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- Important Days & Themes
- RBI, SEBI & Banking News
- Economy & Finance
- Government Schemes & Policies
- State News
- National News
- International News
- Appointments
- Reports & Rankings
- Summits & Conferences
- Science & Technology
- Obituaries
- Defence
- Sports & Games
- Awards & Honours
- Agreements & MoUs
- Books & Authors
- Miscellaneous

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IMPORTANT DAYS

Q1. What is the 2026 focus of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, observed on 17 October?

17 अक्टूबर को मनाए जाने वाले अंतरराष्ट्रीय गरीबी उन्मूलन दिवस का 2026 का मुख्य विषय क्या है?

(a) Safe Homes for All
(b) Food Security for Every Child
(c) Digital Education for All
(d) Universal Employment
(e) None of these

Answer: (a) Safe Homes for All

Explanation:

1. The specific **2026 focus** is **Safe Homes for All**. It draws attention to the relationship between housing conditions, social exclusion and poverty.

2. The observance falls on **17 October** each year. Its wider 2026–2028 theme is **United for Peace and Human Rights**.

3. The UN General Assembly designated the day in **1992**, and the UN observance began in 1993. Its origins are linked to a large gathering in Paris in 1987.

4. Unsafe or unaffordable housing can affect health, schooling, sanitation and access to employment. Remember the annual focus separately from the wider multi-year theme.

RBI, SEBI & BANKING

Q2. REC received an RBI no-objection certificate for its proposed merger into which institution in October 2026?

अक्टूबर 2026 में REC को किस संस्था में प्रस्तावित विलय के लिए RBI का अनापत्ति प्रमाणपत्र मिला?

(a) SIDBI
(b) NABARD
(c) IIFCL
(d) Power Finance Corporation
(e) None of these

Answer: (d) Power Finance Corporation

Explanation:

1. The proposal is to merge **REC Limited into Power Finance Corporation (PFC)**. The reported **RBI NOC** was issued on **16 October 2026**.

2. Both institutions finance the power sector, including electricity generation, transmission and distribution. The proposal brings together two public sector financial institutions.

3. The restructuring is proposed under **Sections 230–232** of the **Companies Act, 2013**, which provide a framework for arrangements and mergers.

4. A no-objection certificate is one regulatory milestone. It does not, by itself, establish that the transaction has become effective or all legal requirements have been completed.

Q3. From which date will the approved amalgamation of Emirates NBD's Indian branches with RBL Bank take effect?

एमिरेट्स NBD की भारतीय शाखाओं का RBL बैंक में स्वीकृत समामेलन किस तिथि से प्रभावी होगा?

(a) 1 November 2026
(b) 1 December 2026
(c) 1 January 2027
(d) 1 April 2027
(e) None of these

Answer: (b) 1 December 2026

Explanation:

1. The reported effective date is **1 December 2026**. The **Reserve Bank of India** approved the amalgamation on **16 October 2026**.

2. The transaction integrates the **Indian branches of Emirates NBD Bank P.J.S.C.** with **RBL Bank**. The announcement date and implementation date are different.

3. The update follows a reported 60% acquisition in RBL Bank through an approximately ₹26,000-crore capital infusion in June 2026.

4. Amalgamation combines specified banking operations under the approved framework. For examinations, retain the parties, regulator and effective date, rather than treating October approval as immediate implementation.

ECONOMY & FINANCE

Q4. What was India's foreign exchange reserve level for the week ended 9 October 2026?

9 अक्टूबर 2026 को समाप्त सप्ताह में भारत का विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार कितना था?

(a) $785.706 billion
(b) $734.605 billion
(c) $726.027 billion
(d) $717.449 billion
(e) None of these

Answer: (c) $726.027 billion

Explanation:

1. The reported reserve stock was **$726.027 billion** for the week ended **9 October 2026**. It declined by **$8.578 billion** during that week.

2. This was the fifth consecutive weekly fall. The report compares it with the **$785.706 billion** peak recorded on 4 September 2026.

3. Reserve movements can reflect both foreign-exchange transactions and **valuation changes**. A fall should therefore not automatically be equated with an identical amount of dollar sales.

