



Weekly **Current Affairs**

11th to 17th October 2026

NATIONAL NEWS



Vice-President Launch AIIA Digital Initiatives at KAUMARACON-2026



- Vice-President of India C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated KAUMARACON-2026 at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Sarita Vihar, New Delhi.
- KAUMARACON-2026 was the third international conference on Kaumarabhritya, the branch of Ayurveda concerned with paediatric healthcare.
- The theme of the conference was “Shaping the Future of Child Health: Global Perspectives, Research Innovations, and Clinical Frontiers in Kaumarabhritya.”

India Adds Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel to Ramsar List



- With these additions, India's total number of Ramsar sites reached 103.
- Sukhna Wetland, located in Chandigarh at the foothills of the Shivalik range, is an important habitat for resident and migratory waterbirds.
- Sauj Jheel, located in Mainpuri district of Uttar Pradesh, is a shallow lake in the floodplain of Ganga River, surrounded by agricultural land.

India Inaugurates Largest Phenol and Acetone Plant in Haldia



- Adperma Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Haldia Petrochemicals Limited (HPL), inaugurated India's largest integrated phenol and acetone manufacturing plant in Haldia, West Bengal.
- The plant was established with an investment of approximately ₹6,000 crore.
- The facility has an annual production capacity of 3.45 lakh tonnes of phenol and 2.15 lakh tonnes of acetone.

Cabinet Approves ₹2,009.61 Crore Bonus for Railway Employees



- The bonus covers 78 days of wages for approximately 11.40 lakh eligible non-gazetted railway employees.
- The maximum bonus payable to an eligible employee is ₹17,951.
- Eligible employees include track maintainers, loco pilots, train managers, station masters, technicians and other Group C staff.

Lakshadweep Becomes India's First Fully Literate UT Under ULLAS



- The achievement was recorded under ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for adult education.
- ULLAS, also known as the New India Literacy Programme, targets non-literate persons aged 15 years and above who missed formal schooling.
- The Ministry of Education, Government of India, is the nodal ministry for the ULLAS scheme.

Odisha Governor Launches Boeing STEM Lab for Girls in Aviation

- Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati inaugurated the Boeing Sukanya Programme STEM Lab and Aeromodelling Training Centre at The Kosala School in Bargarh district, Odisha.
- The STEM Lab will provide hands-on learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- The programme is implemented by Boeing in partnership with Learning Links Foundation.

Kerala Launches India's First Ecosystem Red List Assessment



- The Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) launched India's first Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) assessment project in Kollam, Kerala.

- Ecosystems are classified according to risk categories, including Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable.
- Red List Assessment is a scientific process used to evaluate the risk of extinction of species or the risk of collapse of ecosystems.

Delhi Ranks 193rd In World's Friendliest Cities Index 2026



- Mérida, Mexico, ranked first with a score of 95.0, followed by Glasgow, Scotland (94.9), and Bogotá, Colombia (94.5).
- Delhi ranked 193rd out of 200 cities in the Friendliest Cities Index 2026, commissioned by travel platform Fernweyer.
- Delhi received a score of 43.6 out of 100 in the index.

BRICS Theatre Festival 2026 Begins in New Delhi



- The BRICS Theatre Festival 2026 commenced at the National School of Drama (NSD) in New Delhi under India's BRICS Presidency 2026.
- It is organised by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, under India's BRICS Presidency 2026.
- Theme: "Shared Stories, Shared Futures."

Ayodhya Ram Temple Gets FSSAI's 'Eat Right' Certification



- The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, located in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, received the highest 'Ati Vishisht' (Outstanding) rating under FSSAI's Eat Right Place of Worship initiative.
- The temple scored 103 out of 114 points in its food safety and hygiene assessment, covering 47 parameters.
- The initiative operates under BHOG — Blissful Hygienic Offering to God, a programme of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Maharashtra to Host CyberTech Asia 2027 in Mumbai

- The event is scheduled for 17–18 March 2027 at the Jio Convention Centre, Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- CyberTech Asia 2027 will mark the platform's debut in India, bringing together international cybersecurity experts, technology companies, startups and industry leaders.
- The meeting also highlighted MahaCyber, a Maharashtra government initiative focused on preventing and combating cybercrime, digital threats and online fraud.

PM Modi Launches Tamil Nadu Projects Worth Over ₹13,000 Crore



- Five redeveloped railway stations—Palani, Vellore Cantonment, Ambasamudram, Paramakkudi and Namakkal—were inaugurated under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

- National Highway projects worth approximately ₹3,700 crore were inaugurated or taken forward, including sections of NH-744 and NH-744A, to improve regional connectivity and reduce traffic congestion.

