

1. PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates 10th India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi

- Theme: “Scale Without Boundaries”; four pillars – Srishti, Samvardhan, Sashakt and Suraksha.
- Union Minister of Communications: Jyotiraditya Scindia – data cost has fallen from ₹268 per GB (2014) to ₹8.

2. Health Ministry Launches “JOSH Teams” (Joint Squad for Health) under TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan

- Launched by Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 8 October 2026, with Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of State (MoS) for Defence Sanjay Seth.
- Sickle cell anaemia elimination target: 2047; ₹10 crore Bhagwan Birsa Munda Prize for a new sickle cell drug (announced June 2025).
- Anti-Leprosy Day: 30 January.

3. Centre Caps Trade Margins on Non-Scheduled Anti-Cancer Drugs at 30%

- Covers about 110 cancer drugs (including about 35 patented drugs); prices may fall by up to 70%.
- Patients expected to save about ₹2,500 crore a year.

4. Ministry of Rural Development Notifies 375 Permissible Works under VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 (up 41% from 266)

- The Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] Act, 2025 replaced the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005; in force nationwide from 1 July 2026.
- Launched on 2 July 2026 at Mukkavaripallu (Obulavaripalle mandal), Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh, by CM N. Chandrababu Naidu and Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, with Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan.
- Permissible works expanded from 266 to 375 (notified around 6 October 2026) under four pillars:
 - Water Security: 128 works.
 - Core Rural Infrastructure: 111 works.
 - Livelihood Infrastructure: 98 works.
 - Extreme Weather / Disaster Preparedness: 38 works.
- Guaranteed work raised from 100 to 125 days a year.
- Wages: national floor ₹300/day; average wage rose from ₹298.8 to ₹327.4/day (₹450/day in 3 Sikkim gram panchayats).

5. PM E-DRIVE Scheme Completes Two Years; Extended to 31 March 2028

- PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) of the Ministry of Heavy Industries completed 2 years
- Total scheme outlay: ₹11,900 crore; about 26.59 lakh Electric Vehicles (EVs) sold under the scheme (as of June 2026).
- Electric two-wheeler (e-2W) subsidy cut to ₹2,500/kWh (from ₹5,000/kWh), capped at ₹5,000 per vehicle; ex-factory price cap ₹1.5 lakh; e-2W allocation ₹2,767 crore.

6. Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Launches National PNG Drive 3.0 and MyPNG Portal

- Launched on the 20th Foundation Day of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) on 1 October 2026.
- Targets by 31 March 2027: 50 lakh new domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections and about 40 lakh inactive connections to be made active.

7. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0 for MSMEs

- Approved on 5 May 2026; 100% guarantee for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) (90% for non-MSMEs and airlines), up to ₹2.55 lakh crore.
- Implemented by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC); valid till 31 March 2027.
- ECLGS was first launched in May 2020 as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package.
- International MSME Day: 27 June.

8. The Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme Extended till 31 December 2026

9. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Reconstitutes 24 Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees

- Each committee has 31 members (21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha).
- Chairs: Bhartruhari Mahtab – Finance; Shashi Tharoor – External Affairs; Radha Mohan Singh – Defence.

10. Press Council of India (PCI) Reconstituted; 13 Journalists Nominated

- PCI Chairperson: Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Prakash Desai.

11. MeitY Launches Centre for AI in Keralam (CAIK) in Thiruvananthapuram

- Launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under the IndiaAI Mission; implemented by Digital University Kerala, with a first cohort of 15 AI startups.

12. Odisha: Shree Jagannath International Airport, Puri, Gets Final Environmental and CRZ Clearance

- Greenfield airport on 471.348 hectares at Sipasarubali, Puri; estimated cost ₹5,631 crore; Phase-1 capacity 4.6 million passengers per year.
- CRZ – Coastal Regulation Zone.

13. Madhya Pradesh: Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve Becomes India's 3rd Cheetah Habitat

- MP Chief Minister Mohan Yadav released two cheetahs, Vyom and Neera (from Kuno), into Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (spread over Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts) on 7 October 2026, the last day of Wildlife Week.
- Other cheetah sites: Kuno National Park (Sheopur) and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (Mandsaur) – all three in Madhya Pradesh.
- Project Cheetah began in 2022; India now has 60 cheetahs (as stated by the CM).
- India has 58 tiger reserves; Madhya Pradesh has the most (9).

14. Ladakh Launches India's First High-Altitude Snow Leopard Wildlife Safari

- Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena flagged off the safari at Choglamsar, Leh, on 7 October 2026.
- Ladakh has 477 of India's estimated 718 snow leopards.