4. India's reserve components are foreign currency assets, gold, SDRs and its reserve position in the IMF. Special Drawing Rights are international reserve assets created by the IMF.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & POLICIES

Q5. What is the approved new name of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)?

राष्ट्रीय सामाजिक सहायता कार्यक्रम (NSAP) का स्वीकृत नया नाम क्या है?

(a) Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana

(b) Pradhan Mantri Jan Suraksha Mission
(c) National Disability Inclusion Programme
(d) Bharat Social Pension Mission
(e) None of these

Answer: (a) Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana

Explanation:

1. The Cabinet approved the name **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana**. The associated five-year outlay is ₹**53,428 crore** for **2026–27 to 2030–31**.

2. The disability benchmark has been reduced from 80% to **40%**, while the minimum age requirement for the disability-pension component has been removed.

3. Reported monthly central disability assistance is ₹375 below age 80 and ₹625 from age 80. These figures concern the specified component and should not be applied to every social-assistance benefit.

4. The constitutional link is **Article 41**, a Directive Principle concerning public assistance in circumstances such as old age and disability, within the State's economic capacity.

Q6. Under PM-AJAY, how many villages had been declared Adarsh Grams by 8 September 2026?

PM-AJAY के तहत 8 सितंबर 2026 तक कितने गाँव आदर्श ग्राम घोषित किए गए थे?

(a) 46,944
(b) 47,200
(c) 17,300
(d) 18,093
(e) None of these

Answer: (d) 18,093

Explanation:

1. The reported number is **18,093 Adarsh Grams** as of **8 September 2026**. This is a status-date figure, rather than a target for all future years.

2. **PM-AJAY** stands for Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana. It is implemented by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

3. The programme supports the socio-economic advancement of **Scheduled Caste communities** through village development, livelihoods, skills and educational access.

4. The source separately reports over 47,200 villages covered and 46,944 development works completed. Coverage, works completed and villages declared Adarsh Grams are different indicators.

Q7. What is the approved outlay of the revised Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations for 2026–27 to 2030–31?

राष्ट्रीय खेल महासंघों को सहायता की संशोधित योजना के लिए 2026–27 से 2030–31 तक कितना परिव्यय स्वीकृत है?

(a) ₹5,386.74 crore
(b) ₹7,386.74 crore
(c) ₹8,736.47 crore
(d) ₹6,738.74 crore
(e) None of these

Answer: (b) ₹7,386.74 crore

Explanation:

1. The approved allocation is ₹**7,386.74 crore** for **2026–27 to 2030–31**. It belongs to the scheme assisting **National Sports Federations**.

2. The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** issued revised operational guidelines covering athlete preparation, coaching, sports science and international participation.

3. The measures include Olympic Training Centres and assistance of up to ₹**50 crore** for hosting specified international events and the National Games.

4. The five-year scheme outlay is different from the upper assistance limit for an eligible event. The programme also supports indigenous sports and international sporting cooperation.

NATIONAL NEWS

Q8. The reported Supreme Court ruling on children's internet access links the right primarily with which constitutional provisions?

बच्चों की इंटरनेट पहुँच पर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का रिपोर्ट किया गया निर्णय मुख्यतः किन संवैधानिक प्रावधानों से जुड़ा है?

(a) Articles 14 and 32
(b) Articles 25 and 26
(c) Articles 21 and 19(1)(a)
(d) Articles 341 and 342
(e) None of these

Answer: (c) Articles 21 and 19(1)(a)

Explanation:

1. The reported constitutional basis is **Article 21** read with **Article 19(1)(a)**. These connect life and personal liberty with freedom of speech and expression.

2. The update describes the Court opposing blanket restrictions on children's internet access while recognising risks of exploitation and abuse online.

3. Suggested safeguards include **parental supervision**, **child-friendly modes** and private accounts. Proportionate protection differs from an indiscriminate restriction on access.

4. Internet access can support education, communication and reporting of abuse. The question tests the constitutional provisions cited in the reported ruling; its safeguards should be understood alongside the right.

Q9. Which fundamental right was linked with dignified menstrual health in Dr Jaya Thakur v. Government of India?

