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EXPECTED

CURRENT AFFAIRS

For WBCS Exam

OCTOBER 2026



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RICE EDUCATION

1.1. Awards and Honours

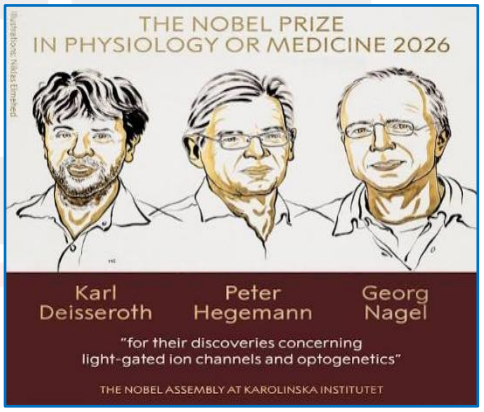
1. Lalit Kala Akademi Announces 20 Awards at 65th National Exhibition of Art



Back in September 2026, the Lalit Kala Akademi (National Academy of Art), operating under the Ministry of Culture, handed out 20 awards during the 65th National Exhibition of Art (NEA). Hosted at Rabindra Bhavan in New Delhi, the exhibition put the spotlight on 6,175 artworks sent in by 2,495 artists hailing from 27 different States and Union Territories.

- The awards were personally handed over by Union Minister for Culture, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- Among the key awardees were Chandra Shekhar Sain for sculpture, Gopal Chandra Naskar for painting, Pankaj Kumar Sharma for drawing, and Pritam Madhukar Deuskar for printmaking.

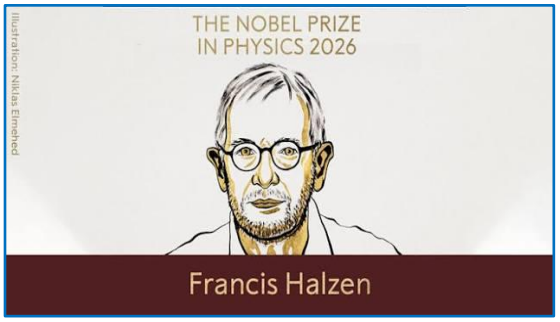
2. Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel Win 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine



In October 2026, the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm announced that the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine would go **to American neuroscientist and psychiatrist Karl Deisseroth, German biophysicist Peter Hegemann, and German molecular plant physiologist Georg Nagel.** They bagged the honor for their groundbreaking work on light-gated ion channels and optogenetics in neuroscience.

- The three laureates will split the 12 million Swedish kronor prize equally among themselves.

3. Francis Louis Halzen Won 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics for Decisive Contributions to IceCube Neutrino Observatory



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences named 82-year-old Belgian-American particle physicist **Francis Louis Halzen** as the recipient of the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics in October 2026. He earned the recognition for his pivotal contributions to the **IceCube project** and the discovery of high-energy neutrinos originating from space.

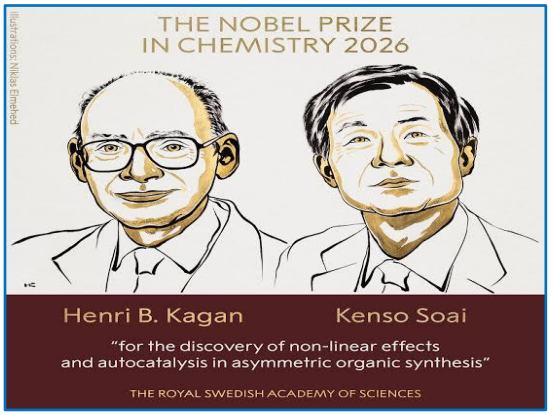
- He takes home the entire 12 million Swedish kronor prize purse for his achievements in physics.

4. Henri Boris Kagan and Kenso Soai Won 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for Work on Asymmetric Organic Synthesis

- In October 2026, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry to French chemist Henri Boris Kagan and Japanese chemist Kenso Soai. They were honored for discovering nonlinear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis,

which helps drive the selective production of molecular mirror images.

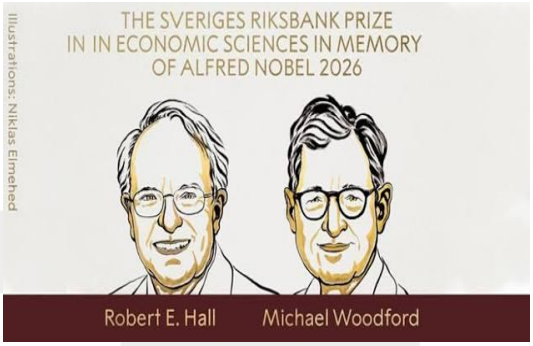
- The two scientists will share the 12 million Swedish kronor cash prize down the middle.
- Back in 2001, Kagan won the Wolf Prize in Chemistry and has long been considered a pillar of modern organic chemistry, with this Nobel prize recognizing his foundational 1986 breakthrough on nonlinear effects.



5. USA's Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford Win 2026 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences for Advancing Macroeconomic Stabilisation

On October 12, 2026, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences gave the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel to American economists Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford. They were recognized for establishing the microeconomic foundations behind macroeconomic stabilization.

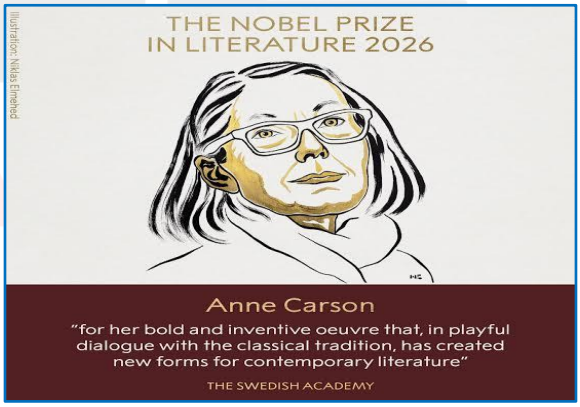
- Both laureates will share the 12 million Swedish kronor prize equally.



6. Canadian Poet Anne Carson Wins '2026 Nobel Prize in Literature' for Her Bold and Inventive Literary Works

On October 8, 2026, the Swedish Academy honored Canadian poet and essayist Anne Carson with the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature. She was chosen for her daring and imaginative body of work that engages in a playful dialogue with classical traditions while carving out entirely new paths for modern literature.

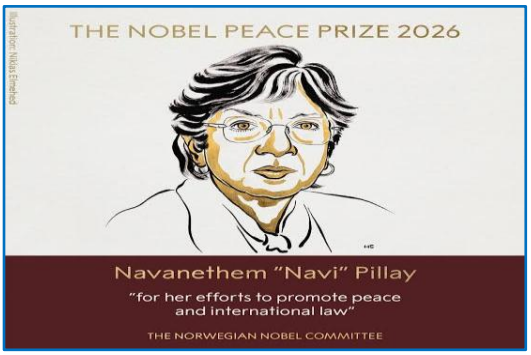
- She receives the standard 12 million Swedish kronor award.
- She enters history as the 19th woman to win the Literature Nobel since 1901 and only the second Canadian woman to do so, following Alice Munro in 2013.



7. South African Jurist of Indian Origin Navanethem "Navi" Pillay Named Winner of Nobel Peace Prize 2026

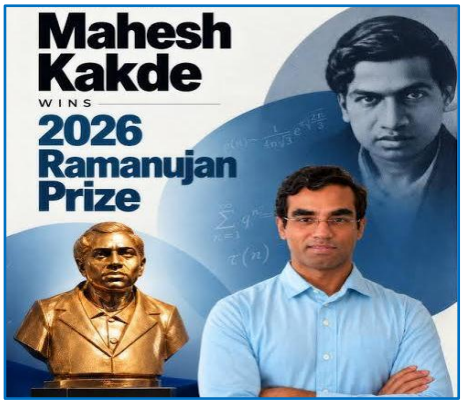
In October 2026, Jørgen Watne Frydnes, Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, announced from Oslo that South African jurist of Indian descent Navanethem "Navi" Pillay had won the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize for her relentless efforts in championing peace and international law.

- She takes home the 12 million Swedish kronor cash award.



8. Mahesh Kakde Becomes 5th 9.Indian to Win Ramanujan Prize for Mathematics

Mahesh Kakde, a professor at the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru, Karnataka, was named the winner of the 2026 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries this October for his stellar work in algebraic number theory.



- With this win, Kakde steps up as the fifth Indian to capture this prestigious prize, following Sujatha Ramdorai (2006), Amalendu Krishna (2015), Ritabrata Munshi (2018), and Neena Gupta (2021).
- The award comes with a cash prize of USD 10,000.

10. Israel to Honour Indian Pilot Smit Machchhar with Highest Civilian Bravery Award

Israeli President Isaac Herzog announced in October 2026 that Captain Smit Machchhar, an Indian pilot flying for flydubai, would be awarded Israel's Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism—the nation's highest civilian bravery honor—for averting a major disaster in the skies.



- Machchhar showed immense courage by fending off an unprovoked attack by his co-pilot, Hammam Al-Hammami from Oman, who reportedly lunged at him with a crash axe inside the cockpit, ultimately saving the lives of 174 passengers and crew.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Who received the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature for her bold and inventive literary works?

(a) Alice Munro
(b) Anne Carson
(c) Margaret Atwood
(d) Louise Glück

Answer: (b) Anne Carson

2. The 65th National Exhibition of Art was organised by which institution?

(a) Sangeet Natak Akademi
(b) Sahitya Akademi
(c) Lalit Kala Akademi
(d) National School of Drama

Answer: (c) Lalit Kala Akademi

3. Who won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics for contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory?

(a) Karl Deisseroth
(b) Francis Louis Halzen
(c) Peter Hegemann
(d) Georg Nagel

Answer: (b) Francis Louis Halzen

4. Henri Boris Kagan and Kenso Soai received the 2026 Nobel Prize in which field?

(a) Physics
(b) Medicine
(c) Chemistry
(d) Economic Sciences

Answer: (c) Chemistry

5. Who won the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize for efforts to promote peace and international law, according to the given content?

(a) Anne Carson (b) Navanethem "Navi" Pillay

(c) Neena Gupta (d) Sujatha Ramdorai

Answer: (b) Navanethem "Navi" Pillay

6. Mahesh Kakde received the 2026 Ramanujan Prize for his contributions to which field?

(a) Algebraic number theory (b) Quantum physics

(c) Organic chemistry (d) Neuroscience

Answer: (a) Algebraic number theory

7. Who received the 2026 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences along with Robert E. Hall?

(a) Michael Woodford (b) Henri Boris Kagan

(c) Georg Nagel (d) Peter Hegemann

Answer: (a) Michael Woodford

8. The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine recognised work on which of the following?

(a) High-energy neutrinos (b) Asymmetric organic synthesis

(c) Light-gated ion channels and optogenetics (d) Macroeconomic stabilisation

Answer: (c) Light-gated ion channels and optogenetics

9. Who presented the 20 awards at the 65th National Exhibition of Art in September 2026, according to the given content?

(a) Union Minister for Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

(b) President of India

(c) Union Minister for Education

(d) Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India

Answer: (a) Union Minister for Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

10. Captain Smit Machchhar was selected for which Israeli honour?

(a) Israel Prize for Literature

(b) Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism

(c) Wolf Prize in Chemistry

(d) Israel Defence Service Medal

Answer: (b) Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism

1.2. Appointments and Persons in News

1. INCOIS Director T. M. Balakrishnan Nair Elected Chair of UNESCO's Indian Ocean Panel

Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, who directs the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, was elected as the Chair of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Sub-

Commission for the Indian Ocean during its second intergovernmental session held in Bali from October 12 to 14, 2026.

- Turki Al-Said of Kuwait and Badal Mohammed Rezah of Mauritius were picked as Vice-Chairpersons, pending formal confirmation of their roles.

