1. National News & Polity

Parliamentary Functioning Reform & Delimitation Bill

- **Context:** Discussions intensified following the proposed Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill and Delimitation Bill, 2026, which aim to raise the maximum strength of the Lok Sabha from 550 to 850.
- **Key Details:** While the expansion aims to improve representation due to population growth, policy experts have raised concerns regarding reduced speaking time per MP, backbench legislative constraints (noting that only 2 of 729 Private Members' Bills reached discussion in the 17th Lok Sabha), and frequent legislative disruptions (such as the Lok Sabha functioning for only 15% of its scheduled time during the 2026 Monsoon Session). Key reform proposals include whip rationalisation (per the Dinesh Goswami Committee, 1990) and stricter judicial review of Money Bill certifications under Article 110.

Drug-Free India Target

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced a firm national target to make India completely drug-free by **December 31, 2029**, intensifying multi-agency coordination against narcotics trafficking.

2. International News & Agreements

Badr Memorandum of Understanding (Badr MoU)

- **Context:** Turkey, Qatar, Pakistan, and Indonesia signed a multilateral defense agreement known as the **Badr MoU** in Doha.
- **Implications:** This pact—alongside the broader Mecca Joint Defence Agreement—bolsters strategic cooperation among member states, expands technology and defense training sharing, and carries significant geopolitical implications for regional security dynamics in South and West Asia.

JAXA's MMX Mission to Phobos

- The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully launched the uncrewed **Martian Moons eXploration (MMX)** mission aboard an H3 rocket from the Tanegashima Space Center. The mission aims to explore Mars's moons, specifically to collect and return scientific samples from **Phobos**.

3. Economics, Banking & Finance

Core Industries Index Growth

- India's eight core infrastructure industries registered a strong **7.9% annual growth rate** in September 2026, reflecting robust momentum across key sectors like coal, steel, electricity, and cement.

RBI Treasury Bill Auction Rejections

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rejected all bids in a Treasury Bill auction as institutional investors demanded higher yields, signaling tight liquidity conditions and shifting yield expectations in the money market.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Trends

- **Singapore** emerged as the second-largest source of FDI into India during Q1 FY 2026–27, recording inflows of **US$5.22 billion**, heavily driven by cross-border financial transactions and corporate acquisitions.

4. Defense News & Exercises

Ministry of Defence Signs ₹770 Crore Contract with BEL

- The Ministry of Defence signed a **₹770 crore contract** with Bharat Electronics Limited

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(BEL) to procure advanced, improved radar systems for the Indian Army, significantly boosting air surveillance and tactical tracking capabilities along borders.

INDRA-2026 Naval Exercise

- The **15th edition of the bilateral naval exercise INDRA-2026** was conducted between the Indian Navy and the Russian Federation Navy at Vladivostok and the Sea of Japan. The exercise focused on strengthening maritime coordination, interoperability, and tactical proficiency.

Army Commanders' Conference

- The apex-level biannual **Army Commanders' Conference** commenced in New Delhi, focusing on strategic operational reviews, technology absorption, and the rollout of the new **Land Warfare Doctrine**.

5. Appointments, Awards & Honors

Category	Details
New Appointment	**Lavanya R. Mundayur** was appointed as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of **New India Assurance Company Limited (NIACL)**, approved by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.
SKOCH Gold Award 2026	Awarded to the **Coal Controller Organisation (CCO)** (Ministry of Coal) for its in-house Mine Repurposing Tool, **SUVIKALP**, recognizing excellence in digital operational efficiency and data-driven mine reclamation.
Lalit Kala Akademi Awards	President Droupadi Murmu presented the prestigious Lalit Kala Akademi Awards to prominent visual artists at the **65th National Exhibition of Art**, celebrating excellence in Indian contemporary visual arts.

6. Government Schemes & Initiatives

PM-SETU Scheme (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded Industrial Training Institutes)

- **Context:** The National Steering Committee (NSC) approved five Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs) worth **₹1,194.92 crore** to modernize Industrial Training Institute (ITI) clusters across states like Maharashtra and Odisha.
- **Focus:** Upgrading physical and digital infrastructure, aligning curricula with modern industrial demand, and executing Training of Trainers (ToT) programs through National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).

