

International News

1. 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry Awarded to Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced the **2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry**, awarding it jointly to **Henri B. Kagan** (Université Paris-Sud, France) and **Kenso Soai** (Tokyo University of Science, Japan).

- **Key Breakthrough:** The award recognizes their groundbreaking discoveries concerning **non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis**.
- **Significance:** Their research illuminated how homochirality—a property where biological molecules occur in only one mirror-image form (like left-handed amino acids)—could have emerged.
- **Industrial & Biological Impact:** These findings are vital for modern pharmaceutical synthesis, allowing chemists to selectively create specific mirror-image molecules required for safe and effective drugs without generating harmful side-effects.

2. Bimal Patel Sworn in as Judge at International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

Renowned Indian jurist **Prof. Bimal Patel** was formally sworn in as a Judge of the **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)** in Hamburg, Germany.

- **About ITLOS:** ITLOS is an independent judicial body established by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea under the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, adopted in 1982.
- **Jurisdiction:** The Hamburg-based tribunal consists of 21 independent members elected from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and

recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea.

MCQs — International News

Q1. Who among the following was awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry?

- A) Karl Deisseroth and Peter Hegemann
- B) Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai
- C) Mouni Bawendi and Louis Brus
- D) Carolyn Bertozzi and K. Barry Sharpless

- **Answer:** B) Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai
- **Explanation:** The 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai for their discoveries concerning non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis.

National News

1. PM Marks 25 Years in Public Office; Pitches "We Will Do It" Slogan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha**, marking **25 years** of uninterrupted tenure in public governance.

- **Background:** PM Modi first took the oath as Chief Minister of Gujarat on **October 7, 2001**.
- **New Slogan:** PM Modi introduced a national call to action: **"We Will Do It"**, urging 140 crore citizens to collectively focus on transforming India into a fully developed nation (Viksit Bharat) by **2047**.
- **Global Messages:** Heads of State and international leaders sent congratulations, commending India's growth and institutional transformations over the quarter-century.

2. 10th India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026 Begins in New Delhi



The **10th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC 2026)** opened at Yashobhoomi (India International Convention & Expo Centre), Dwarka, New Delhi.

- **Theme & Focus:** Next-generation communications, 6G research roadmaps, indigenous satellite communications (SatCom), and AI-driven telecommunication infrastructure.
- **Organizer:** Jointly organized by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)**.

3. Odisha Launches India's First Dedicated MICE Tourism Incentive Portal

The Government of Odisha launched India's first dedicated portal for **MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions)** tourism.

- **Objective:** Streamline event application approvals, facilitate corporate subsidies, and position Odisha as a premier destination for national and international corporate conventions.

MCQs — National News

Q1. On October 7, 2026, PM Narendra Modi launched which slogan to achieve the Viksit Bharat 2047 target?

- A) Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas
- B) We Will Do It
- C) India Can and Will
- D) Sankalp Se Siddhi

- **Answer:** B) We Will Do It
- **Explanation:** Addressing the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha on completing 25 years as Head of Government (starting Oct 7, 2001), PM Modi gave the slogan "We Will Do It".

The Hindu

Economics & Banking

1. RBI MPC Hikes Repo Rate by 25 Bps to 5.50%

The Reserve Bank of India's **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** concluded its bi-monthly review meeting (held Oct 5–7, 2026) under Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

- **Key Rate Decision:** The MPC unanimously decided to raise the **Policy Repo Rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 5.50%** (from 5.25%).
- **Rationale:** To keep core inflation anchored while stabilizing exchange-rate volatility amid global macro shifts.
- **GDP Projection:** RBI revised India's real GDP growth projection for FY27 upward to **7.1%**.

Policy Rate	Current Rate	
Policy Repo Rate	5.50%	
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	5.25%	
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	5.75%	
Bank Rate	5.75%	

2. TDB Signs ₹130 Crore Agreement with BigEndian Semiconductors

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the Department of Science & Technology (DST) inked a financial agreement with **BigEndian Semiconductors**.