डॉ. जया ठाकुर बनाम भारत सरकार मामले में गरिमापूर्ण मासिक धर्म स्वास्थ्य को किस मौलिक अधिकार से जोड़ा गया?

(a) Right to life under Article 21
(b) Freedom of religion under Article 25
(c) Right against exploitation under Article 23
(d) Right to constitutional remedies under Article 32
(e) None of these

Answer: (a) Right to life under Article 21

Explanation:

1. The reported ruling places dignified menstrual health within the **right to life under Article 21**. It relates dignity to practical access to essential facilities.

2. The January 2026 directions concern **government and**

private schools. Requirements include functional toilets, clean water, sanitary napkins and safe disposal.

3. On **16 October 2026**, the Court sought written **compliance reports** from States and Union Territories. Compliance means demonstrating implementation of the earlier directions.

4. The news is about follow-up monitoring of a prior ruling. Distinguish the date of the original decision from the date when the Court sought implementation reports.

APPOINTMENTS

Q10. Whose proposed appointment as IDBI Bank chairman remained subject to RBI approval in the October 2026 report?

अक्टूबर 2026 की रिपोर्ट में IDBI बैंक के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसकी प्रस्तावित नियुक्ति RBI की मंजूरी के अधीन थी?

(a) Rakesh Sharma
(b) SCL Das
(c) Tuhin Kanta Pandey
(d) N S Kannan
(e) None of these

Answer: (d) N S Kannan

Explanation:

1. The proposed chairman is **N S Kannan**, formerly MD and CEO of **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance**. His appointment was still subject to **RBI approval**.

2. The proposal is linked in the report with **Fairfax's planned acquisition** of IDBI Bank. A proposal should not be presented as an already completed appointment.

3. Kannan previously held senior roles at ICICI Bank, including executive director and chief financial officer. These roles provide the professional background stated in the report.

4. **Rakesh Sharma** was reported to continue as IDBI Bank's MD and CEO during the transition. Chairman and managing director/CEO are separate leadership positions.

Q11. Who was appointed chairman of the Financial Services Institutions Bureau for a three-year term in October 2026?

अक्टूबर 2026 में वित्तीय सेवा संस्थान ब्यूरो का अध्यक्ष तीन वर्ष के लिए किसे नियुक्त किया गया?

(a) N S Kannan
(b) SCL Das
(c) Sudhakar Dalela
(d) Rakesh Sharma
(e) None of these

Answer: (b) SCL Das

Explanation:

1. The appointee is **SCL Das**, a retired **1992-batch IAS officer**. His reported term as **FSIB chairman** is **three years**.

2. The Bureau recommends candidates for senior leadership roles in public sector banks, financial institutions and insurance companies. Recommendation is distinct from the final appointment process.

3. FSIB functions under the **Department of Financial Services** in the Ministry of Finance. The reconstitution also includes six part-time members.

4. FSIB replaced the Banks Board Bureau in 2022. Its broader remit is useful for distinguishing it from the earlier bank-focused leadership-selection body.

Q12. Sudhakar Dalela was appointed India's next ambassador to which country in October 2026?

अक्टूबर 2026 में सुधाकर दलेला को किस देश में भारत का अगला राजदूत नियुक्त किया गया?

(a) Bhutan
(b) Bangladesh
(c) Nepal
(d) Myanmar
(e) None of these

Answer: (c) Nepal

Explanation:

1. The destination is **Nepal**. The Ministry of External Affairs announced the appointment of **Sudhakar Dalela** on **16 October 2026**.

2. Dalela belongs to the 1993 batch of the Indian Foreign Service. His earlier assignments include ambassador to Bhutan and Secretary (Economic Relations) in the MEA.

3. A receiving state's consent to the proposed head of mission is called **agrément**. The relevant diplomatic rule is in **Article 4** of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961.

4. An appointment announcement and assumption of charge are separate stages. For revision, associate the officer with Nepal and the term agrément with receiving-state consent.

REPORTS & RANKINGS

Q13. What was India's rank in the October 2026 Henley Passport Index update?

अक्टूबर 2026 के हेनले पासपोर्ट इंडेक्स अपडेट में भारत का स्थान क्या था?

