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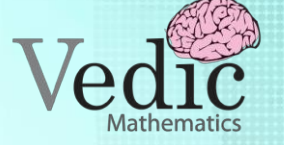
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Today in History on 18 OCT

➤ 1889 - Napoleon Bonaparte's army withdraws

On October, 1889, French leader Napoleon Bonaparte withdrew his army from the Russian capital. This move was significant, as it marked the failure of Napoleon's invasion of Russia, which weakened the power of the French Empire. This development changed military strategies in Europe and ultimately led to Napoleon's defeat.



➤ 1933 - Germany withdraws from the Allies

On October 1933, Germany announced its withdrawal from the Allies. The move was taken by Adolf Hitler's government and was aimed at restoring Germany's military borders and reviving national pride. This decision created the conditions for World War II and led Germany to more aggressive policies.



➤ 1924 - Abdul Aziz declared Protector of the Holy Places

On October 1924, Abdul Aziz declared himself Protector of the Holy Places in Mecca. This declaration was an important political development in the Islamic world, strengthening Abdul Aziz's position. His move gave a new turn to Islamic religiosity and nationalism, and he played an important role in the protection of the holy places.



➤ 1994 - Historic Agreement for Korea



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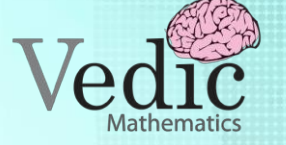
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On October 1994, North Korea and the United States signed a historic agreement in Geneva to keep the Korean Peninsula free from the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The agreement was aimed at maintaining peace and security in the region. It was an important diplomatic achievement, a step towards reducing tensions in Korea.



➤ 1970 - MiG-21 inducted into Indian Air Force

On October 1970, the first Indian-built MiG-21 aircraft was inducted into the Indian Air Force. The aircraft was instrumental in enhancing India's air power and was seen as a premier fighter aircraft. The MiG-21 played a vital role in enabling the Indian Air Force to wage modern warfare and was successfully used in several wars.



Important NEWS on 18 OCT

National News

WHO Warns of Toxic Indian Cough Syrups

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a global health alert regarding three Indian-manufactured cough syrups—Coldrif, ReLife, and Respifresh TR—that are contaminated with a toxic industrial chemical. This warning comes in the wake of tragic child fatalities in Madhya Pradesh tied to one of these syrups. The alert underscores serious failures in drug safety regulation and has implications for both domestic and international public health vigilance.

Key Points:-

Twenty-one children died of acute kidney failure after consuming Coldrif syrup in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh.

The alarming number of deaths led to immediate investigations at the state and national levels, and eventually attracted global attention from the World Health Organization (WHO).

IRCTC to Allow Ticket Rescheduling Without Cancellation Charges

In a major passenger-friendly reform, Indian Railways is set to introduce a new ticket rescheduling feature through the IRCTC portal. This upcoming policy will let travellers change their travel date or train for confirmed tickets without paying cancellation fees.

Key Points:-

25% of the fare if cancelled within 24 hours of departure.

50% or no refund if cancelled close to departure (within 4 hours).





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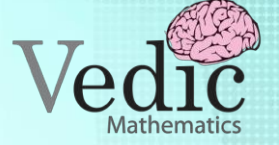
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No refund if the passenger misses the train, even if this is due to unavoidable reasons such as flight delays, bad weather, or an emergency.

International News

India Elected to UN Human Rights Council for 2026-28

India has been elected unopposed to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for a three-year term from 2026 to 2028. This marks India's seventh term on the Council, highlighting the country's consistent presence and influence in global human rights forums.

Key Points:-

The election took place at the United Nations General Assembly, where India's candidacy received overwhelming support from member states. Since there was no competing candidate from the Asia-Pacific group, India was elected unopposed.

India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, P Harish, thanked member states for their support. In a public statement, he emphasized India's commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms and looked forward to making constructive contributions during its upcoming term.

