

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and the **Indian Army (IA)** launched a first-of-its-kind **joint training initiative** to strengthen **India's Civil Defence preparedness**.
- The initiative aims to fulfil **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision** of building a **vibrant Civil Defence network** equipped with **modern systems, technologies** and **contemporary preparedness capabilities**.
- The vision of a vibrant Civil Defence network was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his **Independence Day address** on **15 August 2026** from the **Red Fort**.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh to Head India's Delegation at 13th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in the Philippines

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** will lead the **Indian delegation** at the **13th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)** in **Cebu, Philippines**, from **28 to 29 October 2026**.
- Rajnath Singh will address the forum on **"Exchange of Views on Regional and International Security Issues."**
- The **ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)** is the highest **defence consultative and cooperative mechanism** within **ASEAN**.
- **ADMM-Plus** brings together **10 ASEAN member states** and **eight Dialogue Partners**, including **India**, the **United States**, **China**, **Russia**, **Japan**, **South Korea**, **Australia** and **New Zealand**.
- The 10 ASEAN member states are **Brunei**, **Cambodia**, **Indonesia**, **Lao PDR**, **Malaysia**, **Myanmar**, the **Philippines**, **Singapore**, **Thailand**, **Timor-Leste** and **Vietnam**.

- India became a **Dialogue Partner** of ASEAN in **1992**, and the inaugural ADMM-Plus meeting was held in **Hanoi, Vietnam**, on **12 October 2010**.

Indian Naval Ship Trishul Arrives at Civitavecchia, Italy, During Mediterranean Sea Deployment

- **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Trishul** arrived at **Civitavecchia, Italy**, on **25 October 2026**, during its **operational deployment** to the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- INS Trishul conducted a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** with the **Italian Naval Ship Carlo Margottini** before entering the harbour.

Ministry of Defence Partners with IndiaAI Mission to Develop a Secure Military AI Layer, Says Defence Secretary RK Singh

- **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh** stated that the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** is collaborating with the **IndiaAI Mission** to develop a dedicated **military AI layer** for India's armed forces.
- The proposed **military AI layer** will use **secure domestic computing infrastructure** to support **military decision-making**, **target acquisition** and **data fusion**, enabling a more integrated **sensor-to-shooter loop**.

Defence Acquisition Council Approves ₹2.12 Lakh Crore Worth of Capital Procurement Proposals for Armed Forces

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, accorded **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for capital acquisition proposals worth approximately **₹2.12 lakh crore (₹2,12,000 crore)** on **26 October 2026**.
- The approvals cover the **Indian Army**, **Indian Navy** and **Indian Air Force (IAF)** to strengthen their operational capabilities, combat preparedness, mobility and modernisation.
- Approximately **82% of the total procurement value** will be sourced from the **Indian domestic defence industry**, boosting indigenous defence manufacturing.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Unveils Revised Land Warfare Doctrine at Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi

- **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** released the **Land Warfare Doctrine** to provide an overarching framework for preparing the **Indian Army (IA)** to address **evolving warfare challenges** and **future conflicts**.
- The Land Warfare Doctrine was released during the **Army Commanders' Conference** held in **New Delhi, Delhi**.
- The revised doctrine replaces the earlier **Land Warfare Doctrine of December 2018** and incorporates **advanced technologies**, **drones**, **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **precision warfare** and **multi-domain operations**.

Border Roads Organisation Marks the 19th Raising Day of Project Arunank in Arunachal Pradesh

- **Project Arunank** of the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** celebrated its **19th Raising Day** on **24 October 2026** at **Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **Project Arunank** was raised in **2008** to strengthen **strategic infrastructure** and improve **connectivity** across the challenging terrain of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The project develops and maintains vital **border infrastructure** amid rugged mountains, dense forests and difficult climatic conditions, enhancing the **operational preparedness of the Armed Forces**.

Indian Navy's Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Srishti' (Yard 1283) Launched in Goa

- **Yard 1283 (Srishti)**, a **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)**, was launched on **27 October 2026** at **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa**.
- The launch ceremony was conducted by **Smt. Sandeepa Sahay** in the presence of **Shri Vishvajit Sahay, Secretary (Defence Finance)**.
- **Srishti** is an indigenously designed and built vessel that will strengthen the Indian Navy's **maritime operational capabilities**.

Indian Navy Launches First Sullage Barge and Lays Keels for Two Barges at Thane

- On **26 October 2026**, the **Indian Navy** conducted the launch of the **first Sullage Barge (Yard 142)**, the keel laying of the **third Sullage Barge (Yard 144)**, and the keel laying of the **first Bottom Opening Dumb Barge (Yard 148)**.

- The ceremonies were held at **M/s Suryadipta Projects Pvt. Ltd., Thane, Maharashtra**, an MSME shipyard.

11th India–Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI 2026 Begins in Banyuwangi, Indonesia

- The **11th edition** of the **India–Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI 2026** commenced at **Banyuwangi, Indonesia**.
- Exercise **GARUDA SHAKTI 2026** is being conducted from **27 October to 6 November 2026** to strengthen **bilateral defence cooperation** and **operational interoperability** between India and Indonesia.
- The Indian contingent comprises troops from the **Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)**, while the Indonesian contingent comprises personnel from the **Indonesian Special Forces**.
- The **10th edition** of Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI was held from **3 to 12 December 2025** at the **Special Forces Training School (SFTS), Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, India**.
- The **first edition** of the India–Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI was held in **2012** in **India**.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth to Inaugurate VISV-2026 to Highlight India's Indigenous Defence Technologies and International Partnerships

- **Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth** will inaugurate **VISV-2026** on **30 October 2026** at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**.
- **VISV-2026** stands for **Vision, Innovation, Synergy, Values** and is being organised by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** in collaboration with the **Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS)**.
- The theme of VISV-2026 is **"Showcasing Defence Capabilities, Strengthening Global Partnerships."**

Defence Research and Development Organisation Launches Special Campaign 6.0 to Clear Pending Matters and Improve Administrative Efficiency

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has launched the **Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters (SCDPM 6.0)** across its headquarters, laboratories and establishments.
- The campaign is coordinated by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**.
- **SCDPM 6.0** focuses on **reducing administrative pendency**, expediting **public grievance redressal**, **digitising records**, **improving cleanliness** and **optimising workspace**.

Indian Navy's Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion System Reaches Key Milestone with STW-2 Testing of Energy Module

- The **Indian Navy's indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system** achieved a major development milestone on **24 October 2026** with the inauguration of the **Setting to Work Phase-2 (STW-2)** activity for its **Energy Module**.
- The inauguration ceremony took place at **Larsen & Toubro's (L&T) AM Naik Heavy Engineering Complex** in **Hazira, Gujarat**.
- The AIP system was developed by the **Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL)**, a laboratory under the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

TakeMe2Space to Launch India's First Networked Orbital Data Centre Mission on Falcon 9 in 2028

- **TakeMe2Space**, a **Hyderabad-based Indian spacetech startup**, plans to launch **India's first networked orbital data centre mission** in **late 2028**.
- The mission will use **SpaceX's Falcon 9** rocket under the **Waymaker 2 rideshare mission**.
- TakeMe2Space has signed a **Launch Service Agreement** with **RIDE! Space**, a **France-based launch mission management company**.
- The mission will deploy **two 100-kg MOI (My Orbital Infrastructure) satellites** into a **Sun-synchronous orbit (SSO)** at approximately **500 km altitude**.

- Each satellite will carry **10 NVIDIA Thor Graphics Processing Units (GPUs)**, **100** Terabytes (TB) **of storage**, and generate around **1.5** kilowatts (kW) **of power** for in-orbit computing.

Tata Communications Establishes Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics Centre of Excellence at Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy University in Tamil Nadu

- **Tata Communications Limited (TCL)** launched a **Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics** at **Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA) Deemed University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu**.
- The **CoE** was formally launched by **Ganesh Lakshminarayanan**, **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of Tata Communications.
- The facility was established through a combined **investment of ₹3.5 crore by Tata Communications and SASTRA**.
- The **Centre of Excellence** aims to strengthen **research, training, innovation and capacity building** in **cybersecurity and digital forensics**.

About TCL :

- **Tata Communications Limited (TCL)** was formerly known as **Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL)** and is headquartered in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **TCL was incorporated on 19 March 1986** and operates as a global **telecommunications and digital infrastructure company**.

Union Minister for Education Pralhad Joshi Launches Seva First Innovation Challenge at Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru

- **Union Minister for Education Pralhad Joshi** inaugurated the **Seva First Innovation Challenge (SFIC)** for the **South Zone** at the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- **SFIC** aims to encourage **young people** to identify **community problems** and develop **innovative, testable and scalable solutions**.

- The challenge is organised by the **Ministry of Education (MoE)**, **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** and **University Grants Commission (UGC)**, with **IISc Bengaluru** serving as the **South Zone Nodal Institute**.
- **IISc Bengaluru** will provide **technical evaluation, mentorship and innovation guidance** to participants.

Dhamra Port in Odisha Shifts Entire Electricity Consumption to Renewable Power

- **Dhamra Port in Odisha**, operated by **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)**, has shifted its **entire electricity consumption to renewable power** with effect from **August 2026**.
- Dhamra Port has become **India's first large-scale private multi-cargo port to operate completely on renewable electricity**.
- The port now meets **more than 90 lakh units of monthly electricity demand** from **renewable energy sources**.
- Its renewable electricity consumption exceeds **108 GWh annually on an annualised basis** at the current operating level.

EON Space Labs Obtains Patent for Indigenous MIRA Space Telescope

- **Hyderabad-based deeptech startup EON Space Labs** has received an **Indian patent** for its indigenously developed miniaturised space telescope-based imaging system named **MIRA**, for the invention **"A Miniaturized Telescope-Based Imaging System."**
- **MIRA weighs only 502 grams** and is manufactured from a **single block of fused silica**, which provides **enhanced stability, reduced vibration sensitivity and high-quality imaging** in a compact form factor.
- The **MIRA imaging system is certified as space-grade according to NASA standards** and is designed to provide **high-definition multispectral Earth observation imagery**.

