RICE EDUCATION

Daily

Current Affairs

FOR WBCS EXAMINATION

DATE

31 Oct 2026

Daily Current Affairs for WBCS

31st October, 2026

Awards and Honours

- **France** has conferred the **Legion of Honour** on **Sunil Bharti Mittal** for strengthening India–France economic ties through telecommunications, digital infrastructure and satellite communications.



Legion of Honour (French Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur) is the highest distinction of France.

Founded on 19 May 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, who was First Consul at that time, it honours outstanding services rendered to the country. It can be given to both French and non-French people.

- The **IIFA DIGITAL (International Indian Film Academy) Awards of 2026** were held as the 26th edition of the event that celebrated achievements in the Indian film industry and digital media.



FILM CATEGORY WINNERS

Best Picture: *Baramulla* – B62 Studios, Netflix Entertainment Services India LLP and Jio Studios

- **Best Direction:** Karan Tejpal for *Stolen*
- **Performance in a Leading Role (Female):** Sanya Malhotra for *Mrs*
- **Performance in a Leading Role (Male):** Abhishek Banerjee for *Stolen*
- **Performance in a Supporting Role (Female):** Monika Panwar for *Nishaanchi 2*
- **Performance in a Supporting Role (Male):** Avinash Tiwary for *The Mehta Boys*
- **Best Story (Original):** Aditya Dhar, Monal Thakkar and Aditya Suhas Jambhale for *Baramulla*

SERIES CATEGORY WINNERS

- **Best Picture:** *The Ba**ds of Bollywood* – Red Chillies Entertainments Pvt. Ltd. and Netflix Entertainment Services India LLP
- **Best Direction:** Aryan Khan for *The Ba**ds of Bollywood*
- **Performance in a Leading Role (Female):** Tillotama Shome for *Paatal Lok Season 2*
- **Performance in a Leading Role (Male):** Jaideep Ahlawat for *Paatal Lok Season 2*
- Performance in a Supporting Role (Female): Anya Singh for *The Ba**ds of Bollywood*
- **Performance in a Supporting Role (Male):** Raghav Juyal for *The Ba**ds of Bollywood*
- **Best Story (Original):** Sudip Sharma, Tamal Sen, Rahul Kanojia and Abhishek Banerjee for *Paatal Lok Season 2*

2. Appointments & Person in News



- **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** has officially taken charge as **the 29th Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) of the Indian Air Force**. He succeeds Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, who superannuated on the afternoon of October 31, 2026.



- **Vijay Sankar:** Appointed as the **President-Elect of FICCI** (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) for the 2026–27 term.



- **Barbara Barrie:** The Oscar-nominated American actress, known for her roles in ***Breaking Away*** and extensive Broadway career, passed away at the age of 95. Earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress at the 1980 Oscars for portraying **Evelyn Stohler** in **Breaking Away** (1979).

3. Govt Scheme Policies and Welfare Initiatives

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** launched **a nationwide awareness campaign for senior citizen welfare schemes** ahead of winter.



- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has introduced the **'UPS Jeewan Setu – Digital Life Certificate (DLC)'** facility for pensioners covered under the **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)**.

4. Sports and Games

- The **Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games** officially begin today, October 31, 2026, marking the first-ever Olympic event hosted on African soil.
  Dates: October 31 – November 13, 2026
  Host Locations: Dakar, Diamniadio, and Saly, Senegal
  Motto: "Africa Welcomes, Dakar Celebrates" (*L'Afrique accueille, Dakar célèbre*)
  Participants: Around 2,700 athletes from over 200 delegations (plus a Youth Refugee Olympic Team)
  Sports Program: 25 competition sports (including new additions like Baseball5 and Wushu Taolu) and 10 cultural/engagement sports



- The 43rd running of the **Breeders' Cup World Championships** is taking place on October 30–31, 2026 at the historic **Keeneland Race Course in Lexington,** Kentucky. This marks the fourth time Keeneland has hosted the world championships.



- **Manisha Bhanwala** won India's first-ever women's freestyle gold medal at the **World Wrestling Championships 2026** in Astana, Kazakhstan.



5. Science Space and Technology

- **New Microscopic Land Snail Species Discovered in Kolhapur's Tilari Region**
  In October 2026, researchers from the **Thackeray Wildlife Foundation** identified a new species of microscopic land snail, named **Dicharax tilariensis**, in the Tilari region of Kolhapur district, Maharashtra.



- **ISRO's GSLV-F18 / NVS-03 Launch:** ISRO successfully launched the next-generation navigation satellite **NVS-03** aboard the **GSLV-F18** rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, helping strengthen and restore the indigenous **NavIC** regional satellite navigation constellation.



6. Summits, Bills and International Affairs

- **World Bank Poverty & Equity Report:** The World Bank released its October 2026 report showing that India lifted approximately 496 million people out of poverty between 2011 and 2023, dropping the extreme poverty rate from 27.1% to 2.6%.