- **Funding Support:** ₹130 crore provided under the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund**.
- **Project:** Sanctioned for **Project VeerAI**, aimed at developing indigenous edge-AI system-on-chip (SoC) architectures for industrial automation and IoT devices.

MCQs — Economics & Banking

Q1. What is the updated Repo Rate following the RBI Monetary Policy Committee meeting concluded on October 7, 2026?



A) 5.25%

B) 5.50%

C) 6.00%

D) 6.25%

- **Answer:** B) 5.50%

- **Explanation:** The RBI MPC hiked the Policy Repo Rate by 25 basis points to 5.50%.

Sports News

1. Smriti Mandhana Appointed Captain of Indian Women's Cricket Team

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed **Smriti Mandhana** as the full-time, all-format captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team.

- **Context:** Mandhana takes over leadership following Harmanpreet Kaur's tenure.
- **Vice-Captain:** **Shafali Verma** was named vice-captain for the T20I squad.
- **Mandhana's Milestone:** She is currently the leading run-scorer and holds the record for the most centuries (18) in women's international cricket.

2. Rajeshwari Kumari Elected to OCA Athletes Commission

Indian trap shooter **Rajeshwari Kumari** was elected as a member of the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Athletes Commission**.

- **About OCA:** Headquartered in Kuwait City, the OCA governs Asian sports and organizes the Asian Games.

MCQs — Sports News

Q1. Who has been appointed as the full-time, all-format captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team?

A) Jemimah Rodrigues

B) Shafali Verma

C) Smriti Mandhana

D) Deepti Sharma

- **Answer:** C) Smriti Mandhana

- **Explanation:** The BCCI appointed Smriti Mandhana as the all-format captain, with Shafali Verma named T20I vice-captain.

Appointments & Resignations

Name	Position / Role	Key Context
Justice Sunita Agarwal	Judge, Supreme Court of India	Elevated from Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court
Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya	Judge, Supreme Court of India	Elevated from Chief Justice of Delhi High Court
Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh	Judge, Supreme Court of India	Elevated from Chief Justice of Telangana High Court
Prof. Bimal Patel	Judge, ITLOS	Sworn in at International Tribunal for Law of the Sea, Hamburg
Smriti Mandhana	Captain, Indian Women's Cricket Team	Appointed across all formats by BCCI



MCQs — Appointments

Q1. Which Article of the Constitution empowers the President of India to appoint Acting Chief Justices of High Courts?

- A) Article 124
- B) Article 217
- C) Article 223
- D) Article 226

- **Answer:** C) Article 223
- **Explanation:** Under Article 223 of the Constitution, the President appoints an Acting Chief Justice when the office of Chief Justice of a High Court falls vacant.

Defense News

1. Launch of Fleet Support Ship-1 'Surya' in Visakhapatnam

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presided over the formal launching ceremony of **Fleet Support Ship-1 (FSS-1) 'Surya'** at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

- **Role:** Fleet Support Ships provide replenishment of fuel, water, ammunition, and stores to naval combatants at sea, enhancing the operational reach and endurance of the Indian Navy's task forces.
- **Indigenization:** Built under the 'Make in India' initiative with over 80% indigenous material content.

2. India-UAE Joint Military Exercise 'Mountain Guardian 2026' Begins

The inaugural edition of the bilateral military exercise **'Mountain Guardian 2026'** between the **Indian Army** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE) Army** commenced at the Foreign Training Node (FTN) in Chaubattia, Uttarakhand.

- **Objective:** Focuses on joint tactical operations, counter-terrorism maneuvers, and high-altitude mountain warfare interoperability.

MCQs — Defense News

Q1. The inaugural joint military exercise 'Mountain Guardian 2026' is being conducted between India and which country?

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) UAE
- C) Oman
- D) Egypt

- **Answer:** B) UAE
- **Explanation:** Mountain Guardian 2026 is the inaugural joint army exercise between India and the UAE, held at Chaubattia, Uttarakhand.

Government Schemes & Initiatives

1. PM E-DRIVE Scheme Completes Implementation Milestones

The Ministry of Heavy Industries reviewed the progress of the **PM E-DRIVE (Prime Minister Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement)** scheme.

