

Weekly Current Affairs (13–19 October 2025) – Download Free PDF: Latest GK, WHO Alert, UNHRC, T20 World Cup, Nobel Prize, Ayodhya NSG, Kaziranga, Barren Island, Seychelles Election, Google AI Hub

Every week brings a new opportunity to rise, revise, and conquer—and this Weekly Current Affairs is no different. As aspirants across the country sharpen their preparation for UPSC, SSC, Banking, Defence, and State PSC exams, staying updated with **reliable, exam-focused current affairs** is not just a habit—it's a winning strategy.

Last week's digest (6–12 October 2025) brought us insights into India's Nobel Peace Prize nomination, the launch of the world's largest solar observatory, and the historic Indo-Pacific maritime pact. If you missed it, [click here](#) to download the previous Weekly Current Affairs PDF. This week, we build on that momentum with even more impactful updates—from India's re-election to the UNHRC and WHO's global alert on Indian cough syrups, to the launch of cruise services to Barren Island and the unveiling of Ayodhya's Ramayana Wax Museum.

Whether it's **Coco Gauff's WTA triumph**, **Kaziranga's global recognition**, or **Google's \$15 billion AI hub in Visakhapatnam**, every headline in this edition is curated to boost your **GK, current affairs retention, and exam confidence**.

International Affairs – Weekly Current Affairs (13–19 October 2025)

India at Gaza Peace Summit

Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, represented India at the **International Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt**, where global leaders convened to discuss the **US President's peace proposal** aimed at ending the ongoing **Gaza conflict**. India's participation highlights its diplomatic engagement in Middle Eastern affairs and its support for multilateral peace efforts.

Exam Insight: Sharm El-Sheikh is a key diplomatic hub in Egypt, often hosting climate and peace summits. Gaza conflict questions may appear in international relations or IR sections of UPSC and Defence exams.

EU's Digital Border Revolution

The **European Union** officially rolled out its **Digital Border Registration System** for all incoming travelers. This system, part of the **EU Entry/Exit System (EES)**, replaces manual passport stamping with biometric and digital tracking, enhancing security and travel efficiency across the **Schengen Area**.

Exam Insight: Know the difference between Schengen Area and EU membership. EES is relevant for questions on global digital governance and border security.

Barcelona's Global Sailing Showcase

Barcelona, Spain, hosted the **Puig Vela Clàssica**, the **world's largest classic sailing regatta**, attracting hundreds of boats and global participants. The event celebrates maritime heritage and is a major tourism and sporting attraction.

Exam Insight: Regatta = a series of boat races. Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia and a key Mediterranean port. Useful for geography and sports GK.

Seychelles Elects New President

Patrick Herminie, leader of the United Seychelles Party, won the **presidential election**, defeating incumbent **Wavel Ramkalawan**. The peaceful transition marks a significant political shift in the island nation.

Exam Insight:

- Capital: **Victoria**
- Currency: **Seychellois Rupee (SCR)**
- Location: Indian Ocean, east of mainland Africa
- Political system: Presidential republic

Sri Lanka–India Bilateral Boost

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya visited India for a **3-day official tour**, focusing on **education, trade, and port development**. The visit included meetings with Indian leadership and discussions on regional cooperation in the **Bay of Bengal Initiative (BIMSTEC)** framework.

Exam Insight: Harini Amarasuriya is Sri Lanka's first female PM. BIMSTEC includes Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan.

Strengthening BRICS: Brazil–India Talks

Brazilian Vice President Geraldo Alckmin arrived in New Delhi to discuss **strategic cooperation within BRICS**, focusing on **AI, climate action, and trade**. The visit reinforces Brazil's commitment to South-South partnerships and India's growing influence in Latin America.

Exam Insight:

- BRICS = Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
- Brazil Capital: **Brasília**
- Currency: **Brazilian Real (BRL)**
- India–Brazil ties include agriculture, space tech, and pharma

National Developments

Cruise to Barren Island – India's Only Active Volcano

The **Andaman & Nicobar Administration** will launch a **round-voyage cruise service** from **Port Blair to Barren Island** starting **October 24, 2025**. This uninhabited island, located ~140 km from Port Blair, lies at the junction of the **Indian and Burmese tectonic plates** and has witnessed eruptions as recently as **September 2025**.

GK Tip: Barren Island is the **only active volcano in South Asia** and part of India's strategic maritime zone.

Dr. Sonali Ghosh Wins IUCN Kenton Miller Award

Dr. Sonali Ghosh, Field Director of **Kaziranga National Park**, became the **first Indian** to win the **WCPA–Kenton Miller Award** at the **IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi**. Her work in **community engagement, park management, and biodiversity protection** was globally recognized.

