

2025, October 1

Tamil Nadu Scientist Award:

- ➔ Dr. R. Arthur James, Professor and Chair of the Department of Marine Science at Bharathidasan University (BDU), has been honoured with the prestigious Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) 2022 in the field of Environmental Science.
- ➔ The award, instituted by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology (TANSA), is one of the highest recognitions for scientists in the state. It highlights exceptional contributions made by individuals in various fields of science and research.



International Day of Older Persons:

- ➔ Every year on 1st October, the world observes the International Day of Older Persons, as designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1990 (resolution 45/106). The day aims to highlight the importance of older persons in society and the need to protect their rights, dignity, and well-being.
- ➔ In 2025, the theme is “Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being and Our Rights”, emphasizing that older persons are not just passive recipients of care but active drivers of social, economic, and cultural progress.



IPS officers:

- ➔ In a major leadership reshuffle among India's Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), two senior IPS officers of the 1993 batch have taken charge of key paramilitary organisations.
- ➔ Praveer Ranjan has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), while Praveen Kumar has been appointed as the Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). The CISF plays a critical role in securing vital national assets, including:

Airports, ports, and metro systems.

Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

Nuclear plants and other high-security installations.

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Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department:

- ➔ The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department has won the prestigious Global Tourism Award 2025, recognizing its outstanding initiatives in positioning Andhra Pradesh as one of India's most promising tourist destinations.
- ➔ The award was received by tourism consultant Nishitha Goyal on behalf of the department at a ceremony held in New Delhi. This achievement highlights the state's efforts in sustainable tourism development, heritage conservation, and promoting cultural experiences to both domestic and international travelers.

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NCRB:

- ➔ The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report for 2023 has revealed alarming figures for Manipur, making it the state with the highest number of violent crimes and rioting cases in the entire Northeast region.
- ➔ The sharp rise in crime was largely attributed to the ethnic conflict that broke out in May 2023 between the Meiteis of Imphal Valley and the tribal Kuki communities from the adjoining hill districts. The prolonged violence has claimed more than 260 lives and displaced thousands, pushing the state into a law-and-order crisis.



Mahi Banswara;

- ➔ The foundation stone for the Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project(MBRAPP) was laid by the Prime Minister.
- ➔ The project involves an investment of around ₹42,000 crore and will feature four indigenous 700 megawatt pressurised heavy water reactors (IPHWR-700). MBRAPP is being developed under India's fleet mode strategy to construct ten identical 700-megawatt nuclear reactors across the country.
- ➔ Prime Minister also inaugurated the RSDCL Nokh Solar Park in Phalodi, Rajasthan. It has a total capacity of 925 megawatt, including 735 megawatts developed by NTPC. The solar park will enhance renewable energy generation and contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions.



RCI:

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- ➔ The central government has appointed Lok Sabha MP Kanwar Singh Tanwar and Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Jashvantsinh Parmar as members of the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI). Their appointments were made under the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992.
- ➔ They will serve a two-year term from the date of notification or until successors are appointed, whichever is longer.



100% tariff:

- ➔ US President announced a 100% tariff on imported "branded and patented pharmaceutical products. India, Belgium, Italy, and China also export drugs to the US but largely in the generic space. India, often called Pharmacy of the World, is one of the largest pharma exporters in the world with a global market share of 5.71%.
- ➔ The US is India's largest pharma market, accounting for around 35% of exports worth \$10 billion (FY25). India also has the highest number of US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) compliant companies with plants outside of the USA. India ranks 3rd worldwide by volume and 11th by value in pharmaceutical production and India contributes to 60% of global vaccines.

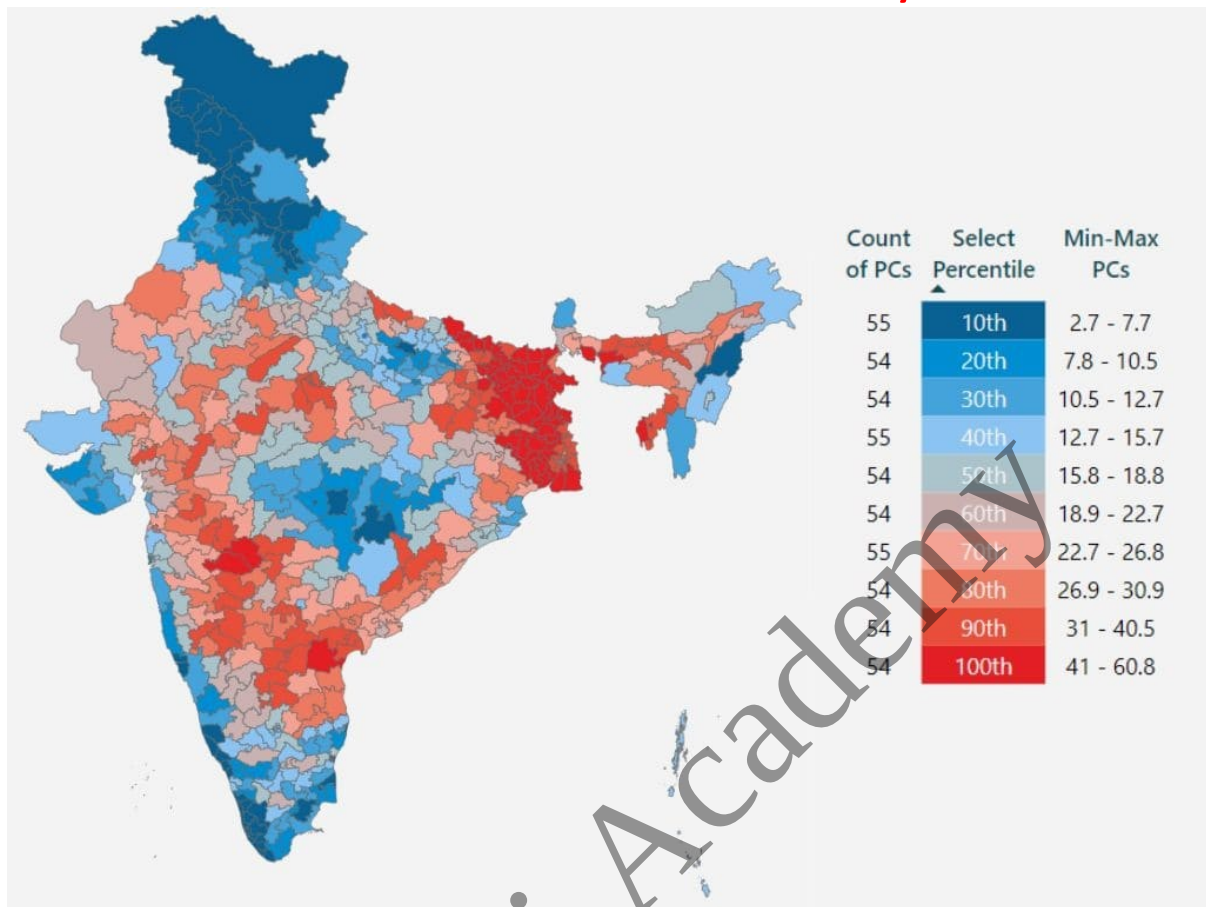


Child marriage:

- ➔ The prevalence of child marriage in Andhra Pradesh declined from 33% (NFHS4) to 29.3% (NFHS-5), and in Rajasthan from 35.4% to 25.4%. Odisha scaled up its "Child Marriage Free Village" initiative, with over 12,400 villages declared child marriage-free by January 2022.
- ➔ Despite progress, about 1.5 million girls under 18 still marry yearly in India; 16% of girls aged 15–19 is currently married. The UNICEF–UNFPA Global Programme integrates education, health, child protection, and sanitation to address root causes at scale.

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2025, October 2-3

Bathukamma Festival:

- ➔ In a grand display of culture and devotion, Telangana's Bathukamma Festival made history by achieving two Guinness World Records — one for the largest floral arrangement and the other for the most synchronized female dance participants.
- ➔ These accolades highlight not only the festival's cultural richness but also the collective spirit of its celebration. Bathukamma, meaning "Mother Goddess Come Alive," is a vibrant floral festival celebrated predominantly in Telangana. It marks a spiritual tribute to Goddess Gauri, symbolizing feminine energy, fertility, and prosperity.



Elon Musk:

- ➔ Tesla CEO Elon Musk has officially become the first person in history to achieve a net worth of \$500.1 billion, according to Forbes' Real-Time Billionaires tracker (October 2025). This milestone makes him not just the world's richest individual, but also puts him \$150 billion ahead of Larry Ellison, co-founder of Oracle, who is the second-richest person globally.
- ➔ Musk had earlier become the first person to cross \$400 billion in December, 2024. His wealth surge is tied primarily to the performance of his companies: Tesla, SpaceX, and xAI.



Air India and Airbus:

- ➔ Air India and Airbus have launched a joint venture pilot training centre at the Air India Aviation Training Academy in Gurugram, Haryana, with an investment of over ₹1,000 crore to house 10 full-flight simulators, including India's first A350 simulators.
- ➔ Beyond pilot training, Air India is also establishing South Asia's largest Flying Training Organisation (FTO) in Amravati, Maharashtra, and a Basic Maintenance Training Organisation (BMTO) in Bengaluru, which will support future fleets and create a skilled workforce of engineers and technicians.

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Kondareddypally:

- ➔ Kondareddypally in Nagarkurnool district, Telangana has become the second fully solar-powered village in India, covering 514 houses and 11 government buildings under the state's green energy mission.
- ➔ 480 houses are equipped with 3 KW rooftop solar panels, while schools and government buildings use 60 KW solar units, generating 360 units of power per month per house, ensuring uninterrupted electricity and eliminating bills.



PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana:

- ➔ Kishtwar district in Jammu & Kashmir has been selected as an aspirational agricultural district under the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, aiming to boost agriculture in remote areas.
- ➔ The initiative is part of the government's plan to develop 100 Aspirational Agricultural Districts over six years, announced in the Union Budget 2025-26. Aspirational districts were identified based on low crop productivity, low cropping intensity, and limited short-term credit disbursement, encouraging Agri-Entrepreneurs and enhancing agricultural development.
- ➔ The Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) is a comprehensive agricultural development initiative approved by the Union Cabinet on July 16, 2025. It aims to transform 100 underperforming agricultural districts across India through the convergence of 36 existing schemes from 11 central ministries, focusing exclusively on agriculture and allied sectors.

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Central Tissue Bank:

- ➔ India's first Central Tissue Bank was launched at the Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences (MAIDS) in Delhi. It will provide tissue and bone grafts directly to patients, removing the need to buy these from external sources.
- ➔ Alongside, the Delhi Dental Council (DDC) launched a cashless "V-Office", making it the first state dental council to implement a virtual office system.



Beddome's cat skink:

- ➔ For the first time, recorded the presence of Beddome's cat skink (*Ristella beddomii*) at the Aralam and Kottiyoor Wildlife sanctuaries in Kerala.
- ➔ The survey also reconfirmed the presence of the Kottiyoor Day Gecko (*Cnemaspis Kottiyorensis*) after decades of being unreported.
- ➔ It is a critically endangered species earlier discovered in 2014. Six previously unrecorded agamid lizards, four skinks and five geckos were documented recently.



Mukhi:

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- ➔ Mukhi, an India-born female cheetah, will become the first to reach adulthood at Kuno National Park. Project Cheetah began in September 2022 with the release of eight Namibian cheetahs.
- ➔ India currently hosts 27 cheetahs, including 16 born in the country. Kuno's cub survival rate is over 61%, above the global average of 40%.



Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana:

- ➔ The Haryana government launched Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana 2025. It will provide ₹2,100 per month to eligible women through direct bank transfer.
- ➔ Women can apply online using the official Lado Lakshmi Yojana mobile app. Eligibility is fixed as Women aged 23–60 years, with family income below ₹1 lakh, and a minimum of 15 years of Haryana residency.



Kanniyakumari Nannari:

- ➔ Kanniyakumari Nannari has been proposed for a Geographical Indication tag. Kanniyakumari district is known for Nannari, a herb valued for its cooling properties and traditional use for treating mouth ulcers.
- ➔ The root of this Nannari is thicker, more aromatic, and deeper in colour than regular Nannari and is sun-dried, cleaned, and stored for medicinal and culinary use.
- ➔ The Kani tribe of the Southern Western Ghats has traditionally used Hemidesmus indicus in Siddha and Ayurvedic medicine as a blood purifier, body coolant, and digestive aid.



Milk:

- ➔ India remains the world's top milk producer, contributing about 25 per cent of the global milk supply. Milk output grew by 63.56 per cent in 10 years, from 146.3 to 239.3 million tonnes by 2023–24. Per capita milk availability rose by 48 per cent to 471 grams per day, above the global average.
- ➔ Dairy forms 5 per cent of India's GDP (gross domestic product), employing over 8 crore farmers. Shreeja Milk Producer Organisation won the Dairy Innovation Award in Chicago for women's empowerment. In 2024–25, 565.55 lakh artificial inseminations (AI) were carried out nationwide.



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NISAR:

- ➔ NASA and ISRO's joint NISAR satellite was launched from Sriharikota, India. First radar images captured in August show Maine's Mount Desert Island and farmland in North Dakota. NASA's L-band radar detected forests, buildings, and crop fields; ISRO's S-band radar will observe vegetation.
- ➔ The satellite reached its 464-mile orbit in September and will begin full science operations in November 2025.



National Crime Records Bureau:

- ➔ The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reported that 1,77,335 cases of crimes against children were registered in 2023. It was marking a 9.2% rise from 1,62,449 in 2022.
- ➔ The national crime rate against children increased to 39.9 per one lakh child population in 2023, up from 36.6 in 2022. Kidnapping and abduction made up 45% of the cases (79,884). Offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act accounted for 38.2% (67,694).
- ➔ Madhya Pradesh (22,393 cases), Maharashtra (22,390), and Uttar Pradesh (18,852) reported the highest case volumes. Assam had the highest rate at 84.2 per one lakh children.

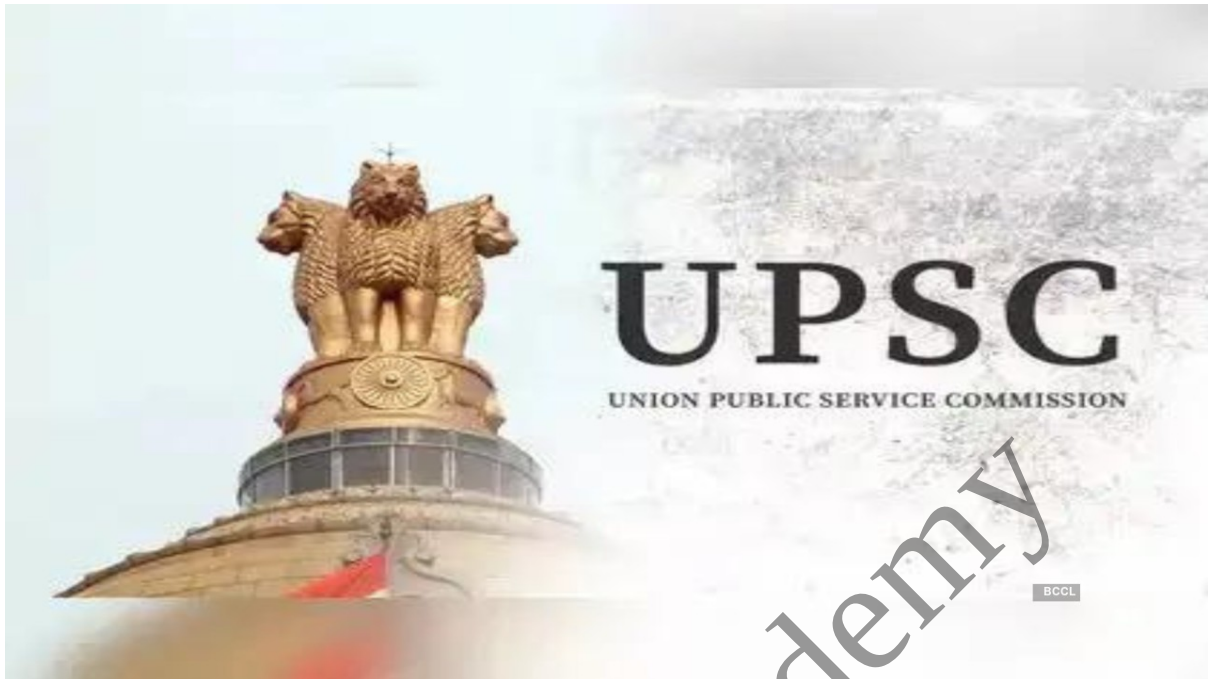
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UPSC:

- ➔ UPSC Celebrates 100 Years of Upholding Merit-Based Recruitment. UPSC was established in October 1926, following the Lee Commission's recommendations (1924), and became Federal Public Service Commission in 1935.
- ➔ Post-Independence, the UPSC was reconstituted under the Constitution of India (1950), acquiring constitutional status under Articles 315-323.



Gandhi Jayanti:

- ➔ Gandhi Jayanti is a national holiday in India, celebrated annually on 2 October to honour the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, one of the key leaders of the Indian independence movement and a pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of nonviolence.
- ➔ It is one of the three national holidays in India. In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly declared this day as the International Day of Non-Violence.
- ➔ Referred to as the "National Father" by Subhas Chandra Bose, Gandhi's principles of nonviolent resistance played a crucial role in India's successful struggle for independence from British colonial rule.

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2025, October 5-6

Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025:

- ➔ The Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025 is being touted as India's largest school-level innovation challenge, launched to inspire students to ideate and build solutions aligned with national development goals.
- ➔ It seeks to embed a culture of creativity, design thinking, and problem-solving among young learners across the country. The Buildathon was launched on 23 September 2025 by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and AICTE.
- ➔ It aims to engage students from Classes VI to XII across India. Over 1.5 lakh schools are expected to participate, involving over one crore students. The initiative aligns with India's vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, emphasizing self-reliance, innovation, and inclusive prosperity.



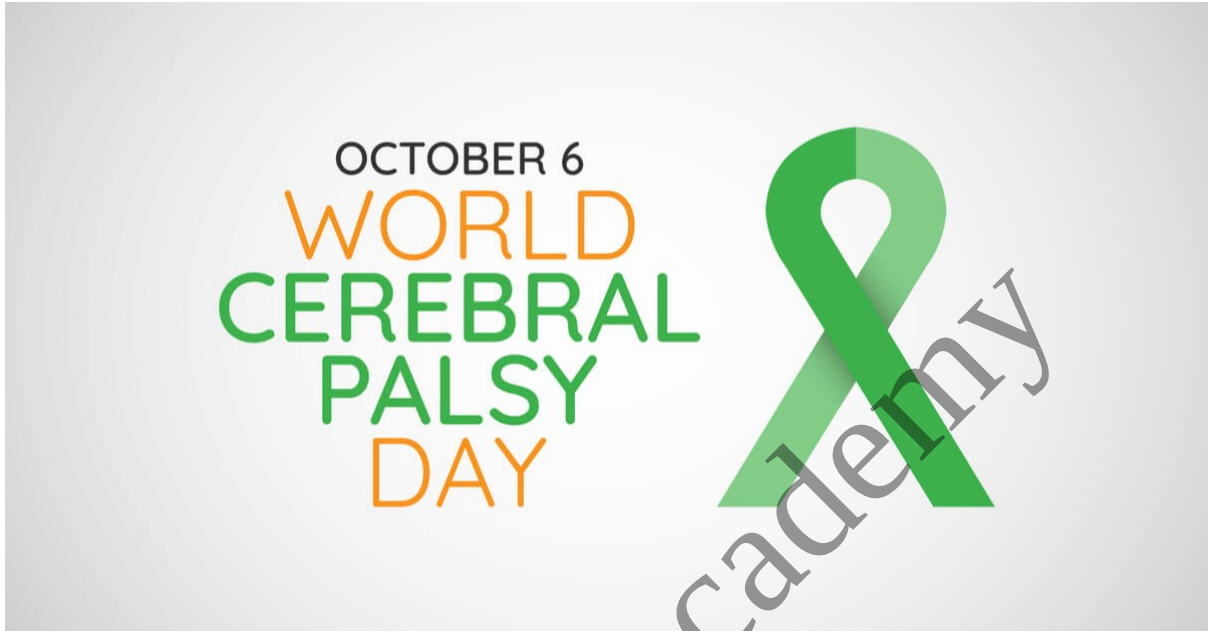
World Cerebral Palsy Day:

- ➔ World Cerebral Palsy Day (WCPD) is observed every year on October 6 to raise awareness about cerebral palsy (CP) — one of the most common physical disabilities in childhood. The day promotes inclusion, equality, and empowerment for those affected by CP and their families.

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- ➔ The 2025 observance carries the theme “Unique and United”, reflecting the dual spirit of individual strength and collective solidarity in the global CP community. It underscores the importance of recognizing diversity while standing together for inclusion, accessibility, and dignity.

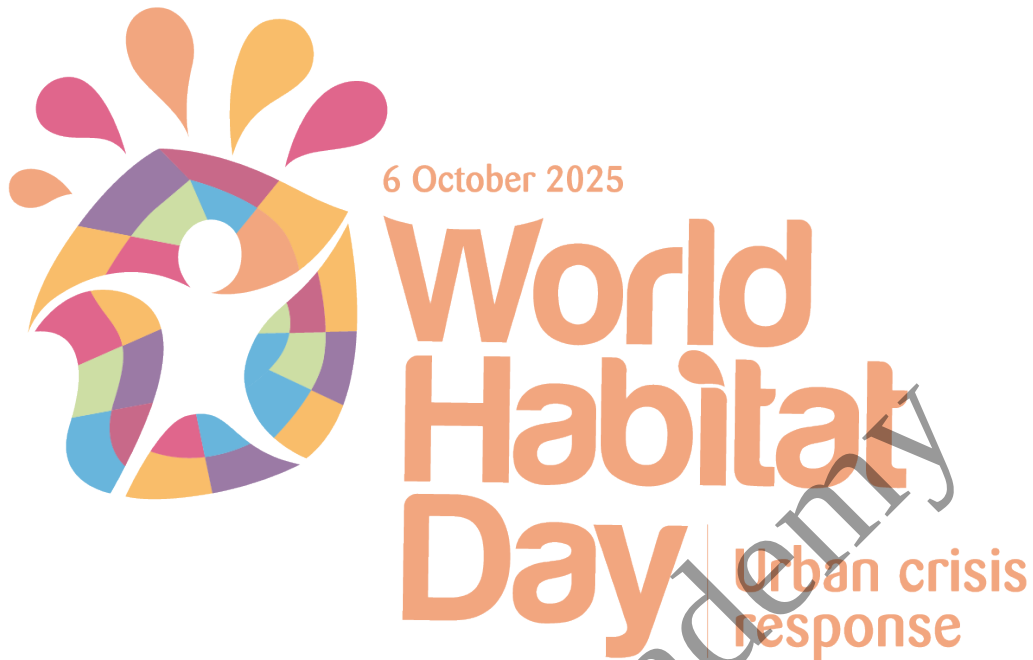


World Habitat Day:

- ➔ Every first Monday of October, the world comes together to mark World Habitat Day, a moment to reflect on the state of human settlements and the right of every person to adequate shelter. In 2025, it falls on 6 October, and is being observed under the theme “Urban Crisis Response.”
- ➔ The focus is on addressing urgent urban challenges such as climate change, conflict, inequality, and the need for resilient, inclusive cities. This day also kicks off Urban October, a month-long campaign concluding with World Cities Day on 31 October, spotlighting sustainable urban futures.