- **Fund Allocation:** Total outlay of **₹10,900 crore** over 2 years.
- **Key Targets:** Subsidies provided for electric two-wheelers (e-2Ws), electric three-wheelers (e-3Ws), e-buses, e-ambulances, and EV charging infrastructure development.
- **Incentive Cap:** Incentives for e-2Ws stand at **₹2,500/kWh** (capped at **₹5,000** per vehicle).

2. Self-Reliant India (SRI) / MSME Equity Support Corpus

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises highlighted the deployment under the **₹10,000 crore SRI Fund**.

- **Structure:** Operates via a "Mother-Daughter" fund structure managed by NSIC Venture Capital Fund Ltd to leverage risk capital up to ₹50,000 crore for high-growth MSMEs.

MCQs — Schemes

Q1. What is the total financial outlay of the PM E-DRIVE scheme launched by the Ministry of Heavy Industries?

- A) ₹5,000 crore
- B) ₹8,500 crore
- C) ₹10,900 crore
- D) ₹15,000 crore

- **Answer:** C) ₹10,900 crore
- **Explanation:** The PM E-DRIVE scheme carries a total budgetary outlay of ₹10,900 crore to boost electric vehicle adoption in India.

MoUs & Agreements

- **IICT & FICCI FRAMES 2026:** Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) signed 5 MoUs at FICCI FRAMES 2026 to strengthen India's AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality) ecosystem.
- **India & Japan Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM):** Both nations launched the official Operational Manual for JCM to facilitate bilateral carbon credit transfers and low-carbon tech partnerships.
- **Inland Waterways Cargo Milestone:** India successfully completed its first international cargo movement from Dibrugarh (Assam) to Dhaka (Bangladesh) via National Waterway-2 (Brahmaputra).

Important Days & Observances

1. World Cotton Day — October 7

- **Theme:** "Cotton for Good: Sustainable Production, Sustainable Growth"
- **Established By:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2021 (originally initiated by Cotton Four nations: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali in 2019).
- **Significance:** Highlights the economic importance of cotton as a global commodity that provides livelihoods for millions of smallholder farmers.

2. National Wildlife Week (October 2 to October 8)

- **Edition:** 70th National Wildlife Week.
- **Organized By:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).

MCQs — Important Days

Q1. World Cotton Day is globally observed on which date?

- A) October 5
- B) October 6
- C) October 7
- D) October 8

- **Answer:** C) October 7
- **Explanation:** October 7 is celebrated globally as World Cotton Day to emphasize sustainable cotton production and farming communities.

1. International News & MoUs

Q1. India and Switzerland recently signed multiple cooperation agreements to strengthen bilateral relations. Under the "Agreement on the Exchange of Young Professionals," what is the

initial annual quota of young professionals permitted from each country?

- (A) 200 young professionals
- (B) 300 young professionals
- (C) 500 young professionals
- (D) 1,000 young professionals

Answer: (B) 300 young professionals

Detailed Explanation: India and Switzerland signed five major cooperation instruments to boost mobility, technological collaboration, and academic research. Under the **Agreement on the Exchange of Young Professionals**, up to **300 young professionals** (aged 18–35) from each country will be allowed annually to undertake temporary employment in the partner nation to enhance professional skills, language capabilities, and practical exposure. Provision is made to subsequently scale up this quota to **500 per country**. Other key MoUs signed include the Migration and Mobility Partnership (offering up to 5-year multiple-entry visas), cooperation in Transportation Technologies & Tunnels, a Letter of Intent on Scientific Cooperation via DST, and an arrangement with Zurich University of Applied Sciences for startup exchanges.

2. Environment & Global Reports

Q2. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) flagship report titled "The State of the World's Forests 2026", what proportion of total global land area is currently classified as degraded?

