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E-mail: thenoteshub@gmail.com, Website: www.thenoteshub.com

**The Notes Hub**

**+91 7300134518, +91 7610010054**

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# Famous Personalities

## V. Srinivas Releases the Preliminary Framework of the IIAS Governance Index-2026: 15.10.2026



- ⇨ **Personality:** Chief Secretary of Rajasthan and President of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS). The framework was released during the **Annual Conference-2026** of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA).
  - ⇨ **Dates: 12-16 October 2026**.
  - ⇨ **Venue: Athens**, capital of Greece.
  - ⇨ **Theme: Rethinking Governance for a Changing World**
- ⇨ **Key features of the IIAS Governance Index**
  - ⇨ **Assessment of 164 countries:** The proposed index will make a comparative evaluation of the performance of governance systems and public institutions in **164 countries**.
  - ⇨ **Basis of assessment: 6 key dimensions of governance, 50 indicators and 8 data sources**.
  - ⇨ **6 key dimensions:** Institutional effectiveness, digital governance and innovation, transparency and accountability, citizen-centric service delivery, rule of law, and financial management.
  - ⇨ **Objective:** To promote comparative study at the international level by identifying areas where the efficiency of government institutions, administrative performance and governance need improvement.
  - ⇨ **Formal release:** Only the preliminary framework of the index was presented in Athens. Its full methodology, findings and country-wise comparative positions are scheduled to be presented at the IIAS Annual Conference in **Seoul, South Korea, on 17-20 November 2026**.

> ❖ **NOTE**: V. Srinivas met **Prof. Dr. Sabine Kuhlmann**, President of the European Group for Public Administration (EGPA). In Athens he also paid a courtesy call on **India's Ambassador, Ravi Shankar**.

## Prof. Shiv Singh Sarangdevot Appointed Vice-Chancellor of Govind Guru Tribal University

- ⇨ Rajasthan Governor and Chancellor **Haribhau Bagde** appointed **Prof. Shiv Singh Sarangdevot** as the new Vice-Chancellor of **GGTU, Banswara** on **17 October 2026**.
- ⇨ **Previous post:** He has served as Vice-Chancellor of Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth University, Udaipur.
- ⇨ **Taking charge:** He took over on **17 October 2026** from **Prof. Kailash Chandra Daga**, who held additional charge of the university.

## Santosh Devi Khedar Becomes Rajasthan's First Woman Farmer Brand Ambassador

- ⇨ **Appointment:** In **October 2026** the Rajasthan Agriculture Commissionerate appointed this **progressive farmer** from Beri village in Sikar district as **Woman Farmer Brand Ambassador and Trainer**.
- ⇨ **Achievement:** Innovation in organic horticulture - **successful cultivation of apple (HRMN-99)** in a dry, hot climate.
- ⇨ In 2024 she was honoured with the prestigious **'Innovative Farmer Award'** by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi.

# Schemes / Programmes / Campaigns / Events

## World Bank's 'SUTRA' Project

- ⇨ **Implementing agency:** Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP).
- ⇨ **Main project:** The World Bank has prepared a proposal for the **'Sustainable Urban Transformation in Rajasthan Accelerated' (SUTRA)** project to expand civic amenities, develop basic infrastructure and promote tourism in the major cities of Rajasthan.
- ⇨ **Total cost:** The proposed project will cost **US$385.7 million** (over ₹3,500 crore). This includes a **World Bank (IBRD) loan of $270 million** and **state government funding of $115.7 million**.
- ⇨ **Areas and bodies covered:**
  - A total of **32 urban local bodies** will be covered.
  - These include **4 major urban clusters – Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota and Bharatpur** – and **28 satellite towns** linked to them (estimated population of over 7.8 million).

## Rajasthan in Poshan Maah (Nutrition Month) 2026

- ⇨ **Duration:** 9 September to 8 October 2026.
- ⇨ **National achievement:** Following the directions of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, Rajasthan performed outstandingly in the **9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah** and secured **second place in India**.
- ⇨ **Target achieved:** The state achieved **113.66%** of its set target.
- ⇨ **Theme for 2026: "Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Zimmedari"** (Our Anganwadi, Our Responsibility).
- ⇨ The Rajasthan Government is fully committed to the goal of **'Kuposhan Mukt Rajasthan, Swasth Rajasthan'** (Malnutrition-free Rajasthan, Healthy Rajasthan).
- ⇨ **Top 5 performing districts of the state:**
  **1. Jodhpur** = 148.22% **2. Bikaner** = 133.70% **3. Pali** = 132.01%
  **4. Churu** = 128.85% **5. Sri Ganganagar** = 127.21%

**Special activities held on 5 key themes during Poshan Maah:**
- Dietary diversity and adequate protein
- Freshly cooked hot meals (HCM) at Anganwadi centres
- Community ownership and accountability
- Nutrition and early stimulation for childhood development
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

## PM Vishwakarma Yojana: Skill Development and Livelihood Promotion

- ⇨ **National achievement:** The scheme's target of **3 million registrations across the country by 2028** has been achieved **ahead of schedule**.
- ⇨ As of 30 September 2026, **30,03,925** artisans and craftspeople had registered.
- ⇨ **Rajasthan:** With over **2.30 lakh artisans registered**, Rajasthan ranks **fourth in the country**.
- ⇨ **Leading trades:** The highest registrations are of **carpenters (45,958)** and **masons (38,450)**.

⇨ **Training and financial assistance:**
- **2,22,473 beneficiaries** in the state have completed basic training.
- Loans of up to **₹3 lakh** at a concessional interest rate (over 62,000 loans sanctioned in the state) and assistance of **₹15,000** for toolkits (2,17,084 e-vouchers issued). Impact: According to a concurrent evaluation by IIM Mumbai, **93% of trained beneficiaries** have seen a significant rise in income.

## Special Registration Scheme-2026: Special Housing Scheme for Journalists

⇨ **Launch:** 17 October 2026, Constitution Club of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
⇨ **Nodal agency:** Rajasthan Housing Board.
⇨ **Location and benefits of the scheme:**
- Registration opened for flats in the **Indira Gandhi Nagar Housing Scheme, Sector-9, Jagatpura**.
- The Chief Minister announced a special discount of **₹15 lakh on 3 BHK flats** and **₹12 lakh on 2 BHK flats** in Phase-1 of the scheme.
- New housing schemes were also announced for other divisions, including the **satellite city being developed near Poonchhri ka Lautha in Bharatpur**.
- For journalists, the **minimum eligibility age is 45 years** and **minimum experience 15 years**.

❖ **Note: Rajasthan leads in implementing national schemes**

▪ The Chief Minister said the state ranks **first in 12 national schemes, second in 10 and third in 8**. Rajasthan came first in issuing the most policies under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, in various components of PM-KUSUM, in International Yoga Day 2025, and in the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign 2025 under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). In the **Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan**, Rajasthan was rated the **Best Performing State**.

## Rajasthan First in the Country in Tobacco Cessation Treatment and Counselling Services

⇨ **National achievement:** Based on its outstanding work over the past 10 months, the National Resource Centre of the Union Health Ministry has selected Rajasthan for **first place in the country** for effective implementation of **tobacco cessation treatment and counselling services**. The award will be presented in New Delhi in January-February 2027.
⇨ **Treatment and counselling figures:** In 2026-27, dentists in the state provided treatment and counselling to **over 1.52 lakh people** right down to the block level to help them quit tobacco.
⇨ **Block-level reach and geo-tagging:** Rajasthan is the **only state** in the country where dentists provide these services down to the block level. For public convenience, **over 500 tobacco cessation centres have been geo-tagged**, and **'Nicotine Replacement Therapy'** has been added to the free medicines list.
⇨ The World Health Organization (WHO) also honoured Rajasthan with the **'World No Tobacco Day Award-2026'** for outstanding work in the **South-East Asia Region**.

## PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana: Nagaur District Second in the Country

⇨ **Key achievement: Nagaur district came second in India** for effective implementation of the scheme.
⇨ Under the scheme, **100 aspirational agricultural districts** have been selected nationwide, including **8 districts of Rajasthan** (Barmer, Jaisalmer, Pali, Nagaur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Churu and Jalore). In the first-year assessment, Gaya (Bihar) came first, **Nagaur (Rajasthan) second** and Umaria (Madhya Pradesh) third.

⇨ **Nagaur's performance in the country (PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana):**

**1:** Promoting crop diversification and sustainable farming practices - **first place** (18.44 points)

**2:** Increasing post-harvest storage capacity and ensuring better availability of long-term farm credit for farmers - **fourth in the country**

**3:** Raising agricultural productivity and ensuring better governance and service delivery - **fifth in the country**

**4:** Overall performance across all 6 objectives - **second in the country** (with 84.13 points)

⇨ **Points relating to other districts:**

- Rajasthan's **Pali district** ranked **11th** on overall performance across all 6 objectives, and **8th** in improving irrigation infrastructure.
- In **Jaisalmer**, integrated pest management-based cumin farming on 2,000 acres and solar-powered sprinkler irrigation on 500 acres have been included among the national **'Best Practices'**.

**In the News: Nagaur Wins National Award**

- Nagaur district achieved the proud distinction of **coming second in the whole of India** under the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana. Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** honoured the district for this achievement at a function in New Delhi on **12 October**. Nagaur was represented by a team led by District Collector **Devendra Kumar**, including Joint Director (Agriculture) Ravindra Singh Riyad, Dr. Buddha Ram Choudhary of Krishi Vigyan Kendra Nagaur, and progressive farmer Ramdev Jat. To ensure effective implementation of the scheme, the Agriculture Department continuously monitored and reviewed progress and tracked field-level activities.

## ₹241 Crore Approved for the Bhiwadi Hub-and-Spoke Cluster under the PM-SETU Scheme

⇨ **Objective of the scheme:** To fulfil the resolve of **'Viksit Bharat-2047'**, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is revamping Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) under the **PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs)** scheme.

⇨ **Bhiwadi cluster approved:** The National Steering Committee approved an investment plan of **₹241 crore** for the Bhiwadi cluster in Rajasthan. Rajasthan became the **first state in the country to sign the shareholder agreement**.

⇨ 12 hub-and-spoke clusters: ITIs will be linked to modern technology and industry through **12 hub-and-spoke clusters** in the state (Bhiwadi, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Bharatpur, Banswara, Balotra, Bikaner, Bhilwara, Kotputli, Sikar and Pali).

⇨ **New courses:** Young people will be trained in **over 32 new courses**, including AI, robotics, drone technology, 5G networks, electric vehicles, cybersecurity and green energy.

## Review of the Schemes of the Directorate of ICDS

⇨ **Date: 26 October 2026** (Government Secretariat, Jaipur); chaired by Chief Secretary **V. Srinivas**.

⇨ **Key achievements:**

- **98.5% of Anganwadi centres co-located with schools: 61,483 Anganwadi centres** (98.5%) in the state have been co-located and mapped with schools, ensuring a smooth transition for children into primary school.
- **Champion workers: 1,000 best-performing Anganwadi workers** have been selected as **'Champions'**, for which **₹90 lakh** has been sanctioned.

### 'Sahi Khan-Paan, Swasth Rajasthan' Campaign in Rajasthan

- ⇨ **Organised by:** The Medical and Health Department of Rajasthan ran a statewide campaign from **3–16 Oct. 2026** to make people aware of safe, nutritious and adulteration-free food.
- ⇨ **Campaign message: 'Eat Safe – Stay Healthy – Eat Local – Defeat Adulteration'**
- ⇨ **Main activities:** The campaign included –
  - **School Eat Right Day** (3–5 October), **Identify Adulteration – Defeat Adulteration** (6–7 October)
  - **Healthy Rajasthan – Healthy Thali Day** (8–9 October), **'Read the Label – Eat Right, Eat Safe'** (11–12 October)
  - **Right Campus Day** (13–14 October) and **Food Waste – Save Food Day** (15–16 October).

## Major Awards, Publications and Authors

### SDRF Rajasthan: 'National CBRN Competition-2026'




- ⇨ **Duration: 12–15 October 2026**
- ⇨ **Venue:** 5th Battalion NDRF, Pune (Maharashtra)
- ⇨ **Organiser:** National Disaster Response Force (**NDRF**)
- ⇨ **Achievement:** The State Disaster Response Force (**SDRF**) team from Rajasthan won **first place at the second (regional) level**, while the **Gujarat** team came second.
- ⇨ **Team:** A 21-member squad led by Platoon Commanders **Ashish Banshiwal** and **Hemant Dayma**.
- ⇨ **Objective:** To assess the technical skills and rapid response of disaster response forces in handling chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (**CBRN**) emergencies.

### Jaipur's Niharika Rathore Crowned 'The Miss Globe India-2026'



- ⇨ On **30 September 2026** she was declared **'The Miss Globe India-2026'**, and will represent India at an international beauty pageant in Phuket, Thailand.
- ⇨ **Title transfer:** Aditi Bhatnagar had won the **Miss Fusion India** contest held in August 2026, with Niharika Rathore as first runner-up. After Aditi withdrew, the title passed to Niharika.
- ⇨ **International contest:** Niharika will represent India at **'The Miss Globe-2026'** in Phuket (Thailand), held from **24 October to 6 November 2026**. She is the **first contestant from Rajasthan** to represent India at The Miss Globe.

### 'Words Beyond Borders' International Literature Festival-2026

- ⇨ **Venue: Raffles University** and Neemrana Fort Palace, Neemrana (**Kotputli-Behror**), **25–27 October 2026** (**first edition**).
- ⇨ **Organisers:** Held jointly by the **Dr. Dnyaneshwar Mulay Foundation**, the Foundation for Art and Literature (**FOCAL**) and **Raffles University**.
- ⇨ **Highlights:** About 73 speakers from across the country shared their views on literature, culture, diplomacy and global issues over the festival's 35 sessions.

## Magician Shivkumar: Golden Merlin Award



- Magician **Shivkumar** from Mundawar (**Khairthal-Tijara**) was honoured with the **'Golden Merlin Award'** at the **Bangkok International Magic Festival** in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand.
- **Category:** Most Outstanding Manipulations (sleight of hand and brilliant magic performance).
- **Presented by: Tony Hassini**, President of the **International Magicians Society, USA**.
- **Highest status:** The award is regarded worldwide as the **'Oscar of the world of magic'**.
- **Background:** The Merlin Award is given by the US-based International Magicians Society for outstanding achievement in the art of magic.

## 7th Jal Prahari Samman-2026

- **Held on: 23 October** (New Delhi); **Chief Guest:** Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti **Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary**.
- It is a joint initiative of **civil society and a media group (Sarkaritel.com)**, with the full patronage of the Government (Ministry of Jal Shakti). A total of **31 water conservationists** from across the country were honoured for notable work in water conservation, sanitation and the environment.
- **Prominent awardees:**
  - **Ajay Krantikari:** Karmabhoomi Rajasthan (for reviving the **Sakrani river**).
  - **Engineer M.C.T. Pareva:** Dudu area (Jaipur) - contribution to water conservation and climate improvement.
  - **Bhupendra Paliwal** (Chirawa, Jhunjhunu) - for contribution to water conservation.
  - **Savitri Shrivastava ('Water Woman'):** Madhya Pradesh - for water resource management.
  - **Note:** The **'Waterman of India'** is **Dr. Rajendra Singh** (Alwar).

## Organic Farmer Award (2025-26)

- **Given by: Agriculture Department, Government of Rajasthan**.
- **Selected by:** State-level committee of the Agriculture Department.
- **Prize money: ₹1 lakh** in cash (to each).
- **Selected farmers (3 in all):**
  - **1. Girdhari Lal Gedar** - Sri Ganganagar
  - **2. Rawalchand** - Phalodi (Taliya Nausar village)
  - **3. Devi Lal** - Jhalawar (Devdoongri Dhaturiya Kala)

## Jaipur, 5 October 2026: Passing-out Parade at the Rajasthan Police Academy

- The passing-out parade of **Batch-102 of newly trained constables** was held at the Rajasthan Police Academy on Monday.
- Amid applause from family members and police personnel at the parade, **438 women constables** from cities, villages and dhanis across the state took the oath to serve the nation and the public.
- During the march past, family members seated in the gallery greeted the passing **Nari Shakti** with emotional faces and tears of joy, while police personnel saluted them.
- At the ceremony, Parade Commander **Priyanka Beniwal** led the parade, which was inspected by the Chief Guest, Director General of Police, Rajasthan, **Rajeev Kumar Sharma**.
- Additional Director General of Police and RPA Director **Sanjeeb Kumar Narzary** administered the oath to the new constables. The DGP congratulated the trainees and wished them well.
- **Awards for best performance in the batch:** Best All-Rounder and Best Drill - **Priyanka Beniwal** (Sawai Madhopur); Best Indoor Training - **Rashika Meena** (Kota); Best Outdoor - **Bharti Sharma** (Kotputli-Behror); Best Firing - **Nidhi Shekhawat** (Kotputli-Behror); Best performance in Computers - **Ravina** (Jaipur). Inspector **Nitesh Sharma** and Police Inspector **Meena Verma** were honoured as best trainers.
- **Parade and platoon commanders also honoured:** Parade Commander Priyanka Beniwal and Platoon Commanders Bharti Sharma, Pooja Jat, Rashika Meena, Tanushree Mali, Nidhi Shekhawat, Priya Yadav, Suman Kumawat and Kiran Meena received certificates of appreciation.

# Important Agreements Relating to Rajasthan

## Rajasthan Government + Department of Posts: Quality Testing of Farm Inputs

- ⇨ **Date: 23 October 2026**; **Venue:** Pant Krishi Bhawan, Jaipur.
- ⇨ **Initiative:** An **MoU** was signed between the Agriculture Department and India Post (Rajasthan Circle) to make the testing of **seed, fertiliser and pesticide samples faceless, contactless and transparent**.
- ⇨ **Agri QMS mobile app:** Through this app, farm input inspectors will collect samples digitally on the spot, with **GPS geo-tagging, QR code generation and tamper-proof packing**.
- ⇨ **System-based random allocation:** Inspectors will not be able to send a sample to a laboratory of their choice. Instead, the **Agri QMS system will allot the laboratory at random** (so the inspector and the laboratory will not know each other's identity).
- ⇨ **Role of the Department of Posts:** It will deliver samples safely to authorised laboratories through **Speed Post and Business Post Centre services**, with a **Book Now Pay Later (BNPL)** facility. The agreement is for **3 years**.
- ⇨ **Key officials:** Agriculture Commissioner **Naresh Kumar Goyal** and Agriculture Minister **Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena**.

## Memorandum of Cooperation between the Department of Skills, Employment and Entrepreneurship + BSDU

- ⇨ **Date: 09 October 2026**. Objective: A state government effort to give the state's youth industry-relevant skill training, promote vocational education and widen opportunities for employment and self-employment.
- ⇨ **MoC (Memorandum of Cooperation):** Between the Department of Skills, Employment and Entrepreneurship and **Bhartiya Skill Development University (BSDU), Jaipur**.
- ⇨ **Signatories:** Department of Skills, Employment and Entrepreneurship - **Rishav Mandal**; BSDU President - **Sanjay Goyal**.

## 'M1xchange' and 'RXIL' for MSMEs – Date: 07 October 2026

- ⇨ **Key initiative:** To ensure easy access to finance for the state's **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**, the Department of Industries and Commerce signed MoUs with **M1xchange** and **Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL)**.
- ⇨ **Promoting TReDS:** To promote and raise awareness of the **Trade Receivables Discounting System** among the state's MSMEs.
    - TReDS is an effective digital platform through which MSMEs can get early payment of accepted invoices for goods or services supplied, by having them financed at competitive rates before the due date. **Central guidelines:** In line with the guidelines of the Ministry of MSME, registration on the TReDS platform has been made **mandatory for companies with a turnover above ₹250 crore** and for **all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**.

## Rajasthan Police's High-tech Beat Policing Initiative

- **Date: 05 October 2026**
- **MoU:** Signed at **Police Headquarters, Jaipur** between Rajasthan Police and the Union Home Ministry's **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)**.
- **National initiative:** Part of implementing a **one-year action plan** in line with the recommendations of the **DGP/IGP Conference 2025**. Rajasthan is the **second state after Goa** to sign such an MoU.
- **First phase:** The new beat system has been introduced in **9 districts**, one from each range (Sikar, Jaipur North, Dholpur, Didwana-Kuchaman, Kota City, Dungarpur, Churu, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur West).
- **Technology integration:** To use technology effectively in beat policing, the capabilities of the **RajCop e-Beat Book** (GPS, geo-tagging, QR-based features) will be further developed.
- **Nodal training institute:** Rajasthan Police Academy (RPA), Jaipur.
- **Nature of cooperation:** BPR&D will provide expert guidance, training material and the framework, while Rajasthan Police will be responsible for field and operational implementation.

## Agreement between the Agriculture Department + Brahma Kumaris

- **Date: 25 October 2026** - Shantivan campus, Abu Road (during the Global Summit).
- **Parties:** The Agriculture Department of the Government of Rajasthan and the **Agriculture and Rural Development Wing of the Rajyoga Education and Research Foundation** of the Brahma Kumaris.
- **Signatories:** Agriculture Commissioner **Naresh Kumar Goyal** for the Rajasthan Government and Wing Chairperson **BK Sarla** for the Brahma Kumaris.
- **Centre of excellence:** To develop **'Tapovan'** at Abu Road as a centre for **'Yogic-Natural Farming'**.
- **Training and awareness:** To train farmers across the state in soil fertility, water conservation and preparing farm inputs from local resources.
- **Duration:** The agreement will initially be in force for **3 years**.

**In the News: Zero Maternal Deaths Recorded in 19 Medical Colleges and 58 District Hospitals in the Past Month**

- The Chief Secretary said that sustained efforts to strengthen maternal and child health in the state have begun to show positive results.
- Special attention is being paid to antenatal care, timely identification and management of **high-risk pregnant women (HRP)**, regular monitoring and the availability of quality delivery services.
- Recording **zero maternal deaths in 19 medical colleges and 58 district hospitals** in October is a positive achievement. The Chief Secretary held a review meeting by video conference at Swasthya Bhawan.
- In October, **11,928 ANC registrations** were recorded and **6,175 high-risk pregnant women** received ANC coverage. In 2026-27, **modular OTs** are being built in **35 medical colleges** of the state.
- The availability of **104 Janani Express** and **108 emergency ambulance** services was reviewed. According to data up to 19 October 2026, a total of **39,436 trips** were made through these services.
- The number of **Prasav Sakhis** (birth companions) in government health institutions in the state is **1,318**.

# Major Economic and Political Developments

## Pravasi Rajasthani Samvad Programme

- ⇨ **Date: 16 October 2026**; **Venue:** Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur.
- ⇨ Emphasis on **'Padharo Thare Desh'** alongside **'Padharo Mhare Desh'**.
- ⇨ **Expansion of Rajasthan Foundation chapters: 11 new chapters** were announced, raising the total number of chapters in India and abroad **from 40 to 51** (25 in India, 26 abroad).
  - **6 new chapters in India:** Raipur, Lucknow, Patna, Siliguri, Panaji and Visakhapatnam.
  - **4 new chapters abroad:** San Francisco (USA), Zurich (Switzerland), Milan (Italy) and Dublin (Ireland).
  - In addition, **a Nordic chapter will be set up in Stockholm**, covering Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland.
- ⇨ In the MSME sector, the **Consent to Operate** deadline has been cut **from 120 days to 30 days** (60 days for large industries). The list of **White Category** industries has been expanded **from 104 to 877**.
- ⇨ A **'Shekhawati Heritage Meet'** will be held on **8 December** to conserve Shekhawati's historic heritage and havelis (heritage tourism circuit across Sikar, Jhunjhunu and Churu).
- ⇨ A **'Pravasi Rajasthani Sammelan'** is proposed for **10 December**.
- ⇨ A coffee table book, **'Vikas ke Sahbhagi'** (Partners in Development), was released on the occasion.

## 10th Meeting of the State Cooperative Development Committee (SCDC)

- ⇨ **Date: 16 October 2026** (Government Secretariat, Jaipur).
- ⇨ **Chaired by:** Chief Secretary **V. Srinivas**, via video conference.
- ⇨ **Key departmental figures (Dr. Samit Sharma, Secretary, Cooperation):**
  - **Grain Storage Scheme:** Under the **world's largest grain storage scheme**, 130 of the 200 godowns sanctioned in 2024-25 and 2025-26 have been completed, placing **Rajasthan first in the country**.
  - **Strengthening PACS: 2,390 new multipurpose PACS (M-PACS)** set up in the state and **6,901 PACS upgraded to E-PACS**.
  - **Financial inclusion: 3,583 Bank Mitras** appointed and **1,741 micro-ATMs** distributed.
  - **Other initiatives: 55 Jan Aushadhi Kendras** running for generic medicines (target of 100 by December 2026). A **'Sahkar Van'** project is being developed on **63 acres** at Sumel village in Jaipur district **in collaboration with Amul**.

## State-level Virtual Workshop of RITI

- ⇨ **Date: 15 October 2026** (Yojana Bhawan, Jaipur).
- ⇨ **Organiser:** Rajasthan Institute for Transformation and Innovation (RITI).
- ⇨ **Main theme: 'Enhancing Credit Outreach to MSMEs – Strengthening Inclusive Financing, Digital Credit Delivery and Entrepreneurship for Viksit Rajasthan @ 2047'**.
- ⇨ **Main objective:** To widen MSMEs' access to credit, strengthen digital credit delivery and encourage women entrepreneurs and start-ups.

### Rajasthan Legislative Assembly: 'Under Vehicle Surveillance System' (UVSS)

- **Launch: 15 October 2026**, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly premises, Jaipur.
- **Inaugurated by:** Assembly Speaker **Vasudev Devnani**. Model: Set up **on the lines of the Lok Sabha Secretariat**.
- **Cost:** A total of **₹1.06 crore** was spent. Operation: At **Gates 6, 7 and 8** of the Assembly.
- **Technical feature:** Using special cameras, image-capture devices, lighting and software, it takes clear pictures of the **underside of vehicles** to help in close inspection.

### 'Masterclass with UNESCO' Workshop at HCM RIPA, Held with UNESCO

- **Date: 12 October 2026**, HCM Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration, Jaipur.
- **Main theme:** Training administrative officers and civil service trainees in **world heritage conservation and management**, and in the **ethical and inclusive use of artificial intelligence (AI)** in administration.
- **Key personalities present:**
  - **Shreya Guha:** Director General, HCM RIPA.
  - **Eunsong Kim:** Programme Specialist, UNESCO South Asia Regional Office.
  - **Anand Kanitkar:** Programme Officer (Culture Sector), UNESCO.
  - According to Ms. Eunsong Kim, there are **5 categories of AI users - AI Users, AI Stewards, AI Decision Makers, AI System Designers and AI Connectors**.

### 3rd Global Happiness Forum and Festival-2026

- **Organised by: 'Global Happiness Forum and ST Foundation, Jaipur'**, affiliated with the World Happiness Foundation, on **10-11 October** at **Birla Auditorium**, Jaipur.
- **Inaugurated by:** Rajasthan Governor **Haribhau Bagde**.
- **Main theme: 'A Pathway to Global Wellbeing'**.
- **Participation: Over 35** national and international speakers.
- **Main activity:** The musical play **'Unlocking Your Light Within'** was announced. For the **first time in Rajasthan**, people experienced activities such as **'headphone-led immersive yoga'** and sound healing.
- **Book release:** Jaipur Mayor **Sunil Kothari** released books on well-being, including **'Happytalism'**.

## Environmental and Geographical Developments

### Banas River: Rajasthan's Longest High-Level Bridge Completed

- **Construction:** The Public Works Department has built **Rajasthan's longest high-level bridge** over the Banas river at **Gahlod (Tonk)** at a cost of **₹134.74 crore**.
- **Total length: 3.34 km**. Load capacity: about **243 tonnes**. Funding: **Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF)**.
- **Load testing:** Completed successfully in 5 stages, with **92% structural recovery** recorded.

## Ramdevra: Great Indian Bustard (Godawan) Re-wilding Aviary

- **Inauguration:** On **03 October**, Chief Minister **Bhajanlal Sharma** inaugurated, by video conference from Jaipur, the newly built **Godawan re-wilding aviary** at **Ramdevra, Jaisalmer**.
- **Funding:** The state government sanctioned a budget of **₹9.25 crore**. It is a **one-of-a-kind initiative in India**.
- **Main objective:** To give **captive-bred Great Indian Bustards** the chance to adapt to natural conditions and develop natural behaviour **before they are released into the open wild**.
- **Conservation status:** Thanks to joint efforts of the Centre, the state government and the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, there are a total of **97 Great Indian Bustards** at the **Sam and Ramdevra breeding centres** in Jaisalmer.
- **Ecology:** Union Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** said the Godawan is an **'umbrella species'** of the Thar ecosystem. Conserving it helps protect grasslands, check land degradation and safeguard the stopover sites of migratory birds on the **Central Asian Flyway**.
- To conserve the rare **Lesser Florican (Kharmor)** at **Sokhaliya in Ajmer district**, the **Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board (RSBB)** has signed an MoU with the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)**. The initiative aims at long-term conservation of the bird's natural habitats and biodiversity.
- **38,622 Van Mitras** (forest friends) have registered to help in forest and wildlife conservation.

## 80 Tehsils in 14 Districts Declared Drought-hit – Effective for the Next 6 Months

- The Rajasthan Government declared **80 tehsils in 14 districts** drought-affected.
- **Notification issued by:** Department of Disaster Management and Relief (**25 October 2026**).
- **Severely drought-affected:** 69 tehsils; **moderately drought-affected:** 11 tehsils.
- **Jodhpur district** has the most tehsils (**12**), followed by **Jalore and Barmer** with ten each.
- The notifications were issued in view of low rainfall and damage to kharif crops. The decision will make it easier to open fodder depots for livestock in the affected areas, and **recovery of farm loans will be deferred for six months**.

## National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds: Field Day on Groundnut Cultivation

- **Held on: 26 October 2026** (Digadi village, Tinwari block, Jodhpur).
- **Organisers: ICAR – Central Arid Zone Research Institute (ICAR-CAZRI)** and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jodhpur.
- **Main subject: Cluster Frontline Demonstration (CFLD)** of the **'Girnar-5'** groundnut variety under the **National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)**.
- **Participation:** A total of **27 farmers (15 women and 12 men)** took part.

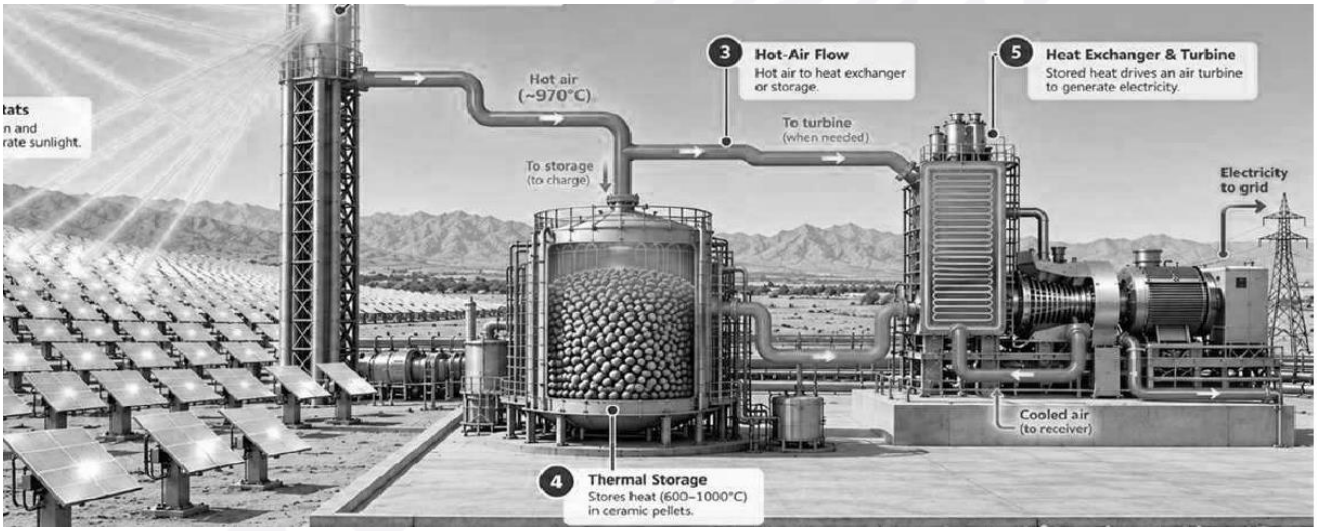
## In the News: Panchayati Raj Department writes to NHAI on opening Shri Annapurna Rasoi; NHAI to examine and send a proposal

- Chief Minister **Bhajanlal Sharma** has from time to time issued directions to reduce accidents on Rajasthan's expressways and to provide drivers with essential facilities at concessional rates.
- In line with this, the Panchayati Raj Department has written to the regional officer of **NHAI**, asking it to examine the possibility of opening **Shri Annapurna Rasois (Rural)** in rest areas on the expressways and to send a proposal.
- For effective control of road accidents in the state, the Chief Minister directed the departments concerned to act on a **'6-E' based action plan** – a strategy built on **Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Emergency Care, Evaluation and Engagement** – on which work is going on continuously.

# Science and Technology

## India's First Ceramic Storage-based Concentrated Solar Power Project – Bhadla Solar Park, Phalodi

- **Capacity: 320 kW**. Collaboration: US-based company **'247Solar'**.
- **Technology: Ceramic thermal energy storage**.
- **Announcement: NTPC**, in collaboration with **Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL)**, is setting up the **country's first ceramic storage-based concentrated solar power (CSP) project**.
- **Main objective:** To test the ability to keep generating solar power **even at night** while reducing dependence on conventional battery storage. The power generated will be used for the NTPC plant's internal and auxiliary consumption.
- **Technology (ceramic thermal energy storage):**
  - Solar energy captured during the day will be stored as **heat** in special **high-temperature ceramic modules**.
  - After sunset, this stored heat will be used to **run an air turbine and generate electricity**, reducing dependence on heavy and costly chemical batteries.