GK Tip: Kaziranga is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, home to the **one-horned rhinoceros**, and a key biodiversity hotspot in Assam.

NSG's 7th Hub in Ayodhya

Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** announced the establishment of the **7th NSG operational hub** in **Ayodhya**, near the **Ram Temple**, during the NSG's 41st Raising Day. This hub will ensure **24×7 counter-terror readiness**, joining existing hubs in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Jammu.

GK Tip: NSG was formed in **1984** and is known as the **Black Cat Commandos**.

Maize Research Institute Inaugurated in Ludhiana

Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** inaugurated the **ICAR–Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR)** building in **Ladhowal, Ludhiana**. The institute will boost **food security, bioenergy research, and agri-innovation**.

GK Tip: Maize is India's **third most important cereal crop**, after rice and wheat.

India Post's Next-Day Delivery Service

Starting **January 2026**, **India Post** will launch **guaranteed 24-hour and 48-hour delivery services** for mail and parcels. This modernization aims to compete with private couriers and enhance last-mile logistics across India.

GK Tip: India Post is the **world's largest postal network**, with over **1.5 lakh post offices**.

Ramayana Wax Museum in Ayodhya

Ayodhya will unveil the **world's first Ramayana-themed wax museum** during **Diwali 2025**, featuring **50 lifelike statues**, immersive storytelling, and South Indian temple architecture. Built at a cost of ₹6 crore, it spans **9,850 sq ft** along the **Chaudah Kosi Parikrama route**.

GK Tip: Ayodhya hosts India's grandest **Deepotsav**, celebrating Lord Ram's return.

Google–Adani \$15 Billion AI Hub in Visakhapatnam

Google, in partnership with **AdaniConneX** and **Airtel**, will invest **\$15 billion** to build **India's largest AI and data centre hub** in **Visakhapatnam**. The project includes **gigawatt-scale compute capacity**, **subsea cable networks**, and **renewable energy infrastructure**.

GK Tip: This marks Google's **largest AI investment outside the US**, boosting India's digital transformation.

India Re-elected to UNHRC

India was **elected unopposed** to the **UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** for the **2026–2028 term**, marking its **7th tenure** since 2006. India's Permanent Representative **P. Harish** emphasized the country's commitment to **justice, equality, and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**.

GK Tip: UNHRC has **47 member states**, headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

Sports Highlights

India at the 3rd Asian Youth Games

India has officially named **222 athletes** for the **3rd Asian Youth Games** to be held in **Manama, Bahrain**. Veteran wrestler and Olympic medalist **Yogeshwar Dutt** has been appointed **Chef de Mission**, symbolizing India's commitment to youth sports and international representation.

Exam Insight:

- Host City: **Manama**, Bahrain
- Chef de Mission: Leads and coordinates national teams at multi-sport events
- India's focus: Athletics, wrestling, badminton, and shooting

Coco Gauff's Grand Slam Glory

Coco Gauff, the rising American tennis star, clinched her **first French Open title** and her **third WTA 1000 title** at **Wuhan**, defeating fellow American **Jessica Pegula**. Her victory marks a significant milestone in women's tennis.

Exam Insight:

- French Open = Grand Slam played on **clay courts**
- WTA 1000 = Elite tier of women's tennis tournaments
- Coco Gauff: Youngest American to win French Open since Serena Williams

Joshna Chinappa's Squash Triumph

India's squash ace **Joshna Chinappa** secured her **11th PSA Tour title** by defeating Egypt's **Haya Ali** in the **Japan Open Final** held in **Yokohama**. Her consistent performance continues to inspire young Indian athletes.

Exam Insight:

- PSA = Professional Squash Association
- Joshna is one of India's most decorated squash players

Delhi Half Marathon Winners

Kenyan long-distance runners Alex Matata and **Lilian Kasait Rengeruk** emerged victorious in the **Delhi Half Marathon**, showcasing Kenya's dominance in endurance sports.

Exam Insight:

- Half Marathon = 21.0975 km
- Kenya is globally renowned for producing elite distance runners

Zoravar Singh Sandhu Shines in Shooting

Indian shooter **Zoravar Singh Sandhu** won **bronze** in the **ISSF World Championships (Shotgun)** held in **Athens**, Greece. His medal adds to India's growing reputation in international shooting sports.