Appointments

Anant Goenka Named FICCI President-Elect for 2025-26

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has appointed Anant Goenka, Vice Chairperson of the RPG Group, as its President-Elect for 2025-26. This announcement was made on Tuesday and marks a key leadership transition in one of India's oldest and most influential business chambers.

Key Points:-

Anant Goenka currently serves as Senior Vice President at FICCI and is Vice Chairman of the RPG Group, a diversified Indian industrial conglomerate with interests in sectors such as infrastructure, tires (CEAT), IT, and healthcare.

Goenka is a third-generation business leader known for modernizing operations and driving digital transformation within the RPG Group. He holds degrees from the Wharton School (University of Pennsylvania) and Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management.

Sports

Ahmedabad Recommended to Host CWG Games By Executive Board

In a major step toward bringing the Commonwealth Games back to India after two decades, the Commonwealth Sport Executive Board has officially recommended Ahmedabad as the proposed host for the 2030 Commonwealth Games (CWG). The final decision will be made on November 26, 2025, during the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow.

Banking/Economy

Curie Money & Lxme Expand UPI Access

In a boost for India's fintech ecosystem, Curie Money has opened its UPI + investment application to all users following NPCI approval, while Lxme, a platform focused on women's financial empowerment, launched LxmePay, a UPI facility exclusively for women. These moves signal growing innovation in India's payment and investment space.

State news

Tamil Nadu Q3 FY26 Borrowing Snapshot

Tamil Nadu plans to borrow ₹39,000 crore in the third quarter of the financial year 2025-26. The borrowing is part of the RBI's indicative market borrowings schedule for States. A total borrowing of





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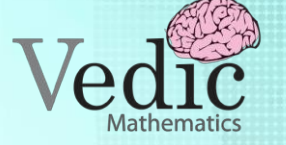
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₹1,62,096.76 crore is planned for 2025-26, with repayments of ₹55,844.53 crore. The projected outstanding debt as on March 31, 2026, is ₹9,29,959.3 crore.

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Current affairs MCQS on 18 OCT

Q.1. Which country recently became the first in the world to achieve the goal of "triple elimination" of HIV, Hepatitis B, and Syphilis through mother-to-child transmission (MTCT)?

- (a) Sri Lanka
- (b) Maldives
- (c) Bhutan
- (d) Thailand

Answer: (b) Maldives

In a landmark public health achievement, the Maldives has become the first country in the world to achieve the goal of "triple elimination" of HIV, hepatitis B, and syphilis – all three diseases transmitted through mother-to-child transmission (MTCT). The World Health Organization (WHO) announced this in October 2025, marking a historic milestone in the global fight against infectious diseases affecting newborns and pregnant women.

Q.2. How much investment has Google recently announced in India over the next five years, under which a world-class AI data center campus will be established in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)?

- (a) \$5 billion
- (b) \$10 billion
- (c) \$15 billion
- (d) \$20 billion

Answer: (c) \$15 billion

To boost India's digital infrastructure, Google has announced an investment of \$15 billion (approximately ₹1.25 lakh crore) over the next five years. Under this investment, the company will set up a world-class Artificial Intelligence (AI) data center campus in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. This is not only Google's largest investment in India to date, but also one of its largest AI projects outside the US. The move reflects India's growing technological advancement and global demand for AI-enabled services.

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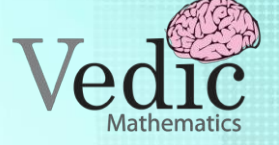
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Q.3. For how long has the Indian government recently extended the term of the 16th Finance Commission?

- (a) One month
- (b) Two months
- (c) Three months
- (d) Six months

Answer:(a) One month

The Government of India has extended the term of the 16th Finance Commission by one month. The Commission will now submit its final report by November 30, 2025, instead of the previously scheduled deadline of October 31, 2025. Chaired by Arvind Panagariya, the Commission will make recommendations on the distribution of tax revenues between the center and states and a review of disaster management funding arrangements for the period 2026-2031.

