Weekly Current Affairs 25th October to 31st October 2026

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NATIONAL

Hit by El-nino, Gujarat ready to trade electricity or money for water

In the News: Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Patil announced that Gujarat had offered electricity or monetary compensation to neighbouring states in exchange for additional water. The proposal followed below-normal monsoon rainfall and concerns over irrigation requirements during the upcoming Rabi season. Gujarat planned discussions with Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan regarding its Narmada water requirements.

Key Points:

- **Water-for-Power Proposal:** Gujarat proposed supplying electricity generated from additional water releases or providing monetary compensation to neighbouring states. The arrangement aims to secure sufficient irrigation water for the upcoming Rabi cropping season. It remains a proposal rather than a concluded inter-state agreement.
- **Monsoon Rainfall Deficit:** As of October 25, Gujarat had received 810.68 mm of rainfall, equivalent to 89.19% of its normal monsoon average. Districts including Devbhumi Dwarka, Porbandar, Jamnagar and Kutch recorded severe rainfall shortages. The uneven rainfall distribution increased concerns regarding agricultural water availability.
- **El Niño Phenomenon:** El Niño is the warm phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), characterised by unusually warm sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. It influences global weather patterns and can weaken the Indian summer monsoon, although its effects vary across regions.
- **Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal:** The Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal delivered its award in 1979 concerning Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. The award allocated 18.25 million acre-feet (MAF) to Madhya Pradesh, 9 MAF to Gujarat, 0.50 MAF to Rajasthan and 0.25 MAF to Maharashtra.
- **Constitutional and Legal Framework:** Article 262 of the Indian Constitution deals with the adjudication of disputes concerning inter-state river waters. The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, provides a statutory mechanism for resolving such disputes. The Narmada Control Authority oversees the implementation of relevant provisions of the tribunal award.

Ladakh Becomes India's First Fully Organic Union Territory

In the News: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena declared Ladakh India's first 100% organic Union Territory. The achievement followed a phased transition towards chemical-free agricultural practices across the region. The initiative aims to protect Ladakh's fragile Himalayan ecosystem, improve soil health and strengthen sustainable agricultural livelihoods.

Key Points:

- **First Fully Organic Union Territory:** Ladakh became India's first Union Territory to achieve 100% organic status, covering the traditional administrative districts of Leh and Kargil. Sikkim had earlier become India's first fully organic state in 2016. Ladakh's achievement represents a significant milestone in sustainable high-altitude agriculture
- National Programme for Organic Production: India's National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) is implemented by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It establishes organic production standards and accredits certification bodies. The Participatory Guarantee System (PGS-India) is another certification mechanism focused on domestic and local markets.
- **Agricultural Products and Ecological Significance:** Ladakh's major agricultural products include apricots, sea buckthorn, buckwheat, barley and vegetables. Its high-altitude cold-desert environment faces limited rainfall and a short growing season. Organic farming is intended to conserve biodiversity, protect soil and water resources, and improve opportunities for value-added agricultural products.
- **Administrative Background of Ladakh:** Ladakh became a separate Union Territory on October 31, 2019, following the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. It was constituted as a Union Territory without a legislative assembly. Its administration is headed by a Lieutenant Governor appointed by the President of India.

Cyclone Arnab 2026: Landfall Forecast for Andhra Pradesh

In the News: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a cyclone warning as Cyclonic Storm Arnab intensified over the Bay of Bengal in October 2026. The cyclone is forecast to cross the Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts on October 28, 2026. It is expected to make landfall as a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm, bringing strong winds, heavy rainfall and coastal flooding risks.

Key Points:

- **Landfall Forecast:** Cyclone Arnab is expected to cross the Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam, close to Yanam, on October 28, 2026. The IMD has forecast sustained winds of 115–125 km/h, with gusts reaching 140 km/h.
- **Formation and Movement:** The cyclone developed over the east-central Bay of Bengal and intensified into a cyclonic storm on October 26, 2026. It is expected to move northwestwards before crossing the Andhra Pradesh coast.
- **Cyclone Naming:** The name Arnab was proposed by Bangladesh under the tropical cyclone naming system for the North Indian Ocean. The IMD's Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre in New Delhi assigns names from a list approved by the World Meteorological Organization and the ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.
- **Weather Warnings:** The IMD issued severe weather warnings for Andhra Pradesh and adjoining southern Odisha. Heavy rainfall, strong winds, rough seas and possible flooding are expected in vulnerable coastal areas. Fishermen have been advised to avoid venturing into affected waters.
- **Disaster Preparedness:** State authorities have activated emergency response mechanisms and prepared evacuation arrangements for vulnerable coastal communities. The National Disaster Response Force and other agencies are supporting preparedness measures to minimise casualties and infrastructure damage.

Supreme Court Says 14 States Agree to Raise Judicial Officers' Retirement Age

In the News: The Supreme Court noted that 14 states had agreed to increase the retirement age of district judicial officers from 60 to 62 years. A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant welcomed the development and expressed hope that other states would follow. The matter concerns the proposed uniform retirement age for judicial officers across India.

Key Points:

- **Supreme Court Observation:** A Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana noted that 14 states had agreed to enhance the retirement age to 62 years. The Court was hearing proceedings concerning the service conditions of district judicial officers.
- **Earlier Directions:** On September 4, 2026, the Supreme Court directed seven consenting states to amend their service rules to raise the retirement age from 60 to 62 years. These were Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
- **Performance Assessment:** The Court directed that continuation in service beyond 60 years would be subject to an assessment of suitability and performance by the concerned High Court. It also provided conditional relief to eligible judicial officers who had retired on or after March 31, 2026, in the seven states.
- **Opposition from States:** Punjab and Haryana opposed the proposed increase despite the Punjab and Haryana High Court supporting it. Several other states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Uttarakhand, also expressed reservations about enhancing the retirement age.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** Article 233 deals with the appointment of district judges, while Article 235 gives High Courts control over subordinate courts. Supreme Court judges retire at 65 years, whereas High Court judges retire at 62 years under the Constitution.

Siang Upper Multipurpose Project: Why Arunachal Pradesh's Proposed Mega-Dam Matters

In the News: The proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP) in Arunachal Pradesh has attracted attention due to its strategic importance for water security, flood management and hydropower generation. The project is also significant amid concerns over China's hydropower development on the upstream Yarlung Tsangpo River in Tibet.

