RICE EDUCATION

Daily

Current Affairs

FOR RAILWAYS EXAMS

DATE

17 Nov 2026

Daily Current Affairs for Railways

Appointments & Persons in News

National & International Appointments



- **Jay Shah Reappointed Unopposed as ICC Chairman:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board officially announced the unopposed reappointment of Jay Shah as ICC Chairman for a second consecutive two-year term to ensure leadership continuity.
- **New Leadership Assumes Office at National Sports Board (NSB):** Devesh Chaturvedi, IAS (Retd.), assumed office as Chairperson (3-year tenure) and Commodore (Retd.) Pushpendra Kumar Garg (former TOPS CEO) joined as Member of the National Sports Board (NSB) in New Delhi following approval by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) based on recommendations of the Search-cum-Selection Committee chaired by Cabinet Secretary T. V. Somanathan. Established under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, the NSB serves as India's apex statutory regulator for granting recognition to National Sports Bodies.



- **Biji S.S. Takes Charge as Interim MD & CEO of Karnataka Bank:** Following approval by the Board of Directors of Karnataka Bank Limited (KBL), Executive Director Biji Sreekrishnavilas Sankaranarayanan (Biji S.S.) assumed charge as Interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) for a two-month period.
- **India Re-Elected to International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council for 2027–2030 Term:** India was re-elected to the 48-member International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council for the 2027–2030 term during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Doha, Qatar, reinforcing India's global leadership in telecom governance and digital connectivity.
- **UPSC Hosts National Workshop for State PSC Secretaries on Exam Security & Tech Reforms:** Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) hosted a national workshop for Secretaries of State Public Service Commissions in New Delhi focusing on examination security, technological integration, and recruitment reforms.

Persons in News, Honours & Notable Demises



- **Anant Anadi Vadnagar Archaeological Experiential Museum Wins Red Dot Award 2026:** Located in Vadnagar, Mehsana district (Gujarat), the museum became the first institution in India to win the prestigious *'Red Dot: Best of the Best Award 2026'* in Germany under the Exhibition Design category.
- **Former Union Minister & Senior TDP Leader Shatrucharla Vijayarama Raju Passes Away:** Former Member of Parliament, former Andhra Pradesh Minister, and veteran Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Shatrucharla Vijayarama Raju passed away at the age of 78.



- **Statue of Former Deputy CM Ajit Pawar Unveiled in Pune:** Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah unveiled the statue of Maharashtra's former Deputy Chief Minister late Ajit Pawar and reviewed the functioning of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) Regional Office in Pune, Maharashtra.
- **Tributes Paid to Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha on Martyrdom Anniversary:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and leaders across the nation paid floral tributes to Ghadar Party revolutionary Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha on his martyrdom day.

Government Schemes, Policies & Welfare Initiatives

Central Government Schemes, NITI Aayog, Railways & National Policies



- **Self-Enumeration for Phase II of Census 2027 Commences:** The Ministry of Home Affairs (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner) commenced the Self-Enumeration (SE) process for Phase II (Population Enumeration) of Census 2027 in Goa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and non-snow-bound areas of Uttarakhand (ahead of house-to-house visits from Dec 1, 2026 to Jan 4, 2027), alongside 4-day residential training for Census 2027 Master Trainers in Chennai.
- **16-km Elevated Railway Track Announced for Kanpur to Eliminate 18 Level Crossings:** Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw announced a 16-kilometre elevated railway track project in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, to eliminate 18 busy level crossings and ease urban traffic congestion, alongside notification of a new Kanpur Express train between Kanpur Central and Anand Vihar Terminal (New Delhi).
- **MoD (DGDE) & MoSJE Sign MoU for Senior Citizens in 61 Cantonment Areas:** The Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE), Ministry of Defence, and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) signed an MoU in New Delhi (in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar) to strengthen healthcare and senior citizen welfare schemes under *Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY)* across 61 Cantonment areas.
- **MoSJE Announces 'Samaveshi Niti Sankalp' Summit:** The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced the two-day Departmental Summit *'Samaveshi Niti Sankalp'* (November 18–19, 2026) in New Delhi—the third in its departmental series—to strengthen Centre-State collaboration towards inclusive development under *Viksit Bharat@2047*.