Q.4. The recent high-level dialogue between India and Mongolia was held on which historic occasion?

- (a) 70 years of India-Mongolia diplomatic relations and 10 years of strategic partnership
- (b) 25 years of India-Mongolia trade agreement
- (c) 100th anniversary of Mongolia's independence
- (d) 30th anniversary of the Asia-Europe Summit

Answer:(a) 70 years of India-Mongolia diplomatic relations and 10 years of strategic partnership

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa held high-level talks in New Delhi, marking a milestone in India-Mongolia relations. The visit, marking 70 years of diplomatic relations, saw the signing of several MoUs and announcements aimed at enhancing cultural exchanges and connectivity, development, and people-to-people ties.

Q.5. Recently, AdaniConnex, a unit of Adani Enterprises, announced a partnership with which global company to set up India's largest AI data center campus in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)?

- (a) Amazon
- (b) Microsoft
- (c) Google
- (d) IBM

Answer:(c) Google

Adani Enterprises, through its joint venture company AdaniConnex, and Google announced a landmark partnership to develop India's largest AI data centre campus and new green energy infrastructure in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

Q.6. The "Trump Declaration for Lasting Peace and Prosperity" was recently signed during the summit held in which city?

- (a) Doha
- (b) Istanbul
- (c) Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt
- (d) Washington, D.C.

Answer:(c) Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

US President Donald Trump and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will co-host a crucial international summit on the Gaza peace plan in Sharm el-Sheikh. Leaders from more than 27 countries will participate in the summit. Its primary objective is to end the ongoing war in Gaza and finalize a peace agreement.

Q.7. Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised India's GDP growth forecast for 2025-26 to what percentage?

- (a) 6.6%
- (b) 6.4%
- (c) 6.2%
- (d) 6.8%

Answer:(a) 6.6%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that despite the impact of US tariffs on the Indian economy, India's GDP will grow faster than previously estimated. In its World Economic Outlook report, the IMF projected India's GDP growth rate for 2025-26 to be 6.6 percent, up from 6.4 percent previously. But the IMF has lowered its forecast for 2026-27 by 20 basis points to 6.2 percent.





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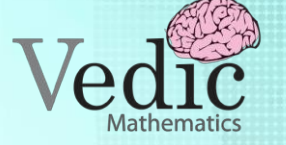
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Q.8. Who was recently awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize?

- (a) Donald Trump
- (b) Volodymyr Zelensky
- (c) Maria Corina Machado
- (d) Antonio Guterres

Answer:(c) Maria Corina Machado

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize to Maria Corina Machado for her concrete efforts to promote democratic empowerment in Venezuela and her determined struggle to transform dictatorship into democracy.

Q.9. Who inaugurated the recently launched LIMBS Live Case Dashboard to monitor and enhance transparency of government prosecutions?

- (a) Arjun Ram Meghwal
- (b) Kiren Rijiju
- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Amit Shah

Answer:(a) Arjun Ram Meghwal

To enhance transparency and efficiency in government litigation, Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated the LIMBS Live Case Dashboard in New Delhi. This new dashboard is part of the Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS), a centralized digital platform that streamlines the monitoring and management of legal cases by ministries.

Q.10. Who was recently appointed the first Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

- (a) Kristalina Georgieva
- (b) Dan Katz
- (c) Scott Bessant
- (d) Greenbridge Smith

Answer:(b) Dan Katz

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the appointment of Dan Katz as First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF. This appointment was proposed by IMF Managing

Director Kristalina Georgieva and comes at a critical time when the global economy is undergoing complex changes related to trade, inflation, and geopolitical shifts. Dan Katz's appointment marks a significant leadership change at the IMF, as he brings extensive experience in economic policy, international finance, and strategic diplomacy.

Q.11. Which country is hosting NATO's nuclear deterrence exercise "Steadfast Noon 2025"?

