

1. International News

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk's Official Visit to India

- **Overview:** Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk arrived in India for a 3-day official visit (21–23 October 2026) at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This marks his second visit as Prime Minister (the first was in 2010).
- **Key Focus Areas:** Bilateral cooperation in defense technology, clean energy, supply chain resilience, and trade expansion.
- **Exam Relevance:** Bilateral relations, Central European diplomacy, trade partnerships.

India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Comes Into Force

- **Key Details:** The FTA officially came into force on 20 October 2026. Under the agreement, 100% of Indian exports gain duty-free market access to New Zealand. New Zealand committed to facilitating up to \$20 billion in investments over the next 15 years.
- **Safeguards:** Sensitive sectors such as dairy remain protected.
- **Exam Relevance:** Foreign trade policy, trade agreements, economy.

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Launches MMX Mission

- **Mission Goal:** JAXA launched the uncrewed **Martian Moons eXploration (MMX)** spacecraft aboard an H3 rocket from the Tanegashima Space Center.
- **Objective:** Collect samples from **Phobos** (one of Mars' two moons) and return them to Earth.
- **Exam Relevance:** Space technology, international space missions.

2. National News

Chief Justice of India Inaugurates High Court Bench in Ladakh

- **Event:** CJI Surya Kant inaugurated the newly established **Ladakh Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh** at Melongthang, Leh.
- **Initiatives Launched:** Four major judicial digital tools and a Green Wall initiative aimed at eco-friendly court operations.
- **Exam Relevance:** Indian Polity, judicial infrastructure, UT administration.

Approval under PM-SETU Scheme

- **Decision:** The 6th National Steering Committee (NSC) approved 5 Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs) worth **₹1,194.92 crore** under the PM-SETU scheme.
- **Objective:** Upgrade Industrial Training Institute (ITI) clusters across key states.
- **Exam Relevance:** Government initiatives, skill development, vocational training.

3. Economics & Banking News

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Indicator / Event	Key Figure / Details	Exam Relevance
Retail Inflation (CPI)	Rose to 5.54% in Sept 2026 (Food Inflation at 7.74%)	Macroeconomics / Banking
Wholesale Inflation (WPI)	Stood at 11.39%	Monetary Policy

Indicator / Event	Key Figure / Details	Exam Relevance
Merchandise Exports	Grew 23.04% to USD 44.40 billion	Trade Statistics
IDBI Bank Privatisation	CCEA approved 60.72% stake sale to Fairfax subsidiary for ₹52,878 crore	Banking / PSU Disinvestment
SEBI CAS Overhaul	Comprehensive revision of Closing Auction Session (CAS) in equity cash market (Effective Dec 7, 2026)	Capital Markets / Financial Regulations

4. Sports News

Asian Para Games (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan)

- Status:** India reached **35 total medals** (9 Gold, 11 Silver, 15 Bronze).
- Motto:** "Imagine One Heart".
- Key Gold Medallists:**
 - Mona Agarwal:** Gold in Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 with an Asian Para Games record score of **250.0**.
 - Nishad Kumar:** Double Gold in Men's High Jump T47 and Men's Long Jump T47 (7.11m).
 - Deepthi Jeevanji:** Gold in Women's 400m T20.

- Pranav Soorma:** Gold in Men's Discus F51.

Women's T20I Cricket

- India completed a **3–0 series sweep** against Zimbabwe at Raipur.
- Captain Harmanpreet Kaur scored an unbeaten 91 off 41 balls. This marked India's 11th consecutive T20I match victory.

5. Appointments, Awards & Honors

- Governor Appointment:** Dhal Singh Bisen was sworn in as the Governor of Uttarakhand at Lok Bhavan, Dehradun.
- Commemorative Release:** The Government of India unveiled a **₹100 commemorative coin** and a **₹5 postage stamp** honouring the late cultural personality and philanthropist **Ghanshyam Dass Jain** during the National Annual Cultural Conclave.

6. Defense News

Exercise INDRA-2026

- Participants:** Indian Navy and Russian Navy.
- Edition & Location:** 15th Edition, conducted at Vladivostok and the Sea of Japan.
- Focus:** Maritime security, tactical coordination, inter-operability.