2. Prof. Achyuta Samanta Elected As First President of Indian UniSport Federation



Prof. Achyuta Samanta, founder of the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology and the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, was elected as the inaugural President of the Indian UniSport Federation during its first Annual General Meeting in New Delhi this October.

- His past accolades include the National Award for Child Welfare from India's President, the Gusi Peace Prize, the International Social Award from Bahrain, and the Best Worker Award from Mongolia.

3. President Droupadi Murmu Appoints Governors to Six States in Major Reshuffle

President Droupadi Murmu rolled out a major gubernatorial reshuffle in October 2026, assigning Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar as the full-time Governor of Tamil Nadu, Om Prakash Mathur to Kerala, Sudha Yadav to Karnataka, Braj Mohan Ram to Odisha, Dushyant Gautam to Sikkim, and Dhal Singh Bisen to Uttarakhand.

4. Former TV Anchor Edward Rukidi Kijanangoma Crowned King of Tooro Kingdom in Uganda

Former television news anchor Edward Rukidi Kijanangoma was crowned as the 13th Omukama (King) of Uganda's Tooro Kingdom at the Karuziika Palace in Fort Portal this September, finally bringing a long-standing succession feud to a close.

- The coronation came in the wake of the passing of King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV on August 27, 2026.
- He was selected by a 21-member committee from the Babiito clan. Being a cousin of the late king, his selection followed traditional lineage lines despite challenges from Queen Best Kemigisa and Princess Ruth Komuntale.

5. Morocco's King Appoints Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri as First Woman PM



Following the parliamentary elections on September 23, 2026, King Mohammed VI of Morocco named Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri from the Authenticity and Modernity Party as the country's new Prime Minister.

- She makes history as Morocco's first female Prime Minister, taking over from Aziz Akhannouch, and stands as the second woman to hold a premier post in the Arab world following Tunisia's Najla Bouden in 2021.

6. MoL&J Notified Appointment of Chief Justices of Three HCs as Supreme Court Judges

The Ministry of Law and Justice issued notifications in October 2026 regarding the elevation of three High Court Chief Justices to the Supreme Court: **Justice Sunita Agarwal (Gujarat HC), Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya (Delhi HC), and Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh (Telangana HC).**

- These appointments were cleared by President Droupadi Murmu under Article 124(2) of the Constitution.
- Additionally, judicial officer Gurvinder Pal Singh was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court until June 2028 under Article 224(1).
- To fill the vacancies left behind, separate notifications appointed Justice P. Sam Koshy, Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, and Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre as Acting Chief Justices for the Telangana, Gujarat, and Delhi High Courts respectively.

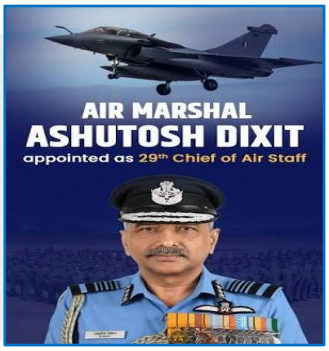
7. Indian Trap Shooter Rajeshwari Kumari Elected to OCA Athletes Commission

Former Indian trap shooter Rajeshwari Kumari earned a seat on the Olympic Council of Asia Athletes Commission to represent South Asia for the 2026–2030 term, following elections held alongside the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya.

- She is only the second Indian to sit on this commission, following luger and Vice-Chairman Shiva Keshavan.

8. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Appointed 29th Chief of the Air Staff

The Government of India named Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff for the Indian Air Force, with his tenure kicking off on October 31, 2026, and running through December 2028.



- He steps into the role succeeding Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, who wraps up his service upon retirement on October 31, 2026.

9. Anca-Maria Verma Appointed Ambassador-at-Large of UN IIMSAM for India for Five-Year Term

Gove Romanian-born entrepreneur and philanthropist **Anca-Maria Verma** was appointed as the **Ambassador-at-Large for India** by the Inter-Governmental Institution for the Use of Micro-Algae Spirulina Against Malnutrition (**IIMSAM**).



- **Tenure:** Five-year term running from **October 20, 2026, to October 19, 2031**.
- **Mandate:** To support IIMSAM's humanitarian initiatives, nutritional programs, and stakeholder engagement in India, focusing on combating malnutrition and promoting food security through micro-algae Spirulina.
- **Appointment:** Issued by IIMSAM Secretary-General Remigio Maradona.

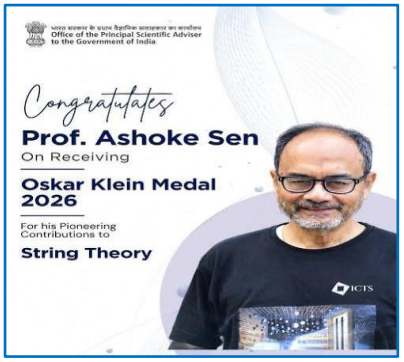
10. Polish PM Donald Tusk's Visit to India from October 21 to 23, 2026

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk undertook an official 3-day visit to India from October 21 to 23, 2026, meeting PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

- **Bilateral Targets:** Both nations agreed to double bilateral trade to **USD 6 billion by 2030** and established a formal Defence Industry Dialogue and counter-terrorism talks.
- **New Initiatives:** Launched a Startup Bridge and tech hackathons; Poland officially joined the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**.
- **Diplomatic Milestone:** Announced that **Poland–India Partnership Day** will be observed annually on **March 30** to commemorate ties established in 1954.

11. Ashoke Sen Becomes First Indian Physicist to Win Oskar Klein Medal

Renowned Indian theoretical physicist **Ashoke Sen**, a professor at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS) in Bengaluru, made history in October 2026 by becoming the **first Indian physicist to win the prestigious Oskar Klein Medal**.



Key points

- **Award & Citation:** Received the **Oskar Klein Medal 2026** for his pioneering contributions to string theory and theoretical physics.
- **Background of the Award:** Instituted in 1988 by Stockholm University and the Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in honor of Swedish physicist Oskar Klein.
- **Elite Company:** Joins a legendary list of past recipients, including Stephen Hawking (2003), Peter Higgs (2009), Steven Weinberg (1989), and Kip Thorne (2016)

12. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva Re-elected as President of Brazil For Fourth Term

Incumbent Brazilian President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** (Workers' Party – PT) was re-elected for a historical **fourth non-consecutive presidential term** in October 2026. He defeated Flávio Bolsonaro (Liberal Party – PL) in the second-round runoff held on October 25, 2026.



Key points

- **Election Outcome:** Lula da Silva won the run-off with **51.79% of the vote** (over 51.49 million votes) against Bolsonaro's 48.21%.
- **Historic Milestone:** He became Brazil's first President elected to four terms, the oldest to assume office since the return to democracy in 1989 (scheduled to be sworn in on January 5, 2027), and the first in Brazil's democratic era to win the presidency after trailing in the first round.

13.Renowned Indian Painter and Former Rajya Sabha MP Jogen Chowdhury Passed Away at 87

Renowned Indian painter, master modernist, and former Rajya Sabha MP **Jogen Chowdhury** passed away at the age of 87 in Kolkata, West Bengal. Born in Faridpur (now in Bangladesh) on February 15, 1939, he was a towering figure in contemporary Indian art, celebrated for his distinct cross-hatching technique and ink-and-pastel portraits reflecting socio-political realities and human psychology.

Key points:



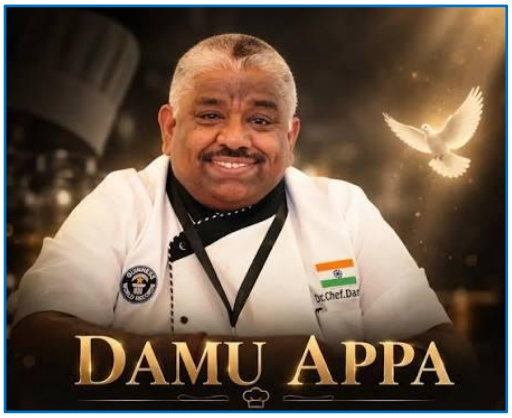
- **Academic & Professional Roles:** Served as an art teacher at Howrah Zilla School, designer at the Handloom Board in Kolkata, Keeper of Art at Rashtrapati Bhavan, and professor at *Kala Bhavana*, Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan.
- **Political Career:** Represented West Bengal in the Rajya Sabha as a Trinamool Congress (TMC) Member of Parliament from 2014 to 2020.

- **Prestigious Accolades:** Recipient of the **Kalidas Samman (2001)** and West Bengal's highest civilian award, the **Banga Bibhushan (2012)**, alongside international honors like the *Prix le France de la Jeune Peinture* (1966)

14.Renowned Tamil Chef and Padma Shri Awardee Damodaran Passed Away at 72

Renowned Tamil chef, culinary educator, and Padma Shri awardee **K. Damodaran**, popularly known as **Chef Damu**, passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, at the age of 72.

Key points:



- **Academic & Record-Breaking Milestone:** In 2004, he became the **first Indian chef to earn a PhD** in Hotel Management and Catering Technology from the University of Madras. He also earned a **Guinness World Record** in December 2010 by cooking 617 dishes weighing 190 kg in over 24 hours.
- **National Recognition:** Conferred the prestigious **Padma Shri in 2025** for his pioneering contributions to the culinary arts.
- **Popular Culture & Legacy:** Authored 17 cookbooks promoting traditional South Indian cuisine and became a household name as a beloved judge on Vijay TV's popular culinary show *Cooku with Comali*..

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Who was elected Chair of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean in October 2026?

(a) Turki Al-Said
(b) T. M. Balakrishnan Nair
(c) Badal Mohammed Rezah
(d) Achyuta Samanta

Answer: (b) T. M. Balakrishnan Nair

2. Who was elected as the first President of the Indian UniSport Federation?

(a) Ashutosh Dixit
(b) Rajeshwari Kumari
(c) Achyuta Samanta
(d) T. M. Balakrishnan Nair

Answer: (c) Achyuta Samanta

3. Who was appointed as Morocco's first female Prime Minister in 2026, according to the given content?

(a) Najla Bouden
(b) Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri
(c) Sudha Yadav
(d) Droupadi Murmu

Answer: (b) Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri

4. Under which Article of the Indian Constitution were the appointments of three High Court Chief Justices as Supreme Court judges cleared?

(a) Article 124(2)
(b) Article 224(1)
(c) Article 217(1)
(d) Article 72

Answer: (a) Article 124(2)

5. Who was elected to the Olympic Council of Asia Athletes Commission for the 2026–2030 term?

(a) Shiva Keshavan
(b) Rajeshwari Kumari
(c) Sudha Yadav
(d) Anca-Maria Verma

Answer: (b) Rajeshwari Kumari

6. Who was appointed as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force, with tenure beginning on October 31, 2026?

(a) Amar Preet Singh
(b) Ashutosh Dixit
(c) Donald Tusk
(d) Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Answer: (b) Ashutosh Dixit

7. Anca-Maria Verma was appointed Ambassador-at-Large for India by which organisation?

(a) UNESCO
(b) Olympic Council of Asia
(c) IIMSAM
(d) International Monetary Fund

Answer: (c) IIMSAM

8. Which Indian physicist became the first Indian recipient of the Oskar Klein Medal in 2026?

(a) Ashoke Sen
(b) C. N. R. Rao
(c) Abhay Ashtekar
(d) Thanu Padmanabhan

Answer: (a) Ashoke Sen

9. Who was crowned the 13th Omukama (King) of Uganda's Tooro Kingdom in September 2026, according to the given content?

(a) Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV
(b) Edward Rukidi Kijanangoma
(c) Donald Tusk
(d) Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

Answer: (b) Edward Rukidi Kijanangoma

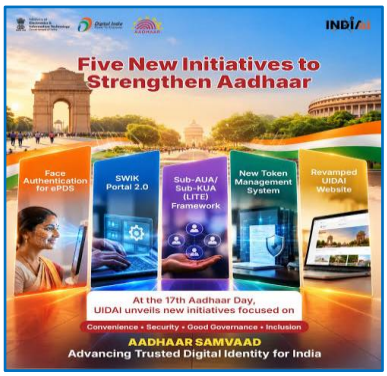
10. Which renowned Indian painter and former Rajya Sabha MP passed away at the age of 87, according to the given content?

