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Weekly
Current Affairs

25th to 31st October 2026

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NATIONAL NEWS

Ayushman Vay Vandana completes 2 years, recording worth ₹5,668 cr.



- It extends the benefits of Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status.
- The scheme is implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Eligible senior citizens aged 70 years and above are entitled to health coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

Ladakh becomes India's first fully organic Union Territory



- Ladakh has become India's first 100% organic Union Territory, declared by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.
- Sikkim became India's first fully organic state in 2016.
- National Programme for Organic Production — certification framework for organic products, managed by APEDA.

Orange Oakleaf to Become Chhattisgarh Official State Butterfly



- Chhattisgarh is set to get its first official state butterfly, with the Orange Oakleaf (Kallima inachus).
- It is a nymphalid butterfly found in Tropical Asia from India to Japan.
- It is known for its remarkable camouflage.

Centre Approves 3% DA Hike for Central Government Employees



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a 3% hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) for Central Government employees.
- DA increased from 60% to 63% of Basic Pay, effective from 1 July 2026.
- Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners also increased from 60% to 63% of Basic Pension.

Cabinet approves PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana 2026-27 to 2030-31



- The Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY) will be implemented under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the period 2026–27 to 2030–31, with a total financial outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore.
- The scheme will be implemented from 2026–27 to 2030–31, coinciding with the period of the 16th Finance Commission.
- The scheme aims to prepare more than 2.55 lakh holistic Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) annually through eGramSwaraj portal.

India Reaffirms Biodiversity Frame-work Commitment at CBD COP-17



- India's commitment to biodiversity conservation at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-17) in Yerevan, Armenia.
- India's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) translates the global framework into 23 National Biodiversity Targets and 142 indicators.
- India highlighted MISHTI for mangrove restoration, Amrit Dharohar for wetland conservation and the Soil Health Card Scheme for sustainable soil management.

IIT Mandi Launches Science on Wheels in Himachal Pradesh



- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi launched the Science on Wheels programme in Himachal Pradesh to promote hands-on science education among school students.
- The initiative is being implemented by IIT Mandi in collaboration with Plaksha University and the Igniting Dreams of Young Minds (IDYM) Foundation.
- The programme targets students from Classes VI to XII and aims to reach 50 schools across Himachal Pradesh.

JioBlackRock AMC launches 'Advantage World Equity Fund'



- JioBlackRock International AMC (IFSC), a wholly owned subsidiary of JioBlackRock Asset Management, launched the JioBlackRock Advantage World Equity Fund (IFSC) in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- The scheme is an open-ended Fund of Funds (FoF) Retail Scheme under the IFSCA Fund Management Regulations.
- It invests primarily in the BlackRock Advantage World Equity Fund, a globally diversified active equity strategy.

Kerala Plans India's First Cooperative Airline



- The proposed airline, tentatively named Co-Keralam, is projected to become India's first airline operated by the cooperative sector.
- The project will be spearheaded by C. N. Vijayakrishnan, Chairman of MVR Cancer Centre and Research Institute.
- The initial plan is to lease two 72-seater aircraft, with Kochi as the proposed operational base.

Commerce Ministry Extends RELIEF Scheme Till March 2027



- The Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, extended Component II of RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) initiative under the Export Promotion Mission until March 31, 2027.
- The extension aims to support Indian exporters affected by geopolitical disruptions in West Asia and their impact on maritime logistics.
- Under Component II, the scheme provides 95% risk coverage to encourage exporters to obtain Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) insurance cover for eligible shipments.

HCLTech and Rapidus Open Semi-conductor Centres in Karnataka



- HCLTech, an Indian technology company, and Japan's Rapidus Corporation inaugurated two semiconductor development centres located in Bengaluru and Hubli, Karnataka.
- Rapidus is a Japanese company specialising in the development and manufacturing of advanced logic semiconductors.
- The centres will provide semiconductor engineering services, including mask design, design infrastructure, process design kit (PDK) development, design technology co-optimisation (DTCO) and layout design.

Maharashtra Launches Mission Murghas to Tackle Fodder Shortage



- The campaign is being implemented by the Maharashtra Animal Husbandry Department.
- Under the "Magel Tyala Murghas" scheme, eligible livestock owners in 19 districts of Vidarbha and Marathwada can receive a subsidy of ₹3 per kg of silage, based on up to 5 kg per animal per day for 90 days.
- The subsidy will be transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) after proof of purchase is submitted.

Piyush Goyal Launches NSTCC



- The National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC) was launched by Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- It operates under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The centre aims to strengthen trade monitoring, trade intelligence and data-driven decision-making.