Extended-Range Fatah-II Test Fire

- Country:** Pakistan Army Rocket Force Command (ARFC).
- Equipment:** Test-fired the extended-range (ER) variant of the **Fatah-II surface-to-surface missile (SSM)** featuring advanced avionics and navigation.

7. Government Schemes & MoUs

PM-AJAY Milestone

- Achieved Target:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) declared

18,093 villages as 'Adarsh Grams' under Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY).

- **Financial Outlay:** Released ₹1,730 crore across participating states.

Academic MoU

- **Partnership:** All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi signed a MoU with Maharishi International University (MIU), USA on its 10th Foundation Day to foster global Ayurveda research.

8. Art, Culture & Agriculture

- **7th Agrivoltaics World Conference:** Commenced at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (21–23 October).
- **Agricultural Innovation:** ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute (ICAR-CPRI) developed a nutrient-rich purple potato variety named 'Kufri Jamunia'.

9. Important Days & Observances (21 October)

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Day / Event	Significance / Historical Context
Police Commemoration Day	Commemorates the 10 CRPF jawans killed in an ambush by Chinese forces at Hot Springs, Ladakh on 21 October 1959 .
Azad Hind Government Foundation Day	Marks the anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose establishing the Provisional Government of Free India in Singapore in 1943.

Day / Event	Significance / Historical Context
Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) Prevention Day	Aims to raise awareness about adequate iodine intake for thyroid health and development.

10. Obituary

- **Dr. B. Madhusoodana Kurup:** Renowned fisheries scientist and founding Vice-Chancellor of Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) passed away.

30 Practice MCQs with Answers & Explanations

Section A: International News & Bilateral Relations

India in October 2026. This marked his first official visit to India after how many years?

- (a) 8 years
- (b) 12 years
- (c) 16 years
- (d) 20 years

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Prime Minister Donald Tusk visited India between 21–23 October 2026, marking his first visit to the country in 16 years (his previous official visit was in 2010).

Q2. Which space agency launched the Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission in October 2026 to collect samples from Mars' moon Phobos?

- (a) NASA
- (b) ESA

(c) JAXA(d) ISRO

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched its MMX mission using an H3 rocket from Tanegashima Space Center.

Q3. Which European country deployed Royal Air Force (RAF) jets to Saudi Arabia in October 2026 to enhance aerial defense support?

(a) France

(b) Germany

(c) United Kingdom

(d) Italy

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The UK deployed Royal Air Force jets to help Saudi Arabia guard its airspace against drone and missile threats.

Section B: National News, Polity & Heritage

Q4. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant inaugurated the newly established High Court Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at which location?

(a) Kargil

(b) Melongthang, Leh

(c) Nubra Valley

(d) Dras

Answer: (b)

Explanation: CJI Surya Kant inaugurated the Ladakh Bench of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Melongthang, Leh.

Q5. Sirpur, recently included in the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, is an ancient archaeological site situated in which Indian state?

(a) Odisha

(b) Madhya Pradesh

(c) Chhattisgarh

(d) Jharkhand

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Sirpur is an archaeological town located along the Mahanadi river in Chhattisgarh, containing ancient monuments spanning the 5th to 12th centuries CE.

Q6. Narcondam Island and Barren Island, proposed under UNESCO's natural site submission in October 2026, are part of which geological formation?

(a) Western Ghats Escarpment

(b) Andaman Subduction Volcanoes

(c) Lakshadweep Atoll Chain

(d) Arakan Yoma Fold Belt

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Narcondam and Barren Islands represent the inner volcanic arc along the 5,000 km-long Burma-Andaman-Java subduction complex.

Q7. How many villages were declared 'Adarsh Grams' under the PM-AJAY scheme as announced by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in October 2026?

(a) 12,450



(b) 15,200

(c) 18,093

(d) 22,110

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Under the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY), 18,093 villages were declared Adarsh Grams out of over 47,200 covered villages.

Section C: Economics & Banking

Q8. What is the duration of the nationwide Financial Inclusion Campaign launched by the Ministry of Finance in October 2026?

(a) 1 October to 15 November 2026

(b) 21 October to 31 December 2026

(c) 15 October to 31 January 2027

(d) 1 November to 28 February 2027

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The nationwide campaign targets 2.70 lakh Gram Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies from 21 October to 31 December 2026.