- **CBDT & CBIC Pavilions and Special Handloom Exhibition at 45th IITF 2026:** CBDT Chairman Ravi Agrawal inaugurated the Taxpayers' Lounge, CBIC Chairman inaugurated the GST & Customs Pavilion, and Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh inaugurated the Special Handloom and Handicraft Exhibition themed *'Vikas Aur Virasat'* at the 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- **Ministry of Minority Affairs Organises Workshop on AI for Digital Transformation:** The Ministry of Minority Affairs organised an expert workshop on Artificial Intelligence for Digital Transformation in New Delhi to strengthen AI-enabled, citizen-centric governance.

- **MY Bharat Mobilises Over 81,600 Youth Under Nasha Mukt Yuva Abhiyan:** Under Week 9 of the *'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Abhiyan'*, Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) mobilised over 81,600 youth and citizens nationwide through Sports Meets and Neighbourhood Youth Parliaments.
- **CCPA Imposes ₹20 Lakh Penalty on ExportersIndia.com:** The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) imposed a ₹20 lakh penalty on ExportersIndia.com (Weblink.In Pvt. Ltd.) for permitting unauthorized online listings of hazardous explosive chemicals including Ammonium Nitrate, PETN, and Picric Acid.



- **DBT, DAE and MoRTH Conclude Special Campaign 6.0:** The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), and Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) reported successful completion of Special Campaign 6.0; DBT cleaned 191 sites, freed 71,363 sq. ft. of office space, and earned ₹76.58 lakh from scrap disposal.



State Government Welfare Initiatives

- **Vice-President Inaugurates Iconic Tower at Sri Sri University & Addresses Odisha MLAs:** Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the Iconic Tower at Sri Sri University in Cuttack and addressed the Orientation Programme for Members of the 17th Odisha Legislative Assembly in Bhubaneswar.

Sports & Games

- **India to Host ICC Champions Trophy 2029 & Co-Host ODI World Cup 2031:** Following its Board meeting in Bali, the International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed that India will solely host the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2029 and co-host the ICC Men's ODI Cricket World Cup 2031 alongside Bangladesh.
- **10 Films to Compete for ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal at 57th IFFI:** Ahead of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa (November 20–28), the Ministry of I&B announced that 10 fiction feature films (including 3 Indian films) will compete for the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal adjudicated by a 4-member international jury headed by Prof. (Dr.) Ahmed Bedjaoui of Algeria, alongside special tributes to Marathi cinema legends Suryakant Mandhare and Nana Patekar.



Maritime Exercises & Defence News

- **Two-Day National Coastal Security Seminar 'Sagar Suraksha 2026' Begins in Kolkata:** The Indian Coast Guard (ICG), in association with the Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), commenced the two-day national-level coastal security seminar *'Sagar Suraksha 2026'* in Kolkata, West Bengal, inaugurated by West Bengal Minister of State for Home and Hill Affairs Bishal Lama in the presence of Secretary (Border Management) MHA and DG Indian Coast Guard. Anchored on the theme *'Comprehensive Approach to Coastal Security: Strengthening Stakeholder Participation and Community Engagement'*, the conclave brings together senior leaders from coastal States/UTs, Armed Forces, CAPFs, and maritime agencies to bolster coastal surveillance and intelligence sharing (complementing Exercise *'Sea Vigil-26'*, whose Sea Phase has been rescheduled to November 25–26 due to Cyclone Akvan).



- **CDS General NS Raja Subramani & Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan Address National Security Summit 3.0 in New Delhi:** Addressing the National Security Summit 3.0 in New Delhi, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General NS Raja Subramani highlighted that *Operation Sindoor* demonstrated India's capability to fight multi-domain wars with indigenous weapons (such as *Akash* air defence systems), noting defence exports reached ₹38,000 crore across 80+ countries and defence production hit a record ₹1.78 lakh crore in FY 2025–26. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan asserted that the Indian Navy closely monitors Chinese vessel deployments in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and affirmed the strategic advantage of the Great Nicobar Project near the Malacca Strait.



- **India Sets Target to Rank Among World's Top Shipbuilding Nations in 4 Years:** The Union Government outlined a strategic roadmap to position India among the world's leading shipbuilding nations within the next four years through maritime infrastructure modernization and domestic vessel manufacturing incentives.
- **DGR to Host Ex-Servicemen Job Fair in Gurugram on 20 November:** The Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), Ministry of Defence, announced a dedicated Ex-Servicemen Job Fair in Gurugram on November 20, 2026, to facilitate second-career corporate placements for retired Armed Forces personnel.