(a) Jogen Chowdhury
(b) K. Damodaran
(c) Ashoke Sen
(d) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Answer: (a) Jogen Chowdhury

1.3. Government Schemes

1. UIDAI Launches 5 New Initiatives at 'Aadhaar Samvaad' on 17th Aadhaar Day in Kolkata



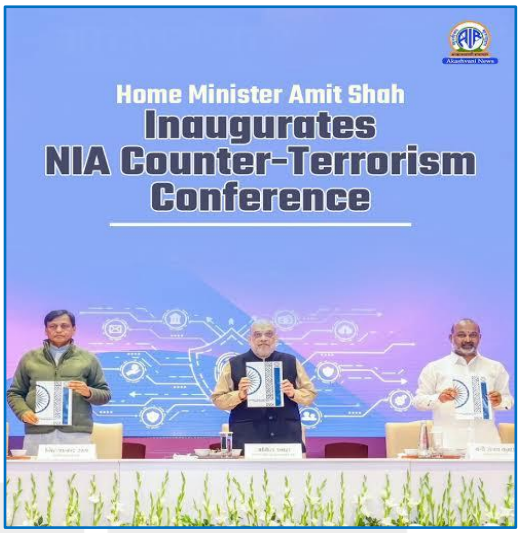
On September 29, 2026, the Unique Identification Authority of India rolled out five fresh initiatives during the Aadhaar Samvaad conference in Kolkata, which coincided with the agency's 17th Aadhaar Day celebrations.

- Union Minister of State Jitin Prasada attended the event as the Chief Guest.
- The date marks the anniversary of the very first Aadhaar number issued back on September 29, 2010.

- The five new rollouts include Face Authentication for ePDS, the SWIK Portal 2.0, the Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA (LITE) framework, a new Token Management System, and a completely revamped UIDAI website.

2. Union Minister Amit Shah Inaugurates PRAHAAR CT Policy Conference; Launches Extradition Portal

Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the '**PRAHAAR** – Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy' conference organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi this September, where he laid out a seven-pillar security framework and rolled out a new Extradition Portal to speed up the return of fugitives.



- During his trip down south, he also introduced several women empowerment and cooperative initiatives, including the Vanitham She-Mart project at the Pavithram Convention Centre in Kollam, Kerala.
- The newly launched portal acts as a bridge connecting the MHA, Ministry of External Affairs, CBI, and state law enforcement agencies on a single platform.

3. Cabinet Approves Delhi's ITMS Project Worth Rs 1,789 Crore and GEC-III Scheme

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, cleared the Delhi Police's Intelligent Traffic Management System project on September 30, 2026, with an estimated price tag of Rs 1,789.52 crore.

- The union cabinet also signed off on the Green Energy Corridor Phase-III scheme to beef up state transmission lines.
- The project aims to help the country hit its ambitious target of 900 GW of non-fossil fuel power capacity by 2035.

4. MoHUA Launched PRAGATI 50 to Develop 50 Clean Role-Model Cities Under SBM-U 2.0

Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the "PRAGATI-50" initiative in New Delhi this September, aiming to transform 50 cities across 24 states into sanitation role models under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

- The program relies on targeted, Key Performance Indicator-driven actions and tech-backed monitoring to raise cleanliness standards.
- The rollout spans 76 municipal areas, covering every urban zone across Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Raipur, and Bilaspur.

5. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav Launches NCM 2.0 Guidelines to Strengthen Coastal Resilience & Blue Economy

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launched the implementation guidelines for the National Coastal Mission 2.0 in New Delhi this September—a central sector scheme tailored to boost the conservation and long-term management of India's marine and coastal environments.

- Phase two of the mission will run through 2031 across nine coastal states (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal) and four UTs (Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, and Lakshadweep).

6. PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates 5 Development Projects Worth Rs. 3,350 Crore in Ladakh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated five major development projects worth roughly Rs. 3,350 crore in Ladakh on October 15, 2026, spanning airport upgrades, strategic roadways, green energy, water conservation, and heritage protection.



- **Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport Terminal:** Situated in Leh at an altitude of 3,256 meters, the newly expanded terminal cost around Rs. 640 crore, spans 23,800 square meters, and bumps up annual passenger handling from 10 lakh to 35 lakh.
- **Nimmu–Padum–Darcha Road:** Built by the Border Roads Organisation, this 298-km stretch links Nimmu in Leh to Darcha in Himachal Pradesh via the Zanskar Valley and Shinkun La Pass.
- **Other Projects:** These include the 9 MW Hanu Small Hydroelectric Project, the 66 kV Dah–Hanu–Khaltsi double-circuit transmission line, India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park at Sindhu Ghat, and Project Him Sarovar to restore 40 water bodies across 40 Ladakhi villages.

7. MoSJE: PM-AJAY Declared 18,093 Adarsh Grams and Released Rs.1,730 Crore to States Till FY26

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced in October 2026 that 18,093 villages have been officially designated as Adarsh Grams under the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana, bringing the total touched villages to over 47,200.

- Roughly Rs. 1,730 crore has been disbursed straight to states through the Grants-in-Aid window between FY22 and FY26 to fund socio-economic ventures, skills training, and livelihoods for over 2.5 lakh people.
- In total, 46,944 development works have reached completion alongside 27,032 finalized Village Development Plans.
- On the housing front, 785 student hostels were completed by September 2026, with an additional Rs. 61.46 crore earmarked for two new hostels housing 264 students for FY 2026–27.

8. VP C. P. Radhakrishnan Inaugurates KAUMARACON-2026 and Launches Five Digital Initiatives of AIIA

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan kicked off KAUMARACON-2026—the third International Conference on Kaumarabhritya focusing on Ayurvedic paediatrics—at the All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi, which also marked the institution's 10th Foundation Day.



- The event was designed to boost research, innovation, and global teamwork in Ayurvedic child health.
- The conference ran under the theme "Shaping the Future of Child Health: Global Perspectives,

Research Innovations, and Clinical Frontiers in Kaumarabhritya."

9. MoAFW Launches 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan – Rabi 2026' Campaign to Continue Till 30 November



Launched by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in October 2026, the nationwide **'Khet Bachao Abhiyan – Rabi 2026'** runs until November 30.

Key points

- **Objective:** Promotes soil health preservation, balanced fertilizer use (addressing NPK imbalances), crop diversification, and climate-resilient farming.
- **Target & Outreach:** Targets ~1 crore farmers utilizing 4,150 teams, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and ATMA functionaries across gram panchayats

10. Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches Enhanced NMMS 2.0 Mobile App for VB-G RAM G

Union Minister of Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the upgraded **National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) 2.0 Mobile App** in October 2026 for recording worker attendance under the **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar & Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G)**.



- **Technical Partner:** Developed with technical support from **IIT Madras**.
- **Advanced Features:** Features robust device-level security, **AI-based verification**, anti-tampering measures, and **offline attendance** recording capabilities with synchronized upload upon muster roll closure.

11. DAC Approves Defence Procurement Proposals Worth Rs 2.12 Lakh Crore For Indian Armed Forces

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Union Minister Rajnath Singh, approved capital acquisition proposals worth approximately Rs 2.12 lakh crore for the Indian Armed Forces, with around 82% sourced from domestic industries.

Key points

- Indian Army: Approved acquisitions include High Mobility Vehicles, Self-Propelled Tracked Gun Systems, Gun Shot Response Systems, surveillance UAVs, and Long Range Kamikaze Drone Systems to enhance mobility and situational awareness.
- Indian Navy: Cleared Active Offboard Decoy Systems (AODS) to counter anti-ship missiles, alongside indigenous naval platforms designed to boost combat readiness.
- Indian Air Force: Approved new helicopters, air defense systems, weaponry, and Mobile X-Band Doppler Weather Radar Systems to reinforce air defense and local weather surveillance in forward areas.

12. DoSJE Reports PM-DAKSH trained 1.87 lakh candidates, 96,162 Placed



- Under the Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) reported training 1.87 lakh candidates, with 96,162 securing job placements.

Key points

- **Launch & Type**: Introduced in FY 2020–21 as a Central Sector Scheme (CSS).
- **Objective**: Provides skill training to SCs, OBCs, EWS, De-notified Tribes (DNTs), and Safai Karamcharis (including waste pickers).
- **Eligibility**: Open to Indian citizens aged 18 to 45 years.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which organisation launched five new initiatives during the 17th Aadhaar Day celebrations in Kolkata in September 2026?

(a) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

(b) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

(c) National Informatics Centre (NIC)

(d) Election Commission of India (ECI)

Answer: (b) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

2. The newly launched Extradition Portal was introduced to connect which of the following agencies?

(a) MHA, MEA, CBI and state law enforcement agencies

(b) RBI, SEBI, NABARD and state banks

(c) UIDAI, NPCI, NITI Aayog and state universities

(d) MoEFCC, CPCB, NGT and state pollution boards

Answer: (a) MHA, MEA, CBI and state law enforcement agencies

3. PRAGATI-50 was launched under which government mission to develop 50 clean role-model cities?

(a) Smart Cities Mission

(b) AMRUT 2.0

(c) Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0

(d) National Clean Air Programme

Answer: (c) Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0

4. The Green Energy Corridor Phase-III scheme primarily aims to strengthen which infrastructure?

(a) National highways

(b) State electricity transmission networks

(c) Inland waterways

(d) Urban metro rail networks

Answer: (b) State electricity transmission networks

5. The National Coastal Mission 2.0 aims to strengthen which of the following?

(a) Inland fisheries and river navigation

(b) Desert ecosystem restoration

(c) Marine and coastal environment conservation

(d) Himalayan glacier tourism

Answer: (c) Marine and coastal environment conservation

6. Which organisation provided technical support for developing the upgraded NMMS 2.0 Mobile App for VB-G RAM G?

(a) IIT Bombay (b) IIT Delhi

(c) IIT Madras (d) IIT Kanpur

Answer: (c) IIT Madras

7. The Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) primarily focuses on the socio-economic development of which community?

(a) Scheduled Castes (b) Scheduled Tribes

(c) Small and marginal farmers (d) Urban street vendors

Answer: (a) Scheduled Castes

8. Which campaign was launched to promote soil health, balanced fertiliser use and climate-resilient farming during the Rabi 2026 season?

(a) PM-KISAN Abhiyan (b) Khet Bachao Abhiyan – Rabi 2026

(c) Soil Health Mission 2.0 (d) Krishi Sinchai Abhiyan

Answer: (b) Khet Bachao Abhiyan – Rabi 2026

9. The PM-DAKSH Yojana provides skill training primarily to which of the following groups?

(a) Only government employees

(b) Only school-going children

(c) SCs, OBCs, EWS, DNTs and Safai Karamcharis

(d) Only serving members of the Armed Forces

Answer: (c) SCs, OBCs, EWS, DNTs and Safai Karamcharis

10. The Defence Acquisition Council approved capital acquisition proposals worth approximately how much in the given content?

(a) ₹1.25 lakh crore (b) ₹1.50 lakh crore

(c) ₹2.12 lakh crore (d) ₹3.35 lakh crore

Answer: (c) ₹2.12 lakh crore

1.4. Sports

1. Indian Women's Cricket Team Top-Order Batter Punam Raut Announces Retirement from International Cricket



Veteran Indian batswoman Punam Raut called time on her international career this October, bringing down the curtain on a journey that stretched from 2009 to 2021 across four Tests, 73 ODIs, and 35 T20Is.