7. Sports Current Affairs (Asian Para Games 2026)

- **Sachin Khilari:** Retained his gold medal and created a new games record with a massive throw of **15.87 meters** in the **men's shot put F46** event.
- **Podium Sweep in Shot Put F46:** India dominated the event by sweeping all three medals—**Sachin Khilari (Gold), Mohd Yasser (Silver), and Parveen (Bronze)**.

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- **Praveen Kumar:** Secured a gold medal in the men's high jump T44/64 category with a record-breaking performance, while compatriot Banti clinched the silver medal. Overall, India's stellar medal tally elevated the delegation to the top tier of the tournament standings.

8. Important Days, Conferences & Art/Culture

- **7th Agrivoltaics World Conference (New Delhi):** Commenced in New Delhi, focusing on dual land-use frameworks that integrate solar photovoltaic power generation with agricultural crop cultivation (noting estimates by TERI that 30% of India's cropland is suitable for agrivoltaics).
- **National SARAS Mela:** Hosted outside the Delhi-NCR region for the first time in **Vijayawada**, providing a major marketing platform for rural women artisans, self-help groups (SHGs), and indigenous handicraft traditions.
- **Police Commemoration Day:** Observed annually on **October 21** to pay homage to police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

9. Exam Practice Corner (MCQs)

Q1. The 'SUVIKALP' initiative, which recently won the SKOCH Gold Award 2026, is associated with which sector?

A) Renewable energy generation

B) Mine repurposing and closed coal mine management

C) Digital payment grievance redressal

D) Deep-sea mineral exploration

Q2. JAXA's Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission, launched using an H3 rocket, aims to study and collect samples from which celestial body?

A) Europa (Jupiter's moon)

B) Phobos (Mars's moon)

C) Titan (Saturn's moon)

D) Deimos (Mars's moon)

Q3. Sachin Khilari, who recently made headlines by winning a gold medal and setting a games record, represents India in which sports discipline?

A) Javelin Throw

B) Shot Put

C) High Jump

D) Powerlifting

(Answers: Q1-B, Q2-B, Q3-B)

30 Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)

National & International News

Q1. Which three sites were added to India's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List in October 2026?

A) Kaziranga, Sundarbans, and Majuli

B) Baratang Karst-Mud Volcano Complex, Barren Island, and Narcondam Island

C) Dholavira, Lothal, and Rakhigarhi

D) Lonar Lake, Chilika Lake, and Loktak Lake

Answer: B

Explanation: India added the Baratang Karst-Mud Volcano Complex, Barren Island (India's only active volcano), and Narcondam Island to UNESCO's Tentative List, taking the country's total to 81 sites.

Q2. National Police Commemoration Day in India honours the martyrs of which historic conflict site?

A) Nathu La Pass (1967)

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B) Longewala (1971)

C) Hot Springs, Ladakh (1959)

D) Tiger Hill, Kargil (1999)

Answer: C

Explanation: National Police Commemoration Day commemorates ten CRPF personnel killed during an ambush by Chinese forces at Hot Springs, Ladakh on October 21, 1959.

Q3. What is the maximum fellowship amount announced under the IndiaAI Mission for Postgraduate students?

A) ₹50,000

B) ₹1,000,000

C) ₹2,000,000

D) ₹200,000

Answer: D

Explanation: The Ministry of Electronics & IT announced IndiaAI fellowships of up to ₹1 lakh for undergraduate students and ₹2 lakh for postgraduate students.

Q4. Which country announced plans to deploy military personnel to restore internal order amid rising social unrest in late October 2026?

A) Germany

B) France

C) United Kingdom

D) Canada

Answer: B

Explanation: France prepared military deployment to reinforce civil security ahead of expected widespread weekend demonstrations.

The Economic Times

Economics & Banking

Q5. What was the growth rate of India's Index of Core Industries (ICI) in September 2026?

A) 5.9%

B) 6.8%

C) 7.9%

D) 8.4%

Answer: C

Explanation: India's core sector output accelerated to 7.9% in September 2026, up from a revised 5.9% in August 2026.

Q6. Which core industry registered the highest individual growth rate (18.4%) within the September 2026 Index of Core Industries?