Ambaji Mohanthal Prasad Gets GI Tag



- Ambaji Mohanthal is a traditional sweet associated with Ambaji Temple in Gujarat.
- Others Gujarat's GI-tagged products include Gir Kesar Mango, Patan Patola and Bhalia Wheat.
- India's first GI tag was awarded to Darjeeling Tea in 2004–05 under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

Noida Airport Renamed Narendra Modi International Airport



- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a proposal to rename Noida International Airport at Jewar as Narendra Modi International Airport, Noida-Jewar.
- The airport is located in Gautam Buddha Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh.
- The airport is being developed by Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL), a subsidiary of Zurich Airport International AG.

Akie Abe Unveils Shinzo Abe Memorial Corridor in Varanasi



- The Abe Memorial Corridor was inaugurated at the Rudraksh International Convention Centre in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The corridor honours Shinzo Abe, the late former Prime Minister of Japan.
- Shinzo Abe was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2021, one of India's highest civilian honours.

Kolkata to Host Barcelona and Real Madrid Legends



- Kolkata will host an exhibition football match between Barcelona Legends and Real Madrid Legends on 25 November 2026.
- The match will take place at Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan, popularly known as Salt Lake Stadium.
- Barcelona will return to Kolkata for the first time since 2018, when they defeated Mohun Bagan 6–0 in an exhibition match.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



ADB and Japan Finance Green Ammonia Plant in Kakinada



- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Govt of Japan are supporting the development of a green ammonia production facility by AM Green Ammonia in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
- The financing package includes a US\$100 million loan from the Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund 2, financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and administered by ADB.
- The plant is planned to have a total production capacity of approximately 1.09 million tonnes of green ammonia per year.

New York Declares First US Measles Disaster Emergency



- New York Governor Kathy Hochul declared a State Disaster Emergency in response to rising measles cases.
- Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that can cause serious complications.
- The MMR vaccine protects against measles, mumps and rubella.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Jindal Steel Wins 2026 Worldsteel Steelie Award



- Jindal Steel Limited won 2026 Steelie Award in the Excellence in People category, presented by the World Steel Association (worldsteel).
- Jindal Steel received the award for its initiative titled “Dakshata – Engineering Safety, One Duty Position at a Time.”
- JSW Steel Limited also won an award in the Excellence in Clean Steel Production category for its renewable green hydrogen and oxygen ecosystem for clean steel production.

Oscar Whitfield Wins Young Wildlife Photographer of 2026



- Oscar Whitfield was announced as the Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026 by the Natural History Museum, London.
- His winning black & white photograph, Labour of Love, captures a dung beetle pushing a ball of dung in Zambezi National Park, Zimbabwe.
- Oscar also won the 11–14 years age category.

Sunil Bharti Mittal to Receive France’s Highest Civilian Honour



- Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, named recipient of France’s highest civilian honour, the Légion d’ honneur, by French President Emmanuel Macron.
- He was awarded the rank of Chevalier (Knight) of the National Order of the Legion of Honour.
- In 2024, he became the first Indian citizen to receive an honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE) from King Charles III.

Hall and Woodford Win 2026 Economics Nobel Prize



- American economists Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford won the 2026 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.
- The prize recognises their work on the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation.
- The award was announced by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

‘Pandharpur Wari’ Documentary Named India’s National Winner at Asian Academy Creative Awards



- The documentary ‘Pandharpur Wari – In the Footsteps of the Saints’ was named India's National Winner in the Best Branded Programme category at the Asian Academy Creative Awards (AACA) 2026.
- The Pandharpur Wari is an annual pilgrimage in Maharashtra associated with Lord Vitthal (Vithoba), whose principal temple is located in Pandharpur, Solapur district.
- It is a 22-minute English-language documentary showcasing the spiritual, cultural and historical significance of the centuries-old Pandharpur Wari pilgrimage in Maharashtra.

2026 Nobel Peace Prize Awarded to Navi Pillay



- The Nobel Peace Prize 2026 has been awarded to South African jurist and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navanethem “Navi” Pillay.
- She was recognised for her efforts to promote peace and international law.
- She also served as a judge at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Court.

NEW APPOINTMENTS



UNICEF India Names Smriti Mandhana Celebrity Advocate



- UNICEF India appointed Smriti Mandhana as its Celebrity Advocate on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child.
- Smriti Mandhana is the captain of the Indian women's cricket team, an Arjuna Award recipient.
- She was part of the Indian team that won first ICC Women's Cricket World Cup title in 2025.

