RICE EDUCATION

Daily

Current Affairs

FOR WBCS EXAMINATION

DATE

8 Oct 2026

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1. Awards and Honours

- Israel's Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism: Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar to be honoured by Israeli President Isaac Herzog for protecting passengers and crew during a flydubai flight attack.
- Booker Prize 2026: Six shortlisted novels include works by Marlon James, Douglas Stuart, M. John Harrison, Luke Kennard, Rebecca Perry and Elizabeth Strout.
- Nana Patekar: Actor and recipient of three National Film Awards and the Padma Shri reportedly passed away on 8 October 2026.

2. Appointments and Persons in News



- Deputy Election Commissioner: Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of 2010-batch Indian Administrative Service officer Prakash Rajpurohit through 8 April 2030.
- Nana Patekar: Renowned actor reportedly died aged 75 at his residence in Goa on 8 October 2026.
- Dr. S. Jaishankar's Africa Visit: External Affairs Minister continued his five-day tour of Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia to strengthen trade, pharmaceutical and defence partnerships.

3. Government Schemes, Policies and Welfare Initiatives

- Unified Agentic AI Platform: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology awarded a ₹3.63-crore contract to CoRover.ai, developers of BharatGPT, on 8 October to develop a government-services AI assistant, starting with DigiLocker.
- DDU-GKY 2.0: Training scheduled from October 2026 for 34,920 rural youth across 14 States/Union Territories.
- DRISHTI Project: Central Government approved the ₹65-crore project under PM-UDAY to expedite geographic information system-based property verification for unauthorised-colony residents.

4. Sports and Games

- Asian Para Games 2026: Pramod Bhagat (para-badminton) and Bhavina Patel (para-table tennis) named Indian contingent flag bearers for the 18–24 October Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- Exercise MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN 2026: Indian Army and UAE Army continued joint high-altitude mountain-warfare training at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.

5. Science, Space and Technology

- MeitY–DigiLocker AI Platform: CoRover.ai selected through the Quality and Cost-Based Selection process to integrate conversational and agentic artificial intelligence into DigiLocker and National e-Governance services.
- India's Space Economy: Valued at USD 9 billion, supported by 440 registered space startups and USD 618.5 million in private investments.

6. Summits, Bills and International Affairs

- **India–EFTA TEPA:** First anniversary marked by India, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, targeting USD 100 billion in foreign direct investment and one million jobs over 15 years.
- External Affairs Minister's Africa Engagements: India discussed Jaipur Artificial Limb Fitment Camps and pharmaceutical supply chains with Ghana and Ethiopia.

7. Books, Authors and Important Days



- **Indian Air Force Day:** 8 October; commemorates the Indian Air Force's establishment on 8 October 1932.
- National Wildlife Week 2026: Concluded on 8 October under the theme "Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife."
- National Postal Week 2026: Began on 9 October, World Post Day, under the theme "One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities."

8. Miscellaneous

- **Deportation of Narco Kingpin:** Amit Shah praised law-enforcement agencies for securing Navpreet Singh's extradition from Türkiye.
- Special Forex Window for Oil Marketing Companies: Reserve Bank of India implemented a dedicated foreign-exchange facility for Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited to stabilise dollar demand.

9. West Bengal Specific Current Affairs



- **Buxa Tiger Reserve**: Tigers are being translocated as part of habitat restoration following reported complete depopulation in previous years.
- **INS Shreyas**: Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited launched the Indian Navy's third Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel in Kolkata.
- **India Energy Week 2027**: Preparations continued in New Town, Kolkata, for the fifth edition in January 2027.
- **PMCSPY**: ₹313.30 crore allocated and managed by North Bengal Development Department for tea-garden workers' welfare schemes.

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