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PM SETU:

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PM SETU Scheme (Prime Minister's Skill Enhancement and Technical Upgradation) on 4 October 2025 at the Skills Convocation held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ➔ With a budget outlay of ₹60,000 crore, the PM SETU scheme is a landmark initiative designed to modernize and make 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the country industry-ready, thereby bridging the skill gap and boosting employability.
- ➔ This transformative mission aligns with India's vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047", focusing on creating a skilled, innovation-driven workforce to meet the evolving needs of global industries.

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BWF World Junior Championships:

- ➔ After a gap of 17 years, the BWF World Junior Championships return to India, marking a major milestone for Indian badminton.
- ➔ The prestigious tournament, featuring the world's best young shuttlers, is being held in Guwahati, Assam, from October 6 to 19, 2025. This is the second time India is hosting the event—the first being in Pune in 2008—and it reaffirms the country's growing role as a global badminton hub.

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Konkan 2025:

- ➔ Exercise Konkan 2025, a joint maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom, commenced on 5 October 2025 off India's western coast.
- ➔ Marking over two decades of sustained collaboration, this edition of the exercise stands out for its enhanced scale and complexity, involving aircraft carriers, warships, submarines, and advanced air assets from both sides.

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Akshar:

- ➔ On October 4, 2025, the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Akshar was officially commissioned at Karaikal, Puducherry, marking a significant milestone in India's journey towards maritime self-reliance.
- ➔ Designed and built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), this vessel represents the growing indigenous capabilities of India's defence sector under the umbrella of the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiatives.

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NATPOLREX-X:

- ➔ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is set to conduct the 10th National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-X) off the Chennai coast, Tamil Nadu, beginning tomorrow.
- ➔ The National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX) is a biennial exercise organized by the Indian Coast Guard, which functions as the Central Coordinating Authority for oil spill response in Indian waters under the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP).

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NAMO VAN:

- ➔ In a significant step toward strengthening India's green infrastructure, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, inaugurated Rajasthan's first Nammo Biodiversity Park—also called 'NAMO VAN'—at Pratap Bandh, Alwar, on 5 October 2025.
- ➔ The inauguration was marked by a symbolic tree plantation ceremony and attended by Shri Sanjay Sharma, Cabinet Minister, Government of Rajasthan. The park represents a milestone in the state's commitment to biodiversity preservation, climate resilience, and community participation in environmental conservation.

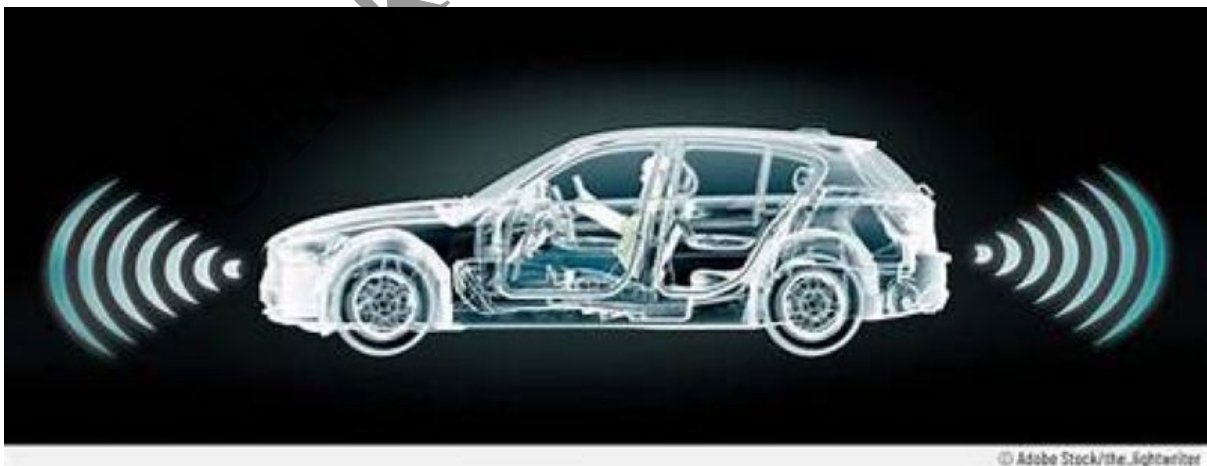
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AVAS:

- ➔ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has proposed making Acoustic Vehicle Alerting System (AVAS) mandatory for all electric cars, buses, and trucks from October 1, 2027 to enhance road safety.
- ➔ All new electric passenger and goods vehicle models manufactured after October 2026 must be equipped with AVAS, which emits an artificial sound to alert pedestrians and other road users.
- ➔ Countries like the U.S., Japan, and some EU nations have already mandated AVAS in hybrid vehicles, aligning India with global road safety standards.



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Jindal Steel:

- ➔ Jindal Steel becomes India's first large, diversified enterprise and integrated steel manufacturer to be recognised as an Awarding Body by NCVET, granting it PAN-India authority in the Large Indian Enterprise/MNC category.
- ➔ National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) was established by the Government of India in 2018 under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- ➔ It acts as the regulatory body for all vocational education and training programs. It regulates, promotes, and standardizes vocational programs, ensuring they are industry-aligned and nationally recognized.



World Teachers' Day:

- ➔ World Teachers' Day is celebrated every year on 5th October to honor the contributions of teachers and educators worldwide.
- ➔ The day was established by UNESCO in 1994 to commemorate the signing of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.
- ➔ It aims to raise awareness about the crucial role of teachers in providing quality education and shaping future generations.



- ➔ The Union government has released ₹538.39 crore under the Right to Education (Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act) entitlements through the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (Integrated School Education Programme).
- ➔ The amount includes ₹362 crore for 2024-25 and ₹175.59 crore as the first instalment for 2025-26. 25% of seats in entry-level classes in private schools must be reserved for children from marginalised groups under the Right to Education Act.
- ➔ Earlier this year, the Madras High Court directed the Union government to consider delinking RTE reimbursements from the Samagra Shiksha scheme. After this, the Tamilnadu State government filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court, seeking a binding direction to the Union government to release its share of funds.

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NCRB;

- ➔ The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released the 'Crime in India 2023' report showing sharp rises in caste-based crimes in metropolitan cities.
- ➔ Jaipur reported a 35% increase in crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs) from 361 in 2021 to 489 in 2023, and a 47% rise against Scheduled Tribes (STs) from 155 to 228. Bengaluru recorded 285 crimes against SCs in 2023, up from 166 in 2021, and 15 crimes against STs, ranking fifth among metros.
- ➔ Jaipur had the second-highest SC cases and the highest ST cases among metropolitan cities in 2023. Lucknow recorded 517 crimes against SCs in 2023, a 93% rise since 2021. Also, Jaipur (1,231), Lucknow (1,205), Kanpur (804), and Bengaluru (682) having the highest cumulative cases over three years.



Tiruvannamalai SP:

- ➔ Tiruvannamalai SP (Superintendent of Police) issued a dismissal order for two constables attached to Tiruvannamalai East Police Station.
- ➔ On the instructions of Inspector-General of Police, North Zone, the SP dismissed the constables by invoking provisions under Article 311 of the Constitution.
- ➔ It deals with the “Dismissal, removal or reduction in rank of persons employed in civil capacities under the Union or a State”.
- ➔ While the Article says no disciplinary action could be taken without conducting an inquiry against the accused employee, and he/she be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of the charges. But the SP issued the order under Clause 2(b) of Article 311 of the Constitution.
- ➔ It states that the dismissal from service is justified when the competent authority “empowered to dismiss or remove a person or to reduce him in rank is satisfied that for some reason, to be recorded by that authority in writing, it is not reasonably practicable to hold such inquiry”.
- ➔ Simply, Article 311 does not require any departmental inquiry for dismissal of the service. Under this, the government is empowered to terminate an employee without recourse to the normal procedure if it is satisfied that his or her retention in public service is prejudicial to the security of the state.
- ➔ The first dismissal of a police official under Article 311 was reported in Madurai. Here an Inspector was removed without an inquiry on April 11, 2023 after being arrested for grabbing ₹10 lakh from a businessman.
- ➔ The accused officer’s plea challenging her removal from service was dismissed by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court.



TET:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu became one of the first States to seek a review of a Supreme Court judgment on TET. It gave school teachers two choices — to qualify for Teaching Eligibility Test (TET) in two years or be retired compulsorily.
- ➔ On September 1, 2025, a two-judge Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan invoked the court's extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution. It has directed that teachers across the country with more than five years of service left must pass the TET in two years.
- ➔ The Right to Education (RTE) Act of 2009 was implemented from 2010. It required teachers to clear TET. The Bench only gave teachers with less than five years to retirement the option to not take TET.
- ➔ It is applicable to all teachers employed in government, aided, unaided and private schools mentioned under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. It requires in-service teachers from Classes 1-8 in non-minority schools across the country to clear the Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) in two years or be "compulsorily retired".

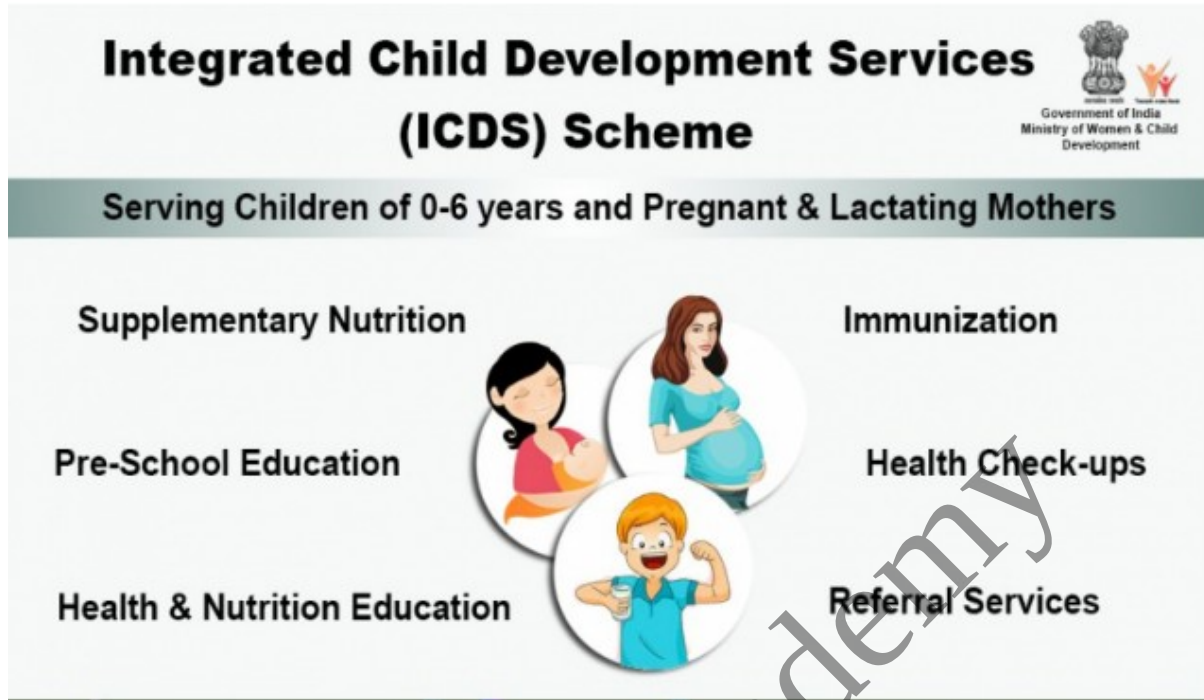


Integrated Child Development Services:

- ➔ The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme was launched on 2 October 1975 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. As of 2025, ICDS has been renamed and merged into Mission Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0.
- ➔ India has 13.96 lakh (1.396 million) anganwadi centres serving over 7.65 crore (76.5 million) children. ICDS provides early childhood care, education, nutrition, and health services for children under six.

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'Vande Mataram':

- ➔ The Union Cabinet decided to celebrate 150 years of the national song, 'Vande Mataram', across India. The Constituent Assembly had accorded 'Vande Mataram', composed by Bankimchandra Chatterji, the status of national song in January 24, 1950.
- ➔ It was composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterji in 1875. But, it was first published in Chatterji's Bengali novel Ananda math in 1882.

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2025, October 4

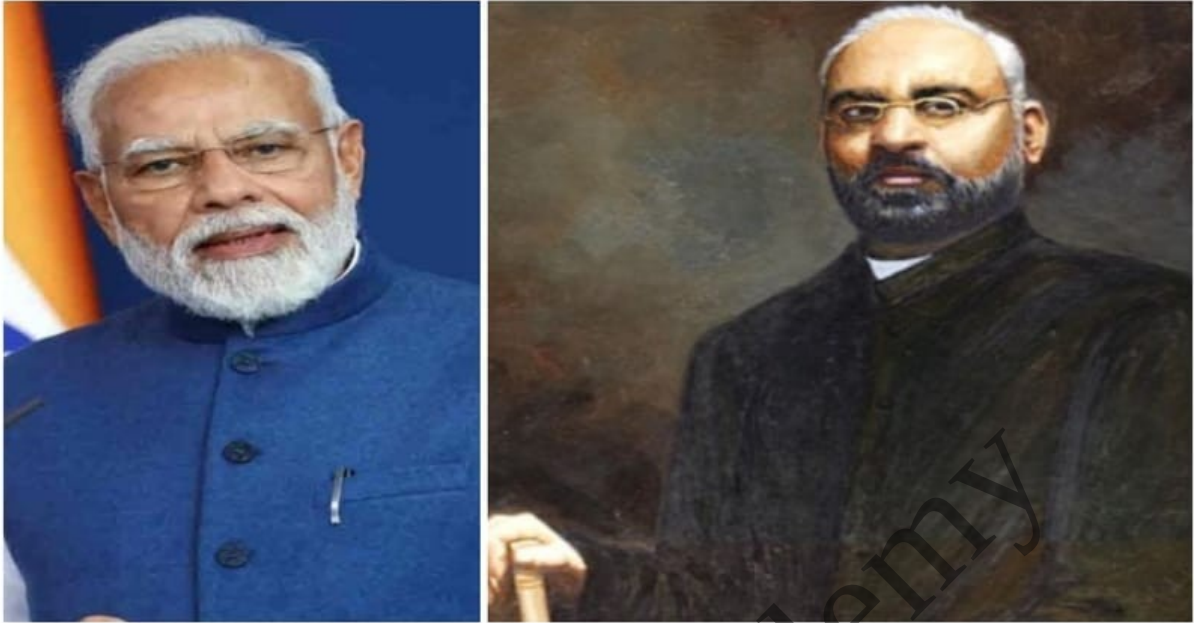
World Social Security Forum:

- ➔ At the World Social Security Forum (WSSF) 2025 held in Kuala Lumpur, Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya highlighted India's remarkable journey in expanding social security coverage.
- ➔ He stated that over the last decade, India's coverage rose from 19 percent in 2015 to 64.3 percent in 2025, reaching over 940 million citizens — an achievement officially recognised by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- ➔ In recognition of this transformation, India was awarded the International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award 2025 for "Outstanding Achievement in Social Security." The award was presented at the forum attended by more than 1,200 policymakers and professionals from 163 countries.



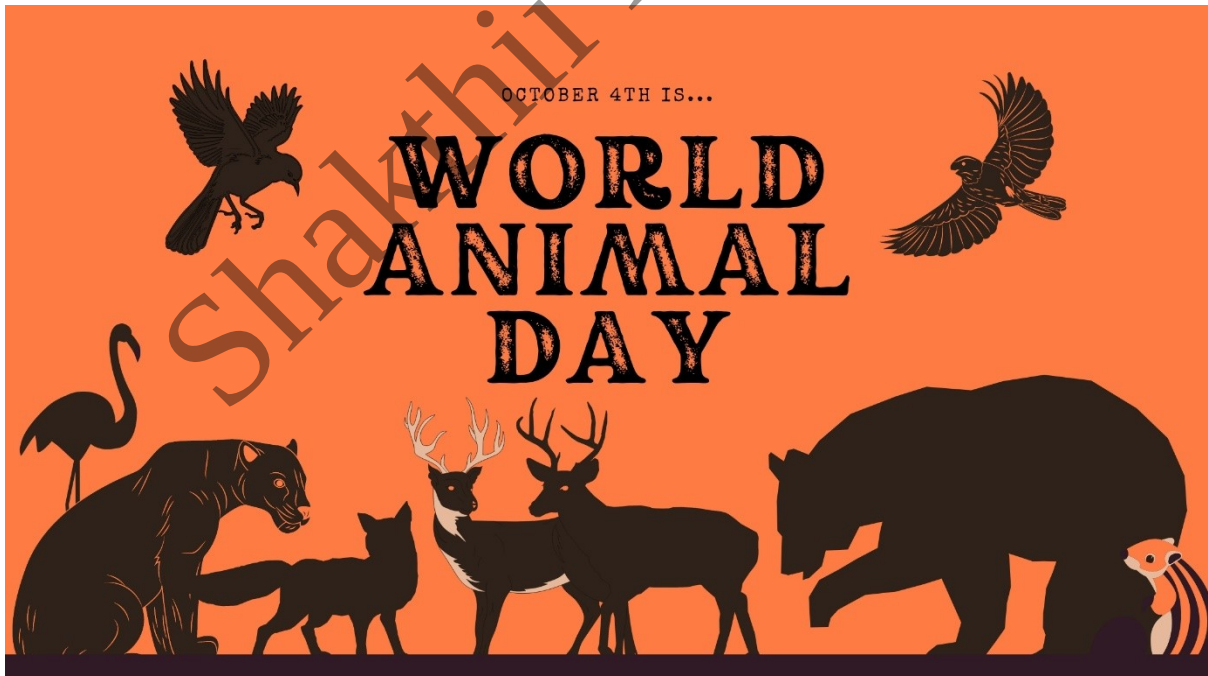
Shyamji Krishna Varma:

- ➔ On 4 October 2024, India commemorated the 96th birth anniversary of Shyamji Krishna Varma, an eminent revolutionary, patriot, lawyer, and journalist who played a pivotal role in shaping India's freedom struggle from abroad. Varma became the first President of the Bombay Arya Samaj, actively promoting social and political reforms in India.
- ➔ He used platforms like Arya Samaj and India House to blend cultural revival with political activism, creating a strong foundation for revolutionary movements. His writings strongly advocated swaraj (self-rule) long before it became mainstream in Indian politics.



World Animal Day:

- ➔ World Animal Day 2025, observed on October 4, marks the 100th anniversary of a global movement that promotes animal rights, welfare, and compassion.
- ➔ This year's observance carries the theme "Save Animals, Save the Planet!", underlining the inseparable connection between animal protection and environmental sustainability.



Ramachandran:

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- ➔ On October 5, 2025, a museum dedicated to one of India's most celebrated modern artists, A Ramachandran, will be inaugurated in Kollam, Kerala, by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- ➔ This tribute comes less than two years after his death in February 2024 at the age of 88, marking a significant milestone in preserving and celebrating his artistic legacy.
- ➔ Born in 1935, A Ramachandran was known for his versatile mastery over both urban realism and mythical storytelling, with a unique style that blended modernist experimentation with traditional Indian visual culture.



ICAO:

- ➔ India was re-elected to Part II of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) during its 42nd Assembly in Montreal, Canada. Part II includes countries that contribute significantly to international civil air navigation facilities.
- ➔ India has been a continuous member of the ICAO Council since 1944 and reaffirmed its commitment to global aviation safety, security, and sustainability.

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Tata Advanced Systems Limited:

- ➔ Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) is set to establish India's first private sector helicopter Final Assembly Line in Vemagal, Karnataka. It will manufacture the Airbus H125 helicopter.
- ➔ This will support the growth of civil and para-public markets while meeting the Indian armed forces' needs for a light multi-role helicopter, especially for operations in the Himalayan region.
- ➔ The facility will also produce a military version, the H125M, with a high degree of indigenous components and technology.
- ➔ The first delivery of the 'Made in India' H125 is expected by early 2027, with plans to export helicopters across South Asia. This marks TASL as the first private company in India to manufacture helicopters and complements their existing Airbus assembly line for the C295 military aircraft in Gujarat.



National Crime Records Bureau:

- ➔ The 2023 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report shows a 3.2 percent rise in suicides due to illnesses, increasing from 31,484 in 2022 to 32,503 in 2023. Illness was the second leading cause of suicide in India in 2023.
- ➔ It is accounting for 19 percent of total suicides, after family problems which accounted for 32 percent. Suicides due to mental illness were highest under the illness category at 13,978 cases. Suicides due to cancer rose by 14 percent from 1,251 in 2022 to 1,428 in 2023.
- ➔ Tamil Nadu reported the highest number of suicides due to illness at 21 percent of the national total. It is followed by Maharashtra at 12 percent and Karnataka at 10 percent.



International Day of Non-Violence:

- ➔ October 2 is celebrated as both Gandhi Jayanti in India and the International Day of Non-Violence globally. The United Nations adopted a resolution in 2007 to observe this day.
- ➔ Gandhi's principle of "Ahimsa" (non-violence) continues to inspire the global movements. The day promotes peace, tolerance, and understanding through education and public awareness.



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RSS:

- ➔ Prime Minister released a ₹100 coin and a commemorative postage stamp at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) centenary celebration. The ₹100 coin features Bharat Mata in Varad Mudra, a lion, and swayamsevaks paying respect; the national emblem appears on the reverse side.
- ➔ The coin bears the Sangh's guiding motto: "Rashtraya Swaha, Idam Rashtraya, Idam Na Mama". This marks the first-ever depiction of Bharat Mata on Indian currency since independence.
- ➔ The RSS was founded on Vijayadashami day in 1925 by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar at Nagpur. The RSS's Panch Parivartan (five changes) framework aims to address current challenges like social harmony, environmental protection, and safeguarding national unity.



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2025, October 28-29

James Anderson:

- ➔ James Anderson, England's legendary fast bowler, was formally knighted during an investiture ceremony held at Windsor Castle on 28 October 2025. He received the honour from Princess Anne in recognition of his monumental contribution to cricket.
- ➔ The knighthood, awarded as part of Rishi Sunak's resignation honours list in April 2025, celebrates a career defined by excellence, longevity, and record-breaking achievements.
- ➔ Anderson retired from international cricket in July 2024 at Lord's, closing a 21-year career during which he played 188 Test matches—a record for any pace bowler.



Asian Nations–India:

- ➔ During the 22nd Association of Southeast Asian Nations–India Summit on 26 October 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that 2026 will be observed as the “ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation.”
- ➔ This declaration reflects India's intention to deepen its maritime, security, economic, and cultural ties with the ASEAN bloc, strengthening the maritime dimension of the relationship.

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International Animation Day:

- ➔ Every year on October 28, the world celebrates International Animation Day (IAD)—a global homage to the art of animation, observed across more than 50 countries.
- ➔ Spearheaded by ASIFA (Association Internationale du Film d'Animation), this celebration marks the birth of projected animation, commemorating Émile Reynaud's historic screening using his Théâtre Optique in 1892, Paris.