- (A) 5% (~0.75 billion hectares)
- (B) 10% (~1.56 billion hectares)
- (C) 18% (~2.80 billion hectares)
- (D) 25% (~3.90 billion hectares)

Answer: (B) 10% (~1.56 billion hectares)

Detailed Explanation: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released its flagship report "The State of the World's Forests 2026: Restoring Forests and Landscapes – The Way Forward for a Sustainable Future". The report revealed that approximately **1.56 billion hectares of land**—representing **10% of the Earth's total land area** (nearly 5.2 times the geographical area of India)—is degraded globally. The report emphasizes scaling up community-led agroforestry, forest ecosystem restoration, and sustainable land management to meet Global Forest Goals and land-degradation neutrality targets under the UNCCD.

3. International Relations & Climate Action

Q3. India and Japan recently launched an Operational Manual for which bilateral environmental framework to accelerate clean technology deployment and emissions reductions?

- (A) Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)
- (B) Indo-Pacific Green Alliance (IPGA)
- (C) Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP)
- (D) Bilateral Decarbonization Accord (BDA)

Answer: (A) Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

Detailed Explanation: India and Japan jointly operationalized the **Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** by launching its official Operational Manual. The JCM is a bilateral framework under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement that allows Japanese entities to invest in high-efficiency, low-carbon technologies in India in exchange for verified greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction credits. This mechanism promotes technological transfer in renewable energy, industrial energy efficiency, green hydrogen, and carbon capture.

4. Polity & Governance

Q4. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan recently reconstituted 24 Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs). What is the total membership structure of each DRSC in the Indian Parliament?

- (A) 30 Members (20 from Lok Sabha, 10 from Rajya Sabha)
- (B) 31 Members (21 from Lok Sabha, 10 from Rajya Sabha)
- (C) 45 Members (30 from Lok Sabha, 15 from Rajya Sabha)
- (D) 25 Members (15 from Lok Sabha, 10 from Rajya Sabha)

Answer: (B) 31 Members (21 from Lok Sabha, 10 from Rajya Sabha)

Detailed Explanation: The Presiding Officers of Parliament reconstituted the 24 Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) for the 2026–27 term.

- **Structure:** Each DRSC consists of **31 members**—**21 nominated from Lok Sabha** by the Speaker and **10 nominated from Rajya Sabha** by the Chairman.
- **Jurisdiction:** Out of 24 committees, 16 function under Lok Sabha and 8 function under Rajya Sabha.
- **Significance:** DRSCs perform crucial detailed scrutiny of Ministry Demands for Grants, legislative bills, and long-term policy implementation, ensuring cross-party executive accountability.

5. National News & State Initiatives

Q5. Which Indian state became the first in the country to launch a dedicated digital incentive portal for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism?

- (A) Gujarat
- (B) Odisha
- (C) Kerala
- (D) Rajasthan

Answer: (B) Odisha

Detailed Explanation: The Government of Odisha launched India's **first dedicated MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) Tourism Portal**. The portal provides a single-window system to streamline financial incentive applications, grant event clearances, and assist corporate organizers. By incentivizing national and international conventions in Bhubaneswar, Puri, and Konark, Odisha aims to position itself as a major corporate events hub in South Asia.

6. Science, Tech & National Digital Initiatives

Q6. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the "IndiaAI CAIK" initiative in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. What does "CAIK" stand for?

- (A) Center for Artificial Intelligence Knowledge
- (B) Center for Advanced Innovation and Knowledge
- (C) Comprehensive AI Infrastructure and Kernel
- (D) Cyber AI Knowledge-Base

Answer: (A) Center for Artificial Intelligence Knowledge

Detailed Explanation: Under the national **IndiaAI Mission**, MeitY established the **IndiaAI Center for Artificial Intelligence Knowledge (CAIK)** in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. CAIK functions as a specialized national repository and research platform for open-access datasets, localized Large Language Models (LLMs), and domain-specific AI applications tailored for



governance, agriculture, healthcare, and education.

7. Defense News

Q7. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh launched Fleet Support Ship-1 'Surya' in Visakhapatnam. Which defense PSU is constructing this series of Fleet Support Ships for the Indian Navy?