Prakash Rajpurohit Appointed Deputy Election Commissioner



- He succeeded Sanjay Kumar, who was prematurely repatriated to his parent cadre in August 2026.
- Rajpurohit's tenure is scheduled to continue until 8 April 2030, according to the Personnel Ministry order.
- The Election Commission of India is a constitutional body established under Article 324 of the Constitution of India. It supervises, directs and controls elections to Parliament, state legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice-President.

HDFC Bank's Anup Bagchi Become India's Highest-Paid Bank CEO



- Anup Bagchi is to be appointed as the MD & CEO of HDFC Bank on October 27, 2026, replacing Sashidhar Jagdishan.
- Anup Bagchi was earlier working as MD & CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co.
- HDFC Bank has fixed an estimated target annual compensation of ₹35.9 crore for Anup Bagchi for 2026-27, which could make Bagchi the highest paid bank CEO in India.
- Fixed Remuneration of Bagchi comprises an annual salary of ₹3.32 crores, out of which the rest includes allowances, perquisites, retirement benefits, and other perks. The package has also made provisions for up to two company cars, where the cost of each car should be ₹1.4 crore ex-showroom.

BANKING NEWS



Cabinet Approves IDBI Bank Stake Sale to Fairfax for ₹52,878 Crore



- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved Fairfax Financial Holdings' group entity as the strategic buyer for IDBI Bank.
- The approved purchase consideration for the IDBI Bank stake sale is approximately ₹52,878.08 crore, covering a 60.72% stake.
- The Government of India will sell its 30.48% stake and LIC will sell its 30.24% stake; after the transaction, the Government will retain 15% and LIC will retain 19% in IDBI Bank.

- Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) is a fee paid by merchants to banks and payment service providers for processing digital transactions. The fee is shared among participants involved in the payment ecosystem, including banks and payment service providers.
- NPCI is incorporated as a not-for-profit company under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.

World Bank Ranks India Among Top 10 in AI Readiness



- The World Bank released the report "India Development Update: India and Artificial Intelligence—Seizing the Development Opportunity."
- Private AI investment in India increased from US\$1.2 billion in 2024 to US\$4.1 billion in 2025.
- Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India employed 2.36 million professionals in 2025, compared with 1.9 million in 2024.

NPCI Defers 0.4% MDR on Select UPI Transactions Above ₹2,000

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) deferred the implementation of the proposed 0.4% Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on select UPI merchant transactions above ₹2,000 until after Diwali 2026.

NABARD Subscribes to NSDC's ZCZP Issue on SSE



- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) subscribed to the ₹4 crore Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) issue of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) on the National Stock Exchange's Social Stock Exchange platform.
- The initiative has an estimated total outlay of ₹11.25 crore and aims to create sustainable overseas employment opportunities for 600 rural youth belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Madhya Pradesh.
- A Zero Coupon Zero Principal instrument does not pay interest or return the principal to the subscriber. It allows funds to be raised for eligible social-development projects.

SPORTS



Vishvajit Wins Greco Roman Silver Medal at U23 Wrestling Worlds

- Indian wrestler Vishvajit Ramchandra More won a silver medal in the men's 55 kg Greco-Roman category at the U23 World Wrestling Championships in Las Vegas, United States.
- He became the first Indian wrestler to reach a Greco-Roman final and win a silver medal at the U23 World Championships.
- In the final, More narrowly lost 12–13 to Georgia's Koba Karumidze, who won gold medal after scoring in the closing seconds of the bout.

Punjab to Host Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2026



- Punjab will host the Hero Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2026 from 27 October to 5 November 2026.

- The tournament will be jointly hosted by Mohali and Jalandhar.
- Matches will take place at the Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium in Mohali and the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar.

Nagaland's Grassroots Football Festival Wins SKOCH Silver Award



- The Youth Resources and Sports Department of the Government of Nagaland received the SKOCH Silver Award for its Grassroots Football Festival, also known as the Baby League.
- The grassroots football festival in Nagaland provides organised football opportunities for children aged 5–12 years across four age categories: 5–6, 7–8, 9–10 and 11–12 years.
- Participation increased from approximately 142 children in an earlier edition to around 420 children in the third edition held in 2026.

Shefali Verma, Shubman Gill Named ICC Players of the Month



- Indian cricketer Shafali Verma was named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for September 2026 for her performances in the Women's Asia Cup and Asian Games.
- Indian captain Shubman Gill was named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for September 2026 following his outstanding performance in the ODI series against the West Indies.
- Shubman Gill won the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for a record-equalling fifth time, matching West Indies captain Hayley Matthews' five monthly awards.