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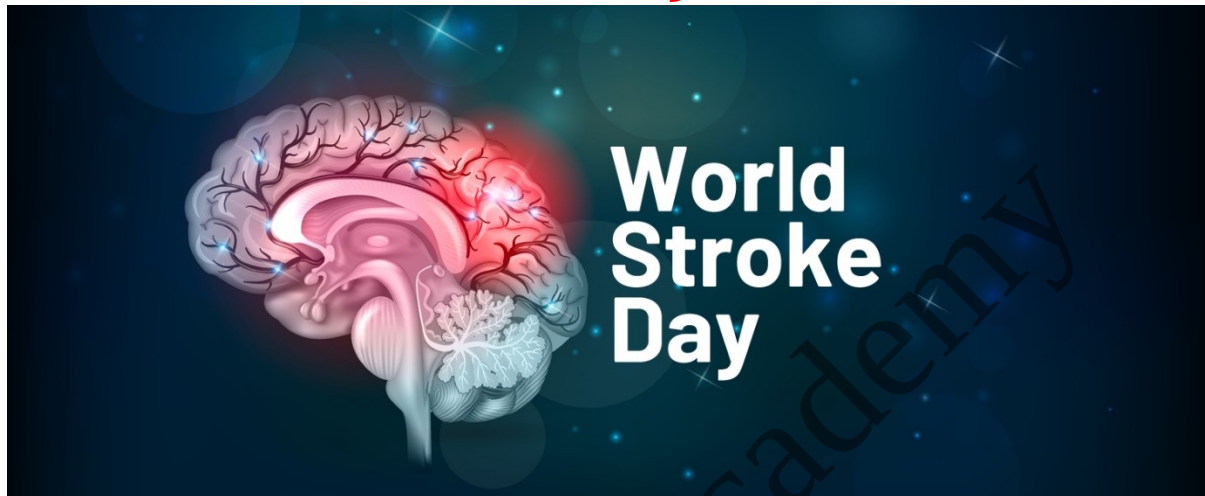
World Stroke Day:

- ➔ As part of World Stroke Day 2025 Observed on 29th October, the Ministry of Ayush highlighted the vital role of traditional Indian medical systems in promoting preventive and rehabilitative care for stroke, one of the leading causes of death and disability globally and in India.
- ➔ Stressing the importance of integrative health strategies, the ministry emphasized how Ayush systems can complement modern stroke management by enhancing recovery, reducing recurrence, and improving overall quality of life.
- ➔ Stroke is a neurological emergency caused by a sudden interruption of blood supply to the brain. It remains among the top five causes of death and disability in India.

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Hindustan Aeronautics Limited:

- ➔ In a significant move toward self-reliance in civil aviation, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) for the production of SJ-100 civil commuter aircraft in India.
- ➔ The SJ-100, also known as the Sukhoi Superjet 100, is a twin-engine regional passenger aircraft ideally suited for short-haul connectivity across India.
- ➔ The agreement allows HAL to locally produce the aircraft for Indian airlines and regional operators, aligning with India's growing demand for regional air connectivity under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme.

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Infantry Day:

- ➔ Every year on 27 October, the Indian Army observes Infantry Day to commemorate a historic moment in independent India's early defence efforts.
- ➔ This year marks the 79th Infantry Day, paying tribute to the infantry soldiers who air-landed in Jammu & Kashmir in 1947 and played a pivotal role in defending Indian territory during the first major post-independence conflict.
- ➔ In the months following India's independence in August 1947, the princely state of Jammu & Kashmir faced an incursion by tribal raiders and elements supported by Pakistan. On 26 October 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession to India, paving the way for Indian troops to be sent in.

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- ➔ The very next day, on 27 October 1947, the 1st Battalion of the 1st Battalion, The Sikh Regiment was air-lifted to Srinagar airfield in Dakotas to check the advance of the invaders. This deployment is widely regarded as the first full-scale military action by independent India on its soil.



Indian Army:

- ➔ In a significant milestone for India's defence communication capabilities, the Indian Army has signed a contract to procure its first indigenously designed and manufactured Software Defined Radios (SDRs).
- ➔ These SDRs have been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and will be produced by the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- ➔ Software Defined Radios (SDRs) are communication systems where traditional hardware components (mixers, modulators, filters) are replaced or augmented by software-based modules.

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Uttar Pradesh government:

- ➔ The Uttar Pradesh government has announced the creation of a new district named Kalyan Singh Nagar, in honour of former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, a towering figure in the state's political history.
- ➔ This will be Uttar Pradesh's 76th district, carved out from tehsils in Aligarh and Bulandshahr districts.
- ➔ The move not only pays tribute to the late leader but also aims to enhance administrative efficiency in the region. Kalyan Singh, who served as Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister twice (1991–92 and 1997–99), was deeply associated with Atrauli, his birthplace and political stronghold.

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Stellerus Technology:

- ➔ In a pioneering move for climate and space technology, Hong Kong-based startup Stellerus Technology has announced plans to deploy the Feilian Constellation—the world's first satellite constellation dedicated to capturing three-dimensional wind data.
- ➔ This ambitious project, named after the ancient Chinese god of wind, is set to transform how the world observes atmospheric dynamics, with vast implications for renewable energy, aviation safety, disaster management, and insurance modelling.



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PM SHRI:

- ➔ Kerala signed an MoU with the Central Government to join the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme, marking a major policy shift after months of political debate and hesitation.
- ➔ The state had earlier opposed the scheme, fearing it might indirectly introduce the National Education Policy (NEP) in Kerala, but later decided to proceed despite objections from the Communist Party of India (CPI). Under the PM SHRI scheme, the Centre plans to upgrade two schools per block nationwide, providing each selected school ₹1 crore annually for five years to improve infrastructure and quality.
- ➔ Kerala's Education Minister V. Sivankutty confirmed the move, stating it was essential to secure the Centre's pending ₹1,500 crore for the state's various educational programmes.

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Timor-Leste:

- ➔ Timor-Leste officially became the 11th member of ASEAN during the 47th ASEAN Summit held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, marking the bloc's first expansion since 1999.
- ➔ The inclusion was confirmed through a formal signing ceremony attended by Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão and ASEAN leaders, symbolizing the nation's entry into the regional alliance.
- ➔ ASEAN, established in 1967 in Bangkok, originally had five founding members — Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand — and now focuses on the theme “Inclusivity and Sustainability” under Malaysia's 2025 chairmanship.

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Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary:

- ➔ Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary in Jharkhand's Latehar district is India's only wildlife sanctuary dedicated to the Indian grey wolf, a smaller and more elusive species adapted to dry grasslands and open forests.
- ➔ The sanctuary offers a raw, untouched wildlife experience, best visited between October and June, with peak wolf activity during the breeding season (November–February); nearby attractions include Netarhat hill station, Lodh Falls, and Betla National Park.
- ➔ Local tribal communities play a crucial role in conservation through traditional practices like avoiding forest entry during denning season and revering Sal trees, creating natural safe zones that help wolves thrive.

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Civil society groups:

- ➔ Civil society groups in Ladakh resumed talks with the Union Home Ministry, after the September 24 violence in Leh. The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) demanded the release of Sonam Wangchuk and 20 other detained protesters.
- ➔ The Home Ministry indicated that special provisions under Article 371 of the Constitution could be considered for Ladakh. Article 371 deals with “Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions”, and exists under Part XXI of the Constitution.
- ➔ It is currently applicable in 12 States: Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim, and Karnataka.

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- ➔ LAB and KDA continue to demand inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution for tribal status and autonomy. Ladakh has been a Union Territory without a legislative assembly since 2019, after losing special status under Article 370.



‘Tamil Talents Scheme’:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government has launched a ‘Tamil Talents Scheme’ to attract foreign Tamil researchers. The initiative aims to provide competitive salaries, early stage research grants, relocation support and expedited visa facilities.
- ➔ The Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCHE) will maintain a register of foreign Tamil researchers in several fields. The scheme targets researchers from the US, UK, Australia and other countries for long-term and short-term collaboration.
- ➔ The government has allocated Rs. 100 crore to set up new research centres for basic sciences and mathematics in Chennai and Coimbatore.

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Iridium:

- ➔ The Crime Branch–Criminal Investigation Department (CB-CID), Tamil Nadu, arrested 57 persons in connection with the Iridium scam. Iridium is the element with an atomic number of 77.
- ➔ It is a hard, brittle, silver-white transition metal in the platinum group, known for being extremely dense and corrosion-resistant. It belongs to the family of elements whose one of the most important elements is Platinum.
- ➔ It was found in the year 1803 by an English chemist Smithson Tennant from platinum ores. It comes in the transition metal group.

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2025, October 30-31

ISA:

- ➔ India has ignited a bold new phase in global solar leadership at the Eighth International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly, held on October 28, 2025, in New Delhi.
- ➔ Launching a set of global initiatives, India called on nations to embrace a just and inclusive energy transition led by innovation, circular economy practices, and equitable access.
- ➔ SUNRISE stands for Solar Upcycling Network for Recycling, Innovation & Stakeholder Engagement. It turns solar waste into economic opportunity, addressing a rising global challenge—what to do with expired solar panels and electronic waste. ISA now has 125 member nations.

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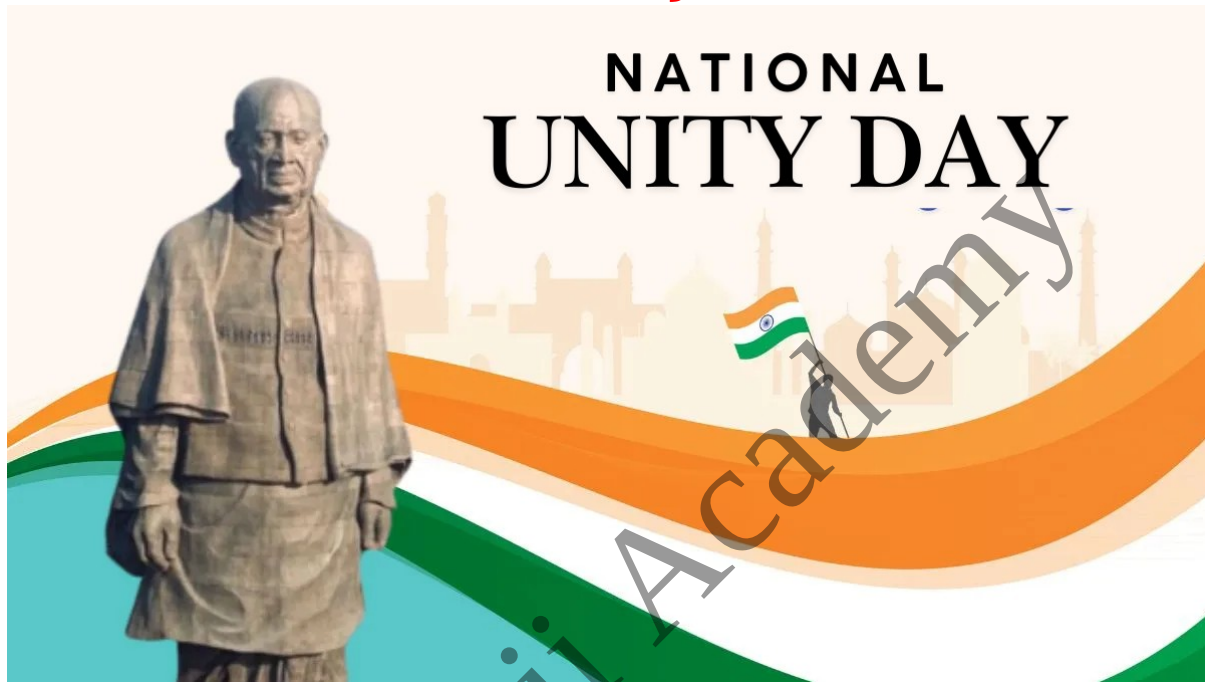
National Unity Day:

- ➔ National Unity Day 2025, also known as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, is a landmark occasion as India marks the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the “Iron Man of India.” Celebrated every year on October 31, this day honors Patel’s monumental role in politically integrating more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union after independence.
- ➔ Despite being seen as unambitious in his youth — he matriculated at 22 — Patel pursued law in London’s Middle Temple and returned to practice in Ahmedabad. His political journey took a turn in 1917 when he met Mahatma Gandhi and was inspired to join India’s independence movement.

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Justice Surya Kant:

- ➔ Justice Surya Kant has been officially appointed as the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI). President Droupadi Murmu approved the appointment following the recommendation of outgoing CJI Justice BR Gavai, whose tenure ends on 23 November 2025.
- ➔ Justice Surya Kant's term as CJI will begin on 24 November 2025, as announced by Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal. The Chief Justice of India is the highest-ranking judge in the country and the head of the Indian judiciary. The CJI,

Presides over Supreme Court benches

Allocates cases and appoints constitutional benches

Plays a vital role in the appointment of judges across courts

Has an influential say in judicial policy and reforms

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Indian Space Research Organisation:

- ➔ India is set for another space milestone as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) prepares to launch CMS-03, its heaviest communication satellite, on November 2, 2025. The launch will take place from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, using the LVM3-M5 launch vehicle, which earlier powered India's historic Chandrayaan-3 moon mission.
- ➔ The mission signifies ISRO's growing prowess in high-capacity space communications, targeting improved coverage across India and surrounding oceanic zones.

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Trishul:

- ➔ India has launched a massive military exercise named 'Trishul' along its western border with Pakistan, bringing together the Army, Navy, and Air Force for joint operations. The exercise aims to strengthen coordination, improve combat readiness, and test the country's ability to respond effectively to regional security challenges through combined defence strategies.
- ➔ The main goal of the Trishul exercise is to enhance coordination, communication, and mission readiness among the three military branches. It aims to improve interoperability — the ability of different forces to operate together effectively during real combat situations.

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Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution:

- ➔ The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has amended the Vegetable Oil Products, Production and Availability (Regulation) Order, 2011.
- ➔ The amended VOPPA Order, 2025, mandates registration for all edible oil manufacturers, processors, blenders, re-packers, and other stakeholders. Monthly production and stock returns must now be submitted through the designated online portal.
- ➔ The amendment aims to enhance regulatory oversight, transparency, and realtime monitoring of the edible oil sector. Non-compliance with the amended order will be treated as a violation under the VOPPA Order and the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008.

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Sainik School:

- ➔ The Sainik School Society under the Union Ministry of Defence has added a new school in Tamil Nadu for candidates appearing in the All India Sainik Schools Entrance Examination (AISSEE) 2026. SRRI SPK Public Senior Secondary School in Namakkal district has been included in the list of schools considered for AISSEE 2026.
- ➔ With this addition, Tamil Nadu now has five schools under consideration for the examination. The other approved Sainik Schools in the State are in the Amaravathi Nagar(Tiruppur), Madurai, Salem, and Tiruppur districts.

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Firepower Index 2025:

- ➔ The Global Firepower Index 2025 ranks the top 10 most powerful militaries based on strength, technology, manpower, and defense spending.
- ➔ United States remains the world's strongest military. Russia and China are tied for second place. India holds the fourth spot. South Korea climbs to fifth.

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GI:

- ➔ India Exports First-Ever GI-Tagged Indi and Puliyanakudi Limes to UK. APEDA facilitated the first-ever air shipment of GI-tagged Indi and Puliyanakudi Limes to the United Kingdom.
- ➔ The shipment includes 350 kg of Indi Lime from Vijayapura, Karnataka and 150 kg of Puliyanakudi Lime from Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu. The 500 kg consignment marks a major step in expanding India's GI-tagged horticultural produce globally.

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2025, October 27

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar:

- ➔ On October 26, 2025, the Indian government announced the recipients of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025, the nation's highest civilian honour for contributions to science, technology, and innovation. Instituted to celebrate excellence across diverse scientific fields, these awards aim to foster a culture of research and innovation in India.
- ➔ This recognition underscores India's commitment to encouraging scientific excellence and innovation-driven growth.



Chhath Puja:

- ➔ Chhath Puja is one of the most sacred Hindu festivals dedicated to Lord Surya (the Sun God) and Chhathi Maiya.
- ➔ The festival celebrates gratitude, purity, and self-discipline, with devotees thanking the Sun for sustaining life on Earth. Primarily celebrated in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh,

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and eastern India, this four-day festival involves fasting, offering prayers, and performing rituals near rivers or ponds with deep faith and devotion.

- ➔ In 2025, Chhath Puja will begin on Saturday, October 25, and end on Tuesday, October 28.



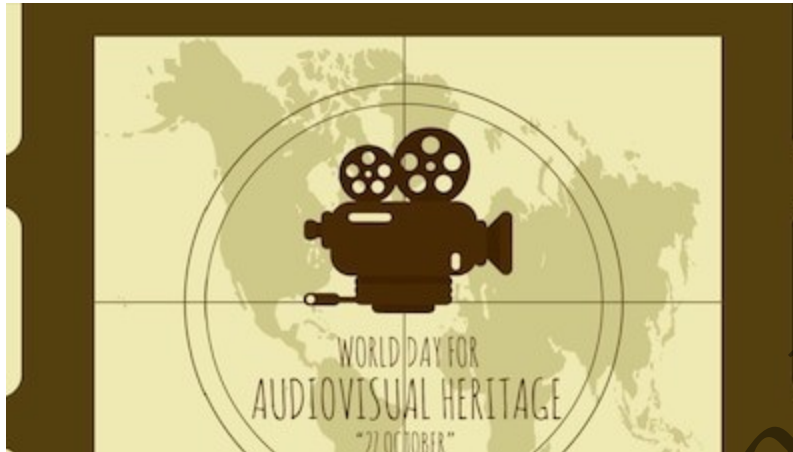
World Day for Audiovisual Heritage:

- ➔ Every year on 27 October, the world celebrates World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH)—a day dedicated to recognizing the significance of audiovisual materials in shaping our shared history and cultural identity.
- ➔ These materials—films, recordings, broadcasts, and digital media—offer unique glimpses into the lives, struggles, and stories of people across generations and continents.

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Vigilance Awareness Week:

- ➔ India commenced its observance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 from 27 October, rallying citizens and public institutions around the theme: “Vigilance – Our Shared Responsibility.”
- ➔ Celebrated annually in the last week of October to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31 October), this initiative aims to foster greater public awareness about the importance of integrity, accountability, and ethical conduct in public life.



53rd Chief Justice of India:

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- ➔ Justice Surya Kant has been recommended to become the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI), following the retirement of Chief Justice Bhushan R Gavai on 23 November 2025. Once formally appointed, Justice Kant will lead the Indian judiciary until 9 February 2027, marking a tenure of approximately 14 months.
- ➔ This recommendation, made by CJI Gavai to the Union Government, follows the established judicial convention of seniority in appointing the next CJI.



Indian Air Force:

- ➔ In a landmark moment for India's defence diplomacy, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has become the first non-NATO country to participate in Exercise Ocean Sky 2025, a high-intensity multinational air combat drill hosted by the Spanish Air Force.

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- ➔ Held at Gando Air Base, Canary Islands, the exercise runs from October 20 to 31, 2025. This historic inclusion underscores India's emergence as a credible aerospace power and reflects its growing strategic partnership with Spain and other NATO countries.
- ➔ Ocean Sky is a prestigious annual air combat exercise conducted by Spain, traditionally involving NATO air forces.



Uttarakhand government:

- ➔ Starting December 2025, the Uttarakhand government will implement a green tax on all vehicles entering the state from outside, marking a major step towards environmental conservation and pollution control.
- ➔ This move aims to protect the fragile Himalayan ecosystem and reduce vehicular emissions in popular hill destinations such as Dehradun, Mussoorie, Nainital, and Rishikesh.
- ➔ The tax will be collected through a fully automated digital system, making Uttarakhand one of the first states to implement such a technology-driven green levy model.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi:

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Pratibha Setu Portal' to connect UPSC candidates who reached the final stages but did not qualify with employment opportunities in private and public institutions.
- ➔ The initiative aims to optimally utilise youth talent, allowing institutions to directly engage with highly capable individuals, ensuring their efforts do not go in vain.

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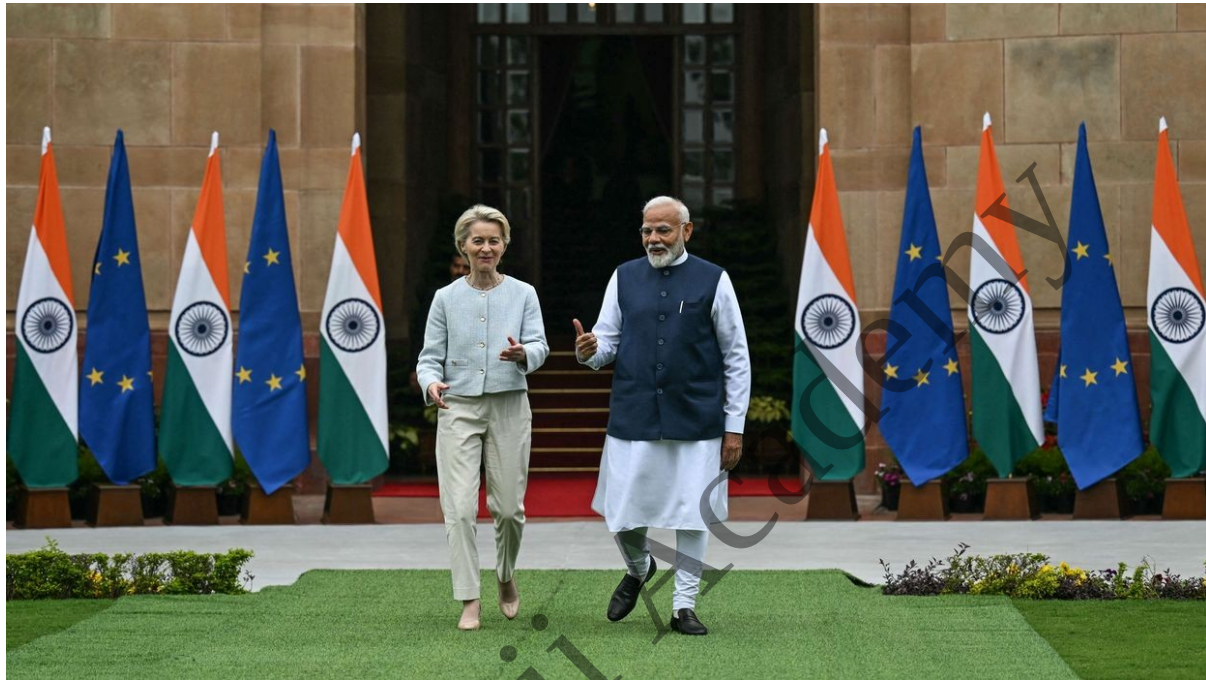
European Council:

- ➔ The European Council approved the EU-India Strategic Agenda on October 22, 2025. The agenda identifies five priority pillars: prosperity and sustainability, technology and innovation, security and defence, connectivity and global issues, and enabling measures.
- ➔ India and the European Union (EU) established diplomatic relations in 1962 and upgraded to a Strategic Partnership in 2004.