- (A) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)
- (B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)
- (C) Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)
- (D) Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)

Answer: (C) Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)

Detailed Explanation: Fleet Support Ship-1 'Surya', the first of five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) being built for the Indian Navy, was launched at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

- **Role:** FSS vessels (over 40,000 tonnes displacement) replenish naval warships at sea with fuel, water, ammunition, and stores, extending the Indian Navy's blue-water operational reach across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- During the event, the keel for the 5th FSS was also laid, alongside the inauguration of an upgraded Slipway-4 and a 300-tonne Goliath Crane at HSL.

8. Defense News & Joint Exercises

Q8. The inaugural edition of the Joint Bilateral Military Exercise 'Mountain Guardian 2026' commenced at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand. Which country is participating alongside the Indian Army?

- (A) United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- (B) Sultanate of Oman
- (C) Saudi Arabia

(D) Japan

Answer: (A) United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Detailed Explanation: The inaugural edition of Exercise 'Mountain Guardian 2026' between the Indian Army and the UAE Army began at the Foreign Training Node (FTN) in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand. The tactical exercise focuses on joint counter-terrorism operations, high-altitude warfare, sub-conventional operations under UN mandate, and interoperability in mountainous terrain. (Note: India and UAE also conduct exercise Desert Cyclone for land forces and Zayed Talwar for navies).

9. Constitutional Appointments & Judiciary

Q9. Under which Article of the Constitution of India does the President appoint Acting Chief Justices of High Courts when the office falls vacant?

- (A) Article 124
- (B) Article 217
- (C) Article 223
- (D) Article 226

Answer: (C) Article 223

Detailed Explanation: Following the elevation of High Court Chief Justices to the Supreme Court, President Droupadi Murmu invoked **Article 223** of the Constitution to appoint Acting Chief Justices for the High Courts of Telangana, Gujarat, and Delhi.

- **Article 223:** Deals with the appointment of an Acting Chief Justice of a High Court when the office is vacant or when the Chief Justice is unable to perform duties.
- **Supreme Court Elevations:** Three High Court Chief Justices—Justice Sunita Agarwal (Gujarat), Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya (Delhi), and Justice Aparesh



Kumar Singh (Telangana)—were elevated as Supreme Court Judges under Article 124(2).

10. Sports & Sports Governance

Q10. Which Indian trap shooter was recently elected as a member of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Athletes Commission?

- (A) Manavaditya Singh Rathore
- (B) Rajeshwari Kumari
- (C) Shreyasi Singh
- (D) Ganemat Sekhon

Answer: (B) Rajeshwari Kumari

Detailed Explanation: Indian international trap shooter **Rajeshwari Kumari** was elected to the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Athletes Commission**.

- She represents Asia's shooting sports sector and will advocate for athletes' welfare, anti-doping education, clean sports, and infrastructure standards across the continent.
- She is an Olympian and recipient of national accolades in trap shooting.

11. Awards & Honors (Nobel Prize 2026)

Q11. Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel were jointly awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Which groundbreaking scientific field did their discoveries create?

- (A) CRISPR-Cas9 Gene Editing
- (B) Optogenetics
- (C) mRNA Vaccine Technology
- (D) Cryo-Electron Microscopy

Answer: (B) Optogenetics

Detailed Explanation: The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet awarded the **2026 Nobel**

Prize in Physiology or Medicine to **Karl Deisseroth (USA), Peter Hegemann (Germany), and Georg Nagel (Germany)** for their revolutionary discoveries concerning **light-gated ion channels (channelrhodopsins)** and the creation of **Optogenetics**.

- **What is Optogenetics?** A technique that combines optics and genetics to control individual neurons inside living brain tissue using precise pulses of light.
- **Significance:** It has allowed scientists to map neural circuits involved in Parkinson's disease, depression, memory formation, and addiction with millisecond precision.

12. Economics & Semiconductor Mission

Q12. The Technology Development Board (TDB) under DST signed an agreement with BigEndian Semiconductors for ₹130 Crore under which domain?

- (A) Commercialization of indigenous ARM-based SoCs and RDI support
- (B) Fabless display driver IC fabrication
- (C) Silicon Carbide wafer fabrication
- (D) Quantum Encryption Chips

Answer: (A) Commercialization of indigenous ARM-based SoCs and RDI support

Detailed Explanation: The Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), entered into an agreement with **BigEndian Semiconductors** to provide **₹130 Crore** in Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) funding. The funding supports the design and commercial deployment of indigenous System-on-Chips (SoCs) for IoT, industrial automation, and surveillance under India's Semiconductor Mission (ISM).