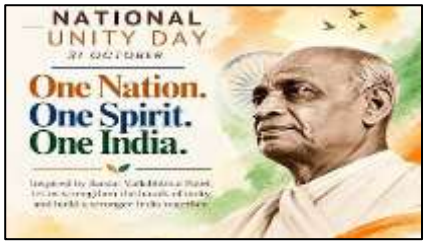


- **Liechtenstein Hereditary Prince Alois Visit:** Prince Alois concluded a high-level official visit to India (October 25–28, 2026) focusing on bilateral cooperation.



7. Books, Authors and Important days

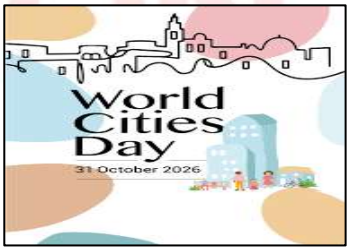
- **Nationwide celebrations marked National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas)** on **October 31** to commemorate **the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.



About Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

- **Birth and Birthplace**: He was born on **31 October 1875** in Nadiad, Gujarat. His birth anniversary is celebrated across India as **National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas)**.
- **Nicknames**: He is famously known as the **"Iron Man of India"** and the **"Bismarck of India"**. The title 'Sardar' was bestowed upon him by the women and people of Bardoli following the successful leadership of the **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928)**.
- **First Positions**: He served as independent India's **first Home Minister** and **first Deputy Prime Minister**.
- **Integration of Princely States**: He, along with V.P. Menon, played the monumental role of unifying over 500 princely states to create a united, integrated India.
- **Father of All India Services**: He is regarded as the **"Patron Saint of India's Civil Services"** for establishing and shaping the modern civil services structure, including the **IAS and IPS**.
- **Karachi Session (1931)**: He presided over the Indian National Congress (INC) Karachi Session in 1931, which adopted the landmark resolution on Fundamental Rights and Economic Policy.
- **Statue of Unity**: Located on the banks of the Narmada River in Kevadia, Gujarat, the **Statue of Unity** is dedicated to him. Standing at 182 meters, it is the world's tallest statue, built to honor his supreme contribution to India's unification.
- **Bharat Ratna**: He was posthumously honored with India's highest civilian award, the **Bharat Ratna**, in **1991**.

- **World Thrift Day was observed on October 30-31** to promote financial literacy and responsible saving habits.
- Observed annually on **October 31, World Cities** Day promotes sustainable urban development. **The 2026 observance marks its 13th edition, hosted in Fuzhou, China, under the theme "Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All."**



8. Miscellaneous

- The government has constituted **a High-Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat to review the country's banking sector and recommend reforms in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047**.
    - The Finance Ministry said that the Committee will recommend structural, institutional, regulatory and legislative reforms to make the Indian banking sector globally competitive, financially inclusive and resilient. **The Committee will be chaired by former Central Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N. Patel**.

- **Mayon Volcano in Albay, the Philippines**, erupted moderately explosively on Friday, 30 October 2026. The eruption began at 11:53 a.m. and lasted nearly six minutes, sending a grey ash plume 3,000 metres above the summit crater.



9. West Bengal Current Affairs

- **Migratory birds, including the Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus, locally known as Khayra Kastechera),** have **returned to wetlands in Paschim Medinipur** as the winter season approaches..
    - The Glossy Ibis was **first documented in West Bengal's Medinipur district back in 1878 by Irish ornithologist Valentine Ball** (published in Allan Octavian Hume's Stray Feathers journal).
    - These flocks travel over 4,000 kilometers from regions like the Caspian Sea, alongside established populations in western/northern India like Gujarat and Rajasthan.



- The **West Bengal government** has imposed restrictions on the bursting of firecrackers during Kali Puja, Diwali and Chhath Puja to curb air and noise pollution. Announcing the guidelines at Nabanna today**, State Home Secretary Sanghamitra Ghosh** said only certified green firecrackers would be permitted between 8 PM and 10 PM on Diwali and between 6 AM and 8 AM on Chhath Puja.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. Which country conferred its highest distinction, the 'Legion of Honour', on Sunil Bharti Mittal?

A) Germany
B) France
C) United Kingdom
D) United States
Answer: **B) France**

Q2. Who has officially taken charge as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) of the Indian Air Force?

A) Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh
B) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
C) Air Marshal Vikram Gaur
D) Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari
Answer: **B) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit**

Q3. The Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games mark a historic milestone by hosting the first-ever Olympic event on which continent?
A) Asia
B) South America
C) Africa
D) Oceania
Answer: **C) Africa**

Q4. Manisha Bhanwala made history by winning India's first-ever women's freestyle gold medal at which event in 2026?
A) World Wrestling Championships
B) World Boxing Championships
C) Asian Wrestling Championships
D) Commonwealth Wrestling Games
Answer: **A) World Wrestling Championships**

Q5. Who bestowed the title 'Sardar' upon Vallabhbhai Patel following the successful leadership of the Bardoli Satyagraha in 1928?
A) Mahatma Gandhi
B) The women and people of Bardoli
C) Jawaharlal Nehru
D) Subhas Chandra Bose
Answer: **B) The women and people of Bardoli**

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