Punjab Launches SANGAT Mental Health Clubs in 40 Colleges



- The initiative was launched at Plaksha University, Mohali, to promote youth mental health and prevent substance abuse.
- The initiative is led by the Department of Higher Education, Punjab, in partnership with the Aditya Birla Education Trust (ABET).
- The programme is implemented by Mpower, an ABET subsidiary, under its COPE (Counselling & Outreach for Peer Empowerment) framework.

Tawang to Host 14th International Tourism Mart from 29–31 Oct. 2026



- The 14th edition of the International Tourism Mart (ITM) 2026 will be held in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, from 29 to 31 October 2026.
- The event is being organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in association with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and other North Eastern states.
- The International Tourism Mart is an annual event aimed at promoting the tourism potential of India's North Eastern Region.

OpenAI Partners with Karmayogi Bharat for AI Training



- OpenAI and Karmayogi Bharat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen AI training and capacity building for India's civil servants.
- The partnership will bring approved OpenAI Academy learning resources to the government's iGOT Karmayogi digital learning platform.
- The collaboration supports Mission Karmayogi, India's programme for capacity building and professional development of civil servants.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

First Kathmandu Film Festival begins in Nepal



- The three-day festival is being organised by Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) from 30 October to 1 November 2026.
- The participating countries include Nepal, India, China, the United States, Australia, France and South Korea.
- Film screenings are being held at City Hall (National City Hall) and Jai Nepal Cinema, along with other festival venues.

Ukraine joins NATO's NSPA partnership



- Ukraine joined the Security Cooperation Support Partnership (SCSP) of NATO's Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA), gaining access to NATO defence procurement contracts.
- Ukraine became the first and only country for which a separate SCSP partnership was created, despite not being a NATO member.
- NATO Headquarter located in Brussels Belgium.

Greece Approves Social Media Ban for Children Under 15



- Greece approved legislation banning children under 15 from accessing social media platforms.
- In 2026, Australia (under 16), Indonesia (under 16), and Malaysia (under 16) have implemented social media restrictions for children, while Greece (under 15) has approved a ban scheduled to take effect on 1 January 2027.
- Australia was the first country to enact legislation restricting minors' access to social media.

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva Re-elected Brazil's President for Fourth Term



- Lula secured 51.79% of the valid votes, defeating Flávio Bolsonaro, who received 48.21%.
- Lula belongs to the Workers' Party (PT), while Flávio Bolsonaro belongs to Liberal Party (PL).
- He became the first candidate in Brazil's post-1985 democratic era to win a presidential runoff after finishing second in the first round.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Earthshot Prize 2026 Makes India Debut in Mumbai



- The Earthshot Prize 2026 will make its India debut in Mumbai, Maharashtra, on 17 Nov 2026.
- The 2026 edition is 6th annual edition of prize.
- The Earthshot Prize was founded in 2020 by Prince William to inspire innovative solutions to environmental challenges and help repair the planet by 2030.

Namo Bharat Wins Best Passenger Service Award



- The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) received the Award of Excellence in the category of Metro Rail with Best Passenger Services and Satisfaction at the 19th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference and Expo 2026, held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- NCRTC is the implementing agency for the Delhi–Ghaziabad–Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), operated under the Namo Bharat brand.
- The 82.15-km Delhi–Ghaziabad–Meerut RRTS corridor, which includes the 23-km Meerut Metro network on the same infrastructure, became fully operational in February 2026.

UAE Honours Indian Pilot Smit Machchhar for Bravery



- UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan conferred the First Class Order of Zayed II on Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar and fellow flydubai crew members.
- The honour recognises their courage and efforts to protect passengers during an in-flight incident aboard flydubai Flight FZ1073.
- The incident occurred on 30 September 2026 while the aircraft was travelling from Dubai, UAE, to Tel Aviv, Israel.

Sitaram Raul Wins Wildlife Photography Award Category



- Sitaram Raul from India won the Behaviour: Invertebrates category in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026 competition.
- His winning photograph, titled Shifting Sand, shows a scorpion burrowing into the shifting dunes of the Thar Desert.
- The photograph was taken near the village of Sam, Rajasthan.

Harry Wins Men's Ballon d'Or



- England captain Harry Kane won 2026 Men's Ballon d'Or at the 70th edition of the awards ceremony held at London Palladium Theatre.
- He became the fifth Englishman to win the award, following Stanley Matthews (1956), Bobby Charlton (1966), Kevin Keegan (1978 and 1979) and Michael Owen (2001).
- Kane also won the Gerd Müller Trophy for the best men's striker of the season.