- (a) Netherlands
- (b) France
- (c) Iceland
- (d) Italy

Answer:(a) Netherlands

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) conducts an annual nuclear deterrence exercise called "Steadfast Noon." This exercise tests NATO's nuclear deterrence readiness. Each year it is hosted by a different NATO country. In 2025, the Netherlands will host "Steadfast Noon" at Volkel Air Base. Other participating bases are Kleine Brogel (Belgium), Lakenheath (UK), and Skrydstrup (Denmark). Finland, Poland, the United States, Germany, and other partner countries are participating. Approximately 70 aircraft from 14 partner countries will participate, including conventional and dual-capable aircraft.

Q.12. What is the name of the mission launched by the Uttar Pradesh government to rejuvenate the Gomti River?

- (a) Ganga Cleaning Mission
- (b) Yamuna Action Plan
- (c) Jal Shakti Abhiyan
- (d) Gomti Rejuvenation Mission

Answer:(d) Gomti Rejuvenation Mission

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh recently launched the 'Gomti Revival Mission' to ensure the uninterrupted flow of the river. The mission aims to stop 95% of urban sewage from flowing into the river. The Gomti River, a tributary of the Ganges River, flows through Uttar Pradesh. It is also known





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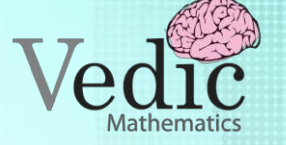
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as Gumti or Gomti. The river originates from Gomat Tal, also known as Fulhar Lake, in Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh. It flows in the area between the Ramganga and Sharda rivers. The Gomti flows south through Lucknow, Barabanki, Sultanpur, Faizabad, and Jaunpur districts. It eventually empties into the Ganges River.

Q.13. In which country is the Campi Flegrei volcano, which was recently in the news, located?

- (a) China
- (b) Italy
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Japan

Answer:(b) Italy

An artificial intelligence (AI) model has revealed new geological structures at the Campi Flegrei volcano in Italy. A clear "ring fault" has been detected, which could trigger earthquakes of magnitude 5. Campi Flegrei, also known as the Phlegraean Fields, is an active volcanic region in the densely populated Gulf of Naples, Italy. It is a volcanic system, not a single volcano, spread across a large caldera. It is Europe's largest active volcanic caldera, larger and more active than Mount Vesuvius.

Q.14. According to recent data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which Indian state has the highest per capita usage intensity of UPI transactions?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Telangana
- (d) Maharashtra

Answer:(c) Telangana

According to a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) bulletin, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) usage is highest in Telangana, followed by Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, and Maharashtra. The study used PhonePe transaction data to measure UPI penetration, which covers 58% of UPI volume and 53% of total transaction value. The growing adoption of UPI is

reducing cash demand, reflected in a decline in ATM cash withdrawals as a percentage of GDP. Most peer-to-merchant (P2M) transactions are low-value, less than ₹500, and the average ticket size is declining. Higher UPI usage is associated with urban centers, economic centers, and migration-based employment.

Q.15. What is India's rank in the 2025 Henley Passport Index?

- (a) 84th
- (b) 85th
- (c) 87th
- (d) 88th

Answer:(b) 85th

India's passport is ranked 85th in the 2025 Henley Passport Index, down five places from 2024. Indian citizens can travel visa-free to 57 countries, compared to 59 last year. The Henley Passport Index ranks all 199 passports based on visa-free mobility. Singapore tops the index with access to 193 destinations, followed by South Korea and Japan, reflecting Asia's growing dominance. European countries such as Germany, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland feature prominently in the top 10. Indians can travel visa-free to 12 countries, including Bhutan, Indonesia, Mauritius, Nepal, and Trinidad and Tobago.

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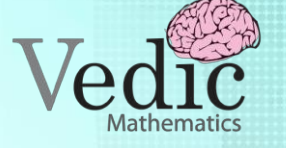
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