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Carbon:

- ➔ Russia, China, and the United States led global carbon sequestration on forest land, recording annual removals of 1,150 Mt CO₂, 840 Mt CO₂, and 410 Mt CO₂, respectively, in 2021–25. Countries like Brazil (1,420 Mt CO₂), the Democratic Republic of Congo (160 Mt CO₂), and Peru (130 Mt CO₂) recorded the largest emissions due to net forest conversion.
- ➔ Collectively, the top ten countries accounted for more than 70 per cent of global deforestation during this period. India ranked fourth globally in forest carbon sequestration, removing an average of 150 Mt CO₂ per year between 2021 and 2025.

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Kotada Bhadli:

- ➔ Researchers have discovered a 4,000-year-old caravanserai at Kotada Bhadli in Kutch, Gujarat. The site dates back to 2300-1900 BCE, during the Indus Valley Civilisation. Excavations revealed fortified walls, bastions, courtyards, animal enclosures, and multiple rooms.
- ➔ The caravanserai served as a stopover for traders, offering food, shelter, and security. Items found include pottery, food remains, and goods from distant regions, showing trade activity.

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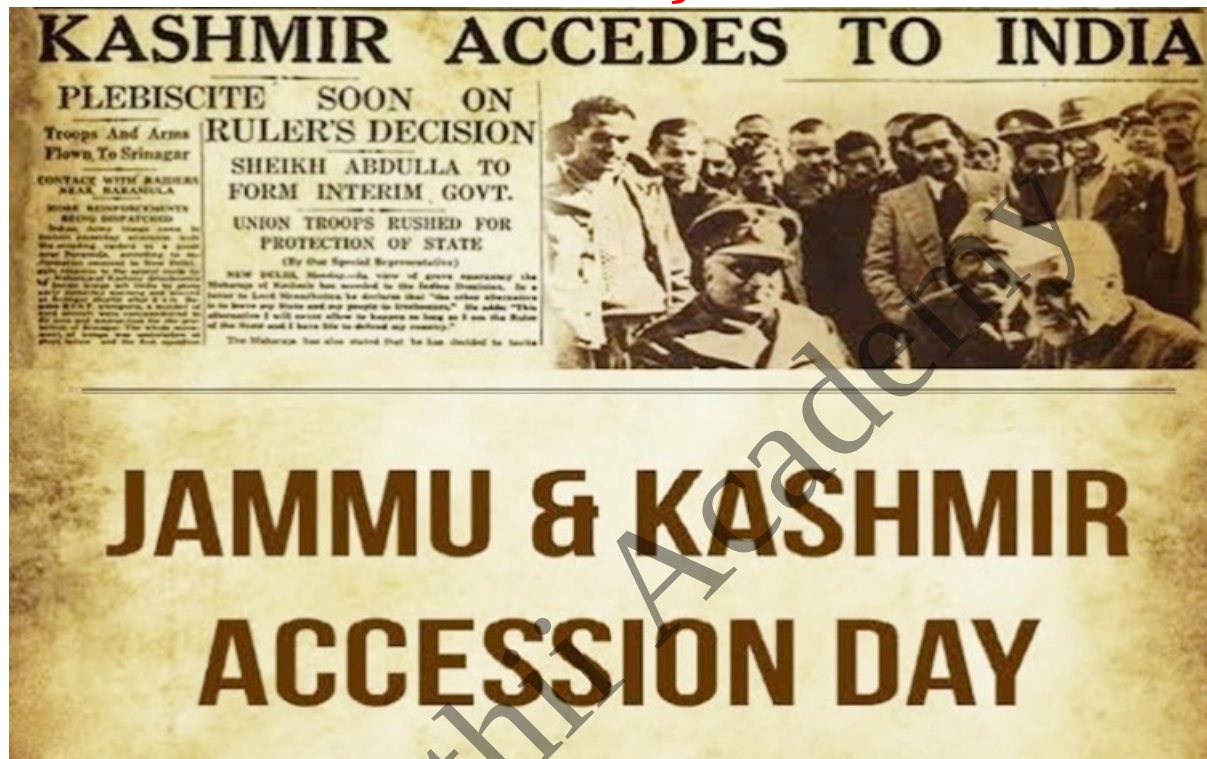
October 26:

- ➔ Jammu and Kashmir is celebrating Accession Day, observed annually on October 26 to commemorate its union with India. In 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession, officially joining Jammu and Kashmir with the Indian Union.
- ➔ The accession took effect on October 27, 1947, following the signing during a period of post-partition turmoil and Pakistani tribal invasion.

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2025, October 10

Maria Corina Machado:

- ➔ The 2025 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to Maria Corina Machado, a fearless advocate of democracy in Venezuela.
- ➔ Recognized by the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Machado has tirelessly fought for democratic rights, free elections, and a peaceful transition from authoritarian rule to democracy.
- ➔ Her dedication to civilian courage and nonviolent resistance has made her a symbol of hope for millions of Venezuelans living under oppression.



National Post Day:

- ➔ National Post Day 2025 is celebrated across India on October 10 to honor the Indian Postal Department (India Post) for its remarkable contribution to communication, public service delivery, and rural empowerment.
- ➔ The day recognizes over 150 years of service in connecting India's diverse regions — from urban centers to remote villages — and transforming from a traditional postal network into a digital, financial, and logistics powerhouse.



World Mental Health Day:

- ➔ Every year on 10 October, the world observes World Mental Health Day to raise awareness about mental wellbeing, fight stigma, and encourage support systems that foster psychological health. In 2025, the focus is particularly critical, with the chosen theme being “Access to Services – Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies”.
- ➔ This year’s observance urges global communities, governments, and health systems to prioritize mental health during crises such as wars, pandemics, natural disasters, and humanitarian emergencies—when psychological support is often most needed but least accessible.



Indian Army:

- ➔ The Indian Army has taken a significant step in modernising its air defence capabilities with the launch of SAKSHAM, an indigenous Counter Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Grid.
- ➔ Designed to detect, track, identify, and neutralise enemy drones in real time, SAKSHAM represents a major advancement in integrated battlefield management and aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.



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Tobacco Free Youth Campaign:

- ➔ The Government will launch Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0 (TFYC 3.0) to promote a tobacco-free learning environment and protect the health of students nationwide, jointly led by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- ➔ Tobacco use remains a major public health challenge in India, claiming over 13 lakh lives annually, with 8.4% of students aged 13–15 years using tobacco and an average initiation age of 10 years, highlighting the need for youth-focused interventions.



NCRB:

- ➔ Kolkata has been ranked India's safest city for the fourth consecutive year according to the NCRB 2023 data, recording the lowest rate of cognizable crimes at 83.9 per lakh population among 19 major metropolitan cities.
- ➔ The total number of cognizable crimes in Kolkata declined from 14,591 in 2021 to 11,843 in 2023, showing a consistent decrease over the years.
- ➔ Crimes against women also declined, with 1,746 cases in 2023 and a rate of 25.7 per lakh population, making it among the lowest after Chennai (17.3) and Coimbatore (22.7).
- ➔ Kochi emerged as the most crime-prone city, followed by Delhi and Surat, while serious crimes in Kolkata, including adult and minor rape cases, placed the city 10th among 19 metros.

Kolkata remains safest Indian city, 4th time in a row: NCRB

Crime Count Dropping Since 2016

Dwaipayan Ghosh
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Kolkata has again emerged as the safest city in the country, recording the lowest number of cognisable offences per lakh people, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau report (for 2023).

Kolkata recorded 83.9 cognisable offences per lakh people, the lowest among the 19 cities with more than 20 lakh population listed by NCRB,

COPS CREDIT TECH, STRATEGY

➤ Kolkata has emerged as India's safest city (in 2023 NCRB report) for fourth consecutive year

➤ City recorded 83.9 cognisable offences per lakh people, lowest among 19 Indian cities with population of over 20 lakh

➤ City's crime rate has been steadily declining since 2016

➤ City's crime rate against women — 25.7 per lakh population — is third lowest

➤ Officers attribute success to increased use of technology, improved policing and community cooperation

continuing with a trend that senior police officers have attributed to wise use of technology and fine-tuning of policing practices.

Kochi is the worst performer with 3,192.4 cognisable offences per lakh people, followed by Delhi (2,105.3) and

Surat (1,377.1). At the other end of the table, Hyderabad is the second best (332.3), followed by Pune (337.1) and Mumbai (355.4).

The average rate of cognisable offences in the 19 cities in 2023 was 829, according to the report released earlier

this week.

This was the fourth year in a row that Kolkata achieved the distinction of being India's safest city. The 2023 crime rate was lower than the rates in the previous two years — 86.5 in 2022 and 103.5 in 2021. In fact, the city's crime graph has been steadily dropping since 2016, when 159.6 cognisable offences were recorded per lakh people.

The NCRB report also showed that the total number of cognisable cases in the city came down for the second successive year — to 11,843 from 12,213 in 2022 and 14,591 in 2021.

► Crimes against women, P 7

Elephants:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu recorded 3,170 wild elephants in May 2025, an increase of 107 from the 2024 count of 3,063. The synchronised survey covered 8,989.63 square kilometres across 26 forest divisions using both direct and indirect methods.
- ➔ The Nilgiri Elephant Reserve reported the highest population with 2,419 elephants (Block Count) and 3,163 elephants (Dung Count). Adults made up 44 % of the population, and the sex ratio was recorded at 1 male to 1.77 females.



Archaeological Survey of India:

- ➔ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) documented 10 Chola-era inscriptions from the Vedapureeswarar Shiva temple at Therizhandhur in Mayiladuthurai district. Two inscriptions, dated to the 34th and 44th regnal years of Kulottunga Chola I.
- ➔ It records a grant of five gold coins to Brahmins for lighting lamps in the temple. Inscriptions from the reign of Kulottunga Chola III record donations for Tirumanjanam and fines for defaulters, while one from Rajaraja II's period mentions donations for lighting the Nundavilakku.



United Nations General Assembly:

- ➔ India addressed the 80th United Nations General Assembly session in New York, stressing the urgent need for UN reforms. India highlighted that the UNSC reflects outdated 1945 power structures and lacks fair representation.
- ➔ It demanded permanent membership for G4 nations—India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan—and a greater voice for the Global South. India criticised the misuse of veto power by the permanent five members in blocking global consensus on key issues.



Election Commission of India:

- ➔ The Election Commission of India (Election Commission of India) announced the schedule for the Bihar Legislative Assembly election on October 6, 2025.
- ➔ The Model Code of Conduct (Model Code of Conduct) came into immediate effect across Bihar with the announcement. The Code is also applicable to the Central Government in matters related to Bihar's policies and announcements. Public funds must not be used for political advertisements during the election period. Political parties must inform the police in advance about meetings and processions for proper security and traffic arrangements.
- ➔ Ministers are prohibited from combining official duties with election campaigning or using government resources for the same. Regulation of meetings, processions, polling and maintenance of law and order must be carried out fairly.

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2025, October 11-12

Jasprit Bumrah:

- ➔ In a landmark moment for Indian cricket, Jasprit Bumrah etched his name in the record books by becoming the first Indian fast bowler to play 50 Test matches across all international formats.
- ➔ The feat was achieved during the second Test match against the West Indies at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi on October 10, 2025. This milestone solidifies Bumrah's legacy as one of India's finest modern pacers.



Srikrishna Museum:

- ➔ In a major boost to heritage tourism and cultural education, the Srikrishna Museum in Kurukshetra is set to expand with a new fourth block, adding to its rich legacy dedicated to Lord Krishna and the Mahabharata.
- ➔ The initiative by the Kurukshetra Development Board (KDB) aims to reinvigorate the museum experience, attract more tourists, and highlight the spiritual and historical landscape of 48-kos Kurukshetra.

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Delhi government:

- ➔ The Delhi government has launched a collateral-free loan scheme to support small businesses and women entrepreneurs, aiming to enhance the city's economic growth and improve access to credit without requiring personal or business assets as security.
- ➔ Under the initiative, loans up to ₹10 crore are available for small and women-led enterprises, with higher coverage for women entrepreneurs, Agniveer-promoted MSMEs, and micro units, supporting sectors like manufacturing, services, retail, and education.



International Day of the Girl Child:

- ➔ The International Day of the Girl Child is observed annually on 11 October to highlight the challenges faced by girls and promote their empowerment and human rights.
- ➔ Theme 2025 – The girl I am, the change I lead: Girls on the frontlines of crisis The day was first declared by the United Nations in 2011, following a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly.



INTERNATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY



Nagamalai hillock:

- ➔ Nagamalai hillock in Erode district has been notified as Tamil Nadu's fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site.
- ➔ It is designated under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The site spans 32.22 hectares and supports diverse habitats, including deep waters, shallow margins, mudflats, and rocky outcrops.
- ➔ The site holds archaeological significance with Iron Age cairn circles, ancient rock shelters, and a 400-year-old stone carving of Lord Anjaneya.
- ➔ The other three Biodiversity Heritage Sites in Tamil Nadu are Arittapatti in Madurai, Kasampatty in Dindigul, and Elathur Lake in Erode.



Cotton:

- ➔ The area under cotton cultivation in Tamil Nadu, especially in the delta region, is expected to decline this year. Farmers who harvested cotton in July (aadi pattam) received only last year's minimum support price (MSP).
- ➔ The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has not procured cotton in Tamil Nadu since 2019 under the MSP scheme. In Andhra Pradesh, the state government provides transport support, but no such support exists in Tamil Nadu. There are at least 15,000 cotton growers in the delta region with average land holdings of three to four acres.



Tamil Nadu:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu is preparing an infrastructure roadmap to become India's hub for the low-altitude economy (LAE) focused on drones and advanced air mobility. LAE covers aerial operations up to 3,000 metres. It includes manned and unmanned systems powered by evolving drone technologies.
- ➔ The state has set up India's first drone testing centre at SIPCOT Vallam Vadagal. It is also developing BVLOS (beyond visual line of sight) facilities at Chettinad Airport. Tamil Nadu will unveil its master plan at the LAE Forum 2025, detailing vertiports, drone corridors, training pipelines, and regulatory frameworks.



Government of India:

- ➔ The Government of India will map all drinking water pipelines under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) on the PM Gati Shakti platform. The PM Gati Shakti platform is a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based digital infrastructure planning tool.
- ➔ It is developed by Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N). The platform will allow geo-tagging of water supply assets, unique scheme-level IDs, and household-level monitoring under JJM.



RBI:

- ➔ RBI brought Central and State Co-operative Banks under the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021 (RB-IOS, 2021) on 8 October 2025. The decision was made under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

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- ➔ RB-IOIS, 2021, provides customers of regulated entities with a speedy, cost effective, and alternative grievance redress mechanism. The scheme originally covered all Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Scheduled and Non-Scheduled Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks with deposits of ₹50 crore or more.
- ➔ It also included Non-Banking Financial Companies (excluding Housing Finance Companies) with assets of ₹100 crore or more and a customer interface.



NITI Aayog:

- ➔ NITI Aayog released the fourth edition of Trade Watch Quarterly, assessing India's trade in Q4 FY 2024-25. India's total trade reached \$441 billion, growing 2.2% year-on-year in Q4 FY 2024-25.
- ➔ North America was India's largest export market, growing 25% and making up 25% of exports; EU, GCC, and ASEAN exports slowed.
- ➔ UAE became India's second-largest import source, surpassing Russia, aided by gold inflows under CEPA. Imports from China rose on electronics demand. India's leather and footwear sector employs 4.4 million people, contributes 1.8% of the \$296 billion global market.

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Lucknow:

- ➔ Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) and Humane World for Animals India have signed a MoU. They will set up India's first dedicated Animal Birth Control (ABC) training centre in Lucknow.
- ➔ The centre will train veterinarians, para-veterinarians, animal handlers and animal welfare organisations. It will serve as a national hub for capacity building in street dog sterilisation and related welfare work.



Mera Hou Chongba festival:

- ➔ The annual Mera Hou Chongba festival was held at Kangla Fort in Imphal, Manipur. The festival celebrates the cultural diversity of Manipur's indigenous communities.

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- ➔ The festival unites communities from both the hills and the valleys of Manipur. Mera Hou Chongba is celebrated to promote peace and unity among different groups in the state.



Madras High Court:

- ➔ The Madras High Court ordered the Tamil Nadu government to constitute the Tamil Nadu Heritage Commission (TNHC) within four weeks. The court noted the commission was still not formed despite the TNHC Act being brought into force on March 12, 2024, after a 12-year delay.
- ➔ The commission is meant to protect heritage buildings not covered under national or state archaeological laws. The court also directed the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments(HR&CE) department to halt ongoing temple construction activities.



Buddha:

- ➔ The Government of India has announced the first-ever public exposition of Lord Buddha's sacred relics in Kalmykia, Russia.
- ➔ A Memorandum of Understanding is set to be signed between the Central Spiritual Administration of Buddhists and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), formalizing cooperation in spiritual education, cultural exchanges, and preservation of Buddhist heritage.

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2025, October 7

Bharat – National Service Scheme:

- ➔ On October 6, 2025, the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, presented the My Bharat – National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for the year 2022-23 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ➔ This ceremony honoured students, programme officers, and institutions for their exceptional contributions in voluntary service and nation-building. The National Service Scheme (NSS) was launched in 1969, during Mahatma Gandhi's birth centenary, to encourage youth participation in community service and personality building.
- ➔ Its motto is "Not Me, But You" reflecting selfless service orientation. NSS operates across schools, colleges, and universities. Each unit typically adopts a village or slum area and carries out regular activities (120 hours/year) and a 7-day special camp during its two-year cycle.
- ➔ The My Bharat – NSS Award was instituted in 1993-94 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. Its objective is to recognise outstanding contributions by NSS volunteers, programme officers, units, and universities in the domain of social service and community development.



Nobel Prize:

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- ➔ The Nobel Prize in Physics 2025 has been awarded to John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret, and John M. Martinis for their groundbreaking discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit.
- ➔ Their work proved that quantum phenomena can occur even in large-scale systems, bridging the gap between the quantum and classical worlds and paving the way for advanced technologies like quantum computing, cryptography, and sensors.



The banner features a blue background with a gold Nobel medal on the left. The text 'NOBELPRISET I FYSIK 2025' and 'THE NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS 2025' is prominently displayed. On the right is the logo of 'KUNGL. VETENSKAPS-AKADEMIEN' (The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences). Below the text are three portraits of the laureates: John Clarke (University of California, USA), Michel H. Devoret (Yale University & University of California, USA), and John M. Martinis (University of California, USA). The award description in Swedish and English is provided, along with the hashtag #NobelPrize and the Nobel Prize logo.

NOBELPRISET I FYSIK 2025
THE NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS 2025

KUNGL. VETENSKAPS-AKADEMIEN
THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

John Clarke
University of California,
USA

Michel H. Devoret
Yale University &
University of California, USA

John M. Martinis
University of California,
USA

"för upptäckten av makroskopisk kvantmekanisk tunnling och energikvantisering i en elektrisk krets"
"for the discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit"

#NobelPrize THE NOBEL PRIZE

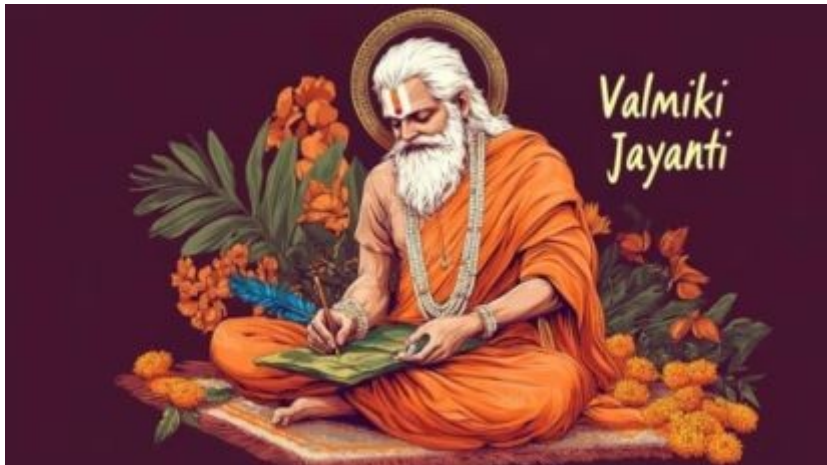
World Cotton Day:

- ➔ World Cotton Day, celebrated annually on October 7, is a global observance that recognizes the economic and social significance of cotton, particularly for least-developed countries (LDCs). It underscores cotton's critical role in employment, trade, and sustainable development across five continents.
- ➔ First launched in 2019, the day is now officially recognized by the United Nations and serves as a platform to promote inclusive trade policies, sustainable cotton production, and equitable participation of developing nations in the global cotton value chain.



Valmiki Jayanti:

- ➔ Valmiki Jayanti, also known as Pargat Diwas, marks the birth anniversary of Maharishi Valmiki, the revered sage who authored the ancient epic Ramayana. In 2025, this significant spiritual and cultural occasion will be celebrated on October 7 across India with devotional programs, processions, and community service initiatives.
- ➔ Valmiki Jayanti is not just a celebration of a historical figure but a reminder of social harmony, righteousness, and the power of transformation. It is observed especially by followers of Sant Valmiki traditions, and in many states, processions known as Shobha Yatras are held with devotional songs and enactments from the Ramayana.



Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation:

- ➔ The Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics) to develop a GIS-integrated decision support platform.
- ➔ This collaboration will digitally transform the way Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] are planned, monitored, and evaluated across rural India.



Andhra Pradesh CM:

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- ➔ Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the 'Auto Driverla Sevalo' scheme, providing ₹15,000 annual financial assistance to over 2.9 lakh auto, cab, and maxi cab drivers affected by the state's Stree Shakti free bus travel initiative.
- ➔ For the financial year 2025–26, the state government will disburse ₹436 crore directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts, reaffirming its commitment to driver welfare and livelihood support.
- ➔ Naidu announced plans to convert all public transport vehicles to electric, assured no harassment of drivers, and highlighted ongoing road repairs worth ₹3,400 crore to improve conditions across 23,000 km of roads.



Kronotsky:

- ➔ Kronotsky volcano on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula erupted, sending an ash plume 9.2 km above sea level and stretching about 85 km to the south and southeast.
- ➔ A red aviation alert has been issued due to the high hazard posed to both local and international air traffic, according to the Kamchatka Volcanic Eruption Response Team.



NITI Aayog:

- ➔ NITI Aayog introduced its first Tax Policy Working Paper titled “Enhancing Tax Certainty in Permanent Establishment and Profit Attribution for Foreign Investors in India”. It aims to boost transparency and predictability in tax regulations.
- ➔ The paper addresses long-standing issues faced by foreign investors related to Permanent Establishment (PE) rules, profit attribution, and dispute resolution to improve India’s investment climate.
- ➔ It proposes an optional, industry specific Presumptive Taxation Scheme for foreign companies to reduce litigation, simplify compliance, and enhance administrative efficiency.



Mud Volcano:

- ➔ India’s only mud volcano at Baratang in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands erupted on October 2, 2025. The volcano had remained dormant since its last major eruption in 2005.

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- ➔ Mud volcanoes are formed by gases like methane pushing mud to the surface, unlike lava-based volcanoes. This event is separate from recent minor eruptions at Barren Island, which is India's only active lava volcano.



Uttarakhand:

- ➔ Uttarakhand Governor has approved the Uttarakhand Minority Education Bill, 2025, which mandates that all Madrasas must gain recognition from the Uttarakhand Minority Education Authority and affiliate with the Uttarakhand School Education Board.
- ➔ Uttarakhand is the first state in India to abolish the Madrasa Board and integrate minority educational institutions into the mainstream system.