Key Points:

- Project Location: The proposed project is situated on the Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh. The Siang is the Indian continuation of the Yarlung Tsangpo, which originates in Tibet and eventually joins the Dibang and Lohit river systems to form the Brahmaputra in Assam.
- Hydropower Potential: The project has been discussed with an indicative installed capacity of approximately 11,000–12,000 MW, subject to final design and approval. It is intended to combine electricity generation with water storage and river-flow regulation.
- Strategic Importance: China's planned hydropower development on the lower Yarlung Tsangpo has raised concerns about upstream water regulation. The Siang project is being considered as a potential measure to strengthen India's downstream water-management capabilities.
- Environmental and Social Concerns: The proposed dam has faced opposition from sections of local communities over possible displacement, ecological damage and impacts on traditional livelihoods. The Siang basin is part of the ecologically sensitive Eastern Himalayan region.

Supreme Court Supports Raising District Judges' Retirement Age to 62 Years: 14 States Agree

In the News: The Supreme Court expressed satisfaction that 14 States had agreed to increase the retirement age of district judicial officers from 60 to 62 years. The Court urged the remaining States and Union Territories to reconsider their positions to promote greater uniformity in judicial service conditions.

Key Points:

- **Supreme Court Bench:** A three-judge Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohana considered the issue in the All India Judges Association v. Union of India proceedings. The case concerns service conditions and reforms relating to the subordinate judiciary.
- **Retirement Age Proposal:** The proposal seeks to increase the retirement age of district judicial officers from 60 to 62 years. The retirement age of Supreme Court judges is 65 years, while High Court judges retire at 62 years.
- **States Supporting the Proposal:** Initially, seven States—Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal—agreed to the proposal. By October 26, 2026, the number of consenting States had increased to 14.
- **Conditions for Extension:** The Supreme Court's September 2026 directions provided for suitability and performance assessments by the concerned High Courts at the age of 60. Eligible judicial officers who retired on or after March 31, 2026, in the seven initially consenting States were also given an option to rejoin service subject to conditions.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** Article 233 governs the appointment, posting and promotion of district judges, while Article 235 vests control over subordinate courts in the respective High Courts. The proposed reform aims to retain experienced judicial officers and improve the functioning of district courts.

Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2026 Observance from November 1 to 15

In the News: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs announced that Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada would be observed nationwide from November 1 to 15, 2026. The fortnight-long programme will culminate in Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on November 15, commemorating the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

Key Points:

- **Commemorative Observance:** The Government of India declared November 15 as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in 2021. The day honours the contributions of tribal freedom fighters to India's independence movement and recognises tribal cultural heritage.
- **Birsa Munda's Legacy:** Birsa Munda was born on November 15, 1875, in present-day Jharkhand. He led the Ulgulan movement against British colonial rule and exploitative land arrangements in the Chotanagpur region.
- **Nationwide Activities:** The 2026 observance includes more than 300 development projects, two national digital launches and over 160 State-level activities. These initiatives seek to improve awareness of tribal welfare programmes and public services.

- **Major Tribal Welfare Schemes:** The PM-JANMAN initiative, launched in 2023, focuses on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, launched in 2024, aims to improve infrastructure and essential services in tribal-majority villages.
- **Constitutional Safeguards:** Article 46 directs the State to promote the educational and economic interests of Scheduled Tribes. Article 338A provides for the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, while the Fifth and Sixth Schedules establish special arrangements for specified tribal areas.

Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for 2026-27 to 2030-31

In the News: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. With a financial outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore, the scheme aims to strengthen grassroots governance, enhance Panchayat capabilities and promote participatory rural development under the Viksit Bharat vision.

Key Points:

- **Scheme Duration and Funding:** The scheme will operate from 2026–27 to 2030–31, coinciding with the Sixteenth Finance Commission period. Its total allocation of ₹7,395.55 crore comprises a Central Government contribution of ₹4,869.48 crore and a State Government contribution of ₹2,526.07 crore.
- **Beneficiaries and Coverage:** The initiative will benefit approximately 32 lakh elected representatives, Panchayat functionaries and other stakeholders across more than 2.55 lakh Panchayats and traditional local bodies. It will cover all States and Union Territories, including eligible rural institutions in non-Part IX areas.
- **Gram Panchayat Development Plans:** The scheme targets the preparation of at least 2.55 lakh holistic Gram Panchayat Development Plans annually through the eGramSwaraj portal. These plans will integrate local priorities, government schemes and available financial resources to strengthen evidence-based development planning.
- **Digital Governance and Accountability:** The initiative will support at least 2.55 lakh online audit plans annually through AuditOnline and promote transparent financial management. It will also utilise PANCHAM, an AI-enabled communication platform supporting 17 Indian languages, to improve awareness of government initiatives.

Orange Oakleaf to Become Chhattisgarh's Official State Butterfly

In the News: Chhattisgarh announced plans to designate the Orange Oakleaf (Kallima inachus) as its first official state butterfly following a public online voting process. The proposal was finalised during the 15th meeting of the State Wildlife Board and forwarded to the State Government for formal notification. The initiative aims to promote biodiversity conservation and public participation in wildlife protection.

Key Points:

- **Selection of State Butterfly:** Orange Oakleaf emerged as the preferred species through an online public voting campaign conducted from July 31 to August 31, 2026. It received 3,000 votes out of 5,813 votes cast, securing the highest public support among three shortlisted butterfly species.
- **Other Shortlisted Species:** The Common Banded Peacock secured second position with 1,606 votes, followed by the Spot Swordtail with 1,207 votes. An expert committee shortlisted these species based on ecological importance, conservation value, geographical presence and ease of identification.
- **Scientific Classification and Features:** The Orange Oakleaf belongs to the family Nymphalidae and is scientifically known as Kallima inachus. It is famous for its leaf-like camouflage, resembling a dried leaf when its wings are closed, while displaying orange, black and deep blue colours when the wings are open.
- **Biodiversity and Conservation:** A statewide biodiversity survey conducted in 2025 documented 201 butterfly species in Chhattisgarh. The selection of a state butterfly is intended to strengthen awareness of butterfly conservation and the ecological importance of protecting natural habitats.
- **State Butterfly Recognition in India:** Maharashtra became the first Indian state to declare a state butterfly in 2015, selecting the Blue Mormon. Madhya Pradesh has also designated the Orange Oakleaf as its state butterfly. Following formal approval, Chhattisgarh will become the ninth Indian state to adopt an official state butterfly.

India Supports UN Resolution Calling for an End to the US Embargo on Cuba

In the News: India voted in favour of a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution calling for an end to the longstanding economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States on Cuba. The resolution was adopted with 130 votes in favour, 17 against and 25 abstentions. India reiterated its support for multilateralism, national sovereignty and international cooperation.