13. Social Statistics & Economic Mobility

Q13. According to data from the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS), how do female workers in Indian urban and semi-urban settings predominantly commute to their workplaces compared to male workers?

- (A) Female workers rely predominantly on personal two-wheelers.
- (B) Female workers are nearly twice as likely as men to use public transport or walking.
- (C) Female workers rely mostly on private cab aggregators.
- (D) Female workers show higher ownership of light commercial vehicles.

Answer: (B) Female workers are nearly twice as likely as men to use public transport or walking.

Detailed Explanation: Findings from the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) highlighted a structural **gender mobility divide** in India:

- Women are **nearly twice as likely as men** to walk, take public buses, or use suburban trains to reach employment hubs due to lower access to personal motorized vehicles.
- Men display significantly higher usage of personal two-wheelers and automobiles.
- **Policy context:** The report highlights why schemes like PM-eBus Sewa, gender-budgeted public transport, and urban walkability infrastructure are vital for enhancing female labor force participation (FLFP).

14. Important Days & Global Observances

Q14. World Cotton Day is observed globally every year on which date?

- (A) October 5
- (B) October 6

(C) October 7

(D) October 8

Answer: (C) October 7

Detailed Explanation: World Cotton Day is celebrated internationally on **October 7**.

- **History:** Initiated in 2019 by the "Cotton-4" countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali) at the WTO and officially proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in August 2021.
- **Objective:** To highlight cotton as a sustainable natural fiber supporting over 28.6 million farmers worldwide and driving textile economics in developing nations.

15. Important Days & Urban Affairs

Q15. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) celebrated World Habitat Day 2026 under which theme?

- (A) "Resilient Urban Economies"
- (B) "Adequate Housing for All"
- (C) "Mind the Gap: Leaving No One and Place Behind"
- (D) "Accelerating Urban Action for Carbon Neutral World"

Answer: (B) "Adequate Housing for All"

Detailed Explanation: World Habitat Day (designated by the UN on the first Monday of October) was celebrated by MoHUA at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, under the theme **"Adequate Housing for All"**. The event showcased achievements under PMAY-Urban, slum redevelopment projects, and sustainable building materials designed to address rapid urbanization in India.

16. International Energy & MoUs

Q16. Adani Power signed a collaboration agreement with Druk Green Power Corporation

(DGPC) for a 570 MW hydroelectric project in which neighbouring country?

- (A) Nepal
- (B) Bhutan
- (C) Bangladesh
- (D) Myanmar

Answer: (B) Bhutan

Detailed Explanation: Adani Power signed a major hydropower deal with **Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) of Bhutan** for the **570 MW Wangchhu Hydroelectric Project**. This agreement forms part of a broader 5,000 MW cross-border renewable energy cooperation MoU to deepen sub-regional energy integration under the BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) framework.

17. Public Health & Disease Eradication

Q17. What is the target set under India's National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Leprosy regarding Grade-2 Disability (G2D) cases per million population by 2026-27?

- (A) Less than 5 cases per million
- (B) Less than 0.5 cases per million
- (C) Zero cases overall
- (D) Less than 10 cases per million

Answer: (B) Less than 0.5 cases per million

Detailed Explanation: India's National Strategic Plan (NSP) and Roadmap for Leprosy (2023-2030) aims for the elimination of leprosy transmission.

- **Target:** Achieve less than **0.5 Grade-2 disability (G2D) cases per million population** and zero child cases in high-burden districts by 2026-27.
- **Key Digital Portal:** Nikusth 2.0 is used for real-time digital surveillance and tracking of Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) and Single-Dose

Rifampicin (SDR) post-exposure prophylaxis.

18. Media & Entertainment Technology

Q18. The Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) signed five MoUs at FICCI FRAMES 2026 to strengthen which emerging sector?