15. Gujarat's Ambaji Temple Mohanthal Prasad Receives Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- GI tags are granted under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999; GI Registry: Chennai.

16. Uttarakhand Declared India's 6th Fully Literate State

- Declared on 8 July 2026 under ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) – New India Literacy Programme.
- Earlier fully literate states: Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

17. Centre Cuts FY 2026–27 Gross Market Borrowing to ₹15.99 Lakh Crore

- The Ministry of Finance, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) (around 25 September 2026), cut gross market borrowing for FY 2026–27 from ₹17.20 lakh crore (Budget Estimates – BE) to ₹15,99,506 crore.
- Net market borrowing unchanged at about ₹11.7 lakh crore.
- Treasury Bill (T-bill) borrowing for October–December 2026: ₹2.99 lakh crore; Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for H2: ₹50,000 crore.

18. India's External Debt Rises to US\$ 778.2 Billion at End-June 2026

- RBI data (30 September 2026): up US\$ 15.4 billion from US\$ 762.8 billion at end-March 2026.
- External debt-to-GDP ratio: 20.8% (from 20.9%).

19. 57th GST Council Meeting Held in New Delhi; No Change in GST Rates

- Held on 8 October 2026 under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister; the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is a constitutional body under Article 279A.
- GST rate changes will henceforth be decided once a year, effective from the next financial year.
- Arrest powers under GST to be removed; prosecution threshold raised from ₹1 crore to ₹5 crore.
- No notices for tax below ₹10,000; refund applications to be acknowledged within 10 days (instead of 15).

- Input services become eligible for inverted-duty refunds from 1 November 2026; most other changes effective 1 April 2027.

- GST was introduced on 1 July 2017 through the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016.

20. UPI 30% Market Share Cap: Deadline 31 December 2026

- Third-Party Application Providers (TPAPs) on Unified Payments Interface (UPI), such as PhonePe, must bring their market share below 30% by 31 December 2026.
- NPCI: set up in 2008; HQ Mumbai; UPI launched in April 2016.

21. RBI MPC Raises Repo Rate by 25 Basis Points to 5.50%; Stance Shifts to “Calibrated Tightening”

- The 63rd meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) – 4th bi-monthly review of FY 2026–27 – was held from 5–7 October 2026, chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- Policy repo rate raised by 25 basis points from 5.25% to 5.50% (unanimous, 6–0); stance changed from neutral to “calibrated tightening” (vote 4–2).
- Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) corridor:
 - Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) (floor): 5.25%.
 - Policy Repo Rate: 5.50%.
 - Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) (ceiling) and Bank Rate: 5.75%.
- Unchanged: Reverse Repo 3.35%; Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) 3%; Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) 18%.
- FY 2026–27 projections:
 - Real GDP growth: 7.1% (Q2 7.2%, Q3 6.9%, Q4 6.8%; Q1 FY 2027–28: 7.1%); actual Q1 FY 2026–27 growth: 7.8%.
 - Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation: 5.2% (Q2 4.9%, Q3 6.0%, Q4 5.7%; Q1 FY 2027–28: 5.6%); August 2026 CPI inflation: 4.8%.
- MSF: overnight borrowing for banks up to 2% of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL); SDF: deposit facility without collateral.
- MPC members: Sanjay Malhotra (Governor), Poonam Gupta (Deputy Governor), Indranil Bhattacharyya (Executive Director) – RBI; Dr Nagesh Kumar, Saugata Bhattacharya, Prof. Ram Singh – external members; next MPC meeting: 2–4 December 2026.
- MPC is a 6-member statutory body under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act, 1934; RBI: established 1 April 1935; HQ Mumbai.

22. Key Data from RBI Governor’s Monetary Policy Statement (7 October 2026)

- Bank credit growth: 18.1% year-on-year (YoY) (as of 15 September 2026); system-level Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR): 17.87% (June 2026).
- Current Account Deficit (CAD): 0.5% of GDP (US\$ 4.2 billion) in Q1 FY 2026–27; net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): US\$ 13.8 billion (April–August 2026).
- Forex reserves: US\$ 734.6 billion (as of 2 October 2026).

23. RBI Makes Account Aggregators Interoperable; Bank Deposits to Be Added to CAS

- Announced on 7 October 2026: customers can share data from any information provider through the Account Aggregator (AA) of their choice.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)-regulated depositories will add bank deposit details to the Consolidated Account Statement (CAS) through AAs.
- Both measures to be in place by 31 December 2026; India has 17 licensed Non-Banking Financial Company – Account Aggregators (NBFC-AAs).