## 'Sub-National Pulse Polio Campaign' in 32 Districts of the State on 22 November

- **Date: 23 October 2026**.
- **Venue:** A meeting of the **State Task Force** under the **'National Immunisation Programme'** was held at Swasthya Bhawan, Jaipur, chaired by NHM Mission Director **Dr. Jogaram**.
- **Campaign:** A **sub-national pulse polio campaign** will be held in **32 districts** of the state on **22 November 2026**.
- **Target:** To give polio drops to **92.83 lakh children up to 5 years of age**.
- **Districts covered (32):** Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Barmer, Bharatpur, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dausa, Dholpur, Dungarpur, Sri Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Kota, Kotputli-Behror, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sawai Madhopur, Salumber, Sikar, Sirohi, Tonk and Udaipur.

## Positive Results of Strengthening Maternal and Child Health

- **Date: 22 October 2026**; **Venue:** Swasthya Bhawan, Jaipur.
- **Achievement:** According to a review meeting chaired by Chief Secretary **V. Srinivas**, **zero maternal deaths** were recorded in October in **19 medical colleges and 58 district hospitals** of the state.
- **Care and registration of pregnant women:**
  - **11,928 ANC registrations** were recorded in October.
  - ANC coverage was provided to **6,175 high-risk pregnant women (HRP)**.
- **Modular operation theatres (OT):** Under 2026-27, **modular OTs** are being built in **35 medical colleges** of the state.
- **Referral transport services:** According to data up to 19 October 2026, a total of **39,436 trips** were made through **104 Janani Express** and **108 emergency ambulance** services.
- **Prasav Sakhis:** There are a total of **1,318 Prasav Sakhis** (birth companions) in government health institutions in the state.

## 10th National Conference of Power Distribution Companies (Distribution Utility Meet-2026)

- **Date: 27-28 October 2026** (Hotel Lalit, Jaipur).
- **Organisers:** Held under the aegis of the **India Smart Grid Forum** and the Energy Department of the Government of Rajasthan, with the **Jaipur, Jodhpur and Ajmer Discoms**.
- **Co-organisers:** Tata Power, Chandigarh Power, Noida Power, BSES Rajdhani Power and BSES Yamuna Power.
- **Inaugurated by:** Minister of State for Energy (Independent Charge) **Heeralal Nagar** and Chief Secretary **V. Srinivas**.
- **Main theme: 'Integration of Power Distribution Companies for Collaborative Growth'**.
- **First occasion:** Held **in Rajasthan for the first time**.
- **Sessions:** Across **7 sessions**, the conference discussed strengthening the power distribution sector, digitisation, AI tools, grid modernisation, cybersecurity and zero carbon emissions.
- **Participants: Over 500 delegates**, energy experts and senior officials from India and abroad (USA, Europe, South Korea, Japan and others).

## 'Jai Se Vijay' Military Exercise-2026

- **Held by:** The Indian Army's **Sapta Shakti Command (South Western Command)** on **29 September 2026** at **Dantaur in Bikaner district** of Rajasthan, near the India-Pakistan international border.
- Helicopter landing and take-off drills were carried out on **National Highway-911**.
- **Main helicopters:** The Army's aviation units successfully demonstrated landings and take-offs with **Rudra, Dhruv and Chetak** helicopters.
- **Main objective:** To test rapid military response and operational capability by **using national highways as alternatives to airfields** in emergencies and wartime.

## IIT Jodhpur: International Conference on Water Conservation and Sustainable Water Management (ICWS 2026)

- ⇨ **Dates: 28–30 October 2026**. Organiser: Department of Environmental Science and Sustainability Engineering.
- ⇨ **Title: International Conference on Water Sustainability: Innovations, Policy, and Community Resilience – ICWS 2026**.
- ⇨ **Traditional water conservation systems:** Discussion on combining traditional systems such as **stepwells (baoris), tankas, johads and lakes** with engineering techniques for water-scarce regions like the **Thar Desert**.
- ⇨ **Key invited experts: Padma Shri Prof. Ashutosh Sharma** (IIT Kanpur), **Padma Shri Prof. Thalappil Pradeep** (IIT Madras), Prof. Volker Abetz (University of Hamburg, Germany), **Rajendra Singh (Waterman of India)** and **Ramveer Tanwar (Pondman of India)**.
- ⇨ **Publication and awards:** Selected papers will get the chance to be published in **ACS ES&T Water** and Springer's **Lecture Notes in Civil Engineering**, and **10 excellence awards** will be given in collaboration with ACS ES&T Water and ACS ES&T Engineering. The event is in line with **UN Sustainable Development Goal-6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)**.

## IIT Jodhpur: Medical AI Systems Lab

- ⇨ **Date: 14 October 2026**. Led by: **Dr. Deepak Mishra** (Associate Professor, Computer Science and Engineering).
- ⇨ **Key points and main areas of research:**
  - **Heart ultrasound (echocardiography) using AI and robotics:**
    - A **robotic ultrasound system** is being developed to obtain precise images, in which a robot will hold the probe while AI guides its direction and position. The aim is to reduce dependence on placing the probe by hand and to get images of consistent quality.
  - **AI-based analysis of medical scans (detecting rib fractures):**
    - Computer-based methods have been developed to analyse CT scans, MRI and ultrasound. A system based on **agentic AI** will automatically detect different types of rib fractures and analyse their features according to clinical standards.
  - **Medical education through simulation:** Interactive tools, simulators of examination procedures and techniques for making and analysing surgery-related videos are being developed for medical students and health workers.

## Rajasthan Fourth in the Country in the Vaccination Campaign against Cervical Cancer (as of 7 October 2026)

- ⇨ **Vaccination target in the state: 7,24,000**; **vaccinations completed: 4,52,085 girls (62.44%)**.
- ⇨ **Top-performing district: Deeg (100%)**.
- ⇨ **Districts with over 80% coverage:** Tonk, Alwar, Jalore and Bhilwara.
- ⇨ **Top-performing states (3): 1. Uttar Pradesh, 2. Bihar, 3. Madhya Pradesh**.
- ⇨ **HPV vaccination campaign:** Launched by **PM Modi from Ajmer** on **28.02.2026**.

## Rajasthan Second in Regional Performance on Cancer Screening

⇨ **Date: 01 November 2026**.

⇨ **Achievement:** Through broad public-private participation and an advanced **HPV pilot project**, Rajasthan has come **second in regional performance on cancer screening**. It ranks second on **cumulative screening performance** compared with neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh.

⇨ **Key screening figures:**

- **Breast cancer: 1.58 crore women** screened so far - **84%** of the target.
- **Oral cancer: 3.33 crore people** screened through the standard oral visual examination method - **87%** of the target.
- **Cervical cancer: 91,52,970 women** examined using the **Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA)** method, with **10,214 positive cases** identified.

⇨ **Health infrastructure and other initiatives:**

- **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs: 15,297** running in the state.
- **District Cancer Care Units:** Fully operational in **all 61 district hospitals** of the state.
- **Private sector:** MoUs signed with NIMS Hospital, Mahatma Gandhi Hospital, Bhagwan Mahaveer Hospital and Marudhar Hospital. **Mobile vans: 2,26,930 people** in remote areas have been screened through **8 special mobile cancer screening vans**.
- **Special initiative 'Jeevandhara':** To remove hesitation around cancer and encourage people, a collection of **32 inspiring stories** of cancer survivors has been compiled.

## Governor Launches the 'Shakti Vandan Mobile App': 28 October 2026

⇨ **Event:** Rajasthan Governor **Haribhau Bagde** launched the **'Shakti Vandan Mobile App'** and viewed an exhibition on women's entrepreneurship at the **'Shakti Samvad, Udyam Utsav'** programme in Jaipur.

⇨ **Organiser: Sevayam Sanstha**, at Ramchandrapura Industrial Area, Sitapura, Jaipur (auditorium of the Poddar Group of Institutions).

⇨ **Features of the app (developer: Sevayam Sanstha):**

- **Panic button:** When pressed in an emergency, it immediately sends an **SMS alert with your live location to 5 chosen contacts**.
- **'Raksha' feature:** One-touch facility to contact the **Women's Helpline (1091)** and **Police (100)** directly in an emergency.
- **Digital shop:** A digital store where women entrepreneurs can showcase their products and reach a larger market.

## 107th Shri Jaswant Exhibition and Cattle Fair-2026, Bharatpur

⇨ One of the state's major state-level cattle fairs, it was held in Bharatpur from **15-31 October**.

⇨ **Organisers: District administration and the Animal Husbandry Department**, in coordination.

⇨ **Origin:** Started in **1920** by **Maharaja Kishan Singh** of Bharatpur in memory of his grandfather **Maharaja Jaswant Singh**. It has been held as a **state-level fair since 1963**.

# Miscellaneous Developments

## South Western Air Command: 2nd 'Sekhon IAF Marathon 2026'




- **Date: 04 October 2026**. Organiser: South Western Air Command (SWAC).
- **Objective:** To honour the valour and supreme sacrifice of **Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon**, the **Indian Air Force's only Param Vir Chakra awardee**. Main theme: **'Power in Partnership'**.
- **Wide participation:** The marathon was **not limited to Jodhpur** but was held at various stations in SWAC's area of responsibility, with **over 15,000 participants** running at the same time.
- **Main event (Jodhpur): Over 4,000 runners** took part, including personnel of **Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs)** taking part in **'Exercise Tarang Shakti'**, air warriors, their families and local residents.
- **Race categories: 5 km, 10 km and 21 km** (half marathon).
- **Chief guest and flag-off: Air Marshal P.V. Shivanand** (Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief).

## 'Nari Chaupal – Sashakt Balika, Surakshit Samaj' Week

- **Held by:** The **Women Empowerment Department of Rajasthan**, under the **Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao** campaign, in urban areas of the state on the occasion of **International Day of the Girl Child**, from **11-16 October 2026**.
- **Main objective:** To raise awareness about the mental health of girls and women, socio-economic empowerment, gender equality, prevention of child marriage, education and self-defence.
- **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign:** Launched by the Prime Minister from **Panipat, Haryana**, on **22 January 2015**.

## Aadi Bazaar – K.K. Square Mall, C-Scheme, Jaipur

- **Organiser: TRIFED**, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India (Regional Office, Jaipur).
- **Dates: 13-20 October 2026**.
- **Main objective:** To promote the traditional products, handicrafts and handlooms of tribal artisans and craftspeople, and to strengthen their livelihoods and income by **linking them directly with the market**.
- **Stalls:** Tribal artisans from various states exhibited and sold their products at about **25 stalls**.
- **Main products on display:**
  - **Rajasthan:** Bagru print / Jaipur blue pottery; **Gujarat:** Bandhej / Bandhani textiles; **Manipur:** Longpi (black pottery).
  - **Karnataka:** Bidri-ware home decor; **Chhattisgarh and Odisha:** Dokra art.
  - **Madhya Pradesh:** Bagh print textiles; **Tamil Nadu:** Toda weaving / embroidery; **North-Eastern states:** bamboo and cane products.
  - **Himachal Pradesh:** Pattu woollen weaving; **Maharashtra:** Warli painting; **Odisha:** Saura painting.

## 29th National Folk Art Festival 'Lokrang'-2026

- **Duration: 27 October to 6 November 2026** at **Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK), Jaipur**.
- **Objective:** To promote the country's diverse folk arts, folk music, dance and handicraft traditions.
- **Organiser:** JKK, Jaipur. Folk artists from about **22 states and Union Territories** are taking part.
- **National Handicrafts Fair:** About **150 artisans** are displaying their work at the National Handicrafts Fair in JKK's **Shilpgram**.
- The **fire dance of the Jasnathi sect** and **Teja singing** are the special attractions of this edition.
- A **fire dance performance** has been scheduled at the festival **for the first time**.

## VB-G RAM G (Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission)

- **Date: 29 October 2026**.
- **Main subject:** The economic and social empowerment of women and the disadvantaged through the successful implementation of the **'Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)'** in Rajasthan.
- **Key figures and achievements:**
  - **Women's participation:** This year (2026-27), the **share of women in employment in Rajasthan is 72.69%**, against a national average of **62.25%**.
  - **Days of employment:** So far, **18.86 lakh households** and **21.66 lakh people** in the state have got work. Rajasthan is providing an average of **24.29 days of work per household**, against a national average of **20.02 days** (**4.27 days more** on average).
  - **Asset creation and water conservation: 42,557 assets** have been created in the state. **35.88%** of total expenditure is going to agriculture and allied activities and **73.17%** to **Mission Jal Sanrakshan blocks**.
  - **Participation of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST):**
    - **SC 20.43%** and **ST 23.34%** (a combined **active share of 44%**),
    - against **18% and 18%** respectively at the national level.
  - **Payment system (EFMS):** In Rajasthan, **97.04% of payments** were generated **within 15 days**, against **82.46%** nationally. **100% of total expenditure** has been made through the **Electronic Fund Management System (EFMS)**.

## 37th National Youth Music Conference and Competition-2026

- **Held by: Sur Sangam Sansthan** on **1-2 October** at Hotel Bilwa Palace, Tonk Road, Jaipur.
- **Closing ceremony:** Rajasthan Governor **Haribhau Bagde** was the chief guest.
- **Participation: Over 70 young musicians from 10 states** showcased their talent in classical, light and folk music.
- **Jury:** Renowned musician **Padma Bhushan Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt** was the chief judge.
- **Main prizes:** The **₹1 lakh Milap Kothari Memorial Award** for the best talent, **four first prizes of ₹50,000** under the Ratan Dhan Award, and the **₹50,000 Ganesh Rana Memorial Award**.
- **Main honours:** Governor Haribhau Bagde presented the **₹1 lakh Milap Kothari Award to Hulash Purohit** and the **Sur Sangam Gaurav Samman to composer Deepak Pandit**.
- **Founding of the institution:** Sur Sangam Sansthan was founded in **1977**. The 2026 event was dedicated to the memory of **the late K.C. Malu**, founder-president of the institution and of Veena Music Group.

## Cultural Festival 'Octave-2026'

- **Inauguration:** Governor **Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde** at the **RIC, Jaipur**, on **1 October**.
- **Dates: 1-4 October**. The festival was organised by the **West Zone Cultural Centre (WZCC), Udaipur**, under the Union Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the Rajasthan International Centre.
- **Eight states took part:** The cultural heritage of North-East India - **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura** - was presented.
- **Main objective:** To popularise the folk art, music, dance, traditional dress, handicrafts and cuisine of North-East India in other parts of the country and to promote cultural unity.
- **Performances: Sattriya** of Assam, **Raas** of Manipur, **Hojagiri** of Tripura and **Singhi Chham** of Sikkim.
- **Background:** The Octave festival began at the national level in **2006 in New Delhi** and was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister **Dr. Manmohan Singh**. The West Zone Cultural Centre has earlier held Octave festivals in **Jodhpur (2012)** and **Ajmer (2016)**.

# Important One-Liners

- At the **200th birth anniversary** celebration of **Mata Sahib Hasi Devi**, the fifth Peethadhishwar of the **Shadani Darbar**, held in **Raipur, Chhattisgarh** (22 October 2026), President **Droupadi Murmu** released a **₹200 commemorative coin**, and Assembly Speaker **Vasudev Devnani** unveiled a **special postage stamp**.

- **6th National Conference of Chief Secretaries (NCCS):** A review meeting (23 October) on preparations for the NCCS - to be held under the aegis of the **Rajasthan Institute for Transformation and Innovation** - was held at the Government Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary **V. Srinivas**. The conference will be held from **26 to 28 December 2026**.

- **Rajasthan Police personnel take part in a French music programme (18 October 2026): 9 personnel** of the police's **Tourist Assistance Force (TAF)** took part in "Le Voyage de Rezè", held at the Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur, as part of the **'France-India Year of Innovation 2026'**. A total of **22 TAF personnel** are being trained in **French** so that they can assist tourists better. Organisers: Embassy of France in India, French Institute in India and Alliance Française de Jaipur. Cultural partners: RIC and Rajasthan Patrika.

- **Review meeting on 'Bharat Taxi'** chaired by Chief Secretary **V. Srinivas**: At **Nehru Sahkar Bhawan, Jaipur**, on **18 October 2026**, a target was set to raise rides to **5,000 a day** within the next 2 months. The meeting was told that **53,766 drivers** are currently registered on Bharat Taxi in Jaipur.

⇨ **33-member delegation from the North-Eastern states visits Jaipur:** To study the digital projects and technical systems running in Rajasthan, a 33-member delegation from the **eight North-Eastern states** (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura) visited the **Bhamashah Data Centre**, Jaipur. It was led by **Nand Kumarum**, Joint Secretary (Digital Governance) in the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and CEO of the **National e-Governance Division**.

⇨ **Rajasthan Police forms the country's first police polo team:** On **8 October 2026**, Director General of Police (DGP) **Rajeev Kumar Sharma** rolled in the ball at the hockey ground of the Rajasthan Police Academy to launch the police polo team and its opening match (an exhibition match between Team Red and Team Blue). In an exciting game, **Team Blue beat Team Red 6-2**. The **Rajasthan Police Orchestra Band** was also launched on the occasion.

⇨ **Review of district-level road safety action plans:** On **05 October 2026**, a video-conference (VC) meeting was held with all districts to effectively implement the **district-level road safety action plans**, prepared under the directions of the **Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety** by the Transport and Road Safety Department in collaboration with the **World Health Organization (WHO)**. It was chaired by **Bhawani Singh Detha**, Principal Secretary, Transport and Road Safety Department. **Rajasthan is the first state in the country** to prepare **a separate action plan for each district**, taking into account local conditions, causes of accidents and black spots.

⇨ **Jaipur Air Cargo Complex - highest-ever business in September 2026:** The Jaipur Air Cargo Complex, run by **Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Limited (RAJSICO)**, recorded its **highest-ever monthly turnover of ₹1.93 crore** in September 2026 since it was set up (**1979**). In September, a total of **276.807 metric tonnes** of cargo was handled, with a total trade value of **₹2,776.91 crore** (including 211.261 MT of exports and 65.546 MT of imports). To strengthen operations, **Govindam Clearing Agency Pvt. Ltd.** has been appointed as the new handling and transportation contractor.

⇨ **High-level meeting on eliminating child labour, chaired by the Chief Secretary (26 October 2026):** In the past four years, about **5,000 children** in the state have been **freed from child labour**. These include the highest number in **Jaipur district (1,560)**, followed by Udaipur (600) and Kota (315).

⇨ **Adikavi Maharshi Valmiki Jayanti:** On **26 October 2026**, a seminar on **'Adikavi Valmiki: Literary Contribution and the Concept of Lokmangal'** was held in Jaipur under the joint aegis of Rajasthan's **Department of Peace and Non-violence** and the **Sanskrit Academy**.

⇨ **Fit India Swachhata Freedom Run 7.0 by the Central Research Institute for Homoeopathy, Jaipur:** Held on **28 October 2026** under the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, with the theme **'Fitness ki Khurak, Aadha Ghanta Roz'** (A dose of fitness - half an hour a day).

⇨ **10% rise in the honorarium of ASHA Sahyoginis:** Old honorarium: **₹4,959 a month**; **new honorarium: ₹5,455 a month** (the increased amount is payable **from 1 October 2026**).

⇨ **CAZRI: 'Mahila Kisan Diwas' at Udaliyawas village:** On **15 October 2026**, ICAR - **Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur**, held the event to take scientific techniques from the laboratory to the field and give rural women practical knowledge on farming, nutrition security and livelihood enhancement.

⇨ **Bureau of Indian Standards' 'Manak Mahotsav 2026':** Held on **14 October 2026** by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, Jaipur Branch Office, at the Constitution Club of Rajasthan, Jaipur; chief guest **Haribhau Bagde**. **World Standards Day** is observed every year on **14 October** to promote quality, safety, reliability and technical cooperation worldwide.

⇨ **Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat: Development of four major religious sites under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme - total sanctioned amount ₹50.93 crore:**

- **1. Ramdevra** (sacred site of Baba Ramdevji): ₹21.16 crore
- **2. Maa Degrai Temple** (Jaisalmer): ₹11.84 crore
- **3. Mehoji Mangaliya Temple** (Bapini, Phalodi): ₹16 crore
- **4. Kolu Pabuji** (Kolu village, Phalodi): ₹1.93 crore

⇨ **Shishu Sanjeevani Poshan Aahar:** Launched on **17 October 2026** at the Vidyadhar Nagar Anganwadi centre by Deputy Chief Minister **Diya Kumari**. **Children aged 3 to 6** at Anganwadi centres will be given nutritious food **twice a week**, rich in vitamins and minerals, prepared in collaboration with the **NDDB (National Dairy Development Board) Foundation for Nutrition**.

⇨ **State-level 'Amrita Haat'-2026:** Rajasthan's **Women Empowerment Department** held the ten-day state-level 'Amrita Haat' from **11-20 October** at the Shilpgram complex of Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur. It was inaugurated on 11 October by **Poonam**, Secretary, Women and Child Development Department.

⇨ Renowned film producer-director **Seema Kapoor** (from **Jhalawar** district) will be honoured at the prestigious **'Kalinga Literature Festival (KLF) Book Awards 2026'** for her autobiography (date: **18 December 2026**, Travancore Palace, New Delhi).




- **Category:** Best Hindi Non-Fiction Book of the Year
- **Awarded work: 'Yun Guzri Hai Ab Talak'**

⇨ At the **14th Rajasthan Film Festival (RFF)** held in Jaipur on **26 September 2026**, the **'Lifetime Achievement Award'** was presented to **Mamta Kulkarni**, Bollywood actress of the 1990s.

⇨ **Rajasthan AVGC-XR Summit-2026:** Held on **28 October** (**International Animation Day**) at the Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur, by **RAMA (Rising AVGC-XR and Media Association, Rajasthan)**, with the theme **"Weaving the Orange Economy"**.

⇨ At the state-level function held in Jaipur on **10 October 2026** (**World Mental Health Day**), **Karauli district came first in Rajasthan** for mental health awareness and outstanding activities - for sensitivity towards mental health, effective awareness campaigns and excellent field activities during **'Mental Health Month'** (10 September to 10 October 2026).

⇨ **Rajasthan's first custard apple (sitaphal) processing unit:** Chittorgarh (**Centre of Excellence for Custard Apple**). **Completion target: March 2027.** (How it will work: custard apples will be bought from farmers, the pulp extracted and stored at **minus 40 ° C**.)

⇨ **Supermodel Worldwide-2026:** At the grand finale in Jaipur on **25 October**, **Liya Gugushvili of Georgia** won **Miss Supermodel Worldwide**, and **Lyudmila of the USA** won **Mrs. Supermodel Worldwide**.

⇨ In **October 2026**, **Gandhinagar railway station** (Jaipur Division, North Western Railway) was given a **'Platinum Rating'** (the highest honour) in the green railway station rating by the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**.

⇨ On **29 October 2026**, Governor **Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde** inaugurated the **33rd Annual Conference of the Indian Academy of Neurology (IANCON 2026)** in Jaipur. **Prof. Ashok Panagariya Young Scientist Award - Renu Suthar.**

⇨ Under the Centre's **One District One Product** programme, the Sikar district administration has selected **bajra (pearl millet) churma** as the **main food item of Sikar district**.

⇨ On **26 October 2026**, Union Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** flagged off the **Jaipur (Khatipura) – Tatanagar – Santragachi Express** by video conference.

⇨ In Rajasthan's **Baran district**, **'smart learning'** has been introduced in government schools under **'Mission Samarthya – Samarth Yuva'**, a **joint initiative of the district administration and NTPC**, to give students in rural areas better education and guidance. Under the programme, **12 senior secondary schools** across **all eight blocks of Baran** were chosen to be developed as **'Samarthya Kendras'**.

⇨ **Devendra Kachhawaha:** In September 2026, the state government extended the tenure of Devendra Kachhawaha, President of the **State Consumer Protection Commission**, until he reaches **67 years of age**. Appointed: **27 September 2022**.

⇨ **Where did the then Deputy Chief of the Indian Air Force, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, launch the first 'IAF Dronathon-2026' on 14-16 September 2026? - Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer**. Objective: To strengthen the goal of **'Atmanirbhar Bharat'** and enhance the Air Force's operational capabilities in **unmanned aerial systems (UAS)** and **counter-drone technologies**.

⇨ By completing **22 of the 28 economic, regulatory and procedural reforms (priorities)** set by the Centre at the **5th National Conference of Chief Secretaries**, **Rajasthan ranked first in the country**. This emerged at a state-level review meeting chaired by Chief Secretary **V. Srinivas** on **9 September 2026**. For the **6th National Conference of Chief Secretaries (26-28 December 2026)**, Rajasthan has also prepared its **5 key priority areas** under **'Viksit Rajasthan @ 2047'** - renewable energy, tourism, climate-resilient agriculture, industrial development and horticulture.

⇨ On **1 September 2026**, Chief Secretary **V. Srinivas**, as head of the **Integrated Coordination Group (ICG)** formed on the directions of the **Supreme Court** to check pollution in the **Jojari, Bandi and Luni rivers**, held a meeting. The **Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board** has been made the nodal agency for checking pollution.

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# Bharat Renewable Energy Summit and Expo-2026

**Jaipur, Tuesday, 03 November 2026 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated; Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma took part**



**Rajasthan's Renewable Energy Strengths Get an International Platform**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **'Bharat Renewable Energy Summit and Expo-2026'** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, on Monday.
- Addressing the summit, he said that **over 50% of India's power capacity** now comes from **non-fossil fuel sources** - a target set under the **Paris Agreement** for 2030 that was achieved in **2025, five years early**.
- The Prime Minister said India is taking global clean energy cooperation forward in the spirit of **'One Earth, One Family, One Future'**.
- Chief Minister **Bhajanlal Sharma** held a round-table meeting with **over 50 leading investors** in the presence of Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy **Pralhad Joshi**. He highlighted the wide potential and opportunities in Rajasthan's renewable energy sector and invited investors to invest in the state.
- Representatives of **Brookfield, ReNew, Aditya Birla Renewables, Jindal Group and AVAADA**, among other major companies, took part in the round-table meeting. The Chief Minister also inaugurated and visited the **Rajasthan stalls**. Minister of State for Energy (Independent Charge) **Heeralal Nagar** and Chief Secretary **V. Srinivas** were also present.

## Held on the theme 'Invest, Innovate, Inspire'

- At the **expo**, the state's renewable energy strengths were presented on a national and international platform.
- At this international summit, held on the theme **'Invest, Innovate, Inspire**, **13 states and Union Territories**, including Rajasthan, are showcasing their renewable energy potential, investment opportunities and manufacturing capabilities.

## Over 130 countries and 400 exhibitors

- The **Bharat Renewable Energy Summit** is being held from **2 to 5 November**.
- Representatives of **over 130 countries** are taking part.
- **Over 400 exhibitors** are displaying cutting-edge technologies and clean energy solutions in solar and wind energy, **green hydrogen**, energy storage and other emerging fields.
- The summit aims to encourage global investment, industrial participation and technology partnerships in clean and renewable energy.

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# 02 National Current Affairs

## Polity, Governance and Administration

### Internet: A Fundamental Right for Children Too

- ⇨ **Ruling:** In **Just Rights for Children Alliance & Ors. v. S. Harish & Ors.**, the **Supreme Court** held that the right to access and use the internet is a **fundamental right** of every person.
- ⇨ **For children too:** This **constitutional right** applies to children as well, regardless of age.
- ⇨ **Constitutional basis:** It is a fundamental right under **Article 21** (right to life and personal liberty) and **Article 19(1)(a)** (freedom of speech and expression).
- ⇨ **Earlier rulings:**

1. **Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020):** Freedom of expression and the freedom to carry on trade through the internet were held to be protected.
2. **Pragya Prasun v. Union of India (April 2025):** Digital access was held to be part of **Article 21**.

### Voters Can Now Complain About False Affidavits

- ⇨ **Ruling:** In **Rajkumar Madki v. Dr. Shailendra Beldale**, the **Supreme Court** held that any private citizen or voter can file a **criminal complaint** directly against a candidate who gives false information, or hides information, in a nomination affidavit, under **Section 125A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951**.
- ⇨ **Section 125A:** Giving false information or concealing information is punishable with **imprisonment of up to six months**, a fine, or both.

### Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026

- ⇨ **Notification:** On **16 October 2026**, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** issued a gazette notification bringing the **Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026** into force under the **Census Act, 1948**.
- ⇨ These amend the **Census Rules, 1990**.
- ⇨ **Issued by: Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan**, **Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI)**.
- ⇨ **Change:** People from **three categories** can now be appointed as **census enumerators**:

| Category | Who is included |
|---|---|
| First | **Teachers in educational institutions** run by the government, local authorities, aided and unaided private institutions, and societies and trusts |
| Second | **Clerks and other officials** of the Central Government, state governments, local authorities, public sector undertakings, statutory bodies, banks, companies, institutions, societies and trusts |
| Third | Any person whom the **state government or Union Territory administration** considers suitable |

### Revision of Electoral Rolls (SSR) and Forms 6-7-8

- ⇨ **Order:** On **15 October 2026**, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** wrote to the Chief Electoral Officers ordering a **Special Summary Revision (SSR)**.
- ⇨ **Legal basis: Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950** - preparation and revision of electoral rolls.

#### SSR vs SIR

- ⇨ **SSR:** The routine revision held every year - claims and objections, adding the names of new voters (especially young people) and correcting wrong entries.
- ⇨ **SIR:** An intensive revision - a new roll is prepared through house-to-house enumeration.
- ⇨ **Forms:** Under the **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**:

| Form | Used for |
|---|---|
| Form-6 | **Adding** a name |
| Form-7 | **Deleting** a name or raising an **objection** |
| Form-8 | **Correcting** an entry or **changing the address** |

## Challenge to Section 16 of the CEC-EC Act, 2023

- On **13 October 2026**, a petition filed in the **Supreme Court** by the **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)** sought to have **Section 16** of the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023** declared unconstitutional.
- **Section 16:** Notwithstanding anything in any other law, no court shall entertain or continue any **civil or criminal proceedings** against a person who is or has been the CEC or an Election Commissioner for acts done in the discharge of official duties (i.e. **legal immunity**).

## Ladakh

### Draft Constitutional and Statutory Framework

- **Draft:** The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has prepared a **"Constitutional and Statutory Framework"** for Ladakh and given it to the **Leh Apex Body (LAB)** and the **Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA)** for their views.
- **Proposal:** A new article in the Constitution (**371-K**) that would give **constitutional status** to an **elected body** at the level of the whole Union Territory (UT).
- **Role of the Lieutenant Governor:** Every regulation (law) made by the body will take effect only after the approval of the **Lieutenant Governor (L-G)**.
- **Options under consideration:** Delimitation of constituencies on the basis of population or of population and area; **reservation for women**.
  - **Status of the councils:** Whether the **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC)** should get constitutional status or continue to function under the **LAHDC Act, 1997**.
- **Key points:** A **directly elected UT-level governing body** will be created for Ladakh. It will have **legislative powers** over:
  - Land, culture and language
  - Forests, environment and natural resources
  - Other subjects reserved for the Union Territory under **Article 240**
- **Constitutional significance:** So far, the provisions of **Article 371** have applied only to states. Applying one to a Union Territory would create a new **'sui generis'** (unique) model of governance.
- If applied to Ladakh, this would be the **first such provision** for any Union Territory.

## Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Amendment) Regulation, 2026

- **Promulgated by:** President **Droupadi Murmu** on **16 October 2026**.
- **Expansion:** Councils to be set up in **all eight districts** (including the newly formed **Sankoo**).
  - Until now, councils functioned only in **Leh and Kargil**.
- **Seats:** Earlier, each council had **26 elected members**.
  - There will now be **a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 24 members**.
  - Up to **four nominated** members (women/unrepresented communities).
  - Ladakh's **Lok Sabha MP** will be an ex-officio member of all the councils.
- **Term: Five years** from the first meeting.

## Five Projects Inaugurated/Dedicated in Ladakh

- On **15 October 2026**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated/dedicated to the nation, by video conferencing, five projects worth **about ₹3,350 crore**.
- Inauguration of the **new terminal of Leh Airport (Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport)**.
- **Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road dedicated to the nation.**
  - **Built by: Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**
  - It links **Nimmu** in Leh to **Darcha** in Himachal Pradesh via **Zanskar (Padum)**.
- Inauguration of the **Hanu Small Hydroelectric Project** (capacity: **9 MW**).
- Inauguration of the **country's first rock-art (petroglyph) conservation park** at **Sindhu Ghat, Leh**.
- Launch of the **Him Sarovar Project** for Ladakh (**40 reservoirs in 40 villages**).

## New High Court Bench in Leh

- **Inauguration:** On **18 October 2026**, Chief Justice of India **Justice Surya Kant** inaugurated the **Ladakh Bench** of the **High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh** in **Leh**.
- **Basis:** On **28 August 2026**, the President issued a regulation permitting the setting up of a separate bench of the High Court in Leh.
- **Article 240:** The President can make regulations under **Article 240** for Union Territories without a legislature (such as Ladakh).

## Press Council of India Reconstituted: 13 Journalist Members Nominated

- ⇨ The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** reconstituted the council by nominating **13 members** under **Sections 5 and 6 of the Press Council Act, 1978**.
- ⇨ **Chairperson: Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai** (retd.).
- ⇨ **Composition:** Chairperson + **28 members** – MPs, newspaper owners, journalists, and representatives of the Bar Council of India (BCI), the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Sahitya Akademi.
- ⇨ **Press Council of India (PCI):** A statutory, **quasi-judicial** autonomous body. It was first set up in **1966** on the recommendation of the **First Press Commission**.

## Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees (DRSCs) Reconstituted, 2026-27

- ⇨ The **Lok Sabha Speaker** and the **Rajya Sabha Chairman** reconstituted **24 department-related parliamentary standing committees** for **2026-27**.
- ⇨ **Background:** Began in **1993 with 17 committees**; **24 committees** have been functioning since **2004**.
- ⇨ Each committee has **31 members** (21 from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha). Ministers cannot be members.
- ⇨ **Term: one year**.
- ⇨ **Chairpersons: 8 committees** come under the Rajya Sabha and **16** under the Lok Sabha; chairpersons are appointed by the respective presiding officers.
- ⇨ **Chairpersons of key committees:**

| Committee | Chairperson |
|---|---|
| External Affairs | Shashi Tharoor |
| Finance | Bhartruhari Mahtab |
| Defence | Radha Mohan Singh |
| Home Affairs | Radha Mohan Das Agrawal |

## National Road Safety Council Reconstituted

- ⇨ **Notification:** The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has issued a notification reconstituting the **National Road Safety Council** under **Section 215 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**.
- ⇨ **Composition:**
  - **Chairperson:** Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways
  - **Vice-Chairpersons:** The **two Ministers of State** in the ministry
  - **Total: 69 members**
- ⇨ **Meetings:** According to the notification, the council will meet **at least once a year**.
- ⇨ **Note:** The previous council, formed in **August 2023**, completed its full term **without holding a single meeting**.

## National Road Safety Board (NRSB)

- ⇨ The **National Road Safety Board (NRSB)** is a **statutory advisory body** set up under **Section 215B of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**. This provision was added by the **2019 amendment**.
- ⇨ It was formally constituted on **29 June 2026**, following the Supreme Court's directions.
- ⇨ **Chairperson: Dr. Nitin R. Gokarn** (retired IAS officer).

## Special NIA Courts Notified in Three States

- ⇨ **Notification:** Through a gazette notification of **27 August 2026**, the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** notified three special courts – in **Jaipur, Patna (Bihar) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)** – for the speedy trial of **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** cases in Rajasthan, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.
- ⇨ **Legal basis:** Under the **National Investigation Agency Act, 2008**, after consulting the respective High Courts and state governments.
- ⇨ **Jurisdiction:** Each of the three courts will have jurisdiction over the **entire state** concerned.

## Three New Indian Sites Added to UNESCO's Tentative List

⇨ **Proposal:** Sent on **28 September 2026**.

⇨ **Number:** With these sites added to UNESCO's tentative list, the **number of Indian sites** on it has risen to **81**.

1. **Baratang Karst-Mud Volcano Complex, Andaman and Nicobar Islands**
   - **Features:** Located on **Baratang Island**; it includes **limestone caves** and active **mud volcanoes**.
   - The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** declared it a **geo-heritage site** in 2025.
2. **Andaman Subduction Volcanoes, Andaman and Nicobar Islands**
   - **Volcanoes:** Includes the volcanoes of **Barren Island** and **Narcondam Island**.
   - Barren Island is **India's only active volcano** and lies about **138 km from Sri Vijaya Puram**.
3. **Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape**
   - **Location:** On the banks of the **Mahanadi** in **Chhattisgarh**.
   - Known in ancient times as **Shripur**.
   - **History:** The structures date from the **5th to the 12th century CE**; it was a major centre under the **Sharabhapuriya** and **Panduvamshi** dynasties.

## Five Centres of Excellence for Classical Languages

⇨ **Approval:** The **Department of Higher Education**, Ministry of Education, approved **five Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** for the study of five classical languages.

| Classical language | Institution and state of the Centre of Excellence |
|---|---|
| Assamese | Tezpur University, Assam |
| Bangla | Visva-Bharati University (Santiniketan), West Bengal |
| Marathi | Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute (Deemed University), Pune, Maharashtra |
| Pali | Central University of Odisha, Odisha |
| Prakrit | Central University of Gujarat, Gujarat |

### Classical Languages

⇨ **11 classical languages (year of status):** Tamil (**2004**), Sanskrit (**2005**), Telugu and Kannada (**2008**), Malayalam (**2013**), Odia (**2014**); Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bangla (**3 October 2024**).

# Obituaries and Personalities

## Vummidi Ethiraj: Craftsman of the Sengol

⇨ **Death: Vummidi Ethiraj**, the leading jeweller who played a key role in making the historic **Sengol**, died in **Chennai** on **21 October 2026**.

⇨ **Family:** He was the head of the **Vummidi family**, owners of the **125-year-old Vummidi Bangaru Jewellers**.

⇨ **Contribution:** At about **20 years of age**, he was involved in making the **royal sceptre, Sengol**, made of **silver with a gold coating**.

### Sengol

- The Sengol is made of silver and coated with gold.
  - (i) It is about **5 feet** long.
  - (ii) At its top sits **'Nandi'**, the mount of Lord Shiva, regarded as a symbol of justice and firmness.
  - (iii) It was made by the famous Madras (Chennai) jewellers **'Vummidi Bangaru Chetty'**.
  - **(iv) History:** On **14 August 1947**, priests of the **Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam** math of Tamil Nadu handed this Sengol to **Jawaharlal Nehru**.
  - **(v) Installation:** On **28 May 2023**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** installed the Sengol in the **new Parliament House (Lok Sabha)**.

## Padma Shri Chef K. Damodaran (Chef Damu)

⇨ **Death:** Renowned chef **K. Damodaran**, popularly known as **'Chef Damu'**, died in **Chennai** on **25 October 2026**.

⇨ **Achievement:** He was the **first Indian chef** to earn a **doctorate** in hotel management and catering technology.
- He was honoured with the **Padma Shri in 2025**.
- **Record:** In **December 2010**, he set the **Guinness World Record** for the **'longest cooking marathon (individual)'** by preparing **617 dishes (190 kg of food)** in **24 hours 30 minutes 12 seconds**.

### Renowned Painter Jogen Chowdhury

- ⇨ **Death:** Noted Indian painter **Jogen Chowdhury** died in **Kolkata** on **25 October 2026**.
- ⇨ **Born: 16 February 1939**, Faridpur (now in **Bangladesh**).
- ⇨ **Known as:** The **'master of the unbroken line'**; his well-known works include **Tiger in the Moonlit Night** and **Day Dreaming**.
- ⇨ **Work:** He served as **Curator of Art at Rashtrapati Bhavan (1972-87)** and as a **professor at Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan**.

### Actor-Filmmaker Nana Patekar: Maharashtra

- ⇨ **Death:** 8 October 2026, Goa.
- ⇨ **Honours:** Padma Shri (**2013**); 3 National Film Awards.
- ⇨ **Social work:** In **2015**, he set up the **'Naam Foundation'** with **Makarand Anaspure** to help drought-hit farmers.

### Freedom Fighter P. Vasu ('Socio Vasu')

- ⇨ **Death: 8 October 2026**, Cheruvannur, Kozhikode (**Kerala**).
- ⇨ During the **Quit India Movement**, he led a protest march from Kundathode to Cheruvannur and was jailed.
- ⇨ After Independence, he took membership from **Jayaprakash Narayan** and joined the **socialist movement**.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- ⇨ **Milestone:** Between **7 October 2001 and 7 October 2026**, Modi completed **25 years** as head of a state or the Union government without a break.
- ⇨ **Related facts:** Narendra Modi was Gujarat's **longest-serving Chief Minister**, and in **2024** he became only the second person after **Jawaharlal Nehru** to take the oath as Prime Minister for a **third term**.

## Appointments and Resignations

### Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

- ⇨ On **6 October 2026**, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** was appointed the **29th Chief of the Air Force** with the rank of **Air Chief Marshal**.
  - **Takes charge: 31 October 2026**
  - **Tenure:** until **31 December 2028**
  - **Predecessor:** Air Chief Marshal **Amar Preet Singh**.

### New Supreme Court Appointments in October 2026

- ⇨ **Appointment notification:** On **5 October 2026**, President **Droupadi Murmu** appointed three High Court Chief Justices as Supreme Court judges.
- ⇨ **Oath:** On **6 October 2026**, Chief Justice **Surya Kant** administered the oath to all three.
- ⇨ **New judges:**

1. **Justice Sunita Agarwal** (CJ, Gujarat High Court)
2. **Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya** (CJ, Delhi High Court)
3. **Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh** (CJ, Telangana High Court)

- ⇨ With Justice Sunita Agarwal's appointment, the **number of women judges** in the Supreme Court has risen to **three**:
  1. Justice B.V. Nagarathna
  2. Justice V. Mohana
  3. Justice Sunita Agarwal

### Union Minister of State L. Murugan Resigns

- ⇨ On **13 October 2026**, **L. Murugan**, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs and a Rajya Sabha member from Madhya Pradesh, resigned from both the **Union Council of Ministers** and his **Rajya Sabha membership**.
- ⇨ **Provision:** A minister's resignation is submitted to the President through the Prime Minister (**Article 75**).
  - Resignation from the Rajya Sabha is submitted to the Chairman (**Article 101(3)(b)**).

### Curbing Drug Marketing: New Committee

- ⇨ **Formed:** On **23 October 2026** by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals**, on the directions of the **Supreme Court**.
- ⇨ **Chairperson: Dr. M. Srinivas** (Member, NITI Aayog).
- ⇨ **Task:** Within **two months**, it will recommend statutory, regulatory or other measures to stop unethical marketing.

### Governors Appointed/Transferred in Six States

⇨ **Appointing authority:** President **Droupadi Murmu**.

| State | New Governor | Previous post / profile |
|---|---|---|
| Keralam | Om Prakash Mathur | Governor of Sikkim (transferred) |
| Tamil Nadu | Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar | Governor of Keralam (transferred); had held additional charge of Tamil Nadu since 12 March - now full-time |
| Karnataka | Dr. Sudha Yadav | Member, National Commission for Backward Classes (2019-2022); replaces Thaawarchand Gehlot |
| Odisha | Braj Mohan Ram | Lok Sabha member from Palamu (Jharkhand) (1996-2004) |
| Uttarakhand | Dr. Dhal Singh Bisen | Replaces Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (retd.) |
| Sikkim | Dushyant (Kumar) Gautam | Former Rajya Sabha member |

### Om Prakash Mathur

⇨ **Oath: Om Prakash Mathur** took the oath as the **29th Governor of Keralam** on **23 October**.

⇨ **Predecessor:** He replaced **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**.

⇨ Mathur was earlier the **Governor of Sikkim**.

⇨ **Native place: Pali district, Rajasthan**.

## Memoranda of Understanding

### MoA between HAL, the National Culture Fund and ASI

⇨ **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, the **National Culture Fund (NCF)** and the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). (**Date not given in the source.**)

⇨ **Objective:** Heritage conservation and development work.

⇨ **Sites:**
- **Hampi** (Karnataka; UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- **Taj Mahal** (Agra, Uttar Pradesh) and **Bekal Fort** (Keralam).

### MoU on Manuscript Heritage between the Ministry of Culture and BnF

⇨ On **26 October 2026** in **Paris**, a memorandum of understanding was signed under the **Gyan Bharatam Mission** between the **Ministry of Culture** and the **Bibliothéque nationale de France (BnF)** (the National Library of France).

⇨ **Objective:** The two sides will identify and digitise **manuscripts of Indian origin** held at the BnF; they will also exchange expertise in **OCR/HTR tools** for Indian scripts, cataloguing standards and digital humanities.

⇨ **Gyan Bharatam Mission:** A flagship initiative of the Ministry of Culture for the **identification, documentation, conservation, digitisation, translation and dissemination** of India's manuscript heritage.

## Portals, Apps and Digital Initiatives

### 'Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Services Decision Support System'

⇨ On **12 October 2026**, the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** dedicated an interactive **WebGIS-based Decision Support System (DSS)** to the nation.
- **Launched at:** The biennial **Pre-Cyclone Exercise Meeting** for the **post-monsoon season (October-December)**.
- **Chaired by:** Director General of Meteorology **Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra** (Third Vice-President of the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**).

⇨ **Official name of the system: 'Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Services Decision Support System'**.

### Unnat Agri Welfare Portal

⇨ **Launched by:** Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** on **19 October 2026**.

⇨ **Objective:** To deliver authentic information on government schemes, financial assistance and farming directly to farmers' mobile phones, **without middlemen**.

⇨ **Single window:** The portal will serve as a **single window** for major initiatives such as **PM-KISAN, AgriStack** and the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**.

⇨ **Facilities:** Farmers will be able to **check eligibility online** and apply directly; assistance will be credited to their accounts through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.

### 'Punah Bharan' Mobile App Launched

⇨ The **19th meeting** of the **Ganga Flood Control Board (GFCB)** was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on **27 October 2026**, chaired by Union Jal Shakti Minister **C.R. Patil**.

⇨ **App:** At the meeting, the Union Minister launched the **'Punah Bharan'** (recharge) mobile app.

- **Developed by:** The **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N)**, in collaboration with the **National Water Mission**.
- **Objective:** To help in the **scientific identification** of suitable sites for artificial groundwater recharge.

### Delhi's Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS)

⇨ **Approval:** On **30 September 2026**, the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved **₹1,789.52 crore** for implementing ITMS in Delhi.

⇨ **Implementing agency: Delhi Police.**

⇨ **Technical support: C-DAC Pune** will provide technical support as the project management consultant.

### National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC)

⇨ Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** launched the **NSTCC** at **Vanijya Bhawan**, New Delhi.

⇨ **Developed by:** The Department of Commerce, together with the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**.

⇨ **What it is:** A **high-tech centre** that shows senior policymakers different trade data on a single dashboard.

## Environment, Wildlife and Biodiversity

### Capacity-Building Project for Effective Forest Management

⇨ **Launched by:** Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Bhupender Yadav** on **25 September 2026** (New Delhi).

⇨ **Objective:** To build the capacity of frontline forest staff in line with the changing needs of forest and wildlife management, emerging climate and environmental concerns, and growing responsibilities.

- A collaborative project between the **Government of India** and the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**.

⇨ **Implementation: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.

⇨ **Duration: 2025-26 to 2031-32 (7 years)**.

⇨ **Phase: Second** (building on JICA's earlier initiative).

⇨ **Coverage:** All states of India.

⇨ **Financial framework:**

| Head | Amount |
|---|---|
| Total outlay | **₹537.10 crore** |
| JICA's contribution | **₹440.42 crore** |
| Government of India's share | **₹96.68 crore** |

### Buxa Tiger Reserve, West Bengal

⇨ **Why in the news?** The **Union Environment Minister** and the **Chief Minister of West Bengal** released **tigress T138** into the Buxa Tiger Reserve – the first under the **'Tiger Rehabilitation Programme'**.

⇨ **Wildlife Week 2026 (2-8 October)** was also inaugurated on the occasion.

- **Theme: "Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife"** (strength in corridors).

⇨ **Tigress T138** was translocated from the **Valmiki Tiger Reserve (Bihar)**.

⇨ **Manas National Park:** Tigress T-138 crossed the **Sankosh river** and reached **Manas National Park** in Assam.

⇨ **Manas National Park** lies near the **Bhutan border** in Assam.

### Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

⇨ On **7 October**, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Dr. Mohan Yadav** released the cheetahs **'Vyom'** and **'Neera'**, brought from **Kuno**, into the **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve** (former name: **Nauradehi**).

⇨ After **Kuno National Park** and **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary**, this will be the **third home** for cheetahs in Madhya Pradesh.

### Jawahar Dweep, Mumbai

⇨ **India's first plastic-free oil terminal.**

⇨ **Declared by: Mumbai Port Authority** (Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways).

⇨ **Occasion: Gandhi Jayanti (2 October 2026)**; Swachhata Abhiyan 2026.

## Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Lake Declared Ramsar Sites

- On **15 October 2026**, **Sukhna Wetland** and **Sauj Lake** were added to the Ramsar List (wetlands of international importance).
- Total Ramsar sites in India = **103**
- **States with the most Ramsar sites: Tamil Nadu = 20, Uttar Pradesh = 14**
- **Sukhna Wetland, Chandigarh (Ramsar Site No. 2602)**
  - **Chandigarh's first Ramsar site.**
  - Declared a national wetland in **1988**.
  - A man-made lake formed in **1958** by damming the seasonal **Sukhna Choe** stream in the foothills of the **Shivaliks**.
  - **Judicial reference:** In **2020**, the **Punjab and Haryana High Court** declared the lake a **'living legal entity'** (giving the lake rights like those of a person in law).
- **Sauj Lake, Uttar Pradesh (Ramsar Site No. 2603)**
  - Located in **Sauj village, Karhal, Mainpuri district**.
  - A shallow lake in the **Ganga floodplain**. The nearby Ramsar site is **Saman Bird Sanctuary, Mainpuri**.
- **Latest Ramsar sites:**

| Ramsar site | Location |
|---|---|
| Siliserh Lake | Rajasthan |
| Kopra Reservoir | Chhattisgarh |
| Chhari-Dhand | Kachchh, Gujarat |
| Patna Bird Sanctuary | Etah, Uttar Pradesh |
| Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary | Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh |
| Jayaprakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary / Surha Tal | Ballia, Uttar Pradesh |
| 101st: Glow / Glow Tubi | Lohit, Arunachal Pradesh |

## Cyclone Arnab

- **Landfall:** On **28 October 2026**, on the coast of **Andhra Pradesh and Yanam (Puducherry)** near **Kakinada** (between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam).
- It formed in the **Bay of Bengal** and affected the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- **Named by: Bangladesh** gave the name **"Arnab"**.
- **Category: Severe Cyclonic Storm**
- It was the **first named cyclone** of the **2026 North Indian Ocean cyclone season**.

## Green Diwali Campaign

- **Organiser:** The **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, with the support of the **EIACP Programme Centre - Resource Partner (PC-RP)** at **WWF-India**.
- **Duration: 20 October to 8 November 2026**.
- The campaign urges citizens to **avoid firecrackers** and celebrate a clean and green Diwali in line with **Mission LiFE** (Lifestyle for Environment).
- **Focus:** The **130 cities** covered by the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**.
- **EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme)** is a scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, with centres working in various institutions.

## Kamala Hydroelectric Project

- **Proposal: NHPC** has sought **forest clearance** from the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** to **fell over 23 lakh trees** for the Kamala hydroelectric project.
- **Capacity:** A **1,720 MW storage-based** project.
- **River:** On the **Kamala river**, a right-bank tributary of the **Subansiri**; the Subansiri itself is a tributary of the **Brahmaputra**.

## Aviation Fuel: 1% SAF Mandatory from January 2027

- **Decision:** From **January 2027**, India will make it **mandatory** to blend **1% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** into the **aviation turbine fuel (ATF)** used on all **international flights**.
  - **Indicative targets: 2% blending by 2028** and **5% by 2030**. India has accepted these national targets under **CORSIA**.
- **Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA):** A scheme of the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**.
  - It had two **voluntary** phases (**2021-2023 and 2024-2026**).
  - **Mandatory phase:** Begins on **1 January 2027**.
- **SAF:** Aviation fuel made from sources such as **used cooking oil, agricultural residue and sugarcane molasses** instead of fossil crude oil.
  - According to ICAO, SAF has the greatest potential to cut **$CO_2$ emissions** from international aviation.

## 'Nirmal Sagar'

- **NIRMaL Sagar:** National Initiative for Remediation of Marine Litter Sagar.
- On **19 September 2026**, the **pilot phase** of **Nirmal Sagar** was launched in **Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)** to tackle marine pollution.
- **Original announcement:** Made by **INCOIS** on **8 June 2026** (World Oceans Day).
- **Implementation:** By the **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)**, Hyderabad, in collaboration with **Andhra University** and the voluntary science organisation **Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA)**.
- **Objective:** To develop the **first integrated marine litter tracking framework/system** for the Indian Ocean region, which will identify the **sources, movement and likely accumulation zones** of marine plastic.

## Kheti Virasat Mission (Punjab)

- **Praise:** In **'Mann Ki Baat'** on **25 October 2026**, Prime Minister **Modi** praised its **'Nav-Trinjan'** initiative.
- **Nav-Trinjan initiative:** Under it, **organic, naturally coloured cotton** is grown without chemicals in the **Malwa plains**.
- **Organisation:** Kheti Virasat Mission is a **non-governmental organisation** based in **Jaito, Faridkot district**, Punjab.

## Ladakh

- **Declaration:** On **25 October 2026**, Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor **Vinai Kumar Saxena** declared Ladakh India's **first 100 per cent organic Union Territory**.
- In **January 2016**, **Sikkim** became the country's **first fully organic state**.

## India's First High-Altitude Snow Leopard Wildlife Safari

- **Launched by:** Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor **Vinai Kumar Saxena** in Leh (**7 October 2026**).
- **Forest area:** The **Choglamsar reserved forest area**, Leh.

### Snow Leopard

- **Scientific name:** Panthera auncia
- **Conservation status: IUCN Red List** - Vulnerable; listed in **Schedule-I** of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**; in **CITES Appendix I**.
- **Numbers:** Ladakh has **477 snow leopards**, the highest share of the country's **718** (according to India's first **Snow Leopard Population Assessment (SPAI) 2024**).

## E85/E100 Recognised for Flex-Fuel Vehicles

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has notified amendments to the **Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989**.
- **Objective:** To promote **flex-fuel vehicles** that run on E85 and higher-ethanol fuels.
- **E85:** Up to **85% ethanol** by volume.
- **E100** is fuel made mainly of ethanol.
- The **"E"** stands for ethanol, and the number shows its proportion.
- **Conditions of use:**
  - E85/E100 may be used only in vehicles that manufacturers have designed and certified as **flex-fuel vehicles**.
  - Being compatible with E10 or E20 is not proof of suitability for E85.

## National Coastal Mission 2.0 (NCM 2.0)

- Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Bhupender Yadav** released the implementation guidelines for NCM 2.0 in **New Delhi** on **30 September 2026**.
- **Objective:** To increase the resilience and sustainability of coastal areas and promote the **blue economy**; to prepare **Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans (ICZMP)** and **Coastal and Marine Spatial Plans (CMSP)**.
- **Total outlay: ₹767 crore**
- **Type: Central Sector Scheme**
- **Duration: 2025-26 to 2030-31**.
- **Coverage:** All **9 coastal states** and **4 coastal Union Territories** (Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry and Lakshadweep).

## India's First 'PRAMAAN' Certificates

⇨ On **29 September 2026** in **New Delhi**, Union Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** handed over India's first **'PRAMAAN'** certificates under the **Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)**.

⇨ **First recipients:**

- **Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC):** for **33,000 hectares** of plantations (first institutional certificate).
- **Govind Mahapatra:** a **bamboo farmer from Odisha** associated with the Odisha Bamboo Development Agency (OBDA) (first smallholder certificate).

⇨ **Organising and operating agency: Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal**.

⇨ **Full form of PRAMAAN:** Programme for Recognition and Accreditation of Sustainable Management Practices for Agroforestry and Natural Forestry Resources.

## Guneri Inland Mangroves, Gujarat

⇨ On **13 September 2026**, a workshop on mangrove conservation, restoration and sustainable management was held at **Bhuj, Kachchh (Gujarat)**.

⇨ Union Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** honoured the **Guneri Inland Mangrove Village Biodiversity Management Committee**.

⇨ Guneri is India's **last remaining inland mangrove** site; it is a rare ecosystem and one of only **8 such sites** in the world.

⇨ In **January 2025**, it was declared **Gujarat's first Biodiversity Heritage Site**.

## New Headquarters of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

⇨ **Inaugurated by:** Union Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** on **12 October 2026** in New Delhi.

⇨ **Objective:** Global conservation of the **7 major big cats**.

### About IBCA

- It is a **treaty-based inter-governmental organisation** set up at India's initiative.
- **9 April 2023:** On the completion of **50 years of Project Tiger**, the Prime Minister launched IBCA in **Mysuru (Karnataka)**. It can include **95 big cat range countries**, interested non-range countries, conservation partners, scientific organisations and corporate groups.
  - The Government of India has provided initial support of **₹150 crore** from **2023-24 to 2027-28**.
- **Members:** As of October 2026, **30 member countries**; **5 countries** are observers.
- **Seven big cat species:** Tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma.

# National Conferences/Meetings

## Shilp Samagam Mela 2026

| Edition | Venue | Dates |
|---|---|---|
| First | Dussehra Exhibition Ground, Mysuru, Karnataka | 11-19 October 2026 |
| Second | Farm Gate, Khanapara, Guwahati | 21-28 October 2026 |
| **Third - theme:** "Prakash aur Parampara - Jyoti se Jyoti Jalayein" (Light and Tradition - Let One Lamp Light Another) | Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi | 1-15 November 2026 |

⇨ **Organiser:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

⇨ **Objective:** To give traditional artisans access to markets and opportunities for entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods.

⇨ **Initiatives:**

- **Bharat Tulip:** Promotes new products made by artisans from the target groups of the traditional artisans' upliftment livelihood programme through physical sales centres in India and abroad and through e-commerce platforms.
- **Purple Fest:** Promotes the creativity, talent, participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

### 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC) 2026

- **Held: 3-5 October 2026**, New Delhi
- **Inaugurated by:** Vice-President **C.P. Radhakrishnan**
- **Theme: "Resilience in Changing Times"**
- **Organiser: Institute of Economic Growth (IEG)**, in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

### National Conference on "Constitutional Rights and Legal Provisions for Tribal Communities"

- **Held: 6-7 October 2026**, New Delhi
- **Inaugurated by: Jual Oram**, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs.
- **Objective:** To bring together senior officials of the tribal welfare and revenue departments of various states and UTs to discuss the challenges tribal communities face in obtaining the benefits of their constitutional rights.

### ESTIC (Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave) 2026

- **Held: 27-29 October** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
- **Theme:** Creative minds - inspiring science and empowering technology.
- **Organiser: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**
- **Partner: CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST)**
- **Objective:** To promote cooperation between academia, industry and government, and to speed up the process of taking scientific discoveries from the laboratory to commercial use (**lab-to-market**).
- **Two important documents were released:**

1. **National Vision Document for ESTIC 2026** - in line with **Viksit Bharat 2047**, it brings together the long-term **science, technology and innovation (STI)** priorities of **12 ministries/departments** in **12 thematic areas**.
2. **India: Science, Technology and Innovation Outlook 2026**

### 8th Windergy India 2026

- **Held: 7-9 October**, Chennai
- **Inaugurated by:** Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy **Pralhad Joshi**.
- **Organisers: Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA)** and **PDA Ventures Pvt. Ltd.**, with the support of **MNRE** and **MoP**.
- **Objective:** To underline the united national and international commitment to expanding India's renewable energy capacity.

### 14th India Chem 2026

- **Held: 22-24 October**, Mumbai
- **Inaugurated by:** Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers **Anupriya Patel**.
- **Theme: "Advantage Bharat: An Emerging Global Hub"**
- **Objective:** To strengthen global partnerships, promote technological innovation and attract investment in the chemicals and petrochemicals sector.

### 10th India Mobile Congress

- **Held: 7-10 October**, **Yashobhoomi (India International Convention and Expo Centre)**, New Delhi.
- **Theme: "Expanding Beyond Boundaries"**
- **Inaugurated by:** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**
- **Organisers:** Jointly by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)**.
- **Objective:** To bring together global technology leaders, innovators, start-ups and policymakers from **over 100 countries** on one platform to shape the next phase of India's digital transformation.
- **Note: The four main pillars of IMC 2026 -**

1. **Srishti:** Building the future.
2. **Samvardhan:** Driving growth.
3. **Sashakt:** Expanding opportunities.
4. **Suraksha:** Strengthening trust.

### Third International Bharat 6G Symposium 2026 (7-9 October)

- **Organiser:** The **Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)**, alongside India Mobile Congress 2026.
- **Key outcome:** Five new **memoranda of understanding (MoUs)** were exchanged with **GSMA, one6G, GTI Alliance, 6G Innovation Forum (6G IF) Taiwan** and **VOICE**, strengthening opportunities for international cooperation, joint research, testing and knowledge exchange.

**Women and Child Development Departmental Summit**

- ⇨ **Held: 8–9 October 2026**, New Delhi.
- ⇨ **Organiser: Ministry of Women and Child Development**, Government of India.
- ⇨ **Closing session:** Addressed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- ⇨ **Objective:** To bring the Centre and the states together to discuss key priorities related to nutrition, child protection, and the safety and empowerment of women.

**BRICS Theatre Festival**

- ⇨ **Held: 12–14 October 2026** at the **National School of Drama (NSD)**, New Delhi.
- ⇨ **Organiser: Ministry of Culture**, Government of India.
- ⇨ **Theme: 'Shared Stories, Shared Futures'**.
- ⇨ **Objective:** To showcase excellence in theatre and, in line with the broader aims of BRICS cooperation, to provide a platform for cultural dialogue, professional exchange and people-to-people contact.
- ⇨ **Participating countries:** India, Thailand, Indonesia, Russia, Iran, Vietnam, South Africa, Kazakhstan and Ethiopia.

**8th Bloomberg New Economy Forum (BNEF)**

| Event | 13–15 October 2026, New Delhi, India |
|---|---|
| Significance | The forum was hosted in **India for the first time** |
| Theme | **"A World in Play: Defining the New Levers of Power"** |
| Objective | The economy, technology, energy, global affairs and emerging sources of global power |
| Participants | Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**; **Michael R. Bloomberg**; and global leaders from politics, business and policymaking |

**Third International Conference on Kaumarabhritya (Ayurvedic Paediatrics) – Kaumaracon-2026**

- ⇨ **Inaugurated by:** Vice-President **C.P. Radhakrishnan** on **15 October** at the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**, New Delhi.
- ⇨ **Theme: "Shaping the Future of Child Health: Global Perspectives, Research Innovations and Clinical Frontiers in Kaumarabhritya"**.
- ⇨ **Outcomes:**
  - The Vice-President launched the AYUSH start-up portal, the **AIIA-iCAINE** website and the Ayurveda **Digital Innovation and Venture Acceleration Facility (AyuDIVA)**. The **Vaman App** and the **Panchakarma Aakalan App** were also launched.
  - An international MoU was exchanged between **Maharishi International University (MIU), USA**, and **AIIA, New Delhi**.

**National Conference on e-Governance Reforms**

- ⇨ **Held: 16–17 October 2026**, **Dharamshala, Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh**.
- ⇨ **Organiser:** The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, with the support of the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

**Initiatives Showcased by Himachal Pradesh**

- **Him Parivar** – a digital family database and service-delivery initiative.
- **Sukh Ashray** – a support and welfare initiative for orphans and children from weaker sections.
- **Vidya Samiksha Kendra** – data-based monitoring of education.
- **Green Himachal** – initiatives for environmental sustainability.
- **Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana** – forest conservation and restoration initiative.

**61st Meeting of the International Committee of Legal Metrology (First Time in India)**

- ⇨ **Held: 26–28 October 2026**, New Delhi.
- ⇨ **Organiser:** The **Department of Consumer Affairs**, Government of India, with the support of the **International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML)**.

**National Conference on 'Cooperative Federalism and Legal Reforms: National and State Perspectives'**

- ⇨ **Held: 22 October 2026** at **Vigyan Bhawan**, New Delhi.
- ⇨ **Inaugurated by:** Vice-President **C.P. Radhakrishnan**.
- ⇨ **Organiser:** The **23rd Law Commission of India**, headed by **Justice (retd.) Dinesh Maheshwari**.

## Fisheries Investors and Exporters Conference 2026

- **Held: 23 October 2026** in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Organisers:** The **Fisheries Department of the Government of Madhya Pradesh** and the **Department of Fisheries**, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (**MoFAHD**), Government of India.
- **Objective:** To strengthen the links between inland fish production and investment, processing, cold-chain infrastructure, value addition and export markets.

## 8th All India Conference of Government Railway Police (GRP) Chiefs

- **Held: 23 October 2026**, New Delhi
- **Organiser: Railway Protection Force (RPF)**
- **Objective:** To discuss emerging security challenges, share best practices and strengthen coordination between the RPF, GRP and state police.
- **Outcomes:**
  - GRP personnel were brought onto the **RailMadad** platform.
  - **South Central Railway's SHAKTI framework**, **"Pink Patrol: Eyes in the Sky, SHAKTI on the Ground"**, was discussed.
  - **DISHA (Dedicated Initiative for Safety, Harmony & Awareness)** was highlighted. This initiative of the **Pune Division of Central Railway** aims to engage children living near railway tracks through educational and recreational activities.

## World Food Prize Foundation Symposium 2026

- **Held: 20-22 October**, **Iowa, USA**.
- **India's participation:**
  - The **National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS)**, New Delhi, showcased India's excellence in agricultural research.
  - **Seven high-school students** from different parts of India, selected through the **NAAS-YUVA** selection drive, took part in the **GYI (Global Youth Institute)** programme.
- **Outcomes:**
  - An MoU between **NAAS** and the **Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)** of the USA.
  - **Ameena Nazreen A.S.** won the **GYI award of US$500**.

## 19th Urban Mobility India Conference and Exhibition 2026

- **Held: 23-24 October**, **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- **Organisers:** The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, Government of India, with the **Institute of Urban Transport (India)** and the Government of Odisha.
- **Theme: 'Urban Access and Ease of Living in the Digital Age'**

## Second National Urban Conclave 2026

- **Held: 24-25 October 2026**, **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- **Organisers:** The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** and the **National Institute of Urban Affairs**.
- **Theme: "Urban Uplift – Rethinking Urban Systems, Solutions and Service Delivery"**.
- **Outcomes:**
  - Release of the **Urban Invest Window (UiWIN) journal** by **HUDCO**.
  - **Samarthya Platform for CPHEEO:** An integrated portal for knowledge management and capacity building in **solid waste and used water/water management**.
  - **ANKUR booklet:** Presents the progress and achievements of the **Atal Network for Knowledge, Urbanisation and Reform (ANKUR)**.
  - **E-book 'Mera Ghar Mera Abhiman' (My Home, My Pride):** A collection of the views and experiences of beneficiaries of the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)**.
  - E-launch of the **PMAY-U 2.0 mobile application**.
  - An MoU was signed between the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** and the **Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO)**.

## 7th AgriVoltaics World Conference 2026

- **Held: 21-23 October** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
- **Organiser:** The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**, with the support of Germany's **Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety**.
- **Theme: "Powering the Global South"**.
- **Outcomes:**
  - **Three knowledge resources were launched:** a decision-making tool developed by the **India Agrivoltaics Alliance (IAA)**, a research compendium developed by the **International Water Management Institute (IWMI)**, and **MNRE's Agri-PV policy booklet**.

### Second ARISE Cities Forum 2026

- **Held: 27–28 October** at the **India Habitat Centre**, New Delhi.
- **Theme:** From Bharat to Antalya – commitment, implementation and results.
- **Organiser: ICLEI South Asia**.
- **Partner institution: National Institute of Urban Affairs**.
- **Supported by:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.
- **Objective:** To bring the voice of Global South cities into international climate governance and to promote locally driven climate solutions.