Air Ayodhya Gets Ministry of Civil Aviation Approval to Enhance Regional Air Connectivity in Uttar Pradesh Under Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik

- **Megamax Aviation Private Limited** has received a **No Objection Certificate (NOC)** from the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Government of India**, for its regional airline **Air Ayodhya** to operate under the **Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS–UDAN)**.
- **Air Ayodhya** is a proposed **regional airline** that will primarily focus on improving **air connectivity in Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.
- The **NOC** marks the **first key regulatory milestone** for Air Ayodhya before starting commercial operations.
- After receiving the NOC, Air Ayodhya will begin the certification process with the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** for its **Air Operator Certificate (AOC)**.

SatLeo Labs to Launch India's First Commercial CubeSat Thermal Payload and Full-Stack Thermal Intelligence Platform

- **SatLeo Labs**, an **Ahmedabad-based space-tech startup**, developed **TAPAS-1** (**Thermal Access Platform for Analytics & Solutions**), **India's first dedicated commercial CubeSat-category thermal payload**.
- **TAPAS-1** was launched on **October 2, 2026**, aboard **SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket** as part of the **Transporter-18 rideshare mission**.
- **Dhruva Space**, an **Indian private space company**, deployed its **LEAP-2** (**Launching Expeditions for Aspiring Payloads**) mission, which hosted multiple **In-Orbit Demonstration (IOD) payloads**.
- The launch took place from **Space Launch Complex 4E (SLC-4E)**, **Vandenberg Space Force Base**, **California, USA**.

T-Mobile and Reliance Jio Launch World's First 5G Standalone Roaming Service via Syniverse

- **T-Mobile (US)** and **Reliance Jio (India)** have launched the **world's first 5G Standalone (5G SA) roaming connection**, enabled through **interoperability with Syniverse**.
- The new service allows **T-Mobile customers travelling in India** to access **5G SA roaming on Reliance Jio's network**.

- **Reliance Jio customers travelling in the United States** will be able to access **T-Mobile's 5G SA network** through the new roaming arrangement.
- The **5G SA roaming connection** is enabled by **Syniverse**, which provides the interoperability required between the two telecom networks.

Tata Steel Extends Joint Letter of Intent with Netherlands for Green Steel Project at IJmuiden

- **Tata Steel** has extended its **Joint Letter of Intent (JLoI)** with the **Government of the Netherlands** and the **Province of North Holland** to support its **Green Steel Project at IJmuiden, Netherlands**.
- The **JLoI** was originally signed in **September 2025** between **Tata Steel Nederland, Tata Steel Limited, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, and the Province of North Holland**.
- The **JLoI has been extended by five months until 1 March 2027**, giving the parties additional time to resolve **outstanding matters** and work towards a **final tailor-made agreement** and **Final Investment Decision (FID)**.

Technology Development Board Partners with Multi Nano Sense Technologies for ₹37.51 Crore Research Development and Innovation Support for Indigenous Multi-Gas Sensor Platform

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India**, has signed an agreement with **Multi Nano Sense Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur, Maharashtra**, for financial support of **₹37.51 crore** under the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund**.
- The project has a total approved cost of **₹75.02 crore**, with TDB support being provided through **Optionally Convertible Debt (OCD)**.
- The project focuses on developing a **Platform MEMS + AFE SoC Multi-Gas Sensor** to advance the technology from **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)-4 to TRL-9**.

Digital India BHASHINI (BHASHa INterface for India) Division and Comptroller and Auditor General of India Launch 'CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad' for AI-Powered Audit Document Translation

- **Digital India BHASHINI (BHASHa INterface for India) Division (DIBD)**, under **Digital India Corporation (DIC)** and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, in collaboration with the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)**, launched **"CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad"**.
- **CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad** is an **AI-based multilingual document translation solution** developed by **BHASHINI** specifically for translating **official CAG documents and audit reports**.
- The platform provides **context-aware translation, consistent terminology and improved translation quality**, while incorporating **human oversight** for accuracy and quality control.

SpaceX Deploys 130 Payloads, Including Google AI Chips, into Low Earth Orbit

- **SpaceX (Space Exploration Technologies Corporation)** successfully launched **130 payloads** aboard its **Falcon 9 rocket** from **Vandenberg Space Force Base, California,United States of America (USA)**.
- The launch was conducted under **SpaceX's Transporter-18 smallsat rideshare mission**, with the payloads deployed into **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.
- **Google's Project Suncatcher** was among the key payloads launched during the mission.
- **MVP** is the **first in-orbit experiment under Project Suncatcher**, a space research programme announced by **Google in 2025**.

Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace Joins Hands with Portugal's Keydef to Produce AI-Powered Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

- **Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA)**, an Indian **deep-tech defence startup**, partnered with Portugal's **Keydef**, the defence and aerospace division of **Sketchpixel LDA**, to manufacture advanced Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and drone systems in **Portugal** for **global markets**.
- The partnership involves the manufacture of **Kaal Bhairava Lite autonomous UAV** and **YAMA interceptor drone** in Portugal.

- The partnership is backed by an initial investment of **EUR 6 million (€6 million)** from **Keydef into Flying Wedge Defence**.

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur and Railway Institute Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Train Officials on Vande Bharat Systems

- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur** and **Indian Railways Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering (IRIMEE), Jamalpur** signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen the **technical capabilities of railway officials** in advanced rolling stock technologies.
- The collaboration will provide **specialised residential training** on **electrical safety and traction systems** used in advanced trains, including **Vande Bharat trains** and **three-phase Mainline Electric Multiple Units (MEMUs)**.
- The programme will be coordinated by the **Centre for Railway Research (CRR)** at **IIT Kharagpur**, combining its **academic and research expertise** with the operational requirements of **Indian Railways**.
- The MoU was signed by **IRIMEE Dean Prem Prakash** and **IIT Kharagpur Dean of Outreach Prof. Swagata Dasgupta**.

Indian Institute of Management Jammu and Ladakh Administration Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Establish Satellite Campus in Leh

- **Ladakh Administration** and **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to establish a **satellite campus of IIM Jammu at Leh**.
- The satellite campus aims to expand access to **quality management and professional education** for students in the **Union Territory of Ladakh**.
- The campus will offer a **four-year BBA (Honours) programme** with an initial intake of **60 students**.
- The **BBA (Honours) programme** is scheduled to commence in **October 2026**.

Digital India BHASHINI (BHASHa INterface for India) Division and Comptroller and

Technology Development Board Approves ₹130 Crore Research Development and Innovation Support for BigEndian Semiconductors' Indigenous AI Chip Project

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India**, signed an agreement with **BigEndian Semiconductors, Bengaluru, Karnataka** to provide **₹130 crore** financial support under the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund**.
- The project, named **Project VeerAI**, has a total project cost of **₹260 crore** and aims to advance the technology from **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)-5 to TRL-9**.
- The **₹130 crore financial support** will be provided through **Optional Convertible Debt (OCD)**.

QNu Labs and Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics Demonstrate India's First 5.56 km Free-Space Quantum Key Distribution Link

- **QNu Labs**, in collaboration with **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N)** and Indian Institute of Technology **(IIT) Gandhinagar,** Gujarat, successfully demonstrated **India's first free-space Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) link** over a distance of **5.56 km**.
- The field trial was conducted on **27–28 September 2026**, establishing a secure quantum communication link between **BISAG-N and IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- The demonstration used a **Pointing, Acquisition and Tracking (PAT) system** to maintain stable free-space quantum communication.

India Meteorological Department Classifies September 2026 Bay of Bengal System as Deep Depression, Not Cyclonic Storm

- A **deep depression over the Bay of Bengal** crossed the **North Andhra Pradesh–South Odisha coast** near **southwest of Kalingapatnam** during the night of **23–24 September 2026**.

- The weather system **is not officially named "Arnab"** unless it intensifies into a **Cyclonic Storm** and is formally assigned that name.
- **"Arnab"** is the **next unused name** in the predetermined **North Indian Ocean tropical cyclone naming list**.
- The name **Arnab** was contributed by **Bangladesh** and means **"ocean" in Bengali**.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Launches IndiaAI Centre of Excellence 'CAIK' in Thiruvananthapuram

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, under the **IndiaAI Mission**, launched the **MeitY-IndiaAI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence**, known as the **Centre for AI in Keralam (CAIK)**, in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.
- **CAIK** aims to strengthen **applied AI research, innovation, startups and entrepreneurship** in India.
- **Digital University Kerala** will serve as the **Implementing Agency** for CAIK, while **Innovation Incubator Advisory Private Limited** will be its **Industry Partner**.
- CAIK will focus on key areas including **healthcare, climate and disaster resilience, sustainability, e-governance, public systems and agriculture**.
- The centre will support **applied AI research, AI startups, datasets and infrastructure, public-sector AI and talent development**.

Department of Biotechnology Begins Special Campaign 6 to Promote E-Waste Management, Cleanliness and Responsible Workplace Practices

- **The Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, under the aegis of **Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAR&PG)**, is implementing **Special Campaign 6** for cleanliness, reducing pendency, record management and **e-waste disposal**.
- **Special Campaign 6** is being conducted from **2–31 October 2026** across the **Department of Biotechnology, Scientific Cadre Units, Divisions, Autonomous Institutions and PSUs**.
- During the **Preparatory Phase (15–30 September 2026)**, DBT set targets to review and organise **18,741 e-files** and **7,773 physical files**.

Indian Scientists Develop Metal-Free Catalyst for Next-Generation Clean Energy Technologies

- Scientists from **S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS), Kolkata**, **Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali**, and **SRM University, Amaravati** developed a **metal-free catalyst** for next-generation clean-energy technologies.
- The research was led by **Dr. Pradip Pachfule (SNBNCBS)**, **Prof. Ramendra Sundar Dey (INST)**, and **Prof. Ranjit Thapa (SRM University, Amaravati)**.
- The newly developed catalyst, named **TTT-DHTD**, is a specially designed **metal-free organic porous material** prepared using **TTT** and **DHTD linkers**.

India Plans First Offshore Wind Farm Prototype Off Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu

- **India's first offshore wind farm prototype** is planned off the coast of **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**, marking an important step towards developing the country's **offshore wind-energy sector**.
- The project will install **one 6.25 MW wind turbine** about **1,650 metres** from the **Southern Breakwater of Thoothukudi Inner Harbour**.
- The project is estimated to cost **₹77 crore** and is being tendered by the **Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Ltd (IPRCL)**.
- The contract covers **design, procurement, construction, installation, testing and commissioning** of the offshore wind turbine.
- After commissioning, the turbine will undergo **two years of operation and maintenance**, while the generated electricity will be supplied to the **Tamil Nadu State grid**.

