RICE EDUCATION

Daily

Current Affairs

FOR RAILWAYS EXAMS

DATE

31 Oct 2026

Daily Current Affairs for Railway

Awards Winner

IIFA Digital Awards 2026 (OTT & Streaming)



- **Key winners in the digital category include** : The Ba***ds of Bollywood winning Best Series and Best Direction (Series) for Aryan Khan, while Baramulla took Best Picture (Digital Film). Acting honors went to Jaideep Ahlawat and Tillotama Shome for Paatal Lok Season 2, Abhishek Banerjee for Stolen, Sanya Malhotra for Mrs.

Appointments & Persons in News

National Appointments (India)



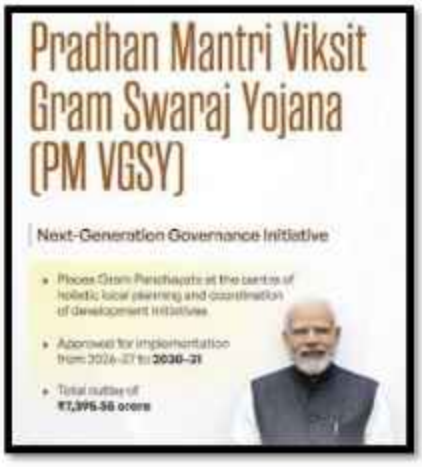
- **High Court Judicial Appointments:** The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, cleared and approved proposals for the appointment of 11 persons as judges across the High Courts of Chhattisgarh (6 judges) and Madhya Pradesh (5 judges)
- **FICCI President-Elect:** The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) appointed Vijay Sankar, Chairman of The Sanmar Group, as its President-Elect for 2026–27 at its National Executive Committee Meeting held in Mumbai

Persons in News & Notable Demises



- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (151st Birth Anniversary):** Homage was paid across the country to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 151st birth anniversary, observed nationwide as *Rashtriya Ekta Diwas* (National Unity Day); Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes at the Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat .
- **Barbara Barrie:** Oscar-nominated veteran American actress Barbara Barrie passed away at the age of 95 .
- **Indian Former Prime Minister Smt**. Indira Gandhi Assasinated on that day.

Government Schemes, Policies & Welfare Initiatives



- **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) Revision:** The Union Government revised the sub-schemes under the NSAP framework for implementation from FY 2026–27 to 2030–31. Key amendments include reducing the benchmark disability pension threshold from 80% to 40% and removing the minimum age criterion entirely to extend eligibility from birth
- **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY):** The Union Cabinet approved the centrally sponsored scheme with an overall financial outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore for a five-year period (FY27 to FY31) to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions and modernize grassroots digital governance

- **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY-IV):** Under Batch-1 of PMGSY-IV for FY 2026–27, the Ministry of Rural Development sanctioned 45 all-weather rural road connectivity projects in Mizoram to upgrade remote border-state road networks
- **Doorstep KYC Network by India Post & UTI AMC:** India Post (Department of Posts) signed an MoU with UTI Mutual Fund to expand pan-India doorstep Know Your Customer (KYC) facilitation by leveraging the Grameen Dak Sevak (GDS) network
- **TRAI Telecom AI Framework:** The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued draft guidelines titled "Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Telecommunication Networks and Provision of Telecommunication Services" to regulate network security and automated fraud detection .
- The Union Government **extended the customs duty exemption on cotton imports** up to 31 December 2026. The exemption, which was due to expire on 31 October 2026, was extended to ensure adequate cotton availability for the Indian textile and apparel industry.



- **Bharat Parv 2026 (Ekta Nagar, Gujarat):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Bharat Parv 2026' at Ekta Nagar in Narmada district, Gujarat, showcasing cultural diversity and indigenous crafts under **the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat framework**

Railways & Transport

- Indian Railways is introducing the Varanasi–New Delhi Vande Bharat Sleeper service. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw are scheduled to flag it off from Varanasi on 31 October. The route includes Prayagraj, Kanpur Central, Aligarh and Ghaziabad. The inaugural special is scheduled to cover about 759 km; regular commercial-operation details are to be announced separately.

Sports & Games

- **World Wrestling U23 Championships** Manisha Bhanwala won **gold** in the women's 59 kg category at the Wrestling World Championships, defeating Abigail Nette of the United States 8–6 in the final. India secured a record four medals in the women's competition: Manisha Bhanwala (gold, 59 kg), Kajal Dhochak (silver, 76 kg), Neelam Sirohi (silver, 50 kg) and Tanu Sharma (bronze, 72 kg)



- India defeated Japan 4–1 in the Men's Asian Champions Trophy in Jalandhar, Punjab, registering its third consecutive win. Abhishek Nain scored two field goals and was named Player of the Match; Vishnukant Singh and captain Harmanpreet Singh scored one goal each .
- Both the Indian men's and women's teams entered the finals of the inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship being held in Ahmedabad. India's women defeated Sri Lanka 39–14 in their semi-final

Science, Space & Technology

- **ISRO GSLV-F18 / NVS-03 Mission Success:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully placed the 2,232 kg second-generation navigation satellite **NVS-03** into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) aboard the **GSLV-F18** launch vehicle from SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota. The satellite features an indigenous Rubidium atomic clock and introduces L1 band civilian signals alongside L5 and S bands.