24. RBI Imposes All-Inclusive Directions on Two Co-operative Banks; Withdrawals Barred

- Banks: The Tiruvalla Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Tiruvalla (Kerala) and Sri Mahatma Basaveshwar Co-operative Bank Ltd., Afzalpur (Karnataka).
- Imposed under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, from close of business on 8 October 2026 for 6 months.
- Eligible depositors can claim up to ₹5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI.

25. RBI imposed a monetary penalty of ₹5 lakh on The Monghyr-Jamui Central Co-operative Bank Ltd, Bihar, for not uploading KYC (Know Your Customer) records to the Central KYC Records Registry (CKYCR) on time.

26. RBI Removes Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934

- PPBL's licence was cancelled on 24 April 2026 under Section 22(4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949; the Delhi High Court ordered its winding up (8 and 22 July 2026); former State Bank of India (SBI) Chief General Manager Girikumar M. Nair appointed official liquidator.
- 5 payments banks now operate: Airtel (first), India Post Payments Bank (100% government-owned), Fino, Jio and NSDL.
- Fino Payments Bank got RBI in-principle approval (5 December 2025) to become a Small Finance Bank – the first payments bank to do so.
- Payments bank norms: minimum paid-up capital ₹100 crore; deposits up to ₹2 lakh per customer; no lending; set up on the recommendation of the Nachiket Mor Committee.

27. Small Savings Interest Rates Unchanged for October–December 2026 (Q3 FY 2026–27)

- Decided by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance:
 - Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS): 8.2%.
 - Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY): 8.2%.
 - National Savings Certificate (NSC): 7.7%.
 - Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP): 7.5% (doubles in 115 months).
 - Public Provident Fund (PPF): 7.1%.

28. Marcellus Investment Managers received final Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approval to start a mutual fund business (announced 30 September 2026).

29. WTO Raises 2026 World Merchandise Trade Growth Forecast to 3.9% (from 1.9%)

- World Trade Organization (WTO): established 1 January 1995; HQ Geneva, Switzerland; 166 members; Director-General: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

30. India Joins 14 Economies in Joint Statement on Excess Capacity and Non-Market Policies

- Signed on 7 October 2026 on the sidelines of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Trade Committee; released by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).
- OECD: founded 1961; HQ Paris, France.

31. PM Modi Addresses 2nd India–EFTA Prosperity Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

- European Free Trade Association (EFTA): Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland; founded 1960; HQ Geneva.

32. India and Ghana Sign Two MoUs in Accra

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) – CSIR-Crops Research Institute (Ghana): high-yielding tomato varieties and value addition for cassava and yam.
- ICAR Director-General: M.L. Jat; Union Agriculture Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- Ghana – Capital: Accra; Currency: Cedi.

33. EAM S. Jaishankar Visits Côte d'Ivoire (7 October 2026)

- Côte d'Ivoire – Capital: Yamoussoukro; Currency: West African CFA franc.

34. Five Countries Seek to Join India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

- Oman, Egypt, Lebanon, Greece and Cyprus have expressed interest, confirmed on 6 October 2026 by Gérard Mestrallet, French President's Special Envoy for IMEC; expansion needs unanimous approval of the founding partners.
- IMEC was announced at the 18th G20 Summit, New Delhi (2023); founding partners: India, USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union.

35. 3rd Sagarmathan – The Great Oceans Dialogue Held in New Delhi

- Theme: "Blue Geographies, New Aspirations: Trade, Technology, and Trust at Sea".

36. WWF Living Planet Report 2026: Monitored Wildlife Populations Declined 73.2% (1970–2022)

- WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature): founded 1961; HQ Gland, Switzerland.

37. Ministry of Defence Signs ₹661.50 Crore Contract with BrahMos Aerospace for Naval Fire Control Systems

38. India Exports Akash Air Defence System to Tajikistan and Turkmenistan

- Akash is an indigenous surface-to-air missile system developed by DRDO.

39. Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 Hosted by IAF at Jodhpur, Rajasthan

- 2nd edition of the multinational air exercise, held from 26 September to 12 October 2026; theme: "Power in Partnership".

40. 12th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026) Held off Paradip, Odisha

- Inaugurated by MoS Defence Sanjay Seth; sea phase held on 8 October 2026; conducted by the Indian Coast Guard (Director General: Paramesh Sivamani).

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

- Announced on 7 October 2026 by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences "for the discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis".
 - Henri B. Kagan: Université Paris-Sud / Paris-Saclay, France.
 - Kenso Soai: Tokyo University of Science, Japan.
- Helps produce drugs with the correct molecular "handedness" (chirality).
- Prize money: 12 million Swedish kronor (SEK).