University Grants Commission Issues Letter of Intent to CU Denver for Setting Up Degree-Granting Campus in Hyderabad

- **University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver)** has received a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** from India's **University Grants Commission (UGC)** to establish a **degree-granting campus in Hyderabad, Telangana**.

- The proposed **Hyderabad campus** will be **CU Denver's first campus in India** and the **first foreign university campus in Telangana**.
- The campus is expected to admit its **first cohort in August 2027**.
- CU Denver will become the **first American public university authorised to establish a degree-granting campus in India**, according to the supplied information.

Astronomers Detect Radio Signals from an Exoplanet Beyond the Solar System, Urge Caution

- **Scientists announced the first direct detection of radio signals from an exoplanet**, marking a major breakthrough in **exoplanetary radio astronomy**.
- The radio signals originated from **Beta Pictoris b**, a **gas-giant exoplanet** located approximately **63–64 light-years from Earth**.
- The signals were detected using **South Africa's MeerKAT radio telescope array**.
- An **exoplanet** is a **planet that orbits a star outside the Solar System**, while **radio astronomy** studies celestial objects through **radio waves**, a form of electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths longer than visible light.

Bharat Forge Signs Long-Term Deal with Pratt & Whitney Canada to Supply Critical Aerospace Engine Components

- **Bharat Forge Limited (BFL)** signed a **long-term contract with Pratt & Whitney Canada** on **5 October 2026** to supply **mission-critical aerospace engine components**.
- The aerospace components will be **manufactured at Bharat Forge's aerospace facility in India**, which is designed to produce **high-performance aero-engine products**.
- Bharat Forge's aerospace facility uses **advanced manufacturing technologies** and follows global standards for **quality, precision, reliability, and traceability**.
- **Mission-critical components** are parts whose failure can affect the functioning of an **aircraft engine or related system**, requiring strict quality controls and certified manufacturing processes.

CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology Develops India-Specific Tool to Assess Sickle Cell Disease Severity

- **CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB)** scientists developed an **India-specific disease severity score** for **Sickle Cell Anaemia (SCA)**.
- The tool was developed using clinical data from **171 Indian children aged up to 18 years** treated at **Government Medical College and Hospital, Nagpur**.
- **Sickle Cell Anaemia (SCA)** is an inherited **haemoglobinopathy** caused by abnormal haemoglobin due to a mutation in the **beta-globin gene**, resulting in sickle-shaped red blood cells.

Adani Power, Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation Ink Agreement for 770 MW Chamkharchhu-I Hydropower Project

- **Adani Power Limited (APL)** and Bhutan's state-owned **Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC)** signed a **Shareholders Agreement (SHA)** to develop the **770 MW Chamkharchhu-I Hydroelectric Project**.
- The **Chamkharchhu-I Hydroelectric Project** will be developed on the **Chamkharchhu River** in **Zhemgang District, Bhutan**.
- The project will follow a **49:51 equity partnership**, with **Adani Power holding 49%** and **DGPC holding 51%**.
- The project will be developed under the **Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT)** model with a **30-year concession period**.
- **Construction** of the project is expected to begin in the **first half (H1) of 2027**, with **commissioning targeted within six years** of groundbreaking.

About Adani Power Limited (APL) :

- **Incorporated : 1996**
- Headquarters : **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.
- **Managing Director (MD) : Anil Sardana**

Indian Institute of Technology Ropar Launches 'AVNI – Grow with Nature' AI-Based Agricultural Learning Platform

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar** launched **AVNI – Grow with Nature** on **6 October 2026** through its **Centre of Excellence in AI for Digital Agriculture, ANNAM.AI**.
- **AVNI** is a **digital learning initiative** that combines **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** with **experiential learning** to build **agricultural and nature awareness among children** from an early age.
- **ANNAM.AI** is the **Centre of Excellence for AI in Agriculture/Digital Agriculture at IIT Ropar**, supported by the **Union Ministry of Education**.
- **Dr. Mukesh Saini**, Co-project Director of **ANNAM.AI**, developed **AVNI – Grow with Nature**.

World Health Organization Prequalifies Serum Institute of India's Indigenous Gender-Neutral HPV Vaccine, CERVAVAC®

- **CERVAVAC®**, **India's first indigenously developed gender-neutral quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus (qHPV) vaccine**, developed by the **Serum Institute of India (SII)**, received **prequalification** from the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- **WHO prequalification** allows **United Nations agencies** to procure the vaccine, supporting its **wider global availability**.
- **CERVAVAC®** received the **32nd WHO prequalification** for products/biologicals from the **Serum Institute of India**.

About Serum Institute of India :

- Founded : **1966**, is part of the **Cyrus Poonawalla Group**
- Headquarters : **Pune, Maharashtra**.
- The **Serum Institute of India** is a **major global vaccine manufacturer** with an **annual production capacity** of approximately **4 billion doses**.

Kerala Agricultural University and Fuselage Flying Club Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Boost Drone Pilot Training and Agricultural Entrepreneurship

- **Kerala Agricultural University (KAU)** and **Fuselage Flying Club Private Limited** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to expand **drone pilot training** and promote **entrepreneurship in agriculture**.

- The **MoU** aims to strengthen the **Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO)** operating under **KAU's Agri-Business Incubator**.
- **KAU's RPTO** was established under a **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** initiative to promote **technological innovation in agriculture**.

Kochi-Based EyeROV Supplies India's First Indigenous Military-Grade Underwater ROV to the Indian Navy

- **EyeROV (IROV Technologies Private Limited)**, a **Kochi, Kerala-based marine robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) startup**, delivered two **EyeROV TROUT military-grade underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV)** systems to the **Indian Navy (IN)**.
- The delivery marked the introduction of **India's first indigenously built military-grade underwater ROV**, designed, developed, manufactured and qualified in **India** for **naval operations**.
- The delivery is part of the **Indian Navy's order for five EyeROV TROUT systems**.
- In **September 2025**, **EyeROV** secured a **₹47 crore contract** from the **Indian Navy** to supply **advanced underwater ROV systems**.

Philip Morris India Partners with Litterati to Tackle Littering Using Data-Driven Solutions

- **Philip Morris India Trading Private Limited (PM India)** partnered with **Litterati**, a **global civic technology company**, to launch the first phase of a **12-month anti-littering initiative** in **Delhi** under **Project Unmesha** on **5 October 2026**.
- **Project Unmesha** is a flagship **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme** of **Philip Morris India** focused on **environmental stewardship**, **circularity**, **climate resilience** and **sustainable urban public spaces**.
- The collaboration aims to identify **littering patterns** and develop **data-driven solutions** to create **cleaner and more sustainable public spaces**.

Dixon Technologies and Taiwan's Gemtek Enter Joint Venture to Manufacture Telecom Products in India

- **Dixon Technologies (India) Ltd.** signed a **Joint Venture (JV) agreement** with Taiwan-based **Gemtek Technology Co. Ltd.** to manufacture and supply **telecom and optical connectivity products** in India.
- The joint venture will operate through **Dixon Electroconnect Pvt. Ltd.**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Dixon Technologies, which will be converted into a JV through **fresh equity subscriptions** by both partners.
- **Dixon Technologies** will hold a **60% stake**, while **Gemtek Technology** will hold the remaining **40% stake** in the joint venture.
- The agreement specifies that **neither company** will acquire a **direct equity stake** in the other company.

About Dixon Technologies :

- **Founded : 1993**
- Headquarters : **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.
- Dixon Technologies is one of India's leading homegrown **Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS)** providers.

Northeast Frontier Railway Uses Artificial Intelligence Alerts and Plan Bee System to Prevent Elephant–Train Collisions

- The **Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR)** saved **255 elephants** from potential train collisions between **January and September 2026** using Artificial Intelligence (**AI)-based alerts**, **speed restrictions**, **enhanced patrolling**, and the **Plan Bee system**.
- The **NFR** uses an **AI-based Intrusion Detection System (IDS)** powered by **Distributed Acoustic System (DAS)** technology to detect elephant movement near railway tracks and generate **real-time alerts**.
- **Plan Bee** is an innovative **acoustic deterrent system** developed by the **Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR)** to prevent wild elephants from straying onto railway tracks and being hit by trains.

About Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) :

- Headquarters :**Maligaon**, near **Guwahati, Assam**.

- The **NFR** operates across the **Northeastern states of India**, as well as **seven districts of West Bengal** and **five districts of north Bihar**.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches Multilingual Department of Science and Technology and MoS&T Websites to Enhance Access to Scientific Information

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the **Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T)** and the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, launched the **redeveloped websites** of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and the **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- The websites were redeveloped to make **scientific information**, **research opportunities**, and **government services** more accessible to citizens.
- The portals support **22 languages** through integration with **BHASHINI (Bhasha Interface for India)**.
- The redeveloped websites comply with the **Digital Brand Identity Manual (DBIM) 3.0** and the **Guidelines for Indian Government Websites and Apps (GIGW) 3.0**.

Tata Power Collaborates with Norway's Ocean Sun to Introduce Floating Solar Technology in India

- **Tata Power Company Limited** partnered with **Ocean Sun**, a **Norway-based renewable energy technology company**, to introduce **membrane-based floating solar technology** in **India**.
- The **partnership agreement** was signed on **7 October 2026** during the **2nd India–European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Prosperity Summit** in **New Delhi, Delhi**.
- The partnership aims to **strengthen India–Norway cooperation** in **clean energy**.
- The project involves a **floating solar pilot** of nearly **300 kilowatt-peak (kWp)** at the **Mulshi reservoir** in **Maharashtra**.
- The **Mulshi reservoir project** will mark **Ocean Sun's first installation** in **India**.

India and UK Strengthen Science and Innovation Ties at 8th Council Meeting Led by Dr. Jitendra

Singh and Jonathan Reynolds

- The **8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council (SIC) Meeting** was held in **New Delhi**, co-chaired by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, India's Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, and **Jonathan Reynolds**, the UK Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Trade.
- The meeting reviewed **India–UK bilateral science and innovation cooperation**, focusing on research partnerships, emerging technologies and the commercialisation of scientific research.
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh** and **Jonathan Reynolds** jointly inaugurated the **BRIC-CDFD–ONT India Genomics Centre of Excellence**.