Key Points:

- **UN General Assembly Voting:** The 193-member UN General Assembly adopted the resolution on 28 October 2026, marking the 34th annual condemnation of the US embargo since 1992. The resolution received 130 votes in favour, 17 against and 25 abstentions. UNGA resolutions of this nature are non-binding and cannot independently compel the United States to lift sanctions.
- **India's Position:** Soumya Nair, Counsellor at India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, presented India's position. India opposed the extraterritorial application of national laws that adversely affect the sovereignty and development of other countries. It emphasised dialogue, diplomacy and compliance with international law.
- **Historical Background of the Embargo:** The United States imposed a comprehensive trade embargo against Cuba in February 1962 during the presidency of John F. Kennedy. The restrictions emerged from Cold War tensions following the Cuban Revolution of 1959. The Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act, 1996, commonly known as the Helms–Burton Act, subsequently strengthened the sanctions framework.
- **United Nations Framework:** The UN General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations established under the UN Charter in 1945. It comprises 193 member States, each possessing one vote. Under Article 18 of the UN Charter, important questions require a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, while other questions are decided by a simple majority.
- **About Cuba:** Cuba is an island country located in the Caribbean region, with Havana as its capital and the Cuban peso as its currency. It is a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement, established in Belgrade in 1961. Cuba has historically maintained close diplomatic relations with India, particularly through cooperation in multilateral institutions and South-South development initiatives.

Bhutan GLOF Triggers Flood Alerts in Assam and West Bengal

In the News: A Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) was reported at Shintaphu Lake in Bhutan's Gasa district, raising concerns over sudden flooding in downstream areas of India. Authorities issued precautionary alerts along the Sankosh River, particularly in West Bengal's Alipurduar district and Assam's Dhubri district. The incident highlighted the growing risks associated with glacial lakes in the Himalayan region.

Key Points:

- **Location of the Incident:** The reported outburst occurred at Shintaphu Lake, situated below Wakila Mountain in the Laya region of Bhutan's Gasa district. The lake is among Bhutan's potentially dangerous glacial lakes. Floodwaters were reported moving through the Mo Chhu river system towards the Sankosh River, creating concerns about downstream flooding in India.
- **Flood Alerts in India:** Authorities warned residents of vulnerable settlements near the Sankosh River, particularly in Alipurduar district of West Bengal and Dhubri district of Assam. Precautionary measures included monitoring river levels and advising communities to move away from riverbanks. Disaster-response agencies were alerted to prepare for possible emergency operations.
- **Understanding GLOFs:** A Glacial Lake Outburst Flood occurs when water stored in a glacial lake is suddenly released following the failure of a natural barrier, such as a moraine dam. Possible triggers include ice avalanches, landslides, heavy rainfall and internal erosion. These floods can travel rapidly downstream, damaging settlements, roads, bridges and hydropower infrastructure.
- **Himalayan Glacial Lakes:** The Himalayan region contains numerous glacial lakes formed by retreating glaciers and the accumulation of meltwater. Rising temperatures can accelerate glacier retreat and increase the size of potentially unstable lakes. GLOF risks are particularly significant in mountainous regions of Bhutan, Nepal, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

- **Disaster Management Framework:** In India, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and is chaired by the Prime Minister. The Central Water Commission monitors river conditions and provides flood forecasting services. International cooperation is important for sharing hydrological data and improving early-warning systems for transboundary Himalayan rivers.

65th Raising Day of Indo-Tibetan Border Police

In the News: The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) celebrated its 65th Raising Day on 24 October 2026, commemorating its establishment in 1962. Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended greetings to ITBP personnel, popularly known as Himveers, and praised their courage, dedication and sacrifices in safeguarding India's borders. Ceremonial parades and commemorative activities were organised at various ITBP establishments across the country.

Key Points:

- **Establishment and Historical Background:** The ITBP was established on 24 October 1962 following the India-China War to strengthen security arrangements along India's northern frontier. Initially, the force consisted of four battalions and functioned under the Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949. It subsequently expanded into a specialised border-guarding force operating in difficult Himalayan terrain.
- **Administrative and Legal Framework:** The ITBP is one of India's Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is governed by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Act, 1992, and the ITBP Rules, 1994. The force's primary responsibility is to safeguard India's borders while supporting internal security and disaster-response operations.
- **Border Guarding Responsibilities:** The ITBP guards approximately 3,488 kilometres of the India-China border, extending from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh. Under the One Border, One Force principle, the entire India-China border was assigned to the ITBP in 2004. Its personnel operate in high-altitude environments characterised by extreme temperatures, difficult terrain and limited infrastructure.
- **Motto and Specialised Training:** The motto of the ITBP is *Shaurya, Dridhata, Karmanishtha*, meaning Valour, Determination and Devotion to Duty. Its personnel receive specialised training in mountaineering, skiing, survival techniques and high-altitude operations. The force also operates specialised training establishments to prepare personnel for Himalayan border security and emergency rescue missions.
- **Disaster Response and Internal Security:** Apart from border guarding, the ITBP participates in disaster relief, search-and-rescue operations, election security and other internal security assignments. Its personnel have been involved in rescue operations during Himalayan floods, landslides and earthquakes. The force's high-altitude expertise makes it particularly valuable during natural disasters in mountainous regions.

India Biennale 2026

In the News: The Ministry of Culture has announced the second edition of India Biennale 2026, scheduled from December 4, 2026, to March 21, 2027, in New Delhi. The 108-day cultural event will transform historic monuments, museums and public spaces into venues for exhibitions and artistic performances, bringing together art, architecture and design.

Key Points:

- **Event Theme:** India Biennale 2026 will be organised around the theme 'Tat Tvam Asi' (You Are That), inspired by the Upanishadic philosophy of interconnected existence. The event will explore four central ideas: Reflection, Rejuvenation, Renewal and Resilience.
- **Organising Ministry:** The event is presented by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. It aims to promote Indian artistic traditions, architectural heritage, contemporary design and international cultural collaboration through exhibitions, workshops and public programmes.
- **Major Venues:** The event will be organised across prominent heritage sites in Delhi, including Purana Qila, Red Fort, Qutub Minar, Humayun's Tomb and Jantar Mantar. Purana Qila will serve as the principal venue, hosting exhibitions and cultural interactions.
- **Previous Edition:** The first India Art, Architecture and Design Biennale (IAADB) was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 8, 2023, at Red Fort, New Delhi. It also featured the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design and the Student Biennale, named 'Samunnati'.

India to Conduct Population Census from January 25 to February 28, 2027

In the News: The Ministry of Home Affairs announced that the Population Enumeration phase of Census 2027 will take place from January 25 to February 28, 2027, across most of India. The exercise will include digital data collection, online self-enumeration and caste enumeration. Certain States and snow-bound regions follow separate schedules.