NCSI:

- ➔ The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is set to launch the National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI) to address the decline in India's camel population.
- ➔ India is facing a rapid decline in its camel population, particularly in the camel-rearing states of Rajasthan and Gujarat. Nearly 90% of India's camels are concentrated in Rajasthan and Gujarat.



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Shakthii Academy

2025, October 13-14

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction:

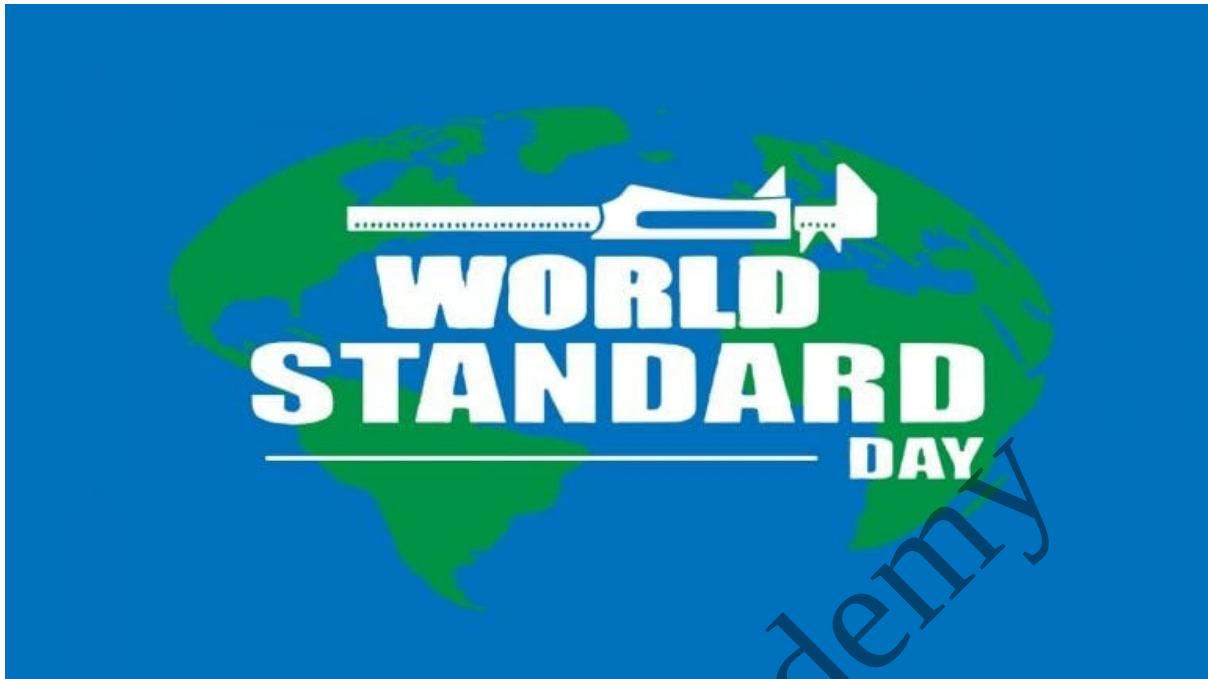
- ➔ Natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, and volcanic eruptions cause widespread destruction and affect millions of lives globally each year. However, with adequate preparedness and risk reduction strategies, their impact can be significantly minimized.
- ➔ To emphasize this, the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) is observed annually on 13 October. The day recognizes the ongoing efforts by governments, communities, and international organizations to reduce the risks and consequences of natural hazards.



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

World Standards Day:

- ➔ Every year on 14 October, the world celebrates World Standards Day to recognize the invaluable contributions of experts and organizations who develop international standards.
- ➔ Spearheaded by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the day pays tribute to the global effort that underpins the functioning, safety, and interoperability of systems across borders.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi:

- ➔ In a significant push to strengthen India's agricultural backbone, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 12, 2025, launched two flagship schemes — PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses — along with laying the foundation stone for projects worth over ₹42,000 crore in agriculture and allied sectors.
- ➔ These initiatives aim to enhance crop productivity, promote self-reliance in pulses, and uplift 100 underperforming districts across the country.



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Chief Minister of Assam:

- ➔ In a forward-looking move, the Chief Minister of Assam recently launched the CM Flight programme aimed at empowering the youth of Assam to pursue global careers.
- ➔ The initiative underscores the state government's resolve to equip young people with skills, exposure, and opportunities that bridge local talent and international job markets. This bold step seeks to address unemployment, brain drain, and skill mismatch in Assam.



Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya:

- ➔ In a significant reform move, Labour and Employment Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has launched the Vishwas Scheme aimed at curbing protracted litigations under the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) & Miscellaneous Provisions Act.
- ➔ The Vishwas Scheme is designed to reduce litigation by rationalizing penal damages imposed for delayed remittances of EPF dues. Instead of multiple, often steep penalties leading to disputes and court cases, this scheme offers a simplified, uniform penal rate and covers ongoing, pending, and future cases under specified categories.

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AUSTRAHIND:

- ➔ AUSTRAHIND 2025, the fourth edition of the annual joint military exercise between India and Australia, kicks off on October 13, 2025, in Perth, Australia. This bilateral engagement reflects the growing defence and strategic partnership between the two Indo-Pacific democracies.
- ➔ The exercise will continue until October 26 and is designed to improve operational synergy and deepen tactical interoperability between the two armies, particularly in complex urban warfare environments.



Semiconductor Innovation Museum:

26, G3, PARIS GANGA APARTMENTS, GANGAI AMMAN
KOIL ST, ALAGIRI NAGAR, VADAPALANI, CHENNAI, TAMIL
NADU 600026

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- ➔ In a landmark development for India's tech sector, the Semiconductor Innovation Museum was inaugurated on October 12, 2025, in Hyderabad by the Technology Chip Innovation Program (T-Chip).
- ➔ The museum is the first of its kind in India, aiming to bolster public engagement and industry collaboration in the semiconductor and electronics ecosystem.



Karnataka State Cabinet:

- ➔ Karnataka State Cabinet approved the Karnataka Menstrual Leave Policy-2025, granting one day of paid leave per month for women employees across both government and private sectors, making Karnataka the first state in India to cover all sectors.
- ➔ The policy follows recommendations from a Labour Department committee advocating paid menstrual leave and is applicable to all sectors employing women, aiming to support employee well-being and inclusion.



Indian Army:

- ➔ The Indian Army has initiated procurement of the indigenously developed 'Saksham' Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (CUAS) Grid System, designed to detect, track, identify, and neutralise hostile drones and unmanned aerial systems in real time across the Tactical Battlefield Space (TBS).
- ➔ Developed in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Saksham integrates AI-driven analytics, CUAS sensors, weapons systems, and the Army Data Network (ADN) to create a real-time Recognised UAS Picture (RUASP) for commanders, enabling automated decision support and 3D battlefield visualisation.



World Migratory Bird Day:

- ➔ World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is observed on 11 October every year to raise awareness about the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. Theme 2025 – Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities.
- ➔ The day highlights the threats migratory birds face, including habitat loss, climate change, hunting, and pollution, emphasising the need for global cooperation.



Arulmigu Ekambaranathar:

- ➔ The Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, will hold its consecration ceremony on December 8, 2025, after a 17-year gap, as announced by the state's Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister P.K. Sekar Babu.
- ➔ Due to 34 extensive renovation works costing around ₹28 crore, the consecration was delayed beyond the traditional 12-year cycle; restoration was carried out under strict preservation guidelines.
- ➔ In Turkey's Denizli region, archaeologists unearthed a 2,700-year-old temple dedicated to the 'Mother Goddess', featuring a monumental structure, ritual cave, and twin stone statues reflecting Phrygian spiritual and artistic traditions.



Jharkhand:

- ➔ Jharkhand, formed in 2000, is rich in natural resources with vast iron ore reserves, strong steel and heavy engineering industries, and 29% forest cover, one of the highest in India.
- ➔ As a tribal-dominated state, Jharkhand's economy also relies heavily on agriculture and allied sectors, providing livelihood to a large share of its population.
- ➔ The recent GST reforms have introduced significant tax rate reductions across key industries, unlocking Jharkhand's economic growth potential and boosting industrial competitiveness.
- ➔ Jharkhand contributes 20–25% of India's steel output, hosting major hubs like Jamshedpur (Tata Steel) and Bokaro (SAIL), supporting over 1 lakh workers and a strong MSME and vendor network in metal and engineering sectors.



Gurugram:

- ➔ Gurugram becomes the first city in India to launch a QR code-based kiosk for digital payment of traffic challans, simplifying and speeding up the process.
- ➔ The kiosk, set up at Ambience Mall, was developed jointly by Gurugram Police and the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority under a CSR initiative.
- ➔ Drivers can check and pay outstanding challans by entering their vehicle number and scanning a QR code; however, court-pending or 90+ days overdue challans cannot be paid through it.



India and EFTA:

- ➔ India and EFTA (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein) signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) on 10 March 2024, which came into effect on 1 October 2025, marking India's first FTA with developed European nations.
- ➔ EFTA is the intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. It was set up in 1960 by its then 7 Member States for promotion of free trade and economic integration between its members.
- ➔ EFTA is 1 important economic block out of the 3 (other 2 – EU & UK) in Europe. TEPA (Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement) is a modern and ambitious agreement which, for the first time in any Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed by India, includes binding commitments on investment and job creation.



Tamil Nadu government:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government has issued guidelines to identify and rename places with caste-based or discriminatory names.
- ➔ The move follows the Chief Minister's Assembly announcement to remove the term "Colony" from official records. Names like Adidraavidar Colony, Harijan Colony, Vannankulam, Parayar Street, and Chakkiliar Salai are to be renamed with neutral alternatives.
- ➔ Approvals from Grama Sabha and Area Sabha are required before changes; valid reasons must be recorded if names are retained.
- ➔ Final decisions will be taken by the State government as per the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, and the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998. Similar steps are directed for removing caste names from revenue villages under the Revenue and Disaster Management Department.



Vidiyal Payanam:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu has extended the 'Vidiyal Payanam' free bus travel scheme to persons with disabilities in hilly regions from 2025–26. Beneficiaries must have 40 percent or more benchmark disabilities under 21 categories defined in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- ➔ About 1,100 persons with disabilities and their escorts can travel in white board buses on fully and partially ghat routes.
- ➔ The scheme allows travel up to 35 km in served areas and 40 km in unserved areas operated by State Transport Undertakings. A subsidy of ₹88.65 lakh has been sanctioned by the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department to implement the expansion.

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China:

- ➔ China launched the world's first dual-tower solar-thermal power plant in the Gobi Desert. It uses 27,000 mirrors called heliostats to concentrate sunlight onto two 200 - meter towers. The towers generate heat up to 570 degrees Celsius to produce steam that drives turbines.
- ➔ This system allows electricity generation even after sunset or during cloudy weather. The dual-tower design increases efficiency by about 25 percent compared to single-tower plants.



Armenia:

- ➔ Armenia has become the newest State Member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), announced at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi.
- ➔ The membership enhances Armenia's access to global expertise, innovative tools, and international partnerships. Armenia is preparing to host COP17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2026.

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2025, October 24

United Nations Day:

- ➔ Every year, 24th October is celebrated as United Nations Day across the world. The day marks the anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Organisation (UNO) in 1945.
- ➔ It serves as a reminder of the UN's continuous efforts toward global peace, human rights, and sustainable development.
- ➔ In 2025, the UNO has emphasized its mission to spread the values and principles of the UN Charter to every part of the world — reaffirming its commitment to peace, equality, and environmental protection.



World Polio Day:

- ➔ World Polio Day is observed every year on 24 October to raise awareness about the global fight against polio, a contagious viral disease that can cause permanent paralysis and even death.
- ➔ In 2025, the observance carries the theme “End Polio: Every Child, Every Vaccine, Everywhere,” emphasizing the urgent need to ensure that every child—regardless of location or circumstance—receives life-saving polio vaccinations.
- ➔ Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease that primarily affects young children. It invades the central nervous system, leading to muscle weakness and paralysis, often in the legs. In severe cases, it can affect breathing and cause lifelong disability.

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World Development Information Day:

- ➔ World Development Information Day is observed every year on 24th October, the same day as United Nations Day, to emphasize the vital role of information and communication technology (ICT) in driving global development and solving challenges faced by nations.
- ➔ In 2025, the observance continues to focus on using digital innovation, media, and information technology to promote economic progress, cooperation, and sustainable development worldwide.



COP10:

- ➔ India has been re-elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the COP10 Bureau under the International Convention against Doping in Sport, reinforcing its global leadership and commitment to clean sport.
- ➔ The announcement was made during the 10th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP10), held from 20–22 October 2025 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. This session also marked the 20th anniversary of the Convention, the world's only legally binding international framework dedicated to eliminating doping in sports.

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Stanley Reservoir:

- ➔ The Stanley Reservoir in Mettur, Salem district, reached its full reservoir level(FRL) of 120 feet on October 20, 2025, for the seventh time this year. Due to this, a flood alert has been issued to 11 delta districts.
- ➔ Mettur Dam reached full level earlier on June 12, July 5, July 28, August 19, September 15, and October 3, 2025. The last time the dam reached FRL seven times in a year was in 1977.



Tamil Nadu government:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government plans to amend the Tamil Nadu Factories Rules, 1950. The amendment will permit women to work in about 20 operations previously classified as dangerous.
- ➔ The amendments include obtaining written consent from women workers who wish to work night shifts.
- ➔ Pregnant women will be prohibited from working in these dangerous operations. The allowed operations include electrolytic processes, lead processing, glass manufacturing, and handling of lead compounds.



Taftan volcano:

- ➔ Taftan volcano shows signs of awakening after 710,000 years. The Taftan volcano is located in southeastern Iran near the city of Khash.
- ➔ It is a 3,940-metre-high stratovolcano formed by the subduction of the Arabian plate beneath the Eurasian plate.
- ➔ Between July 2023 and May 2024, satellite data detected a 9-centimetre ground uplift near its summit. This uplift indicates increasing underground gas or magma pressure beneath the volcano.



**Taftan Volcano Unrest:
Awakening After 700,000 Years
of Silence**

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IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025:

- ➔ In a historic step for biodiversity conservation, India will unveil its first-ever Red List of Endangered Species at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, to be held in Abu Dhabi, UAE from October 9–15, 2025.
- ➔ The Red List, tailored for India's unique biodiversity, will highlight species at risk and strengthen national conservation priorities. India's delegation to the Congress will be led by Kirti Vardhan Singh, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, and External Affairs.



International Solar Alliance:

- ➔ India is set to host the 8th Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly from October 27 to 30, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- ➔ The summit aims to bring together leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders from across the globe to strengthen international cooperation on solar energy adoption, policy alignment, and infrastructure development.
- ➔ The International Solar Alliance is an intergovernmental treaty-based organization that was launched by India and France at COP21 in Paris in 2015. Currently, the ISA has 124 member and signatory countries, making it one of the most expansive renewable energy coalitions in the world.



Indian Air Force Day:

- ➔ Indian Air Force Day 2025 is celebrated on October 8, marking the 93rd anniversary of the founding of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in 1932. Each year, the day serves to honor the courage and commitment of IAF personnel while showcasing India's growing air power through air shows, parades, and exhibitions across air bases nationwide.
- ➔ The 2025 celebrations emphasize the IAF's focus on modernization and operational readiness, blending heritage with cutting-edge technological capabilities.



Narcotics Control Bureau:

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- ➔ In a major step toward enhancing India's fight against narcotics and cyber-enabled drug crimes, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in research, training, and capacity building.
- ➔ The agreement, signed in New Delhi, focuses on integrating academic research, technological innovation, and field-level enforcement to combat the growing threat of drug trafficking through digital and cyber platforms.



Defence Research and Development Organisation:

- ➔ On 6 October 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), along with the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and the Tri-Services, released Indian Radio Software Architecture (IRSA) version 1.0 at a national workshop in New Delhi.
- ➔ This marks a significant leap towards interoperable, indigenous, and future-ready Software Defined Radios (SDRs) for India's military.
- ➔ IRSA 1.0 is the country's first standardized software architecture for SDRs, offering a common framework for radio communication across all defence services. It defines unified APIs, interfaces, and execution environments to ensure waveform portability, certification, and interoperability — critical for modern warfare.



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Odisha:

- ➔ Odisha to set up a digital library named Gyana Yagnya Mandap in Puri to preserve rare records, manuscripts, and temple chronicles of Jagannath Temple.
- ➔ The upcoming facility, named Gyana Yagnya Mandap, will be built on the site of the old Raghunandan Library and aims to make sacred documents and manuscripts digitally accessible to both devotees and researchers.



Sonipat:

- ➔ In a significant step toward promoting green transportation and reducing carbon emissions, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first commercial electric truck battery swapping and charging station in Sonipat, Haryana.
- ➔ The facility has been set up at the Delhi International Cargo Terminal Private Limited (DICT) in Panchi Gujran village on the GT Road near Ganaur. This milestone marks a major leap in India's efforts to decarbonize the logistics and transport sector.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah:

- ➔ In a symbolic yet impactful move, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on October 8, 2025, that he has shifted his official email to Zoho Mail, a homegrown Indian platform. The decision aligns with the government's ongoing push for Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) in the technology sector, particularly amidst escalating trade tensions with the United States.
- ➔ Zoho Mail is part of Zoho Corporation, an Indian tech company headquartered in Chennai, known for its privacy-focused, ad-free suite of productivity tools. The adoption of Zoho by such a senior cabinet minister signals,

A strong government endorsement of indigenous platforms,

A gradual phase-out of foreign software like Google Workspace and Microsoft Office,

A move toward digital sovereignty, especially for sensitive government communication.



World Postal Day:

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- ➔ World Postal Day is observed annually on 9 October to celebrate the role of postal services in connecting people and facilitating communication globally. Theme 2025 – #Post for People: Local Service.
- ➔ The day commemorates the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874, which standardised and improved international mail delivery.
- ➔ World Postal Day aims to raise awareness about the importance of postal networks in social and economic development, especially in remote and rural areas.



Mahout village:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the second mahout village at Kozhikamuthi Elephant Camp in Anamalai Tiger Reserve.
- ➔ The first mahout village in India was established earlier in 2025 at Theppakadu in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. A solar-powered microgrid was installed by the State Planning Commission at a cost of ₹3.5 crore.

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Nilgriris:

- ➔ Pink Patrol, a women-led police patrol initiative, was launched for the first time in the Nilgriris district to assist women and children in public spaces. It aims to prevent crimes against women and children and make it easier for victims to report offences without hesitation.
- ➔ Ten pink patrol vehicles will operate across Udhagamandalam, Coonoor, Kotagiri, and Gudalur. The patrols will focus on safeguarding girl students from harassment during school and college opening and closing hours.



Kaziranga National Park:

- ➔ A pair of painted storks was spotted at Kaziranga National Park, Assam. This is a rare sighting, with previous records in 2004, 2005, and 2022 during migratory bird censuses.
- ➔ Kaziranga is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its rich wetlands and diverse migratory waterfowl.



National Wildlife Week 2025:

- ➔ National Wildlife Week 2025 is observed from 2 to 8 October across India. It was first conceptualised in 1952 to raise awareness about wildlife conservation and ecological balance.
- ➔ The theme of 2025 is "Sewa Parv", focusing on service and responsibility towards nature.



World Space Week:

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- ➔ World Space Week 2025 is observed every year from 4 to 10 October across the globe. It aims to celebrate the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition.
- ➔ It is commemorated worldwide to educate the public, inspire youth, and foster international cooperation in space exploration.



India Justice Report:

- ➔ The India Justice Report 2025 highlights significant challenges in India's justice system, including access, delays, and accountability. India's judiciary currently has over 4.57 crore pending cases, which causes significant delays in delivering justice.
- ➔ Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) includes arbitration, conciliation, mediation, and judicial settlement through Lok Adalats.
- ➔ Article 39A of the Indian Constitution mandates equal justice and free legal aid, providing the constitutional basis for ADR. Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, recognises and supports the use of ADR processes to resolve civil disputes.
- ➔ The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, as amended in 2021, requires disputes to be resolved within a maximum period of 180 days. Lok Adalats, governed by the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, provide decisions that are final and binding, with no option for appeal. States such as Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar have the highest number of pending cases.



1st cooperative multi-feed Compressed Biogas:

- ➔ India's first cooperative multi-feed Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant was inaugurated in Kopergaon, Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra.
- ➔ The plant is set up at the Maharshi Shankarrao Kolhe Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana. This is marked a first for India's cooperative sugar sector and was supported by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

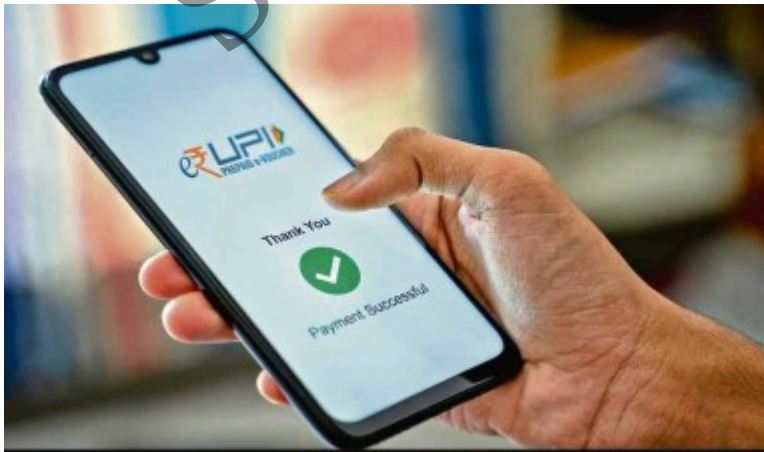
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Unified Payments Interface:

- ➔ Telangana has the highest per capita Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transaction intensity among all Indian states. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, and Maharashtra also show high UPI usage intensity, driven by urban centers and economic hubs.
- ➔ The rise of UPI is linked to the decline in cash demand, evidenced by a steady fall in ATM cash withdrawals as a percentage of GDP. Currency in circulation (CIC) has a share of 11.2 per cent of GDP in 2024-25.
- ➔ UPI crossed 20 billion monthly transactions for the first time in August 2025. UPI usage concentrated in 10 states, with 80% of transaction volumes. Intensity remains high in Telangana, Andhra, Delhi and Maharashtra.



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Delhi High Court:

- ➔ The Delhi High Court in Shelly Mahajan vs MS Bhanushree Bahl & Anr has allowed spouses to seek damages from third parties for Alienation of Affection (AoA).
- ➔ AoA is a common law tort where a spouse can sue a third party for interfering in the marriage, causing a loss of affection and companionship.