Research, Development and Innovation Fund Selects First Batch of 19 Second-Level Fund Managers to Boost India's Research and Innovation

- The **Research, Development and Innovation Fund (RDIF)** announced its first cohort of **19 Second-Level Fund Managers (SLFMs)** as a major milestone in implementing India's **₹1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme**.
- On **8 October 2026**, the **Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS)** approved 19 SLFMs, comprising **14 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)** and **5 Focused Research Organisations (FROs)**.
- The total RDIF commitment to the first cohort is **₹7,131 crore**.

Indian Institute of Creative Technologies and YouTube Launch Four AI-Powered Short Films Under the Create with AI Programme

- The **Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT)** and **YouTube** unveiled the first four AI-enabled short films under the **"Create with AI" programme** in **October 2026**.
- The **Create with AI programme** was announced in **November 2025** to promote AI-led creative projects and strengthen India's capabilities in emerging technologies and AI-assisted filmmaking.
- The four short films were unveiled at the **IICT Theatre in Mumbai, Maharashtra**, and released simultaneously on the filmmakers' YouTube channels.

- The **₹1 lakh crore RDI Scheme** was launched by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** in **November 2025** to transform India from a technology consumer into a global technology developer and provider.

Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences,Physical Research Laboratory, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and IIT Roorkee Researchers Investigate the Sun's Microwave Polar Brightening

- Researchers from **ARIES**, **Udaipur Solar Observatory (USO)/Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)**, **Indian Institute of Technology** (**IIT) Delhi**, and **IIT Roorkee** investigated the mystery of **microwave polar brightening** in the Sun.
- The study used nearly three decades of observations from the **Nobeyama Radioheliograph (NoRH)** operating at **17 GHz**.
- The research combined radio observations with **extreme-ultraviolet (EUV) observations** from **NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO)** and **magnetic-field measurements** from the **Wilcox Solar Observatory (WSO)**.

Technology Development Board-Department of Science and Technology Provides ₹86 Crore Research, Development and Innovation Fund Support to Peptris to Accelerate AI-Driven Drug Discovery and Development

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India, signed an agreement with **Peptris Technologies Private Limited**, **Bengaluru, Karnataka**, to provide **₹86 crore** in financial support under the **Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund**.
- The project is titled **VIGOR: Advancing AI-Discovered Molecules from Bench to Clinic**.
- The total project cost is **₹172 crore**, with TDB providing **₹86 crore** through **Optionally Convertible Debt (OCD)**.

Technology Development Board Provides ₹151 Crore Research Development and Innovation Funding to ideaForge for Developing YETI Heavy-Lift Autonomous Logistics Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)**, under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India, signed an agreement with **ideaForge Technology**

Limited, based in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**, to provide financial support of **₹151 crore** under the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund**.

- The project has a total cost of **₹302 crore**, with the TDB providing support through **debt financing**.
- The project focuses on developing **YETI**, a heavy-lift, long-range autonomous aerial logistics vehicle, to advance its **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)** from **4 to 9**.
- **YETI** is a **Vertical Take-Off and Landing, Fixed-Wing Hybrid Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (VTOL-FW UAV)** designed to transport heavy payloads over long distances.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Honours 62 Young Innovators at 12th NLEPC as Students Turn Ideas into Marketable Products and Start-ups

- **INSPIRE-MANAK** stands for **Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge** and is a flagship initiative of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India, implemented in collaboration with the **National Innovation Foundation–India (NIF)**.
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, felicitated **62 young innovators** at the **12th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC)** held in **New Delhi**.
- A total of **729 students** participated in the **12th NLEPC**, and the **INSPIRE-MANAK 2026 Compendium** was released at the event.

Adani Enterprises and United States-Based Jabil Sign Non-Binding Agreement to Establish a 50:50 Joint Venture for Artificial Intelligence and Data Centre Equipment Manufacturing in India

- **Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL)**, part of the **Adani Group**, signed a non-binding agreement with United States (US)-based manufacturing company **Jabil Inc.** to establish a **50:50 Joint Venture (JV)** for manufacturing **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **data centre equipment** in India.
- The proposed 50:50 JV will manufacture and assemble **AI racks, servers, storage and networking equipment**, along with **Power Distribution Systems (PDSs)**, **liquid-cooling equipment** and **transformers**.

- The proposed JV's **Made-in-India infrastructure** will serve both domestic and international markets, targeting **hyperscalers, neocloud providers, data centre operators and large enterprises**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Successfully Tests Quantum Key Distribution System on Live Military Network in Odisha

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully configured and tested its **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)** platform on the live network of the **Proof & Experimental Establishment (PXE)** at **Chandipur, Odisha**, on **14 October 2026**.
- The **QKD platform** aims to secure **real-time observations and telemetry** generated during artillery and armoured weapon trials.
- The platform was designed and developed under DRDO's **Microelectronic Devices, Computational Systems & Cyber Security (MCC)** cluster.

India Meteorological Department Dedicates Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Decision Support System to India

- **The India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, launched the **Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Services Decision Support System (DSS)** on **12 October 2026**.
- The **DSS** is an interactive, **web-based Geographic Information System (WebGIS)** platform designed to strengthen **cyclone early-warning services**, **disaster preparedness**, and **public safety** across **India**.
- The platform aims to provide **location-specific weather information**, improve understanding of **potential cyclone impacts**, and **bridge the gap** between weather forecasts and their practical use.

About IMD :

- Established : **1875** and operates under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, handling matters related to **meteorology**, **seismology**, and associated subjects.
- Headquarters : New Delhi, India

- The **IMD** is one of the **six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (RSMCs)** of the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, with its **headquarters in Delhi, India**.

Digital India BHASHINI Enables Real-Time Multilingual Communication at National Centre for Good Governance International Training Programme

- The **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)**, under **Digital India Corporation (DIC)**, **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, enabled **real-time multilingual communication** at an international capacity-building programme organised by the **National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)** in **Mussoorie**.
- The programme was conducted from **12 to 23 October 2026** and focused on **urban service delivery** for **civil servants** from multiple countries.
- The programme was sponsored by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and conducted under the **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme**.

Technology Development Board-Department of Science and Technology Supports Panacea Medical Technologies in Developing and Commercialising an Indigenous 32-Slice Computed Tomography Scanner

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)**, under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India, signed an agreement with **Panacea Medical Technologies Pvt. Ltd.** to support the development and commercialisation of an indigenous **32-slice Computed Tomography (CT) scanner**.
- The initiative aims to strengthen India's **indigenous medical device manufacturing capabilities** under the **Make in India initiative**.
- **Panacea Medical Technologies Pvt. Ltd.** is an Indian medical device manufacturer located in **Malur, Karnataka**.

Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited Supplies 450 Nagastra-1R Loitering Munitions to the Indian Army

- **Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL)**, a subsidiary of **Solar Industries India Limited**, delivered **450 Nagastra-1R loitering munitions** to the **Indian Army (IA)**.
- **Nagastra-1R** is an indigenously developed loitering munition designed for **surveillance and precision strikes** against enemy targets.

- **Nagastra-1R** is a man-portable **Kamikaze or suicide Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** designed to conduct precision strikes in short-range operations.

About Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited :

- **SDAL** is an Indian defence and aerospace manufacturer headquartered in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**, specialising in the development of indigenous military equipment and weapon systems.
- Founder and Chairman of **Solar Group : Satyanarayan Nuwal**

India Post and IndiGo Launch Digital Detox Campaign to Promote Handwritten Communication

- The **Department of Posts**, under the **Ministry of Communications**, in collaboration with **IndiGo**, organised a **Digital Detox Campaign** on **12 October 2026** during **National Postal Week (9–15 October 2026)**.
- The campaign was conducted on **Philately Day** to promote **handwritten communication** and encourage people to take a break from digital devices and reconnect with loved ones through letters.
- As part of the initiative, passengers travelling on selected **IndiGo flights** received specially designed **Digital Detox kits** containing **postcards** during their journey.

University of Kerala Researchers Identify Melanterite and Gypsum in India and Chile as Martian Analogue Minerals

- Researchers from the **University of Kerala** identified **Melanterite** in **Neyveli, Tamil Nadu**, and **Gypsum** in the **Atacama Desert, Chile**, and **Tiruchirappalli Badlands, Tamil Nadu**, establishing these locations as **Martian analogue sites**.
- The research team was led by **Dr. Sajin Kumar K. S.**, **Project Coordinator** of the **DST-FIST programme**.
- The study used a **Laser Raman Spectrometer**, supported by the **Department of Science and Technology's Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure** (**DST-FIST**) at the **Department of Geology, University of Kerala**, to identify the minerals through their **distinctive spectral fingerprints**.

Technology Development Board-Department of Science and Technology Partners with QNu Labs

for ₹150 Crore RDI Funding to Advance India's Indigenous Quantum-Secure Technology Ecosystem

- The **Technology Development Board** (**TDB**), under the **Department of Science and Technology** (**DST**), **Government of India**, signed an agreement with **QNu Labs Private Limited, Bengaluru, Karnataka**, to provide **₹150 crore in financial support** under the **Research Development and Innovation** (**RDI**) **Fund**.
- The project has a **total cost of ₹300 crore**, with **TDB's support** provided through **Optionally Convertible Debt** (**OCD**).
- The project aims to develop an **indigenous technology backbone** for **India's Quantum Secure and Sensing Networks** (**IQSN**), strengthening **India's capabilities** in **quantum technologies** and **secure communications**.

NTPC Partners with Africa50 to Develop Power Projects and Explore Cross-Border Electricity Trade in Africa

- **NTPC Limited** (**National Thermal Power Corporation**), a **Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise** (**CPSE**) under the **Ministry of Power** (**MoP**), **Government of India**, signed a **cooperation agreement** with **Africa50** to jointly develop **commercially viable power projects** across **Africa**.
- The partnership aims to **identify**, **assess** and **develop power projects**, **attract investment** and **improve electricity supply** for **households and businesses** across **African countries**.
- The agreement will explore **cross-border electricity trading opportunities** to strengthen **regional power connectivity** and improve **electricity availability** across **Africa**.

About Africa50 :

- It is a **pan-African infrastructure investment organisation** established in **2014**, with its headquarters in **Casablanca, Morocco**.
- **Africa50** has **39 shareholders**, including **34 African countries**, the **African Development Bank** (**AfDB**) and **other financial institutions**.