Key Points:

- **Census Schedule:** Population Enumeration will be conducted from January 25 to February 28, 2027, followed by a revisional round from March 1 to 5. Citizens can complete online self-enumeration between January 10 and 24, 2027. The reference date for the main enumeration is March 1, 2027.
- **Regional Exceptions:** The announced schedule excludes Manipur, Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Ladakh, along with specified snow-bound areas of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Manipur's schedule awaits a further declaration, while certain other regions have separate enumeration arrangements.
- **First Digital Census:** Census 2027 will be India's first digitally conducted population census, using mobile applications and the Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS). It will be the 16th Census in India's census series and the eighth since Independence. The previous Census was conducted in 2011.
- **Caste Enumeration:** The government decided on April 30, 2025, to include caste enumeration in Census 2027. It will be undertaken during the Population Enumeration phase, expanding caste-related data collection beyond the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes categories recorded in previous post-Independence censuses.
- **Legal Framework:** The Census is governed by the Census Act, 1948, and Census Rules, 1990. Census falls under Entry 69 of the Union List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The Union Cabinet approved an estimated expenditure of ₹11,718.24 crore for Census 2027.

India Offers Counter-Terrorism Expertise to ASEAN and ADMM-Plus Partners

In the News: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Cebu, Philippines. India offered to share its operational counter-terrorism expertise with ASEAN countries and their dialogue partners through joint military exercises, capacity-building programmes and intelligence-sharing initiatives.

Key Points:

- **ADMM-Plus Meeting:** The 13th ADMM-Plus was held in Cebu, Philippines, under the theme 'Navigating Our Future, Together'. The framework brings together 11 ASEAN member countries and eight dialogue partners, including India, the United States, China, Russia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea.
- **Counter-Terrorism Cooperation:** India and Malaysia are co-chairing the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism for the 2024–2027 cycle. The cooperation framework includes joint training, operational coordination and intelligence sharing. A Field Training Exercise is planned in India during 2027.
- **Operation Sindoor:** Rajnath Singh highlighted Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7, 2025, as an example of India's counter-terrorism capabilities. The operation targeted terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir following the Pahalgam terrorist attack.
- **Maritime Cooperation:** India designated 2026 as the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation. The Defence Minister reiterated India's support for freedom of navigation and overflight under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). India also highlighted its continuing anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden since 2008.
- **Defence Youth Bridge:** India proposed establishing a dedicated defence 'Youth Bridge' to strengthen cooperation between young professionals in India and ASEAN countries. The initiative would promote institutional exchanges, digital innovation and capacity building in regional security. India also reaffirmed its commitment to ASEAN centrality in the Indo-Pacific.

India Hosts First BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise

In the News: India launched the inaugural BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise on October 30, 2026, at Sri Vijaya Puram in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Scheduled to continue until November 3, the multinational exercise brings together

BIMSTEC member countries to strengthen maritime cooperation, operational coordination and regional security in the Bay of Bengal.

Key Points:

- **Exercise Details:** The inaugural BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise is being conducted from October 30 to November 3, 2026, with harbour and sea phases. It operates under the message 'Shared Seas, Shared Security and Shared Prosperity' and focuses on strengthening coordination among participating maritime forces.
- **Participating Countries:** The exercise involves all seven BIMSTEC members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. BIMSTEC was established on June 6, 1997, through the Bangkok Declaration. Its Permanent Secretariat is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- **Operational Objectives:** The exercise focuses on maritime domain awareness, interoperability, information sharing and coordinated responses to maritime threats. Activities also support humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, search-and-rescue operations and cooperation against transnational maritime crimes.
- **Strategic Significance:** The exercise highlights the importance of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, India's first integrated tri-service command, established in 2001. Located near critical maritime routes, the command contributes to surveillance, maritime security and regional defence cooperation in the eastern Indian Ocean.
- **BIMSTEC Summit Connection:** The exercise follows the sixth BIMSTEC Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand, on April 4, 2025. The summit adopted the BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030 and witnessed the signing of the Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation, strengthening regional connectivity and cooperation.

INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan's 'Form 47 government': Why India uses the term as criticism

In the News: India referred to Pakistan's administration as a "Form 47 government" during a dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues at the United Nations General Assembly. India's First Secretary at the UN, Raghoo Puri, used the expression while responding to Pakistan's allegations concerning Kashmir. The term refers to controversies surrounding the compilation of results in Pakistan's 2024 general elections.

Key Points:

- **Meaning of Form 45:** Form 45, officially known as the Result of Count, records votes counted at individual polling stations during elections in Pakistan. It includes candidate-wise vote totals and other polling-station information. The form is prepared by the presiding officer and provides the primary record used for constituency-level tabulation.
- **Meaning of Form 47:** Form 47 is the provisional consolidated statement of election results prepared by the returning officer for a constituency. It combines results received from polling stations through Form 45. Forms 48 and 49 relate to subsequent consolidation and formal publication of election results.
- **Pakistan's 2024 Election Controversy:** Pakistan conducted its general elections on February 8, 2024. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), associated with former Prime Minister Imran Khan, alleged discrepancies between polling-station Form 45 results and constituency-level Form 47 results. Critics claimed these discrepancies indicated manipulation, although the allegations remain contested.
- **India's Diplomatic Criticism:** India used the expression "Form 47 government" to question the electoral legitimacy of Pakistan's ruling establishment. The term suggests that the government emerged from disputed electoral results rather than an undisputed popular mandate. It is a political expression and not an official constitutional classification under Pakistani law.
- **UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues:** The Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues is an independent expert associated with the special procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The mandate concerns the rights of national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. Special Rapporteurs conduct investigations, engage with governments and submit reports but do not issue binding judicial decisions.

Brazil Election 2026

In the News: Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva won re-election in the presidential runoff held on October 25, 2026. Representing the Workers' Party, Lula defeated Flávio Bolsonaro of the Liberal Party. Brazil's Superior Electoral Court confirmed Lula's victory with 51.79% of the valid votes, securing his fourth non-consecutive presidential term.

Key Points:

- **Election Results:** Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva secured 64,256,232 votes, representing 51.79% of the valid votes. His opponent, Flávio Bolsonaro, received 59,826,041 votes, accounting for 48.21%. Lula won by a margin of approximately 4.43 million votes.
- **Major Candidates:** Lula contested the election as the candidate of the Workers' Party, while Flávio Bolsonaro represented the Liberal Party. Flávio Bolsonaro is the son of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro.
- **Historic Fourth Term:** Lula secured a fourth non-consecutive presidential term, having previously served from 2003 to 2010 and returned to office in 2023. His victory marks another important development in Brazil's contemporary political history.
- **Electoral System:** Brazil follows a presidential system with a two-round electoral process. If no candidate secures more than 50% of the valid votes in the first round, a runoff is conducted between the two leading candidates. Voting is compulsory for most literate citizens aged 18 to 70.
- **Election Authority:** Brazil's Superior Electoral Court, known as the Tribunal Superior Eleitoral, supervises the country's electoral process. The 2026 presidential runoff recorded approximately 128.2 million participating voters, with voter abstention estimated at 19.2%.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Five Books Shortlisted for Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize

In the News: The New India Foundation (NIF) announced five shortlisted books for the ninth annual Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize. The shortlisted works, published in 2025, explore India's constitutional history, economic development, political transformations and cultural heritage. The winner will receive ₹15 lakh, with the award ceremony scheduled for December 12, 2026, at the Bangalore Literature Festival.