- She turned out for India across three ODI World Cups (2009,

2013, and 2017) and four T20 World Cups, famously scoring 86 runs in the gripping 2017 ODI World Cup final against England where India narrowly missed out by nine runs.

2. Red Bull's Max Verstappen Wins F1 Singapore Grand Prix 2026

Dutch-Belgian racing driver Max Verstappen, driving for Oracle Red Bull Racing, secured victory at the 2026 Singapore Grand Prix held at the Marina Bay Street Circuit on October 11, picking up his very first win at this venue.

- This marked the 17th running of the Singapore GP, served as round 17 of the 2026 F1 season, and gave Red Bull their second win of the year.

3. Prasar Bharati and In-Dot Sports Launch Kisan Cricket League to Promote Rural Cricket



Prasar Bharati and In-Dot Sports teamed up in New Delhi this October to launch the Kisan Cricket League, a talent hunt designed to scout cricket and singing talent from rural and semi-urban pockets using digital auditions, AI screening, and field trials.

- Set to roll out its debut season in February 2027, the league aims to give players national exposure backed by free nationwide broadcasting.
- The format will feature 140 cricketers and 30 singers spread across seven teams, playing 45 matches across tier-2 and tier-3 city stadiums.

4. Putul Sonowal Secures India's First-Ever Medal at World Bowls Champion of Champions 2026



- Indian lawn bowls player Putul Sonowal from Assam etched his name in history books this October by grabbing a bronze medal in the Men's Singles category at the World Bowls Champion of Champions event held in Barham, Australia.
- Sonowal put up a fierce fight before bowing out (5–8, 4–8) to Scottish veteran Iain McLean in the semifinals.

5. Asian Games 2026: China Tops Medal Tally; India Finishes 4th with 85 Medals

MEDAL STANDINGS
ASIAN GAMES 2026

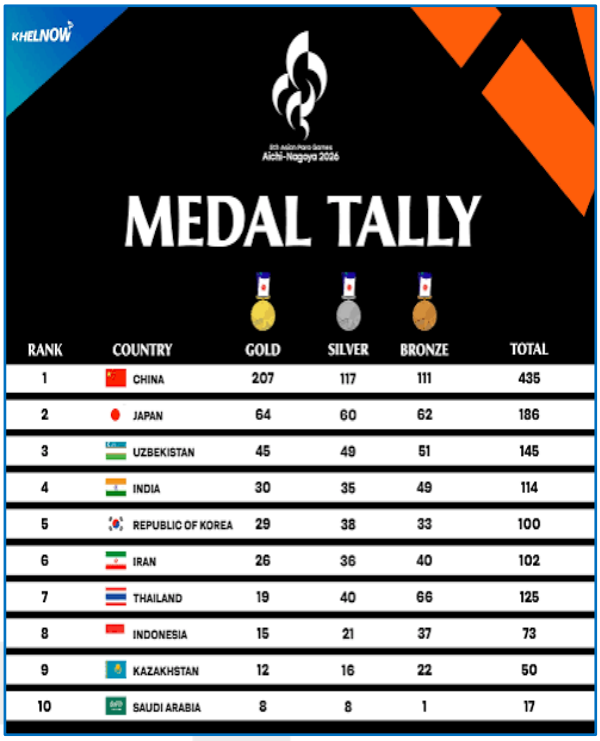
					TOTAL
1	PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	167	89	82	228
2	JAPAN	82	90	90	262
3	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	37	43	67	147
4	INDIA	21	27	37	85
5	UZBEKISTAN	21	25	24	70
6	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	18	18	15	51
7	THAILAND	18	13	21	52
8	KAZAKHSTAN	12	24	46	82
9	HONG KONG, CHINA	11	19	24	54

The **20th Asian Games wrapped up at the Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium in Japan**, running from September 19 to October 4, 2026, across Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya.

- India put up a strong show to finish fourth overall with 85 medals in total, split into 21 gold, 27 silver, and 37 bronze.
- China led the pack with 341 medals (169 gold, 89 silver, 83 bronze), followed closely by hosts Japan with 269 medals, while South Korea took third place with 150 medals.

6. Asian Para Games 2026: China Tops Medal Tally; India Finishes 4th with 114 Medals

India secured a historic **4th place finish** with **114 medals** (30 gold, 35 silver, 49 bronze) at the **5th Asian Para Games 2026** (Aichi–Nagoya 2026), held in Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya, Japan, from October 18 to 24, 2026.



RANK	COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	CHINA	207	117	111	435
2	JAPAN	64	60	62	186
3	UZBEKISTAN	45	49	51	145
4	INDIA	30	35	49	114
5	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	29	38	33	100
6	IRAN	26	36	40	102
7	THAILAND	19	40	66	125
8	INDONESIA	15	21	37	73
9	KAZAKHSTAN	12	16	22	50
10	SAUDI ARABIA	8	8	1	17

Key points

- **Medal Standings: China** topped the tally with 435 medals (207 gold), followed by Japan (2nd) and Uzbekistan (3rd).
- **India's Best-Ever Performance:** Surpassed the previous record of 108 medals (6th place) achieved at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Para Games.
- **Contingent & Games Details:** 168 Indian athletes competed across 11 disciplines. The games featured the mascot **Uzumin** and the motto *"Imagine One Heart."* The flag was officially handed over to **Doha, Qatar**, host of the 2030 Asian Para Games.

7. Indian-Origin Chess Prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan Becomes Youngest Female International Master at 11

British chess prodigy of Indian origin **Bodhana Sivanandan** became the **youngest female International Master (IM)** in chess history in October 2026 at 11 years, 7 months, and 16 days old, achieving the feat at the European Club Cup in Budva, Montenegro.



Key points

- **Record Broken:** Shattered the long-standing record set by legendary Hungarian chess player **Judit Polgar** in 1988 at the age of 12.
- **Global Milestone:** Became the **seventh-youngest player overall** in history to achieve the IM title, irrespective of gender.
- **Path to the Title:** Secured her final norm playing on the top board for *She Plays To Win Lionesses A*, crossing the live rating threshold of **2,400** and cementing her status as a generational chess talent

8. Ahmedabad to Host Senior World Weightlifting Championships for First Time in India in 2029

Ahmedabad, Gujarat, has been selected by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) to host the **2029 Senior World Weightlifting Championships**, marking the **first time India will host this prestigious senior global event**.



Key points

- **Historic Milestone:** Announced following the IWF Executive Board meeting in Ningbo, China. This adds to India's major sports hosting calendar, which includes Gandhinagar hosting the 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships and Ahmedabad hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games.
- **Global Schedule Context:** The IWF also awarded the 2027 Senior Championships to Yerevan (Armenia) and the 2030 edition to Moscow (Russia).
- **Championship Background:** Organised annually by the IWF, the World Weightlifting Championships date back to 1891 (with women's events introduced in 1987 and a joint format established in 1991).

9. 70th Ballon d'Or: Harry Kane Won in Men's Category, Alexia Putellas Won in Women's Category



The 70th edition of the Ballon d'Or (2026) ceremony took place at London's Palladium Theatre, co-organized by UEFA and Groupe Amaury (France Football).

Key Highlights & Winners:

- Men's Ballon d'Or: Harry Kane (Bayern Munich / England) won his first Ballon d'Or. He became the 5th Englishman to receive the honor and the first in 25 years since Michael Owen (2001).
- Gerd Müller Trophy: Harry Kane also claimed the Men's Striker of the Year award after scoring 73 goals across all competitions for club and country.
- Women's Ballon d'Or: Alexia Putellas (Spain) clinched her 3rd career Women's Ballon d'Or, following her previous victories in 2021 and 2022.
- Kopa Trophy: Lamine Yamal (FC Barcelona / Spain) won the Kopa Trophy for the 3rd consecutive year, recognizing him as the world's best U-21 player.

10. Yonex French Open Badminton 2026: Christo Popov & An Se-young Win Singles Titles; India's P. V. Sindhu Finishes as Runner-up

At the Yonex French Open 2026 in Tremblay-en-France, India's P.V. Sindhu finished as the women's singles runner-up. Organized by the FFBaD under BWF sanctions, the 93rd edition featured a total prize pool of USD 950,000.

- Men's Singles Winner: France's Christo Popov defeated Indonesia's Moh. Zaki Ubaidillah (21–11, 14–21, 21–13).
- Women's Singles Winner: South Korea's An Se-young overcame India's P.V. Sindhu (16–21, 21–11, 21–12).
- Key Highlight: The 2026 tournament marked its historic shift to the newly constructed Arena Grand Paris.



11. Nihal Sarin and Koneru Humpy Win Individual Gold at European Chess Club Cup 2026

- Indian Grandmasters Nihal Sarin and Koneru Humpy secured individual gold medals at the 41st European Chess Club Cup and 30th European Women's Chess Club Cup in Budva, Montenegro. Organized by the European Chess Union (ECU), the event saw a record 130 competing teams.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which Indian women's cricketer announced her retirement from international cricket in October 2026?

(a) Mithali Raj
(b) Punam Raut
(c) Jhulan Goswami
(d) Harmanpreet Kaur

Answer: (b) Punam Raut

2. Who won the 2026 Singapore Grand Prix in Formula One?

(a) Lewis Hamilton
(b) Charles Leclerc
(c) Max Verstappen
(d) Lando Norris

Answer: (c) Max Verstappen

3. Prasar Bharati and In-Dot Sports jointly launched which initiative to promote rural cricket?

(a) Kisan Cricket League
(b) Rural Premier League
(c) Bharat Cricket League
(d) Gramin Sports League

Answer: (a) Kisan Cricket League

4. Who won India's first-ever medal at the World Bowls Champion of Champions 2026?

(a) Iain McLean
(b) Putul Sonowal
(c) Nihal Sarin
(d) P. V. Sindhu

Answer: (b) Putul Sonowal

5. How many medals did India win at the 2026 Asian Games, finishing fourth in the medal tally?

(a) 75
(b) 80
(c) 85
(d) 95

Answer: (c) 85

6. How many medals did India win at the 2026 Asian Para Games, according to the provided information?

(a) 108
(b) 110
(c) 114
(d) 120

Answer: (c) 114

7. Who became the youngest female International Master in chess history in October 2026, at the age of 11?

(a) Judit Polgar
(b) Bodhana Sivanandan
(c) Koneru Humpy
(d) Divya Deshmukh

Answer: (b) Bodhana Sivanandan

8. Which Indian city was selected to host the 2029 Senior World Weightlifting Championships?

(a) New Delhi
(b) Mumbai
(c) Gandhinagar
(d) Ahmedabad

Answer: (d) Ahmedabad

9. Who won the Men's Ballon d'Or in 2026, according to the provided information?

(a) Lionel Messi
(b) Harry Kane
(c) Kylian Mbappé
(d) Erling Haaland

Answer: (b) Harry Kane

10. Who won the women's singles title at the Yonex French Open Badminton 2026?

(a) P. V. Sindhu
(b) Carolina Marín
(c) An Se-young
(d) Akane Yamaguchi

Answer: (c) An Se-young

11. Which Indian Grandmasters won individual gold medals at the 2026 European Chess Club Cup events?

(a) Viswanathan Anand and D. Gukesh
(b) Nihal Sarin and Koneru Humpy
(c) R. Praggnanandhaa and Harika Dronavalli
(d) Arjun Erigaisi and Divya Deshmukh

Answer: (b) Nihal Sarin and Koneru Humpy

1.5. Science and Technology, Defence

1. FWDA Partners with Portugal's Keydef to Manufacture AI-Based UAVs

- Indian deep-tech defense startup Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace teamed up with Keydef—the defense division of Portugal's Sketchpixel LDA—under an initial EUR 6 million investment to build Kaal Bhairava autonomous UAVs and YAMA swarm interceptor drones in Portugal for international markets.
- The pact was inked at Keydef's headquarters in Braga in the presence of India's Ambassador to Portugal, Puneet Roy Kundal, and Angola's Consul-General in Porto, Dulce Gomes.