- (A) Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare
- (B) Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR)
- (C) Satellite Broadcasting Infrastructure
- (D) Quantum Computing Hardware

Answer: (B) Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR)

Detailed Explanation: At the FICCI FRAMES 2026 convention, the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) executed 5 key MoUs to build incubator hubs, skill centers, and IP creation pipelines for the **AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality)** sector, aligning with the National AVGC-XR Policy.

19. Electric Mobility & Govt Schemes

Q19. Under the PM E-DRIVE (PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement) scheme, how many electric vehicles (EVs) were supported/sold as of October 2026?

- (A) 10.50 Lakh EVs
- (B) 18.20 Lakh EVs
- (C) 26.59 Lakh EVs
- (D) 50.00 Lakh EVs

Answer: (C) 26.59 Lakh EVs

Detailed Explanation: Marking milestone progress under electric mobility initiatives, over **26.59 Lakh electric vehicles** have been subsidized/sold under the **PM E-DRIVE Scheme**. PM E-DRIVE replaced FAME-II with an outlay of

₹10,900 crore to subsidize e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-buses, and establish public EV charging stations.

20. Art & Culture / Historic Monuments

Q20. Rachakonda Fort, which recently featured in national heritage preservation discussions, was built during the 14th century by rulers of which dynasty?

- (A) Kakatiya Dynasty
- (B) Recharla Nayaka Dynasty
- (C) Musunuri Nayakas
- (D) Qutb Shahi Dynasty

Answer: (B) Recharla Nayaka Dynasty

Detailed Explanation: Rachakonda Fort is a historic hill fort located in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri/Nalgonda district of Telangana. It was constructed in the mid-14th century (around 1360 CE) by **Recharla Singama Nayaka II** of the **Recharla Nayaka dynasty**, who ruled the region following the fall of the Kakatiya Empire. It is renowned for its medieval rock-cut curtain walls, cyclopean masonry without mortar, and monolithic gateways.

21. Books & Authors

Q21. The recently released book "Optogenetics: Illuminating the Brain's Code" details the revolutionary story of controlling neural circuits with light. Who among the following is the primary co-author and 2026 Nobel Laureate associated with it?

- (A) Jennifer Doudna
- (B) Karl Deisseroth
- (C) Svante Pääbo
- (D) Drew Weissman

Answer: (B) Karl Deisseroth

Detailed Explanation: Dr. Karl Deisseroth, professor of bioengineering and psychiatry at

Stanford University and co-winner of the **2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine**, authored works describing how microbial rhodopsins were adapted to enable high-speed optical control of intact biological systems, founding the field of optogenetics.

22. Sports & Formula 1

Q22. Who won the 2026 Formula 1 Grand Prix title held recently?

- (A) Lewis Hamilton
- (B) Charles Leclerc
- (C) Max Verstappen
- (D) Lando Norris

Answer: (C) Max Verstappen

Detailed Explanation: Red Bull Racing driver **Max Verstappen** secured victory at the **2026 Grand Prix**. Verstappen's tactical tyre strategy and race management enabled him to extend his dominance in the World Drivers' Championship standings.

23. Days & Anniversaries

Q23. World Teachers' Day is celebrated globally every year on which date under the joint auspices of UNESCO, ILO, and UNICEF?

- (A) September 5
- (B) October 5
- (C) October 12
- (D) November 11

Answer: (B) October 5

Detailed Explanation: **World Teachers' Day** is celebrated internationally on **October 5**. It commemorates the adoption of the 1966 UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

- (Note: National Teachers' Day in India is celebrated on **September 5** commemorating

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's birth anniversary).

24. Health & World Days

Q24. World Cerebral Palsy Day is observed every year on October 6. What type of health condition is Cerebral Palsy?

- (A) Degenerative metabolic disorder
- (B) Group of non-progressive neurological disorders affecting movement and posture
- (C) Viral autoimmune infection
- (D) Genetic blood disorder

Answer: (B) Group of non-progressive neurological disorders affecting movement and posture

Detailed Explanation: World Cerebral Palsy Day is observed annually on **October 6** to raise awareness and support the 17+ million people living with CP globally. Cerebral Palsy is a group of non-progressive neurological disorders caused by damage to the developing brain (usually before or during birth), affecting motor control, balance, and muscle tone.