Key Points:

- **About the Literary Award:** The Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize was established in 2018 by the New India Foundation, headquartered in Bengaluru. It recognises outstanding non-fiction writing on independent India, including works originally written in English or translated into English.
- **Biographical Works Shortlisted:** A Man for All Seasons: The Life of K.M. Panikkar by Narayani Basu examines the life of the Indian diplomat and historian K.M. Panikkar. The Secret Master: Arun Kashalkar and a Journey to the Edge of Music by Sumana Ramanan explores the life of Hindustani classical musician Arun Kashalkar.
- **Constitutional and Historical Works:** Assembling India's Constitution: A New Democratic History by Rohit De and Ornit Shani examines the making of India's Constitution. Shattered Lands: Five Partitions and the Making of Modern Asia by Sam Dalrymple explores the historical partitions that shaped modern Asian nations.
- **Development and Economic History:** A Sixth of Humanity: Independent India's Development Odyssey by Devesh Kapur and Arvind Subramanian examines India's economic and developmental journey after Independence. It is the fifth shortlisted title and focuses on the country's long-term developmental transformation.
- **Jury and Previous Winners:** The 2026 jury was chaired by political scientist Niraja Gopal Jayal and included N. Chandrasekaran, Nirupama Rao and Srinath Raghavan, among others. The 2025 prize was won by Aparajith Ramnath for Engineering a Nation: The Life and Career of M. Visvesvaraya.

UAE Honours Indian Pilot Smit Machchhar with First Class Order of Zayed II for Bravery

In the News: UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan conferred the prestigious First Class Order of Zayed II on Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar and fellow flydubai crew members. The honour recognised their bravery in protecting passengers during an attempted mid-air attack aboard a Dubai–Tel Aviv flight on September 30, 2026.

Key Points:

- **Recognition for Bravery:** Captain Smit Machchhar, an Indian pilot from Gujarat, received the First Class Order of Zayed II for his courage during an aviation emergency. The award was presented by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai's Crown Prince and UAE Deputy Prime Minister.

- **Mid-Air Emergency:** On September 30, 2026, flydubai Flight FZ1073, travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv, faced an emergency after Machchhar was attacked by his co-pilot. Despite sustaining serious injuries, he managed to open the cockpit door, allowing others to intervene and restrain the attacker.
- **Successful Emergency Landing:** Following the incident, other pilots aboard the aircraft helped regain control of the flight. The aircraft was diverted to Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, where it landed safely, preventing a major aviation tragedy.
- **Previous Indian Recipients:** Machchhar became the third Indian to receive the First Class Order of Zayed II. Former Indian ambassadors to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri (2019) and Sunjay Sudhir (2025) had previously received the decoration for strengthening India–UAE bilateral relations.
- **About the Order of Zayed:** The First Class Order of Zayed II is a prestigious UAE civilian decoration recognising distinguished contributions and service. It is different from the Order of Zayed, the UAE's highest civilian honour, which was conferred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August 2019. Both honours are named after Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's founding President.

IIFA Awards 2026

In the News: The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) announced the winners of its 2026 awards, recognising achievements in Indian cinema and digital entertainment. Aditya Dhar's film Dhurandhar emerged as the leading winner, while Ranveer Singh and Aneet Padda received the top acting honours. Unlike previous editions, the winners were announced without an in-person ceremony.

Key Points:

- **Best Film and Direction:** Dhurandhar won Best Picture at IIFA 2026, with Jyoti Deshpande, Aditya Dhar and Lokesh Dhar recognised in the category. Aditya Dhar also received Best Director and Best Original Story awards for the film, which secured 12 honours across different categories.
- **Leading Performance Awards:** Ranveer Singh won Best Actor in a Leading Role for Dhurandhar, while Aneet Padda received Best Actress in a Leading Role for Saiyaara. Sanjay Dutt won Best Supporting Actor for Dhurandhar, and Huma Qureshi received Best Supporting Actress for Jolly LLB 3.
- **Music and Technical Awards:** Shashwat Sachdev won Best Music Direction for Dhurandhar, while Irshad Kamil received Best Lyrics for Saiyaara. Faheem Abdullah and Shreya Ghoshal won the male and female playback singing awards, respectively. A.R. Rahman received Best Background Score for Chhaava.
- **Debut and Special Categories:** Ahaan Panday won Best Male Debut for Saiyaara, while Rasha Thadani received Best Female Debut for Azaad. Akshaye Khanna won Best Performance in a Negative Role for Dhurandhar. Avatar: Fire & Ash received the Best International Film award.
- **Digital Entertainment Awards:** Baramulla won Best Picture in the Digital Film category, while Karan Tejpal received Best Direction for Stolen. The Ba**ds of Bollywood* won Best Digital Series, and Aryan Khan received Best Direction in the Digital Series category. These awards recognise films and series released through digital platforms.

ENVIRONMENT

Global Coral Reef Ecosystems Face Collapse Risk by 2075, IUCN Assessment Warns

In the News: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released its first global assessment of coral reef ecosystems under the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems. The assessment warned that 96% of the world's assessed shallow-water coral reef ecosystems face a critically high risk of collapse by 2075, primarily due to ocean warming and marine heatwaves.

Key Points:

- Major Assessment Findings: Of the 127 coral reef ecoregions assessed, 122 (96%) were classified as Critically Endangered, four as Data Deficient and one as Collapsed. The assessment covered coral reefs across more than 80 countries and territories.
- Primary Threats: Rising sea temperatures and increasingly frequent marine heatwaves are the principal drivers of coral reef degradation. Heat stress causes coral bleaching, which can lead to extensive coral mortality when prolonged or repeated.

- Important Reef Regions: The Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Coral Triangle in Southeast Asia and the western Pacific, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System and the Red Sea reefs were among the ecosystems classified as Critically Endangered.
- IUCN Assessment Framework: The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems evaluates the risk of ecosystem collapse, whereas the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species assesses extinction risks to individual species. A separate reassessment found that 44% of evaluated reef-building coral species were threatened with extinction.
- Ecological Importance: Coral reefs occupy less than 1% of the ocean floor but support approximately one-quarter of marine fish species. They provide breeding habitats, coastal protection, fisheries resources and tourism-related livelihoods.