Indian Space Research Organisation Successfully Completes Gaganyaan Crew and Service Module Separation Tests Ahead of 2026 Uncrewed Mission

- **Indian Space Research Organisation** (**ISRO**) successfully completed a series of **Crew Module** (**CM**)–**Service Module** (**SM**) **separation tests** for the **Gaganyaan Mission** at **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre** (**VSSC**), **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.
- The tests were conducted to **validate the design adequacy** and **overall functioning** of the **CM–SM separation system** ahead of the **first uncrewed mission**, **Gaganyaan-1** (**G1**).
- **Gaganyaan-1** (**G1**), the **first uncrewed mission** of the **Gaganyaan programme**, is **targeted for launch in 2026** and will carry **Vyommitra**, a **half-humanoid** developed for the mission.
- The **Gaganyaan Orbital Module** consists of **two major modules**: the **Crew Module** (**CM**) and **Service Module** (**SM**), which **remain connected** through a **separation system**.

National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Chairperson Prof. Maneesha Kothekar Introduces CCRAS SPARK 5.0 and CCRAS Ayurshodh 2026 to Promote Ayurveda Research

- **Prof. Maneesha Kothekar**, Chairperson of the **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)**, launched **CCRAS SPARK 5.0** and **CCRAS Ayurshodh 2026 (Second Circular)**.
- Both initiatives are organised by the **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** under the **Ministry of AYUSH**.
- **CCRAS SPARK** stands for **Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken** and aims to develop **research skills**, **analytical thinking**, and **research aptitude** among undergraduate **Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS)** students.

Samsung Semiconductor India Research and Indian Institute of Science Launch Quantum Research Laboratory in Bengaluru

- **Samsung Semiconductor India Research (SSIR)** and the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** inaugurated a **Quantum Research Lab** at the IISc campus in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**, to strengthen **industry–academia collaboration** in **quantum technology** and **semiconductor research**.
- The **Quantum Research Lab** was established with **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** support from SSIR at IISc's **Department of Electronic Systems Engineering (DESE)**.

- The laboratory focuses on **qubit characterisation**, **cryogenic electronics**, **quantum-device reliability**, **single-photon sources and detectors**, **advanced semiconductor materials**, and **two-dimensional (2D)-material-based quantum devices** under **cryogenic conditions**.

Skyroot Aerospace Partners with Reflect Orbital for Two Satellite Launches to Provide On-Demand Nighttime Illumination

- **Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited**, an Indian private space technology company, signed a contract with **Reflect Orbital**, a United States (US)-based space technology startup, for **two dedicated satellite launches** using Skyroot's **Vikram family of rockets**.
- The partnership aims to support the development of **on-demand sunlight at night** by deploying satellites equipped with **large mirrors** to redirect sunlight towards selected locations after sunset.
- The proposed system is designed to provide controllable illumination over an area approximately **5 kilometres (km) wide**, with **adjustable brightness** and an option to **switch off** the reflected sunlight.

About Skyroot Aerospace :

- Established : **2018**
- Headquarters : **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- Skyroot became the **first Indian private company** to launch a rocket into space with **Vikram-S** in **November 2022**.
- Skyroot subsequently achieved the **maiden orbital launch** of **Vikram-1** in **July 2026**.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Inaugurates National Strategic Trade Command Centre to Enhance India's Trade Monitoring and Governance

- Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, from the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)**, launched the **National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC)** at **Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi**.
- The **NSTCC** was developed by the **Department of Commerce (DoC)** to strengthen **data-driven monitoring**, **trade intelligence**, and **evidence-based governance** of India's **international trade ecosystem**.

- The centre integrates trade-related data to monitor **India's trade performance**, **export promotion schemes**, **regulatory approvals**, and **application processing**.

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Launches Martian Moons eXploration Spacecraft to Retrieve Samples from Mars's Moon Phobos

- The **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** launched the uncrewed **Martian Moons eXploration (MMX)** mission aboard an **H3 rocket** from the **Yoshinobu Launch Complex** at **Tanegashima Space Center, Japan**, to collect samples from **Phobos**, one of **Mars's moons**.
- If successful, **MMX** will become the **world's first mission** to **return samples from a Martian moon to Earth** for scientific analysis.
- The **MMX spacecraft** is projected to **reach Mars in August 2027** and **return samples to Earth in 2031**.

About Japan:

- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)
- Prime Minister: Sanae Takaichi

Pakistan Successfully Tests Extended-Range Fatah-II Surface-to-Surface Missile

- **Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)**, the media wing of the **Pakistan Armed Forces**, announced the successful test-firing of the **extended-range (ER) variant** of the **Fatah-II surface-to-surface missile (SSM)** by the **Army Rocket Force Command (ARFC)**.
- The launch was attended by **Lieutenant General Nauman Zakaria**, Commander of the Army Rocket Force Command, along with **senior military officers, scientists and engineers**.
- The **Fatah-II** is a **surface-to-surface ballistic missile** developed by Pakistan's **National Engineering & Scientific Commission (NESCOM)**, with **Khan Research Laboratories (KRL)** also associated with its development in defence reporting.

About Pakistan:

- Capital**:** Islamabad
- Currency**:** Pakistani Rupee (PKR)
- President**:** Asif Ali Zardari

- Prime Minister**:** Shehbaz Sharif

Defence Research and Development Organisation Develops Man-Portable ELINT System for Enemy Radar Detection and Counter-Drone Operations

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has initiated the development of **man-portable Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) systems** to detect, intercept, and analyse signals emitted by **enemy radars, drones, and other electronic systems**.
- The portable ELINT system is being developed by the **Defence Electronics Research Laboratory (DLRL)**, located in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- The main applications of the portable ELINT system include **radar identification**, **electronic warfare**, **emitter localisation**, and **counter-drone operations**.
- The system uses **antennas and receivers** to capture signals across multiple frequency bands and applies **digital signal processing** and **machine learning** to separate overlapping signals through **deinterleaving**.

About DRDO:

- Founded: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Parent Ministry: Ministry of Defence, Government of India
- Chairman: Rajesh Kumar Singh

VORAN and Poland's W&S Innovation Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Gyroplane Technology and Aircraft Manufacturing in India

- **VORAN Private Limited**, an Indian aviation startup, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **W&S Innovation – Aviation Artur Trendak**, a **Poland-based aviation company**, to explore **technology collaboration** in **gyroplane aviation** and potential **light aircraft manufacturing** in India.
- The collaboration will initially focus on the **X2 advanced gyroplane** and the **AAT Taifun**, with opportunities in **aircraft design, engineering, technical support, product development, and market expansion**.

About VORAN Private Limited :

- Incorporated : **2026**

- Headquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Founder and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) : Rajiv Rawat**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Perseverance Rover Breaks Mars Driving Record, Covering 45.22 Kilometres

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** announced that its **Perseverance rover** set a new **extraterrestrial driving record** by travelling **45.22 kilometres (28.06 miles)** on **Mars** on **11 October 2026**, surpassing the previous record of **45.16 kilometres** held by NASA's **Opportunity rover**.
- **Perseverance** achieved this milestone on the **2,006th Martian day (sol)** of its mission, covering the distance in approximately **five and a half years**, compared with nearly **15 years** taken by **Opportunity**.
- The **Perseverance rover mission** aims to study **Mars' geology**, search for **signs of ancient microbial life**, and **collect rock samples** for possible return to Earth.

About NASA :

- Formed : July 29, 1958
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C
- Administrator : Jared Isaacman

Defence Research and Development Organisation's Armament Research and Development Establishment Selects SSS Defence and Kalyani Group to Develop India's First Indigenous Aviation Gun System

- The **Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE)**, a premier laboratory of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, shortlisted **SSS Defence** and the **Kalyani Group** as **Development-cum-Production Partners (DcPPs)** for developing India's first indigenous **20 mm aviation gun and turret system**.
- The indigenous **20 mm aviation gun and turret system** will be developed for **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)'s Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-IV**, also known as **Rudra**, and **Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand**.

- The project aims to promote **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in **defence manufacturing** and reduce India's dependence on **foreign weapon systems**.

About ARDE :

- Established : **1958** and specialises in the research, design, and development of **conventional armaments**, **artillery systems**, **small arms**, **ammunition**, and **warheads** for the Indian Armed Forces.
- Headquarters : **Pune, Maharashtra**.

Ethereal Exploration Guild Unveils 150-Acre Rocket Development and Testing Facility in Karnataka

- **Ethereal Exploration Guild (The Guild)**, a Bengaluru-based private **space technology company**, unveiled **The Anchorage**, a **150-acre rocket development and testing facility**.
- **The Anchorage** is located in **Space City**, about **40 km** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR)** at **Sriharikota, Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The facility will provide **ground infrastructure** for the development and testing of **Razor Crest Mk 1 (RCM1)**, the company's **fully reusable medium-lift launch vehicle**.

CSIR-Central Road Research Institute Hosts Indian Airport Pavement Symposium (IAPS 2026) in New Delhi

- **CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)**, in association with **Bharat Tiki Tar Shell India Private Limited (BTS)**, organised the **Indian Airport Pavement Symposium (IAPS 2026)** in **New Delhi**.
- The symposium was held at the **CSIR-CRRI Auditorium, New Delhi**, under the theme **"Advancing Performance-Based Airport Pavements for a Resilient and Sustainable Aviation Future."**
- The symposium was inaugurated by **Dr. (Mrs.) N. Kalaiselvi**, **Director General of CSIR** and **Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)**, Government of India.

Google DeepMind Partners with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics to Create a Global Plant Genome Atlas

- **Google DeepMind** and **Google.org** partnered with the **International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)** to develop an **open-access global genetic atlas**, with a particular focus on **sorghum**.
- The **AI-supported genetic atlas** will help researchers and plant breeders identify promising plant combinations and develop more **productive** and **climate-resilient sorghum varieties** more quickly.
- **Google DeepMind** will support a **three-year postdoctoral fellowship** at **ICRISAT** to develop **genome-mapping tools** for other crops and pulses, including **chickpea**, **groundnut** and **pigeon pea**.

About ICRISAT :

- It is a **non-profit, non-political international organisation** that conducts **agricultural research** for development in the dryland regions of **Asia** and **sub-Saharan Africa**.
- Founded : **1972**
- Headquarters : **Patancheru, Hyderabad, Telangana, India**.