2. SpaceX Launches 130 Payloads, Including Google AI Chips into LEO

- SpaceX successfully lifted off 130 payloads aboard a Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California this September, part of its Transporter-18 rideshare mission.
- The hardware was successfully dropped into designated Low Earth Orbit slots.
- Among the payload cargo, Google's Project Suncatcher deployed its MVP hardware, marking the first in-orbit test under a broader space research initiative aimed at constructing orbital data centers.

3. DRDO's Kaveri Dry Engine Completes High-Altitude & Flight Trials in Russia for Ghatak UCAV



- The Kaveri Derivative Engine, engineered by Bengaluru's Gas Turbine Research Establishment under the DRDO, wrapped up high-altitude testing and flight evaluations in Russia for the indigenous Ghatak Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle.
- The trials were run at the Central Institute of Aviation Motors and the Gromov Flight Research Institute.

4. QNu Labs & BISAG-N Demonstrate India's First 5.56 km Free-Space Quantum Key Distribution Link

- QNu Labs, working alongside the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics and IIT Gandhinagar, pulled off a successful field trial of India's first free-space Quantum Key Distribution link over a distance of 5.56 kilometers, marking a major leap for secure quantum networks.

- The communication link was successfully established between the BISAG-N and IIT Gandhinagar campuses on September 27–28, 2026.

5. Union Minister Rajnath Singh Launches Fleet Support Ship-1 'Surya' in Visakhapatnam



- Union Minister Rajnath Singh launched Fleet Support Ship-1 'Surya'—the first of five planned support vessels—at Hindustan Shipyard Limited in Visakhapatnam on October 6, 2026. The ship is built to keep Indian Navy warships supplied with fuel, water, and ammunition while out at sea.
- During the same visit, he laid the keel for the fifth support vessel, FSS-5, and opened a newly modernized Slipway-4 alongside a 300-tonne Goliath Crane at the yard.

6. DRDO Conducts Flight Trial of HAPS for Stratospheric Surveillance

- The DRDO's Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment in Agra successfully tested an indigenously developed High-Altitude Platform system as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat push for long-endurance stratospheric surveillance.
- The craft climbed to 21 kilometers above mean sea level, held steady at 20 kilometers for over 30 minutes, and landed safely for data analysis.
- In a separate milestone, DRDO carried out its first live jump trial of the home-grown Advanced High-Altitude Parachute at Nyoma in Ladakh to check its tactical deployment readiness in harsh mountainous terrain.

7. Scientists Discover New Lizard Species "Liolaemus arequipensis" in Peru

- Researchers from the Natural History Museum of San Marcos University in Peru discovered a new cryptic lizard species, dubbed *Liolaemus arequipensis*, living at an altitude of 4,818 meters in the southern Arequipa region.
- The newly found reptile falls under the *Liolaemus* genus, a varied family commonly spotted across the high Andes.

8. Kochi-based EyeROV Delivers India's First Military-Grade ROV to IN



- **Kochi-based marine robotics startup EyeROV handed over two EyeROV TROUT military-grade underwater remotely operated vehicles** to the Indian Navy on October 7, 2026, marking the first time a home-built military ROV has been inducted into service.
- This delivery forms part of an ongoing order for five TROUT systems.
- Designed and built entirely in India, the TROUT is tailored specifically for specialized naval underwater operations.

9. GRSE Launches 3rd Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel 'INS Shreyas' in Kolkata



- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers launched 'INS Shreyas' (Yard 3040)—the third of four Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels being built for the Indian Navy—at their Kolkata yards under the Make in India initiative.
- The vessel was launched by Reyman Kochhar alongside Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff.
- The broader Ministry of Defence contract is worth Rs 9,781 crore, split between Goa Shipyard and GRSE to deliver 11 vessels in total.

10. Indian Navy Commissions 'INS Mangrol', 3rd Mahe-Class ASW-SWC in Mumbai

The Indian Navy commissioned INS Mangrol (P82)—the third of eight Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft built by Cochin Shipyard—at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

- Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command, presided over the commissioning ceremony.

11. Indian Coast Guard Inducts Indigenous ALH MK-III Helicopter in Maharashtra

The Indian Coast Guard inducted an indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter MK-III (designated CG 875), built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, into Coast Guard Region (West) at Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

- The chopper received a traditional water cannon salute to mark its entry into coastal patrol fleets.
- It comes armed with a cabin-mounted 12.7 mm heavy machine gun for tactical target suppression.

12. DRDO Tests Quantum Key Distribution Platform on Live Military Network at Chandipur

On October 14, 2026, the DRDO successfully configured and tested its Quantum Key Distribution system over the live network of the Proof & Experimental Establishment in Chandipur, Odisha.

- The tech is built to safeguard real-time telemetry and tracking data generated during artillery and armor trials.
- Earlier milestones include field trials of a scalable fiber-based QKD system in July 2026, building on a 100-kilometer optical fiber demonstration between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal in February 2022 alongside IIT Delhi.

13. SDAL Delivers 450 Nagastra 2 Loitering Munitions to Indian Army



- Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited—a subsidiary of Solar Industries India—handed over 450 Nagastra-1R loitering munitions to the Indian Army, providing a major boost to indigenous precision-strike capabilities.
- The Nagastra-1R is a home-grown loitering munition designed for frontline surveillance and pinpoint strikes against hostile targets.

14. VP C. P. Radhakrishnan Commissions India's First Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel 'INS Samarthak' at Karwar



Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan commissioned the Indian Navy's first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel, INS Samarthak, at the INS Kadamba Naval Base in Karwar, Karnataka.

- The ceremony was attended by Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan and Karnataka Labour Minister Santosh Lad.
- Built by Larsen & Toubro at their Kattupalli shipyard in Tamil Nadu, the vessel features over 75% indigenous components under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat framework.

15. ISRO Validates Gaganyaan Module Separation Tests Ahead of First Uncrewed Mission G1

The Indian Space Research Organisation completed a round of Crew Module and Service Module separation tests at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram.

- The trials successfully verified the design integrity of the separation mechanics ahead of the upcoming Gaganyaan-1 uncrewed flight carrying the Vyommitra half-humanoid.

16. Skyroot Aerospace and Reflect Orbital Sign Two-Launch Contract to Deliver On-Demand Sunlight at Night

Skyroot Aerospace signed an agreement with US-based space tech startup Reflect Orbital for two dedicated rocket launches using the Vikram rocket family to help deploy a system that provides on-demand sunlight after dark.

- The technology aims to project a controlled beam of light across a 5-kilometer area with the ability to toggle the reflection on or off.

17. Japan Launches 'MMX Mission' to Collect Samples from Mars Moon Phobos



The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency launched its Martian Moons eXploration spacecraft aboard an H3 rocket from the Tanegashima Space Center to gather samples from Phobos.

- If successful, it will mark the world's first successful sample-return mission from a Martian moon back to Earth.
- The spacecraft is projected to arrive near Mars by August 2027, with sample return expected around 2031.

18. DRDO Develops Portable ELINT System to Detect Enemy Radars and Counter Drone Threats

The DRDO's Defence Electronics Research Laboratory in Hyderabad started developing man-portable Electronic Intelligence modules designed to intercept, track, and analyze radar signals and electronic emissions from hostile systems.

- The system uses multi-band antennas alongside digital signal processing and machine learning to separate crowded signals and pinpoint radar signatures by analyzing frequency and pulse traits.

19. DRDO's ARDE Shortlists SSS Defence & Kalyani Group to Develop India's First Indigenous Aviation Gun System

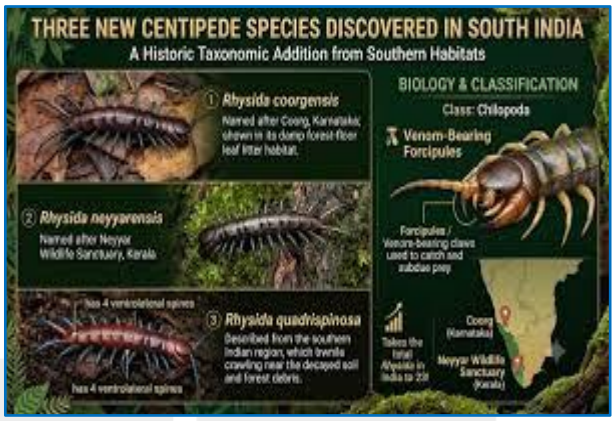
The Armament Research and Development Establishment shortlisted homegrown small arms maker SSS Defence and defense major Kalyani Group as Development-cum-Production Partners.

- The collaboration aims to design and build India's first indigenous 20 mm aviation gun and turret setup.

20. NASA's Perseverance Rover Sets World Record by Driving 45.22 km on Mars

- NASA announced that its Perseverance rover set a brand-new planetary driving record by covering 28.06 miles (45.22 kilometers) across the Martian surface, edging past the previous milestone held by the Opportunity rover (45.16 kilometers) using advanced autonomous driving software.

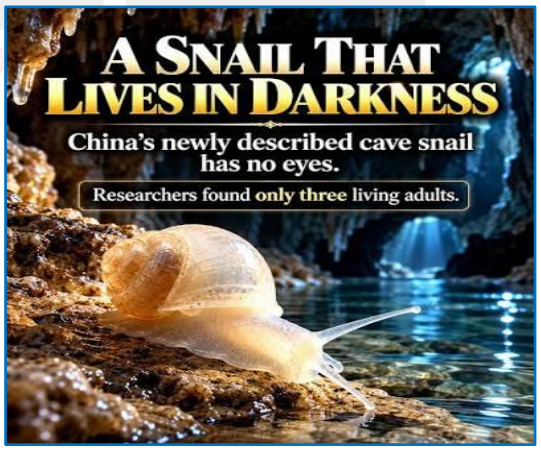
21. Three New Centipede Species Discovered in Western Ghats



- Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India's Western Ghats Regional Centre and Malabar Christian College discovered three new centipede species across Kerala and Karnataka, named *Rhysida quadrispinosa*, *Rhysida coorgensis*, and *Rhysida neyyarensis*.
- Published in the International Journal of Tropical Insect Science, the discovery pushes the total count of recognized *Rhysida* species in India to 23.

22. **Ghostly Eyeless Freshwater Snail Discovered in China's Yunnan Province**

Scientists in October 2026 discovered **Erhaia dijiang**, a rare freshwater cave snail, deep inside a high-altitude mountain cave in Yuxi City, **Yunnan Province, China**, at 2,062 metres above sea level. The findings were published in the journal *Subterranean Biology*.



- **Physical Adaptations:** As a troglobite adapted to permanent darkness, it features a nearly transparent, cone-shaped shell, long slender tentacles, and a complete **loss of eyes and body pigmentation**.
- **Taxonomy & Naming:** Belongs to the family *Erhaiidae*. It was named after *Di Jiang*, a faceless mythical creature from the ancient Chinese text *Classic of Mountains and Seas (Shan Hai Jing)*.
- **Conservation Concern:** Raises severe ecological alarm bells as only **three living adults** were found inhabiting shallow cave waters under one metre deep.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace partnered with which Portuguese company to manufacture AI-based UAVs?

(a) Airbus Defence
(b) Keydef
(c) Thales Group
(d) Leonardo S.p.A.

Answer: (b) Keydef

2. Which rocket carried 130 payloads, including Google's Project Suncatcher hardware, into Low Earth Orbit during the Transporter-18 mission?