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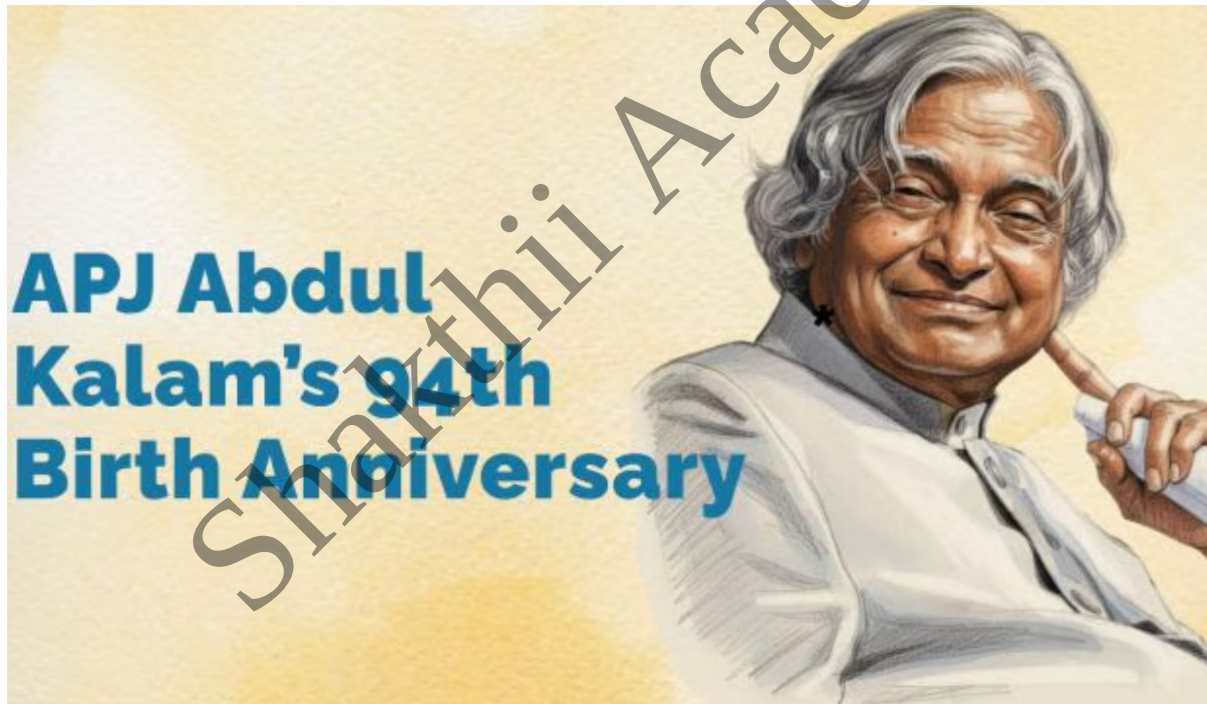
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People's President:

- ➔ Every year on October 15, India pays tribute to Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam, fondly remembered as the 'Missile Man of India' and the 'People's President'. Born in 1931 in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalam's journey from humble beginnings to becoming India's 11th President (2002–2007) embodies the power of education, determination, and vision.
- ➔ His birth anniversary celebrates his enduring contributions to science, technology, and youth empowerment, encouraging students to dream and achieve with integrity and compassion.



Jal Jeevan Mission:

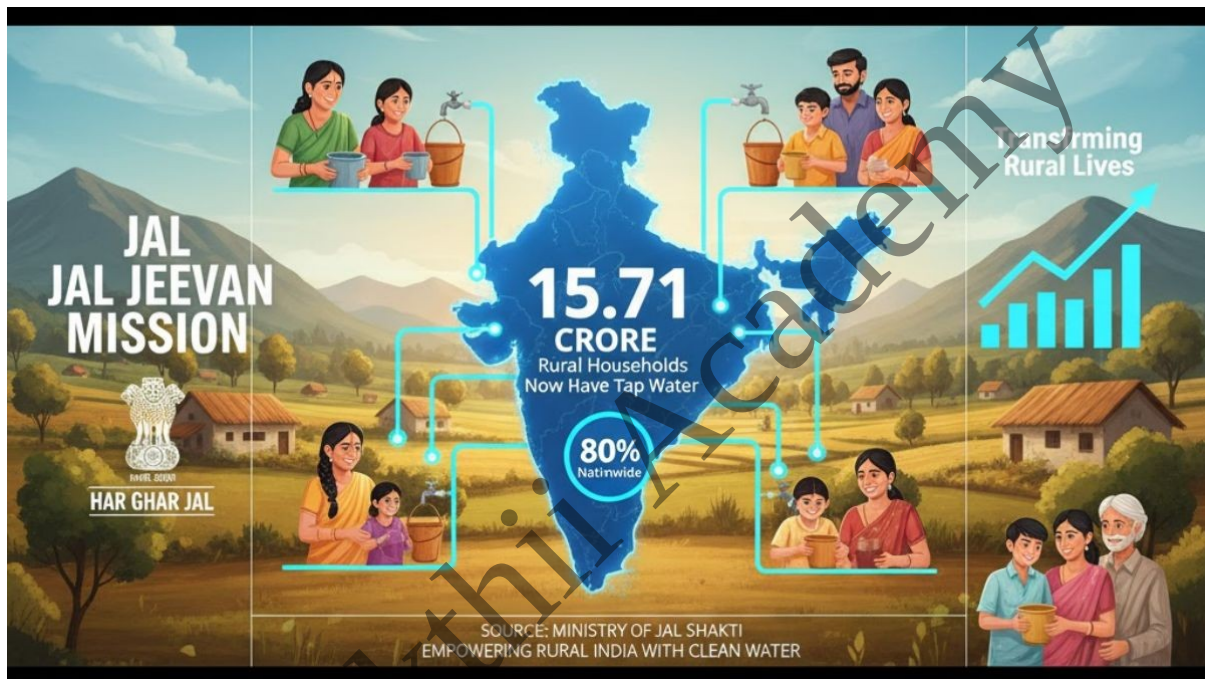
- ➔ The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has achieved a major milestone: over 15.71 crore rural households now have tap water connections, translating to more than 80% national coverage. This reflects a rapid transformation in rural water access since the mission's launch in August 2019.

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- ➔ As the infrastructure nears completion, the focus is now shifting towards sustainability, service reliability, and local governance. Jal Jeevan Mission was launched in August 2019. The goal is to provide 55 litres per person per day of safe drinking water.



DRDO:

- ➔ In a significant step toward sustainability and energy self-reliance, the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to develop solar-based renewable energy projects across its establishments.
- ➔ The collaboration focuses on establishing Net-Zero campuses and enhancing India's green energy initiatives by 2027.

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Henley Passport Index:

- ➔ The Henley Passport Index 2025, a global ranking based on the number of destinations passport holders can access without a prior visa, highlights major geopolitical trends in travel freedom.
- ➔ This year, Singapore reclaimed the top spot with record visa-free access, while traditional powerhouses like the United States and United Kingdom fell to historic lows. India, meanwhile, dropped five places to Rank 85, reflecting ongoing fluctuations in global mobility and diplomatic outreach.

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National Household Income Survey:

- ➔ National Household Income Survey 2026, the first pan-India survey on household income, will provide critical data on living conditions, income, and expenditure patterns, supporting poverty analysis, CPI rebasing, and national accounts preparation.
- ➔ Conducted by NSO under MoSPI, the survey builds on decades of National Sample Survey (NSS) experience capturing household welfare, consumption, employment, health, and assets.

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Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day:

- ➔ Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day is observed every year on 15 October across the world to honour babies lost through miscarriage, stillbirth, SIDS, or infant death.
- ➔ The day seeks to provide comfort and support to grieving parents and families while raising public awareness about the impact of pregnancy and infant loss.

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Global Handwashing Day:

- ➔ Global Handwashing Day is observed every year on 15 October to promote the importance of hand hygiene in preventing diseases and saving lives.
- ➔ Theme 2025 – It Might Be Gloves. It's Always Hand Hygiene. The day was first launched in 2008 by the Global Handwashing Partnership, a coalition of international stakeholders.

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Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences:

- ➔ The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) launched SPARK 4.0 (Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken) for 2025–26.
- ➔ The program targets undergraduate Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) students across India. SPARK 4.0 will award 300 students ₹50,000 each, paid as ₹25,000 per month over two months. The scheme encourages short-term independent research projects with faculty mentorship and hands-on scientific training.

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Bharat Taxi:

- ➔ The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) will support Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited's Bharat Taxi initiative launching in December 2025. Bharat Taxi is a first-of-its-kind cooperative-driven, citizen-first national ride hailing service.
- ➔ The partnership includes platform integration with DigiLocker, UMANG, and API Setu for secure, seamless digital access. Bharat Taxi aligns with Digital India's vision of inclusive, tech-enabled public services with a multilingual and accessible design.

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Telangana:

- ➔ Telangana has emerged as the leader in UPI transaction intensity among Indian states, according to a study published in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) September 2025 bulletin.
- ➔ Southern and western India dominate the UPI landscape, with Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Delhi also showing high per capita UPI usage.

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World Food Day:

- ➔ World Food Day 2025, observed annually on 16th October, reminds the global community of a powerful truth—food is not just sustenance; it is life. The day promotes awareness around food insecurity, celebrates those who produce and deliver food, and inspires global cooperation toward achieving Zero Hunger.
- ➔ The 2025 theme, “Sustainable Food Systems for a Healthy Planet,” highlights the urgency of transitioning to eco-friendly and inclusive food systems that nourish people and protect the environment.



World Anaesthesia Day:

- ➔ World Anaesthesia Day, observed annually on October 16, commemorates a pivotal moment in medical history—the first successful public use of ether anaesthesia in 1846. It transformed surgery from a painful ordeal into a precise, pain-free science.
- ➔ In 2025, the global theme focuses on “Anaesthesiology in Health Emergencies,” highlighting the critical role of anaesthesia teams in crisis situations.

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- ➔ Anaesthesia is foundational to safe and effective surgery. This day honors not just the discovery of anaesthesia, but also the dedication of anesthesiologists who make complex medical procedures possible.



International Day for the Eradication of Poverty:

- ➔ Every year on October 17, the world observes the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, as designated by the United Nations. It's not just a day to reflect on income disparities but also a moment to emphasize dignity, justice, and inclusive development.
- ➔ In 2025, the day focuses on a compelling theme: "Ending social and institutional maltreatment by ensuring respect and effective support for families".
- ➔ It calls attention to the real struggles of families in poverty and challenges policymakers to transform support systems into ones built on trust and dignity.

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INTERNATIONAL
DAY for the
ERADICATION
of **POVERTY**
17 OCTOBER



DRDO:

- ➔ In a major milestone for India's indigenous defence capabilities, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested the Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS) from an altitude of 32,000 feet.
- ➔ The test was conducted by Indian Air Force paratroopers, marking the highest deployment for a made-in-India combat parachute system. The Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS) is now the only operational parachute system in India capable of safe and controlled deployment above 25,000 feet.



Indian Navy (IN) and the Indonesian Navy:

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- ➔ Continuing their strategic defence cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, the Indian Navy (IN) and the Indonesian Navy commenced the 5th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise “Samudra Shakti 2025” on October 14, 2025, in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ➔ The joint exercise will run till October 17, highlighting the growing maritime partnership between the two nations. Samudra Shakti, first held in 2018 under India’s Act East Policy, aims to deepen operational synergy and shared maritime interests in the region.



IN-RoKN:

- ➔ In a landmark development for Indo-Pacific maritime cooperation, the Indian Navy (IN) and the Republic of Korea Navy (RoKN) have commenced their first bilateral naval exercise, IN-RoKN, on October 13, 2025, at the Busan Naval Base, South Korea.
- ➔ This inaugural exercise marks a new chapter in the strategic partnership between the two nations, focused on enhancing naval interoperability, trust, and regional stability.

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Sustainable Trade Index:

- ➔ The Sustainable Trade Index (STI) 2025, jointly developed by the Hinrich Foundation and the IMD World Competitiveness Center, highlights how nations are managing the delicate balance between economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental responsibility.
- ➔ This year's results mark a new era in global trade, one that rewards sustainability and long-term resilience over short-term profit.
- ➔ The United Kingdom claimed the top spot for the first time, dethroning New Zealand, which had dominated the rankings for three consecutive years.
- ➔ Meanwhile, economies like South Korea and Hong Kong surged upward, signaling Asia's growing emphasis on sustainable policy integration. India ranked 23rd with a total score of 33.2, signaling gradual but steady progress in sustainable trade integration.

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International Day of Rural Women:

- ➔ International Day of Rural Women is observed annually on 15 October to recognise the vital role of women in rural areas in agriculture, food production, and rural development. The day highlights the challenges faced by rural women, such as poverty, limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, while celebrating their resilience and leadership.
- ➔ Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, the day encourages governments, organizations, and communities to invest in initiatives that support and empower rural women worldwide.

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World White Cane Day:

- ➔ World White Cane Day is observed annually on 15 October to recognise the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired and to highlight the importance of the white cane as a symbol of independence.
- ➔ First celebrated in the United States in 1964, World White Cane Day now serves as an international observance advocating for the rights, empowerment, and inclusion of visually impaired individuals.

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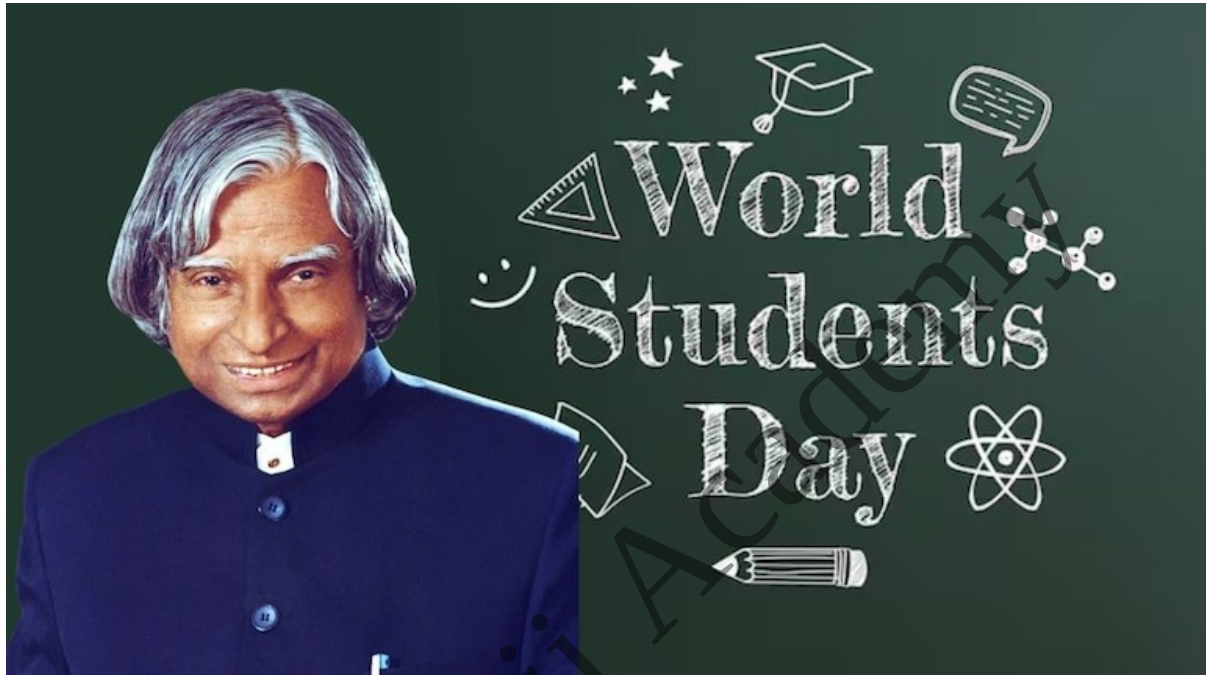
World Students' Day:

- ➔ World Students' Day is observed annually on 15 October to honour the birth anniversary of former President of India, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, and to recognise the achievements and potential of students worldwide. Theme 2025 – Empowering Students as Agents of Innovation and Change.
- ➔ The day emphasizes the importance of education, innovation, and youth empowerment, encouraging students to pursue knowledge, creativity, and leadership skills.

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Mini Ratna:

- ➔ Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) has been conferred Mini Ratna status, recognising its financial revival, operational excellence, and growing contribution to India's maritime and defence sectors.
- ➔ Achieving Mini-Ratna status will grant HSL enhanced financial autonomy, allowing it to make investments up to Rs 500 crore or an amount equal to its net worth, whichever is lower.

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UN Human Rights Council:

- ➔ India has been elected unopposed to the UN Human Rights Council for the seventh time, for the 2026–2028 term, starting next year. Permanent Representative P. Harish stated that the election reflects India's strong commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, expressing gratitude for the global support.
- ➔ The Human Rights Council, established in 2006 by the UN General Assembly, has 47 member countries and serves as the primary UN body for promoting and protecting human rights globally.
- ➔ The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is the main inter-governmental body within the United Nations responsible for promoting and protecting human rights worldwide.

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Aran Illam:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched 'Aran Illam' shelter homes for transgender persons. Two homes were opened in the first phase—one in Shenoy Nagar, Chennai, and the other in Anna Nagar, Madurai. Transgender individuals above 18 years with an ID from the State Transgender Welfare Board are eligible to stay.
- ➔ The shelter duration ranges from one month to three years based on individual needs. The homes provide counselling, education, free legal help, and support for family reintegration.

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Maitri II:

- ➔ The Finance Ministry has approved the construction of Maitri II, India's fourth research station in Antarctica. Maitri II will be located in eastern Antarctica and is expected to be ready by January 2029.
- ➔ Maitri II will feature upgraded infrastructure, improved living conditions, and automated scientific instruments to relay data to India.
- ➔ Maitri, India's second Antarctic research station, was established in 1988. Dakshin Gangotri, an India's first Scientific Research Station, was operational till 1990.

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Kenton R. Miller:

- ➔ Sonali Ghosh, Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, received the Kenton R. Miller Award. She is the first Indian to win this international award for innovation in national parks and protected area sustainability.
- ➔ The award was presented by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), part of IUCN. The Kenton R. Miller Award recognises innovations in planning, management, governance, and community engagement in protected areas.

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Kiru hydroelectric project:

- ➔ The 624-megawatt Kiru hydroelectric project is under construction on the Chenab River in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir. The project is part of the Indus Basin development strategy to utilize Jammu and Kashmir's hydropower potential.
- ➔ The project will contribute significantly to the Northern Grid and support regional energy security. Kiru is one of four major hydro projects in the Chenab Valley, along with Pakal Dul, Kwar, and Kirthai.

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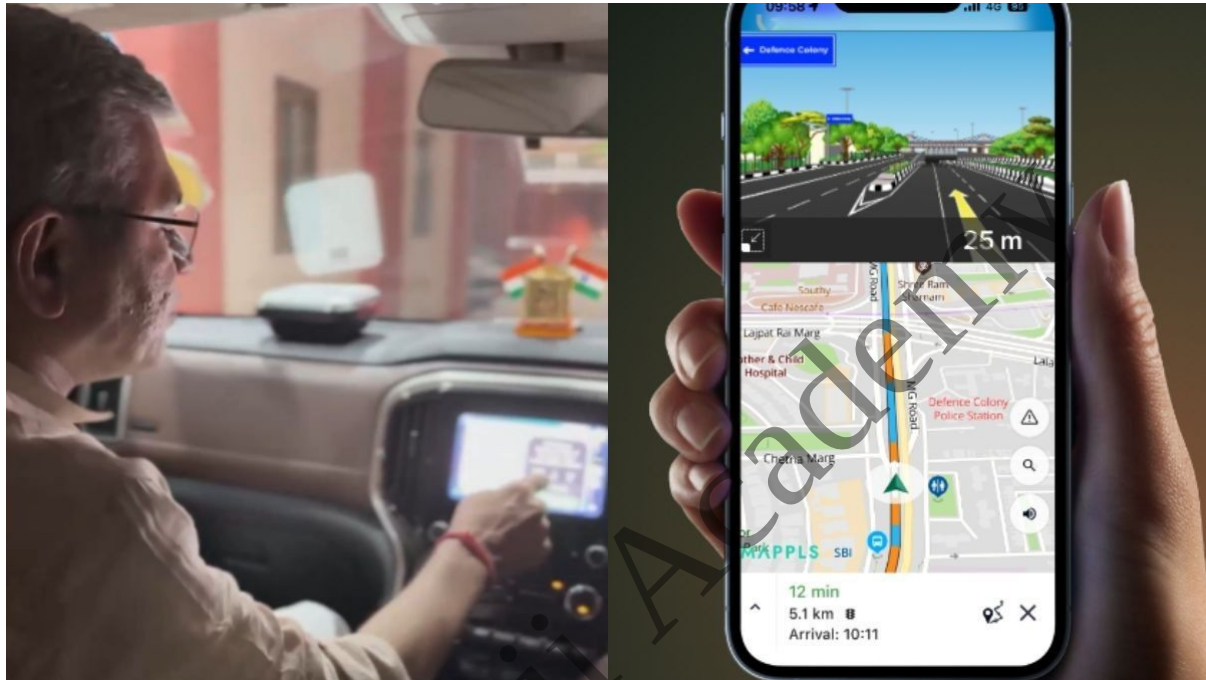
Mappls:

- ➔ Mappls is a Made-in-India navigation app developed by MapMyIndia and now officially backed by the Government of India.
- ➔ The app offers 3D junction views, precise doorstep navigation, live traffic updates, speed alerts, and a toll savings calculator. Mappls supports multiple Indian languages, includes weather and air quality index (AQI) data, and is designed for Indian roads.

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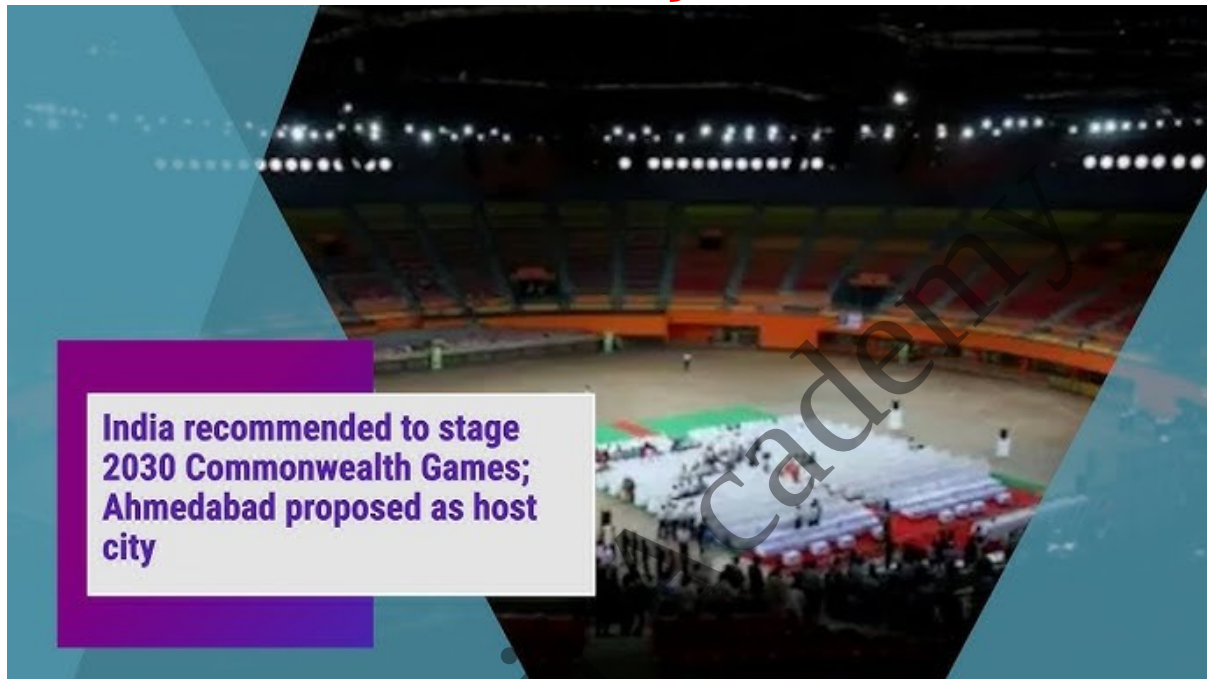
Ahmedabad:

- ➔ Ahmedabad in Gujarat has been recommended as the host city for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, a significant development for Indian sports.
- ➔ The announcement was made during the Executive Board meeting of Commonwealth Sport, with the Games set to coincide with the centenary celebration of the Commonwealth Sport Movement.