Subhash Tamang to Become First Nepali Golfer in DP World Tour



- Nepali golfer Subash Tamang is set to become 1st golfer from Nepal to compete in a DP World Tour event at DP World India Championship, held at Delhi Golf Club, New Delhi.
- Nepal will become 120th nation represented in DP World Tour history since tour began in 1972.
- Tamang secured his place after finishing 23rd in the Race to DP World India Championship standings on the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI).

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



- Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen won the 2026 Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Singapore.
- He won by 7.335 seconds ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who finished second.
- The win marked Verstappen's 73rd career Grand Prix victory and came on his 250th Grand Prix start.

Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi Wins ITF W35 Singles Title



- Indian tennis player Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi, aged 17, won her maiden professional women's singles title at the ITF W35 Lagos tournament held at Clube Ténis Lagos in Portugal.
- She defeated Spain's Celia Cervino Ruiz by 6–4, 6–2 in the singles final.
- Revathi became the youngest Indian woman to win an ITF W35-level singles title, breaking a record previously held by Sania Mirza.

Udhayveer Sidhu Wins Cairo 10m Air Pistol Gold



- Indian shooter Udhayveer Sidhu won gold in the men's 10-metre air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt.
- Sidhu scored 240.6 points in the final, defeating Germany's Christian Reitz by a narrow margin of 0.5 points.
- Christian Reitz (Germany) won silver with 240.1 points, while Paolo Monna (Italy) secured bronze with 219.8 points.

Putul Sonowal Wins India's First World Bowls Medal



- Putul Sonowal is an Indian lawn bowls player from Assam.
- Sonowal defeated Singapore's Harriman Yuen in the quarterfinal to secure his semifinal place.
- The tournament was held at cluBarham in Barham, New South Wales, Australia.

DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Himachal Pradesh Inaugurates First Solar Power Project in Spiti Valley



- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu inaugurated the state's first battery-storage-integrated solar power project at Rongtong, near Kaza, in Spiti Valley.
- The solar power plant has an installed capacity of 2 MW and is equipped with a 1 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
- It is expected to generate around 36 lakh units of electricity annually.

Assam Regiment Wins Gold at UK's Cambrian Patrol 2026



- The Indian Army's Assam Regiment secured a gold medal at Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026, held in Wales, United Kingdom.
- The Indian Army contingent competed against more than 100 teams from around the world and was among the 10 teams awarded gold medals.
- The exercise tested military patrolling skills, endurance, tactical ability, leadership and teamwork.

Navy to Commission Indigenous Multipurpose Vessel INS Samarthak

- The Indian Navy is scheduled to commission Samarthak, its 1st of four Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs), at Naval Base, Karwar, Karnataka.
- The vessel has been built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Ltd. under the Govt. of India's Make in India initiative.
- Utkarsh, meaning "Superior in Conduct," is the second Multi-Purpose Vessel built by L&T Shipyard for the Indian Navy and was launched on 13 January 2025.

Indian Army launches 'Bharat Rice' for defence forces



- The Indian Army launched Bharat Rice for defence personnel in New Delhi.
- The Army signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to use its warehousing, manpower and material-handling infrastructure during operational contingencies.
- Procurement will be available in 10 kg and 30 kg bags to ease handling and transportation.

INS Tarkash Joins IBSAMAR IX 2026 Naval Exercise



- The Indian Navy's frontline guided-missile stealth frigate INS Tarkash is participating in the ninth edition of the India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime Exercise (IBSAMAR IX 2026) in South Africa.
- IBSAMAR has been conducted biennially since 2008 under the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) framework.
- Theme of the ninth edition: "Stronger Together Towards a Shared Future in the Maritime Domain."

Indian Navy to Commission Indigenous ASW Craft Mangrol



- The Ministry of Defence announced that Mangrol, an indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), would be commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.
- Mangrol is the third ASW-SWC built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, after INS Mahe (first) and INS Malvan (second).

INS Sahyadri Arrives in Russia for INDRA-2026



- INS Sahyadri is an indigenously built stealth multi-role guided-missile frigate of Indian Navy.
- The warship arrived at Vladivostok, Russia, to participate in Exercise INDRA-2026, a bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the Russian Federation Navy (RuFN).
- INS Sahyadri's participation aligns with India's MAHASAGAR vision — Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

INST Mohali Develops Nanofibre Filter for Wastewater

- Researchers at the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, Punjab, developed a sustainable catalytic nanofibre filter for treating dye-contaminated industrial wastewater.
- INST is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India.
- The technology combines zinc oxide (ZnO) nanoparticles with biodegradable polylactic acid (PLA) nanofibres to create multifunctional filter.