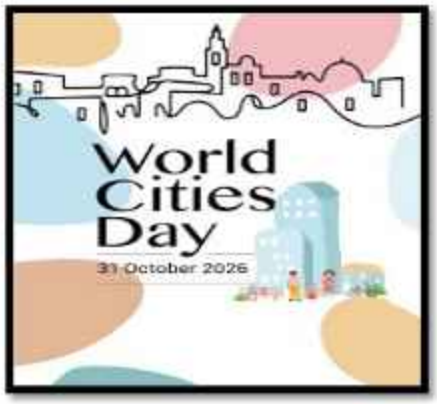
- **Next Generation Corvettes (NGC) Project Clearance:** The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved an indigenous naval defense acquisition project valued at over ₹40,000 crore to construct 8 Next Generation Corvettes for the Indian Navy through Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
- **India–Oman Tactical Defence Tech MoU:** Indigenous defense technology startup IG Defence signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oman's MSA Global LLC to co-develop, test, and localize autonomous defense and counter-drone systems across Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations.

Summits, Bills & International Affairs



- **Bhutan – Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) at Sintaphu Lake:** Water released from the lake flowed downstream through the Mo Chhu (also reported as Mo/Mofu River) towards the Sankosh river system.
- **G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting:** External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar addressed the first plenary session of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, asserting that diplomacy must take precedence over military conflicts and that global counter-terrorism consensus must not be compromised.
- **Maritime Security Alert in the Strait of Hormuz:** The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways confirmed the safety of all 27 Indian seafarers aboard the Panama-flagged crude oil tanker MT LOUISE 1 after it was targeted in a projectile strike in the Strait of Hormuz.
- **Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein State Visit:** Hereditary Prince Alois, Acting Head of State of Liechtenstein, concluded his high-level official state visit to India to deepen bilateral partnerships in financial technology, renewable investments, and educational exchanges.

Important Days & Themes



- **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) – October 31:** Celebrated nationwide on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (instituted in 2014); the 2026 celebrations also marked the 150th year of Vande Mataram .
- **World Cities Day 2026 – October 31:** Global observance designated by the UN General Assembly to promote sustainable urban development .
    - **2026 Global Host City:** Fuzhou, China
    - **2026 Theme:** "Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All"

- **World Savings Day (World Thrift Day) – October 31:** Observed globally (celebrated in India on October 30) to foster household savings and formal banking habits.
    - **2026 Theme:** "AI Advises, human decides"

ENVIRONMENT

- **Discovery of *Georissa tilariensis*:** Researchers documented a new microscopic land snail species, *Georissa tilariensis*, discovered in the moist evergreen forest patches of the Tilari conservation reserve in Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
- **Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary Eco-Tourism:** The Bihar State Government notified a comprehensive eco-tourism master plan inside the Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary in Munger district to boost sustainable green tourism.

REPORTS AND INDEXES



- **World Bank Poverty & Equity Report (October 2026):** Highlighted that extreme poverty in India fell sharply from 27.1% in 2011 to 2.6% in 2023, marking one of the fastest rates of poverty decline globally.
- **MoF Monthly Economic Review (October 2026):** The Ministry of Finance projected India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate at 7.35% for the second quarter (Q2: July–September) of FY 2026–27, driven by strong manufacturing output and steady capital expenditure.

Practice Questions

Q1. Under the newly approved Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY), what is the total approved financial outlay for the five-year period spanning FY 2026–27 to 2030–31?

(A) ₹5,250.75 crore

(B) ₹6,840.00 crore

(C) ₹7,395.55 crore

(D) ₹9,120.50 crore

Correct Answer: (C) ₹7,395.55 crore

Q2. In the recent revision of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) sub-schemes by the Union Government, the benchmark disability percentage for pension entitlement has been reduced to what percentage?

(A) 60%

(B) 50%

(C) 40%

(D) 33%

Correct Answer: (C) 40%

Q3. ISRO successfully launched the second-generation navigation satellite & NVS-into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). Which launch vehicle was used for this mission?

(A) PSLV-C58

(B) GSLV-F18

(C) LVM3-M4

(D) SSLV-D3

Correct Answer: (B) GSLV-F18

Q4. Indian wrestler Manisha Bhanwala clinched the Gold Medal at the UWW World Wrestling U23 Championships by defeating Abigail Nette of the USA. In which weight category did she achieve this victory?

(A) 50 kg

(B) 53 kg

(C) 59 kg

(D) 76 kg

Correct Answer: (C) 59 kg

Q5. What was the global theme for World Cities Day 2026 observed annually on October 31 with its global observance hosted in Fuzhou, China?

(A) Better City, Better Life

(B) Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All

(C) Financing Sustainable Urban Future for All

(D) Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience

Correct Answer: (B) Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All

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