### 29th Energy Technology Meet (ETM) 2026 – Goa

- **Duration: 27–29 October 2026** (three days).
- **Theme:** Accelerating energy innovation: from research to commercialisation.
- **Organiser: Centre for High Technology (CHT)**.
- **Co-organiser: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)**.
- **Objective:** To provide a platform for policymakers, researchers, energy companies, start-ups and technology experts to promote indigenous energy technologies and speed up their commercial use.
- **Awards presented at ETM 2026:** The event also honoured refinery performance and technological innovation through the **Refinery Performance and Innovation Awards 2025–26**.

| Award category | Award winner |
|---|---|
| Best Performing Refinery (above 3 MMTPA) | **Reliance Industries – SEZ Refinery** |
| Best Performing Refinery (up to 3 MMTPA) | **Indian Oil – Guwahati Refinery** |

### Regional Rural Workshop under PMAY-G, Lucknow

- **Held: 27–28 October**, Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Participants:** About **150 officials** from **nine states** – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Punjab, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.
- **Target:** PMAY-G aims to provide **4.95 crore rural houses** by **March 2029**.

### 12th Sujal Gram Samvad

- **Held: 28 October 2026**, under the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)**, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Main focus:** Local ownership, **operation and maintenance (O&M)** and the sustainability of water sources.
- **Participants:** Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Mizoram and Nagaland.

### 19th Singapore International Energy Week 2026

- **Held: 26–30 October** at **Marina Bay Sands, Singapore**.
- **Theme:** Connecting energy systems, powering the future.
- **Indian delegation:** Led by **Shripad Yesso Naik**, Minister of State for Power and for New and Renewable Energy.

### 14th International Tourism Mart

- **Held: 29–31 October 2026** in **Tawang**.
- **Organiser:** The **Ministry of Tourism**, Government of India, with the support of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and other North-Eastern states.
- **Objective:** To showcase the tourism potential of the **eight North-Eastern states** and to promote the region in domestic and international tourism markets.

## Awards

### First Bharat Ratna Bhupen Hazarika National Award 2026

- **Recipient: Usha Mangeshkar** (announced on **23 October 2026**)
- **Award: ₹10 lakh** + citation; given **once every 3 years**
- **Award ceremony: 29 November 2026** – by Prime Minister Modi at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, at the closing ceremony of the year-long **Hazarika birth centenary** celebrations.

## Nobel Prizes 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| **Founder** | **Alfred Nobel** (1833-1896), Swedish inventor (invented dynamite), engineer and industrialist. |
| **First awarded** | **1901** |
| **Categories (original)** | Five categories - physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace |
| **Economics prize** | Established by **Sveriges Riksbank in 1968**; first awarded in **1969**. |
| **Current total categories** | **Six**, including economic sciences. |
| **Award ceremony** | On **10 December**, Alfred Nobel's death anniversary (announcements in October). |
| **Venue** | **Stockholm, Sweden**, for all categories **except peace**. **The Peace Prize ceremony is held in Oslo, Norway.** |
| **Prize components** | A medal, a personal diploma and prize money. |
| **Maximum recipients** | A prize can be shared by **at most three people**; the Peace Prize can also be given to an organisation. |

| Category | 2026 laureates | Key contribution |
|---|---|---|
| Physiology or Medicine | **Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel** | Discoveries on light-controlled ion channels and the development of **optogenetics**. |
| Physics | **Francis Halzen** | Decisive contribution to the **IceCube Neutrino Observatory** and the discovery of high-energy neutrinos of astrophysical origin. |
| Chemistry | **Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai** | Research on **asymmetric synthesis** and on preparing molecules in a particular mirror-image form. |
| Literature | **Anne Carson** | **Canadian** poet, essayist and translator. |
| Peace | **Navanethem (Navi) Pillay** | Work to advance international justice and accountability for **war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide**. |
| Economic Sciences | **Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford** | For the microeconomic foundations of **macroeconomic stabilisation**. |

## Ramanujan Prize 2026

**Winner: Mahesh Kakde**, Professor at the **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru**, for his important contributions to **algebraic number theory**.

**About the Prize**

- The **Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries** has been awarded every year since **2005**. It is run jointly by the **ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics)** and the **IMU (International Mathematical Union)**. It is usually given to one person, but may be shared equally between recipients who contributed to the same work. It goes to a researcher from a developing country who is **under 45 years of age**. Researchers working in any branch of the mathematical sciences are eligible. The prize carries **US$10,000** in cash.

## 11th Sant Ishwar Samman-2026

- ⇨ **Organisers: Sant Ishwar Foundation** and **Rashtriya Sewa Bharati**.
- ⇨ **Chief guest:** Vice-President **C.P. Radhakrishnan**.

| Category | Award recipients |
|---|---|
| Sant Ishwar Vishesh Samman | • **Captain Smit Machhar**<br>• **Operation Drishti** - Indian Army, represented by **Brigadier S.K. Mishra**. |
| Sant Ishwar Vishisht Seva Samman | • Milind Madhusudan Joshi<br>• Yahamogi Adivasi Bahuuddeshiya Vikas Sanstha<br>• Sarabjeet Kaur Sandhu<br>• Baba Satyanarayan Maurya |
| Sant Ishwar Seva Samman | **12 recipients** |

## First Bharat Life Sciences Award Innovation Summit 2026

- **Ceremony: 1 October 2026**, **Vigyan Bhawan**, New Delhi.
- **Organiser: FICCI**, in partnership with **Eli Lilly and Company (India)**.
- A total of **six awards** were announced in the Samman and Gaurav categories.

**Samman category – grant awards**

| Award | Recipient | Purpose |
|---|---|---|
| Ramanujan Arogya Udaan Samman | **Dr. Vamsee Mallajosyula**, National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), TIFR | Young scientist award |
| Charaka Arogya Samman | **Pacify Medical Technologies** | Innovation for unmet patient needs |
| Sushruta Arogya Samman | **Bharat Serums and Vaccines** | Translational and clinical advancement |
| Nalanda Arogya Vigyan Samman | **BRIC-National Institute of Biomedical Genomics** | Institutional scientific excellence |

- **Note:**
  - **Total grant support: ₹7 crore**.
  - Each Samman winner received a grant of **₹1.5 crore**. **Dr. Bharti Bhatia (THSTI)** and the **L.V. Prasad Eye Institute** were runners-up in the Ramanujan and Nalanda categories respectively, and each received **₹50 lakh**.

**Gaurav category – recognition awards**

| Award | Recipient | Purpose |
|---|---|---|
| Jivaka Arogya Navpravartan Gaurav | **Sciverse Solutions** | Start-up and academic innovation in healthcare/life sciences |
| Sarabhai Arogya Drishti Gaurav | **Dr. Ratnesh Jain**, Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Mumbai Biocluster | Promoting the scientific ecosystem in India |

**About the Sant Ishwar Samman**

- Since **2015**, the Sant Ishwar Samman has been conferred on **more than a hundred** outstanding individuals and organisations whose dedication has delivered successful solutions to some of the most challenging problems of human development facing our society, India and the world.

## Oskar Klein Medal 2026

- **Winner: Ashoke Sen**, for pioneering contributions to string theory, **S-duality**, black-hole entropy and string field theory.
- **Announced: 22 October 2026**
- **Distinction:** He is the **first Indian physicist** to receive this medal.
- **Institution: International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS-TIFR)**, Bengaluru.

## World's Best Consumer Bank 2026 by Global Finance

- **Winner: State Bank of India**, for the **second year in a row**; it was also named **India's Best Bank 2026**.
- **Awarded by:** New York-based magazine **Global Finance**.
- **SBI Chairman: Challa Sreenivasulu Setty** (since **28 August 2024**)
- **Other winners in 2026:** World's Best Bank - **Santander (Spain)**; Best Corporate Bank - **DBS (Singapore)**.

### 28th Charles Correa Gold Medal

- **Awarded by:** The **Charles Correa Foundation (CCF)**, in Mumbai on **22 October 2026**.
- **Winner: Radhakrishnan M.S.**, an architecture student from **Kochi**.
- **Award:** A gold medal and **₹25,000**.
- **Theme for 2025-27: 'Equity through Design'**.

### Hillary Rodham Clinton Awards 2026

- **Presented by:** The **Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS)** at its annual awards ceremony in Georgetown on **15 October**.
- **Objective:** To honour leaders who advance economic opportunities for women.
- **Winners:**
  - Nobel Peace Prize laureate **Muhammad Yunus**,
  - Designer and philanthropist **Tory Burch**,
  - **Reema Nanavaty**, Director of the **Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)**.

## Campaigns/Festivals/Operations

### Operation Deep Manifest

- **Conducted:** From **11 September to 22 October 2026** by the **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)**.
- **Objective:** To expose attempts to evade India's ban on imports of goods originating in, or exported from, **Pakistan**.

### Nuakhai Parba / Nuakhai Festival

- A major harvest festival of **western Odisha**, celebrated to mark the first eating of the newly harvested paddy.
- On this occasion (**22 October 2026**), President **Droupadi Murmu** graced the **'Seva Samman Parv'** and **'Yuva Prabodhan'** programmes in **Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.

### Bathukamma Festival

- The **state festival of Telangana**.
- A **nine-day flower festival** celebrated mainly by women. This year it was held from **10 to 18 October 2026**.

### 100 Years of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** attended the **centenary celebration** held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
- The event marked the close of the year-long celebrations that began on **1 October 2025**.
- On **1 October 2026**, the Union Public Service Commission completed **100 years** since its establishment.
- **Year of establishment: 1926** (under the **Government of India Act, 1919**)
- **Centenary year:** 1 October 2025 - 1 October 2026.
- **Released by the Prime Minister:**
  - (i) UPSC centenary commemorative coin,
  - (ii) Commemorative postage stamp,
  - (iii) The book **'100 Landmark Judgements - Shaping the Policies of UPSC and Public Service Commissions in India'**.

## Important One-Liners

- The **Coal Controller Organisation's (CCO) SUVIKALP initiative** is advancing sustainable mine repurposing and has received the **SKOCH Gold Award 2026** (category: 'Digital Operational Efficiency - Data-Driven Decision Making'). **SUVIKALP** is an in-house mine-repurposing tool that helps stakeholders choose suitable mine-repurposing projects through a structured, data-based decision process. Once a suitable project has been identified, users can explore implementation paths through **PRISM** (Post-mining Repurposing Implementation Strategy Model).
- **SBI** has been honoured by **Global Finance** with the **World's Best Consumer Bank 2026 award** for the **second year in a row**.

- British photographer **Oscar Whitefield** won the **Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award 2026**.
- Under the **Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 campaign**, various departments, public sector undertakings and ministries launched a nationwide shramdaan (voluntary labour) initiative: **'Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath'** (One Day, One Hour, Together).
- Under **Special Campaign 6**, the Defence Secretary inaugurated the **Hindi library 'Gyandeep'** at **Sena Bhawan**, New Delhi.
- Vice-President **C.P. Radhakrishnan** inaugurated the **Mahaparva Kshamapana Samaroh** (a Jain celebration) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on **4 October**.
- On **9 October**, the National Medical Library organised the **5th ERMED (Electronic Medicine Resources) Consortium** and a national training-cum-conference on the theme **'Digital Health Resources: Redefining Access through Libraries'**.
- At a national event held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on **8 October 2026**, Union Health Minister **J.P. Nadda** launched **JOSH teams** to speed up youth-led TB elimination efforts.
- On **12 October 2026**, the **National Human Rights Commission of India** celebrated its **33rd Foundation Day**, with Chief Justice of India **Justice Surya Kant** as chief guest. The event also included a national conference on **'Amrit of Jal Jeevan: Advancing Human Dignity through the Right to Water'**.
- The **3rd National Conference and Exhibition on Corporate Social Responsibility (NCCSR 2026)**, on the theme **'Reimagining the Spirit of CSR for Viksit Bharat: From Compliance to Commitment'**, was held in New Delhi on **6–7 October**. It was organised by the **School of Business Environment** of the **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)**, under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, to provide a national platform for dialogue, collaboration and knowledge-sharing on CSR.
- The **10th National Conference of AgriVision-2026** was held on **13-14 October** at the **ICAR-NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi**, under the aegis of AgriVision and ICAR's **Agricultural Education Division**.
- The **Takshanam** exhibition was held on **15 October 2026** at the **National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA)**, New Delhi. It displayed **over 250 sculptures** by **150 participating artists** representing different generations, artistic backgrounds and diverse approaches to sculptural expression.
- KVIC Chairman **Manoj Kumar** (Shri Manoj) inaugurated **'Khadi Mahotsav-2026'** in **Mumbai**. It aims to take Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call of **'Har Ghar Swadeshi, Ghar-Ghar Swadeshi'** to Gen-Z through the **'Baat Khadi Ki'** podcast. The exhibition showcases a wide range of khadi and village-industry products from **77 units** in **12 states**.
- On **23 October**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Conference** at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, which highlighted the wide education network set up by **Chinmaya Mission**.
- On **23 October 2026**, the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)**, Government of India, held the third regional review conference on the implementation of the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA)** in **Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir**. It followed the **first conference in Bengaluru** on **10 September 2026** and the **second conference in Kolkata** on **9 October 2026**.
- The **202nd Vijay Utsav** and the birth anniversary of **Rani Chennamma** were celebrated with great enthusiasm at the **Prerna Sthal** in the Parliament complex. Born in **Kittur** on **23 October 1778**, Rani Chennamma was a leading Indian queen who led an armed revolt against the **British East India Company** in **1824**.
- With the support of **Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB)**, the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** held an event in New Delhi on **28 October 2026** under **GeM Samvad 2026**. It highlighted reforms made to make public procurement more accessible and affordable for **micro and small enterprises (MSEs)**.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)**

with the support of the Delhi government, held a transport mela on **28 October 2026** under the **PARIVARTAN scheme** (Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions). The aim is to help owners of old trucks and buses scrap their vehicles and buy new, less-polluting vehicles in their place.

- ⇨ The **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**, with the support of the Sahodaya School Complexes of Delhi/National Capital Region (NCR), is holding the **fourth National Summit** in New Delhi on **26–27 October 2026** on easing the transition from school to the workplace.
- ⇨ Under the **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)**, the Department of Commerce has extended the deadline under **Component II** of its time-bound initiative **RELIEF** (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) to **31 March 2027**.
- ⇨ On Wednesday, **28 October 2026**, the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, with the support of the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**, held the launch of the book **'Timeless India: Protection and Revival of Indian Cultural Identity under the Leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi'** at the ASI's **Dharohar Bhawan**, Mandi House, New Delhi. (Author/editor: **Tarun Vijay**.)
- ⇨ **Sanjukta Parashar**, an IPS officer of the **2006 batch**, took over in **September 2026** as **Inspector General (IG)** of the **CRPF's special jungle warfare unit CoBRA** (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) (took charge on **16 September 2026**). She became the **first woman officer** to lead the unit.
- ⇨ The **Rajouri Bhairav Yatra** of **Rajouri district**, Jammu and Kashmir, has been officially added to India's list of **National Intangible Cultural Heritage**. It is an ancient spiritual festival of the Rajouri region, celebrated mainly at the time of **Holi**.
- ⇨ On **12 July 2026**, Chief Justice of India (CJI) **Surya Kant** inaugurated the state-of-the-art **'Tower of Justice'** (court complex) in **Gurugram (Haryana)**.
- ⇨ President **Droupadi Murmu** gave her assent to the **Gujarat Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026**; with this, **Gujarat** became the **second state** in independent India, after **Uttarakhand**, to enact a state-level UCC law.
- ⇨ The **Keralam government** has introduced the country's first comprehensive bill, the **'Kerala Senior Citizens (Care and Protection of Rights) Bill, 2026'**, to protect the rights of the elderly, prevent their mistreatment and ensure their social security.
- ⇨ On **12 October 2026**, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda** performed the bhoomi pujan and laid the foundation stone of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research** in **Keylong (Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh)**.
- ⇨ **Chang Chenmo Expedition 2026:** A mountaineering team from **Sonarpur, West Bengal**, made the **first successful ascent** of three unnamed peaks in **eastern Ladakh**.
- ⇨ **Tenure of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh extended**
  - **Decision:** The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** extended the tenure of Defence Secretary **Rajesh Kumar Singh** by one year, until **31 October 2027** or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ⇨ **TTS model for the Saurashtra language**
  - **Developed by:** The **Digital India Bhashini Division** of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, together with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, has developed **text-to-speech (TTS)** models for the **Saurashtra language**.
- ⇨ On **29 October 2026**, Union Minister **Pralhad Joshi** inaugurated the new academic building of the **National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA)** in New Delhi. NIEPA is a **deemed university** under the Ministry of Education that carries out research and training in educational planning and administration.

## Mount Mukut (7,045 m), Uttarakhand

- A **17-member** mountaineering team of the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, under the expert guidance of the **Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), Darjeeling**, climbed the **7,045-metre Mount Mukut peak** on **7 October 2026**; on **12 October**, Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** welcomed the team in **Dehradun**.
- **Objective:** Preparation for the **Mount Everest expedition** proposed for the ICG's **Golden Jubilee** in 2027. The operational experience and lessons from this expedition will help in the final preparations for the 2027 Everest expedition.

**...**

| Name of committee | Chairperson and members | Purpose |
|---|---|---|
| High-Level Technical Expert Committee on Labour Statistics | **Chairperson: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma**. | To strengthen, review and streamline labour statistics and survey methods across the country. |
| Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 | **Chairperson: Sanjay Jaiswal** (Lok Sabha MP).<br>• **Members: 31 members** drawn from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. | To examine and review the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, with special attention to transparency, accountability and regulatory oversight of foreign contributions. |
| Committee on the Demarcation of the Aravalli Range<br>• **Members:** Former directors of the Forest Survey of India (FSI) and the Geological Survey of India (GSI), and botanical experts. | **Chairperson: Kanchan Devi** (Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education - ICFRE). | Set up by the **Supreme Court**, this committee independently reviews the criteria proposed by the government for defining the Aravalli range - such as the **100-metre height limit** - and seeks to protect its ecological balance. |
| High-Powered Task Force on Reforming the Examination System | **Chairperson: Nandan Nilekani**.<br>• **Members:** Anita Karwal (former Education Secretary), S. Somanath (former ISRO Chairman), Dr. V. Kamakoti (Director, IIT Madras), Tapan Deka (former IB Director) and a logistics expert. | Set up by the Central Government, this task force will recommend wide-ranging reforms to make India's public examination system transparent, secure and technology-based, with special focus on preventing paper leaks and strengthening cyber security. |
| Supreme Court Committee on the NEET Protests | **Chairperson: Justice R. Subhash Reddy** (former Supreme Court judge). | To inquire into police conduct and incidents of violence during the protests over NEET-UG. |
| Tamil Nadu High-Level Committee on NEET | **Chairperson: Justice A.K. Rajan** (retired judge, Madras High Court). | To study the impact of NEET on admissions to medical courses. |
| High-Level Committee on Demographic Change (HLCDC) | **Chairperson: Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar** (retired judge, Supreme Court).<br>• **Members:** The Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, **Durga Shankar Mishra** (retd. IAS), **Balaji Srivastava** (retd. IPS), **Dr. Shamika Ravi** (economist) and a Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs. | To assess demographic changes across India, focusing especially on border districts and on areas with unusual changes in the composition of religious and social communities due to illegal infiltration. |

## Schemes and Programmes

### Expansion of the National Social Assistance Programme

- ⇨ **Decision:** By the **Union Cabinet** on **14 October 2026**.
- ⇨ **Ministry:** Department of Rural Development, **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- ⇨ **NSAP launched: 15 August 1995**
- ⇨ **Type: Central Sector Scheme**
- ⇨ **Changes:**
  - **New name: Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana**
  - **Duration: 2026-27 to 2030-31** (five years)
  - **Total outlay: ₹53,428 crore**.
  - **Three components:**

(i) **Renaming** of the sub-schemes (the prefix 'Indira Gandhi' has been dropped from the names):

| Existing name | Approved name |
|---|---|
| National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) | Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana |
| Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) | Pradhan Mantri Old Age Pension Scheme |
| Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) | Pradhan Mantri Widow Pension Scheme |
| Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) | Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Scheme |
| National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) | Pradhan Mantri Family Benefit Scheme |

(ii) Changes in the eligibility, coverage and rates of assistance of the **disability pension**:

- **New rates: ₹375 a month** for those aged 0-79 years and **₹625** for those aged 80 and above.
- **Change in eligibility: Benchmark disability reduced from 80% to 40%**.
  - The minimum age will now be counted **from birth** (earlier 18 years).
- A provision to keep disability-related assistance always **25% higher** than comparable schemes for other categories.

⇨ **Note:** Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016: 'benchmark disability' is 40%.

(iii) The **old-age and widow pensions** and the **Family Benefit Scheme** will continue in their present form.

### Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)

- ⇨ **Approval:** By the **Union Cabinet** on **28 October 2026**.
- ⇨ **Objective:** To build a world-class, competitive container-manufacturing ecosystem in India, reduce import dependence and strengthen supply chains; to support **new manufacturing units** and the **expansion of existing units**.
- ⇨ **Announced:** In the **Union Budget 2026-27**.
- ⇨ **Total outlay: ₹10,000 crore**.
- ⇨ **Ministry:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- ⇨ **Duration:** 'Until **financial year 2039-40**'.
- ⇨ It provides **3 years** for setting up units and **10 years** of production support.
- ⇨ **Components:** Interest Subvention Assistance (ISA), Operational Expenditure Assistance (OEA), testing and certification, and scheme management.

### Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY)

- ⇨ **Approval:** By the **Union Cabinet** on **28 October 2026**.
- ⇨ **Duration: 2026-27 to 2030-31**.
  - It will end with the term of the **Sixteenth Finance Commission**.
- ⇨ **Total outlay: ₹7,395.55 crore**.
  - Of this, the **Centre's share is ₹4,869.48 crore** and the **states' share ₹2,526.07 crore**.
- ⇨ **Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**
- ⇨ **Ministry: Ministry of Panchayati Raj**
- ⇨ **Implementation:** By the state governments/UT administrations.
- ⇨ **Over 2.55 lakh panchayats and traditional local bodies**, about **32 lakh elected representatives**, panchayat functionaries and other stakeholders will benefit directly from the scheme.

- The scheme will apply to all states/UTs and will also cover **traditional local bodies** in **areas outside the scope of Part IX of the Constitution** (where there are no panchayats).
- **Main components of the scheme: Holistic planning, panchayat-wise development profiles, awareness, capacity building and financial accountability.**
- It is an upgraded form of the **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**, focusing on **holistic development** rather than separate training modules for different schemes.

### Green Energy Corridor-III (GEC-III)

- **Approval:** By the **Union Cabinet** on **30 September 2026**.
- **'PM-DHARA' scheme:** This is the new name of **'Green Energy Corridor Phase-III' (GEC-III)**.
  - **PM-DHARA = PM-Developing Harmonized and Accelerated Renewable-energy Access** (harmonised and accelerated development of access to renewable energy).
- **Objective:** To strengthen the **intra-state transmission systems (InSTS)** of states/UTs and ensure large-scale **grid integration** and **evacuation of power** from renewable energy.
- **Total outlay: ₹1,86,405 crore**.
  - This includes **₹54,082 crore** of central financial assistance.
- **Duration:** Targeted for completion by **financial year 2032-33**.
- **Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- **Implementing agencies: State Transmission Utilities (STUs)**.
- **Target:** To build capacity in states/UTs for evacuating up to **135 GW** of renewable energy.
- **What is new:** A dedicated **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** component has been included **for the first time**.
  - It provides for setting up **50 GWh of BESS** at renewable energy developer/generator level or at other important locations.
- This will help achieve the target of **900 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2035**.

**Earlier Phases of the Green Energy Corridor**

- **Phase-I: 8 states** (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, **Rajasthan** and Tamil Nadu)
  - **Target: 9,461 ckm** of transmission lines.
- **Phase-II: 7 states** (Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, **Rajasthan**, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh)
  - **Target: 7,863 ckm** of lines and **24,388 MVA** of substation capacity.

### Pradhan Mantri YASASVI (PM-YASASVI) Scheme

- An **umbrella scholarship scheme** run by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- **PM-YASASVI: PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India**.
- **Beneficiaries: Other Backward Classes (OBC)**, **Economically Backward Classes (EBC)** and **Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT)**.
- **Annual income:** Family income must not exceed **₹2.5 lakh**.
- **Assistance: ₹75,000** a year for **Class 9** and **₹1,25,000** a year for **Class 11**.
- **Main components (4 schemes):**
  - Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme
  - Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme
  - Top Class Education in Schools Scheme
  - Top Class Education in Colleges Scheme

## Reports and Indices

### Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2024-25

- **Released by:** The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, for financial year **2024-25**.
- The survey fieldwork was carried out from **October 2025 to June 2026**.

⇨ **Growth:** In **2024-25**, the registered manufacturing sector recorded **growth** over the previous year.

1. **Industrial output - 7.81% growth**
2. **Total employment - 7.19% growth**
3. **Wages and allowances - 12.08% growth**
4. **Invested capital** (fixed capital + physical working capital) - **11.10%**

⇨ **Industries:** Basic metals, motor vehicles, chemicals and chemical products, pharmaceuticals and food products together contribute **over 45% of manufacturing GVA**.

⇨ **Employment: Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana** were the top 5 states.

- Their share of the country's total manufacturing employment in 2024-25 was **over 56%**.

| Indicator | First | Second | Third |
|---|---|---|---|
| Factories | Tamil Nadu (41,221) | Gujarat | Maharashtra |
| Gross Value Added (GVA) | Maharashtra (15.92%) | Gujarat | Tamil Nadu |
| Employment | Tamil Nadu | Maharashtra | Gujarat |

## Environmental-Economic Accounting Strategy 2026-2030 (MoSPI)

⇨ **Strategy:** Released by the **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.

⇨ It is a roadmap for strengthening environmental accounting, improving data quality, filling data gaps and widening the scope of environmental accounts.

⇨ **Previous strategy:** It builds on the **2022-2026** strategy.

⇨ **Framework:** The strategy is based on the **System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)** endorsed by the United Nations.

⇨ **Priority areas:** Creating new accounts and widening the coverage of forest, mineral, soil resources, land, water, carbon stocks, environment-related activities, biodiversity and environmental statistics.

# Economy and Industry

## VB-G RAM G: New Schedule of 375 Permissible Works Notified

⇨ The **Ministry of Rural Development** has recently notified the **Schedule of Permissible Works** under the **Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] Act, 2025**.

⇨ It includes **375 types of work**, compared with **266** in the old framework.

⇨ **Four pillars:**

| Pillar | Number of works |
|---|---|
| Water security | 128 |
| Core rural infrastructure | 111 |
| Livelihood-related infrastructure | 98 |
| Special works for extreme-weather and disaster preparedness (new category) | 38 |
| Total | **375** |

⇨ **Planning process:** Works will be planned according to local needs through the **'Viksit Gram Panchayat Yojana'** and approved by the **gram sabha**.

- **Digital monitoring:** Through the **Viksit Bharat National Rural Infrastructure Stack**.

## Upgraded NMMS App Launched

⇨ **Launched by:** Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, in New Delhi on **23 October 2026**.

⇨ It is an **upgraded version** of the **National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS)** app for the **Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G]**.

⇨ **Developed:** With technical support from **IIT Madras** and other agencies.

## 'Strategic Disinvestment' of IDBI Bank

⇨ **Decision:** Taken by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** at its meeting on **14 October 2026**.

⇨ **Strategic buyer: M/s 10955230 Canada Inc.** (parent entity: **Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited, Toronto**).

- ⇨ **Sale:** A total of **60.72% equity** will be sold for **₹52,878 crore** (**30.48%** held by the Government of India + **30.24%** held by the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**).
- ⇨ **Status of the bank:** A scheduled commercial bank regulated by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
  - In **January 2019**, LIC took control by investing **₹21,624 crore**, and the RBI classified it as a **'private bank'**.

## SME Growth Fund (SGF)

- ⇨ **Approval:** On **6 October 2026**, the **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** approved a government commitment of **₹10,000 crore** to set up the SGF.
- ⇨ **Announced:** In the **Union Budget 2026-27**.
- ⇨ **Main objective:** To provide **long-term growth capital** to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through **direct equity investment**, and to develop them into globally competitive industry leaders.
- ⇨ It will function as an **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** set up under the **SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012**.
- ⇨ **Main focus on manufacturing:** A large part of the allocation will be directed to supporting small and medium **manufacturing-focused enterprises**.
- ⇨ **Reaching industrial clusters:** The fund will also consider SMEs working in industrial clusters in **Tier-II** and **Tier-III** cities.
- ⇨ **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF):** A **privately pooled investment fund** set up in India that raises money from investors and invests it according to a defined investment policy.

## India's Accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Approved

- ⇨ On **14 October 2026**, the Central Government approved India's accession to the **Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)** (becoming a full contracting party).
- ⇨ **Ministry:** Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- ⇨ **Earlier position:** Since **2022**, India had been a **Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP)** of SIOFA.
  - This limited its participation in decision-making and in the scientific and compliance committees.
- ⇨ **Benefits:**
  - Indian-flagged vessels will be able to make authorised use of **squid, toothfish, alfonsino and other non-migratory fish stocks** in the SIOFA area, provided they follow the applicable conservation measures and fisheries authority rules.
  - India will now have full participation and access to scientific data and stock assessments.
  - It will help prevent **illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU)** fishing.
- ⇨ **Two Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) of the Indian Ocean**
  - **Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)** - tuna and tuna-like highly migratory species; India has been a contracting party since **1996**.
  - **Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)**.

## Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA)

- ⇨ The **Union Cabinet** approved the setting up of ITLA on **6 October 2026**.
- ⇨ ITLA will be the **apex body** for integrated planning, research, project appraisal, monitoring, policy support and data analysis for transport and logistics.
- ⇨ **Administrative ministry: Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- ⇨ **Main responsibilities:**
  - Preparing a long-term **National Transport Master Plan**; the plan will cover a period of **10 years or more**.
  - Assessing regional and annual transport plans.
  - Monitoring projects costing **₹500 crore or more**.
  - Building a **National Transport Data Repository (NTDR)** from FASTag, Vahan and GSTN e-way bill data.
- ⇨ **Scope:** Roads, railways, ports and shipping, civil aviation, inland waterways, coastal shipping, urban transport and logistics.

## 'High-Level Committee' on Banking for Viksit Bharat

- Set up by the **Ministry of Finance** on **30 October 2026**.
- It was announced by Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** in her **Budget speech 2026-27**.
- **Objective:** To suggest structural, institutional, regulatory and legislative reforms to make the banking sector globally competitive and financially inclusive, in line with **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- **Chairperson:** Former Central Vigilance Commissioner **Suresh N. Patel**.
- **Members: Shirish Chandra Murmu** (Deputy Governor, RBI), **Padmaja Chunduru** (former MD and CEO, Indian Bank) and **N.S. Vishwanathan** (former Deputy Governor, RBI).
- **Member-Secretary:** Joint Secretary (Banking), **Department of Financial Services**.
- **Term:** Six months.
- **Terms of Reference (ToR) of the committee:**
  - To assess current banking practices and prudential norms, and provide a roadmap for building globally competitive banks.
  - To review the regulatory and legal framework for banks, including **regional rural banks** and **cooperative banks**.
  - To assess the long-term capital needs of banks, **development finance institutions (DFIs)** and **NBFCs**, and suggest sources of finance for credit growth.
  - To examine differences in the cost of capital for businesses and suggest policy options to boost private investment.
  - To prepare a roadmap for **AI and digital innovation** in banking, and suggest a strategy for protection from cyber risks and for a future-ready workforce.
  - To review the relevance and effectiveness of the **priority sector lending (PSL)** framework and the **Lead Bank Scheme**.

## Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026

- The **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026** came into force on **1 October 2026**.
  - It replaces the **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891**.
  - **Presidential assent: 13 August 2026**.
- **Objective:** To establish a modern framework, in line with present-day banking practices, for using banking records as evidence.
- **Technology-neutral approach:** Recognises records kept in physical, electronic, digital, virtual, cloud-based and other forms.
- **Simplified and standardised certification** of banking records - through manual, digital or electronic signatures.
- Electronic or digital records of bankers' books will be **admissible, valid and legally enforceable** as evidence.

## Green Hydrogen: India's Offtake Commitments Exceed 5.5 Lakh Tonnes a Year

- According to the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, by **October 2026** the green hydrogen offtake (purchase) commitments of Indian companies had reached **5,55,610 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA)**; this is the **highest in the world**.
- **Figures: 18 new** offtake agreements were signed in **2026**, covering the equivalent supply of **over 4 lakh MTPA** of green hydrogen.
- Since the launch of the **NGHM in 2023**, a total of **23 agreements** have been signed, **over 70%** of them meant for export.
- **Investment:** These projects are expected to attract an investment of about **₹90,000 crore (about $9.5 billion)**.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission:** The Cabinet approved the mission with an initial outlay of **₹19,744 crore (up to 2029-30)**.
  - Target - Green hydrogen production of **at least 50 lakh tonnes a year (5 MMTPA) by 2030**.
- **What is an offtake agreement?** A binding agreement between a producer and a buyer in which the buyer guarantees to purchase goods to be produced in future at pre-agreed terms and prices.

## Farmer ID: 11-Crore Target Met Five Months Early

- **Announced by:** Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** on **24 October 2026**.
- The target of creating **11 crore Farmer IDs** in the country has been met.
- **Deadline:** The target was achieved on **23 October 2026**, against the set deadline of **31 March 2027**.
- **Farmer ID:** A farmer's **unique digital identity**, in which the farmer's verified details stay linked to their **land records**.
- It is part of the **Farmer Registry** being built under the Agriculture Ministry's **Digital Agriculture Mission**.

## PAIMANA: Infrastructure Performance Dashboard

- **PAIMANA** - Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring and Analytics for Nation-building.
- **Released by:** The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the dashboard's **quarterly update** on **16 October 2026**.
- **Launched:** On **16 April 2026**.
- **Dimensions:** Performance is measured on **five dimensions** - reach, quality, fiscal cost and revenue, use and affordability.
- The dashboard's **number of indicators** has now been **raised to 184**.