Exam Insight:

- ISSF = International Shooting Sport Federation
- Shotgun events include trap, skeet, and double trap

Tanvi Sharma's Silver in Junior Badminton

Young shuttler **Tanvi Sharma** won **silver** in the **BWF World Junior Championships** held in **Guwahati**, narrowly missing gold against Thailand's **Anyapat Phichitpreechasak**.

Exam Insight:

- BWF = Badminton World Federation
- Guwahati hosted the event for the first time, boosting India's sports infrastructure

Jyothi Surekha Vennam Creates History

India's **Jyothi Surekha Vennam** became the **first Indian woman compound archer** to win a **bronze medal at the World Cup Final**, marking a historic moment in Indian archery.

Exam Insight:

- Compound archery uses pulleys and cams for precision
- Jyothi is a consistent performer in World Archery events

ICC Players of the Month

Indian cricketers **Abhishek Sharma** and **Smriti Mandhana** were named **ICC Players of the Month**, recognizing their outstanding performances in international matches.

Exam Insight:

- ICC = International Cricket Council
- Smriti Mandhana is a leading figure in women's cricket globally

T20 World Cup 2026 Qualifiers

Nepal and Oman secured their spots in the **ICC T20 World Cup 2026** from the Asia region, while **UAE** became the **20th and final team** to qualify for the tournament.

Exam Insight:

- ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 will feature **20 teams**
- UAE's qualification highlights the rise of associate nations in global cricket

Science & Health

WHO Global Alert on Indian Cough Syrups

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** issued a **global medical alert** for three Indian-manufactured cough syrups—**Coldrif**, **Respifresh TR**, and **ReLife**—after they were found to be contaminated with **diethylene glycol**, a toxic chemical linked to kidney failure and death. The alert urges countries to strengthen drug quality surveillance and ensure safe pharmaceutical exports.

Exam Insight:

- Diethylene glycol is a **colorless, odorless solvent** used in antifreeze; toxic if ingested.
- WHO alerts are relevant for **public health, international regulation, and pharma GK**.

- India is a major global exporter of generic medicines—quality control is a recurring theme in UPSC and State PSC exams.

India's First Indigenous Antibiotic: Nafithromycin

India has developed its **first indigenous antibiotic, Nafithromycin**, designed to combat **multi-drug resistant respiratory infections**. It is especially effective for **cancer patients** and those with **poorly controlled diabetes**, who are vulnerable to resistant bacterial strains. The drug was developed by **Venus Remedies**, a pharmaceutical company based in **Haryana**.

Exam Insight:

- Nafithromycin belongs to the **macrolide class** of antibiotics.
- Tackles **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**—a key topic in health and science sections.
- India's push for indigenous pharma innovation aligns with **Atmanirbhar Bharat** goals.

Obituaries – Honoring Legacies

Pankaj Dheer (1956–2025)

Veteran actor **Pankaj Dheer**, whose powerful and unforgettable depiction of **Karna in B.R. Chopra's *Mahabharat*** left an indelible mark on Indian television, has passed away. His nuanced performance not only defined a generation's imagination of the tragic hero but also set a benchmark for mythological narratives on screen—continuing to inspire storytellers and audiences alike.

Exam Insight:

- BR Chopra's *Mahabharat* aired in **1988**; Karna is a key figure in Indian epics.
- Useful for cultural GK and questions on Indian television history.

Ravi Naik (1946–2025)

Ravi Naik, former **Chief Minister of Goa** and serving **Agriculture Minister**, passed away. He played a pivotal role in Goa's political landscape post-statehood and was known for his contributions to rural development.

Exam Insight:

- Goa attained statehood on **30 May 1987**.
- Portuguese ruled Goa until **1961**—important for colonial history questions.

Chen Ning Yang (1922–2025)

Chen Ning Yang, Chinese-American physicist and **Nobel Laureate (1957)**, passed away at the age of **103**. He won the Nobel Prize in Physics alongside **Tsung-Dao Lee** for their groundbreaking work on **parity violation** in weak nuclear interactions.

Exam Insight:

- Parity violation challenged fundamental physics assumptions.
- Nobel Prize facts are frequently asked in science and GK sections.

Kanchha Sherpa (1933–2025)

Kanchha Sherpa, the **last surviving member** of the historic **1953 Everest expedition**, passed away at **92**. He was part of the team that supported **Sir Edmund Hillary** and **Tenzing Norgay** in their first successful ascent of **Mount Everest** on **29 May 1953**.

Exam Insight:

- Mount Everest is located in the **Himalayas**, on the **Nepal–China border**.
- Tenzing Norgay was from Nepal; Edmund Hillary from New Zealand.
- Sherpa community plays a vital role in Himalayan expeditions.