(a) Falcon 9 (b) Ariane 6
(c) H3 (d) Vikram

Answer: (a) Falcon 9

3. **The Kaveri Derivative Engine, tested for the indigenous Ghatak UCAV, was developed by which organisation?**

(a) ISRO (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
(c) Gas Turbine Research Establishment (d) Bharat Electronics Limited

Answer: (c) Gas Turbine Research Establishment

4. **India's first free-space Quantum Key Distribution link was demonstrated over what distance by QNu Labs and its partners?**

(a) 2.5 km (b) 5.56 km
(c) 10 km (d) 100 km

Answer: (b) 5.56 km

5. **What is the primary role of Fleet Support Ship-1 'Surya', launched at Hindustan Shipyard Limited?**

(a) Conducting underwater surveillance
(b) Transporting combat aircraft
(c) Supplying fuel, water and ammunition to Indian Navy warships at sea
(d) Detecting enemy radar signals

Answer: (c) Supplying fuel, water and ammunition to Indian Navy warships at sea

6. **DRDO's High-Altitude Platform System was tested for stratospheric surveillance at an altitude of approximately how many kilometres above mean sea level?**

a) 10 km (b) 15 km
(c) 21 km (d) 35 km

Answer: (c) 21 km

7. **The newly discovered lizard species *Liolaemus arequipensis* was found in which country?**

(a) India (b) Peru
(c) China (d) Australia

Answer: (b) Peru

8. **Which Kochi-based startup delivered India's first military-grade remotely operated underwater vehicles to the Indian Navy?**

(a) EyeROV (b) Skyroot Aerospace
(c) Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (d) Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace

Answer: (a) EyeROV

9. **INS Shreyas, launched by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, belongs to which category of vessels?**

(a) Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft
(b) Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel
(c) Fleet Support Ship
(d) Multi-Purpose Vessel

Answer: (b) Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel

10. INS Mangrol is the third vessel of which class of Indian Navy warships?

(a) Vikrant-class
(b) Mahe-class
(c) Kolkata-class
(d) Shivalik-class

Answer: (b) Mahe-class

11. The indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter MK-III inducted by the Indian Coast Guard was manufactured by which company?

(a) Bharat Dynamics Limited
(b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
(c) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers
(d) Larsen & Toubro

Answer: (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

12. The DRDO tested its Quantum Key Distribution system on a live military network at which location?

(a) Chandipur, Odisha
(b) Karwar, Karnataka
(c) Vandenberg, California
(d) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Answer: (a) Chandipur, Odisha

13. ISRO conducted Crew Module and Service Module separation tests for which Indian human spaceflight programme?

(a) Chandrayaan
(b) Aditya-L1
(c) Gaganyaan
(d) Mangalyaan

Answer: (c) Gaganyaan

14. Japan's Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission aims to collect samples from which celestial body?

(a) Mars
(b) Phobos
(c) Deimos
(d) Europa

Answer: (b) Phobos

1.6. Books and Authors

1. Former Prasar Bharati Chairman Surya Prakash Releases Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey's Book "The Evolution of TV News in India"

- Former Prasar Bharati Chairman Surya Prakash unveiled veteran broadcaster Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey's book, *The Evolution of TV News in India: From Doordarshan to Digital Disruption – An Insider's Account*, during an event at the India International Centre in New Delhi.
- The book was published by Om Books International.

2. Sunil Gavaskar Releases 'Rag Rag Mein Cricket' Book on Sanjay Jagdale's Cricket Journey

- Former Indian cricket captain Sunil Gavaskar launched a new book titled *Sanjay Jagdale: Rag-Rag Mein Cricket*, penned by Kiran Waikar and Sunil Dudhale, during a ceremony in Indore.
- The book traces the life and sports career of former cricketer, selector, and administrator Sanjay Jagdale.



3. Former Governor Arif Mohammed Khan Unveils English Translation of Book 'The Story of Vande Mataram' in New Delhi

- In October 2026, former Governor Dr. Arif Mohammed Khan launched the English translation of "The Story of Vande Mataram" at New Delhi's Constitutional Club. Originally authored in Malayalam by RSS leader Ranga Hari and translated by Dr. Mercy Jill, the book explores the historical roots of India's national song—composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875 and featured in Anandamath (1882). It highlights its vital role during the 1905 Swadeshi Movement and its 1950 adoption.

4. VP C. P. Radhakrishnan Releases Book 'Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World'

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book titled **'Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World'** at Uprashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. The book is authored by Anil K. Antony, National Secretary of the BJP, and published by Rupa Publications.

Key points

- **Theme**: Focuses on India's socio-economic transformation, technological advancements, and growing international prominence.
- **Structure**: Divided into two core sections examining emerging opportunities and India's global vision.
- **Part One**: Covers topics such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), silicon sovereignty, adaptive defence, space initiatives, Digital India, women empowerment, and youth development.
- **Part Two**: Highlights India's strategic outlook on international affairs and outlines its long-term roadmap towards Viksit Bharat @2047 amidst rapid advancements in space and AI technology.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Who authored the book *The Evolution of TV News in India: From Doordarshan to Digital Disruption – An Insider's Account*?

(a) Kiran Waikar
(b) Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey
(c) Sunil Gavaskar
(d) Ranga Hari

Answer: (b) Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey

2. Who unveiled *The Evolution of TV News in India* at the India International Centre in New Delhi?

(a) C. P. Radhakrishnan
(b) Arif Mohammed Khan
(c) Surya Prakash
(d) Anil K. Antony

Answer: (c) Surya Prakash

3. Which publishing house published *The Evolution of TV News in India*?

(a) Rupa Publications
(b) Om Books International
(c) Penguin Random House India
(d) HarperCollins India

Answer: (b) Om Books International

4. Who launched the book *Sanjay Jagdale: Rag-Rag Mein Cricket* in Indore?

(a) Kapil Dev
(b) Rahul Dravid
(c) Sunil Gavaskar
(d) Sachin Tendulkar

Answer: (c) Sunil Gavaskar

5. Who are the authors of *Sanjay Jagdale: Rag-Rag Mein Cricket*?

(a) Sunil Gavaskar and Sanjay Jagdale
(b) Kiran Waikar and Sunil Dudhale
(c) Ranga Hari and Dr. Mercy Jill
(d) Anil K. Antony and Surya Prakash

Answer: (b) Kiran Waikar and Sunil Dudhale

6. Who originally authored the Malayalam book *The Story of Vande Mataram*?

(a) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
(b) Ranga Hari
(c) Dr. Mercy Jill
(d) Arif Mohammed Khan

Answer: (b) Ranga Hari

7. Who translated *The Story of Vande Mataram* into English?

(a) Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey
(b) Dr. Mercy Jill
(c) Kiran Waikar
(d) Sunil Dudhale

Answer: (b) Dr. Mercy Jill

8. Who released the book *Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World*?

(a) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
(b) Former Governor Arif Mohammed Khan
(c) Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan
(d) Former Prasar Bharati Chairman Surya Prakash

Answer: (c) Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan

9. Who authored *Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World*?

(a) Anil K. Antony
(b) Ranga Hari
(c) Sanjay Jagdale
(d) Surya Prakash

Answer: (a) Anil K. Antony

1.7. Miscellaneous

1. Jharkhand's 'Mandar' Gets Geographical Indication Tag



- The traditional folk drum "Mandar" from Jharkhand bagged a Geographical Indication tag from the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai this September, cementing its unique regional and cultural heritage.
- The GI application (No. 777) was originally submitted on September 24, 2021, by the Raidih Mandar Producer Company Limited based in Gumla, Jharkhand.
- The tag was awarded due to the drum's unique construction style, traditional manufacturing methods, acoustic properties, and deep cultural ties to the state, following a final hearing in Delhi back in January 2025.



2. Indian Social Worker Padma Shri Awardee 'Reema Nanavaty' Receives Hillary Rodham Clinton Award

- In October 2026, Padma Shri recipient Reema Nanavaty, who heads the Self-Employed Women's Association in India, was honored with the Hillary Rodham Clinton Award at the

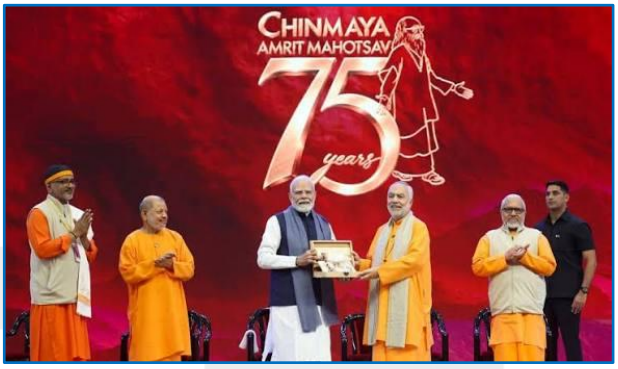
Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security in Washington, D.C. She was recognized for her tireless work toward women's economic empowerment, local livelihoods, peace, and security.

- She was earlier awarded the Padma Shri in 2013 for her extensive contributions to social service.
- Other notable 2026 awardees included fashion designer and foundation founder Tory Burch, alongside Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank and former head of Bangladesh's interim government.

3. PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan in New Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan** held from October 23 to 25, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

Key points:



- **Occasion:** Marked the culmination of year-long celebrations commemorating **75 years of the Chinmaya Mission**, a global spiritual movement founded by Swami Chinmayananda to spread the teachings of Vedanta and the Bhagavad Gita.
- **Technological Innovation:** PM Modi interacted with **Holobot**, an AI-powered projection of Swami Chinmayananda during the inaugural event.
- **Core Message:** Urged society to unite against divisive forces, promote self-reliance (*Atmanirbhar Bharat*), and work towards building a developed India (*Viksit Bharat*) by 2047.

4. India-Supported SAMHiTA Project to Digitise 100 Ancient Manuscripts at Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo



To strengthen cultural ties, India and Sri Lanka launched the SAMHiTA Palm-Leaf Manuscript Digitisation Project at the Gangaramaya Temple in Colombo. Funded by a Government of India grant and executed by the India International Centre (IIC), the initiative aims to digitize 100 ancient manuscripts preserving shared Buddhist and intellectual heritage.

- **Key points**
- Core Aim: Safeguarding historical, religious, and philosophical texts of South Asia for future generations.
- Historic Partnership: Colombo's Gangaramaya Temple became Sri Lanka's first institution to join under a July 2026 MoU.
- Manuscript Scope: Focuses on religious traditions, philosophy, languages, and cultural practices.
- Executing Agency: The New Delhi-headquartered India International Centre (IIC), led by Director K. N. Shrivastava.

5. 153rd Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly Held in Tanzania; Australia's Milton Dick Elected 32nd IPU President

- The 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) took place at the Arusha International Conference Centre in Tanzania, hosted by National Assembly Speaker Mussa Azzan Zungu.
- Key points
- Central Theme: "Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all".
- Indian Delegation: Led by Harivansh Narayan Singh, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- New IPU President: Milton Dick, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Australia, was elected as the 32nd IPU President for a three-year term.
- Major Outcomes: The assembly concluded with the adoption of the Arusha Communique alongside resolutions on disability rights, climate change, AI, and UN governance.
- Upcoming Event: The 154th IPU Assembly is scheduled from May 10 to 14, 2027, in Geneva, Switzerland.

6. LG Saxena Declared Ladakh as India's first fully organic UT

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena declared Ladakh as India's first 100% organic Union Territory (UT). This milestone highlights the region's dedication to sustainable, chemical-free agriculture and safeguarding the fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

Key points



- **Policy & Ban**: In July 2026, the UT administration enforced a complete ban on the sale, distribution, and use of chemical and synthetic fertilizers. Organic fertilizers were distributed prior to the March 2026 farming season to facilitate a smooth shift.
- **Key Crops**: The transition aims to boost economic prospects for regional organic yields, including apricots, sea buckthorn, barley, buckwheat, and local vegetables.
- **Significance**: Focuses on organic certification, improved post-harvest management, and market linkages to provide farmers with better price realization and connect them with consumers seeking traceable, organic produce.

7. Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Pralhad Joshi Inaugurates 7th Agrivoltaics World Conference in New Delhi

- Union Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the 7th Agrivoltaics World Conference (AWC 2026) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Theme-based on "Powering the Global South," this marked the first time the summit was held in India and the Global South.



