

1. International News

- **25th SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting:** Held from October 19–20, 2026, in Tajikistan, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit focused on expanding regional economic cooperation, digital trade, and joint security frameworks among member states.
- **US-India Energy Dynamics & Venezuelan Oil:** US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to Reliance Industries' Jamnagar refinery in October 2026 highlighted discussions on expanding Indian imports of Venezuelan crude, weighed against technical constraints like high sulphur content, specialized refinery compatibility, and landed transport costs.
- **Indian Embassy Advisory in Paris:** Amid localized curfews and protests in France, the Indian Embassy in Paris issued an urgent safety advisory for Indian nationals and travellers, urging them to steer clear of large gatherings.

2. National & Regional News

- **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC):** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, notified 100 constituencies for 8 LAHDCs, effectively doubling the electoral strength from the previous 52 seats to enhance grassroots democratic representation.
- **ISRO's Upcoming NVS-03 Launch:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scheduled the launch of the NVS-03 navigation satellite onboard GSLV Mk II from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, aimed at reinforcing India's navigation infrastructure and real-time train tracking systems.

3. Economics and Banking

- **Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign:** The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, launched a nationwide campaign running from October 21 to December 31, 2026, covering 2.70 lakh Gram Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies to promote digital fraud prevention and banking schemes under 'Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar'.
- **CBDT Form 173A Introduction:** The Central Board of Direct Taxes introduced a new reporting Form 173A for taxpayers claiming specific income-tax exemptions on interest and capital gains earned from government securities.
- **AU Small Finance Bank & Paytm Partnership:** AU SFB partnered with Paytm to launch India's first RuPay Credit Card featuring family lounge access.
- **Jio Platforms IPO:** Jio Platforms' massive ₹30,213-crore initial public offering saw heavy enthusiasm, with its retail and institutional portions seeing stellar subscription rates.

4. Defense News & Security

- **MoD and BEL Contract for Radars:** The Ministry of Defence signed a ₹770 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for Improved Low-Level Light-Weight Radars for the Indian Army.
- **SIMBEX-26 Naval Exercise:** The 33rd edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-2026) commenced in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, fostering interoperability between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy.
- **DRDO's ARDE Partnerships:** ARDE shortlisted SSS Defence and Kalyani Group as Development-cum-Production Partners (DcPPs) for indigenous small arms. Counter-

drone technologies like the "Jwala" system are gaining private sector traction.

nationwide green campaign advocating cracker-free, eco-friendly festivities.

5. Science, Technology & Space

- **AI-Based Sourashtra TTS Models:** The Digital India BHASHINI Division (MeitY) and IISc Bengaluru jointly developed Text-to-Speech (TTS) models for the Sourashtra language.
- **NASA's PUFFINS Mission:** Indian astronomer Dr. Ramya Manjunath Anche of the University of Arizona was selected as Principal Investigator for NASA's Astrophysics Pioneers "PUFFINS" mission.

6. Sports News

- **Asian Para Games 2026:** Indian para-archer Sheetal Devi bagged two gold medals on the same day, triumphing in the women's individual compound final against Singapore's Nur Syahidah Alim, pushing India's medal tally high.
- **Squash Success:** Anahat Singh defeated sixth-seed Salma Hany to advance to the Silicon Valley Open semifinals.

7. Awards, Books, Obituaries & Campaigns

- **Books & Authors:** Former Prasar Bharati Chairman Surya Prakash released veteran broadcaster Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey's book, "The Evolution of TV News in India: From Doordarshan to Digital Disruption – An Insider's Account".
- **Obituaries:** Vummidi Ethiraj, the legendary jeweller, craftsman, and patriarch of Vummidi Bangaru Jewellers (who famously crafted the historic Sengol), passed away at the age of 99.
- **Green Diwali Campaign 2026:** WWF-India's EIACP, supported by MoEFCC, launched a

30 Practice MCQs for UPSC, SSC, Banking, and Railways

Q1. The 25th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting was held in which country?

- A) Kazakhstan
- B) Tajikistan
- C) Uzbekistan
- D) Kyrgyzstan

Answer: B) Tajikistan

Q2. Which Indian institution partnered with the Digital India BHASHINI Division to develop Text-to-Speech models for the Sourashtra language?

- A) IIT Madras
- B) IISc Bengaluru
- C) IIT Bombay
- D) IISER Pune

Answer: B) IISc Bengaluru

Q3. The Department of Financial Services (DFS) launched a nationwide Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign to run between October 21 and which date in 2026?

- A) November 30, 2026
- B) December 15, 2026
- C) December 31, 2026
- D) January 26, 2027

Answer: C) December 31, 2026

Q4. Which Indian state/UT saw its Lieutenant Governor notify 100 constituencies for 8 Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC)?

- A) Jammu and Kashmir
- B) Ladakh

C) Andaman and Nicobar

D) Puducherry

Answer: B) Ladakh

Q5. The Ministry of Defence signed a ₹770 crore contract with which organization for Improved Low-Level Light-Weight Radars for the Indian Army?

A) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

B) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)

C) DRDO

D) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

Answer: B) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)

Q6. Which edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-26) commenced in Visakhapatnam in October 2026?

A) 25th

B) 30th

C) 33rd

D) 40th

Answer: C) 33rd

Q7. Who is named as the Principal Investigator for NASA's Astrophysics Pioneers PUFFINS mission?