Space, Critical Minerals & Digital Forensics

- **SpaceX Completes First-Ever Mid-Air Recovery of Starship Spacecraft in Texas:** Elon Musk's SpaceX achieved a historic aerospace milestone in Boca Chica, Texas, completing the first-ever mid-air catch/recovery of an upper-stage Starship spacecraft using mechanical arms (*'Mechazilla'*) on the launch tower.

- **TDB-DST Signs Agreement with NeoSeeker Metals under RDI Fund:** The Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), signed an agreement with NeoSeeker Metals under the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund to scale up indigenous critical minerals recycling and recovery technology from TRL-5 to TRL-9.
- **NIELIT Launches 'CyberVitals', 'NetAnveshak' & 'Cyber Kushti 2026' at NCCDFI 2026:** On Day 1 of the 3rd National Conference on Cyber Security, Digital Forensics & Intelligence (NCCDFI 2026) at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi (Theme: *'Cyber Secure Bharat: Fortifying India's Digital Future'*), NIELIT (MeitY) launched two indigenous digital applications—*CyberVitals* and *NetAnveshak*—and kicked off the *'Cyber Kushti 2026'* Cybersecurity & AI Hackathon.



- **Dr. Jitendra Singh Visits ICGEB Trieste in Italy:** Union Science & Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh visited the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) in Trieste, Italy, highlighting India's expanding leadership in global biotechnology research, translational healthcare, and scientific diplomacy.

International Summits & Bilateral Agreements

- **PM Narendra Modi Embarks on Visit to Manila for 23rd ASEAN–India & 21st East Asia Summits:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi departed for Manila, Philippines, at the invitation of Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (2026 ASEAN Chair) to participate in the 23rd ASEAN–India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit on November 16–17, advancing India's Act East Policy, trade, and Indo-Pacific maritime security.
- **7th India–Egypt Joint Trade Committee (JTC) Meeting Held in Egypt:** Union Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Egypt's Minister of Investment & Foreign Trade Dr. Mohamed Farid Saleh co-chaired the first ministerial-level 7th India–Egypt JTC in Egypt's New Administrative Capital. Both nations agreed to form a Joint Working Group on Terms of Reference for a Preferential/Free Trade Agreement (PTA/FTA), explore local currency (INR–EGP) trade settlement, and achieve their USD 12 billion bilateral trade target.



- **12th India–Belarus Inter-Governmental Commission Co-Chaired in New Delhi:** Belarus Foreign Minister Maxim Ryzhenkov, during his four-day official visit to India, co-chaired the 12th Session of the India–Belarus Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) in New Delhi to expand bilateral cooperation in trade, economy, science, technology, and culture.

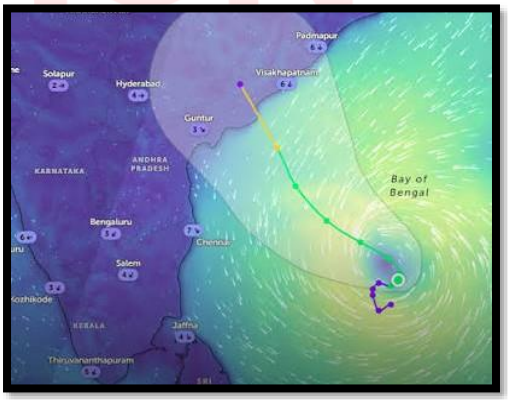


- **India to Host 62nd Session of International Coconut Community (ICC) in Kochi:** The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare announced that India (via the Coconut Development Board) will host the 62nd Session and Ministerial Meeting of the 21-member International Coconut Community (ICC, HQ: Jakarta) in Kochi, Kerala, from November 17 to 20, 2026.
- **India Calls for Country-Driven Just Transition Mechanism at COP31 (Antalya):** Entering the final week of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav advocated for an equitable, country-driven Just Transition Mechanism backed by adequate public climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity building for developing nations.
- **India & 9 Nations Sign San Francisco Declaration on AI & Semiconductor Supply Chains:** India joined the United States, Australia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Qatar, Singapore, the UAE, and the UK at the Pax Silica Founders Retreat in San Francisco to sign the *'San Francisco Declaration on the Secure Foundations of Enduring Prosperity'*, establishing five working groups to secure AI supply chains, semiconductors, and critical minerals.