A) Electricity

B) Iron Ore

C) Refinery Products

D) Coal

Answer: B

Explanation: Iron ore led the core sector growth by expanding 18.4% year-on-year in September 2026.

Q7. Which regulatory authority launched the digital retirement platform "NPS Central"?

A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

C) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

D) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

Answer: C

Explanation: PFRDA launched "NPS Central" to offer unified online management of pension accounts and investments.

Q8. Under India's Flexible Inflation Targeting Framework (FITF), what is the target Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate and its tolerance band?

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A) 3% with ±1% band

B) 4% with ±2% band

C) 5% with ±2% band

D) 6% with ±1% band

Answer: B

Explanation: The FITF mandate sets a target CPI inflation rate of 4% with a tolerance range between 2% and 6% (4% ± 2%).

Q9. What target has India set for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) blending in international flights by 2027?

A) 0.5%

B) 1%

C) 5%

D) 10%

Answer: B

Explanation: India has specified an indicative target of 1% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) blending for international flights by 2027.

Defense News

Q10. What is the value of the defense procurement contract signed between the Ministry of Defence and BEL for Low-Level Light-Weight Radars (LLLR-I)?

A) ₹550 crore

B) ₹620 crore

C) ₹770 crore

D) ₹980 crore

Answer: C

Explanation: The Ministry of Defence signed an approximately ₹770 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for LLLR-I radars.

Q11. What is the primary operational objective of the newly procured Improved Low-Level Light-Weight Radars (LLLR-I)?

A) Submarine detection in shallow waters

B) Deep-space satellite tracking

C) Aerial target tracking and micro/mini-drone counter-measures

D) Artillery shell trajectory calculation

Answer: C

Explanation: The LLLR-I system is designed to detect, track, and prioritize low-flying target aircraft and mini/micro unmanned aerial systems (drones).

Q12. How does the Badr Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) differ from the Mecca Pact?

A) The Badr MoU is focused on cyber-defense only

B) The Badr MoU focuses on defense manufacturing, training, and industrial capability, whereas the Mecca Pact includes a collective defense clause

C) The Badr MoU is signed exclusively by NATO countries

D) The Badr MoU involves nuclear technology transfers

Answer: B

Explanation: Unlike the Mecca Pact's collective defense principle ("an attack on one is an attack on all"), the Badr MoU focuses on industrial capabilities, military training, and joint manufacturing.

Sports

Q13. Where are the 5th Asian Para Games 2026 taking place?

A) Hangzhou, China

B) Jakarta, Indonesia

C) Aichi-Nagoya, Japan

D) Tashkent, Uzbekistan

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Answer: C

Explanation: The 5th Asian Para Games are hosted in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Q14. Who won the Gold medal in the Men's Shot Put F46 event at the Asian Para Games 2026 with a throw of 15.87 metres?

A) Mohd Yasser

B) Parveen Kumar

C) Sachin Khilari

D) Sumit Antil

Answer: C

Explanation: Sachin Khilari recorded a throw of 15.87 m to secure Gold in the Men's F46 Shot Put.

Q15. Deepthi Jeevanji set a Games record at the Asian Para Games 2026 in which athletics category?

A) Women's 100m T11

B) Women's 400m T20

C) Women's Long Jump T47

D) Women's 800m T34

Answer: B

Explanation: Deepthi Jeevanji won Gold in the Women's 400m T20 event, establishing a Games record time of 56.36 seconds.

Q16. Praveen Kumar set a Games record at the Asian Para Games 2026 in which field event?

A) Men's T64 High Jump

B) Men's F57 Javelin Throw

C) Men's F42 Discus Throw

D) Men's Long Jump T63

Answer: A

Explanation: Praveen Kumar won Gold and broke the Games record in the Men's T64 High Jump.

Q17. Kasthuri Rajamani won a Silver medal for India at the Asian Para Games 2026 in which sport?

A) Archery

B) Powerlifting (67 kg)

C) Badminton

D) Table Tennis

Answer: B

Explanation: Kasthuri Rajamani won Silver in the women's 67 kg powerlifting competition.

Government Schemes & MoUs

Q18. In which year was the Regional Connectivity Scheme "UDAN" launched, which completed 10 years of operation in 2026?