## Khet Bachao Abhiyan (Rabi-2026)

- **Launched by:** Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** on **22 October 2026**, from **Karnal, Haryana**.
- **Theme: 'Swasth Dhara, Samriddh Kisan'** (Healthy Earth, Prosperous Farmer).
- **Duration: 22 October to 30 November 2026**.
- **Objective:** To **save the soil from turning barren** by stopping the **unbalanced use** of chemical fertilisers and pesticides.
- Priority for the **100 districts** with the highest fertiliser use.
- **Three formulas for saving the soil:** Balanced fertiliser use based on the Soil Health Card, changes in the crop cycle, and natural farming on at least half an acre.
- **First phase:** The campaign began as a month-long nationwide drive from **1 to 30 June 2026**.

## Rail Travel Insurance Now on Counter Tickets Too

- **Order:** Through an order issued on **24 October 2026**, the **Railway Board** extended the benefit of the **optional travel insurance scheme** to reserved tickets bought at **Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters**.
- The new arrangement came into force across the country on **27 October 2026**.
- **Earlier:** Until now, this facility was available only on **e-tickets** booked through the **IRCTC** website or app.
- The change follows the **Supreme Court's** direction of **6 October 2026** (**Union of India v. Radha Yadav**); the case concerned compensation for the death of **Dashrath Yadav** during a train journey in 2003.

## Nuclear Energy: 25 Reactors, 8.7 GWe Capacity

- **Reactors:** India currently has **25 operating nuclear reactors** with a total capacity of **8.7 GWe**.
- **Generation:** These reactors generated **56,681 million units** of electricity in **2024-25**.
- **Share:** Nuclear energy accounts for about **3%** of total electricity generation.

## Auction of Two Mineral Blocks in the Andaman Sea

- **Launched:** On **1 October 2026**, **Keshav Chandra**, Secretary, **Ministry of Mines**, virtually launched the auction of **composite licences** for **two offshore mineral blocks** in the **Andaman Sea**.
- These contain **polymetallic nodules and crusts**.

| Block on auction | Location |
|---|---|
| Sewell Rise-01 | Southern part of Sewell Rise, in the Andaman Sea |
| West Sewell Ridge-01 | Near Great Nicobar Island, in the Andaman Sea |

**Polymetallic Nodules**

- **What they are:** Mineral deposits found on the sea floor that contain several important metals – **nickel, cobalt, manganese, copper and rare earth elements (REEs)**; layers of iron and manganese hydroxides.
- **Formation:** Through **authigenic crystallisation** – mineral deposits build up around crystalline nuclei on the deep sea floor.
- **Uses:** EVs, renewable energy systems, advanced batteries and high-tech manufacturing.

## CAFE-III: New Fuel-Efficiency Standards for Cars

- **Notification:** The **Ministry of Power** has notified the new **Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE)-III** standards for passenger vehicles.
- **Duration:** They will apply from **1 April 2027 to 31 March 2032**.
- **Objective:** To raise fuel efficiency; reduce fuel consumption and $CO_2$ emissions; promote clean technologies; and encourage alternative fuels, EVs and hybrid vehicles.
- **Applies to: New M1-category** passenger vehicles made or imported for sale in India.
- **Implementation:** CAFE norms are enforced under the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001** by the **Ministry of Power** through the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**.
- These are **fleet-level** standards – based on the average fuel consumption/$CO_2$ emissions of all the cars a manufacturer sells in a year, not on each car or model separately.
- **Target:** The fuel-consumption standard will tighten every year, from **3.996 litres/100 km** in **2027-28** to **3.3273 litres/100 km** in **2031-32**.
- **Weight-based target:** The reference weight has been raised from **1,082 kg** to **1,229 kg** (an increase of about **13.6%**).
- **Carbon Neutrality Factor (CNF):** The contribution of renewable/low-carbon fuels such as ethanol-blended petrol, biofuels and CBG has been recognised.
- **Fuel-saving technologies:** The approved technologies have been increased **from 4 to 12** (such as solar-reflective paint, advanced glazing and high-efficiency AC).

## CIRCOT: Protective Gloves for Cotton Pickers

- **Agreement:** On **22 October 2026**, the **ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology (CIRCOT), Mumbai**, signed an MoU with **Trust ARS Rubber Private Limited** of **Chengalpattu**.
- **Objective: Transfer of technology** for protective gloves for **cotton-picking workers**.

## RBI's New Data Centre and Cyber Security Training Institute, Bhubaneswar

- **Inauguration:** On **25 October 2026**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** new **data centre** and **cyber security training institute** at **Infovalley-II (Jatni)**, near **Bhubaneswar** in Odisha's **Khordha district**.
- **Data centre:** It will support the RBI's **mission-critical systems**, including its payment and settlement systems.
- **Training institute:** It will provide specialised training and research in cyber security, enterprise computing, artificial intelligence (AI) and **quantum computing**.

## Silk Production

- On **20 September 2026**, at the **77th Foundation Day celebration** of the **Central Silk Board (CSB)** in **Bengaluru**, Union Textiles Minister **Giriraj Singh** announced a target of raising India's silk production to **60,000 metric tonnes by 2030-31**.
- He also announced that India would be made the **world's largest silk producer** by **2028-29**.
- **Current production:** About **42,000 metric tonnes**.
- **Global position:** India is the world's **second-largest** silk producer after **China**, and also a major silk consumer.

## 63rd Meeting of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee

- **Meeting:** The **63rd meeting** of the **Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** was held on **5–7 October 2026**, chaired by Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**.
- **Repo rate raised:** The committee **unanimously** raised the policy repo rate by **25 basis points**, from **5.25% to 5.50%**.
- This is the **first increase** in the repo rate since **February 2023**.

| Rate | New rate |
|---|---|
| Repo rate | **5.50%** |
| Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) | **5.25%** |
| Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) | **5.75%** |
| Bank rate | **5.75%** |

- **Change in policy stance:** The committee changed its stance from **'Neutral'** to **'Calibrated Tightening'**; this means rate cuts are unlikely in the near future.
- **Economic growth estimate:** The estimate of real **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth for **2026–27** was raised from **6.7% to 7.1%**.

## 57th Meeting of the GST Council

- The **57th meeting** of the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council** was held in New Delhi on **8 October 2026**, chaired by Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**.
- **Powers of arrest:** Recommended **removing Section 69** of the **Central GST Act, 2017**, ending the arrest powers of GST officers.
- Until now, officers could make arrests, with the prior permission of a Commissioner-level officer, in cases of tax evasion of over **₹1 crore**, fake input tax credit (ITC) or wrong refunds.
- **Prosecution threshold:** Recommended raising the monetary threshold for criminal **prosecution** for GST offences from **₹1 crore to ₹5 crore**.
- **Reform in penalties:** Recommended reducing the general fine limit from **₹25,000 to ₹10,000** and removing the provision for a minimum **6 months'** mandatory imprisonment; whether to impose imprisonment, a fine or both will be at the court's discretion.
- **Relief for taxpayers:** Recommended not issuing notices in cases involving **₹10,000 or less**, simplifying GST registration and speeding up the tax refund process.
- **GST rates: No change** was made to the existing GST rates.

## Important One-Liners

- On **11 October 2026**, Administrator **Praful Patel** declared **Lakshadweep** a **fully literate** Union Territory under the **ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**. ULLAS is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.
- The **National Statistics Office (NSO), MoSPI**, has announced that the **Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2027–28** will be conducted from **April 2027 to March 2028** (financial year). Until now, the survey followed the calendar year (**January–December**).
- On **9 September 2026**, **Forbes**, in collaboration with market research firm **Statista**, released the **'World's Top Performing Banks 2026'** list **for the first time**. **HDFC Bank** ranked **third in the world** in the **largest global banks (Tier-1)** category. HDFC was the **only Indian bank** in the top 10.
- On **7 October 2026**, after cancelling the banking licence of **Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)**, the **RBI** removed it from the list of recognised **scheduled banks**, i.e. from the **Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934**.
- On **14 October 2026**, the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** set up a committee to examine the concerns of **sugarcane farmers** and suggest remedies.
  - **Chairperson:** Former NITI Aayog member **Prof. Ramesh Chand**.

⇨ **India's first social bond in the WASH sector listed**

- On **1 October 2026**, **NABKISAN Finance Limited** listed India's **first social bond** dedicated to the **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** sector on the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** in Mumbai.
- NABKISAN is a subsidiary of the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**.

⇨ **Jio Platforms' ₹30,213 crore initial public offering (IPO)** is the **largest IPO** in the country so far, bigger than **Hyundai Motor India's ₹27,859 crore** IPO.

⇨ **Price Stabilisation Fund:** Under the **Price Stabilisation Fund** of the **Department of Consumer Affairs**, the government builds **buffer stocks** of items such as **onions and pulses** and releases them in the market when prices rise.

⇨ **PMMSY:** Under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**, the Centre has notified **34 fisheries clusters** in the country.

⇨ The **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** extended its **new amnesty scheme, 2025** (1 October 2025-30 September 2026) by three months, to **31 December 2026**. It is a one-time dispute-resolution scheme for settling, out of court, cases pending under the earlier ESI Act.

⇨ On **4 October 2026**, Union Rural Development Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** laid the foundation stone of **India's first 3D concrete printing (3DCP)-based rural housing pilot project** in **Burripalem village, Guntur district**. Under it, **177 houses** will be built in **six months** under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) 2.0**.

⇨ On **22 October 2026**, the **Tuticorin International Container Terminal (TICT)** at **V.O. Chidambaranar Port**, Tuticorin (Thoothukudi), Tamil Nadu, was declared a **'Green Terminal'**.

⇨ To protect India's traditional cultural and local heritage, the **'Ambaji Mohanthal'** prasad of **Gujarat** and the traditional musical instrument **'Mandar'** of **Jharkhand** were granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** in **2026**.

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# 03 International Current Affairs

## India-Switzerland: State Visit of Swiss President Guy Parmelin

- ⇨ **Date and venue: 5-7 October 2026**, New Delhi; President of the **Swiss Confederation**, **Guy Parmelin**, came to India with a large business delegation.
- ⇨ **TEPA context:** The **India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)** has been in force since **October 2025**; it is India's **first free trade agreement** with a European economic group.
- ⇨ **Target: $100 billion** of investment in India and **10 lakh (1 million) direct jobs** over the next **15 years**.
- ⇨ **Prosperity Summit:** A **'Prosperity Summit'** with India-EFTA business leaders was held on **7 October**.
- ⇨ **AI cooperation:** Switzerland will host the **'Geneva AI Summit'** in **2027** (India hosted the **AI Impact Summit** in **February 2026**); India has been invited.

### Key Outcomes of the Visit

1. **MoU on a Migration and Mobility Partnership (MMP):** Multiple-entry visas for up to 5 years (stays of up to 6 months per visit) and a renewable 1-year student permit; prevention of irregular migration and human trafficking.
2. **Young Professionals Scheme: 300 young professionals** a year from each country (can be raised to 500).
3. **MoU on transport cooperation:** Between the Swiss **Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER)** and India's **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** - electric vehicles, ropeways, tunnels and the circular economy.
4. **DST-SNSF Letter of Intent:** Long-term research cooperation between the **Department of Science and Technology** and the **Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)**.
5. **DST-Zurich University of Applied Sciences Implementation Agreement:** The **'India-Swiss Academia-Industry Training (AIT India)'** programme for early-stage start-ups.
6. **Announcement:** The inaugural session of the **India-Switzerland Research Leadership Programme** was held.

### Science and Technology Talks (Dr. Jitendra Singh - President Parmelin, 6 October)

- ⇨ Switzerland earmarked an additional **4.5 crore Swiss francs (CHF 45 million)** for India-Swiss research partnerships and expects an equal commitment from India.
- ⇨ The progress of the **India-Switzerland Research Framework (ISRF)** and the Joint Scientific Board was welcomed; the bilateral S&T intergovernmental agreement was signed in **2003**.

**NOTE**

- **EFTA members:** Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein; **TEPA** was signed on **10 March 2024**.

## India-Poland: State Visit of Prime Minister Donald Tusk

- ⇨ **Dates: 21-23 October 2026**; Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland **Donald Tusk** came to India with a delegation.
- ⇨ **Background:** During Prime Minister Modi's visit to Poland in **August 2024**, relations were upgraded to a **Strategic Partnership**; the **India-Poland Action Plan 2024-2028** was adopted.
- ⇨ **List of outcomes:**

1. A target of **doubling** bilateral trade by **2030**.
2. Poland joined the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**.
3. A **defence industry dialogue** was set up.
4. Agreement on **counter-terrorism talks**.

- ⇨ **Key points of the joint statement**
  - **Trade and technology:** India-Poland start-up

bridge; joint research in AI, semiconductors and quantum; a technology hackathon for young people.

- **Critical minerals:** Cooperation in battery recycling, rare earth processing, geology and mining; talks on an MoU under way; partnership in coal gasification.
- **Defence:** The **8th meeting** of the Joint Working Group on Defence was held in **Warsaw** in **September 2026**; it was announced that an agreement on the protection of classified information would be concluded soon.
- **India-EU context:** The India-EU Summit of **27 January 2026** (New Delhi), **"Towards 2030: A Joint India-EU Comprehensive Strategic Agenda"**, the conclusion of the India-EU FTA negotiations, and the **India-EU Security and Defence Partnership** signed in **January 2026**.
- **Connectivity:** Direct flights, port cooperation and support for **IMEC** (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor); cooperation in polar affairs.
- **Multilateral:** Poland backed India's **permanent membership** of a reformed UNSC and its candidature for **non-permanent membership for 2028-29**; condemned the **Pahalgam attack** (22 April 2025); called for early adoption of the **CCIT**.
- **Invitation:** India invited Poland to join the **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**, the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and the **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**.
- **V4 + India:** The **first meeting** of the foreign ministers of India and the **Visegrad Group (V4)** was welcomed.

❑ **Cultural ties:** An **ICCR Chair of Indian Studies** at the **Jagiellonian University, Kraków**; a national archives cooperation agreement; the second edition of the **Jam Saheb Memorial Youth Exchange Programme** in **October 2026**.

❑ **NOTE**

- **Operation Ganga (2022):** Poland helped in evacuating **over 2,000 Indian students** from Ukraine.
- **Visegrad Group (V4):** Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia (founded **1991**).

## External Affairs Minister's Africa Visit: Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia

❑ **Dates: 6-10 October 2026**; official visit by External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar** to three countries; in **Addis Ababa**, he chaired a conference of **Regional Heads of Mission**.

❑ **Ghana (Accra)**

- **Ghana in IBCA:** On **7 October 2026**, Ghana's Foreign Minister handed over the **Instrument of Acceptance** of the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** - **Ghana became IBCA's newest member**.
- **MoU on agricultural cooperation:** A 5-year agreement between the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and Ghana's **CSIR-Crops Research Institute (CSIR-CRI)**.

## India-Canada: Foreign Minister Anita Anand Calls on the Prime Minister

❑ **Date: 14 October 2026**, New Delhi; Canada's Foreign Minister **Anita Anand** met Prime Minister **Modi**.

❑ **CEPA:** The Prime Minister stressed the early conclusion of negotiations on the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**.

## India-Bangladesh: First International Cargo Voyage from Dibrugarh to Dhaka via the Brahmaputra

❑ **Date: 5 October 2026**; Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Sarbananda Sonowal** flagged it off from the **Bogibeel terminal (Dibrugarh, Assam)**; Assam Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** joined virtually.

❑ **Cargo: 540 metric tonnes of methanol** produced by **Assam Petro-Chemicals Limited (APCL)**, Namrup; **vessel: DLB Patkai**.

❑ **Route: National Waterway-2 (Brahmaputra)** to **Pangaon port**, Dhaka; total distance about **1,300 km**.

❑ **Historic significance:** The **first waterway consignment** from **Upper Assam** to a foreign port since Independence.

### India-Bhutan: 770 MW Chamkharchhu-I Hydroelectric Project

- **Agreement: 6 October 2026**, Thimphu; a shareholders' agreement between **Adani Power** and Bhutan's **Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC)**.
- **Project:** A **770 MW** peaking run-of-the-river project; **Chamkharchhu river**, **Zhemgang district** (central Bhutan).
- **Structure:** Equity **49:51** (Adani:DGPC); **BOOT model**, with a concession of **30 years** from commercial operation.
- **Power trade:** Surplus green power to be exported to India in summer; Bhutan's peak demand to be met in winter.
- **Timeline:** Construction from the first half of 2027; target of commissioning in about **6 years**.

### India-Singapore: 'Namaste Bharat 2026' Exhibition

- **Dates and venue: 22-25 October 2026**, Singapore; an exhibition-cum-trade fair of Indian products.
- **Participation:** About **150 Indian exhibitors**; a delegation of **50 women entrepreneurs** from Maharashtra.
- **Products:** Handicrafts, textiles, jewellery, traditional foods and millet-based products.
- **Objective:** To take Indian products to the wider Asian market through Singapore; to strengthen business networks between Singapore and Indian states beyond the metro cities.
- **NOTE**
  - **India-Singapore: CECA (2005)** - India's **first Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement** with any country; relations were upgraded to a **'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'** during the Prime Minister's visit in **September 2024**.

### Manuscript Heritage Diplomacy: MoU with France (BnF) and the 'SAMHiTA' Project in Sri Lanka

#### India-France: Agreement with BnF under the Gyan Bharatam Mission

- **Date and venue: 26 October 2026**, Paris; an MoU between the **Ministry of Culture** and the **Bibliothéque nationale de France** (BnF - the National Library of France).
- **Indian partners:** The Ministry of Culture (through **Gyan Bharatam**), the **National Archives (New Delhi)** and the **National Library (Kolkata)**.
- **5 areas of cooperation:** Digitisation; sharing on a national digital repository; exchange of technology; conservation; research and development.
- **Main work:** Identifying and digitising manuscripts of Indian origin held at the BnF; **OCR/HTR tools** for Indian scripts, cataloguing standards and digital humanities; joint workshops, exhibitions and exchange of scholars.

### India-Sri Lanka: SAMHiTA Project

- **Introduction: SAMHiTA - South Asian Manuscript Histories and Textual Archive**.
- **Implementation: India International Centre (IIC)**, New Delhi, with a grant from the Government of India.
- **Launched in Sri Lanka: October 2026**, **Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo** - the **first** Sri Lankan institution to join the project (MoU: **July 2026**).
- **Work:** Digitisation of the temple's **100 ancient manuscripts** (religion, philosophy, language and cultural traditions) by local experts; likely to be completed by the end of **November 2026**.

## Regional and Multilateral Forums

### First Meeting of BIMSTEC Home Ministers and the 'Delhi Declaration'

- **Date and venue: 13 October 2026**, New Delhi.
- **Chaired by:** Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Amit Shah**.
- **Participants:** All 7 BIMSTEC members - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- **5 areas of cooperation (India's proposal):** Narcotics control; counter-terrorism and legal cooperation; return of fugitive offenders; cyber security and cyber-crime investigation; institutional cooperation and capacity building.
- **Disaster management:** A plan to set up the proposed **BIMSTEC Disaster Management Centre** in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**.

### Documents Adopted at the Meeting

1. **BIMSTEC Convention against Human Trafficking**.
2. **BIMSTEC Action Plan** for narcotics control.
3. **MoU on capacity building** to tackle **money laundering and terrorist financing** (including proliferation financing).
4. Action plan to curb **Illicit Financial Flows**.
5. Action plan for preparedness and coordination for natural disasters (including **tsunami** risk) in the **Bay of Bengal** region.

### Delhi Declaration

- Strong condemnation of **terrorism in all its forms**, including cross-border terrorism; a call for effective implementation of the measures of the **UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee**.
- A **victim-centred approach** towards victims of human trafficking forced to work in online fraud centres (**scam centres**).
- Effective implementation of the **BIMSTEC Convention** on combating international terrorism, organised crime and drug trafficking (**in force since March 2021**) and the **Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters** (**March 2022, Colombo**).
- Early finalisation of agreements on extradition and the transfer of sentenced persons; development of the **BIMSTEC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk (BDOMD)**.

## Shanghai Cooperation Organisation: 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government, Dushanbe

⇨ **Dates and venue: 19-20 October 2026**, **Dushanbe (Tajikistan)**; India was represented by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**.

⇨ **Institutional reforms:** The decisions of the **Bishkek Summit** (August-September 2026) - making the **Universal Centre in Tashkent** and the **Anti-Narcotics Centre in Dushanbe** permanent bodies - were welcomed.

⇨ **Economic cooperation:** Support for the action plan of the **Programme of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation (PMTEC)** for **2026-2030**.

⇨ **India's initiatives:** An invitation to take part in the **first SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum**, to be hosted by India later this year (**20-22 November 2026**, **Purana Qila, New Delhi**).

⇨ **NOTE**

- **SCO:** Founded on **15 June 2001** in **Shanghai**; Secretariat - **Beijing**; RATS - **Tashkent**; India and Pakistan have been full members since **2017**.

## India-ASEAN: Multi-dimensional Cooperation

### First ASEAN-India Defence Think-Tank Forum

⇨ **Dates and venue: 14-15 October 2026**, **Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA)**, New Delhi; addressed by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**.

⇨ **Origin:** Announced by the Defence Minister at the second **informal meeting of ASEAN-India Defence Ministers**, held during the **12th ADMM-Plus** in **Kuala Lumpur** on **31 October 2025**.

⇨ **2026: ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation.**

### 20th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers' Meeting

⇨ **8 October 2026**, **Manila (Philippines)**; India was represented by **Shripad Yesso Naik**, Minister of State for Power and for New and Renewable Energy.

⇨ The **ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2026-2030** and the **ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2026-2030** were welcomed; training for **400 professionals** for the **ASEAN Power Grid** was announced (**22nd ASEAN-India Summit, 2025**).

⇨ **NOTE**

- **AITIGA:** The **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement** - signed in **2009**, in force from **2010**; its review talks are under way.
- **ASEAN (10+1): Timor-Leste** became the **11th member** in **2025**; chair in **2026** - the **Philippines**.

## 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), Cebu

⇨ **Dates and venue: 28-29 October 2026**, **Cebu (Philippines)**; chair - the Philippines; the Indian delegation was led by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** ('Regional and

**International Security Issues:** Exchange of Views').

- ⇨ **Composition: 11 ASEAN members** (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam) and **8 dialogue partners** (India, the USA, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand).
- ⇨ **India's role:** Co-chair, **with Malaysia**, of the **Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism** for **2024-2027**; defence diplomacy under the **Act East Policy**.

### 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, New Delhi

- ⇨ **Dates and venue: 26-27 October 2026**; Central Hall of **Samvidhan Sadan**, New Delhi; **organiser** - the Parliament of India; inaugurated on **26 October**.
- ⇨ **Main theme: "Fostering Parliaments for People-Centric Development"**.
- ⇨ **Inaugurated by:** Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla**, at Samvidhan Sadan.
- ⇨ **Handover of the chair:** The chairmanship of the BRICS Parliamentary Forum for **2027** was handed to **China**.
- ⇨ **BRICS Parliamentary Forum:** First meeting in **2015**, **Moscow (Russia)**.
- ⇨ **Four sessions:**

1. **Resilience** - the role of parliaments in strengthening institutions;
2. **Innovation** - human-centred innovation in AI and digital technology;
3. **Cooperation** - more representative global governance;
4. **Sustainability**.

### 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Tanzania

- ⇨ **Dates and venue: 5-9 October 2026**, **Arusha (United Republic of Tanzania)**.
- ⇨ **Theme: "Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusiveness, trust and opportunities for all"**.
- ⇨ **Indian delegation led by:** Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman **Harivansh**.
- ⇨ **NOTE**
  - **IPU:** Founded in **1889**; headquarters - **Geneva**; the global organisation of the world's parliaments.

### 7th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

- ⇨ **Date and venue: 15 October 2026**, **Baku (Azerbaijan)**.
- ⇨ **Chaired by:** President **Ilham Aliyev**.
- ⇨ **Decisions:** Support for extending Azerbaijan's chairmanship (2024-26) to **2028**; **Laos** was admitted as a new member.

### 61st Meeting of the International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML), New Delhi

- ⇨ **Dates: 26-28 October 2026**; hosted by India **for the first time**.
- ⇨ **Organiser:** The **Department of Consumer Affairs**, with the support of the **International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML)**.
- ⇨ **Inaugural seminar: 26 October**, theme - **'Developments in Legal Metrology'**.
- ⇨ **India's reforms: Jan Vishwas** reforms (**2023 and 2026**) - decriminalisation of offences; **Government Approved Test Centres (GATC)**; the **eMaap** national portal; recognition of India as an **'issuing authority'** in the **OIML Certification System (OIML-CS)**; **'One Nation, One Time'** - the national time dissemination project (accurate IST).

## Maritime Diplomacy and Ocean Governance

### Sagarmanthan 2026: The Great Oceans Dialogue (Third Edition)

- ⇨ **Held: 6-7 October 2026**, New Delhi; by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** and the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)**.
- ⇨ **Indian seafarers** make up the world's **second-largest maritime workforce**.
- ⇨ **Participation:** Australia, Belgium, Bhutan, the EU, France, Norway, Korea, the UAE, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana,

Egypt, Seychelles, Ecuador, as well as the OECD, UN Trade and Development, the AIIB and the African Union.

- ⇨ **Inaugural session: "Waves of Trust: Ports, Partnerships and Building a New Maritime Century"**.
- ⇨ **Outcomes:** Formal launch of an industry coalition for an **India–EU green shipping corridor** (with RMI; trade in green ammonia and methanol); an India-Korea round table (with **KIEP**).

### Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2026

- ⇨ **Dates and venue: 3–5 November 2026**, New Delhi; the **Indian Navy's** annual apex international strategic dialogue; **knowledge partner** – the **National Maritime Foundation (NMF)**.
- ⇨ **Theme: 'Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific'**.
- ⇨ **Sessions on 5 themes:** Academic networks and human capital; maritime situational awareness and the security of critical maritime infrastructure; ocean science and climate resilience; ocean governance; implications of transformative maritime technologies and dual use.

### India's Accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

- ⇨ **Decision:** In **October 2026**, the Central Government approved India's **accession** to **SIOFA** as a **Contracting Party**.
- ⇨ **Earlier position:** Since **2022**, India had been a **Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP)**.

### First UN General Assembly Declaration on Sea-Level Rise

- ⇨ **Date: 24 September 2026**; adopted **by consensus** at the high-level segment of the **81st session of the UNGA**.
- ⇨ **Key provisions:** The risks of sea-level rise are 'cumulative, severe and irreversible'; disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and long-term planning; commitment to the **Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)** and the **Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS)**; support for the **continuity of statehood** of island nations and the protection of maritime zones.

## World Affairs

### Complete Withdrawal of US Troops from Iraq

- ⇨ **Date: 30 September 2026**; **US Central Command (CENTCOM)** announced the completion of the withdrawal; the last troops left the base at **Erbil (Kurdistan region)** in northern Iraq.
- ⇨ **Mission ended:** The 12-year US-led coalition mission against the **Islamic State (ISIS)**, under way since **2014** (**Operation Inherent Resolve**).

### El Alamein Joint Declaration: Red Sea, Nile Waters and Regional Unity

- ⇨ **Date and venue: 4 October 2026**, **New Alamein (Egypt)**.
- ⇨ **Participants:** Egypt, Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan.
- ⇨ **Red Sea:** Governance of the Red Sea is the responsibility of the **littoral** states alone.
- ⇨ **Nile waters: 'No Harm'** on international rivers, the principle of prior notification and consultation; opposition to unilateral measures that harm downstream countries (Egypt, Sudan) (**context – GERD**).
- ⇨ **Sudan and Somalia:** Support for Sudan's unity and rejection of parallel power structures; opposition to recognising the self-declared **'Somaliland'**.

### Canada: Proposal to Become the EU's First 'Associate Member'

- ⇨ **Announcement: 16 September 2026**, Strasbourg; in her **'State of the Union'** address, European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** invited Canada to become the **EU's first 'Associate Member'**.

### 'Badr' Defence Cooperation MoU between Türkiye, Qatar, Pakistan and Indonesia

- ⇨ **Date and venue: 21 October 2026**, **Doha (Qatar)**.
- ⇨ **Nature:** A memorandum of understanding on defence-manufacturing cooperation – industrial cooperation, not a mutual defence commitment.

- ⇨ **Subjects:** Joint production, technology transfer, integrated supply chains, technical training, and research and development.
- ⇨ **Context:** The **Mecca Joint Defence Agreement** of **August 2026** between **Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye**.

### Morocco Gets Its First Woman Head of Government: Fatima Zahra Al-Mansouri

- ⇨ **Appointment:** On **29 September 2026**, **King Mohammed VI** appointed **Fatima Zahra Al-Mansouri** as Head of Government (Prime Minister) and entrusted her with forming a new government.

### Brazil: Lula da Silva Elected President for the Fourth Time

- ⇨ **Election:** First round - **4 October 2026** (Flàvio Bolsonaro **~47.0%**, Lula **~45.2%**); second round (run-off) - **25 October 2026**.
- ⇨ **Result: Luiz Inàcio Lula da Silva** (**Workers' Party - PT**) won with about **51.8%** of the vote; **opponent** - **Flàvio Bolsonaro** (son of former President Jair Bolsonaro).
- ⇨ **Term:** Lula's **fourth** (non-consecutive) term; earlier terms - **2003-2010** (two terms) and **2023-2026**; the new term begins on **5 January 2027**.

### Greece: Social Media Ban for Children under 15

- ⇨ **Law:** The **Greek Parliament** passed the bill on **23 October 2026**; in force from **1 January 2027**.
- ⇨ **Provision:** Children **under 15** are barred from using social media.
- ⇨ **Reasons:** **'Endless scrolling'**, digital addiction, and harm to children's sleep and concentration.
- ⇨ **Other countries: Australia** - the first country to enforce a ban for those **under 16** (from **December 2025**); the European Commission's proposed **'EU Kids Act'** (**September 2026**) - a ban for those under 13, with a minimum age of 15 for opening an account on one's own; France's similar law was struck down by the **Constitutional Council** in **August 2026**.

### Wave of Social Unrest in Europe (October 2026)

- ⇨ **Background:** From mid-October 2026, widespread protests in several European countries; **main causes** - rising inflation and cost of living, the housing crisis, decline in public services such as education and health, and uncertainty among young people.
- ⇨ **France:** A student movement against dilapidated and understaffed schools.
- ⇨ **Albania:** Anti-corruption protests in the capital **Tirana**; the **'Flamingo' movement** demanded the resignation of Prime Minister **Edi Rama**.
- ⇨ **Italy:** The **'Italia in Piazza'** movement - demands for better jobs, wages, housing and health; inflation in September at **4.2%** (eurozone **3.8%**).
- ⇨ **Portugal:** Protests in **Lisbon** and **Porto** against rising housing and rent costs.
- ⇨ **Belgium:** Trade-union strikes and protests against the government's **austerity** measures and pension reforms.

## Joint Military Exercises and Defence Diplomacy

### First BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise

- ⇨ **Dates and venue: 30 October-3 November 2026**, **Sri Vijaya Puram (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)**; host - the **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)**, India's first integrated tri-service command.
- ⇨ **Participants:** All **7 BIMSTEC members** - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- ⇨ **Format:** A three-day **table-top exercise**, followed by a two-day **harbour phase**.
- ⇨ **Objective:** Operational coordination, **maritime domain awareness**, strengthening coordination mechanisms and sharing best practices; motto - **'Shared Seas, Shared Security and Shared Prosperity'**.

### India-Republic of Korea Bilateral Naval Exercise (IN-ROKN), Busan

- ⇨ **Ships:** India - **INS Sahyadri** (indigenous guided-missile stealth frigate, **Shivalik class**); Korea - **ROKS Munmu the Great**.

⇨ **Dates and venue:** Reached **Busan naval port**, South Korea, on **26 October 2026**; the exercise concluded on **29 October 2026**.
⇨ **Phases: Harbour phase** – professional discussions, ship visits, subject-matter expert exchanges, sports and cultural activities; **sea phase** – coordinated manoeuvres, helicopter operations and joint warfare drills.

### India–USA Tri-Service HADR Exercise 'Tiger Triumph 2026' (5th Edition)

⇨ **Inauguration: 2 November 2026**, Maritime Warfare Centre (MWC), **Visakhapatnam**; co-chaired by **Rear Admiral Vishal Bishnoi**, FOC of the Eastern Fleet, and **Rear Admiral Joaquin J. Martinez de Pinillos**, Deputy Commander of the US Pacific Fleet.
⇨ **Format:** This year, a discussion-based **table-top exercise (TTX)**; joint planning, coordination and interoperability for large-scale **humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR)** operations; focus on joint multi-domain operations.
⇨ **Participants:** India – the Navy, Army, Air Force and special forces of all three services; for the **first time**, an **NDRF** team; USA – Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and space, cyber, medical and bomb-disposal experts.

### Second ASEAN–India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026)

⇨ **Dates and venue: 28 September–2 October 2026** (inaugurated on 29 September), **Subic Bay / Zambales coast, Philippines**; **co-hosts** – the Indian Navy and the Philippine Navy.
⇨ **Theme: "Anchored in Trust, United at Sea"**
⇨ **Indian ships: INS Sahyadri** and **INS Kulish**.
⇨ **Phases:** Harbour phase and sea phase.

### India–UAE Joint Military Exercise 'Mountain Guardian 2026'

⇨ **Dates and venue: 5–18 October 2026**, **Foreign Training Node, Chaubattia (Uttarakhand)**.
⇨ **Participation: 92 soldiers** in all (equal representation); **Indian Army** – **Bhairav Battalion**; **UAE** – Mountain Infantry Battalion; women officers on both sides.
⇨ **Objective:** Interoperability focused on **mountain warfare**.

### India–UK Naval Exercise 'Konkan-2026'

⇨ **Dates and venue: 8–15 October 2026**, off **Plymouth (UK)**; harbour phase and sea phase (**12–15 October**).
⇨ **Ships:** India – **INS Trishul**; UK – **HMS Sutherland**.
⇨ **Conducted by:** The Royal Navy's **Fleet Operational Sea Training (FOST)** organisation.