Q9. SEBI issued revised guidelines for the Closing Auction Session (CAS) framework in the cash equity segment, effective from which date?

(a) November 1, 2026

(b) December 7, 2026

(c) January 1, 2027

(d) March 31, 2027

Answer: (b)

Explanation: SEBI announced a revised CAS framework to improve market integrity and

price discovery, becoming operational on December 7, 2026.

Q10. What is the name of the medium-term supervisory framework operationalized by the Reserve Bank of India to strengthen oversight over commercial banks and NBFCs?

(a) Drishti 2.0

(b) Utkarsh 3.0

(c) Saksham 4.0

(d) Pragati 3.0

Answer: (b)

Explanation: RBI's *Utkarsh 3.0* sets out the medium-term supervisory framework to ensure systemic stability across regulated entities.

Q11. CARE Ratings executed share purchase agreements to sell a 19.8% stake in CareEdge Global IFSC to which two institutions?

(a) HDFC Bank and BSE

(b) State Bank of India (SBI) and NSE IFSC (NSEIX)

(c) Punjab National Bank and GIFT City IFSC

(d) ICICI Bank and India INX

Answer: (b)

Explanation: SBI and NSE IFSC (NSEIX) acquired a combined 19.8% stake in CARE Ratings' IFSC arm.

Q12. The Carbon Offset and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), featured in recent regulatory news, is administered by which international organization?

(a) UNEP

(b) WMO



(c) ICAO

(d) IATA

Answer: (c)

Explanation: CORSIA is monitored and regulated by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to stabilize net CO2 emissions from international aviation.

Section D: Defense & Space Technologies

Q13. Where was the 15th edition of the bilateral naval exercise INDRA-2026 between India and Russia conducted?

(a) Visakhapatnam, India

(b) Vladivostok and Sea of Japan

(c) St. Petersburg, Russia

(d) Chennai Coast, Bay of Bengal

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Exercise INDRA-2026 was held at Vladivostok and the Sea of Japan to build operational naval interoperability.

Q14. India signed a bilateral agreement establishing a mutual naval logistics support framework with which Southeast Asian country in October 2026?

(a) Philippines

(b) Vietnam

(c) Indonesia

(d) Malaysia

Answer: (b)

Explanation: India and Vietnam concluded a landmark mutual naval logistics exchange framework to deepen maritime defense ties.

Q15. The extended-range (ER) variant of which surface-to-surface guided missile was successfully test-fired by Pakistan in October 2026?

(a) Shaheen-III

(b) Babur-II

(c) Fatah-II

(d) Ghauri-I

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The Pakistan Army Rocket Force Command test-fired the extended-range variant of the Fatah-II surface-to-surface missile.

Q16. Which payload on board India's Aditya-L1 solar mission provided data for scientists to construct Doppler velocity images of the solar corona?

(a) SUIT

(b) PAPA

(c) VELC

(d) HELIOS

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC), the primary payload on Aditya-L1, supplied solar corona observations analyzed by Indian Institute of Astrophysics scientists.



Section E: Government Schemes & Agriculture

Q17. Under the PM-SETU scheme, the National Steering Committee approved Rs 1,194.92 crore for upgrading ITI clusters in which state?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Five Strategic Investment Plans worth Rs 1,194.92 crore were cleared to upgrade ITI clusters in Maharashtra under PM-SETU.

Q18. What is the name of the nutrient-rich purple potato variety developed by ICAR-CPRI in October 2026?

- (a) Kufri Neelkanth
- (b) Kufri Jamunia
- (c) Kufri Red Star
- (d) Kufri Purple Gold

Answer: (b)

Explanation: ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute developed *Kufri Jamunia*, a potato variety high in anthocyanins and antioxidants.

Q19. Which institution signed an MoU with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for indigenous cattle genomics?

- (a) National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB)
- (b) Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI)
- (c) Central Cattle Breeding Farm (CCBF)

(d) ICAR-NDRI

Answer: (a)

Explanation: NIAB Hyderabad and NDDB collaborated to deploy high-density gene chips for genomic selection in indigenous cattle breeds.

Q20. What is the central objective of the Samridhi Digital Literacy Mission approved by the Government?