Shabari Naturals Wins G-Mark Award for Tribal Packaging



- Shabari Naturals, a Maharashtra government initiative promoting products made by tribal communities and forest gatherers, won the G-Mark Global Design Award for its packaging inspired by traditional art forms.
- The initiative is managed by the Shabari Tribal Finance and Development Corporation (STFDC), headquartered in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- The packaging features traditional Warli, Gond and Chitrakathi art, along with elements depicting tribal culture and legends.

Usha Mangeshkar to Receive 1st Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Award



- The Assam government has instituted the Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award, with singer Usha Mangeshkar selected as its inaugural recipient.
- Renowned Indian playback singer Usha Mangeshkar, recognised for her contribution to Indian music and association with Bhupen Hazarika's musical works.
- The award carries a cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a citation.

Ashoke Sen Wins Oskar Klein Medal 2026



- Indian theoretical physicist Ashoke Sen won the 2026 Oskar Klein Medal, becoming the first Indian physicist to receive this honour.
- The award announced by International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS), Bengaluru.
- Ashoke Sen is an ICTS–Infosys Madhava Chair Professor at ICTS–TIFR, Bengaluru.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

FICCI has appointed Vijay Sankar as President-Elect for 2026–27



- Vijay Sankar named FICCI President-Elect for 2026-27, to succeed Anant Goenka.
- Vijay Sankar is currently serving as the Senior Vice-President of FICCI.
- Vijay Sankar is the Chairman of The Sanmar Group, headquartered in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

ACC Appoints Sunil Kumar as ONGC Chairman for 3-Year Term

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Sunil Kumar as the next Chairman of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
- He will succeed Arun Kumar Singh, whose extended tenure is scheduled to end on 6 December 2026.
- ONGC operates under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

BANKING NEWS

SEBI & Bank of England sign MoU on cross-border clearing cooperation



- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Bank of England (BoE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Mumbai to enhance regulatory cooperation and information exchange regarding SEBI-recognised Clearing Corporations (CCs).
- Examples of SEBI-recognised Clearing Corporations include BSE Clearing Limited, NSE Clearing Limited, National Commodity Clearing Limited (NCCL), and Multi Commodity Exchange Clearing Corporation Ltd (MCXCCL).
- CCs are institutions that facilitate clearing and settlement of financial transactions.

PhonePe Launches Tatkal NPS Account Opening



- PhonePe launched the Tatkal NPS digital onboarding facility on 27 October 2026, enabling users to open National Pension System (NPS) accounts through its app.
- Users can open an NPS account with an initial contribution of ₹250 and receive a unique Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) to identify and manage their pension account.
- The Tatkal NPS framework was developed by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

SPORTS

India beat China 5-2 in second league match of Asian Champions



- The Indian men's hockey team defeated China 5–2 in its second league match of the Hero Men's Asian Champions Trophy Punjab 2026.
- The match was played at the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium, Jalandhar, Punjab.
- Harmanpreet Singh (Captain) and Sukhjeet Singh scored two goals each for India.

Asian Para Games Gold Medallist Neeraj Yadav Passed Away



- Indian para-athlete Neeraj Yadav passed away at the age of 42 in Delhi.
- He won three gold medals at the Asian Para Games: one in men's F55 javelin throw at the 2018 Jakarta Games and two in men's F55 javelin and discus throw at the 2022 Hangzhou Games (held in 2023).
- He belonged to Uttar Pradesh and competed in the F55 category of para-athletics.

Kajal Dhochak and Neelam Sirohi Win World Wrestling Silver



- Indian wrestlers Kajal Dhochak and Neelam Sirohi won silver medals at the 2026 Senior World Wrestling Championships, held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Kajal Dhochak (18 years) won silver in the women's 76 kg category, losing 6–8 to Ukraine's Anastasiya Alpyeyeva in the final.
- Neelam Sirohi (26 years) won silver in the women's 50 kg category, losing to Japan's Yui Susaki by fall in the final.

India Beats Bangladesh 13–0 in Asian Champions Trophy 2026



- The Indian men's hockey team defeated Bangladesh 13–0 on 27 October 2026 at the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar, Punjab.
- Mandeep Singh scored a hat-trick, netting goals in the 3rd, 10th and 54th minutes.
- The Hero Men's Asian Champions Trophy Punjab 2026 features six participating teams: India, Bangladesh, China, Japan, Malaysia and South Korea.

9th Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2026 Begins in Jalandhar

- The 9th Hero Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2026 began on October 27, 2026, in Jalandhar, Punjab, India.
- Six teams are participating: India, Bangladesh, China, Japan, South Korea and Malaysia.
- The venue in Jalandhar is the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium.