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Dhanteras:

- ➔ Dhanteras 2025, also known as Dhantrayodashi, marks the joyful beginning of the Diwali festival. It is a day dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, and Lord Dhanvantari, the god of health.
- ➔ People celebrate by cleaning their homes, lighting diyas, buying gold or utensils, and performing Lakshmi Puja to invite good luck, prosperity, and happiness into their lives.
- ➔ Dhanteras, also known as Dhantrayodashi, marks the beginning of Diwali celebrations. It is observed on the thirteenth day (Trayodashi Tithi) of the Krishna Paksha in the month of Kartik. In 2025, Dhanteras will be celebrated on Saturday, October 18.



Akkai Padmashali:

- ➔ Trans rights activist Akkai Padmashali has been appointed to a Supreme Court panel tasked with formulating an equal opportunity policy for the protection of transgender rights.
- ➔ She is the first transgender person from Karnataka to serve on such a committee, marking a historic step for representation and inclusivity in policymaking at the national level.

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Harsh Sanghavi:

- ➔ In a major political development on 17 October 2025, Harsh Sanghavi was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat, signaling a significant shift in the state's political leadership.
- ➔ The reshuffled council now includes 26 members, nearly reaching the constitutional limit of 15% of the 182-member Gujarat Assembly, which allows for a maximum of 27 ministers.

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Telangana:

- ➔ Telangana has emerged as the top-performing state in India for recovering lost and stolen mobile phones through the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal.
- ➔ As of October 16, 2025, the state has successfully traced and recovered over 1 lakh mobile phones, making it a national leader in digital policing and public grievance redressal.
- ➔ The CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register) portal is a government-backed system that allows citizens to report lost or stolen phones using their device's IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) number.
- ➔ The CEIR portal was initially launched in September 2022 as a pilot in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Delhi, and northeastern states, and was extended to Telangana in April 2023.

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IIT Madras:

- ➔ IIT Madras-incubated Muse Wearables partnered with NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) to launch India's first wearable payments ecosystem. The system enables users to make payments using the smart ring 'Ring One' by tapping on any NFC (Near Field Communication)-enabled POS (Point of Sale) terminal.
- ➔ No phone, card, or wallet is needed for transactions, and payments work only when the ring is worn. Muse Wallet uses RuPay to convert any RuPay card into a token stored in a Secure Element (SE) chip inside the ring.
- ➔ The SE chip ensures hardware-level security, isolating card data from the phone or apps. The platform is aimed at simplifying secure digital payments, especially for users in tier 2 and tier 3 cities.

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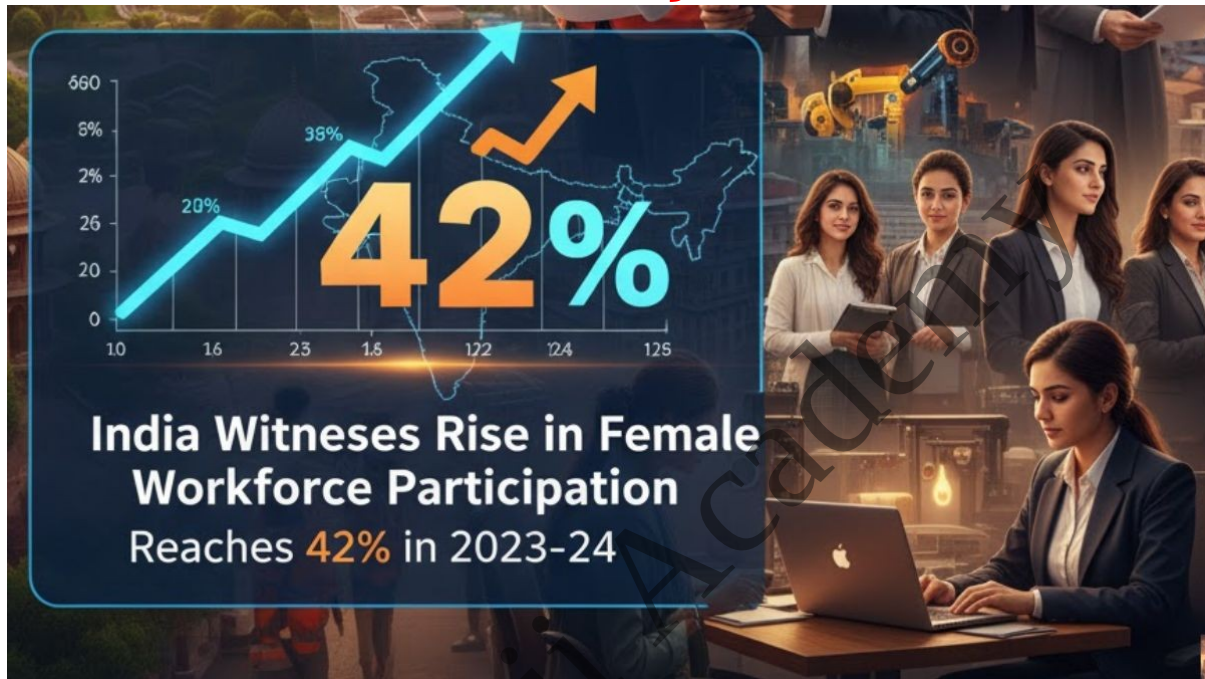
Female labour force:

- ➔ Female labour force participation in India rose from 23 percent in 2017–18 to approximately 42 percent in 2023–24. According to World Bank data, India recorded the highest increase in women's workforce participation among BRICS nations over the past decade.
- ➔ The rise is attributed to policy measures improving access to skills, credit, and formal employment for women. Government initiatives include 730 days of child care leave, 180 days of maternity leave, and same-station postings for spouses in government service.
- ➔ Women are exempted from fees for competitive examinations to encourage greater representation in government jobs. One Stop Centres provide integrated support for women facing violence, offering legal, medical, counselling, and shelter services.

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NITI Aayog:

- ➔ NITI Aayog released a report titled “India’s Blue Economy: Strategy for Harnessing Deep-Sea and Offshore Fisheries”. The report outlines a framework to expand deep-sea fisheries within India’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of over 2 million sq. km.
- ➔ India ranks second globally in fish production, contributing 8% of global output and supporting around 30 million livelihoods. Fisheries exports earned ₹60,523 crore in FY 2023–24, with deep-sea potential largely untapped beyond the continental shelf.

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Blue Flag certification:

- ➔ Five beaches in Maharashtra earned the international Blue Flag certification. They include Shrivardhan and Nagaon in Raigad, Parnaka in Palghar, and Guhagar and Ladghar in Ratnagiri.
- ➔ The Blue Flag is awarded by Denmark's Foundation for Environmental Education. Certification requires meeting 33 standards on cleanliness, safety, water quality, and environmental management.

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Gomti:

- ➔ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister launched the Gomti Rejuvenation Mission on to restore the river's clean and continuous flow. The mission aims to intercept 95 percent of urban sewage entering the Gomti River across its basin from Pilibhit to Ghazipur.
- ➔ Currently, 39 major drains flow into the river, with 13 still untreated; these will be redirected or treated through new and upgraded sewage treatment plants. The project includes wetland development, ghat beautification, encroachment removal, and expansion of green cover along the riverbanks.

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MERCOSUR:

- ➔ India and Brazil have agreed to broaden the scope of their Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) under the MERCOSUR framework to cover more sectors and products.
- ➔ The India-MERCOSUR Framework Agreement was signed in 2003, followed by the PTA in 2004, which came into force in 2009. MERCOSUR, founded in 1991, consists of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay as full members.

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Indian Air Force:

- ➔ The Indian Air Force (IAF) is examining a Russian proposal to acquire Su-57 "Felon" fighter jets, with potential local manufacturing under Make in India.
- ➔ Developed by Sukhoi Company, the Su-57 is a twin-engine, single-seat, fifth-generation stealth multirole fighter capable of both air superiority and ground strike missions.

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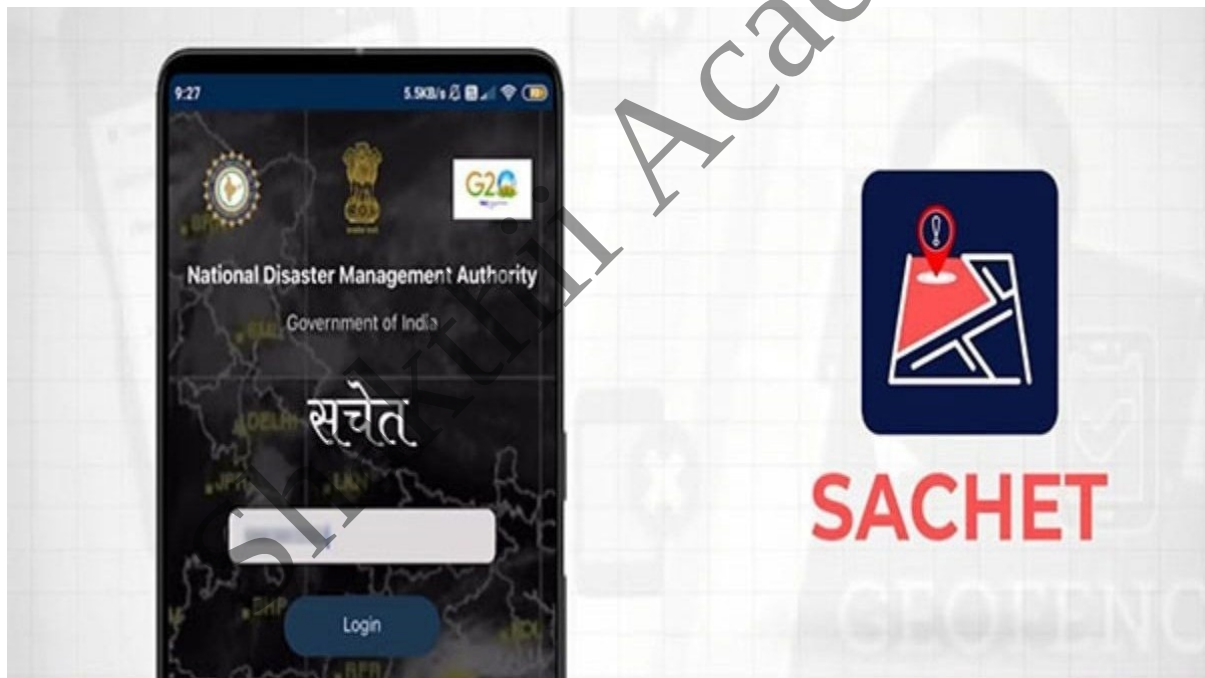
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Integrated Alert System:

- ➔ Integrated Alert System (SACHET) is India's disaster early warning platform by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- ➔ It provides real-time geo-targeted alerts using multiple channels like SMS, cell broadcast, mobile app, TV, radio, and social media. The system was developed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) under the Department of Telecom.
- ➔ SACHET is operational across all Indian states and union territories, sending alerts to citizens in affected areas. The SACHET app offers disaster warnings and weather updates from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).



Right to Information:

- ➔ The Right to Information (RTI) Act completes 20 years since its implementation in 2005. The Right to Information (RTI) Act was enacted on 12 October 2005 to ensure transparency and accountability in governance.
- ➔ The RTI law emerged from grassroots activism led by the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) and public hearings in Rajasthan during the 1990s. The movement

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led to several state-level RTI laws before the national law was passed by Parliament on 12 May 2005.

- ➔ The RTI Act recognises the right to information as part of the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 of the Constitution. Over 1.75 million RTI applications were filed in 2023–24, double the number from a decade ago, but with a record 67,615 rejections.



Ministry of Mines:

- ➔ The Ministry of Mines reclassified all limestone as a major mineral. Limestone used in lime kilns is no longer considered a minor mineral under the new classification.
- ➔ The change removes end-use restrictions and allows leaseholders to sell limestone for any purpose. The decision followed recommendations by an inter-ministerial committee chaired by a Member of NITI Aayog.

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India and Mongolia:

- ➔ India and Mongolia mark 70 years of diplomatic ties and 10 years of strategic partnership in 2025. A joint postal stamp was released to celebrate shared heritage and civilizational bonds. India is to send Buddhist relics and digitise 1 million ancient manuscripts.
- ➔ A \$1.7 billion Indian credit line supports Mongolia's oil refinery, with over 2,500 Indian professionals involved.
- ➔ A Sanskrit teacher will be deputed to Gandan Monastery to strengthen Buddhist scholarly ties. The Ladakh–Arkhangai MoU will boost regional cultural cooperation between India and Mongolia.

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16th Finance Commission:

- ➔ The government has extended the 16th Finance Commission's term till November 30, 2025. The commission was formed on December 31, 2023, with Arvind Panagariya as Chairman. It will recommend tax distribution between the Centre and states for 2026–2031.
- ➔ The original deadline for the report submission was October 31, 2025. It will also review disaster management financing under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- ➔ The commission has four members, including economists and senior officials. The 15th Finance Commission had recommended 41% tax devolution to states for 2021–2026.

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Wild elephant population:

- ➔ India's wild elephant population is now estimated at 22,446 according to the first DNA-based national count conducted in 2025. This marks an 18 percent decline from the 2017 estimate of 27,312 elephants.
- ➔ The survey was conducted by the Environment Ministry, Project Elephant, and the Wildlife Institute of India. Scientists collected 21,056 dung samples and used DNA fingerprinting to identify 4,065 unique elephants.
- ➔ The survey used the mark-recapture model to estimate the total population between 18,255 and 26,645 elephants.
- ➔ Karnataka has the highest number of elephants at 6,013, followed by Assam with 4,159 and Tamil Nadu with 3,136. The Western Ghats host 11,934 elephants, the highest among regions, followed by the Northeast with 6,559.

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Andhra Pradesh:

- ➔ India's largest artificial intelligence (AI) data hub will be built in Andhra Pradesh. Google's 1-gigawatt (GW) hyperscale data centre in Visakhapatnam will generate ₹10,000 crore for the state.
- ➔ This centre will be India's first gigawatt-scale AI data centre and Google's first AI hub in the country. The project aims to position Andhra Pradesh as a digital hub and boost AI-driven transformation in India.

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Tamil Nadu government:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government has introduced a Bill to amend the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994. The Bill seeks to extend the tenure of Special Officers in rural local bodies up to January 5, 2026.
- ➔ The existing tenure of Special Officers was already extended by ordinance till January 5, 2025. The extension applies to 9,624 village panchayats, 314 panchayat unions, and 28 district panchayats in 28 districts.
- ➔ Block Development Officers (village panchayats) are functioning as Special Officers for the village panchayats. Assistant Directors (panchayats or audit) are appointed as Special Officers for the panchayat unions.
- ➔ Additional Directors, Additional Collectors, Joint Directors, or Project Directors are appointed as Special Officers for district panchayats.

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Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a resolution rejecting the Governor's remarks on the Tamil Nadu Siddha Medical University Bill, 2025. Chief Minister stated that the remarks were against the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.
- ➔ The Chief Minister said the Bill falls under the category of a Finance Bill and needs the Governor's recommendation under Article 207(3) of the Constitution.
- ➔ The draft Bill was prepared by the Health and Family Welfare Department and examined by the Law Department and the Minister for Health and Family Welfare.

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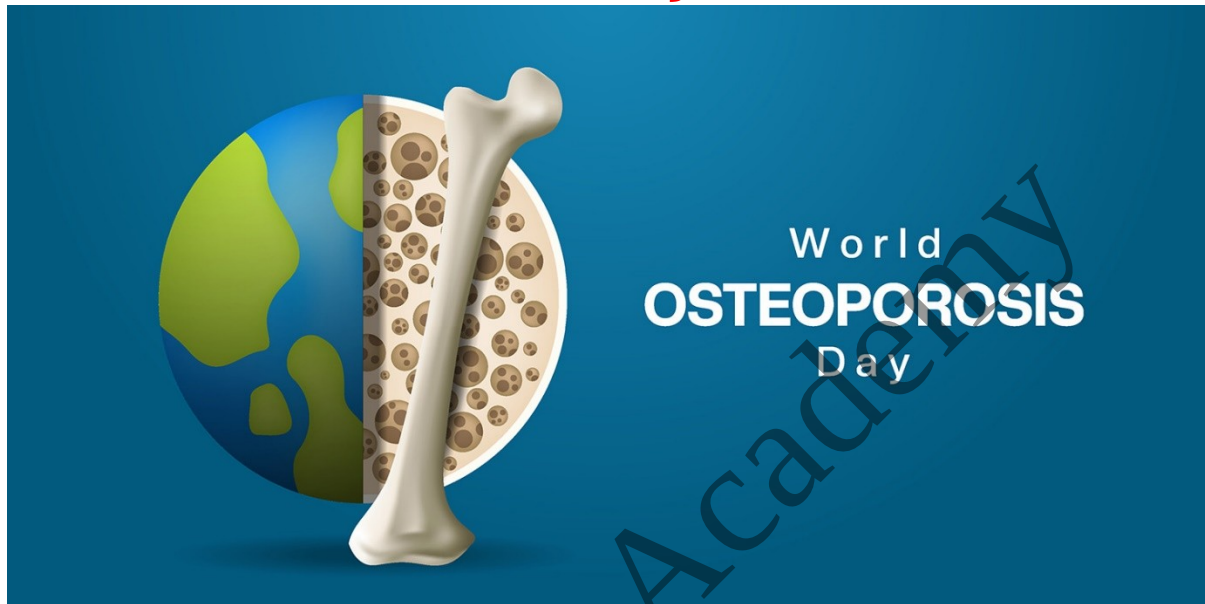
World Osteoporosis Day:

- ➔ World Osteoporosis Day is observed globally on 20 October every year to raise awareness about osteoporosis and metabolic bone diseases. The first themed World Osteoporosis Day was held in 1999, with the theme "Early Detection".
- ➔ The day was first observed on 20 October 1996 by the National Osteoporosis Society (UK), in collaboration with the European Commission.

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Uruguay:

- ➔ Uruguay became the first Latin American country to legalise euthanasia through legislation, marking a milestone in bioethical and human rights discussions.
- ➔ The law decriminalises medically assisted dying for patients with incurable illnesses causing unbearable suffering, following five years of national debate and ethical dialogue.

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Separate Code:

- ➔ The Bathou religion, followed by the Bodo community in Assam, has been officially granted a separate code in the upcoming national census.
- ➔ Bathouism is an indigenous faith central to the Bodo identity, practiced mainly in Assam and parts of North Bengal. Deeply rooted in nature worship, Bathouism promotes harmony between humans and nature.

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Sikhs:

- ➔ On Tuesday, October 21, 2025, Sikhs around the world will celebrate Bandi Chhor Divas, a sacred festival that coincides with Diwali but carries a distinct spiritual and historical meaning.
- ➔ While Diwali celebrates the return of Lord Rama or the enlightenment of Mahavira for others, for Sikhs it commemorates the heroic release of Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji from Gwalior Fort, along with 52 Rajput princes he helped liberate.
- ➔ The phrase “Bandi Chhor Divas” translates to “Day of Liberation”, marking an enduring story of freedom, justice, and selflessness. It is a celebration that not only honours the past but continues to inspire present-day reflections on collective liberation and compassionate leadership.



October 21:

- ➔ Every year on October 21, India pauses to honour its police personnel who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Police Commemoration Day is not only a solemn reminder of lives lost but also a celebration of the values of courage, dedication, and service.
- ➔ The day holds deep emotional and historical significance, rooted in a tragic event in 1959 that continues to shape the legacy of India's policing.

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh:

- ➔ In a major leap toward strategic material independence, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Titanium and Superalloy Materials Plant at the Strategic Materials Technology Complex of PTC Industries in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ➔ This facility is expected to play a pivotal role in India's mission for Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India), especially in critical sectors like defence, aerospace, and electronics.
- ➔ The new complex will manufacture aviation-grade titanium and superalloys — materials that are not only rare but essential for high-performance military platforms like fighter jets, missiles, naval systems, and satellites.

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Ministry of Mines:

- ➔ In a major move to modernize India's mineral governance, the Ministry of Mines has released the first-ever State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI) and State Rankings for 2025.
- ➔ Announced as part of the Union Budget 2025–26, this index aims to benchmark States on how efficiently and sustainably they manage their non-coal mineral resources, ushering in a new era of transparency, accountability, and competition in the mining sector.
- ➔ The State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI) is a pioneering framework to assess and rank Indian States based on their reform-readiness, operational efficiency, and sustainability practices in the non-coal mining sector. Developed by the Ministry of Mines, it reflects a data-driven approach to strengthening federal governance in resource management.

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Chandrayaan-2:

- ➔ In a major scientific achievement, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has confirmed that its Chandrayaan-2 lunar orbiter has made the first-ever direct observation of how solar activity, specifically Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), impacts the Moon's exosphere.
- ➔ This landmark discovery offers unprecedented insight into lunar space weather and the dynamics of the Moon's extremely thin atmosphere. Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) are massive bursts of plasma and magnetic field released from the Sun's corona, comprising mainly Hydrogen and Helium ions.

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Indigenous antibiotic:

- ➔ In a landmark moment for Indian science, India has developed its first fully indigenous antibiotic, Nafithromycin, and achieved a major milestone in gene therapy for hemophilia. These breakthroughs, announced by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, reflect the country's growing capabilities in biotechnology, pharmaceutical innovation, and clinical research.
- ➔ The announcement highlights India's move toward biotech self-reliance and a more robust public-private innovation ecosystem, aligning with national goals under the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

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Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu Assembly “rejected” Governor R.N. Ravi’s position on the need for the House to reconsider the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill, 2024. It readopts the same bill without any changes.
- ➔ The Bill seeks to postpone the achievement of zero revenue deficit and 3% fiscal deficit by another year. The Bill seeks to postpone the achievement of zero revenue deficit and 3% fiscal deficit by another year (now targeting 2026-27 and 31st March 2026 respectively).
- ➔ It is going beyond the period specified by the Fifteenth Finance Commission, which set targets for 2021-22 to 2025-26.

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Comptroller and Auditor-General:

- ➔ The Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) of India has assessed the Tamil Nadu government during 2023-24. It showed improvement only in one out of three targets fixed in the area of fiscal indicators.
- ➔ The progress recorded by the State was in the outstanding liability-Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio. Against a target of 29.1%, the figure was lowered to 28% in the year.