Technology Development Board-Department of Science and Technology Provides ₹116 Crore Research Development and Innovation Support to Manastu Space for Indigenous Green Propulsion Technology Development

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)**, under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India, signed an agreement with **Manastu Space Technologies Private Limited**, based in **Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra**, to support **indigenous space technology development**.
- The TDB will provide **₹116 crore** in financial assistance to Manastu Space Technologies under the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund**.
- The project has a total estimated cost of **₹277.63 crore** and focuses on developing a **scalable, integrated green propulsion system** for **satellites and launch vehicles**.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurates Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Delhi

- **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh**, **Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST)** and **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, inaugurated the **Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory (AATAL)** at the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)** in **New Delhi, Delhi**.
- AATAL is a world-first integrated laboratory designed to analyse **atmospheric chemistry** and **aerosol toxicity** and identify the **real-time sources of air pollution** in the **Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR)**.
- The laboratory was established under **Mission Mausam**, launched in **2025** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.

Ukraine Signs Letter of Intent with Nokia and ICEYE to Develop Sovereign Satellite Communications

- **ICEYE, Nokia, and the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine** signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** to explore cooperation in **sovereign satellite communications**.
- The announcement was made during the visit of **Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo** to **Ukraine**, where he met **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy** in **Kyiv**.
- The partnership aims to strengthen **Ukraine's defence capabilities** and reduce its dependence on foreign-controlled satellite networks, including **Starlink**.

Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology Scientists Discover DZIP3 Protein That Triggers the Body's Antiviral Defences

- **CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB), Hyderabad**, identified **DZIP3**, a protein that detects viral RNA and activates the body's **innate antiviral immune response**.
- The research was led by **Dr. Santosh Chauhan**, Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-CCMB, and **Dr. Rinku Sahu** was the first author of the study.
- The study was published in ***The EMBO Journal*** and the research was funded by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, Government of India.

Scientists Discover Centaurus X-3 Accreting Matter Through a Rare Accretion Disk

- **Centaurus X-3** is one of the brightest **X-ray pulsars** and is a **high-mass X-ray binary (HMXB)** located approximately **24,000 light-years** away in the constellation **Centaurus**.

- Scientists from the **Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru**, an autonomous institution under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, investigated the accretion process in Centaurus X-3.
- The research was led by **Kinjal Roy**, a researcher at RRI, and revealed evidence of material being accreted through a **structured accretion disk** and a **co-rotating accretion stream**.

L&T Technology Services Limited and Nokia Enter into Five-Year Agreement to Strengthen Engineering and R&D Operations in India

- **L&T Technology Services Limited (LTTS)**, an Indian **Engineering Research and Development (ER&D)** services company, signed a **five-year contract** with **Nokia** to support its engineering, R&D, and global technology operations.
- Under the agreement, LTTS will establish a dedicated **Offshore Development Centre (ODC)** in **India** to support Nokia's global engineering and R&D activities.
- The collaboration will integrate LTTS' engineering capabilities with Nokia's global R&D teams through a **unified operating model**.

About Nokia :

- **Nokia** is a **Finland-based** telecommunications technology company established in **1865**, with its headquarters in **Espoo, Finland**.

HCLTech Partners with Amazon Web Services to Launch AI-Powered Nano GCC Offering for Faster Enterprise AI Deployment

- **HCLTech** has partnered with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** to launch an **AI-powered nano Global Capability Centre (GCC)** offering to help enterprises move from **AI experimentation** to **business deployment** and high-value business outcomes.
- The offering is part of **HCLTech's GCC 360 solution suite** and combines HCLTech's **GCC advisory expertise** and **AI platforms**, including **AI Force**, with **AWS cloud infrastructure** and **agentic AI services**.

Indian Institute of Technology Mandi Introduces 'Science on Wheels' Programme to Promote Practical Science Learning in Himachal Pradesh Schools

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi** launched the **Science on Wheels** programme in **Himachal Pradesh** to promote **practical science education** among school students, particularly those in **rural areas**.
- The programme was launched in partnership with **Plaksha University** and the **Igniting Dreams of Young Minds (IDYM) Foundation**.
- The initiative is supported by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India.

NATO Partnership Enables Ukrainian Defence Companies to Access Procurement Contracts

- **Ukraine** joined **NATO Support and Procurement Agency's (NSPA) Security Cooperation Support Partnership (SCSP)** on **22 October 2026**, enabling Ukrainian defence companies to access **NATO procurement contracts and tenders**.
- The **NSPA** is NATO's agency responsible for **multinational procurement**, **logistics**, **supply-chain management** and **operational support**.
- **Ukraine** is the **first and only non-NATO member country** to have a separate partnership serving as a **single entry point to NSPA operations**.
- The **SCSP** was established in **2025** to provide **sustainable support to Ukraine** through a **structured procurement framework**.

SPORTS NEWS

Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill Create Major Records in One-Day International Cricket

- **Rohit Sharma** achieved two major milestones during India's second One-Day International (ODI) against the West Indies at **Barsapara Cricket Stadium, Guwahati**.
- Rohit became only the **third Indian batter to score 12,000 ODI runs**, joining **Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli** in the elite group.
- Rohit reached **12,000 ODI runs in 282 innings**, becoming the **second-fastest batter** to reach the mark.
- **Shubman Gill** created another major record in the same match by scoring the **fastest double-century in ODI cricket**. He reached **200 runs in 117 balls** during India's chase.

- Gill surpassed the previous record held by **Ishan Kishan**, who reached his double-century in **126 balls** against Bangladesh in Chattogram in **2022**.
- Gill became only the **second batter after Glenn Maxwell** to score an ODI double-century while chasing. Maxwell had scored an unbeaten **201 against Afghanistan at Mumbai in 2023**.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Named in TIME100 Next 2026

- **15-year-old Indian cricketer Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (Bihar)** has been featured in the **TIME100 Next 2026** list, becoming the **youngest person selected across the 2026 TIME100 franchise**, according to the source.
- His official profile published by **TIME Magazine** highlights his rapid journey from a **small village in Bihar** to the international cricket stage.
- Sooryavanshi earned recognition after helping **India win the Under-19 World Cup** and becoming the **youngest player to make his senior India debut against England**, surpassing the long-standing record of **Sachin Tendulkar**.
- His entry into TIME100 Next follows **two years of notable performances and records** in domestic and international cricket.

India Finishes Fourth with 85 Medals at Asian Games 2026

- India concluded its campaign at the **2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**, with **85 medals** comprising **21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze medals**.
- India finished **4th** in the overall medal tally, behind **China, Japan and South Korea**.
- India won **21 fewer medals** than its **106-medal haul at the Hangzhou Asian Games**.
- The **Asian Games baton was handed over to Doha, Qatar**, which will host the **2030 Asian Games**.

Asian Games 2026 Medal Tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	**China**	167	89	82	**338**
2	**Japan**	82	90	90	**262**

3	**South Korea**	37	43	67	**147**
4	**India**	**21**	**27**	**37**	**85**
5	**Uzbekistan**	21	25	24	**70**

Novak Djokovic Wins China Open 2026 Men's Singles Title

- **Novak Djokovic** won the **China Open 2026 men's singles title** in **Beijing, People's Republic of China**.
- In the final, **Australia's Alex de Minaur** retired due to a **groin injury** early in the second set, with Djokovic leading **7-6(3), 0-1**.
- The China Open is an **Association of Tennis Professionals Tour event** held in Beijing and is classified as an **ATP 500 tournament**.
- The **ATP 500 category** was introduced in **2009**, with the champion receiving **500 ranking points**.

Carlos Alcaraz Wins Japan Open for Second Consecutive Year

- **Carlos Alcaraz of Spain** won the **Japan Open 2026** title for the **second consecutive year**, defeating **Jiri Lehecka of the Czech Republic 7-6(4), 6-4** in the final in Tokyo.
- The victory marked Alcaraz's **first title after returning from a four-and-a-half-month injury layoff** caused by a **wrist injury**.
- The **23-year-old** Alcaraz captured his **27th career title** with the victory.

Smriti Mandhana Appointed Captain of Indian Women's Cricket Team

- **Smriti Mandhana** has been appointed the **new captain of the Indian women's cricket team**, succeeding **Harmanpreet Kaur**.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India** announced Mandhana's appointment, shortly after Harmanpreet Kaur stepped down as captain across **all formats**.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur** will continue to represent India as a **player** after relinquishing the captaincy.
- Harmanpreet led India to its **maiden Women's Cricket World Cup title in 2025** and most recently guided the team to **Asian Games gold in Nagoya**.

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Max Verstappen Wins 2026 Bahrain Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit

- **Max Verstappen**, the Dutch-Belgian racing driver representing **Oracle Red Bull Racing**, won the **2026 Formula One Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix** at the **Sepang International Circuit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.
- The victory marked **Red Bull Racing's first win of the 2026 Formula One season** and Verstappen's **72nd Grand Prix victory**.
- The race was the **22nd edition of the Bahrain Grand Prix** and the **16th round of the 2026 Federation Internationale de l'Automobile Formula One World Championship**.

Pramod Bhagat and Bhavina Patel Named India's Flag Bearers for Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games

- **Pramod Bhagat** (para badminton) and **Bhavina Patel** (para table tennis) will lead the Indian contingent as flag bearers at the opening ceremony of the **5th Asian Para Games**, scheduled in **Nagoya, Japan**.
- The **Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games** will be held from **18 to 24 October 2026**, bringing together para-athletes from across Asia.
- **Pramod Bhagat** has won **six Asian Para Games medals** between 2014 and 2023, comprising **two gold medals and four bronze medals**. He is one of India's most decorated para badminton players.
- **Bhavina Patel** has won **two Asian Para Games medals** between 2018 and 2023, comprising **one silver medal and one bronze medal**. She is one of India's leading para table tennis players.

United Nations Children's Fund India Appoints Smriti Mandhana as Celebrity Advocate for Adolescent Girls

- The **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) India** appointed Indian cricketer **Smriti Mandhana** as a **Celebrity Advocate**, coinciding with the **International Day of the Girl**.
- Mandhana will advocate **equal opportunities, health and well-being for adolescent girls** across India, including their participation in sports and opportunities to realise their potential.

- She has previously supported UNICEF and the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** campaigns promoting gender equality and life skills, as well as UNICEF's **"Promise to Children"** campaign.

