RICE EDUCATION

Daily

Current Affairs

FOR WBCS EXAMINATION

DATE

29 Oct 2026

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29th October, 2026

Awards & Honours:

- UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan conferred the **First Class Order of Zayed II** on Captain Smit Machchhar and flydubai crew members in the United Arab Emirates on 28 October 2026.



Appointments & Persons in News:

• **ITBP Director General:** Sanjay Singhal, a 1993-batch IPS officer and SSB Director General, was given additional charge as ITBP Director General from 31 October 2026, succeeding Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor.



• **Additional Secretary in the DMA:** Air Marshal Vikram Gaur became the first Indian Air Force officer appointed as Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs.

• **Yasuo Fukuda Dies:** Yasuo Fukuda, Japan's Prime Minister from 2007 to 2008 and the country's first second-generation Prime Minister, passed away at the age of 90.



Government Schemes, Policies & Welfare Initiatives:

- **India Updates Vehicle Rules:** MoRTH amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, allowing E85 and E100 fuels only in OEM-designed flex-fuel vehicles and raising the light-vehicle GVW threshold from 3,000 kg to 3,500 kg.

- **Local Toll Pass Introduced:** MoRTH introduced an annual Concessional Local Pass for eligible non-commercial vehicle owners living within 20 km of a National Highway toll plaza, priced at ₹1,500 outside local limits and ₹3,000 within them.
- **Gyan Bharatam Mission Launched:** The Gyan Bharatam Mission aims to identify, conserve, digitise, translate, research and disseminate India's manuscript heritage.



- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced on 29 October 2026 that India's automobile industry has overtaken Japan to become the third largest globally.**

The total valuation of the Indian automobile industry has reached 22 lakh crore rupees.

The Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways expressed confidence that the sector will eventually become the largest automobile industry in the world.

Sports & Games:





- **India Wins Four Boxing Medals:** At the 2026 World Boxing U19 Championships in Budva, India won four medals, including Aditya's gold in the men's 55 kg category, to finish joint seventh with Ukraine.

- **Antonelli Wins US GP**: Mercedes driver Kimi Antonelli won the 2026 United States Grand Prix at Austin, securing his ninth victory of the Formula One season.

Science, Space & Technology

- **IDS, Sarvam AI Partner:** HQ IDS signed a five-year MoU with Sarvam AI to develop indigenous AI applications for the Indian Armed Forces, using the Sarvam 105B model and on-premises, air-gapped systems.

- **SBI Launches CyRIS:** SBI inaugurated CyRIS, a Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence in Mumbai, focusing on cybersecurity policy, innovation and defence through its THINK, INNOVATE and DEFEND pillars.





- **GSL Launches Srishti:** Goa Shipyard Limited launched Srishti, the fourth Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel under the programme and the second built by GSL, for the Indian Navy.

Summits, Bills & International Affairs:

- **India Ranks 88th:** India ranked 88th with a score of 0.48 in the **World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2026,** while Denmark topped the index with a score of 0.90.

• **Corals Face Collapse:** At **COP17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity**, the IUCN reported that 96% of assessed warm, shallow-water coral reef ecosystems were critically endangered and projected to collapse by 2075.

• **Garuda Shakti Begins:** India and Indonesia began the 11th Garuda Shakti joint special forces exercise at Banyuwangi, Indonesia, from 27 October to 6 November 2026, focusing on jungle operations.



• **India-France Manuscript Deal:** India's Ministry of Culture and France's Bibliothèque nationale de France signed an MoU under the **Gyan Bharatam Mission** to preserve, digitise and research Indic-origin manuscripts held in France.

• **PB Money Licensed:** PB Money received SEBI's Online Bond Platform Provider licence to facilitate retail access to bond discovery, comparison, investment and related services.

Books, Authors & Important Days:

• **Animation Day Observed:** International Animation Day was observed on 28 October 2026, marking the 25th observance and commemorating Émile Reynaud's first public screening of projected animated images in 1892.

• **Care Day Observed:** The International Day of Care and Support was observed on **29 October 2026** under the theme "**Building Sustainable Care and Support Systems through Decent Work.**"

Miscellaneous:

• **New Plant Discovered:** Researchers Namita Nath and Barnali Das documented Osbeckia assamensis, a new flowering plant species, in Assam's Manas National Park; the shrub grows 2–2.5 metres tall and bears pink flowers.



• **Giant Waterlily Identified:** Scientists formally identified Victoria colombiana, a giant waterlily species from Colombia's Inírida region, as the fourth recognised species of the genus Victoria.

• **Uttarakhand Budget Presented:** Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami presented a ₹7,844.18-crore supplementary budget for FY 2026–27, taking the state's total budget to ₹1.19 lakh crore.

West Bengal Specific Current Affairs:



• **National Library Joins MoU:** The Ministry of Culture–BnF manuscript-preservation MoU includes the National Library in Kolkata as a partner institution alongside the Gyan Bharatam Mission and National Archives of India.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. Which country's president conferred the First Class Order of Zayed II on Captain Smit Machchhar and flydubai crew members?

A) Saudi Arabia

B) United Arab Emirates

C) Qatar

D) Oman

Answer: **B) United Arab Emirates**

Q2. Who became the first Indian Air Force officer appointed as Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs (DMA)?

A) Air Marshal Vikram Gaur

B) Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

C) Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh

D) Air Marshal R. K. S. Bhadauria

Answer: **A) Air Marshal Vikram Gaur**

Q3. Yasuo Fukuda, who passed away at the age of 90, served as the Prime Minister of which country from 2007 to 2008?

A) South Korea

B) Japan

C) Singapore

D) Malaysia

Answer: **B) Japan**

Q4. According to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, India's automobile industry has overtaken which country to become the third largest globally?

A) United States

B) Germany

C) Japan

D) China

Answer: **C) Japan**

Q5. At the 2026 World Boxing U19 Championships in Budva, which Indian boxer secured a gold medal in the men's 55 kg category?

A) Amit

B) Deepak

C) Aditya

D) Sahil

Answer: **C) Aditya**

Q6. The 11th edition of the India–Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Garuda Shakti 2026' commenced at which location?

A) Jakarta, Indonesia

B) Banyuwangi, Indonesia

C) Bali, Indonesia

D) New Delhi, India

Answer: **B) Banyuwangi, Indonesia**

Q7. State Bank of India (SBI) inaugurated 'CyRIS', a Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence, in which city?

A) New Delhi

B) Bengaluru

C) Mumbai

D) Chennai

Answer: **C) Mumbai**

Q8. What is India's rank in the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2026?

A) Rank 65

B) Rank 78

C) Rank 88

D) Rank 94

Answer: **C) Rank 88**

Q9. Researchers Namita Nath and Barnali Das documented a new flowering plant species, *Osbeckia assamensis*, in which national park?

A) Kaziranga National Park

B) Manas National Park

C) Jim Corbett National Park

D) Sundarbans National Park

Answer: **B) Manas National Park**

Q10. Which institution from West Bengal is included as a partner institution in the Ministry of Culture–BnF manuscript-preservation MoU?

A) Indian Museum, Kolkata

B) National Library, Kolkata

C) Victoria Memorial, Kolkata

D) Asiatic Society, Kolkata

Answer: **B) National Library, Kolkata**

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