(a) 84th
(b) 81st
(c) 85th
(d) 55th
(e) None of these

Answer: (a) 84th

Explanation:

1. The source places India at **84th**, alongside Algeria and Mauritania. Indian passport holders had access to **55 destinations** without obtaining a visa in advance.

2. **Singapore** led the ranking with access to **193 destinations**. Japan, South Korea and the UAE shared second position in the reported update.

3. The index uses **IATA data** and compares mobility across 227 destinations. Passport strength concerns entry access, rather than the physical or security quality of a passport.

4. India's rank improved from 85th in October 2025 even though its accessible-destination count fell from 57 to 55. A relative rank can improve while an absolute indicator declines.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

Q14. Where was the World Health Summit 2026 held?

विश्व स्वास्थ्य शिखर सम्मेलन 2026 कहाँ आयोजित किया गया?

(a) Geneva, Switzerland
(b) Paris, France
(c) Rome, Italy
(d) Berlin, Germany
(e) None of these

Answer: (d) Berlin, Germany

Explanation:

1. The venue was **Berlin, Germany**. The reported theme was **From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health**.

2. The summit brought together policymakers, researchers and international organisations. Discussions connected responses to immediate health crises with stronger long-term health systems.

3. Announcements included a **€250 million** women's-health initiative for Bangladesh and a **US$100 million** stillbirth-prevention programme involving the Gates Foundation and Wellcome Leap.

4. Germany also committed €10 million through the Global Financing Facility for maternal and child health. Keep the currencies and purposes separate when revising the commitments.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q15. Where did ISRO conduct the Gaganyaan Crew Module–Service Module separation tests in October 2026?

अक्टूबर 2026 में ISRO ने गगनयान के क्रू मॉड्यूल–सर्विस मॉड्यूल पृथक्करण परीक्षण कहाँ किए?

(a) SDSC, Sriharikota
(b) VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram
(c) URSC, Bengaluru
(d) SAC, Ahmedabad
(e) None of these

Answer: (b) VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram

Explanation:

1. The tests were conducted at **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**, on **16 October 2026**.

2. They evaluated **Crew Module–Service Module separation** and the mechanical shocks experienced by critical spacecraft systems during that event.

3. Tested systems included avionics, inertial navigation, thermal protection and crew-module uprighting arrangements. Umbilical connections also have to separate reliably.

4. The work supports **Gaganyaan**, India's human-spaceflight programme. The reported G1 uncrewed mission was targeted for 2026; the test itself is a preparation milestone, not a completed crewed flight.

OBITUARIES

Q16. Veteran composer Deva, whose death was reported in the update, was associated primarily with which film industry?

अपडेट में जिन वरिष्ठ संगीतकार देवा के निधन की खबर थी, वे मुख्यतः किस फिल्म उद्योग से जुड़े थे?

(a) Malayalam cinema
(b) Marathi cinema
(c) Tamil cinema
(d) Bengali cinema
(e) None of these

Answer: (c) Tamil cinema

Explanation:

1. The source reports the death of **Deva**, a prominent **Tamil film composer**, at the age of **75**. He worked in film music for nearly four decades.

2. He was known for bringing the energetic **gana style** into mainstream Tamil cinema and composing songs and background scores for more than 400 films.

3. His well-known films include **Annamalai** and Baashha, both starring Rajinikanth. Other cited credits include Panchathanthiram and Pammal K. Sambandam.

4. His son Srikanth Deva is also a music director. For an obituary question, prioritise the person's field, principal language industry and major contribution.

DEFENCE

Q17. Which country announced testing of the AI-powered Zam-2.0 torpedo in October 2026?

अक्टूबर 2026 में AI-संचालित Zam-2.0 टॉरपीडो के परीक्षण की घोषणा किस देश ने की?

(a) North Korea
(b) South Korea
(c) Japan
(d) Russia
(e) None of these

Answer: (a) North Korea

Explanation:

1. The announcement came from **North Korea** through the **Korean Central News Agency (KCNA)**. The reported test date was **15 October 2026**.

2. The system is called **Zam-2.0**. The country claims AI-assisted target detection and guidance in a precision-guided underwater weapon.