A) Dr. K. Sivan

B) Dr. Ramya Manjunath Anche

C) Dr. Ritu Karidhal

D) Dr. Muthayya Vanitha

Answer: B) Dr. Ramya Manjunath Anche

Q8. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) introduced which new reporting form for tax exemptions on government securities?

A) Form 15G

B) Form 173A

C) Form 26AS

D) Form 16A

Answer: B) Form 173A

Q9. Which small finance bank partnered with Paytm to launch India's first RuPay Credit Card with family lounge access?

A) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

B) Equitas Small Finance Bank

C) AU Small Finance Bank

D) Capital Small Finance Bank

Answer: C) AU Small Finance Bank

Q10. Vummidi Ethiraj, who recently passed away at the age of 99, was renowned for being what?

A) Architect of Parliament

B) Legendary Jeweller and craftsman of the historic Sengol

C) Former Chief Election Commissioner

D) Pioneer of Indian Cinema

Answer: B) Legendary Jeweller and craftsman of the historic Sengol

Q11. Who authored the book titled "The Evolution of TV News in India: From Doordarshan to Digital Disruption – An Insider's Account"?

A) Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey

B) Rajdeep Sardesai

C) Barkha Dutt

D) Karan Thapar

Answer: A) Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey

Q12. Sheetal Devi, who won two gold medals on a single day at the Asian Para Games 2026, is associated with which sport?

A) Shooting

B) Archery

C) Athletics

D) Badminton

Answer: B) Archery

Q13. ISRO scheduled the launch of the NVS-03 navigation satellite using which launch vehicle?

A) LVM3

B) PSLV-C59

C) GSLV Mk II

D) SSLV-D3

Answer: C) GSLV Mk II

Q14. WWF-India's EIACP launched which campaign in October 2026 to promote cracker-free celebrations?

A) Clean Delhi Campaign

B) Green Diwali Campaign

C) Eco-Fest India

D) Blue Sky Initiative

Answer: B) Green Diwali Campaign

Q15. Anahat Singh, who made headlines by reaching the Silicon Valley Open semifinals, plays which sport?

A) Tennis

B) Table Tennis

C) Squash

D) Badminton

Answer: C) Squash

Q16. Which US official visited Reliance Industries' Jamnagar refinery in October 2026 to discuss oil trade dynamics?

A) Antony Blinken

B) Marco Rubio

C) Jake Sullivan

D) Janet Yellen

Answer: B) Marco Rubio

Q17. ARDE (under DRDO) shortlisted SSS Defence and which other company as Development-cum-Production Partners (DcPPs) for small arms?

A) Tata Advanced Systems

B) Kalyani Group

C) Mahindra Defence

D) L&T Defence

Answer: B) Kalyani Group

Q18. What is the name of the private sector counter-drone interceptor missile system showcased and tested recently in India's defence market?

A) Astra

B) Jwala

C) Trishul

D) Akash-NG

Answer: B) Jwala

Q19. Which country's embassy issued a safety advisory for Indian nationals in October 2026 due to localized curfews and protests?

A) Germany

B) France

C) United Kingdom

D) Canada

Answer: B) France

Q20. The 2026 GEM Gender Report on education access was released by which international organization?

A) UNICEF

B) UNESCO

C) UNDP

D) World Bank

Answer: B) UNESCO

Q21. World Iodine Deficiency Day is observed annually on which date?

- A) October 21
- B) October 23
- C) October 25
- D) October 28

Answer: A) October 21

Q22. The digital initiative 'BHASHINI' functions under which Indian Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Culture
- B) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- C) Ministry of Science and Technology
- D) Ministry of Education

Answer: B) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

Q23. Jio Platforms' initial public offering (IPO) had a total size of approximately how much?

- A) ₹15,000 crore
- B) ₹22,500 crore
- C) ₹30,213 crore
- D) ₹50,000 crore

Answer: C) ₹30,213 crore

Q24. Satish Dhawan Space Centre, from where ISRO conducts its major rocket launches, is located in:

- A) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- B) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- C) Balasore, Odisha
- D) Bengaluru, Karnataka

Answer: B) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

Q25. The Saurashtra language, for which new AI Text-to-Speech models were built, is primarily

associated with speakers rooted historically in which state?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Odisha
- D) West Bengal

Answer: B) Tamil Nadu (Note: Saurashtra-speaking communities live significantly in parts of Tamil Nadu like Madurai)

Q26. Which organization acts as the nodal agency implementing EIACP Programme Centre-Resource Partner networks alongside MoEFCC?

- A) TERI
- B) WWF-India
- C) CSE India
- D) Wildlife Trust of India

Answer: B) WWF-India

Q27. The financial campaign slogan/theme associated with the Department of Financial Services saturation drive includes which of the following?

- A) 'Bachat se Suraksha'
- B) 'Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar'
- C) 'Digital Dhan Vikas'
- D) 'Sabka Khata, Sabka Vikas'

Answer: B) 'Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar'

Q28. The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC) system was expanded to how many total constituencies under the recent notification?

- A) 52 constituencies
- B) 75 constituencies
- C) 100 constituencies
- D) 120 constituencies

Answer: C) 100 constituencies

Q29. Who released veteran broadcaster Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey's book on TV journalism in New Delhi?

- A) Anurag Thakur
- B) Surya Prakash
- C) N. Ram
- D) Apurva Chandra

Answer: B) Surya Prakash

Q30. The term 'SIMBEX' represents a bilateral naval exercise between India and which nation?

- A) Seychelles
- B) Singapore
- C) Sweden
- D) Switzerland

Answer: B) Singapore