Shafali Verma and Shubman Gill Named International Cricket Council Players of the Month for September 2026

- Indian opener **Shafali Verma** was named the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Player of the Month for September 2026**, following her contributions to India's title-winning campaigns in the **Women's Asia Cup and the Asian Games**.
- Indian captain **Shubman Gill** was named the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for September 2026** for his performance in the **One-Day International (ODI) series against the West Indies**.

Nagarjuna Construction Company Founder and Padma Shri Recipient Dr. A.V.S. Raju Passed away at 89

- **Dr. Alluri Venkata Satyanarayana Raju**, popularly known as **Dr. AVS Raju**, founder and Chairman Emeritus of **Nagarjuna Construction Company (NCC) Limited**, passed away in **Hyderabad, Telangana**, on **13 October 2026**, at the age of **89**.
- He was born on **18 April 1937** in **Antarvedipalem village**, in the erstwhile East Godavari district of **Andhra Pradesh**.
- He began his business journey in **1956** and founded **Nagarjuna Construction Company (NCC) Limited in 1978**.
- **Acharya Nagarjuna University** awarded him an honorary **Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.)** degree in **2008** for his contributions to learning and the promotion of human values.
- He received the **Lifetime Achievement Award** from the **Builders' Association of India in 2006** for his contributions to the construction industry.
- The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented by **Vayalar Ravi**, the then Union Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, at a function in **Kochi, Kerala**.

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Writer Annie Dillard Passed Away at 81

- **Annie Dillard**, the **Pulitzer Prize-winning** American author and essayist, died at the age of **81**.
- Her famous book **Pilgrim at Tinker Creek**, published in **1974**, won the **Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction**.

- **Pilgrim at Tinker Creek** explores **nature, spirituality and human observation**, drawing on Dillard's experiences around her home in **Roanoke, Virginia**.
- In **2015**, former US President **Barack Obama** presented Annie Dillard with the **National Humanities Medal** for her profound reflections on human life and nature.

Indian Cricketer Punam Raut Announces Retirement from All Forms of International Cricket

- **Punam Raut**, an Indian women's cricket team top-order batter, announced her retirement from **all formats of international cricket with immediate effect**.
- Raut, who turned **37**, represented India from **2009 to 2021**, playing **4 Tests, 73 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and 35 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is)**.
- **One Day Internationals were her most productive format**, in which she scored **2,299 runs**, including **3 centuries and 15 half-centuries**, at an average of **34.83**.

Mona Agarwal Wins Gold and Avani Lekhara Secures Silver in Women's 10m Air Rifle SH1 Event at the Asian Para Games

- **Mona Agarwal won the gold medal with a Games-record** score of 250.0 points in the **women's 10-metre air rifle SH1 event at the Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan.**
- **Avani Lekhara, a two-time Paralympic gold medallist**, won **the silver medal** with 249.6 points, finishing just 0.4 points behind Mona Agarwal.
- **Yunri Lee of South Korea** won **the bronze medal in** the women's 10-metre air rifle SH1 event.

Sheetal Devi and Toman Kumar Win Compound Mixed Team Gold as Swati Chaudhary Secures India's First W1 Medal at the Asian Para Games

- **Sheetal Devi and Toman Kumar won the gold medal in the compound mixed team event at the 2026 Asian Para Games, defeating Indonesia's Teodora Audi Ayudia Ferelly and Ken Swagumilang** 151–148 in the final Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- The victory secured **India's first archery gold medal** at the ongoing Games.
- Both **Sheetal and Toman** are reigning world champions in their respective individual categories.

Yashaswini Ghorpade and Harmeet Desai Secure Mixed Doubles Medal at the 29th Asian Table Tennis Championships 2026

- **Indian table tennis players Yashaswini Ghorpade and Harmeet Desai secured a mixed doubles medal at the 29th International Table Tennis Federation–Asian Table Tennis Union** (ITTF–ATTU) **Asian Championships 2026, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.**
- The Asian Table Tennis Championships is a continental competition for national teams and players in Asia, **organised by the Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU), the continental body affiliated with the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).**
- The **2026 edition was the 29th championship**. International table tennis championships can include singles, doubles and team events.

India's Nitesh Kumar and Naveen Sivakumar Win Gold in Men's Singles SL3 and SL4 Badminton at Asian Para Games 2026

- **Nitesh Kumar and Naveen Sivakumar of India won gold medals in the men's singles SL3 and SL4 categories**, respectively, **in para badminton at the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan.**
- In the men's singles SL3 final, **Nitesh Kumar, the Paris Paralympic gold medallist, defeated compatriot Pramod Bhagat**, another Paralympic gold medallist, by 21–18, 21–16.

Harry Brook Creates Record for Fastest Double Century in One-Day International Cricket in 114 Balls

- **Harry Brook, England's limited-overs captain, scored the fastest double century in One-Day International (ODI) cricket**, reaching the **200-run milestone in just 114 balls against Sri Lanka** in the third match of the tri- series in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.
- Brook broke the previous record of 117 balls, held by Indian batter Shubman Gill, who scored an ODI double century against the West Indies earlier in 2026.

S. Meghana Retires from All Formats of Cricket at 30

- **Sabbhineni Meghana**, popularly known as **S. Meghana**, an Indian top-order batter **from Andhra Pradesh**, announced her retirement from **all formats of cricket at the age of 30**.
- Meghana played **20 international matches for India**, with her last international appearance coming in **October 2022**.
- Her most recent competitive appearance was during the **2025 season of the Women's Premier League (WPL)**.

Bodhana Sivanandan Becomes the Youngest Woman to Earn the International Master Title in Chess

- **Bodhana Sivanandan**, an **11-year-old English chess player of Indian origin**, became the youngest woman in chess history to earn the **International Master (IM) title** at the **European Women's Chess Club Cup 2026**.
- Bodhana hails from **Harrow, North London, United Kingdom**. The International Master title is one of the highest honours in chess, below the **Grandmaster (GM)** title.
- With this achievement, Bodhana joined the list of the **10 youngest International Masters in chess history**. Other players featured on the list include:
    - **R. Praggnanandhaa** – India
    - **D. Gukesh** – India
    - **Nodirbek Abdusattorov** – Uzbekistan
    - **Faustino Oro** – Argentina
    - **Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus** – Turkey
    - **Roman Shogdzhiev** – Russia

Nihal Sarin and Koneru Humpy Win Individual Gold at European Chess Club Cup 2026

- **Nihal Sarin** and **Koneru Humpy** won **Individual Gold medals**, while **Pentala Harikrishna** secured an **Individual Silver medal** at the **European Chess Club Cup 2026**, held in **Montenegro**.
- In the **Open section**, **Bayegan Pendik Chess Sports Club** won the team title, while **Novy Bor Chess Club**, representing which Nihal Sarin and Pentala Harikrishna competed, finished **runners-up**.

About Montenegro

- Capital: Podgorica
- Currency: Euro

Ahmedabad to Host World Weightlifting Championships 2029 for the First Time in India

- **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, has been awarded the hosting rights for the **World Weightlifting Championships 2029**, marking the first time the international competition will be held in India.

- The **International Weightlifting Federation** confirmed Gujarat as the host following its Executive Board meeting in **Ningbo, People's Republic of China**.
- The federation also announced the hosts for other upcoming championships:
  - **2030 World Weightlifting Championships** – Moscow, Russia.
  - **2028 World Youth Weightlifting Championships** – Prishtina, Kosovo.
  - **2028 World Junior Weightlifting Championships** – Caracas, Venezuela.

India Finishes Fourth at Asian Para Games 2026 with a Record 114 Medals

- **India finished fourth** at the **Asian Para Games 2026** in **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**, securing its best-ever tally of **114 medals — 30 gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze**.
- India surpassed its previous best of **111 medals** at the **Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2023**, where it won 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze medals to finish fifth.
- The top ten teams in the overall medal tally were:

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	207	117	111	435
2	Japan	64	60	62	186
3	Uzbekistan	45	49	51	145
4	India	30	35	49	114
5	Republic of Korea	29	38	33	100
6	Iran	26	36	40	102
7	Thailand	19	40	66	125
8	Indonesia	15	21	37	73
9	Kazakhstan	12	16	22	50
10	Saudi Arabia	8	8	1	17

Aditya Wins Gold at World Under-19 Boxing Championships in Budva, Montenegro

- The **World Under-19 Boxing Championships 2026** were held in **Budva, Montenegro**, with the bouts taking place at the **Mediterranean Sports Center**.
- **Aditya** won the **gold medal**, defeating **Russia's Islam Magomedov 4–1** in the men's **55 kg final** to claim the world title.

- This marked **India's first gold medal** at the 2026 edition of the Under-19 World Boxing Championships.

OBITUARIES

Three-Time Olympic Swimming Champion Mike Burton Passed away at 79

- **Mike Burton**, a **three-time Olympic swimming champion** from the **United States**, died at the age of **79**.
- Born **Michael Jay Burton on 3 July 1947** in **Des Moines, Iowa**, he turned to swimming after a serious bicycle accident at age **12** ended his participation in football and baseball.
- Burton was the **first American to win Olympic gold in the 1,500-metre freestyle at consecutive Olympic Games**.

Veteran Filmmaker Singeetham Srinivasa Rao Passed away at 94

- Veteran Indian filmmaker **Singeetham Srinivasa Rao** passed away at the age of **94** at a hospital in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- Singeetham Srinivasa Rao received **2 National Film Awards** (1973, 1988), **5 Nandi Awards** (1985, 1992, 1994, 2012), **3 Karnataka State Film Awards** (1982, 1985, 1986) and **3 Filmfare Awards South** (1974, 1985, 1987) during his career.
- He received the **Life Achievement Award in 2011** from the **Film Federation of India**.

Padma Vibhushan Awardee and Renowned Metallurgist Palle Rama Rao Passed away at 89

- **Professor Palle Rama Rao**, a renowned **Indian metallurgist, scientist, and science administrator** and **Padma Vibhushan awardee**, passed away in **Hyderabad, Telangana**, on **3 October 2026** at the age of **89**.
- A **metallurgist** is a scientist, engineer, or technical specialist who studies, extracts, refines, alloys, and fabricates metals and their components
- **Palle Rama Rao** was born on **30 June 1937** in **Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh**, and was known for his contributions to **physical and mechanical metallurgy**.