A) 2014

B) 2015

C) 2016

D) 2018

Answer: C

Explanation: Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) was officially launched in October 2016 to enhance regional air connectivity.

Q19. Agrivoltaics projects combine solar power generation with which activity on the same land parcel?

A) Aquaculture

B) Crop cultivation

C) Wind turbine generation

D) Cattle grazing exclusively

Answer: B

Explanation: Agrivoltaics integrates solar PV energy generation directly above or alongside active crop cultivation on agricultural land.

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Q20. Under which existing flagship central scheme are agrivoltaics projects primarily being integrated for financial support?

A) PM-KISAN

B) PM-KUSUM

C) PM-PRANAM

D) PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

Answer: B

Explanation: Financial support for higher-cost agrivoltaic installations is being targeted via PM-KUSUM or dedicated sub-schemes.

Appointments, Awards & Honors

Q21. Who was awarded the Karnataka Janapada Award 2026 for contributions to folk art?

A) Vasundhara Doraswamy

B) Devadas Chimakode

C) Shantanu Moitra

D) Anant Nag

Answer: B

Explanation: Folk artist Devadas Chimakode was selected for the prestigious Karnataka Janapada Award 2026.

Q22. Who presented the awards to artists at the 65th National Exhibition of Art in October 2026?

A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi

B) Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

C) President Droupadi Murmu

D) Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar

Answer: C

Explanation: President Droupadi Murmu conferred honors on artists recognized at the 65th National Exhibition of Art curated by Lalit Kala Akademi.

Q23. Who won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature?

A) Jon Fosse

B) Han Kang

C) Anne Carson

D) Annie Ernaux

Answer: C

Explanation: Canadian poet and scholar Anne Carson was awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Q24. Which Indian mathematician received the 2026 Ramanujan Prize for outstanding research in Number Theory?

A) Neena Gupta

B) Mahesh Kakde

C) Manjul Bhargava

D) Akshay Venkatesh

Answer: B

Explanation: Indian mathematician Mahesh Kakde was awarded the 2026 Ramanujan Prize for contributions to number theory.

Important Days, Art, Culture & Anniversaries

Q25. Revolutionary freedom fighter Ashfaqulla Khan, whose birth anniversary is observed on October 22, was a key member of which organization?

A) Ghadar Party

B) Abhinav Bharat Society

C) Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)

D) Indian National Army

Answer: C

Explanation: Ashfaqulla Khan was a prominent revolutionary fighter belonging to the Hindustan Republican Association (later HSRA)

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and was martyred following the Kakori Train Action.

Q26. Which freedom fighter's death anniversary falls on October 23, known for promoting handicrafts and handlooms in post-independence India?

A) Matangini Hazra

B) Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay

C) Sucheta Kripalani

D) Aruna Asaf Ali

Answer: B

Explanation: October 23 commemorates the death anniversary of Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, who led the revival of Indian handicrafts, handlooms, and theatre institutions.

Q27. What is the significance of Narcondam Island, recently placed on India's UNESCO Tentative List?

A) It contains India's only living coral barrier reef

B) It is a volcanic island famous for the endemic Narcondam Hornbill

C) It is the largest mangrove habitat in the Bay of Bengal

D) It is an ancient Harappan port site

Answer: B

Explanation: Narcondam Island is a dense, volcanic island home to the endangered Narcondam Hornbill, found nowhere else on Earth.

Q28. Barren Island, featured in current affairs on October 22, 2026, holds what unique distinction in South Asia?

A) Lowest point below sea level

B) Only confirmed active volcano

C) Highest density of saltwater crocodiles

D) Only freshwater lagoon in the open ocean

Answer: B

Explanation: Barren Island, located in the Andaman Sea, is the only confirmed active volcano in South Asia.

Q29. International Day of the Snow Leopard is observed globally on which date?

A) October 21

B) October 22

C) October 23

D) October 24

Answer: C

Explanation: International Day of the Snow Leopard is celebrated on October 23 to promote conservation of high-mountain habitats and wild cat species.

Q30. Which international observance coincides with October 24 annually across all UN member states?

A) World Food Day

B) United Nations Day

C) World Cities Day

D) International Day of Non-Violence

Answer: B

Explanation: United Nations Day is observed on October 24 to mark the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945.

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