Earthshot Prize 2026: Mumbai to Host First-Ever India Edition

In the News: Mumbai will host the Earthshot Prize 2026 on November 16–17, 2026, marking the environmental award ceremony's first edition in India. The host city was announced on February 17, 2026, during the inaugural Mumbai Climate Week. Founded by Britain's Prince William, the international initiative recognises innovative solutions addressing major environmental challenges and accelerating global sustainability.

Key Points:

- **Establishment of Earthshot Prize:** The Earthshot Prize was founded in 2020 by Prince William to encourage innovative environmental solutions. Inspired by the Moonshot programme of former US President John F. Kennedy, it aims to support transformative environmental action during the decade ending in 2030.
- **Five Environmental Categories:** The award recognises solutions under five categories: Protect and Restore Nature, Clean Our Air, Revive Our Oceans, Build a Waste-Free World and Fix Our Climate. These categories focus on biodiversity conservation, pollution reduction, sustainable resource management and climate action.
- **Prize Money and Recognition:** The Earthshot Prize recognises five winners annually, with each receiving £1 million to expand their environmental solutions. The initiative selects 15 finalists across five categories before announcing the winners, encouraging scalable innovations in environmental protection.
- **Host Cities and 2026 Edition:** Mumbai will host the sixth annual Earthshot Prize ceremony, with the awards night scheduled for November 17, 2026. Previous host cities include London (2021), Boston (2022), Singapore (2023), Cape Town (2024) and Rio de Janeiro (2025).
- **Indian Participation and Achievements:** India has produced several Earthshot Prize winners, including Takachar (2021), Kheyti (2022). The 2026 finalists include India's Mahindra Last Mile Mobility under Clean Our Air and Mahila Housing Trust under Fix Our Climate.

WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin 2026

In the News: The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released the 22nd edition of its Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, revealing record atmospheric concentrations of major greenhouse gases in 2025. Carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide all reached unprecedented levels, highlighting the continued accumulation of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere. The findings warned of increasing long-term global warming and associated climate risks.

Key Points:

- **Record Carbon Dioxide Concentration:** The globally averaged atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide reached **426.8 parts per million (ppm)** in 2025, approximately 53% above pre-industrial levels. The concentration increased by 2.8 ppm between 2024 and 2025. Carbon dioxide is the most significant human-influenced long-lived greenhouse gas and remains in the climate system for decades to centuries.
- **Methane and Nitrous Oxide Levels:** Atmospheric methane concentration reached **1,948 parts per billion (ppb)** in 2025, while nitrous oxide reached **339.1 ppb**. These levels were approximately 167% and 26% above their respective pre-industrial concentrations. Methane emissions are associated with livestock, rice cultivation, fossil fuels and wetlands, while nitrous oxide emissions arise partly from agricultural fertilisers and industrial activities.
- **Climate Warming and Radiative Forcing:** According to NOAA's Annual Greenhouse Gas Index cited by WMO, radiative forcing from long-lived greenhouse gases increased by approximately 56% between 1990 and 2025. Carbon

dioxide accounted for around 81% of this increase. Radiative forcing refers to changes in Earth's energy balance that influence global temperatures and long-term climate conditions.

- **About the WMO and Its Monitoring Programme:** The World Meteorological Organization was established in 1950 and became a specialised agency of the United Nations in 1951. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, it coordinates international cooperation in meteorology, climatology and hydrology. Its Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Programme monitors greenhouse gases and other atmospheric constituents through an international observation network.
- **Other Greenhouse Gases and Climate Risks:** The 2026 Bulletin highlighted concerns about sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6), a powerful greenhouse gas used in electrical equipment. Its atmospheric lifetime exceeds 1,000 years, and its 100-year global warming potential is approximately 24,300 times that of carbon dioxide. The report also discussed molecular hydrogen, which is not itself a greenhouse gas but can indirectly influence atmospheric warming.

UNEP Recognises India's Ganges River Dolphin Recovery Programme as a World Restoration Flagship

In the News: The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognised India's Ganges River Dolphin Recovery Programme among the 35 UN World Restoration Flagships highlighted in its October 2026 report, Nature's Comeback – Scaling Ecosystem Restoration for People and Planet. The report acknowledges India's efforts in freshwater ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood generation.

Key Points:

- **UNEP Recognition:** The restoration report was jointly published by UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It highlights 35 World Restoration Flagships demonstrating successful ecosystem recovery and sustainable development.
- **Ganges River Dolphin:** The Ganges River dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) is India's National Aquatic Animal. It is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and receives protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. It is primarily found in the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna river systems.
- **Project Dolphin:** Launched on August 15, 2020, Project Dolphin aims to conserve riverine and marine dolphins through habitat restoration, scientific monitoring and community participation. India's Comprehensive Action Plan for Dolphin Conservation (2022–2047) provides a long-term conservation framework.
- **Global Restoration Findings:** The UNEP report documents approximately 252 million hectares of ecosystems under restoration across 149 countries. The 35 UN World Restoration Flagships collectively cover 18 million hectares and have supported the creation of over 1.1 million jobs.
- **International Conservation Framework:** The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) is jointly led by UNEP and FAO. Additionally, Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework seeks to bring at least 30% of degraded ecosystems under effective restoration by 2030.

SCIENCE AND TECH

Who Is Anil Menon? NASA Astronaut Completes Fourth Spacewalk, Ranks Behind Sunita Williams

In the News: Indian-origin NASA astronaut Anil Menon completed his fourth spacewalk on October 29, 2026, outside the International Space Station (ISS). Accompanied by Canadian astronaut Joshua Kutryk, he spent 7 hours and 11 minutes upgrading the station's solar power system. Menon has accumulated 26 hours and 31 minutes of spacewalking time, remaining behind veteran Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams, who completed nine spacewalks.

Key Points:

- **Anil Menon's Background:** Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Indian and Ukrainian immigrant parents, Anil Menon is a NASA astronaut, emergency medicine physician and U.S. Space Force Colonel. He was selected for NASA's astronaut programme in December 2021 and previously served as SpaceX's first flight surgeon.
- **2026 Space Mission:** Menon travelled to the ISS aboard Russia's Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft on July 14, 2026, alongside cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov and Anna Kikina. The mission was planned for approximately eight months, involving scientific experiments, station operations and maintenance activities.