### India–Russia Naval Exercise 'Indra-2026'

⇨ **Dates and venue: 13–18 October 2026**, **Vladivostok (Russia)**; **INS Sahyadri** reached there on **10 October**.
⇨ **Participants:** The Indian Navy and the **Russian Federation Navy (RuFN)**.

### India–Brazil–South Africa Maritime Exercise 'IBSAMAR-IX 2026'

⇨ **Venue and conclusion: South Africa**; concluded at **Simon's Town** on **20 October 2026** (10 days).
⇨ **Theme: "Unity and Resilience towards a Shared Future in the Maritime Domain"**
⇨ **Ship:** India – **INS Tarkash**
⇨ **Drills:** Surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare, **VBSS**, anti-piracy operations, search and rescue, and damage control.

### India–Australia Joint Military Exercise 'AustraHind 2026' (5th Edition)

⇨ **Dates and venue: 19 October–1 November 2026**, **Foreign Training Node, Thiruvananthapuram (Keralam)**.
⇨ **Participation:** About **120 soldiers** from each side; **India** – **Garhwal Rifles**; **Australia** – **13th Brigade**.
⇨ **Focus:** Joint sub-conventional operations in semi-urban and coastal areas under **Chapter VII of the UN Charter**; surveillance and reconnaissance, protection of key establishments, HADR.
⇨ **Special:** A **New Zealand** observer team took part for the **first time**.

### India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Garuda Shakti' (11th Edition)

- **Dates and venue: 27 October–6 November 2026, Banyuwangi (Indonesia)**.
- **Participants: India** – the **Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)**; Indonesia – special forces.
- **Focus:** Special operations in jungle terrain – obstacle crossing, combat shooting, mountaineering and air-assault training; a validation exercise in the final phase.

### India-Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise 'SIMBEX-2026'

- **Edition: 33rd**; **21–26 October 2026**, **Visakhapatnam** (harbour phase 21–23, sea phase 24–26 October, Bay of Bengal).
- **Ships:** India – **INS Nilgiri** and **INS Kamorta**.
- **Conclusion (26 October 2026):** Singapore's **RSS Supreme**; India's **P-8I, Dornier, Hawk** and **MH-60R** aircraft also took part; the sea phase included maritime interdiction operations, **anti-submarine warfare (ASW)**, and drills against air and surface threats.

### 12th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026)

- **Date and venue: 8 October 2026**, off **Paradip (Odisha)**; inaugurated on **7 October** by Minister of State for Defence **Sanjay Seth**.
- **Organiser:** The **Indian Coast Guard**, under the supervision of the **National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB)**.
- **Theme: "Leveraging technology to enhance SAR preparedness and maritime safety"**
- **Participation: 32 observers** from **30 friendly countries**.
- **NOTE**
  - **Motto of the Indian Coast Guard: "Vayam Rakshamah"** (We Protect).

### Combined Maritime Forces: India's Command of CTF-154 Ends

- **Tenure:** The **Indian Navy** took command of **Combined Task Force-154 (CTF-154)** for the **first time** on **11 February 2026** for a period of **6 months**; on **14 October 2026**, it handed over command to **Bahrain** in **Manama**.

### Other Defence Engagements

- **Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026:** A team of the Indian Army's **Assam Regiment** won a **gold medal**; **2–12 October 2026**, **Wales (UK)**; over 100 teams – one of the world's **toughest military patrolling** exercises.
- **India-Mongolia: 14th meeting** of the Joint Working Group on Defence, **Ulaanbaatar** (**16 October**).

## Indices and Reports

### Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026

- **India's position: 100th** of **122 countries**; score **24.1** – **'Serious'** category (since 2012); **last year** – **102nd of 123**.
- **Theme: "No security without food security"**
- **India's indicators:** Undernourishment **9.8%**; **child wasting 19.0% (the highest in the report)**; child stunting **29.3%** (for the first time in the 'high' category rather than 'very high'); under-5 mortality **2.7%**.
- **Comparison:** South Asia's score **23.4**; world **18.1**; India is ahead of Pakistan (**25.5**) and Afghanistan, and behind Bangladesh.

### Henley Passport Index (October 2026)

- **India: 84th** (up from **85th**), jointly with **Algeria** and **Mauritania**; visa-free access to **55 destinations** (57 in October 2025).
- **Top: Singapore** (1st, **193 destinations**); **Japan, South Korea and the UAE** (joint 2nd, **188**); **Sweden** (3rd).

### UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2026

- **Released: 21 October 2026**, **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- **Title: "The Point of Return: Urgent emissions cuts needed to come back from overshoot of 1.5° C"**

- **Warming projections (to 2100):** Current policies – **2.8° C**; unconditional NDCs – **2.7° C**; conditional NDCs – **2.6° C**; NDCs + net-zero pledges – **2.1° C**.
- **Main finding:** The chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C without, or with only limited, overshoot is gone; in the minimum-overshoot scenario, a peak of **1.7–1.8° C** by mid-century, then down to **1.5° C or below by 2100**.

## Global Environment Conferences

### Bharat Renewable Energy Summit and Expo (BRESE) 2026

- **Dates and venue: 2–5 November 2026**, **Bharat Mandapam (New Delhi)**; inaugurated by the Prime Minister (**2 November**); organiser – **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**; theme – **'Invest, Innovate, Inspire'**.
- **Participation: Over 130 countries**, over 40 ministers; **9 partner countries** – Australia, Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom; **13 states/UTs** (including Rajasthan); over **400 exhibitors**.
- **Held alongside:** The **9th session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly** (international cooperation, finance and institutional capacity in solar energy) and the **4th International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH)**.

### COP-17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Yerevan

- **Dates and venue: 19–30 October 2026**, **Yerevan (Armenia)**; COP-17 President – Armenia's Environment Minister **Hambardzum Matevosyan**.
- **Main agenda:** The **first global review** of progress on the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)**; resource mobilisation, capacity building and the role of indigenous peoples.
- **Alongside:** The **12th meeting** of the Parties to the **Cartagena Protocol** (biosafety) (**CP-MOP 12**) and the **6th meeting** of the Parties to the **Nagoya Protocol** (access and benefit-sharing) (**NP-MOP 6**).
- **Status:** About **90%** of Parties have set national targets, but fewer than half of the targets are on track.

**India's Statement**

- **Speaker:** Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Bhupender Yadav**.
- **India's progress:** The updated **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)** has **23 national targets** and **142 indicators**; **1,134 protected areas**, **103 Ramsar sites**, **57 biodiversity heritage sites** and **18 biosphere reserves** (13 of them in UNESCO's MAB network).
- **Initiatives:** The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**, **Mission LiFE**, **'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'**, **Amrit Dharohar** (wetlands), the **Soil Health Card**, and village-level committees for access and benefit-sharing.

### 28th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO-28), Rome

- **Dates and venue: 28 September–2 October 2026**, **FAO headquarters, Rome (Italy)**; **chair** – **Pierre Taty**; held alongside the **10th World Forest Week**.
- **Main themes:** Forest and landscape restoration (**'The State of the World's Forests 2026'**), dryland forests and agro-silvo-pastoral systems, forest monitoring, wildfires and forest biosecurity.
- **Outcomes:** A call for investment in dryland forests (on which **over 2 billion people** depend); support from the **UK** and **Germany** for forest monitoring; the **FAO–Finland (LUKE)** partnership extended for **5 years**; support for a forthcoming **UN Decade on Afforestation and Reforestation**.

### 'The State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2026' Report

- **Publisher and theme:** FAO's **biennial flagship report**; **theme** – **'Restoring forests and landscapes: the path to a sustainable future'**; the main document of COFO-28; **basis** – the **Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025**.

⇨ **Global situation:** Forest area about **414 crore (4.14 billion) hectares** (**~32%** of land); **~714 gigatonnes of carbon** in forests; over **156 crore hectares** of land degraded (including **~46 crore hectares** of forest land); about **48.9 crore hectares** of forest lost since **1990**.

⇨ **Restoration:** Global commitments exceed **100 crore hectares**, but active restoration covers only **~4.4 crore hectares**.

⇨ **India: First in the world** in active restoration area (**~98 lakh hectares**); followed by **China** (**~79 lakh**) and **Ethiopia** (**~50 lakh**).

## Nepal: First Country to Receive Support from the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)

⇨ **Decision:** On **22 October 2026**, at the **first extraordinary meeting** of the board of the **Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)**, **$2 crore (US$20 million)** was earmarked for Nepal - the fund's **first allocation**.

⇨ **Disaster:** On **26 August 2026**, a Himalayan ice-rock avalanche caused devastating floods in the **Bhotekoshi-Trishuli river** basin; **over 1,400 deaths**; estimated losses **~$2.7 billion**, reconstruction needs **~$4.7 billion**.

## Personalities and Honours in the News

⇨ **Bimal N. Patel:** Judge of the **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)**
- **Oath: 1 October 2026**, **Hamburg (Germany)**; term - **9 years (2026-2035)**.
- **Election: 18 June 2026**, **36th Meeting of States Parties to UNCLOS** (New York); **115 of 168 votes**.
- **Profile:** Member of the **UN International Law Commission (ILC)** since **January 2023**; replaced **Neeru Chadha**.

⇨ **Death of Gloria Steinem**
- **Death: 3 September 2026**, New York (USA).
- **Profile:** One of the most famous feminist activists and journalists of the 20th century; in **1963**, as a journalist, she went undercover as a **'Playboy' Bunny** and exposed the exploitative system in the clubs; **1971** - co-founder of the **National Women's Political Caucus**; **1972** - co-founder of **"Ms."** magazine; **2013** - **Presidential Medal of Freedom**.

⇨ **Sunil Bharti Mittal:** Named by French President **Emmanuel Macron** for France's highest civilian honour, the **'Legion of Honour'** (Chevalier/Knight), for his contribution to India-France economic relations and telecom-digital infrastructure.

⇨ **Smriti Mandhana:** Appointed **'Celebrity Advocate'** of **UNICEF India** on **11 October 2026** (**International Day of the Girl Child**); focus on adolescent empowerment, health and the right to play.

⇨ **Sharmila 'Mona' Sinha:** The **second woman of Indian origin** to be inducted into the US **'National Women's Hall of Fame'** (Seneca Falls, 1969) (the first - **Indra Nooyi**, 2021); born in **Kolkata**; **Global Executive Director of Equality Now**.

# 04 Science and Technology

## Space and Astronomy

### NavIC: Successful Launch of the NVS-03 Navigation Satellite by GSLV-F18

- **Launch: 30 October 2026**; by **GSLV-F18** from the **second launch pad** of the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**; placed in **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)** about 18 minutes later.
- **Orbit raising:** First manoeuvre on **31 October 2026** using the satellite's **Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM)**; **final position** - the geosynchronous orbital slot at **111.75° East**.
- **Special:** The **20th flight of GSLV**; NVS-03 is the **third** of the 5 second-generation NavIC satellites (**NVS-01 to NVS-05**); mass about **2,250 kg**.
- **Payloads: L1, L5 and S-band** navigation payloads (L1 for better compatibility with civilian devices); an **indigenous atomic clock** along with procured (imported) atomic clocks.
- **Significance:** Restores NavIC's minimum operational requirement (**4 satellites**); paves the way for the launches of NVS-04 and NVS-05.
- **Background - NVS-02: GSLV-F15**, **29 January 2025** (the **100th launch** from Sriharikota); L1, L5, S and C-band ranging payloads; after launch, the orbit could not be raised because an **oxidiser valve failed to open**, and the satellite did not reach its assigned slot.
- **Other ISRO launches in 2026: EOS-N1** by **PSLV-C62** (**12 January 2026**); **EOS-05 (GISAT-1I)** by **GSLV-F17** (**4 September 2026**).
- **GSLV: Key facts**
  - **Structure:** A **three-stage launch vehicle** (for GTO and LEO); final stage - the **indigenous cryogenic upper stage** (fuel - liquid hydrogen, oxidiser - liquid oxygen), which replaced the Russian stage of the early flights; strap-on boosters **S-40** (liquid; a hypergolic mix of **N2O4 and UH25**).
  - **GSLV-F18:** Height about **50 metres**, lift-off mass about **420 tonnes**, with a **3.4-metre**-diameter metallic payload fairing.
- **NavIC: Key facts**
  - **Structure:** Originally **7 satellites** - 3 in geostationary orbit and 4 in inclined geosynchronous orbit; 24×7 ground centres (navigation centres at **Byalalu** and **Lucknow**); coverage - India and up to about **1,500 km** beyond its borders.
  - **Services: Standard Positioning Service (SPS)** - open to civilians, interoperable with GPS (USA), GLONASS (Russia), Galileo (EU) and BeiDou (China); **Restricted Service (RS)** - encrypted for strategic users.
  - **Uses:** Transport, maritime and aviation navigation, disaster management (such as cyclone warnings to fishermen), precision agriculture and strategic services.
- **NOTE**
  - **NavIC (IRNSS):** India's regional navigation system - covering India and about **1,500 km** around it.
  - **NVS-01: GSLV-F12** (the **15th GSLV flight**), **29 May 2023**; **2,232 kg**; mission life **12 years**; carries an **indigenous rubidium atomic clock** built by the **Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad**; L1, L5 and S bands.
  - **GTO:** For a geostationary orbit, a satellite is first placed in an elliptical GTO (apogee about **35,786 km**); the apogee motor then raises the **perigee** to make the orbit circular.

## Aditya-L1 (VELC): Uneven Spread of a Solar Eruption (CME)

- **Study: Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru** (an autonomous institution of DST); **published in - The Astrophysical Journal Letters**; Aditya-L1's VELC data were combined with observations from NASA's **SDO** (Atmospheric Imaging Assembly - AIA) and 3-D modelling.
- **Event:** The **coronal mass ejection (CME)** of **5 August 2024** - from an active region on the Sun's western limb.
- **Finding:** It was found **for the first time** that a CME does **not** expand like a uniform round bubble; because of its tilted axis and **asymmetric lateral expansion**, its shape is uneven - this can affect a CME's speed, its interaction with the solar wind, and the **time it takes to reach Earth**.
- **Technique:** Spectroscopy of the coronal plasma (about **18 lakh kelvin**) in the **530.3 nm green emission line** (highly ionised iron) by VELC; **Doppler shifts** (blue and red) gave the speed of plasma moving towards and away from us.
- **Significance:** Better forecasting of **space weather** - protecting satellites and communication networks.
- **NOTE**
  - **Aditya-L1:** India's first space-based solar observatory; launched **2 September 2023** (**PSLV-C57**); halo orbit around the Sun-Earth **L1 point**; **7 payloads**.
  - **VELC: Visible Emission Line Coronagraph** - the main payload; built by IIA at the **M.G.K. Menon Lab**, **CREST** campus, **Hosakote**, with ISRO's support.

## Japan's MMX Mission: Sample Return from Mars's Moon Phobos

- **Launch: 20 October 2026**, **H3 rocket**, **Tanegashima Space Center (Japan)**; **agency - JAXA**; partners - **NASA, ESA, CNES and DLR**.
- **Full name: Martian Moons eXploration (MMX)** - the **world's first mission** to return samples from a moon of Mars.
- **Timeline: August 2027** - Mars orbit; **September 2027** - Phobos orbit; **2030** - landing on Phobos, deployment of the **IDEFIX rover (CNES-DLR)** and at least **10 grams** of samples from two sites; **2031** - the capsule will land in the **Woomera area of Australia**.
- **Objective:** The origin of Mars's moons (Phobos and Deimos) - captured asteroids or debris from a giant impact?; understanding water and habitability in the Solar System.
- **NOTE**
  - Japan's earlier sample-return missions: **Hayabusa** (Itokawa) and **Hayabusa-2** (Ryugu).
  - **Phobos** is Mars's larger and nearer moon; **Deimos** is smaller and farther away.

## NASA's 'Perseverance' Rover: Record for the Longest Distance on Another Planet

- **Record:** On **11 October 2026**, it had covered a total of **45.22 km (28.10 miles)** - the **longest distance** travelled by any vehicle on the surface of another planet.
- **Previous record:** NASA's **'Opportunity' rover - 45.16 km** (2004-2018, about **15 years**); Perseverance covered this distance in only about **5½ years**.
- **Location: Jezero Crater** on Mars.
- **NOTE**
  - **Perseverance:** The rover of NASA's **Mars 2020** mission; landed on Mars on **18 February 2021**; searching for signs of ancient microbial life and collecting samples; it carried the **'Ingenuity' helicopter** - the first powered flight on another planet.

## TAPAS-1: First Commercial Thermal Imaging Payload from the Private Sector

- **Company: SatLeo Labs**, **Ahmedabad**.
- **Launch:** On **1 October 2026**, on SpaceX's **Falcon 9** (**Transporter-18 rideshare mission**), USA.
- **Features:** A **3 kg thermal infrared Earth-observation payload**; orbit about **500 km**; life **3 years**.
- **Uses:** Forest-fire detection, urban heat islands, crop water stress, industrial monitoring and disaster management.

⇨ **Other Indian start-ups (on the same mission): TakeMe2Space** (Hyderabad) - **MOI-1A** (on-board AI processing); **Dhruva Space - LEAP-2**.

## Skyroot-Reflect Orbital Agreement: 'On-Demand' Sunlight at Night

- **Agreement: October 2026**; a contract for **two launches** between **Skyroot Aerospace** of **Hyderabad** and **Reflect Orbital** of **California (USA)**.
- **Rockets:** First launch on **Vikram-1**, second on **Vikram-1U** (under development).
- **Technology:** Using **space mirrors** in orbit to reflect sunlight and light up an area of about **5 km** at night.
- **Uses:** Search and rescue in disaster areas; extending the hours of power generation at solar farms.

## NASA's PUFFINS Mission: Dr. Ramya Anche Is Principal Investigator

- **Full name: Polarimetry in the Ultraviolet to Find Features in INterStellar dust (PUFFINS)**.
- **Principal investigator:** India-born astrophysicist **Dr. Ramya Manjunath Anche**.
- **Objective:** To study the size, composition and distribution of **interstellar dust** grains through the **polarisation of ultraviolet light** from about **70 stars** - understanding how stars and planets form.

## ARIES Study: The Binary Black Hole of Blazar OJ 287

- **Institution: Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital** (an autonomous institution of DST); **led by** - **Dr. Alok C. Gupta**.
- **Object: OJ 287** - a blazar about **4 billion light-years** from Earth, at whose centre two supermassive black holes (SMBH) orbit each other with an orbital period of **12 years**.
- **Finding:** The mass of the central black hole is at least **3.89 billion solar masses**; important for multi-messenger astronomy (light, gravitational waves and neutrinos).

## ARIES: Effect of Black Hole Spin on X-ray 'Flickering'

- **Study: Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital** (an autonomous institution of DST) - led by **Sanit Debnath** and **Dr. Indranil Chattopadhyay**; **partners** - the **Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center (Poland)** and **MJP Rohilkhand University, Bareilly**; **published in** - the **Journal of High Energy Astrophysics**.
- **Subject:** Nearly regular variations in the brightness of X-rays coming from matter falling into a black hole (the **accretion flow**) - **quasi-periodic oscillations (QPOs)**.
- **Findings:** When the **viscosity** of the accretion flow exceeds a critical value, the **shock** in the disc becomes **unstable and oscillates**; **fast-spinning black holes** pull the shock closer, producing a wide range of QPOs including high-frequency ones; with slower spin, mainly low-frequency QPOs.
- **Significance:** The **first numerical study** of accretion flows with relativistic thermodynamics in the presence of viscosity; helps interpret observations of black hole X-ray binaries.

## NGC 4490 ULX-8: 'Super-Eddington' Black Hole Confirmed by 24 Years of X-ray Observations

- **Study:** Researchers from **IIA** and the **Raman Research Institute (RRI)** (both autonomous institutions of DST), **IISER Mohali** and **IUCAA**; **published in** - the **Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society (MNRAS)**.
- **Source:** An **ultraluminous X-ray source (ULX-8)** in the interacting galaxy pair **NGC 4490/4485**.
- **Data:** Observations from the **Chandra, XMM-Newton and Swift** X-ray telescopes over **2000-2024** - the longest X-ray study of this source so far.
- **Finding:** Despite fluctuations in brightness, there was no major change in its accretion states; ULX-8 is powered by a **stellar-mass black hole**, which is accreting matter at or above the **Eddington limit**.
- **Future:** ESA's **NewAthena** mission and India's proposed next-generation timing and spectroscopy mission will help in studying such sources.

⇨ **NOTE**
- **ULX:** The brightest X-ray sources in nearby galaxies - neutron stars or black holes that pull matter from a companion star.
- **Eddington limit:** The maximum luminosity set by the balance between inward-pulling gravity and outward-pushing radiation pressure.

## The Mystery of the Sun's Microwave Polar Brightening

⇨ **Study: ARIES Nainital**, **Udaipur Solar Observatory (USO/PRL)**, **IIT Delhi** and **IIT Roorkee**; **led by** - DST INSPIRE Fellow **Rohan Bose**.
⇨ **Data:** About three decades of observations from Japan's **Nobeyama Radioheliograph** (**17 GHz**) + NASA's **Solar Dynamics Observatory (EUV)** + the **Wilcox Solar Observatory** (magnetic field).
⇨ **Findings:** Microwave polar brightening is closely linked to the area of the **polar coronal holes** and, even more, to the strength of the **polar magnetic field**; it is tied to local **bright spots** - coronal bright points and **coronal jets**; there is a north-south asymmetry.
⇨ **Significance:** Helps in understanding the origin of the solar wind and the solar magnetic cycle; **published in - The Astrophysical Journal**.

## Centaurus X-3: Discovery of an Accretion Disc in an X-ray Pulsar

⇨ **Institution: Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru** (autonomous institution of DST); **researcher - Kinjal Roy**.
⇨ **Object: Centaurus X-3** - a **high-mass X-ray binary (HMXB)** pulsar about **24,000 light-years** from Earth; its companion star is more than **10 times** heavier than the Sun.
⇨ **Finding:** Analysis of **four emission lines** of secondary radiation showed that the pulsar is accreting matter through an **accretion disc** - normally, HMXBs take in matter directly from the stellar wind; existing models therefore need revision.
⇨ **NOTE**
- **Neutron star:** About **1.4 times** the mass of the Sun, but only about the size of a city (Bengaluru).
- **RRI** was founded in **1948** by **Sir C.V. Raman**.

## Mars-like Sites on Earth: Tamil Nadu and Atacama

⇨ **Institution: University of Kerala**, Department of Geology (using a **laser Raman spectrometer** supported by **DST-FIST**).
⇨ **Discovery: Melanterite** identified at **Neyveli** (lignite area) in **Tamil Nadu**, and **gypsum** in Chile's **Atacama Desert** and the **Tiruchirappalli** ravines.
⇨ **Significance:** Both are hydrated sulphates - evidence of water-rock interaction; gypsum can preserve **biosignatures**; helps in understanding Mars's past water and possible habitable environments.
⇨ **Published in: Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets**.

# Defence Technology and Indigenisation

## INS Samarthak: The Navy's First Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel

⇨ **Commissioning: 16 October 2026**, **Karwar (Karnataka)** naval base; **chief guest** - Vice-President **C.P. Radhakrishnan**; Navy Chief **Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** was present.
⇨ **Builder: Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Shipyard** - the first major warship built by an **Indian private shipyard**; the first of **four multi-purpose vessels (MPVs)**.
⇨ **Indigenous content: Over 75%**; modular construction and pre-outfitting technology.
⇨ **Roles:** A platform for testing and evaluating new weapons, sensors and unmanned systems; maritime surveillance and patrolling; target launch and recovery; **'mothership'** for unmanned autonomous systems; HADR; a limited hospital.

- ⇨ **Crest:** An Indian elephant rising from the waves on the crest; motto – **'Vijayartham Ekanishthata'**.
- ⇨ **Karwar:** A naval base being developed under **Project Seabird**.

### INS Mangrol: Third Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warship

- ⇨ **Commissioning: 12 October 2026**, Naval Dockyard, **Mumbai**; presided over by Vice Admiral **Sanjay Vatsayan**, of the Western Naval Command.
- ⇨ **Class: ASW Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, pennant **P82**; **builder** – **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**; **over 80%** indigenous.
- ⇨ **Systems: 'Abhay'** hull-mounted sonar, lightweight torpedoes, indigenous anti-submarine rocket launchers, **'Maareech'** torpedo decoy; 3 diesel engines, waterjet propulsion.
- ⇨ **Role:** Anti-submarine warfare in coastal/shallow waters, low-intensity maritime operations (LIMO) and mine-laying operations.
- ⇨ **Naming:** After the coastal town of **Mangrol** in **Junagadh district, Gujarat**; its predecessor **INS Mangrol (M85)** – a minesweeper, in service until **April 2004**.
- ⇨ **NOTE**
  - **ASW-SWC project: 16 vessels** in all – **8 by CSL** (**Mahe class**) and **8 by GRSE** (**Arnala class**).

### Other Shipbuilding Achievements

- ⇨ **Fleet Support Ship-1 (FSS-1) 'Surya':** On **6 October 2026**, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched the **first fleet support ship** at **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)**, Visakhapatnam; laid the keel of **FSS-5**; and inaugurated the **advanced Slipway-4** (for ships of up to **45,000 DWT**) and a **300-tonne Goliath crane** (L&T Geostructure and Konecranes).
- ⇨ **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) 'Shreyas': 10 October 2026**; launch of the next-generation offshore patrol vessel (Yard 3040) at **GRSE, Kolkata**; **'Shreyas'** = the best; NGOPVs are being built at **GSL** (Goa Shipyard Limited), **Goa**, and **GRSE** (Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers), **Kolkata**.
- ⇨ **ICGS Ajit: 9 October 2026**; commissioning of the Coast Guard's **Fast Patrol Vessel** at **Goa Shipyard Limited**; **51.43 m** long, **330 tonnes**, speed over 27 knots, **over 65%** indigenous; **base** – **Okha (Gujarat)**.
- ⇨ **Launch of NGOPV 'Srishti': 27 October 2026**; launch of next-generation offshore patrol vessel yard 1283 **'Srishti'** (Sanskrit meaning – creation) at **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**; NGOPVs are being built at GSL (Goa) and GRSE (Kolkata); **roles** – maritime surveillance, search and rescue, protection of offshore assets, HADR and **anti-piracy operations**.
- ⇨ **NOTE**
  - **'Jala Usha'**, the first ship built in independent India, was launched at **Visakhapatnam** in **1948**.
  - **FSS:** By supplying fuel, provisions and maintenance support at sea, they extend the Navy's reach to the **'blue water'**.

### Indigenous AIP System: 'Setting to Work Phase-2' Launched

- ⇨ **Date and venue: 24 October 2026**, L&T's **A.M. Naik Heavy Engineering Complex, Hazira (Gujarat)**; chief guest – DRDO Chairman **Rajesh Kumar Singh** (virtually).
- ⇨ **Developed by: Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL)**, **DRDO** – an **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)** energy module based on hydrogen and **fuel cells**.
- ⇨ **Significance:** Reduces diesel-electric submarines' **dependence on atmospheric oxygen** – the ability to stay underwater for longer.
- ⇨ **Next:** After activation and rigorous testing for power generation, it will be handed over to **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** in **early 2027** – for integration into a **Kalvari-class** submarine.
- ⇨ **NOTE**
  - **Kalvari class: Scorpéne** submarines built by MDL under **Project-75** with French collaboration.

## DRDO: High-Altitude Platform (HAPS) and Advanced Parachute

### High-Altitude Platform

- **Test: October 2026** (announced on **6 October**); reached a height of **21 km** above sea level and stayed at 20 km for **more than 30 minutes**; recovered successfully.
- **Type:** A **lighter-than-air** stratospheric airship – for long-duration aerial surveillance; **developer** – **Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra**.
- **Support:** The Indian Air Force, CEMILAC, DGCA and AAI.

### First Live Jump with the Advanced High-Altitude Parachute (AHAP)

- **Venue: Nyoma (Mudh) drop zone, eastern Ladakh**.
- **Details:** Jump from **16,000 feet**, parachute opened at **15,500 feet**, safe landing at about **13,700 feet**; operational limit up to **18,000 feet**.
- **System: Static-line parachute** – for large numbers of paratroopers; design – **ADRDE Agra**; **manufacture** – **Ordnance Parachute Factory, Kanpur**; **inspection** – **DGQA**; **certification** – **CEMILAC** (**RCMA Kanpur**).

## 'Jwala': The Private Sector's First Counter-Drone Micro-Missile

- **Developer:** Private defence company **IG Defence**; missile – **JWALA-MK1**.
- **Progress:** Two **solid rocket motors** were successfully tested in **October 2026**.
- **Features:** Range **2-5 km**; altitude **50-5,000 m**; **0.5-1.5 kg** pre-fragmented warhead; less than **7 seconds** from detection to launch.
- **Objective:** A **hard-kill (kinetic) interceptor** that physically destroys enemy drones.

## Defence Contracts

- **BrahMos fire control systems and launchers: 6 October**; a contract by the **Ministry of Defence** with **BrahMos Aerospace (BAPL)** worth **₹661.50 crore**; for the Navy's warships; **Buy (Indian-IDDM)** category; about **68%** indigenous.
- **GSAT-7C and Varunastra: 15 October**; a total of **₹4,106 crore** – by the **Ministry of Defence**
  - (i) **GSAT-7C**, a dedicated communication satellite for the Air Force – with **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** for **₹2,563 crore**;
  - (ii) **Varunastra** heavyweight torpedoes for the Navy – with **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** for **₹1,543 crore**;
- **Varunastra:** A ship-launched anti-submarine torpedo developed by the **Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam**.
- **8 Next Generation Corvettes (NGC): 2 November 2026**, **Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi**; **₹53,866.50 crore** – with **GRSE (5 ships)** and **GSL (3 ships)**; this is the **first project** in which the ships will be **designed indigenously by the Navy** and the DPSUs selected through a competitive process; mission capability in the air, surface and underwater domains.
- **Low Level Light Weight Radar (LLLR-I): 21 October**; a contract by the **Ministry of Defence** with **BEL** worth about **₹770 crore**; an advanced low-level lightweight radar for the Army – able to detect everything from fighter aircraft to small/micro drones.
- **NOTE**
  - **Military communication satellites: GSAT-7 'Rukmini'** (Navy, **2013**); **GSAT-7A** (Air Force, **2018**).
  - **BrahMos:** A joint venture of India (**DRDO**) and Russia (**NPOM**); named after the **Brahmaputra** and **Moskva** rivers.

## Swavlamban 2026 (5th Edition)

- The Navy's innovation and indigenisation seminar; **26-27 October 2026**, **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**.
- **Focus areas:** Maritime surveillance, counter-UAS, AI and quantum, NBCD; the **Swavlamban 5.0** document, a compendium of technology requirements, and the **NAUSETU interface** standard will be released; held since **2022**.

## VISV-2026: DRDO's Defence Capability Showcase and Global Partnership Programme

⇨ **Inauguration: 30 October 2026**, **Manekshaw Centre (New Delhi)**; by Minister of State for Defence **Sanjay Seth**; **organisers** - **DRDO** and the **Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS)**.

⇨ **Name and theme: VISV - Vision, Innovation, Synergy, Values** (four pillars); theme - **'Showcasing defence capabilities, strengthening global partnerships'**; seminar - **'DRDO Defence Solutions for Partner Nations: From Technology to Strategic Partnership'**.

## The Army's Domestic Exercises and Logistics Reforms

⇨ **'Jai Se Vijay': 29 September 2026**; on **National Highway-911** (near **Dantaur**) close to the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan; **South Western Command (Sapta Shakti)**; landings and take-offs of Army Aviation's **Rudra, Dhruv and Chetak helicopters** on the highway; theme - **"Mission Ready, Future Ready"**.

⇨ **'Akhand Prahar-II': October 2026** (**18 October**), **Jaisalmer**; **Konark Corps (XII Corps, Jodhpur)**; **Black Mace Brigade** and **Battle Axe Division**; testing technology-enabled integrated combat capability.

⇨ **'Bharat Rice' and Army-FCI MoU: 12 October**, New Delhi; a 5-year MoU for using the storage network of the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** in operational emergencies; high-quality rice from NAFED (**FY 2026-27**) in **10 and 30 kg** bags, up to depots in Ladakh and the North-East - a **'dual use'** approach based on the lessons of **Operation Sindoor**.

## Land Warfare Doctrine 2026

⇨ **Released: 23 October 2026** by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** in New Delhi during the **Army Commanders' Conference** (biannual; from **21 October**; chaired by Army Chief **General Dhiraj Seth**).

⇨ **Objective:** An **overarching framework** for the Indian Army's preparedness for the changing nature of war and future conflicts.

⇨ **Main thrust:** Readiness for immediate threats with a long-term vision of **20-30 years**; **multi-domain integration** and **jointness**; AI, autonomous systems, data analytics, cyber security, secure communications and drones; self-reliance; the central role of land forces despite the expansion of the air, maritime, space and cyber domains.

⇨ **NOTE**

- **Predecessor:** Land Warfare Doctrine, **2018**.
- **Defence production (2025-26):** A record **₹1.78 lakh crore**; defence exports about **₹38,000 crore**.

## 'Wings Over Ganga': IAF Air Show, Varanasi

⇨ **Dates and venue: 22, 24 and 25 October 2026**; **Namo Ghat, Varanasi** (on the Ganga); **official name** - **'Indian Air Force Air Show 2026'**; occasion - the **94th anniversary** of the Indian Air Force.

⇨ **Chief guest:** The **Prime Minister** on **25 October**; the Defence Minister and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh were also present.

⇨ **Aircraft:** About **100 aircraft** - **52 fighters** (Rafale, Sukhoi-30 MKI, MiG-29, Mirage-2000, Jaguar, the indigenous **Tejas**), transport aircraft (C-17, C-130, C-295, AN-32), AEW&C and helicopters (**Prachand**, Apache, Chinook, ALH); the **Suryakiran** aerobatic team.

⇨ **NOTE**

- **Indian Air Force:** Founded on **8 October 1932**; **Air Force Day** is observed every year on **8 October**.