3. The announcement also described propulsion improvements following extensive testing. A torpedo travels underwater and is distinct from a cruise missile.

4. The technical specifications and **claimed AI capabilities remain independently unverified**. Retain that qualification rather than treating the announcement as independent proof of performance.

Q18. Which Indian Army regiment won gold at Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026?

एक्सरसाइज कैम्ब्रियन पेट्रोल 2026 में भारतीय सेना की किस रेजिमेंट ने स्वर्ण पदक जीता?

(a) Sikh Regiment
(b) Rajput Regiment
(c) Gorkha Rifles
(d) Assam Regiment
(e) None of these

Answer: (d) Assam Regiment

Explanation:

1. The winner named in the report is the **Assam Regiment** of the **Indian Army**. It earned a **gold medal** in the military patrolling exercise.

2. **Exercise Cambrian Patrol** is organised by the British Army in **Wales, United Kingdom**. It began in 1959.

3. The exercise assesses navigation, reconnaissance, leadership, communication and casualty evacuation, alongside endurance and decision-making under pressure.

4. It is popularly described as the Olympics of Military Patrolling. The medal reflects performance against demanding military tasks; the exercise should not be confused with an athletics competition.

Q19. Which company is developing the JWALA-MK1 micro-missile for counter-drone interception?

ड्रोन रोधी इंटरसेप्शन के लिए JWALA-MK1 माइक्रो-मिसाइल किस कंपनी द्वारा विकसित की जा रही है?

(a) Bharat Dynamics Limited
(b) IG Defence
(c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
(d) Bharat Electronics Limited
(e) None of these

Answer: (b) IG Defence

Explanation:

1. The developer is **IG Defence**. Its **JWALA-MK1** micro-missile is intended to intercept hostile **unmanned aerial vehicles**.

2. The source describes a short-range surface-to-air system using a **hard-kill** approach: physically destroying the target through interception.

3. This differs from electronic countermeasures that disrupt a drone's communication or navigation. It is intended to work within the **GRID Defend** command-and-control ecosystem.

4. The reported milestone concerned rocket-motor testing and progress towards experimental trials. The system remains under development; this is not a statement of completed operational deployment.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Q20. Raji Doshi won the 2026 3M Young Scientist Challenge for which project?

राजी दोशी ने किस परियोजना के लिए 2026 का 3M यंग साइंटिस्ट चैलेंज जीता?

(a) Ocean Shield
(b) AquaBalance
(c) ALKACORE
(d) BlueCarbon Net
(e) None of these

Answer: (c) ALKACORE

Explanation:

1. The project is **ALKACORE**. **Raji Doshi**, an Indian-origin student from Connecticut, received the reported **$25,000 prize**.

2. The project studies the combination of **macroalgae** cultivation and aragonite, a form of calcium carbonate, in relation to **ocean acidification**.

3. Ocean acidification occurs as seawater absorbs atmospheric carbon dioxide and its pH falls. It can affect organisms that form calcium-carbonate shells and skeletons.

4. The challenge is organised by 3M and Discovery Education for middle-school students. The project involves modelling and chemistry analysis; an award does not by itself establish commercial-scale environmental effectiveness.

Q21. In which category did Jindal Steel win a 2026 Steelie Award for its safety initiative?

अपनी सुरक्षा पहल के लिए जिंदल स्टील ने 2026 का स्टीलि अवॉर्ड किस श्रेणी में जीता?

(a) Excellence in People
(b) Innovation of the Year
(c) Excellence in Sustainability
(d) Excellence in Communications
(e) None of these

Answer: (a) Excellence in People

Explanation:

1. The category is **Excellence in People**. The initiative is **Dakshata Engineering Safety: One Duty Position at a Time**.

2. The **World Steel Association** announced the winners of the **17th Steelie Awards** on 12 October 2026 in **New Delhi**.

3. The programme links deployment to job-specific training, assessment and reassessment of competence. It also uses digital monitoring and AI-enabled video analytics to identify hazards.

4. The central distinction is between attending a training programme and demonstrating the competence required for a particular duty. For revision, associate the company, category, organiser and initiative.