Key points:

- **Organizers**: Hosted by MNRE with support from Germany's BMUV, in partnership with Conexio-PSE.
- **Key Resources Released**: Launched the AgriPV Policy Handbook, Decision-Making Tool, and Book of Abstracts.
- **PM-KUSUM Expansion**: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi announced a major agrivoltaics initiative under the next phase of the PM-KUSUM scheme.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which traditional folk instrument from Jharkhand received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2026?

(a) Sarangi
(b) Mandar
(c) Ektara
(d) Dholak

Answer: (b) Mandar

2. Reema Nanavaty received the Hillary Rodham Clinton Award in 2026 for her contributions to which area?

(a) Environmental conservation
(b) Women's economic empowerment, livelihoods, peace and security
(c) Scientific research
(d) International sports development

Answer: (b) Women's economic empowerment, livelihoods, peace and security

3. The Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan commemorated how many years of the Chinmaya Mission?

(a) 50 years
(b) 60 years
(c) 75 years
(d) 100 years

Answer: (c) 75 years

4. The AI-powered projection of Swami Chinmayananda interacted with by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was called what?

(a) BharatBot
(b) Holobot
(c) Chinmaya AI
(d) VedantaBot

Answer: (b) Holobot

5. The India-supported SAMHiTA project aims to digitise 100 ancient palm-leaf manuscripts at which institution?

(a) Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya
(b) Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo
(c) National Museum, New Delhi
(d) Indian Museum, Kolkata

Answer: (b) Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo

6. Who was elected as the 32nd President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) at its 153rd Assembly?

(a) Mussa Azzan Zungu
(b) Harivansh Narayan Singh
(c) Milton Dick
(d) K. N. Shrivastava

Answer: (c) Milton Dick

7. Which Union Territory was declared India's first fully organic Union Territory by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena?

(a) Jammu and Kashmir
(b) Ladakh
(c) Chandigarh
(d) Puducherry

Answer: (b) Ladakh

8. Which of the following crops was specifically mentioned among Ladakh's organic agricultural produce?

(a) Sea buckthorn
(b) Jute
(c) Rubber
(d) Sugarcane

Answer: (a) Sea buckthorn

9. What was the theme of the 7th Agrivoltaics World Conference (AWC 2026) held in New Delhi?

(a) Green Energy for All
(b) Powering the Global South
(c) Sustainable Agriculture for the Future
(d) One Sun, One World, One Grid

Answer: (b) Powering the Global South

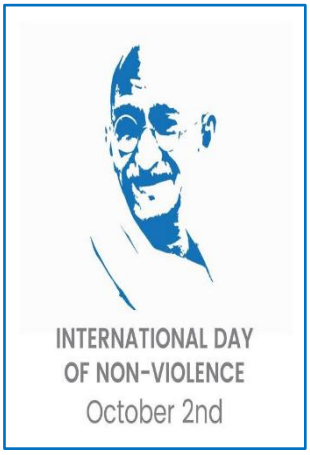
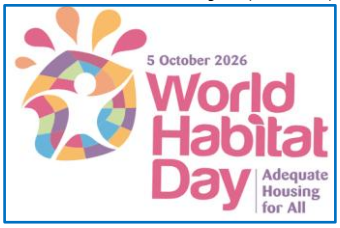
10. The agrivoltaics initiative announced at AWC 2026 was linked to the next phase of which scheme?

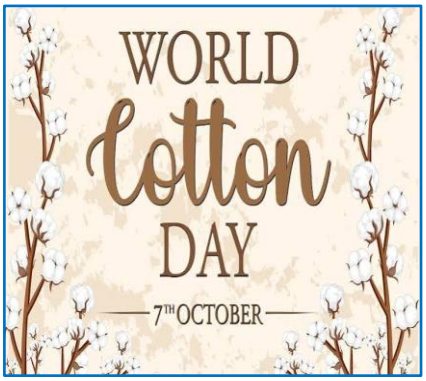
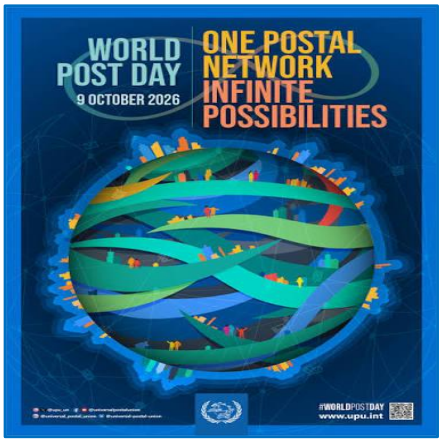
(a) PM-KISAN
(b) PM-FME
(c) PM-KUSUM
(d) National Food Security Mission

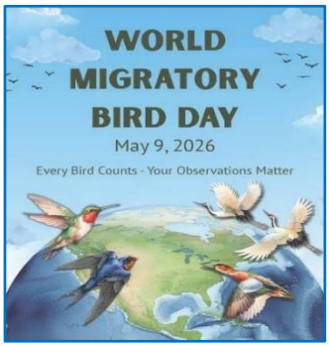
Answer: (c) PM-KUSUM

1.8. Important Days

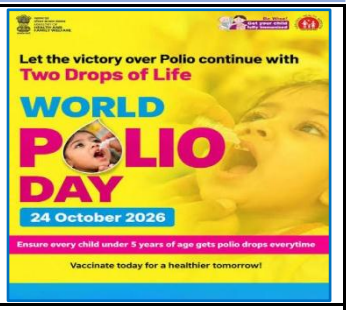
Date	Days	Keypoints
1-31 October 2026	World Breast Cancer Awareness Month	Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM) is observed annually across the globe from 1 to 31 October to raise awareness about breast cancer, promote early detection and timely treatment, support people affected by the disease, and encourage equitable access to quality care. • 2026 Theme: "Every story is unique, every journey matters." 

2 October 2026	International Day of Non-Violence	The United Nations (UN) International Day of Non-Violence is observed annually on October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, to honor his philosophy of peace and non-violence. In India, the day is celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti. • October 2, 2026, marks the 157th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the 20th International Day of Non-Violence. • First Observance: The day was first observed on October 2, 2007. 
2-8 October 2026	National Wildlife Week	National Wildlife Week is annually observed across India from 2 to 8 October to raise awareness about wildlife conservation and the protection of India's rich biodiversity. • The year 2026 marks the 72nd National Wildlife Week in India. • 2026 Theme: "Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife" 
4-10 October 2026	World Space Week	The United Nations (UN)'s World Space Week(WSW) is annually observed across the globe from 4th to 10th October to highlight the role of space science and technology in improving human life, promote awareness of space activities, encourage interest in space science and foster international cooperation. • Theme: "Rocket Revolution"
5 October 2026	World Teacher's Day	World Teachers' Day (WTD) is observed annually on 5 October by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to recognise and honour the vital contribution of teachers in education and shaping future generations. 2026 Theme: "Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures"
	World Habitat Day	The United Nations (UN) observes World Habitat Day (WHD) annually on the first Monday of October to highlight the condition of human settlements and promote the right of every person to adequate shelter. • In 2026, WHD was observed on 5 October, while in 2025 it was observed on 6 October. • 2026 Theme: "Adequate Housing for All" 

6 October 2026	World Cerebral Palsy day	World Cerebral Palsy Day (WCPD) is observed annually across the globe on 6 October to raise awareness about Cerebral Palsy (CP), recognise the achievements of people living with CP, and promote a more inclusive and accessible world. • 2026 Theme: "Unique and united"
7 October 2026	World Cotton Day	The United Nations (UN) annually observes World Cotton Day (WCD) on 7 October to highlight cotton's vital role in economic growth, international trade and poverty reduction. • 7 October 2026 marks the 6th observance of UN-recognised World Cotton Day. • 2026 Theme: "Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership" 
8 October 2026	Indian Air Force Day	Indian Air Force (IAF) Day, also known as IAF Raising Day, is observed annually across India on 8 October to commemorate the formation of the IAF on 8 October 1932, originally established as an auxiliary air force under the British Empire. • 8th October 2026 marks the 94th anniversary of the IAF Day. • 2026 Theme: "Indian Air Force –Infallible, Impervious and Precise" 
9 October 2026	World Post Day	The United Nations (UN)'s World Post Day (WPD) is annually observed across the globe on 9th October to mark the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland. • 2026 Theme: "World Post Day: One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities" 
10 October 2026	World Mental Day	World Mental Health Day (WMHD) is observed globally every year on October 10 to raise awareness of mental health issues and mobilise efforts to support mental well-being. • 2026 Theme: "Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change"

	World Migratory Bird Day	World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is a United Nations (UN)-supported global campaign, observed twice in a year i.e. on the second Saturday of May and October, to raise awareness about challenges faced by migratory birds and encourage action to conserve their habitats. • This year, WMBD 2026 falls on May 9 2026 and October 10 2026. 
15 October 2026	International Day of Rural Women	The United Nations (UN) International Day of Rural Women (IDRW) is observed annually on October 15 to honour the contributions of rural and indigenous women to agriculture, food security, environmental protection and rural development. • The 2026IDRW, promoted by the UN Women. • 2026 Theme: "Rural Women Farmers Caring for Mother Nature"
	World Students Day	World Students' Day (WSD) is observed annually on 15 October to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, India's 11th President (2002–2007), popularly known as the 'Missile Man of India,' and to recognise the importance of students and education in society. • 15 October 2026 marks the 95th birth anniversary of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. • Awards & Honours: Received the Padma Bhushan in the field of Civil Service and the Padma Vibhushan in 1990 in the field of Science, and Engineering.
16 October 2026	World Food Day	The United Nations (UN)'s World Food Day (WFD) is observed annually on 16 October to raise awareness about food security, healthy diets and access to safe and nutritious food worldwide. • 2026 marks the 81st anniversary of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), established on 16 October 1945. • 2026 Theme: "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow." 
17 October 2026	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	The United Nations (UN)'s International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) is observed annually across the globe on 17 October to raise awareness about poverty, promote human dignity and human rights, and encourage global efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms.

		• 17 October 2026 marks the 34th UN-recognised observance of IDEP, first observed in 1993. • 2026–2028 Theme: "United for Peace and Human Rights"
20 October 2026	National Solidarity Day	National Solidarity Day is observed annually across India on 20 October to honour soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the 1962 Sino-Indian War (20 October–21 November 1962). • 20 October 2026 marks the 64th anniversary of the beginning of the war. • First Observance: The first National Solidarity Day was observed on October 20, 1966.
21 October 2026	World Iodine Deficiency Day	World Iodine Deficiency Day (WIDD), also known as Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) Prevention Day, is observed annually worldwide on 21 October to raise awareness about iodine deficiency, its health impacts and the importance of adequate iodine intake. • Recognition: In 2002, it was formally declared as WIDD. • IDD Prevention in India: In 1992, the National Goitre Control Programme (NGCP), launched in 1962, was renamed the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP).
22 October 2026	International Stuttering Awareness Day	Promotes education, support, and public acceptance for individuals who stutter globally.
23 October 2026	Snow Leopard Day	**First Observance:** The first WSLD was observed on **23 October 2014**. **UN Recognition:** On 12 December 2024, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially proclaimed on 23 October 
	Mole Day	Celebrates Avogadro's number (6.02×10^{23}), an essential foundation in modern chemistry.
24 October 2026	United Nations Day	Marks the official entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945. 

	World Polio Day	Raises global awareness and funds to eradicate polio and protect every child. 
	Disarmament Week begins	Launches an annual UN-mandated week focused on reducing arms and promoting peace.
25 October 2026	World Pasta Day	Celebrates culinary history, nutritional value, and global cultural significance of pasta.
26 October 2026	Intersex Awareness Day	Highlights human rights, bodily autonomy, and visibility for intersex individuals worldwide.
27 October 2026	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	Encourages preservation and safeguarding of recorded sound, film, and broadcast archives.
28 October 2026	International Animation Day	Commemorates the birth of animation, celebrating artists, animators, and innovative storytelling.
29 October 2026	World Stroke Day	Educates the public on recognizing stroke symptoms, prevention, and urgent emergency care.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. What was the theme of World Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2026?