# Telecom, AI and Digital Technology

## IndiaAI Mission: Indigenous Foundation Models 'EKA-1' and 'Dheer 2B/5B'

⇨ **Released: 3 November 2026**, New Delhi; developed under the IndiaAI Innovation Centre (foundation models pillar) with the support of subsidised national AI compute infrastructure; **availability** - through **AIKosh**.

⇨ **EKA-1: Developer** - **Soket Labs Technology and Research**; **26.3 billion parameters**; about **7.5 trillion** tokens of training; **all 22 Scheduled languages + English**; language model - maths, coding, reasoning and agentic tasks; suited to banking, financial services and cyber security.

⇨ **Dheer 2B and Dheer 5B: Developer** - **GenteQ AITech Innovation**; **open-source**; English + **10 Indian languages**; **on-premises and offline** (without internet) operation, **on-device** on mobiles - useful for the defence, government, industrial and education sectors; run on both GPUs and TPUs.

## India-ITU Cooperation: 'AI for Good' Initiatives

- **AI for Good Lab Workshop: "From Strategy to Impact"**; at **IMC (India Mobile Congress) 2026**, by the DoT (Department of Telecommunications) and the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**; **inaugurated by** - **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**; **India is one of 10 pilot countries** (Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Gulf); **three pillars** - AI readiness and policy, AI skills, public AI infrastructure (**AI sandboxes**).
- **Second meeting of the Global Initiative on AI for Agrifood Systems (GI-AI4FS):** The UN's **'Global Initiative on AI for Agrifood Systems'** (coordinated by **ITU** with **FAO, IFAD and WFP**); **hosts** - the **Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC)**, the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**, in New Delhi.
- **Robotics for Good Youth Challenge India 2026-27: 10 October**, **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi**; by the DoT, ITU and **IIT Delhi's I-Hub (Innovation Hub) Foundation for Cobotics**; **57 teams** from **14 states** (ages 10-18); mission - **SDG-3 (health)**; senior winner - **Team Ferrum Incubators** (Cambridge School, Noida); junior winner - **Team Singularity** (Gopalan International School, Karnataka); **the winners will represent India at the AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva in June 2027**.

## World Bank's World Development Report 2026

- **Released: 8 October 2026**, New Delhi; by Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**; a joint programme of the **IndiaAI Mission** and the **World Bank Group**.
- **Theme: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence**
- **Message for developing countries:** Be optimistic, strategic and practical; **"Adopt, Adapt, then Advance"** - adapt AI to local conditions instead of building advanced systems worth billions of dollars; only **1** of **25 low-income countries** has a national AI strategy.
- **Examples from India: Baramati** - voice-based AI raised sugarcane yields by **40%** and cut water and fertiliser use by **30%**; TB detection rate up **35%**; **AgriStack** in Gujarat (**5 lakh farmers**) and the AI tool **'Sarlaben'** for animal health (**3 crore animals**); the AI-based monsoon forecast predicted the unusual monsoon of **2025** - **Ethiopia** has also adopted it.
- **NOTE**
  - **7 pillars of the IndiaAI Mission** (**March 2024**, **₹10,371.92 crore**): compute capacity, innovation centre (indigenous foundation models), dataset platform (**AIKosh**), application development, FutureSkills, start-up financing, and safe and trusted AI.
- **World Development Report:** Published every year by the **World Bank** since **1978**.

## IndiaAI: Centre of Excellence for AI in Keralam (CAIK) and AIKosh University Programme

- **CAIK: Centre for AI in Keralam** - a **MeitY-IndiaAI** Centre of Excellence, **Thiruvananthapuram**; **implementation** - **Digital University Kerala**; **15 AI start-ups** in the first cohort; **sectors** - health, agriculture, climate and disaster management, sustainability and e-governance; pre-incubation, incubation and acceleration pathways.
- **AIKosh University Engagement Programme: 5 October 2026**, **NIT Andhra Pradesh (Tadepalligudem)**; over **160 students**; introduction to **AIKosh MCP** (Model Context Protocol) and the **SDK**.
- **AIKosh:** Over **16,000 datasets** and over **350 AI models**.

## C-DOT's Sixth Centre of Excellence: IIT (BHU), Varanasi

- ⇨ **MoU: 23 October 2026**; between the Department of Telecommunications' **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** and **IIT (BHU), Varanasi**.
- ⇨ **Focus areas:** 5G-Advanced/6G, massive MIMO, **integrated sensing and communication (ISAC)**, AI-based communication networks, **quantum and post-quantum communication**, and cyber security.
- ⇨ **Network:** C-DOT's earlier Centres of Excellence - **IIT Kanpur, IIT Gandhinagar, IIT Roorkee, IIT Hyderabad** and **IISc Bengaluru**; now **6** in all.
- ⇨ **NOTE**
  - **C-DOT:** Founded in **1984**; the Department of Telecommunications' premier indigenous telecom R&D centre.

## Google's 'India-First' Agriculture AI Models: ALU and AMED

- ⇨ **Developer:** Google DeepMind's **AnthroKrishi** team; satellite-based AI models - **field-level** agricultural information and near real-time monitoring.
- ⇨ **ALU (Agricultural Landscape Understanding):** Marks field boundaries (the basic unit of farming) from satellite images using machine learning; identifies water bodies and vegetation - helpful for **drought contingency planning**; data updated about **every 6 months**.
- ⇨ **AMED (Agricultural Monitoring and Event Detection):** Based on ALU; monitors the type, sowing and harvest stages of **12 crops**; **6 years** of data; updated about **every 15 days** (twice a month).
- ⇨ **Access:** Through a data API and visual layers of Google Earth; initially India-focused, now extended to **6 African countries** (Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Rwanda, Nigeria and Zambia).

## Dark Patterns: Amendment to the E-commerce Rules

- ⇨ **Definition:** Deceptive designs on online interfaces that push consumers into decisions (purchases, subscriptions, data sharing) they did not intend.
- ⇨ **Amended rules:** The **Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) (Amendment) Rules, 2026** - notified on **9 September 2026**, **in force from 1 January 2027**; compliance with the Dark Patterns Guidelines, 2023 made **legally mandatory**; annual **self-audit** and prominent display of a compliance certificate.
- ⇨ **Other provisions:** When showing a discount, **'original price' = the lowest price in the previous 30 days**; clear identification of sponsored listings; complaints acknowledged within **48 hours** and resolved within **1 month**; display of the country of origin of imported goods; linking with the National Consumer Helpline is mandatory.
- ⇨ **NOTE**
  - **Dark Patterns Guidelines, 2023:** Notified by the **CCPA** on **30 November 2023**; **13 dark patterns** - false urgency, basket sneaking, confirm shaming, forced action, subscription trap, interface interference, bait and switch, drip pricing, disguised advertisement, nagging, trick question, SaaS billing and rogue malware.
  - **CCPA:** Set up under **Section 10** of the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** (**July 2020**).

# Quantum, Semiconductors and Advanced Materials

## India's First 5.56 km Free-Space Quantum Key Distribution Link

- ⇨ **Test: 27-28 September 2026**; between **BISAG-N** and **IIT Gandhinagar**; announced on **3 October** (**MeitY**).
- ⇨ **Partners: QNu Labs** (Bengaluru, founded **2016**), the **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N)** (an autonomous body under MeitY) and **IIT Gandhinagar**.
- ⇨ **Results: Quantum bit error rate (QBER)** below **5%**; secure keys at a rate of **230-260 per second**.
- ⇨ **Two-layer security:** QNu's hardware QKD device **'Armos'** + BISAG-N's post-quantum cryptography (PQC) platform **'Vaidik Kavach'** (including quantum random number generation).
- ⇨ **Significance:** Paves the way for long-distance quantum-secure networks and **satellite-based quantum communication**.

❑ **NOTE**
- **National Quantum Mission:** Approved in **April 2023**, **₹6,003.65 crore** (**2023-24 to 2030-31**).
- **QKD:** Key distribution based on quantum mechanics (the **no-cloning principle**); any interception is detected.

### Major Support from the Technology Development Board's (TDB) RDI Fund

- **QNu Labs – Indian Quantum-Secure and Sensing Network (IQSN): ₹150 crore** of support (total cost **₹300 crore**); **four pillars** – (i) **identity security** – quantum-secure PUF and trusted platform modules; (ii) **positional integrity** – compact quantum magnetometers, GPS-free navigation, spoofing detection; (iii) **network security** – chip-based and satellite-based QKD; (iv) **time integrity** – time synchronisation certified by atomic clocks and QKD.
- **BigEndian Semiconductors – 'VeeRAI': ₹130 crore** (total **₹260 crore**); a **camera-centric AI vision system-on-chip (SoC)** for CCTV/surveillance; also of use in the defence, automotive, industrial and medical sectors.
- **Panacea Medical Technologies (Malur, Karnataka):** Development and commercialisation of an indigenous **32-slice CT scanner**.

### Metal-Free Catalyst 'TTT-DHTD' for Zinc-Air Batteries

- **Research institutions: S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (Kolkata)**, the **Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST, Mohali)** and **SRM University (Amaravati)**.
- **Discovery:** A metal-free covalent organic framework (COF) catalyst, **TTT-DHTD** – made of carbon, sulphur, nitrogen and hydrogen, with a porous, honeycomb-like structure.
- **Performance:** About **96%** of the performance of commercial platinum in the **oxygen reduction reaction (ORR)**; stable for **120 hours** of continuous operation.
- **Significance:** An alternative to expensive platinum; cheaper zinc-air batteries and fuel cells; **published in** – **Science Advances**.

## Health, Agriculture and Life Sciences

### e-Sanjeevani

- **Achievement: Over 50 crore teleconsultations** by **15 September 2026** – in all 36 states/UTs; the **world's largest telemedicine** implementation in primary healthcare.
- **Developed by: C-DAC Mohali**; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

### 'JOSH Teams': Youth Participation in TB Elimination

- **Full name: Joint Squad for Health (JOSH)**; launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** (**October 2026**).
- **Programme:** Under the **TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan**; **MY Bharat** volunteers and **NCC cadets**; convergence of the Ministries of Health, Youth Affairs and Defence.
- **Work:** Identifying people with symptoms through door-to-door visits, encouraging them to get tested, ensuring treatment is completed, and removing stigma and misconceptions.
- **First phase: 55 districts** in **11 states/UTs**.
- **Digital support:** The JOSH flipbook, the **'Khushi Avatar'** e-companion (**12 languages**) and the TB Mukt Bharat app.
- **Reference figures:** A **21%** fall in TB incidence in India (world **12%**); treatment coverage **92%** (world **78%**); in **2026**, **67,933 panchayats** in **697 districts** declared TB-free.

### Shamonda Virus: First Human Case (France)

- **Event:** The **first human case** of **Shamonda virus** was confirmed in a severely immunocompromised patient in **Lyon, France**.
- **Virus:** Genus **Orthobunyavirus**, **Simbu serogroup** (the group of the Schmallenberg, Akabane and Aino viruses); first identified in **Nigeria** in the **1960s**.
- **Spread:** By **Culicoides** midges (small biting insects); mainly in cattle and other ruminants.

### Biofortified Purple Potato 'Kufri Jamunia'

- **Developer: ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla**.
- **Other coloured varieties: Kufri Neelkanth** (**2018**, the first with purple skin) and **Kufri Manik** (**2021**, deep red).
- **Significance:** Helps tackle **'hidden hunger'** (micronutrient deficiency).

## New Fossil Fungus Species in Himachal: 'Vizellopsidites miocenicus'

- **Discovery:** *Vizellopsidites miocenicus* - a new species of an ancient microscopic **epiphyllous** (growing on the leaf surface) ascomycete fungus.
- **Location:** Middle **Siwalik** sediments of **Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)**.
- **Researchers: Sampa Kundu** and **Mahasin Ali Khan**, **Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia**; **published in** - the **New Zealand Journal of Botany**.

## Traditional Knowledge: Nalanda University-CSIR-TKDL Agreement

- **Date: 1 October 2026**; an MoU between **Nalanda University** (Vice-Chancellor **Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi**) and the **CSIR-Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)**.
- **Areas:** Traditional knowledge (TK), intellectual property rights (IPR) and traditional cultural expressions (TCE) - especially of **Bihar**; research, internships and capacity building.
- **NOTE**
  - **TKDL:** Set up in **2001** by **CSIR** and the Ministry of AYUSH; the **first database of its kind in the world**.
  - **Nalanda University: Rajgir (Bihar)**; an international university of 'national importance' under the aegis of the Ministry of External Affairs.

# Earth Sciences

## New Seismic Observatory in Kishtwar (Jammu and Kashmir)

- **Inauguration: 2 November 2026**, by **Dr. Jitendra Singh** (Ministry of Earth Sciences); **location** - high seismic zone **Kishtwar**.
- **Capability:** State-of-the-art digital seismic instruments; real-time data to the **24×7 monitoring centre** of the **National Centre for Seismology (NCS)**, New Delhi; J&K now has **4 seismic observatories** - **Jammu, Srinagar, Udhampur and Kishtwar**.
- **NOTE**
  - **NCS:** The nodal agency for earthquake monitoring in the country, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

## 'AATAL' for Delhi-NCR: A First-of-its-Kind Air Pollution Analysis Facility

- **Inauguration: 24 October 2026**, by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**; at the **Delhi branch** of the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**.
- **Name: Advanced Atmospheric chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory (AATAL)**; set up under **'Mission Mausam'**.
- **Capability:** Real-time **source apportionment** of pollution - vehicle emissions, industry, biomass/stubble burning, construction and road dust, and pollutants from neighbouring areas; chemical analysis of **PM2.5**, metals and toxic elements, and assessment of possible health effects.
- **Integration:** Linked to IITM's **'AIRWISE'** decision-support system - air quality forecasts at **400-metre** resolution for the next 72 hours; helps the decisions of the **CAQM** and the **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**.
- **NOTE**
  - **Mission Mausam:** Approved in **September 2024** (**₹2,000 crore**); Ministry of Earth Sciences; to make India **'weather-ready and climate-smart'**.
  - **CAQM:** A statutory body under the **Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021**.

## New Eruption of Kilauea Volcano (Hawaii)

- **Event: 17 October 2026**; **Episode 55** of the Kilauea summit eruption; **Halemaumau crater**, **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park** (USA).
- **NOTE**
  - **Kilauea:** One of the world's most active **shield volcanoes**; located over the Hawaii **'hotspot'**.
- **DRDO Chairman:** Defence Secretary **Rajesh Kumar Singh** holds additional charge.

# 05 Sports Current Affairs

## Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya)

| Item | Facts |
|---|---|
| **Edition** | **20th Asian Games (XX)** |
| **Host country** | **Japan** |
| **Dates** | **19 September – 4 October 2026** |
| **Governing body** | **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)** |
| **Local Organising Committee** | **AINAGOC (Chairperson: Hideaki Omura**, Governor of Aichi) |
| **Motto** | **'Imagine One Asia'** |
| **Mascots** | **Konohon** – a fire spirit; **Shachihoko** (the tiger-headed carp of Nagoya Castle) |
| **Participants** | **45 countries/territories** + the OCA Refugee Team; **40 NOCs** won at least one medal. |
| **Sports/events** | **43 sports** (59 sport/discipline entries); **469 gold medal events** (12 fewer than Hangzhou's 481) |
| **Main venue** | **Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium** (athletics, opening and closing ceremonies) |
| **Closing ceremony** | **4 October 2026**; the OCA flag was handed to **Qatar** |
| **Previous host** | **Hangzhou, China** – 19th edition, officially the **'2022 Asian Games'**, held **23 September – 8 October 2023** |
| **Next hosts** | **Doha, Qatar – 2030 (21st)**; **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – 2034 (22nd)** |

⇨ **Highlights of 2026**

- Held at **54 venues**, including **Tokyo, Shizuoka, Gifu and Osaka**.
- Medals were awarded in **mixed martial arts** for the **first time** – India's **Suchika Tariyal** won **bronze on debut**.

⇨ **Medal table (top 4)**

| Rank | Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | China | 169 | 89 | 83 | 341 |
| 2 | Japan (host) | 83 | 95 | 91 | 269 |
| 3 | South Korea | 39 | 43 | 68 | 150 |
| 4 | **India** | **21** | **27** | **37** | **85** |

⇨ **India's performance**

- **Total medals: 85 – 21 gold, 27 silver, 37 bronze**; **position: fourth**.
- India's **second-highest** medal tally at the Asian Games (best: **Hangzhou – 107**: 28 gold, 38 silver, 41 bronze).
- India has taken part in every Asian Games since **1951**; **2026 = its 20th consecutive appearance**.

⇨ **Indian contingent**

- Approved by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)**: **503 athletes** (**269 men, 234 women**).
- **Chef de mission: Sahdev Yadav** (IOA Treasurer); **deputy chef de mission: Sharath Kamal** (table tennis).
- **Flag-bearers at the opening ceremony: Manu Bhaker** and **Pawan Sehrawat**.
- **Flag-bearer at the closing ceremony: Neeru Dhanda**.

⇨ **Team sports**

- India won the **cricket, hockey and kabaddi** titles in **both the men's and women's** sections (**double titles in three sports**).
- **Men's cricket:** Beat **Pakistan** by **19 runs**.
- **Women's cricket:** Beat **Sri Lanka** by **147 runs**.
- **Men's hockey:** Beat **Malaysia 5–1**.
- **Women's hockey:** Beat **China 1–0**.
- **Kabaddi:** Both teams beat **Iran** in the final.
- Winning gold in **hockey** gave both teams direct qualification for the **Los Angeles 2028 Olympics**.

## ⇨ India's medals by sport

| Sport | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total | Athletes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Athletics | 1 | 9 | 14 | 24 | Gulveer Singh, Vithya Ramraj, Parul Chaudhary, Sawan Barwal, Yashveer Singh |
| Shooting | 3 | 8 | 4 | 15 | Neeru Dhanda, Suruchi Singh, Kamaljeet, Elavenil Valarivan, Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Maheshwari Chauhan |
| Archery | 5 | 2 | 2 | 9 | Kumkum Mohod, Chikitha Taniparthi, Sahil Jadhav, Jyothi Surekha Vennam |
| Boxing | 3 | 0 | 3 | 6 | Lovlina Borgohain, Parveen Hooda, Ankush Panghal |
| Wrestling | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | Aman Sehrawat, Sujeet Kalkal, Antim Panghal |
| Squash | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | Anahat Singh, Abhay Singh, Joshna Chinappa |
| Sailing | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | Prince Noble Kurisinkal, Manu Francis, Nethra Kumanan |
| Cricket | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | Men's and women's T20 teams |
| Hockey | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | Men's and women's teams |
| Kabaddi | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | Men's and women's teams |
| Golf | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | Pranavi Urs, Aditi Ashok, Diksha Dagar |
| Weightlifting | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Mirabai Chanu |
| Wushu | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Naorem Roshibina Devi |
| Badminton | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Men's team |
| Kurash | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Pinki Balhara |
| Mixed martial arts | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Suchika Tariyal |
| Rowing | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Satnam Singh, Salman Khan (men's double sculls) |
| Sepak takraw | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Men's quadrant team |
| Soft tennis | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Jay Meena |
| Table tennis | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Manush Shah, Diya Chitale (mixed doubles) |
| **Total** | **21** | **27** | **37** | **85** | |

⇨ **India's 21 gold medals**

| No. | Athlete/Team | Sport/Event |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Women's team | Cricket – T20 |
| 2 | Men's team | Cricket – T20 |
| 3 | Men's team | Hockey |
| 4 | Women's team | Hockey |
| 5 | Men's team | Kabaddi |
| 6 | Women's team | Kabaddi |
| 7 | Suruchi Singh, Kamaljeet | Shooting – 10m air pistol mixed team |
| 8 | Neeru Dhanda | Shooting – women's trap |
| 9 | Neeru Dhanda, Kynan Chenai | Shooting – trap mixed team |
| 10 | Kumkum Mohod | Archery – women's individual recurve |
| 11 | Ankita Bhakat, Kirti Sharma, Kumkum Mohod | Archery – women's recurve team |
| 12 | Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Prithika Pradeep, Chikitha Taniparthi | Archery – women's compound team |
| 13 | Sahil Jadhav, Kushal Dalal, Ganesh Mani Ratnam Thirumuru | Archery – men's compound team |
| 14 | Chikitha Taniparthi, Sahil Jadhav | Archery – compound mixed team |
| 15 | Kiran Pahal, Prachi Chaudhary, M.R. Poovamma, Vithya Ramraj | Athletics – women's 4×400m relay |
| 16 | Lovlina Borgohain | Boxing – women's 75kg |
| 17 | Parveen Hooda | Boxing – women's 65kg |
| 18 | Ankush Panghal | Boxing – men's 80kg |
| 19 | Aman Sehrawat | Wrestling – men's freestyle 57kg |
| 20 | Sujeet Kalkal | Wrestling – men's freestyle 65kg |
| 21 | Pranavi Urs | Golf – women's individual (first Asian Games gold in golf) |

⇨ **Top performers**

- **Gulveer Singh (athletics): 2 silver** (10,000 m **28:29.38**; 1,500 m, personal best **3:37.92**) + **1 bronze** (5,000 m **13:32.75**). The first Indian athlete in **40 years** to win 3 medals at a single Games; the first Indian to win two medals in the 10,000 m at the Asian Games.
- **Vithya Ramraj (athletics): 1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze**; while winning bronze in the 400 m hurdles, she broke **P.T. Usha's** national record from **1984**.
- **Mirabai Chanu (weightlifting, 49 kg): Silver**, **198 kg (87 + 111)**; India's first weightlifting medal since **Karnam Malleswari (1998)**.
- **Naorem Roshibina Devi (wushu, sanda 60 kg): Silver**; the first Indian wushu athlete to win medals at three consecutive Games (bronze **2018**, silver **2023**, silver **2026**).
- **Sawan Barwal (marathon): Silver**, national record **2:11:37**; ended India's **44-year** wait for a marathon medal.

⇨ **Records**

- **Asian record:** 10 m air pistol mixed team (**Suruchi Singh** and **Kamaljeet**) – **484.6**
- **Asian record:** Trap mixed team (**Neeru Dhanda** and **Kynan Chenai**)
- **National record: Sawan Barwal** – marathon **2:11:37**
- **National record: Vithya Ramraj** – 400 m hurdles (broke **P.T. Usha's** 1984 record)
- **National record: Parul Chaudhary** – 3,000 m steeplechase **9:08.67**

- **Asian Games record: Hinata Taichi** (Japan), women's 10 m air rifle, **253.0**
- **Elavenil Valarivan** (India) – silver, **252.4**; India's first medal of the Games.
- **Records broken across the Games: 54 world**, **89 Asian** and **212 Asian Games** records.

⇨ **India's firsts**

- **Pranavi Urs** – first gold in women's golf
- **Kumkum Mohod** – India's first gold in the women's individual recurve; first gold in the women's recurve team event
- **Maheshwari Chauhan**, **Raiza Dhillon** and **Parinaz Dhaliwal** – first medal in the women's skeet team event
- **Anantjeet Singh Naruka** and **Parinaz Dhaliwal** – first medal in the skeet mixed team; India won medals in all three skeet team events
- **Jay Meena** – first medal in soft tennis (bronze, men's singles)
- **Suchika Tariyal** – first medal in MMA (bronze, women's traditional 60 kg)
- **Satnam Singh** and **Salman Khan** – first medal in men's double sculls rowing
- **Baranica Elangovan** – first medal in the women's pole vault
- **Indian women's hockey** – gold after **44 years** (last: **1982**)

## Rajasthan Special

⇨ Athletes linked to Rajasthan won **6 medals – 1 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze**

| Athlete | District | Sport/Event | Medal and details |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Ravi Bishnoi** | Jodhpur | Cricket – men's T20 | **Gold**; in India's playing XI in the final (beat Pakistan by 19 runs) |
| **Yashveer Singh** | Jaipur | Athletics – men's javelin | **Silver**, **85.72 m** (personal best, sixth attempt) |
| **Maheshwari Chauhan** | Siyana, Jalore | Shooting – women's skeet team (with Raiza Dhillon and Parinaz Dhaliwal) | **Bronze**, score **331**; India's first medal in the event |
| **Anantjeet Singh Naruka** | Jaipur | Shooting – men's skeet team (with Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Bhavtej Singh Gill) and skeet mixed team (with Parinaz Dhaliwal) | **Two bronze**; men's team **346** (level with Kazakhstan, won the shoot-off); mixed team = India's first medal in the event |
| **Dharmveer Choudhary** | Tonk | Athletics – men's 4×400 m relay (with Manu T.S., Jay Kumar and Vishal T.K.) | **Bronze**, **3:01.61** (Japan gold 3:00.75, Qatar silver 3:00.93) |

⇨ **Rajasthan context (CWG 2026 felicitation ceremony, 9 August 2026)**

- **Arundhati Choudhary (boxer, born in Kota):** (CWG gold)
- **Yashveer Singh:** (CWG bronze)
- **Mona Agarwal** (para shooter)
- **Sandhya Bishnoi** (wrestler)

⇨ **Origin and history**

- The **Asian Games Federation (AGF)** was founded in **New Delhi** on **13 February 1949** (India a founding member); it was dissolved on **26 November 1981** and replaced by the **OCA**.
- **First Asian Games: New Delhi, 1951**; India hosted in **1951 and 1982** (both in New Delhi).
- **OCA headquarters: Kuwait City**
- **G.D. Sondhi** – 'Father of the Asian Games'; **OCA motto: 'Ever Onward'**
- Held **every 4 years**.
- **Japan has hosted three times: Tokyo 1958, Hiroshima 1994, Aichi-Nagoya 2026**.

⇨ **Chronology**

| Edition | Year | Host | Edition | Year | Host |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st | 1951 | New Delhi, India | 11th | 1990 | Beijing, China |
| 2nd | 1954 | Manila, Philippines | 12th | 1994 | Hiroshima, Japan |
| 3rd | 1958 | Tokyo, Japan | 13th | 1998 | Bangkok, Thailand |
| 4th | 1962 | Jakarta, Indonesia | 14th | 2002 | Busan, South Korea |
| 5th | 1966 | Bangkok, Thailand | 15th | 2006 | Doha, Qatar |
| 6th | 1970 | Bangkok, Thailand | 16th | 2010 | Guangzhou, China |
| 7th | 1974 | Tehran, Iran | 17th | 2014 | Incheon, South Korea |
| 8th | 1978 | Bangkok, Thailand | 18th | 2018 | Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia |
| 9th | 1982 | New Delhi, India | 19th | 2022 (held 2023) | Hangzhou, China |
| 10th | 1986 | Seoul, South Korea | 20th | 2026 | Aichi-Nagoya, Japan |

# Athletics

## 51st Sub-Junior and Junior National Yogasana Championship 2026

⇨ **Venue: Alankar Mahila PG College, Sirsi Road, Jaipur (Rajasthan)** (**3–6 October 2026**)

⇨ **Organiser: Yoga Federation of India** (host: Yoga Association of Rajasthan)

⇨ **Key facts:**

- About **1,786 athletes** from various states took part.
- Rajasthan Chief Minister **Bhajanlal Sharma** attended the closing ceremony.

⇨ **Team rankings (overall):**

| Position | State |
|---|---|
| First | **West Bengal** |
| Second | **Haryana** |
| Third | **Maharashtra** |

## Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon 2026

- **Charles Matata** of **Kenya** won the men's elite race with a **course record (58:52)**, while **Wudinesh Alemu** of **Ethiopia** took the women's title (**1:06:35**).
- Among Indian athletes, **Shailesh Kushwaha** (men) and **Ankita Dhyani** (women) were the winners.

## 65th National Open Athletics Championships 2026

⇨ **Venue: Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi** (**8–11 October 2026**)

⇨ **Organisers: Athletics Federation of India (AFI)** / Delhi Athletics Association

⇨ **Key achievements and meet records**

- **Jishnu Prasad P.K. (All India Police):** Men's 200 m: **20.62 seconds** (meet record; previous **20.66 seconds**, B. Nithin, 2024)
- **Ankita (Railways)** – women's 3,000 m steeplechase: **9:34.86** (meet record; previous **9:39.83**, Lalita Babar, 2015)
- **Mogali Venkatram Reddy (Andhra Pradesh)** – men's 800 m: **1:47.01** (meet record)
- **Kuldeep Kumar (Madhya Pradesh)** – men's pole vault: **5.30 m** (meet record)
- **I. Asha Ilango (Tamil Nadu)** – women's triple jump: **13.89 m** (meet record)

⇨ **Selected gold medal winners**

| Event | Winner | State/Unit |
|---|---|---|
| Men's 100 m | Manikanta Hoblidhar | Karnataka |
| Men's 200 m | Jishnu Prasad P.K. | All India Police |
| Men's 400 m | Akash Raj | Tamil Nadu |
| Men's 800 m | Mogali V. | Andhra Pradesh |
| Men's 400 m hurdles | Murad Sirman | SSCB |
| Women's 200 m | Priyanka Sikarwar | All India Police |
| Women's 3,000 m steeplechase | Ankita | Railways |
| Women's long jump | Mubassina Mohammed | ONGC |
| Women's pole vault | Baranica Elangovan | Railways |
| Men's hammer throw | Nirbhay Chaudhary | Delhi |

⇨ **Rajasthan's performance**
- **Adesh Gasra** – bronze in the men's 200 m (**20.96 seconds**)
- **Sonal Sukhwal** – silver in the women's marathon race walk
- **Deepika Sharma** – bronze in the women's marathon race walk
- **Rajasthan team** – bronze in the mixed 4×400 m relay

⇨ **Railway Sports** dominated the overall standings.

## World Masters Classic and Equipped Powerlifting Championships 2026

⇨ **Venue: Reno Ballroom, Reno, Nevada, USA**
⇨ **Organiser: International Powerlifting Federation (IPF)**
⇨ **Host: Powerlifting America**
⇨ **India's performance**
- **Ekta Bishnoi** (an officer of the **Indian Revenue Service (IRS)**, currently **Joint Secretary in the Department of Biotechnology**) won **3 gold medals** in the **57 kg** weight class of the **M2 (50–59 years)** category.

| Lift | Weight | Medal |
|---|---|---|
| Squat | 130 kg | Gold |
| Bench press | 72.5 kg | Gold |
| Deadlift | 160 kg | Gold |

- She finished ahead of **Canada (330 kg)** and **Japan (325 kg)**.
- Bishnoi earlier served as Deputy Director General of the **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** and led the **Fit India Mission**.

## World Boxing U19 Championships 2026

⇨ **Venue: Mediterranean Sports Centre, Budva, Montenegro** (**16–27 October 2026**)
⇨ **Participants: 474 athletes**
⇨ **Weight categories: 20** (men + women)
⇨ **India's medal tally: 4 medals (1 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze)**
⇨ With **4 medals**, India finished joint **7th** in the medal table.
⇨ **Aditya (India)** won gold in the men's **55 kg** by beating **Islam Magomedov** of Russia **4–1**.

| Medal | Athlete | Category |
|---|---|---|
| Gold | Aditya | Men's 55 kg |
| Silver | Megha Sheokand | Women's 80 kg |
| Bronze | Harshika | Women's 65 kg |
| Bronze | Prachi Tokas | Women's 80 kg |

⇨ **Russia** topped the overall medal table with **5 gold medals**.
⇨ **Uzbekistan** was second with **4 gold medals**.

# Tennis

## Almaty Open 2026 (ATP 250)

⇨ **Venue: Almaty Arena, Almaty, Kazakhstan** (**19–25 October 2026**); **surface:** indoor hard
⇨ **Results**

| Category | Winner | Runner-up |
|---|---|---|
| Men's singles | **Daniil Medvedev** (Russia) | Nikoloz Basilashvili (Georgia) |
| Men's doubles | **Yuki Bhambri** (India) / **Ryan Seggerman** (USA) | Lucas Miedler / Neil Oberleitner (Austria) |

⇨ **Key facts:**
- **Daniil Medvedev** successfully defended his title (the first successful title defence of his career) and won his fourth title of 2026 and **25th ATP title** of his career.

- **Yuki Bhambri**, partnering **Ryan Seggerman** of the USA, won his first ATP Tour title of 2026 (his **5th doubles title**).
- **Sriram Balaji** (India) also played in the doubles (seeded third with **Evan King**), but they went out early.

### Japan Open 2026 (Kinoshita Group Japan Open Tennis Championships)

⇨ **Category: ATP 500**

⇨ **Venue: Ariake Coliseum, Tokyo, Japan** (**30 September–6 October 2026**)

⇨ **Edition: 52nd**

⇨ **Results**

1. **Men's singles final: Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)** beat **Jiri Lehecka (Czech Republic)**.
2. **Men's doubles final: Austin Krajicek (USA) / Nikola Mektic (Croatia)** beat **Thèo Arribagè / Albano Olivetti (France)**.

### China Open 2026 (Beijing)

⇨ **Venue: National Tennis Center, Beijing, China** (**30 September–6 October 2026**)

⇨ **Results**

| Event | Winner | Runner-up |
|---|---|---|
| Men's singles | **Novak Djokovic** (SRB) | Alex de Minaur (Australia) |
| Women's singles | **Zheng Qinwen** (CHN) | Mirra Andreeva |
| Men's doubles | **Julian Cash / Lloyd Glasspool** (GBR) | Sander Arends / David Pel |
| Women's doubles | **Gabriela Dabrowski / Luisa Stefani** | Katerina Siniakova / Zhang Shuai |

### 31st Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship 2026

⇨ **Venue: DLTA Complex, New Delhi** (**5–17 October 2026**)

⇨ **Organisers: All India Tennis Association (AITA)** and **Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA)**

⇨ **Senior results (finals on 10 October)**

| Category | Winner | Runner-up |
|---|---|---|
| Men's singles | **Man Kesharwani** | Nitin Sinha |
| Women's singles | **Vaidehi Chaudhari** | Shruti Ahlawat |
| Men's doubles | **Manish Sureshkumar / Nitin Sinha** | Rohit Gobinath / Sreekar Doni |
| Women's doubles | **Lakshmi Arunkumar / Sanhita Chamarthi** | Aishwarya Jadhav / Akriti Sonkusare |

⇨ **Junior results (Under-18 finals on 10 October)**

| Category | Winner | Runner-up |
|---|---|---|
| Boys' U-18 singles | **Ribhav Saroha** | Om Ramesh Patel |
| Girls' U-18 singles | **Parthsarathi Mundhe** | Aahan |

## Badminton

### World Bowls Champion of Champions 2026 – Men's Singles

⇨ **Venue: Club Barham, Barham, New South Wales, Australia**

⇨ **Results**

| Place | Player | Country | Result |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gold | **Iain McLean** | Scotland | Winner |
| Silver | Max Kleining | Australia | Runner-up |
| Bronze | **Putul Sonowal** | India | Semi-finalist |

⇨ **India's main performance**

- **Putul Sonowal (Assam)** made history by winning India's **first medal** at the World Bowls Champion of Champions.
- **Semi-final:** Lost to Iain McLean **5–8, 4–8**.
- **Quarter-final:** Beat **Harriman Yuen (Singapore) 4–4, 6–5**.

