

1. First BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi Adopts "Delhi Declaration"

- Held on 13 October 2026, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah; all 7 BIMSTEC members participated.
- BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation): formed by the Bangkok Declaration, 1997; Secretariat: Dhaka.

2. PM GatiShakti National Master Plan Completes 5 Years

- Launched on 13 October 2021; covers 58 Ministries/Departments and all 36 States/UTs with over 23,493 data layers.
- Nodal body: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry; technology partner: BISAG-N, Gandhinagar.

3. PM-SETU: ₹440 Crore Shareholders' Agreement Signed to Upgrade 9 ITIs in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh

- PM-SETU outlay: ₹60,000 crore to upgrade 1,000 Government ITIs and 5 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).

4. 21st Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) Sets March 2027 Deadline for "One Nation One Port Process"

- Concluded in Mumbai on 13 October 2026; chaired by Union Ports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal
- All ports to join the Maritime Single Window "Sagar Setu" by March 2027.

5. PM Narendra Modi Addresses First Bloomberg New Economy Forum Held in India, New Delhi (13–15 October 2026)

- 8th edition of the forum overall; theme of PM's address: "Power to Empower".

6. National Saras Aajeevika Mela is being held from 13–31 October 2026 at Punnami Ghat, Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh) – the first time outside Delhi-NCR; organised by the Ministry of Rural Development.

7. IMF Raises India's FY27 Growth Forecast to 7.0% (from 6.4%)

- India FY28 forecast: 7.0%; India's CPI inflation projected at 5.0% in 2026.
- World growth: 3.1% in 2026 (3.5% in 2025) and 3.4% in 2027; China: 4.5% in 2026.
- IMF Chief Economist: Silvana Tenreyro; IMF founded 1944 (Bretton Woods); HQ Washington, D.C.

8. India's Internet Subscribers Cross 111.41 Crore (End-June 2026): TRAI

- Up from 109.28 crore at end-March 2026; tele-density rose from 93.26% to 94.31%.

9. LIC Launches Three New Plans (On Sale from 19 October 2026)

- New Jeevan Dhara-II (Plan 892) – deferred annuity plan with guaranteed annuity rates for life.
- Health Shield (Plan 907) – fixed-benefit health plan with daily hospital cash; 15-year term.
- New Cancer Cover (Plan 908) – 25% of sum assured for early-stage and 100% for major-stage cancer, plus monthly income of 1% for 10 years.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC): CEO – R. Doraiswamy.

10. NPCI Defers 0.4% MDR on Select UPI Merchant Payments above ₹2,000 until after Diwali

- The charge was to start on 15 October 2026; new date to be notified separately; person-to-person (P2P) payments remain free.
- Planned cap of ₹300 for transactions of ₹75,000 or more; MDR – Merchant Discount Rate; P2M – Person to Merchant.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI): set up 2008; HQ Mumbai.

11. North East Bankers' Conclave 3.0 Held at Mizoram University, Aizawl

12. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government is open to suggestions on removing long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax ahead of the next Budget

13. Keralam Tables Senior Citizens (Care and Protection of Rights) Bill, 2026

- Introduced by CM V.D. Satheesan on 13 October 2026; provides for registration of elder-care centres and Senior Citizen Protection Units.
- Cruelty to senior citizens punishable with up to 3 years' imprisonment; elderly are 18.2% of Kerala's population.

14. UN Human Rights Council Elections: 15 Members Elected for 2027–2029

- Elected by the UN General Assembly on 13 October 2026, including Nepal (173 votes), Japan, Kuwait, Jordan, Germany, Brazil and Ukraine; India was not a candidate.
- UNHRC: 47 members with 3-year terms; HQ Geneva; established 2006.

15. India–Russia Naval Exercise INDRA-2026 Begins at Vladivostok (13–18 October 2026)

- Indian Navy represented by INS Sahyadri; includes harbour and sea phases.

16. Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026: Federico Veronesi (Italy) Wins for “The Aftermath”

- Image shows a female elephant carrying her dead calf in Namibia’s Huab River Valley; 62nd edition with over 65,000 entries.
- Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year: Oscar Whitfield (14, UK).

17. Jindal Steel’s “Dakshata” safety programme won the 17th worldsteel Steelie Award in the “Excellence in People” category, announced by the World Steel Association in New Delhi on 12 October 2026.

18. L. Murugan resigned as Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, and as a Rajya Sabha member from Madhya Pradesh, on 13 October 2026.

19. Jeevan L. Rai was appointed India’s para-shooting coach for the Asian Para Games 2026.

20. Padma Shri Awardee A.V.S. Raju, Founder of Nagarjuna Construction Company (NCC) Ltd, Passes Away

21. Peter Nagy, American artist and founder of the Nature Morte art gallery (New York, 1982; re-established in New Delhi in 1997), passed away

22. Important Days and Themes

- International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction – 13 October; 2026 theme: “Resilience Starts at Home”; UNDRR (UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction); based on the Sendai Framework 2015–2030; day started by UNGA in 1989.

23. Shubman Gill and Shafali Verma Named ICC Players of the Month for September 2026

- Gill’s 5th Player of the Month award – the most by a male player; he scored 223* off 133 balls against West Indies at Guwahati.
- Shafali Verma’s 2nd award; scored 360 runs in 7 T20Is at a strike rate of 184.61, including her maiden T20I hundred (100* off 49) in the Asian Games semi-final.

24. Sports Ministry Approves 166 Athletes for 5th Asian Para Games (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, 18–24 October 2026)

- Total delegation of 275 across 10 disciplines; para-athletics has the largest squad (62).