(a) Early Detection Saves Lives
(b) Every story is unique, every journey matters
(c) Together Against Cancer
(d) Closing the Cancer Care Gap

Answer: (b) Every story is unique, every journey matters

2. The International Day of Non-Violence is observed every year on which date?

(a) 1 October
(b) 2 October
(c) 5 October
(d) 10 October

Answer: (b) 2 October

3. What was the theme of National Wildlife Week 2026 in India?

(a) Wildlife and Climate Change
(b) Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife
(c) Save Wildlife, Save Life
(d) Forests and Sustainable Development

Answer: (b) Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife

4. What was the theme of World Space Week 2026?

(a) Space for Sustainability
(b) Exploring New Worlds
(c) Rocket Revolution
(d) Space and Climate Action

Answer: (c) Rocket Revolution

5. World Teachers' Day is observed annually on 5 October under the auspices of which organisation?

(a) UNICEF
(b) UNESCO
(c) World Bank
(d) UNDP

Answer: (b) UNESCO

6. What was the theme of World Habitat Day 2026?

(a) Adequate Housing for All
(b) Housing for a Better Future
(c) Sustainable Cities for All
(d) Urbanisation and Climate Resilience

Answer: (a) Adequate Housing for All

7. On 8 October 2026, the Indian Air Force celebrated which anniversary of its establishment?

(a) 75th
(b) 85th
(c) 90th
(d) 94th

Answer: (d) 94th

8. World Post Day commemorates the establishment of which international organisation in 1874?

(a) International Telecommunication Union
(b) Universal Postal Union
(c) International Civil Aviation Organization
(d) World Trade Organization

Answer: (b) Universal Postal Union

9. World Students' Day is observed on 15 October to commemorate the birth anniversary of which Indian personality?

(a) Vikram Sarabhai
(b) Homi J. Bhabha
(c) Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
(d) C. V. Raman

Answer: (c) Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

10. What was the theme of World Food Day 2026?

(a) Water Is Life, Water Is Food
(b) Right to Foods for a Better Life
(c) Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow.
(d) Leave No One Behind

Answer: (c) Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow.

11. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed annually on which date?

(a) 10 October
(b) 15 October
(c) 17 October
(d) 24 October

Answer: (c) 17 October

12. National Solidarity Day in India commemorates the beginning of which conflict?

(a) Kargil War
(b) Sino-Indian War of 1962
(c) Indo-Pakistani War of 1971
(d) Indo-Pakistani War of 1965

Answer: (b) Sino-Indian War of 1962

13. World Iodine Deficiency Day is observed annually on which date?

(a) 16 October
(b) 19 October
(c) 21 October
(d) 25 October

Answer: (c) 21 October

14. World Snow Leopard Day is observed annually on which date?

(a) 20 October (b) 21 October
(c) 23 October (d) 26 October

Answer: (c) 23 October

15. United Nations Day is observed on 24 October to mark which event?

(a) Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
(b) Establishment of the International Court of Justice
(c) Entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945
(d) Formation of the League of Nations

Answer: (c) Entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945

16. World Polio Day is observed annually on which date?

(a) 21 October (b) 24 October
(c) 27 October (d) 29 October

Answer: (b) 24 October

17. Intersex Awareness Day is observed annually on which date?

(a) 23 October (b) 24 October
(c) 26 October (d) 28 October

Answer: (c) 26 October

18. World Day for Audiovisual Heritage focuses on preserving which of the following?

(a) Ancient manuscripts only
(b) Recorded sound, films and broadcast archives
(c) Wildlife photographs only
(d) Historical monuments and sculptures

Answer: (b) Recorded sound, films and broadcast archives

19. World Stroke Day is observed annually on which date?

(a) 25 October (b) 26 October
(c) 28 October (d) 29 October

Answer: (d) 29 October

1.9. WEST BENGAL: STATE-SPECIFIC CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Environment, wildlife and protected areas

i. Tiger reintroduction in Buxa Tiger Reserve

- A tigress (identified in reports as T138) was translocated **from Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar**, and released into Buxa Tiger Reserve in northern West Bengal. The release marked the start of a phased tiger-reintroduction programme intended to rebuild a viable, self-sustaining tiger population. Buxa was declared a Tiger Reserve in 1983 and is part of a wider ecological landscape connected with forests in Bhutan and Assam. Reports indicated plans to introduce three more tigers over the following two months.





2. Governance, administration and public policy



i. Bhagini Nivedita Scheme

The state Cabinet approved a proposed assistance scheme for unmarried women pursuing higher education. The announced total support is ₹50,000 over three years: ₹17,000 in each of the first two years and ₹16,000 in the third year. Implementation was announced for January 2027. Treat the details as an announcement and verify final guidelines before using eligibility details.

ii. Karmabandhu remuneration revised

a. The monthly remuneration of part-time Karmabandhu support staff was announced to rise from ₹5,000 to ₹8,000. A finance-department order dated 14 October is listed in the government-order archive.

iii. Food allowance for SC/ST hostel students

a. The monthly food allowance for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students living in government hostels was announced to increase from ₹1,800 to ₹3,300.

iv. Emergency response number 112

a. Reports on the state's police arrangements announced 112 as a single emergency response number. Exam link: emergency response systems and police administration.

v. SIT after Chorbagan Durga Puja stampede

a. Following the 17 October stampede at a Durga Puja pandal in Chorbagan, North Kolkata, a six-member Special Investigation Team was reported to have been constituted under retired Calcutta High Court judge **Justice Anindita Roy Saraswati**, with a three-month deadline. Reports also described compensation and assistance announced for victims and the injured.

vi. SDG-linked budgeting

a. At a NITI Aayog national workshop in Kolkata, West Bengal was reported as the first state to map its budget to Sustainable Development Goal targets and link this mapping with its Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS)

vii. Contractual school-education staff remuneration

a. A report dated 2 October said the state enhanced remuneration for several categories of contractual staff associated with the Paschim Banga Samagra Shiksha Mission, Paschim Banga Rajya Sishu Shakti Mission, Directorate of School Education and PM-POSHAN, effective from 1 October. The exact category-wise revised rates should be checked against the relevant order.

3. Economy, industry, infrastructure and connectivity

i. Haldia petrochemical investment

Adperma, a subsidiary of Haldia Petrochemicals, reportedly opened a phenol-and-acetone plant at Haldia with an investment of about ₹6,000 crore. Reported annual capacity: 3.45 lakh tonnes of phenol and 2.15 lakh tonnes of acetone. Exam link: Haldia industrial region, petrochemicals and downstream industries.

ii. Sundarbans development plan

A ₹1,200-crore plan for the Sundarbans was announced at Kakdwip. The announcement also referred to the Muriganga bridge, intended to improve access to Gangasagar, with an opening target of 2029. Treat the date as a stated target, not a completed project.

iii. Four regional airports under UDAN

An MoU between the Centre and West Bengal was reported for four regional-airport locations: Chhara (Purulia), Kalaikunda (Paschim Medinipur/West Midnapore), Balurghat (Dakshin Dinajpur/South Dinajpur) and Hasimara (Alipurduar). Reports described a long-term investment plan; verify the financial figure and project status from official documents.

iv. India Energy Week 2027 in Kolkata

Kolkata was reported as the host city for the fifth India Energy Week in January 2027, which would be the event's first edition in eastern India.

v. Paddy procurement / farmer support

A report dated 25 October said the Chief Minister promised farmers an additional ₹200 per quintal for paddy over the Minimum Support Price (MSP). Since this is a reported promise, verify the official order and implementation details before treating it as an operational benefit.

vi. Jaipur–Tatanagar–Santragachi Express

Reports dated 26 October said the weekly Jaipur (Khatipura)–Tatanagar–Santragachi Express was flagged off. Regular runs were reported as scheduled to begin from Santragachi on 4 November and from Khatipura on 6 November 2026; these dates fall after this compilation's cut-off.

4. Culture, heritage and important personalities

i. Jogen Chowdhury

Eminent painter Jogen Chowdhury, known for expressive figurative art, was reported to have died in Kolkata at the age of 87. He was born on 16 February 1939 in Faridpur (then undivided Bengal), studied art in Paris, served as a Rajya Sabha member from 2014 to 2020, and received the Banga Bibhushan in 2012. Exam link: modern Indian art, Bengal's cultural personalities and state honours.

ii. Mahalaya and Durga Puja cultural programme



Mahalaya was observed on 10 October in West Bengal. Reports described a programme titled 'Uma Agamani' at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, including a drone display. Mahalaya marks the transition from Pitru Paksha to Devi Paksha in the traditional calendar and is associated with the broadcast of Mahishasuramardini.

iii. Kolkata's Durga Puja in Kolkata - UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage was inscribed on December 15, 2021, on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

iv. Gangasagar Mela preparations

Preparations for the forthcoming Gangasagar Mela were reported on 24 October. Static link: the pilgrimage takes place at Sagar Island in the Sundarbans region, where the Ganga is traditionally associated with its meeting with the Bay of Bengal.

5. Defence and public-sector manufacturing in Kolkata

i. GRSE launches offshore patrol vessel Shreyas

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, launched the next-generation offshore patrol vessel Shreyas (Yard 3040) for the Indian Navy. Reports described it as the third of four such vessels being built by GRSE. Exam link: Kolkata's shipbuilding industry, defence production and the Indian Navy.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. The tigress released into Buxa Tiger Reserve on 2 October 2026 was translocated from which reserve?

(a) Dudhwa Tiger Reserve
(b) Valmiki Tiger Reserve
(c) Similipal Tiger Reserve
(d) Kaziranga National Park

Answer: B — Valmiki Tiger Reserve is in Bihar.

2. Buxa Tiger Reserve is located in which part of West Bengal?

(a) Rarh region
(b) Coastal Bengal
(c) Northern Bengal
(d) Western plateau only

Answer: C — Buxa is in northern West Bengal, in the Alipurduar area.

3. The announced Bhagini Nivedita Scheme is intended to support which group?

(a) Retired government employees
(b) Unmarried women pursuing higher education
(c) Small tea growers only
(d) Primary-school boys

Answer: B — The reported package is ₹50,000 over three years.

4. The announced increase in Karmabandhu monthly remuneration was from:

(a) ₹3,000 to ₹5,000
(b) ₹4,000 to ₹6,000
(c) ₹5,000 to ₹8,000
(d) ₹6,000 to ₹10,000

Answer: C.

5. Which Kolkata-based company launched the offshore patrol vessel Shreyas?

(a) Cochin Shipyard
(b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
(c) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
(d) Hindustan Shipyard

Answer: C — GRSE is based in Kolkata.

6. The reported phenol-and-acetone plant is located at:

(a) Durgapur
(b) Haldia
(c) Siliguri
(d) Kharagpur

Answer: B.Haldia

7. The reported SIT investigating the Chorbagan Durga Puja stampede was headed by:

(a) Justice Anindita Roy Saraswati
(b) Justice Ranjan Gogoi
(c) Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay
(d) Justice Dipankar Datta

Answer: A — retired Calcutta High Court judge.

8. The announced Sundarbans development plan was valued at approximately:

(a) ₹120 crore
(b) ₹1,200 crore
(c) ₹12,000 crore
(d) ₹29,000 crore

Answer: B.1200 crore

9. Jogen Chowdhury received which West Bengal state honour in 2012?

(a) Banga Bhushan
(b) Banga Bibhushan
(c) Padma Vibhushan
(d) Desikottama

Answer: B. Banga Bibhushan

10. On which year Durga Puja was inscribed in UNESCO list?

(a) 2020
(b) 2021
(c) 2022
(d) 2023

Answer: B. 2023

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