- **Fourth Spacewalk:** On October 29, Menon and Joshua Kutryk installed the seventh International Space Station Roll-Out Solar Array (IROSA). The mission marked the 100th U.S. spacewalk conducted from the ISS and the 285th spacewalk supporting its assembly, maintenance and upgrades.
- **Comparison with Sunita Williams:** Sunita Williams completed nine spacewalks totalling 62 hours and 6 minutes, setting the record for the longest cumulative spacewalking time by a woman. She retired from NASA in December 2025 after completing three space missions and accumulating 608 days in space.
- **International Space Station:** The ISS is a multinational orbital research laboratory operated through cooperation among NASA, Roscosmos, ESA, JAXA and the Canadian Space Agency. The solar-array modernisation programme is designed to increase its power-generation capacity from approximately 160 kilowatts to 215 kilowatts.

STATIC

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Jayanti 2026

In the News: India commemorates the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on October 31, 2026, as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day). Prime Minister Narendra Modi is participating in celebrations at Ekta Nagar, Gujarat. The occasion honours Patel's contributions to India's political integration and national unity.

Key Points:

- **National Unity Day:** Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is observed annually on October 31 to commemorate Sardar Patel's birth anniversary. The Government of India introduced this observance in 2014 to promote national unity, integrity and security.
- **Sardar Patel's Contributions:** Born on October 31, 1875, in Nadiad, Gujarat, Patel served as independent India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister. Popularly known as the Iron Man of India, he played a crucial role in integrating over 560 princely states into the Indian Union.
- **2026 Celebrations:** The celebrations are centred at the Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat. They feature the Ekta Parade, cultural performances and National Unity Pledge ceremonies. Prime Minister Modi also inaugurated Bharat Parv 2026, which continues until November 15.
- **Statue of Unity:** Inaugurated on October 31, 2018, the Statue of Unity is the world's tallest statue, standing 182 metres high. Located near the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada River in Gujarat, it was designed by Indian sculptor Ram V. Sutar.

SPORTS

Hockey returns to its cradle with Asian Champions Trophy

In the News: The ninth Men's Asian Champions Trophy is scheduled to be held from October 27 to November 5, 2026, in Jalandhar and Mohali, Punjab. The tournament marks the return of major international hockey to a region historically associated with producing several legendary Indian players. India enters the competition as the defending champion and the most successful team in the tournament's history.

Key Points:

- **Tournament Dates and Venues:** The 2026 Men's Asian Champions Trophy will take place from October 27 to November 5 in Punjab. Jalandhar's Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium will host the opening ceremony and league-stage matches. The Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium in Mohali will host the semi-finals and medal matches.
- **Edition and Participating Nations:** The tournament is the ninth edition of the Men's Asian Champions Trophy, organised under the Asian Hockey Federation. Six teams are scheduled to participate: India, China, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and Bangladesh. Pakistan withdrew from the tournament amid strained bilateral relations with India.
- **India's Record in the Asian Champions Trophy:** The Men's Asian Champions Trophy began in 2011, with India emerging as its most successful team. India had won five titles before the 2026 edition, in 2011, 2016, 2018, 2023 and 2024. The 2018 title was shared with Pakistan after rain prevented the final from being played.

- **Previous Edition and Defending Champions:** India defeated China 1–0 in the 2024 Asian Champions Trophy final held at Hulunbuir, China. Jugraj Singh scored the decisive goal to secure India's fifth title. Captain Harmanpreet Singh is among the prominent Indian players participating in the 2026 tournament.
- **Punjab's Hockey Heritage:** Punjab is widely regarded as the cradle of Indian hockey, with Sansarpur village near Jalandhar producing numerous international players and Olympic medallists. Balbir Singh Kular, a member of India's bronze-medal-winning team at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, is among its celebrated players. The tournament highlights Punjab's contribution to India's international hockey achievements.

Ballon d'Or 2026: All You Need to Know About Football's Most Prestigious Award

In the News: The 70th Ballon d'Or ceremony was held at the London Palladium in London, United Kingdom, on October 26, 2026. England captain Harry Kane won the Men's Ballon d'Or, while Spain's Alexia Putellas received the Women's Ballon d'Or. The ceremony marked the first time the awards were presented in London.

Key Points:

- **Men's Ballon d'Or Winner:** Harry Kane of England and Bayern Munich won the 2026 Men's Ballon d'Or. He became the first English footballer to receive the award since Michael Owen in 2001. Kylian Mbappé finished second, followed by Lamine Yamal in third place.
- **Women's Ballon d'Or Winner:** Spanish footballer Alexia Putellas won the 2026 Women's Ballon d'Or, securing the award for the third time. She previously won it in 2021 and 2022. Her victory followed another successful season in European women's football.
- **Other Major Awards:** Lamine Yamal received the Men's Young Talent of the Year award, while Vicky López won the women's equivalent. Unai Simón and Cata Coll received the men's and women's goalkeeper awards, respectively. Bukayo Saka received the Sócrates Award.
- **History of the Award:** The Ballon d'Or was established by the French magazine France Football in 1956. England's Stanley Matthews became its first recipient. The award recognises outstanding individual performances and achievements in international football.

Ahmedabad to Host 2029 World Weightlifting Championships for the First Time in India

In the News: The International Weightlifting Federation announced that Ahmedabad, Gujarat, would host the 2029 IWF World Weightlifting Championships. The decision was taken during the IWF Executive Board meeting held in Ningbo, China. India will host the senior World Weightlifting Championships for the first time.

Key Points:

- **Host City and Year:** Ahmedabad in Gujarat has been selected to host the 2029 IWF World Weightlifting Championships. The event will mark India's first opportunity to organise the senior edition of the global championship.
- **Official Announcement:** The hosting rights were awarded by the Executive Board of the International Weightlifting Federation during its meeting in Ningbo, China, on October 25, 2026. India secured the hosting opportunity after competing against other international bidders.
- **Previous Hosting Experience:** Ahmedabad did host the 2025 Commonwealth Championships. The 2026 Asian Championships were in Gandhinagar: India hosted the 2026 Asian Senior Weightlifting Championships in Gujarat, at the Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre in Gandhinagar, from May 11 to 17. The confusion likely comes from the original plan: the event was first announced for Ahmedabad on April 1 to 10.
- **Other Host Announcements:** The IWF awarded the 2030 Senior World Weightlifting Championships to Moscow, Russia. The 2028 World Youth Championships will be held in Prishtina, Kosovo, while Caracas, Venezuela, will host the 2028 World Junior Championships.
- **About the IWF:** The International Weightlifting Federation is the international governing body for competitive weightlifting. The sport features two main lifts, the snatch and the clean and jerk. Its World Championships bring together leading athletes competing across different bodyweight categories.