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Tamil Nadu:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu has topped the country in earning income from prison product sales. The State has reported the highest gross value of sale proceeds.
- ➔ While Tamil Nadu led the country in profitable prison business, other States closely following were Telangana and Kerala with ₹55.71 crore and ₹24.44 crore respectively in 2023.
- ➔ Going by National Crime Records Bureau data, the value of goods produced per inmate was the highest in Telangana, with ₹95,187, followed by Tamil Nadu(₹33,984) and Chandigarh (₹32,325). Prisoners engaged in labour are paid a nominal wage based on their skills. Tamil Nadu pays ₹300 for skilled workers and ₹270 for semi-skilled workers per day.

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Tamil Nadu Chief Minister:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced the formation of a Commission to recommend legislation against caste-based hate crimes and honour killings. The Commission will be headed by retired Madras High Court judge Justice K. N. Basha.
- ➔ The Commission will consult political groups, legal experts, social activists, and affected individuals. The aim is to draft a law to prevent caste-based and honour-related violence.

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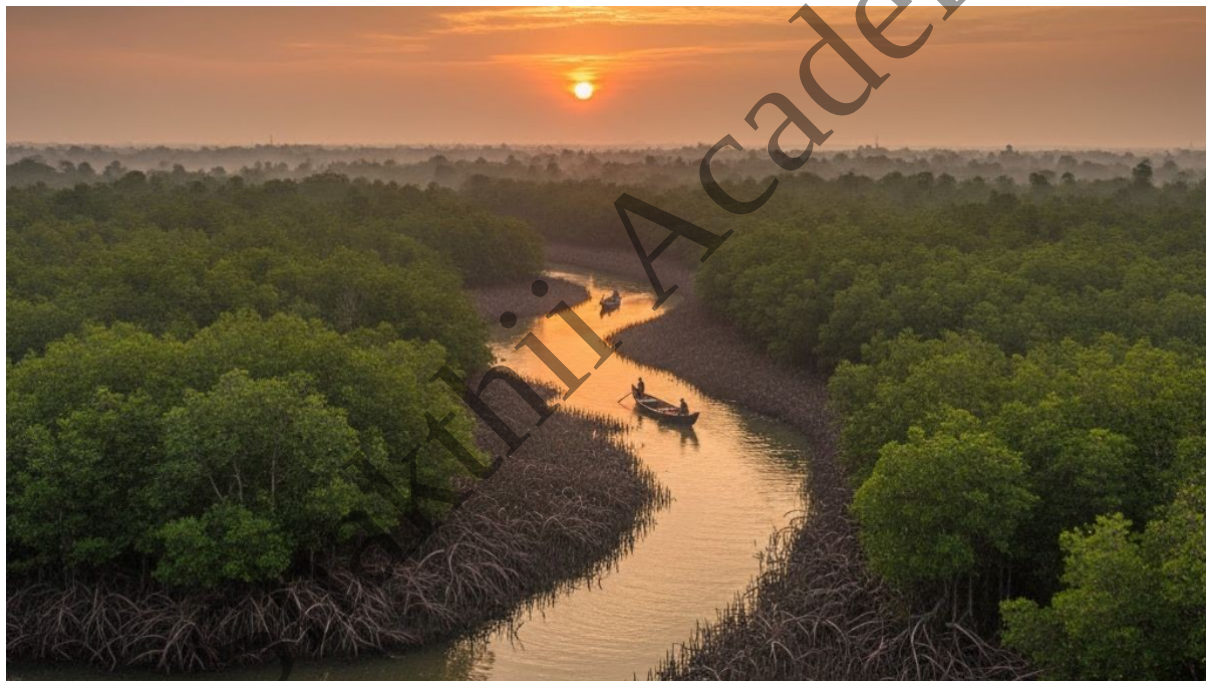
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SAIME initiative:

- ➔ In a prestigious endorsement of India's green innovation, the Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME) model—developed by the Nature Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS)—has received Global Technical Recognition from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
- ➔ The SAIME initiative is a multi-stakeholder partnership (MSP) that transforms shrimp aquaculture in mangrove-rich regions of South Asia. It aims to create an ecosystem-based standard that protects mangroves while enhancing farmer incomes through sustainable shrimp farming.



Bestu Varas:

- ➔ The beautifully festive rhythm of Diwali may be drawing to a close, but for the Gujarati community it marks just the beginning. The very next day heralds the arrival of the Bestu Varas—the Gujarati New Year.
- ➔ In 2025, this special day falls on Wednesday, 22 October. That day opens the door to the new year in the Gujarati lunisolar calendar and is filled with renewal, joy and tradition.
- ➔ This article breaks down the date, history, significance, traditions and meaningful quotes of Bestu Varas—especially useful for competitive-exam aspirants who may be asked about regional festivals and their cultural contexts.

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Govardhan Puja:

- ➔ Govardhan Puja, also known as Annakut, is a significant Hindu festival celebrated a day after Diwali. This sacred occasion commemorates the divine act of Lord Krishna, who in his child form (Baal Roop) lifted Govardhan Hill to protect the villagers of Gokul from torrential rains sent by Indra Dev, the God of Rain.
- ➔ Deeply rooted in the traditions of Brijbhoomi (Mathura and Vrindavan), this festival reflects themes of devotion, nature worship, and divine protection.

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Bhai Dooj:

- ➔ Bhai Dooj, a cherished Hindu festival, symbolizes the deep emotional bond between brothers and sisters. Falling just after Diwali, it is a time for familial affection, traditions, and blessings.
- ➔ In 2025, Bhai Dooj will be celebrated on Thursday, October 23, across various parts of India under different regional names such as Bhau Beej in Maharashtra and Bhai Phonta in West Bengal.

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UDAN Scheme:

- ➔ The UDAN Scheme (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), India's flagship initiative under the National Civil Aviation Policy, has successfully completed nine years since its launch on 21st October 2016.
- ➔ Spearheaded by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the scheme aims to make air travel affordable and accessible for the common citizen by enhancing regional air connectivity.
- ➔ Over the years, UDAN has proven to be a transformative project that has connected remote and underserved areas with mainstream air routes, facilitating over 1.56 crore passengers through 3.23 lakh flights.

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Coal India Limited:

- ➔ In a landmark collaboration, Coal India Limited (CIL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Madras to set up a Centre for Sustainable Energy. This initiative aims to propel India's clean energy transition by focusing on cutting-edge research and development in low-carbon technologies, mine repurposing, and green innovations.
- ➔ The MoU was formally signed in the presence of senior officials from both institutions, marking a major step toward integrating academic expertise with industrial transformation.

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JAIMEX:

- ➔ Marking another milestone in the expanding India-Japan defence partnership, the Indian Navy's INS Sahyadri has arrived at Yokosuka, Japan, to participate in the Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JAIMEX) 2025.
- ➔ The high-level bilateral naval drill, conducted from October 16–17, signifies deepening defence cooperation and strategic alignment between the two Indo-Pacific democracies.
- ➔ The exercise comes amid growing maritime challenges in the region and underlines a shared commitment to peace, stability, and a rules-based international order.

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Indian Army:

- ➔ The Indian Army is undergoing a bold transformation with the introduction of 25 Bhairav Battalions, a new class of elite units designed to operate between the regular infantry and the Special Forces.
- ➔ These “lean and mean” battalions will focus on surprise strikes, counter-insurgency operations, reconnaissance, and high-mobility missions, especially along India’s volatile borders with China and Pakistan. The creation of these battalions is part of a broader military modernisation push aimed at boosting rapid response capability and strategic depth.



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Ningol Chakouba:

- ➔ Ningol Chakouba, a culturally rich and emotionally vibrant festival from Manipur, celebrates the strong familial bond between married women (Ningols) and their brothers and paternal families.
- ➔ Observed annually on the second day of the Hiyangei month of the Meitei lunar calendar, this festival brings together families to honour relationships and revive traditions.
- ➔ In 2025, Ningol Chakouba is being celebrated with great fervour, as women dressed in traditional attire return to their paternal homes with offerings, engaging in joyful reunions and hearty feasts.



Chennai:

- ➔ In a major step toward strengthening urban disaster management, Chennai has become the first Indian city to fully implement a Real-Time Flood Forecasting and Spatial Decision Support System (RTFF & SDSS). Operational since October 2025, this system

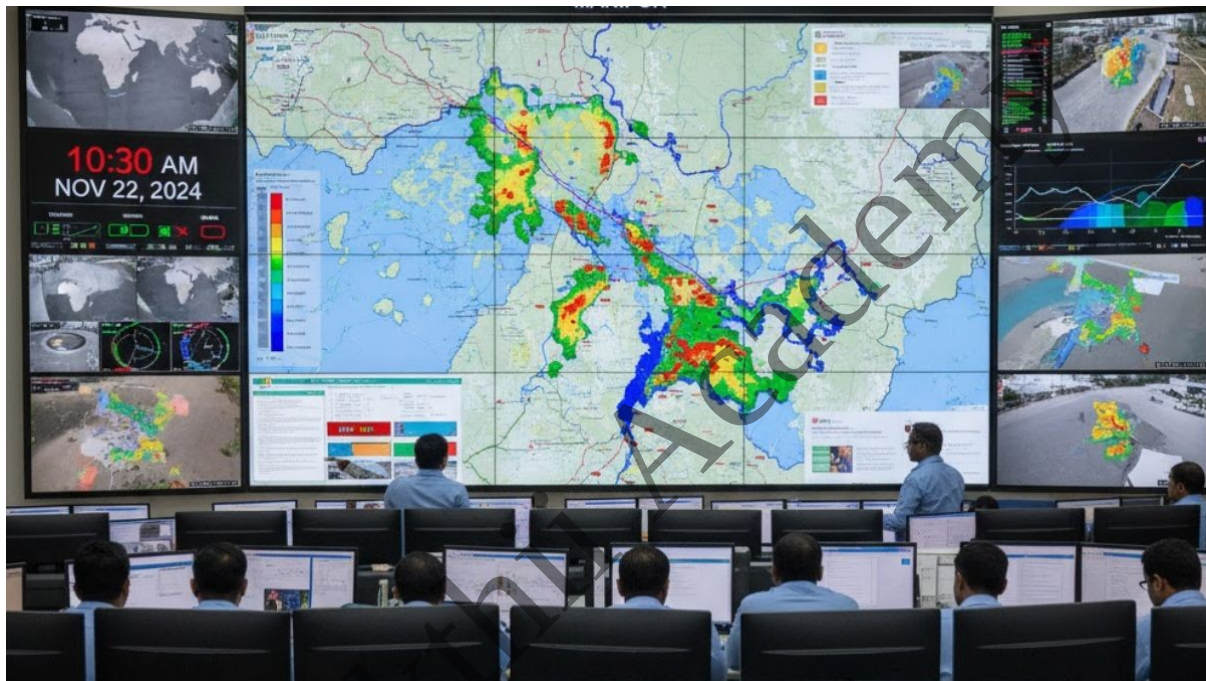
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significantly enhances Chennai's capability to predict, manage, and respond to urban floods, marking a milestone in climate resilience infrastructure.

- ➔ This initiative is particularly significant as Chennai is frequently affected by seasonal monsoon flooding, and accurate forecasting can save lives, minimize damage, and support smarter urban planning.



Ministry of Home Affairs:

- ➔ In a significant political development, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has proposed granting Article 371-like provisions to Ladakh during a recent dialogue with the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA).
- ➔ The talks come a month after deadly protests over the region's demand for statehood and constitutional safeguards, during which four people, including a Kargil war veteran, lost their lives in police action.
- ➔ Since the reorganisation of Jammu & Kashmir in 2019, Ladakh has been functioning as a Union Territory without a legislature. Over the years, discontent has grown among locals, particularly regarding land rights, cultural identity, and political representation.

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Kerala:

- ➔ In a landmark moment for India's social development narrative, Kerala is set to become the first state to be officially declared "free of extreme poverty." The announcement will be made by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on November 1, 2025, during a public event at Central Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ➔ This declaration highlights the state's sustained focus on inclusive growth and targeted welfare programmes, and sets a precedent for other states to follow.

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National Human Rights Commission:

- ➔ The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) celebrated its 32nd Foundation Day on October 16 at Vigyan Bhawan, with former President Ram Nath Kovind as the chief guest and NHRC Chairperson Justice (retd) V. Ramasubramanian presiding over the event.
- ➔ Since its establishment in 1993, NHRC has handled over 23.79 lakh cases, recommended ₹263 crore in relief, and issued 31 advisories on issues like child protection, transgender welfare, environmental safety, and dignity of the dead.

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October 22:

- ➔ International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) is observed every year on October 22 to raise global awareness about stuttering (stammering) and support individuals who experience it. ISAD aims to reduce stigma, promote understanding and acceptance, and encourage speech therapy and early intervention for those who stutter.
- ➔ The day was established in 1998 by the International Stuttering Association (ISA), International Fluency Association (IFA), and European League of Stuttering Associations (ELSA).

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Employees' Provident Fund Organisation:

- ➔ Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) now allows 75 % of the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) amount to be withdrawn immediately after job loss. The remaining 25 % of the EPF amount can be withdrawn after one year from the date of unemployment.
- ➔ The new rules ensure that the employee's 10-year service record is not broken and pension eligibility is maintained.

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EPFO

Employees Provident
Fund Organisation

India:

- ➔ India leads in milk and millet production, and ranks second in fruits, vegetables, and fish output. India's rice fortification programme (Fortified rice includes iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12 to combat malnutrition) was completed under central schemes by March 2024.
- ➔ The National Food Security Act, 2013, covers over 78 crore people with subsidised foodgrains. The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana [PMGKAY] was extended till 2028 to ensure free foodgrains.

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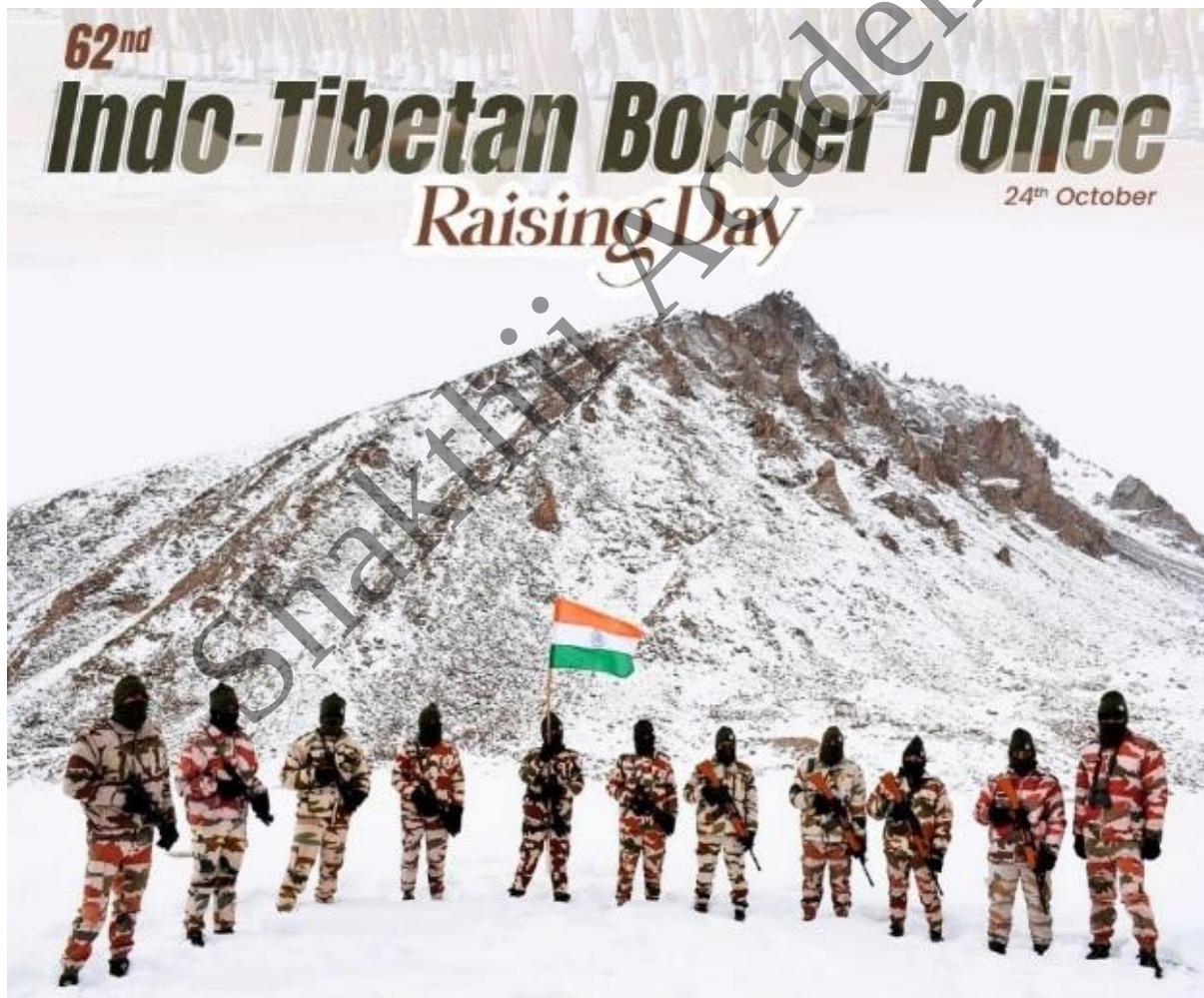
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ITBP Raising Day:

- ➔ ITBP Raising Day is observed every year on 24th October to commemorate the formation of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) — a specialized force that guards the Indo-China border across some of the most challenging terrains on earth.
- ➔ The ITBP Raising Day 2025 marks 63 years of dedicated service, celebrating the courage, discipline, and resilience of personnel who protect India's borders at altitudes often exceeding 14,000 feet.



Global MIL Week:

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- ➔ The Global MIL Week 2025 will be celebrated from 24 to 31 October 2025 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. This annual event brings together policymakers, educators, researchers, media professionals, and youth organizations to promote awareness, policy dialogue, and education on MIL.
- ➔ The theme for Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week 2025 is “Minds Over AI: MIL in Digital Spaces.” This theme reflects how artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the way information is produced, distributed, and consumed across the world.



Disarmament Week:

- ➔ Every year, Disarmament Week is observed from 24 to 30 October, beginning on the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. The week aims to promote awareness and understanding of global disarmament issues and their vital role in achieving lasting peace, security, and sustainable development.
- ➔ The observance was first proposed in the Final Document of the 1978 UN General Assembly's Special Session on Disarmament (Resolution S-10/2). Later, in 1995, the UN General Assembly encouraged governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to actively participate in the week (Resolution 50/72 B).

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Unique Identification Authority of India:

- ➔ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has introduced a new programme called SITAA — Scheme for Innovation and Technology Association with Aadhaar. This initiative aims to promote innovation, collaboration, and research in India's growing digital identity ecosystem.
- ➔ By partnering with startups, academic institutions, and technology companies, UIDAI seeks to make Aadhaar-based systems more secure, efficient, and globally competitive.

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2025 PN7:

- ➔ Earth has a new space companion — a small asteroid named 2025 PN7, recently confirmed by NASA. Though it's not a real moon, it travels around the Sun in almost the same orbit as Earth, making it look like it's following our planet through space.
- ➔ This “quasi-moon”, first discovered by astronomers at the University of Hawaii, is estimated to be 18 to 36 metres wide — about the height of a small building. While tiny by space standards, its discovery is fascinating for scientists studying how asteroids move near Earth.
- ➔ The asteroid 2025 PN7 is not directly orbiting Earth like our natural moon. Instead, it travels around the Sun on a path that nearly matches Earth's. This unique movement makes it appear as if it's staying close to us, even though it's actually an independent traveler in space.

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Rani Channamma:

- ➔ The Government of India will issue a ₹200 commemorative coin marking the 200th anniversary of Rani Channamma's Victory at Kittur (1824–2024) — one of the earliest armed resistances against the British East India Company, predating the 1857 revolt.
- ➔ Rani Channamma of Kittur (born 1778, died 1829) fought bravely against the British East India Company after it denied the legitimacy of her adopted son under the Doctrine of Lapse. Her initial victory in 1824 became a symbol of early Indian resistance to colonial rule.

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TNFR Act:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu State Financial Responsibility and Budget Management Act(TNFR Act), 2003, defines total liabilities as “liabilities under the Consolidated Fund of the State and the Public Account of the State”.
- ➔ The borrowings made by the corporations/agencies for implementing various State-planned programmes are not captured in its financial accounts. These borrowings indirectly add to the liabilities of the State. For State-planned programmes, the principal and the interest are paid by the State government.
- ➔ States, including Tamil Nadu, raise funds through the issue of bonds known as State Development Loans (SDLs). The auction for the bonds is conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ➔ The bonds are issued for various tenures and States have to repay the principal along with interest on maturity. SDLs form a major part of Tamil Nadu’s outstanding liabilities. The Union government fixes the borrowing ceiling for States. The borrowing ceiling is 3% of the projected Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2025-26.

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ORS:

- ➔ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) prohibited the use of the term "ORS" (Oral Rehydration Solution) in the branding of beverages. This decision was made to prevent misleading claims regarding the health benefits of certain beverages.
- ➔ The order applies to all beverage manufacturers and marketers across India. Companies found in violation of this directive may face penalties under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

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PUNCH mission:

- ➔ NASA's PUNCH mission (2025) revealed solar wind dynamics. PUNCH stands for Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere. It studies the solar corona and solar wind as a single, connected system.
- ➔ The mission captures detailed images of solar wind, making invisible phenomena visible. Solar wind consists of charged particles emitted from the Sun's outer atmosphere.
- ➔ PUNCH operates during the ongoing solar maximum, a phase of high solar activity. This phase includes increased sunspots, solar flares, and coronal mass ejections. The mission helps improve forecasting of space weather and its effects on Earth.

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India and the UK:

- ➔ India and the UK launch the Ramanujan Junior Researchers Programme, which enables young Indian scientists to work in the UK. It is funded by India's Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- ➔ Selected PhD students will conduct research at the London Institute for Mathematical Sciences (LIMS). LIMS is part of the Royal Institution and is known for theoretical research and major scientific discoveries.

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Tuvalu:

- ➔ Tuvalu has become the 90th State Member of the IUCN. It is a small Polynesian island nation located in the west-central Pacific Ocean. Tuvalu consists of 9 atolls and reef islands covering 676 kilometers, with a land area of only 26 square kilometers. Tuvalu's capital is Vaiaku, located on Funafuti Atoll.
- ➔ The islands are extremely low-lying, with elevations of just 4 to 5 meters above sea level. Tuvalu has no rivers and depends on rainwater and wells for freshwater. Tuvalu is known for its rich marine biodiversity, including coral reefs and migratory species.

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Forest Area:

- ➔ India has climbed to the 9th position globally in terms of forest area in 2025. The country maintains the 3rd rank in annual net forest gain according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ➔ India's forest cover is reported at 72.7 million hectares, accounting for around 2 percent of the world's total forest area.
- ➔ Asia is the only continent to see an increase in forest area since 1990, led by India and China. Globally, Russia has the largest forest cover at 832.6 million hectares, followed by Brazil, Canada, the United States, and China.

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Tamil Nadu government:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government announced the Vaikom Award for Social Justice for the year 2025. The award will be presented to Thenmozhi Soundararajan, a Dalit civil rights activist based in the United States.
- ➔ It honors individuals or organizations working for the welfare of marginalized communities. It was instituted in memory of the late social reformer E.V. Ramasamy. The award includes a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, a citation, and a medal.

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