- (a) Training Anganwadi workers in basic tablet usage
- (b) Digital skills empowerment for rural women entrepreneurs
- (c) Deploying AI tools across public distribution shops
- (d) Cyber safety awareness for primary school students

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The Samridhi Digital Literacy Mission empowers women-led rural micro-enterprises with digital, operational, and financial tools.

Section F: Sports & Awards

Q21. Indian women's cricket team won the T20I series 3-0 against Zimbabwe in October 2026. Who served as the full-time series captain for India?

- (a) Harmanpreet Kaur
- (b) Smriti Mandhana
- (c) Jemimah Rodrigues
- (d) Shafali Verma

Answer: (b)



Explanation: Smriti Mandhana captained the series sweep against Zimbabwe, during which Harmanpreet Kaur smashed 91* in the final game.

Q22. Indian archers Sheetal Devi and Payal Nag secured which medal in the Women's Compound Doubles event at the Asian Para Games 2026?

- (a) Gold
- (b) Silver
- (c) Bronze
- (d) Fourth Place

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Sheetal Devi and Payal Nag earned the silver medal in women's compound doubles archery after competing against China.

Q23. Government of India unveiled a Rs 100 commemorative coin and a Rs 5 postage stamp in October 2026 to honor which cultural personality?

- (a) Pandit Jasraj
- (b) Ghanshyam Dass Jain
- (c) Bhimsen Joshi
- (d) M. S. Subbulakshmi

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Union Government released a Rs 100 commemorative coin and Rs 5 stamp honoring musician, composer, and philanthropist Ghanshyam Dass Jain.

Section G: Environment & Important Days

Q24. National Police Commemoration Day is observed every year in India on 21st October to commemorate a 1959 incident at which location?

- (a) Nathu La, Sikkim
- (b) Hot Springs, Ladakh
- (c) Uri, Jammu & Kashmir
- (d) Longewala, Rajasthan

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Police Commemoration Day honors 10 CRPF jawans who laid down their lives fighting heavily armed Chinese troops at Hot Springs, Ladakh on October 21, 1959.

Q25. Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) Prevention Day is observed annually on which date?

- (a) 15 October
- (b) 21 October
- (c) 24 October
- (d) 31 October

Answer: (b)

Explanation: October 21 is designated globally to raise public awareness about the necessity of iodine for healthy physical and cognitive development.

Q26. Which historical milestone is commemorated on October 21 regarding India's freedom movement?

- (a) Launch of Quit India Movement
- (b) Azad Hind Government Foundation Day

(c) Non-Cooperation Movement Resolution

(d) Royal Indian Navy Mutiny

Answer: (b)

Explanation: On October 21, 1943, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose announced the establishment of *Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind* (Provisional Government of Free India) in Singapore.

Q27. The Green Diwali Campaign 2026 launched by WWF-India and MoEFCC promotes environmentally conscious celebrations under which national initiative?

(a) Mission LiFE

(b) PM Gati Shakti

(c) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan 2.0

(d) AMRUT Mission

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The Green Diwali Campaign encourages citizens to choose eco-friendly, cracker-free practices aligned with Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).

Section H: Obituaries & Miscellaneous GK

Q28. Prof. B. Madhusoodana Kurup, who passed away in October 2026, was the founding Vice-Chancellor of which university?

(a) Kerala Agricultural University (KAU)

(b) Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS)

(c) Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University (TNJFU)

(d) Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE)

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Prof. B. Madhusoodana Kurup was an acclaimed fisheries scientist and the founding Vice-Chancellor of KUFOS, Kochi.

Q29. World Osteoporosis Day, celebrated annually on October 20, was co-sponsored during its formative years (1998-1999) by which international organization?

(a) UNICEF

(b) WHO

(c) UNDP

(d) FAO

Answer: (b)

Explanation: World Health Organization (WHO) co-sponsored campaigns for World Osteoporosis Day in 1998 and 1999 to support bone health awareness.

Q30. Which South American nation was highlighted in regional geography analyses in October 2026 for holding the world's largest proven petroleum reserves?

(a) Brazil

(b) Colombia

(c) Venezuela

(d) Argentina

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Venezuela possesses the world's largest proven oil reserves (estimated over 300 billion barrels), situated primarily in the Orinoco Belt.