Important Days

- **Four-Day Chhath Mahaparv Concludes with 'Usha Arghya':** The four-day festival of Surya Upasana, Chhath Mahaparv, concluded across India with devotees offering *'Usha Arghya'* to the rising Sun.
- **National Epilepsy Day (India)**: **- 17 Nov -** Observed in India to raise public awareness about epilepsy, its symptoms, treatment, and social stigma reduction.

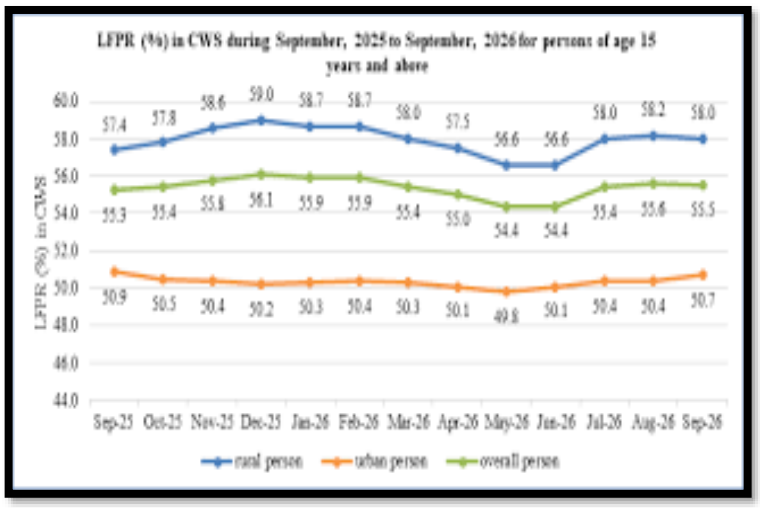
ENVIRONMENT



- **Deep Depression over Bay of Bengal Intensifies into Cyclonic Storm 'Akvan':** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) confirmed that the deep depression over the Bay of Bengal intensified into Cyclonic Storm *'Akvan'* (named by Iran—the 3rd cyclone of 2026 in the North Indian Ocean) and is forecast to strengthen into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm before crossing the Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Tuni around November 20, prompting coastal alerts across Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and West Bengal.

REPORTS AND INDEXES

- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Monthly Bulletin – October 2026 Released by MoSPI:** Released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), MoSPI, India's overall Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR, 15+ years, CWS) rose to **55.7%** in October 2026 (+0.3 percentage points YoY), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) improved to **53.0%**, and overall Unemployment Rate (UR) declined to **4.9%** (-0.3 percentage points YoY). Overall female LFPR rose to **35.0%** (+0.8 pp YoY), while rural female UR dropped to **3.8%**—its lowest level in 2026.



- **National Health Accounts (NHA) 2023–24 Highlights: Centre's Health Expenditure More Than Triples:** According to the 11th round of National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates 2023–24 released by the Union Health Ministry, Government Health Expenditure (GHE) more than tripled from ₹1.30 lakh crore (28.6% of Total Health Expenditure) in 2013–14 to **₹4.14 lakh crore** (43.5% of THE) in 2023–24, while Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) dropped sharply from 64.2% to **42.7%**.

Practice Questions

Q1. Where did the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs commence the two-day national-level coastal security seminar 'Sagar Suraksha 2026'?

(A) Visakhapatnam

(B) Kochi

(C) Kolkata

(D) Mumbai

Answer: (C) Kolkata

Q2. The deep depression over the Bay of Bengal that intensified into a cyclonic storm has been named 'Akvan' by which country?

(A) Oman

(B) Iran

(C) Qatar

(D) Yemen

Answer: (B) Iran

Q3. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Monthly Bulletin for October 2026 released by MoSPI, what was India's overall Unemployment Rate (UR) for persons aged 15 years and above (CWS)?

(A) 5.2%

(B) 5.0%

(C) 4.9%

(D) 4.5%

Answer: (C) 4.9%

Q4. Who assumed office as the Chairperson of the newly operationalised National Sports Board (NSB) established under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025?

(A) Pushpendra Kumar Garg

(B) Devesh Chaturvedi

(C) Jay Shah

(D) Ravi Agrawal

Answer: (B) Devesh Chaturvedi

Q5. According to the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates 2023–24, Government Health Expenditure (GHE) more than tripled over the decade to reach what figure in 2023–24?

(A) ₹2.85 lakh crore

(B) ₹3.50 lakh crore

(C) ₹4.14 lakh crore

(D) ₹5.12 lakh crore

Answer: (C) ₹4.14 lakh crore

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