Oscar-Winning Hollywood Actress Eva Marie Saint Passed away at 102

- **Eva Marie Saint**, an **Oscar-winning American actress** and one of the last surviving stars of **Hollywood's Golden Age**, passed away at the age of **102** in **Los Angeles, United States of America (USA)**.
- For **On the Waterfront (1954)**, Eva Marie Saint won the **Academy Award (Oscar) for Best Supporting Actress** in **1955**, marking a major achievement early in her film career.
- She won an **Emmy Award in 1990** for the miniseries **People Like Us**.
- She also received a **Behind the Voice Actors Voice Acting Award** for her work in the animated series **The Legend of Korra (2012–14)**.

Veteran Actor and Padma Shri Awardee Nana Patekar Passed Away at 75

- **Veteran Indian actor and filmmaker Nana Patekar** passed away at the age of **75** at his home in **Goa**.
- **Nana Patekar's birth name** was **Vishwanath Patekar**, and he was born on **1 January 1951** in **Murud-Janjira, Maharashtra**.
- He received **three National Film Awards** for his performances in **Hindi cinema**:
- **1990**: **Best Supporting Actor** for **Parinda (1989)**.
- **1995**: **Best Actor** for **Krantiveer (1994)**.
- **1997**: **Best Supporting Actor** for **Agni Sakshi (1996)**.
- He was awarded the **Padma Shri** in **2013** for his contributions to the field of **Arts**.

Veteran Freedom Fighter 'Socio Vasu' Passed Away at 103 in Kozhikode

- **Veteran freedom fighter P. Vasu**, popularly known as **'Socio Vasu'**, passed away on **8 October 2026** at his residence in **Cheruvannur, Kozhikode, Keralam**, at the age of **103**.
- **P. Vasu** was born in **January 1923** and developed an interest in **India's freedom struggle** after attending a public meeting addressed by **Mahatma Gandhi** during his **1934 visit to Kozhikode**.

Padma Shri-Awarded Kathak Dancer Roshan Kumari Passed Away

- **Renowned Indian classical dancer, choreographer and Padma Shri awardee Roshan Kumari** passed away at the age of **82** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

- **Roshan Kumari** was born on **24 December 1937** in **Ambala, Haryana**.
- She received the **Padma Shri in 1984** in the field of **Art**; the Padma Shri is **India's fourth-highest civilian award**.
- She received the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** in recognition of her contributions to the **performing arts**.
- Her other honours included the **Vishwa Unnyyan Samsad Award (1989)**, **Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar (1990)** and **Man Patra honour (1993)**.

Bestselling British Author and Former Politician Jeffrey Archer Passed away at 86

- **Jeffrey Archer**, the bestselling **British novelist** and **former politician**, died at the age of **86** at his home in **London**, shortly before the global release of his latest novel.
- His final novel, **Adam and Eve**, was published globally on **6 October 2026**, one day after his death.

Padma Shri Recipient and Renowned Mridangam Maestro Guruvayur Dorai Passed away at 91

- Renowned **Mridangam maestro Guruvayur Dorai**, a distinguished exponent of **Carnatic classical music**, passed away in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)**, at the age of **91**.
- **Guruvayur Dorai** was born on **2 July 1935** in **Guruvayur, Kerala**.
- He received the **Padma Shri in 2025** in the field of **Arts** for his outstanding contribution to **Carnatic music and mridangam playing**.
- He received the **Kalaimamani Award in 1990** in recognition of his contribution to the arts.
- He received the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1996** for his contribution to Indian classical music.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Apollo Software Pioneer Margaret Hamilton Passed Away at 90

- **Margaret Hamilton**, a pioneering American computer scientist who helped develop software for **National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Apollo missions, Passed away** at the age of 90.

- She led the **Software Engineering Division** of the **MIT Instrumentation Laboratory**, which developed and tested the onboard flight software for NASA's Apollo missions.
- Hamilton led a team of approximately **100 engineers** responsible for designing software that guided NASA's Apollo spacecraft, including the **command modules** and **lunar landers**.

Padma Shri Recipient Cheruvayal Raman, Popularly Known as 'Nellachan', Passed away at 74

- **Cheruvayal Raman**, renowned Kerala traditional rice conservationist popularly known as **'Nellachan' (Father of Paddy)**, **'Guardian of Native Paddy'**, and **'Living Paddy Gene Bank'**, passed away at the age of **74** on **14 October 2026**.
- He was born on **6 June 1952** in **Kammana village, Wayanad district, Kerala**, to Kelappan and Theyi of the **Cheruvayal Kurichya ancestral lineage**.
- He received the **National Plant Genome Saviour Award** in **2016** for his contribution to agrobiodiversity and traditional crop conservation.
- In **2023**, **Cheruvayal Raman** was conferred the **Padma Shri**, India's fourth-highest civilian award, in the field of **Others (Agriculture)**.
- He received the first **Oommen Chandy Memorial Award** in **2025** from the Kerala State Government for his outstanding contribution to the agriculture sector.

Veteran Tamil Film Composer Deva, Fondly Called 'Thenisai Thendral', Passed away at 75

- Veteran Tamil film music director and composer **Devanesan Chokkalingam**, popularly known as **Deva** and nicknamed **'Thenisai Thendral'**, passed away on **17 October 2026** at the age of **75** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- **Deva** was born on **20 November 1950** in **Mylapore, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- He rose to prominence in **Tamil cinema** during the **late 1980s and 1990s** and became popular for bringing **Gaana music** into mainstream Tamil cinema.
- Deva received the **Kalaimamani Award** in recognition of his contribution to the arts.
- He won the **Tamil Nadu State Film Award for Best Music Director** for **Vaikasi Poranthachu (1990)** and **Aasai (1995)**.
- He received the **Filmfare Award for Best Music Director – Kannada** for the film **Amrutha Varshini (1997)**.

Founding Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies Vice-Chancellor and Noted Fisheries Scientist B. Madhusoodana Kurup Passed Away

- **Renowned fisheries scientist and academician B. Madhusoodana Kurup**, the founding **Vice-Chancellor (VC)** of **Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS)**, passed away at the age of **71** in **Kochi, Kerala**, on **18 October 2026**.
- He was born on **28 November 1954** in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.
- He served as the **founding Vice-Chancellor of KUFOS**, **India's first university dedicated to fisheries and ocean studies**.

Vummidi Ethiraj, Celebrated Jeweller Who Helped Craft the Historic Sengol, Passed away at 99

- Renowned jeweller and craftsman **Vummidi Ethiraj** passed away at the age of **99** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- **Vummidi Ethiraj** was born on **25 November 1926** in Chennai and was the patriarch of the **Vummidi family**, which owns the **125-year-old Vummidi Bangaru Jewellers**.
- He played a key role in crafting the historic **Sengol** at the age of **20**, in **1947**, at the time of **India's Independence**.

Veteran American Actor Tom Skerritt Passed away at the Age of 93

- **Tom Skerritt (Thomas Roy Skerritt)**, a veteran **American Hollywood actor**, passed away at the age of **93** in **Seattle, Washington, United States**.
- **Tom Skerritt** was born on **25 August 1933** in **Detroit, Michigan, USA**.
- Before pursuing his acting career, he served in the **United States Air Force (USAF)**.
- He won the **1993 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series** for portraying **Sheriff Jimmy Brock** in the television series **Picket Fences (1992–1996)**.
- He received **two Primetime Emmy Award nominations** for his performance in **Picket Fences** and won one of them in **1993**.

Former Sportstar Senior Deputy Editor P. Krishnan Passed Away at 69

- **P. Krishnan**, former **Senior Deputy Editor** of **Sportstar**, passed away in **Chennai** on **20 October 2026** at the age of **69**.

- He was affectionately known as **'P.K. sir'** among generations of **reporters** and **sub-editors**.
- He joined **The Hindu** in **August 1980** before moving to **Sportstar**.

Renowned Tamil Chef and Padma Shri Recipient K. Damodaran (Chef Damu) Passed away at 72

- **K. Damodaran**, popularly known as **Chef Damu**, was a renowned **Tamil chef** and **Padma Shri awardee** who passed away at the age of **72** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**, on **25 October 2026**, following a brief illness.
- He was born in **September 1954** in **West Mambalam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**, to **Kothandaraman**, who worked at the Secretariat, and **Kothainayaki**, a homemaker.
- He received the **Padma Shri in 2025** for his outstanding contributions to the **culinary arts**.

Renowned Indian Painter and Former Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Jogen Chowdhury Passed Away at 87

- **Jogen Chowdhury**, a renowned **Indian painter** and former **Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament (MP)**, passed away at the age of **87** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**, on **25 October 2026**.
- He was born on **15 February 1939** in **Faridpur, Bengal Presidency, British India** (now part of **Bangladesh**).

Awards and Honours:

- He received the **Prix de la Jeune Peinture, France (1966)**, the **Kalidas Samman (2001)**, the **Banga Bibhushan (2012)**, and the **Zainul Samman (2016)**.
- He was honoured at the **Second Biennale of Havana, Cuba**, in **1986**.
- **Rabindra Bharati University, West Bengal**, conferred an honorary **Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.)** on him in **2010**.
- The **Banga Bibhushan**, one of West Bengal's highest civilian honours, was conferred on him by the **Trinamool Congress-led state government** in **2012**.

Japanese Novelist and Filmmaker Ryū Murakami Passed away at 74

- **Japanese novelist and filmmaker Ryū Murakami** Passed away at the age of **74**.
- Ryū Murakami was born on **19 February 1952** in **Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan**.
- Murakami made his literary debut with the novel ***Almost Transparent Blue***, published in **1976**, which sold **more than 3.5 million copies**.

Japan's Former Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda Passed away at the Age of 90

- **Yasuo Fukuda**, former **Prime Minister of Japan**, passed away in **Tokyo, Japan**, at the age of **90**.
- He was born on **16 July 1936** in **Takasaki, Gunma Prefecture, Japan**.
- Yasuo Fukuda was Japan's first **second-generation Prime Minister**, meaning he was the first Japanese Prime Minister whose father had also served as Prime Minister.

Three-Time Asian Para Games Gold Medallist and Indian Paralympian Neeraj Yadav Passed Away in New Delhl

- **Neeraj Yadav**,a 42-year-old **Indian Paralympian, javelin thrower and three-time Asian Para Games gold medallist in para-athletics** passed away in New Delhi, Delhi.
- He was born on 10 February 1984 in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (UP), India.

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