42. Nobel Prize in Literature 2026 Awarded to Anne Carson (Canada)

- Announced on 8 October 2026 by the Swedish Academy (Permanent Secretary: Ingrid Carlberg) for her "bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature".
- Canadian poet, essayist and classicist born in Toronto; notable works: "Autobiography of Red" (1998), "Nox" (2010), "Norma Jeane Baker of Troy" (2019).
- Prize money: 12 million Swedish kronor; previous Canadian winner: Alice Munro (2013).

43. Mahesh Kakde Wins ICTP Ramanujan Prize 2026; Sarah Peluse Wins SASTRA Ramanujan Prize 2026

- ICTP Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2026 (announced 7 October 2026): Prof. Mahesh Kakde (Indian Institute of Science – IISc, Bengaluru) for work on noncommutative Iwasawa theory and the Gross–Stark and Brumer–Stark conjectures – 5th Indian winner.
- SASTRA Ramanujan Prize 2026: Prof. Sarah Peluse (Stanford University); to be presented on 22 December at Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.
- ICTP Ramanujan Prize: by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP, Trieste, Italy), International Mathematical Union (IMU) and Department of Science and Technology (DST, India); for mathematicians from developing countries under 45; US\$ 10,000; since 2005.
- SASTRA Ramanujan Prize: by SASTRA University; age 32 or below; US\$ 10,000; since 2005.
- Abel Prize ("Nobel of Mathematics") is awarded by Norway.

44. 94th Indian Air Force (IAF) Day Celebrated on 8 October 2026 at Air Force Station Hindon, Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

- Theme: "Indian Air Force – Infallible, Impervious and Precise".
- Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Amar Preet Singh serves till 31 October 2026; Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit will be the 29th Chief of the Air Staff.

45. Important Days and Themes

- World Sight Day – 8 October 2026 (second Thursday of October); campaign: "Love Your Eyes"; led by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB).
- World Octopus Day – 8 October.
- World Post Day – 9 October; theme: "One postal network, infinite possibilities"; marks the founding of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 (HQ: Bern, Switzerland).
- World Cotton Day – 7 October; proposed by the Cotton Four (C4) – Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali; recognised by the UN in 2021; theme: "Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation, and Partnership".
- World Cerebral Palsy Day – 6 October; theme: "Unique and United".

- World Space Week – 4–10 October; theme: “Rocket Revolution”.
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month – October; 2026 theme: “Every story is unique, every journey matters”.

46. Mahesh Muralidhar Pai Takes Charge as MD & CEO of South Indian Bank

- South Indian Bank: founded 1929; HQ Thrissur, Kerala (ESAF Small Finance Bank is also headquartered in Thrissur).

47. Veteran Actor-Filmmaker Nana Patekar Passes Away at 75 in Goa

48. Sawan Barwal Wins Asian Games Marathon Silver with National Record

- Won silver in the men’s marathon on 26 September 2026 at Aichi-Nagoya (Japan) in 2:11:37 – a national record (bettering his own 2:11:58, Rotterdam, April 2026).

49. Pramod Bhagat and Bhavina Patel Named India’s Flag-Bearers for Asian Para Games 2026

- 5th Asian Para Games to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from 18–24 October 2026.
- Pramod Bhagat (Paralympic champion) – para badminton; Bhavina Patel – para table tennis.
- Paralympic Committee of India President: Devendra Jhajharia.

50. Olympic bronze medallists Swapnil Kusale and Sarabjot Singh will lead India at the ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) World Cup (Rifle/Pistol) in Cairo, Egypt, from 8–16 October 2026.

51. Smriti Mandhana was appointed full-time white-ball (ODI and T20I) captain of the Indian women’s cricket team on 6 October 2026, replacing Harmanpreet Kaur.

52. Shooter Rajeshwari Kumari Elected to OCA Athletes Commission

- Unanimously elected to the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Athletes Commission, representing South Asia – the 2nd Indian after Shiva Keshavan (Vice-Chairman).
- OCA: founded 1982; HQ Kuwait City, Kuwait.

53. Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) Wins Japan Open 2026

- Beat Jiri Lehecka 7-6(4), 6-4 at Ariake Coliseum, Tokyo on 6 October 2026 – his 3rd title of 2026 and 27th career title.

54. Novak Djokovic (Serbia, 39) won his 7th China Open title in Beijing on 6 October 2026 after Alex de Minaur retired injured – his 102nd career title.

55. Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing) Wins Bahrain Grand Prix Held at Sepang, Malaysia