Yuki Bhambri, Ryan Seggerman clinch Almaty Open doubles title



- India's Yuki Bhambri and his American partner Ryan Seggerman won the men's doubles title at the ATP 250 Almaty Open 2026 in Kazakhstan.
- Bhambri had previously won ATP doubles titles in Mallorca (2023), Gstaad and Munich (2024), and Dubai (2025).
- The fourth-seeded Indo-American pair defeated top-seeded Austrian players Lucas Miedler and Neil Oberleitner in the final.

Ahmedabad to Host 2029 World Weightlifting Championships



- The IWF also awarded the 2028 World Youth Championships to Prishtina, Kosovo, and the 2028 World Junior Championships to Caracas, Venezuela.
- Moscow, Russia, will host the 2030 Senior World Weightlifting Championships.
- The hosting rights were awarded by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).

Nihal Sarin and Koneru Humpy Win Gold at European Chess Club



- Indian Grandmasters Nihal Sarin and Koneru Humpy won individual gold medals at the European Chess Club Cup 2026, held in Budva, Montenegro.
- Nihal Sarin represented Novy Bor Chess Club in the Open section and won gold on Board 2, scoring 5 points from 6 games, with four wins and two draws.
- Koneru Humpy represented Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo in Women's section and won gold on Board 2, scoring 4.5 points from 6 games.

India Finishes Fourth at the Asian Para Games 2026



- India finished fourth at 5th Asian Para Games, held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, with a record haul of 114 medals: 30 gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze.
- China topped medal table 435 medals, followed by Japan with 186 and Uzbekistan with 145.
- The 6th Asian Para Games are scheduled to be held in Doha, Qatar, in 2030.

PV Sindhu Finishes Runner-up at French Open



- India's PV Sindhu finished runner-up at French Open 2026 badminton tournament, a BWF World Tour Super 750 event, held in France.
- South Korea's An Se-young defeated India's PV Sindhu 16–21, 21–11, 21–12 in the women's singles final of the French Open Badminton Championships 2026.
- Sindhu missed the opportunity to become the first Indian woman since Aparna Popat in 1998 to win the French Open title.

Kochi Student Wins 28th Charles Correa Gold Medal 2026



- Radhakrishnan M.S., a student at the SEED APJ Abdul Kalam School of Environmental Design, Kochi, won the 28th Charles Correa Gold Medal in architecture.
- The award ceremony was held at TARQ Gallery, Mumbai.
- The winner receives a gold medal and a cash prize of ₹25,000.

Bodhana Sivanandan Becomes Youngest Female Chess IM



- Bodhana Sivanandan, an 11-year-old English chess prodigy of Indian origin, became the youngest female player to achieve the International Master (IM) title
- She achieved the milestone at the European Women's Chess Club Cup in Budva, Montenegro.
- She secured her third and final IM norm by defeating Swedish Woman International Master Viktoria Johansson in the final round.

Ahmedabad Hosts Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship



- Ahmedabad, Gujarat, is hosting the inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship from 23 to 31 October 2026 at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex.
- The championship is organised by the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI) with the approval of the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF).
- India's men's team is captained by Surjeet Singh, with Naveen Kumar as vice-captain, while the women's team is led by Nidhi Sharma, with Ritu as vice-captain.

DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO to launch navigation satellite NVS-03



- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is scheduled to launch the NVS-03 navigation satellite aboard the GSLV-F18 rocket on 30 October 2026 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The rocket will place NVS-03 into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- NVS-03 carries an indigenous atomic clock along with procured atomic clocks to improve accurate timekeeping for satellite navigation.

Indian Navy Launches Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel Srishti



- The Indian Navy's Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) 'Srishti' (Yard 1283) launched at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa.
- The vessels are being constructed at two shipyards: Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa, and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), a Defence Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence.

Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI Begins in Indonesia



- The 11th edition of the India–Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI commenced at Banyuwangi, Indonesia, on 27 Oct 2026.
- The Indian contingent comprises troops from the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) of the Indian Army.
- The 10th edition was held at the Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, from 3 to 12 December 2025.

U.P. Approves PRAGATI AI and Robotics Park in Greater Noida



- On 27 October 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the PRAGATI (Platform for Robotics AI Growth Through Technology and Innovation) AI and Robotics Park in Greater Noida.
- The park will be developed in two zones: Zone 1 covering 8 acres and Zone 2 covering 61.52 acres.
- The project aims to promote artificial intelligence (AI), robotics manufacturing, research and technological innovation.