### Arctic Open 2026 (BWF Super 500)

⇨ **Venue: Vantaa Energia Areena, Vantaa, Finland**

⇨ **Results**

| Event | Winner | Runner-up |
|---|---|---|
| Men's singles | **Anders Antonsen** (Denmark) | Yushi Tanaka (Japan) |
| Women's singles | **Mia Blichfeldt** (Denmark) | Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand) |
| Men's doubles | **Aaron Tai / Yap Roy King** (Malaysia) | Lai Po-yu / Tsai Fu-cheng (Chinese Taipei) |
| Women's doubles | **Chen Fanshutian / Luo Xumin** (China) | Hsu Yin-hui / Lin Jhih-yun (Chinese Taipei) |
| Mixed doubles | **Jiang Zhenbang / Wei Yaxin** (China) | Gao Jiaxuan / Wu Mengying (China) |

## Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2026

⇨ **Held: 8–13 September 2026**; **venue: Chengdu, China** (Badminton Asia U-17 and U-15 Junior Championships).

⇨ **Gold medal (U-17 girls' singles):** India's 15-year-old **Tanvi Patri** won gold by beating compatriot **Shaina Manimuthu 11–15, 15–10, 15–12** in the final.

⇨ **Achievement:** This is Tanvi's **second Asian age-group title** (she won the U-15 title in **Chengdu** in **2024**). Runner-up Shaina Manimuthu is the **2025 Asian U-15 champion**.

⇨ **India's dominance:** India kept the U-17 girls' singles title for the **second year in a row** (**Diksha Sudhakar** was champion in 2025).

⇨ **Other medal:** The pair of **Aditya Singh Negi** and **Tanmay Verma** won **bronze** in the under-15 boys' doubles.

## Yonex French Open 2026 (BWF Super 750)

⇨ **Venue: Arena Grand Paris, Tremblay-en-France, France** (**20–25 October 2026**)

⇨ **Final results**

| Category | Winner | Runner-up |
|---|---|---|
| Men's singles | **Christo Popov** (France) | Moh. Zaki Ubaidillah (Indonesia) |
| Women's singles | **An Se-young** (Korea) | P.V. Sindhu (India) |
| Men's doubles | **Man Wei Chong / Tee Kai Wun** (Malaysia) | Goh Sze Fei / Nur Izzuddin (Malaysia) |
| Women's doubles | **Yuki Fukushima / Mayu Matsumoto** (Japan) | Pearly Tan / Thinaah Muralitharan (Malaysia) |
| Mixed doubles | **Feng Yanzhe / Huang Dongping** (China) | Hoo Pang Ron / Lai Pei Jing (Malaysia) |

## Yonex-Sunrise All India Sub-Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament 2026 (U-15 and U-17)

⇨ **Venue: Sawai Mansingh Indoor Stadium, Jaipur, Rajasthan**

⇨ **Results**

| Group | Event | Winner |
|---|---|---|
| U-15 | Boys' singles | **Chinmay Wankhede** – Telangana |
| U-15 | Girls' singles | **Inayat Gulati** – Punjab |
| U-15 | Boys' doubles | **Tabin Anuf Ahmad / Sreechetan Shaurya Samala** – Tamil Nadu/Telangana |
| U-15 | Girls' doubles | **G.S. Anushree / Jashika Nidhiginti Ankaiah** – Telangana |
| U-15 | Mixed doubles | **Lianshangpuia / Kimkim Khongsai** – Mizoram/Nagaland |
| U-17 | Boys' singles | **Shashank Vanmala** – Telangana |
| U-17 | Girls' singles | **Avani Vikram Govind** – Telangana |
| U-17 | Boys' doubles | **Shashwat Chaudhary / Shaurya Chaudhary** – Delhi |

⇨ **Rajasthan's main achievements –**

- **Vayam Lamba** and **Shreyansh Chaudhary** (Jaipur) won **silver** in the U-15 boys' doubles (they lost to the top-seeded pair in the final).
- **Dharmesh Daiya (Bikaner):** At the **7th State-Level Visually Impaired Judo and 1st Senior Goalball Competition 2026** (**Jodhpur, 9–10 October**), he won **gold** in senior goalball and **bronze** in visually impaired judo.
- **Saumya Chaudhary** of Jaipur won **silver** in the girls' singles (Under-14) at the **ATF 14 & Under Colombo Week-1** in **Sri Lanka**. She lost the final to **Samayra Fernando** (**4–0, 4–1**); earlier, she had won the **triple crown** at the **AITA All India Ranking Championship Series** (**August 2026**).

## Türkiye International Challenge 2026 (NAVEK Türkiye International Challenge)

- **Venue: Ata Sporlari Merkezi, Istanbul, Türkiye**
- **Level:** BWF International Challenge
- **Summary of India's medals**

| Event | Indian player(s) | Result |
|---|---|---|
| Women's singles | **Anmol Kharb** | Gold |
| Women's singles | **Aakarshi Kashyap** | Silver |
| Men's doubles | **Suraj Goala / Nicholas Raj** | Silver |

## BWF World Junior Badminton Championships 2026

- **Venue: Cairo Stadium Indoor Halls Complex, Cairo, Egypt**
- **Edition: 26th**
- **Main results (individual events)**

| Event | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|---|---|---|---|
| Boys' singles | Raditya Bayu Wardhana (INA) | Farhan Rainanda Jo (INA) | **Jagsher Singh Khangura (IND)** and Madi So (FRA) |
| Girls' singles | Zhang Yixin (CHN) | Saki Matsumoto (JPN) | Yin Yiqing (CHN) and Ip Sum Yau (HKG) |
| Boys' doubles | Chen Ping-hsuan / Li Wei-ting (TPE) | Mahiro Oku / Masato Yamashiro (JPN) | - |
| Girls' doubles | Geneviéve Lim / Low Zi Yu (Malaysia) | Nijika Kamata / Shizuku Kashio (Japan) | |
| Mixed team | China | Malaysia | Indonesia |

- **China** won the **Suhandinata Cup** (mixed team title) for a record **16th time**.
- **India's performance**
- India won **1 bronze** in the individual events.

| Event | Player | Medal |
|---|---|---|
| Boys' singles | **Jagsher Singh Khangura** | Bronze |

- **Jagsher Singh Khangura** (Nabha, Punjab) became the **9th Indian** to win a medal in boys' singles at the World Junior Championships.
- **Saina Nehwal** is the only Indian to have won the junior world title (girls' singles gold, **2008**).
- **Players in the Indian team:**
  - **Boys' singles** – Nishchal Chand, Dev Ruparelia, Jagsher Singh Khangura and Akhil Reddy Bobba.
  - **Girls' singles** – **Parul Chaudhary (Churu, Rajasthan)**, Tanvi Reddy Andluri, Shaina Manimuthu and Tanvi Patri.

## Denmark Open 2026 (BWF Super 750)

- **Venue: Odense, Denmark** (**13–18 October 2026**)
- **Final results:**

| Event | Winner | Runner-up |
|---|---|---|
| Men's singles | **Alex Lanier** (France) | Anders Antonsen (Denmark) |
| Women's singles | **An Se-young** (South Korea) | Akane Yamaguchi (Japan) |
| Men's doubles | **Fajar Alfian / Muhammad Shohibul Fikri** (Indonesia) | Aaron Chia / Soh Wooi Yik (Malaysia) |
| Women's doubles | **Pearly Tan / Thinaah Muralitharan** (Malaysia) | Hinata Suzuki / Nao Yamakita (Japan) |
| Mixed doubles | **Jiang Zhenbang / Wei Yaxin** (China) | Feng Yanzhe / Huang Dongping (China) |

## Squash

### Malaysia Squash Junior Open 2026

- **Venue: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
- **India's performance**

| Category | Player | Result |
|---|---|---|
| Boys' Under-17 | **Lokesh Subramani** | **Gold (champion)** |
| Girls' Under-17 | Aadya Budhia | Semi-finalist |
| Boys' Under-17 | Aryaman Singh | Semi-finalist |
| Girls' Under-13 | **Divyanshi Jain (Jaipur)** | Quarter-finalist |
| Girls' Under-11 | Avisha Agarwal | Quarter-finalist |
| Boys' Under-19 | Shravin Jain | Quarter-finalist |

## Wrestling

### Under-23 World Wrestling Championships 2026 (Galaxy Under-23 World Championships)

- **Venue: Thomas & Mack Center, Las Vegas, USA** (**12–18 October 2026**)
- **Organiser: United World Wrestling (UWW)**
- India won **6 medals** in all (**2 silver + 4 bronze**).
- **India's performance**

| Style | Weight | Wrestler | Medal |
|---|---|---|---|
| Greco-Roman | 55 kg | Vishwajeet More | Silver |
| Women's freestyle | 72 kg | Amrita Pujara | Silver |
| Women's freestyle | 59 kg | Komal | Bronze |
| Men's freestyle | 57 kg | Rohit | Bronze |
| Men's freestyle | 65 kg | Jaskaran Singh | Bronze |
| Men's freestyle | 79 kg | Chandramohan | Bronze |

- **Team champions**
  - **Men's freestyle: Iran** (180 points)
  - **Greco-Roman: Iran**
  - **Women's freestyle: Ukraine**
- The Indian men's freestyle team was **7th** in the points table with **57 points**.

## Basketball

### 20th FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup 2026

- **Venue: Berlin, Germany** (**4–13 September 2026**)
- **Participants: 16 teams**
- **Winner: USA** (champions for the **fifth time in a row**)
- **Runner-up: France**
- **Third place (bronze medal): Spain** won bronze by beating hosts **Germany**.
- **Most Valuable Player (MVP): Breanna Stewart** of the USA was named the **'TISSOT MVP'**. She became the first player in the world to win this honour twice (**2018, 2026**).

## Chess

### 1st FIDE Excellence Awards 2026

- **Award ceremony: September 2026**, **Samarkand, Uzbekistan** (during the **46th FIDE Chess Olympiad**)
- **Assessment period: September 2024 – August 2026**
- **Nature: Biennial awards** recognising excellence in chess (for players, teams, tournaments, federations, content creators and social initiatives).
- **Main winners (linked to India)**

| Category | Winner |
|---|---|
| Best chess player (women) | **Divya Deshmukh** (India) |
| Best team | **India** (open and women's teams) |
| Daniel Naroditsky Best Creator | **ChessBase India** |
| Best federation | **Uzbekistan** |

- **Other main winners**
  - **Best chess player (men): Javokhir Sindarov** (Uzbekistan)
  - **Best emerging player (Rookie of the Year): Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus**
  - **Best comeback: Levon Aronian**
  - **Best tournament (open): Qatar Masters Open**

# Shooting

## ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol 2026

- **Venue: Egypt International Olympic City, Cairo** (**8–16 October 2026**)
- **India's main result:**
  - **Udhayveer Sidhu** won **gold** in the men's **10 m air pistol**.
  - **Final score: 240.6**
  - **Silver: Christian Reitz** (Germany) – **240.1**
  - **Bronze: Paolo Monna** (Italy) – **219.8**
- This was India's first medal of the Cairo World Cup and Sidhu's **first senior ISSF World Cup gold**.
- **Final results:**

| Event | Gold medallist/team | Country |
|---|---|---|
| Men's 10 m air pistol | **Udhayveer Sidhu** | India |
| Men's 10 m air rifle | Jiri Privratsky | Czechia |
| Women's 10 m air rifle | Aleksandra Stojadinovic | Serbia |
| Men's 50 m rifle 3 positions | Lucas Bernard Denis Kriz | France |
| Women's 50 m rifle 3 positions | Jeanette Hegg Duestad | Norway |
| Women's 10 m air pistol | Elmira Karapetyan | Armenia |
| Men's 25 m rapid fire pistol | Oliver Geis | Germany |
| Women's 25 m pistol | Teh Xiu Yi | Singapore |
| 10 m air rifle mixed team | Naoki Hanakawa / Misaki Nobata | Japan |
| 10 m air pistol mixed team | Thèo Mochko / Camille Jedrzejewski | France |

## Changwon 2026 World Para Shooting Sport (WSPS) World Championships

- **Venue: Changwon, South Korea** (**7–16 September 2026**)
- **India's main achievements**
  - India made history by winning a **team medal** in the rifle events of the Para Shooting World Championships **for the first time**.

| Event | Medal | Athlete(s) |
|---|---|---|
| R2 – Women's 10 m air rifle standing SH1 (team) | **Gold** | **Avani Lekhara, Mona Agarwal, Mili Shah** |
| R1 – Men's 10 m air rifle standing SH1 (team) | Silver | Rakesh Nidagundi, Anand Krishnan, Swaroop Unhalkar |
| R2 – Women's 10 m air rifle standing SH1 (individual) | Silver | Mona Agarwal |
| R2 – Women's 10 m air rifle standing SH1 (individual) | Bronze | Avani Lekhara |
| P2 – Women's 10 m air pistol SH1 (individual) | Bronze | Bhakti Sharma |
| P1 – Men's 10 m air pistol SH1 (team) | Bronze | Rudransh Khandelwal, Nihal Singh, Manish Narwal |

# Others

## Asia-Pacific Deaf Multi-Sport Championships 2026

- **Chess:** Rapid mixed team
- **Venue: Penang, Malaysia**
- **Results**

| Place | Team | Medal |
|---|---|---|
| First | **India** | **Gold** |
| Second | Kazakhstan | Silver |

- **Members of the Indian team:** Vivek Watpade, Ankit, Ashutosh, Shreya Y.S., Ambika Masagi and **Suman Bhambhu**.

## BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Demonstration Games 2026

- **Venue: Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**
- **Organiser:** The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, Government of India, with the support of the Government of Gujarat
- **Under:** India's **BRICS Chairship 2026**

- **Main details**
  - **Nature:** A non-competitive demonstration platform focused on displaying, documenting and sharing knowledge of traditional and indigenous games.
  - **Inaugurated by:** Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**.
- **India's demonstrations**
  - **Mallakhamb**, **Yogasana** and **Kalaripayattu**
- **Other participating countries and sports (selected)**

| Country | Traditional/indigenous sports demonstrated |
|---|---|
| Belarus | Gorodki |
| Bolivia | Lucha de Cholitas, Tinku, Rayuela, Trompo, Cachinas, Carrera de Sacos |
| Brazil | Zarabatana (blowpipe), Corrida de Toras (log race), Capoeira, Brazilian Para-Jiu-Jitsu |
| China | Wushu, Lion Dance, Health Qigong |
| Ethiopia | Tegel (wrestling), Ethiopian Gena (field hockey) |
| Iran | Zoorkhaneh, Haft Sang, Ghanieh |
| Kazakhstan | Asyk Atu, Togyzkumalak, Qazaq Kuresi |
| Russia | Gorodki, Sambo |
| South Africa | Kgati, Lintonga |
| UAE | Al Tabbah |

- **Objectives:**
  - **Heritage conservation:** Documenting and promoting traditional and indigenous sporting practices.
  - **Cultural exchange:** Giving participating countries a chance to share their sporting traditions.
  - **International cooperation:** Strengthening people-to-people ties between BRICS members and partner countries.
  - **Knowledge-sharing:** Encouraging dialogue among practitioners of traditional games.
  - **No medal table:** The event was designed for display and cultural exchange rather than competition.
- **Note: Udaipur, Rajasthan**, has been chosen to host the **first BRICS Sports Manufacturing Conference** in **November 2026**.

## Commonwealth Cue Sports Championships 2026

- **Venue: Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**
- **Host: Billiards and Snooker Federation of India (BSFI)**
- **Organiser: Apex Sports Promotion**
- **Supported by:** The **World Confederation of Billiards Sports (WCBS)** and **Commonwealth Sport**
- The multi-discipline championships were held in India **for the first time** (the **second edition** overall).
- **144 players** from about **42 Commonwealth countries** took part in **5 disciplines** (**10 medal events**).
- **India's performance**
  - India topped the medal table with **13 medals** (**3 gold, 5 silver, 5 bronze**).

| Medal | Player | Event |
|---|---|---|
| Gold | **Aditya Snehal Mehta** | Men's snooker |
| Gold | **Anupama Ramachandran** | Women's English billiards |
| Gold | **Ryan Razmi** | Men's English billiards |
| Silver | Dhvaj Haria | Men's snooker |
| Silver | Keerthana Pandian | Women's snooker |
| Silver | Revanna Umadevi | Women's English billiards |
| Silver | Siddharth Parikh | Men's English billiards |
| Silver | Paras Gupta | Men's Heyball |
| Bronze | Laxman Singh Rawat | Men's snooker |
| Bronze | Ishika Shah | Women's snooker |
| Bronze | Shruti Lakshminarayanan | Women's snooker |
| Bronze | Ujair Khan | Men's Heyball |
| Bronze | Divya Sharma | Men's 10-ball pool |

## World Skate Games 2026

- **Venue: Asunciòn, Paraguay** (**5th edition**)
- **Overall medal table (top 3):**

| Rank | Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Italy | 24 | 28 | 24 | 76 |
| 2 | Colombia | 22 | 16 | 9 | 47 |
| 3 | Spain | 17 | 18 | 11 | 46 |

⇨ India won **7 medals** (**2 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze**).

| No. | Skater(s) | Event | Medal |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Anirudhan Vinod** | Junior men's one-lap road race | **Gold** |
| 2 | Anirudhan Vinod | Junior men's 200 m dual time trial | Silver |
| 3 | Lohanath Arun Prasath | Junior men's one-lap road race | Silver |
| 4 | **Anandkumar Velkumar** | Senior men's 42 km marathon | **Gold** |
| 5 | Anandkumar Velkumar | Men's 1,000 m track race | Silver |
| 6 | Anandkumar Velkumar | Men's 500 m race | Bronze |
| 7 | Charitha Sri Madepudi, Rutva Prakash, Pragati Sivabalan and Lakshita Ranjeet Kumar Sindhu | Junior women's 3,000 m relay | Bronze |

## FMSCI RMC India National Karting Championship 2026

⇨ **Venue: Bengaluru**

⇨ **Category: Mini Max**

⇨ **Winner: Arshi Gupta** (Faridabad, aged 10)

- She became the **youngest driver in the world** to win the **Rotax Max Challenge (RMC) Mini** title.
- After winning the **Micro Max** category in **2025**, she kept her dominance at national level.
- She became the first driver to win in two different categories of the Rotax Max Challenge in two consecutive years.

⇨ **Other achievements:**

- The **youngest driver in the world** to be selected for the **F1 Academy's 'Discover Your Drive'** programme.
- Honoured with the **FIA President's Medal**.
- Earned podium finishes in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** and the **United Kingdom (UK)**.

## 65th Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2026

⇨ **Venue: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi** (other venues in Delhi-NCR, and Bengaluru for some matches)

⇨ **Dates: 18 August – 24 September 2026**

⇨ **Organiser: Subroto Mukerjee Sports Education Society** (**Indian Air Force**)

⇨ **Final results**

| Category | Winner |
|---|---|
| Junior boys (U-17) | **Minerva Public School (CISCE)**, Mohali, Punjab |
| Junior girls (U-17) | **St. Patrick's High School**, Gumla, Jharkhand |
| Sub-junior boys (U-15) | **Manik Para Vivekananda Vidyapith**, Jhargram, West Bengal |

# Rajasthan

## Inter-Zonal Sports Competition at CAZRI

⇨ **Dates: 23–26 October 2026**

⇨ **Venue: Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur**

⇨ **Organiser:** Under the aegis of the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**

⇨ **Chief guest: Dr. Anil Kumar Poonia** (Director, **National Research Centre on Camel, Bikaner**)

⇨ **Presided over by: Dr. H.S. Jat** (Director, CAZRI)

⇨ **Note: Vigilance Awareness Week launched at CAZRI:** This year, **Vigilance Awareness Week** is being observed from **26 October to 1 November 2026** on the theme **'Satyanishtha se Samriddhi'** (Prosperity through Integrity).

⇨ **Highlights and competition results –**

| Category/ Sport | Winner / outstanding performance |
|---|---|
| Football | Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi |
| Volleyball (smashing) | Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi |
| Cricket | Council Headquarters, New Delhi |
| Volleyball (shooting) | Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi |
| Kabaddi | Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal |
| **Basketball** | **CAZRI, Jodhpur** |
| Table tennis | National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur |
| Men's relay race | Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi |
| Carrom (men) | K.R. Raja Shankar (Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi) |
| Carrom (women) | K.K. Patwari (NAARM, Hyderabad) |
| Carrom (mixed doubles) | Arun Kumar and Ritu Gupta (Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack) |
| Best athlete (men) | Shivam (Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur) and Sandeep Patwari (Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack) |
| Best athlete (women) | Anchal Paliwal (National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics - NIVEDI, Bengaluru) |
| March past | Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi (outstanding performance) |
| Fair play award | Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar |

## Important One-Liners

⇨ At the **51st Sub-Junior and Junior National Yogasana Championship** (Jaipur), Rajasthan's **Krishna Kumar Joshi** won **gold** in traditional yogasana (boys, 10-12 years); the team of **Pranav Gaur, Garvit Gupta, Devansh Tankwal, Pratham Saraswat** and **Hunar Yadav** won **silver** in group yogasana musical, while **Ayushman Singh** and **Devansh** won **silver** in the junior artistic pair.

⇨ **Rishika Sharma** of Jaipur (Mahatma Gandhi Government School) won **gold** in the team event and **silver** in the individual (singles) event at the **SGFI Under-17 State Table Tennis Championship**.

⇨ At the **20th Junior State Wushu Championship** held in **Bhilwara**, **Jaipur** won the team championship with **31 gold, 5 silver and 17 bronze** medals (**177 points**). Jaipur's **Dukh Singh Gurjar** (boys 45 kg), **Muskan Chawariya** (girls 48 kg) and **Samiksha** (girls 70 kg) won gold; **Dukh Singh** was named the best boy athlete.

⇨ **Jaipur's Under-19 girls' team** won the title at the **70th State-Level Badminton Championship** held in Jodhpur, beating hosts **Jodhpur 2-1**.

⇨ At the **Asia-Pacific Deaf Multi-Sport Championships 2026** (Penang, Malaysia), Rajasthan's athletes helped India finish **third** overall. **Abhinav Sharma** of Jaipur and **Piyush** of Jodhpur won **gold** in men's doubles badminton; **Abhinav** also won **silver** in mixed doubles. **Suman Bhambhu** of **Nagaur** became the **first Indian deaf woman** to win gold at this level.

⇨ Indian shuttler **Isharani Baruah** finished **runner-up** in the women's singles final of the **Yonex Sunrise Vietnam Open BWF World Tour Super 100** in **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**, on **13 September 2026**, losing to Thailand's **Sarunrak Vitidsarn 8-21, 15-21**.

⇨ On **28 August 2026**, Indian squash player **Velavan Senthilkumar** beat **Balazs Farkas** in the final of the **PSA Budapest Open** in **Budapest (Hungary)** to win his first **PSA Copper-level** title and his **11th PSA Tour title** overall.

- ⇨ **Govind Solanki** of **Udaipur** has been selected as guide-runner (companion) for **para-athlete Radha** in the **1,500 m T13** event at the **Asian Para Games 2026** in Japan.
- ⇨ Rajasthan's **Vinay Pratap Singh Chandrawat** won **gold** in the shotgun **shoot-off** at the national shooting competition held at the **Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range**, New Delhi, and **Surya Dev** won **bronze**.
- ⇨ At the **Rajasthan School National Youth Rally** (**14-20 October**, Srinagar), Rajasthan became overall champion with **12 medals**, including **6 gold**; **Nirisha Kanwar** was declared the best woman athlete.
- ⇨ **Vedika Pal** of Jaipur (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Vidya Ashram) finished **sixth** with **8.5 points** at the **first National Sub-Junior Open Chess Championship** held in **Hyderabad**.
- ⇨ At the **46th NTPC Junior National Archery Championship** (Jagatpura, Jaipur), Rajasthan's **Pratibha Kandara** won **gold** in the Indian round individual ranking (**665 points**) and also **gold** in the mixed team event with **Yuvraj Verma**; Rajasthan also won **silver** in the men's team event (**2 gold + 1 silver** in all).
- ⇨ At the **Junior National Taekwondo Championship 2026** (**Srinagar, 22-26 October**), Jaipur's **Tanishtha** (younger sister of **Purva**) won **gold** in the under-17 girls' 42 kg category - the first national gold for any girl from Rajasthan in this weight class.
- ⇨ **RCSE Abhinav Rao State Taekwondo Championship 2026 (Jaipur): Aadarsh Pareta**, 13, of RCSE won **bronze** in the cadet category.
- ⇨ **Ahmedabad to host the Senior World Weightlifting Championships 2029:** The **International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)** has awarded the hosting rights for the **Senior World Weightlifting Championships 2029** to **Ahmedabad (Gujarat)**. It will be the first time India hosts the senior edition of this prestigious global event.
- ⇨ The **16th Hockey India Senior Men's National Championship 2026** was held in **Jhansi** (**10-21 October**). **Hockey Haryana** won the title by beating **Hockey Madhya Pradesh 2-1** in the final, while **Uttar Pradesh** won **bronze**.

## 5th Asian Para Games 2026

### The Games at a Glance

| Item | Details |
|---|---|
| **Edition** | **5th Asian Para Games** |
| **Host** | **Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya, Japan** |
| **Dates** | **18-24 October 2026 (7 days)** |
| **A first for Japan** | **Japan hosted the Asian Para Games for the first time** |
| **Main venue** | **Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium** |
| **Participation** | **18 para sports**, about **3,000 athletes**, **45 National Paralympic Committees** |
| **Motto** | **"Imagine One Heart"** |
| **Mascot** | **Uzumin** (made by combining "water" with **Shachihoko**, the guardian deity of Aichi-Nagoya) |
| **Emblem designer** | **Hiroshi Miyashita** |
| **Motto written by** | **Waka Sakamoto** |
| **Organising body** | **AINAGOC (Chairperson: Hideaki Omura)** |
| **Governing body** | **Asian Paralympic Committee (APC)** |
| **Tradition** | Since **2010**, held after every Asian Games in the same host country |

## India's Performance (Highlights)

- **India won 114 medals: 30 gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze**. India finished **fourth**.
- India's **best-ever** performance at the Asian Para Games.
- **Previous best: 111 medals** at **Hangzhou 2023** (29 gold, 31 silver, 51 bronze).
- **Indian contingent: 167 athletes** in **11 sports** (**111 men, 56 women**).
- India's **fifth** appearance. India crossed **100 medals** for the **second time in a row**.
- **Flag-bearers:** Opening ceremony - **Pramod Bhagat** and **Simran Sharma**.
  - Closing ceremony - **Nishad Kumar** and **Mona Agarwal**.

## Medals by Sport (India)

| Sport | Total | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Para athletics | 65 | 22 | 19 | 24 |
| Para badminton | 16 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| Para swimming | 11 | 0 | 3 | 8 |
| Para archery | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 |

## Medal Table (Top Countries)

| Rank | Country/NPC | 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 | South Korea | 29 | 38 | 33 | 100 |

- **Seven countries** crossed **100 medals**.
- **Cambodia** (bronze) and **Tajikistan** (silver) won their **first medals** at the Asian Para Games.

## Top Athletes and Records

### Para Shooting

- **Mona Agarwal** - **gold** in the women's **10 m air rifle standing SH1**; a score of **250.0** = Games record.
- **Avani Lekhara** - silver (**249.6**). India took first and second place. She also secured a quota for the **Los Angeles Paralympics (2028)**.
- **Mona Agarwal** had already secured India's first quota for the **Los Angeles Paralympics (2028)** earlier this year.
- **SH1** = athletes with an impairment in the lower or upper limbs who can support the weight of the gun with their own arms.

### Para Athletics

- **Sumit Antil** - retained his javelin title. **72.46 m (F-64)**, **1,112 points**. Two-time Paralympic champion.
- India's **clean sweep** in the javelin: **Sumit Antil** (gold), **Mahendra Gurjar** (silver), **Sandeep Sargar** (bronze).
- **Pranav Soorma** - **gold** in the club throw with a **Games record**.
- **Haney** - javelin **F37/38**, **60.49 m** for **gold** = **world record in the F-37 class**.
- **Nishad Kumar** - **gold** in the long jump **T47** and the high jump **T47**.
- **Simran Sharma** - **gold** in the women's **100 m T12** and **200 m T12**.
- **Dilip Gavit** - **gold** in the men's **100 m T47** and **400 m T47**.
- **Rinku Hooda** - **gold** in the men's javelin **F46**.
- **Other gold medallists: Deepthi Jeevanji** (400 m T20), **Devendra Kumar** (discus), **Sachin Khilari** (shot put F46), **Praveen Kumar** (high jump T64).

### Para Badminton

- **Thulasimathi Murugesan** and **Manasi Joshi** - **gold** in women's doubles **SL3-SU5**. They beat world champions **Yang Qiuxia / Xiao Zuxian** of China **21-16, 21-13**.
- **Nitesh Kumar** (Paralympic champion) also won **gold**.

### Others

- **Para judo: Kokila** - silver. **Kapil Parmar** - bronze (men's **J1, 70 kg**).
- **Six Indian athletes** won **two gold medals each**, including **Sheetal Devi**, **Mona Agarwal** and **Nishad Kumar**.

**Rajasthan**

| Athlete | Link with Rajasthan | Event | Medal |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Avani Lekhara** | Jaipur, Rajasthan | Para shooting - women's 10 m air rifle standing SH1 (R2) | Silver |
| **Mahendra Gurjar** | Para athlete of Rajasthani origin | Para athletics - men's javelin, combined **F42-F44/F61-F64** event | Silver |
| **Krishna Nagar** | Jaipur, Rajasthan | Para badminton - mixed doubles SH6, with **Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan** | Bronze |
| **Srishti Arora** | Ajmer, Rajasthan | Para shooting - women's 10 m air pistol SH1 | Bronze |

⇨ **Govind Solanki** (Rajasthan) was the guide-runner for **Radha Venkatesh**. Radha Venkatesh won **silver** in the women's **1,500 m T12/T13** event at the 2026 Asian Para Games in **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**.

# 06 Important Books

| No. | Important book | Details |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Beyond the Mind: Exploring the Deeper Dimensions of Consciousness** - (I Am Shiva: Self-Realisation, Awakening and Self-Transformation) | **Author: Prof. Raj Nehru**, OSD to the Chief Minister of Haryana and former Vice-Chancellor of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Haryana. |
| 2. | **Arguments with Gandhi** | **Author: Ramachandra Guha** |
| 3. | **Bharatiya Gantantra ki Vijaygatha, Mera Jeevan, Mera Sangharsh** | The Hindi edition of former President **Ram Nath Kovind's** autobiography, released in **Lucknow** on **15 October**. |
| 4. | **The Evolution of TV News in India** | **Author: Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey**<br>**Released by:** Former Prasar Bharati Chairman **Surya Prakash** |
| 5. | **Without Fear or Favour** | **Author:** Former Supreme Court judge **Sanjay Kishan Kaul**, with **Jay Vinayak Ojha** |
| 6. | **Belonging: A Journey of Love** | Personal memoir of **Sonia Gandhi**. |

# 07 Important Days

| Date | Day | Details |
|---|---|---|
| 1 October | National Voluntary Blood Donation Day | • **Theme:** "A drop of humanity. Donate blood. Save lives." |
| 4 October | World Animal Day | • **Theme:** "See the world through their eyes." |
| 5 October | World Habitat Day | • **Theme:** "Adequate housing for all." |
| | World Teachers' Day | • **Theme:** "Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our future."<br>• In 2026, the day marks the **60th anniversary** of the **1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation** concerning the Status of Teachers. |
| 8 October | Indian Air Force Day | • **Theme:** "Infallible, Impervious and Precise." |
| 9 October | World Post Day | • **Theme:** "One postal network, infinite possibilities." |
| 9 to 15 October | National Postal Week 2026 | • By the **Department of Posts**, Ministry of Communications, Government of India.<br>• Promotion of postal services and the **Dak Mitra app**. |
| 10 October | World Mental Health Day | • **Theme:** "Listening to lived experience: real voices, real change." |
| 11 October | International Day of the Girl Child | • **Theme:** "End child marriage, invest in girls' rights." |
| 14 October | World Standards Day | • **Theme:** "Shared vision for a better world: spotlight on **SDG 7** (affordable and clean energy)." |
| 15 October | Mahila Kisan Diwas (Women Farmers' Day) | • **Theme:** "Role of women farmers in building developed agriculture and a developed India." |
| | International Day of Rural Women | • **Theme:** "Rural women farmers nurturing Mother Nature." |
| 16 October | World Food Day | • **Theme:** "Innovate today, nourish tomorrow." |
| 17 October | Namo Bharat Day | • Celebrates **three successful years** of Namo Bharat operations and the transformative journey in regional mobility. |
| 18 October | World Menopause Day | • **Theme:** "Chronic pain in midlife." |
| 21 October | National Police Commemoration Day | • In memory of the sacrifice of the **CRPF** personnel killed in an ambush by **Chinese troops** at **Hot Springs, Ladakh**, on **21 October 1959**. |
| 24 October | United Nations Day | • Marks the formal founding of the **United Nations** on **24 October 1945**. |
| 31 October | Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) | • **Birth anniversary of Sardar Patel**. |