25. Sports & Historical Milestones

Q25. In the Asian Games, the Indian Hockey teams achieved a historical double gold medal victory. This marked the first time since which year that the Indian Women's Hockey team won the Gold Medal at the Asian Games?

- (A) 1974
- (B) 1982
- (C) 1998
- (D) 2014

Answer: (B) 1982

Detailed Explanation: India achieved a historic double gold in hockey:

- The **Indian Women's Hockey Team** defeated China in the final to win the Gold Medal—their first Asian Games gold since **1982** (Delhi Asian Games).
- The **Indian Men's Hockey Team** defeated Malaysia in the final to win gold.
- Both teams secured automatic qualification for the **Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games**.

26. Birth & Death Anniversaries

Q26. The birth anniversary of Maharishi Valmiki (Valmiki Jayanti) is celebrated during which Hindu lunar month on the full moon day (Purnima)?

- (A) Chaitra
- (B) Ashwin
- (C) Kartik
- (D) Bhadrapada

Answer: (B) Ashwin

Detailed Explanation: Valmiki Jayanti celebrates the birth anniversary of Maharishi Valmiki, the Adi Kavi (first poet) who authored the epic Ramayana in Sanskrit. It falls on the **Purnima (full moon day)** of the **Ashwin month** in the Hindu calendar (occurring annually in September–October). It is observed with great reverence, particularly across Northern and Central India.

27. Art & Culture / Festivals

Q27. The festival of "Bathukamma", a floral festival celebrated predominantly by women, belongs to which state of India?

- (A) Tamil Nadu
- (B) Telangana
- (C) Odisha
- (D) Karnataka

Answer: (B) Telangana

Detailed Explanation: Bathukamma is the state festival of **Telangana**, celebrated during the Navratri period. Women construct concentric stacks of seasonal colorful flowers (such as Gunugu, Tangedu, and Chamanthi) arranged in a conical shape representing Goddess Maha Gauri (Bathukamma - "Mother Goddess Come Alive"). It celebrates ecological harmony and womanhood.

28. Banking & Financial Sector

Q28. What is the minimum Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for Scheduled Commercial Banks under Basel III norms?

- (A) 8.0%
- (B) 9.0%
- (C) 11.5%
- (D) 12.0%

Answer: (B) 9.0%

Detailed Explanation: Under RBI guidelines for Basel III implementation:

- RBI requires Indian Scheduled Commercial Banks to maintain a minimum **Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)** of 9% (higher than the Basel III global baseline of 8%).
- Including the Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB) of 2.5%, the total minimum requirement is **11.5%**.

29. Science & Tech (Optogenetics Mechanism)

Q29. In optogenetics, which light-sensitive protein extracted from algae is delivered into neurons via viral vectors to trigger electrical impulses when exposed to blue light?

- (A) Rhodopsin-A
- (B) Channelrhodopsin-2 (ChR2)

- (C) Phytochrome
- (D) Bacteriochlorophyll

Answer: (B) Channelrhodopsin-2 (ChR2)

Detailed Explanation: **Channelrhodopsin-2 (ChR2)**, discovered in the green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* by Nobel laureates Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel and applied to mammalian brains by Karl Deisseroth, acts as a light-gated cation channel. When illuminated with **blue light (~470 nm)**, ChR2 opens, allowing sodium ions (Na^+) into the neuron, depolarizing it and firing an action potential.

30. Infrastructure & Sustainable Transport

Q30. Under the "PM-eBus Sewa" scheme, how many electric buses are targeted to be deployed across public-private partnership (PPP) models in cities lacking organized bus services?

- (A) 5,000 buses
- (B) 10,000 buses
- (C) 20,000 buses
- (D) 50,000 buses

Answer: (B) 10,000 buses

Detailed Explanation: The **PM-eBus Sewa** scheme aims to augment city bus operations by deploying **10,000 electric buses** on a PPP model across 169 tier-2 and tier-3 cities. The scheme focuses on cities with populations between 3 lakh and 40 lakh, enhancing green urban transport and narrowing mobility gaps.