India Breaks T20I Records Against New Zealand

In the News: India registered a record-breaking six-wicket victory over New Zealand in the third T20 International at Wellington. India successfully chased 199 runs in just 13.2 overs, taking an unassailable 3–0 lead in the five-match series. Abhishek Sharma scored a spectacular century as India established multiple T20I batting records.

Key Points:

- Historic Powerplay Record: India scored 118 runs without losing a wicket in the first six overs, setting a new record for the highest powerplay score in men's T20 Internationals. The previous record was 116/0 by Romania against Serbia in 2021.
- Fastest Team Century: India reached 100 runs in just five overs, establishing a new record for the fastest team hundred in men's T20 Internationals. The team also reached 50 runs in 2.2 overs, equalling the fastest recorded team fifty.
- Abhishek Sharma's Performance: Abhishek Sharma scored 113 runs and completed his century in just 35 balls. He struck 13 sixes, setting a new record for the most sixes by an Indian batter in a single T20 International innings.
- Opening Partnership: Abhishek Sharma and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi added 133 runs for the opening wicket in just 43 balls. Sooryavanshi contributed 45 runs off 19 deliveries, helping India establish a dominant position during the powerplay.
- Series and Match Records: New Zealand posted 198/3, with Daryl Mitchell scoring an unbeaten 89. India completed the chase with 40 balls remaining, recording the second-fastest successful chase of a target of 190 or more in men's T20 Internationals, measured by balls remaining.

Who Is Uma Kashvi? 15-Year-Old Becomes Youngest Player Signed in WPL History

In the News: Karnataka's 15-year-old all-rounder Uma Kashvi became the youngest player ever signed at a Women's Premier League (WPL) auction. Delhi Capitals acquired her for ₹10 lakh during the WPL 2027 mini-auction held in Kochi, Kerala. At 15 years and 202 days, she surpassed the previous record held by Deeya Yadav, who was signed at the age of 16.

Key Points:

- **Historic WPL Signing:** Uma Kashvi was acquired by Delhi Capitals at her base price of ₹10 lakh during the WPL 2027 auction on 28 October 2026. Born on 9 April 2011, she became the youngest player ever bought at a WPL auction. The previous record was held by Deeya Yadav, who was also signed by Delhi Capitals.
- **Early Life and Cricketing Background:** Uma Kashvi hails from Karnataka and is a right-handed batter and right-arm off-spinner. She began her cricket training at approximately seven years of age and progressed through Karnataka's age-group cricket system. She has captained Karnataka's Under-15 team and Bengaluru Blasters in the Maharani Trophy, a women's T20 competition.
- **Performance in Domestic Cricket:** During the 2025–26 Women's Under-15 One-Day Trophy, Kashvi scored 516 runs in six innings at an average of 172, including three centuries and one half-century. Her performances included an unbeaten 158 off 66 balls against Manipur. She emerged as the tournament's leading run-scorer, attracting attention from professional cricket franchises.
- **International Age-Group Experience:** Uma Kashvi represented India Under-19 against Sri Lanka in 2026, participating in both T20 and one-day matches. She took four wickets in three T20 matches and two wickets in two one-day matches during the series. Her performances demonstrated her capabilities as an all-rounder and contributed to her recognition as an emerging cricketer.
- **About the Women's Premier League:** The Women's Premier League was launched in 2023 by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as a professional women's T20 franchise competition. The inaugural championship was won by Mumbai Indians. The 2027 mini-auction, held in Kochi, featured 146 registered players competing for 27 available slots across five franchises, highlighting the growing professional opportunities for women cricketers in India.

World Boxing U19 Championships 2026

In the News: The World Boxing U19 Championships 2026 concluded on October 27, 2026, in Budva, Montenegro. India secured four medals, comprising one gold, one silver and two bronze medals. Russia topped the medal standings with five gold medals, followed by Uzbekistan with four gold medals. The championship featured 474 athletes competing across 20 weight categories.

Key Points:

- **Championship Details:** The tournament was held in Budva, Montenegro, with the finals contested on October 27, 2026. A total of 20 world titles were awarded across men's and women's categories, with 80 medals distributed among the participants.
- **India's Gold Medal:** Indian boxer Aditya won the gold medal in the men's 55 kg category, defeating Russia's Islam Magomedov by a 4–1 decision in the final. His victory secured India's only gold medal at the championships.
- **India's Other Medallists:** Megha Sheokand won silver in the women's 80 kg category after losing to Russia's Ekaterina Frolova. Harshika secured bronze in the women's 65 kg category, while Prachi Tokas claimed bronze in the women's +80 kg division.
- **Overall Medal Standings:** Russia finished first with five gold and five silver medals, while Uzbekistan secured second place with four gold, two silver and two bronze medals. India finished joint seventh with Ukraine, with both countries winning four medals each.
- **World Boxing Organisation:** World Boxing was established in April 2023 and received provisional recognition from the International Olympic Committee in February 2025. It will oversee the qualification pathway and boxing competition at the Los Angeles Olympics 2028, which will feature equal participation quotas for men and women.

Saina Nehwal and Rahul Dravid Nominated to 2030 Commonwealth Games Organising Board

In the News: Reports confirmed that the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports had nominated former Indian cricket captain Rahul Dravid and Olympic badminton medallist Saina Nehwal as athlete representatives on the proposed Organising Committee for the 2030 Commonwealth Games. The Games will be hosted by Ahmedabad, Gujarat, marking the centenary edition of the sporting event.

Key Points:

- **Athlete Representatives:** Rahul Dravid and Saina Nehwal were nominated to bring sporting experience and athletes' perspectives into the organisation of the 2030 Commonwealth Games. The proposed board will oversee preparations and event planning. Their nominations were reported on October 30, 2026.
- **Other Board Nominations:** Industrialists Jinal Mehta and Ananya Birla were recommended as representatives from the private sector. Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi was expected to chair the Organising Committee, while senior IAS officer M. Thennarasan was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the organising company.
- **2030 Commonwealth Games:** Ahmedabad was formally confirmed as the host city on November 26, 2025, during the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow, Scotland. The 2030 edition will commemorate 100 years of the Commonwealth Games, first held in Hamilton, Canada, in 1930.
- **India's Commonwealth Games Record:** India previously hosted the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi in 2010, winning 101 medals, including 38 gold medals. Saina Nehwal won the women's singles badminton gold medal at those Games and subsequently secured a bronze medal at the 2012 London Olympics.
- **Sports Programme:** The 2030 Commonwealth Games are expected to feature 15–17 sports, with the final programme to be determined through consultation with Commonwealth Sport. Athletics, swimming, table tennis, weightlifting, gymnastics, netball, boxing and bowls are among the sports included in the programme framework.