

Weekly Current Affairs 20–27 October 2025 | Latest GK Updates, National & International News | Free PDF Download for UPSC, SSC, Banking, State PCS, Railway, Defence & Govt Exams

National Highlights – October 2025

Boosting Medical Education: 10,650 New MBBS Seats Approved

In a major push to strengthen India's healthcare infrastructure, the **National Medical Commission (NMC)** has approved **10,650 new MBBS seats** for the academic year **2025–26**. This raises the total number of MBBS seats in India to **137,600**, marking a significant milestone in medical education access.

This expansion is expected to benefit aspirants from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, where demand for medical colleges has been rising. It also aligns with India's goal of achieving a doctor-population ratio of 1:1000, as recommended by **the WHO**.

Exam Insight:

- NMC replaced the Medical Council of India (MCI) in 2020.
- MBBS duration: 5.5 years (including internship).
- India has over 700 medical colleges as of 2025.

Neeraj Chopra Honored with Lieutenant Colonel Rank

India's Olympic gold medalist **Neeraj Chopra**, who won the javelin throw event at the Tokyo Olympics, has been conferred the **honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel** in the Indian Army. This recognition celebrates his contribution to national pride and youth inspiration.

Neeraj is now among a select group of Indian athletes, including **MS Dhoni and Abhinav Bindra**, who have received honorary military ranks. His journey from Panipat to the podium has become a case study in resilience and discipline.

Aspirant Tip:

- Neeraj Chopra is the first Indian to win an Olympic gold in athletics.
- He is a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) in the Rajputana Rifles.

BSF Constable Shivani Promoted for Wushu Silver

In a rare and commendable move, **Shivani**, a constable in the **Border Security Force (BSF)**, was promoted to **Head Constable** within just **five months of service**. Her promotion came after she won a **silver medal** at the **17th World Wushu Championship** held in **Brazil**.

This achievement not only highlights the growing presence of Indian women in martial arts but also reflects BSF's commitment to recognizing excellence beyond the battlefield.

BSF Facts for Exams:

- Director General (2025): **Daljit Singh Chawdhary**
- Established: **1 December 1965**
- First Chief: **KF Rustamji**
- BSF is India's first line of defense along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders.

Advertising Legend Piyush Pandey Passes Away

India mourns the loss of **Piyush Pandey**, the creative force behind some of the most iconic ad campaigns in Indian history. His slogan "**Ab Ki Baar, Modi Sarkar**" became a defining phrase of the 2014 general elections.

Pandey's work shaped political communication, brand storytelling, and public engagement. He was also the recipient of the **Padma Shri** and served as the **Global Chief Creative Officer of Ogilvy**.

Exam Insight:

- “Ab Ki Baar, Modi Sarkar” was first used in 2014.
- Piyush Pandey was known for blending Hindi idioms with mass appeal.

Vidhan Sabha’s Student Session on Constitution Day

In a unique initiative to promote civic awareness, the **Punjab Vidhan Sabha** will host a **one-day Student Session** on **26 November**, which is celebrated as **Constitution Day** in India. One student from each **117** constituency will participate, simulating the legislative process.

This move aims to educate young citizens about parliamentary procedures, lawmaking, and democratic values. It’s a step toward nurturing future leaders and informed voters.

Aspirant Tip:

- Constitution Day marks the adoption of the Indian Constitution on **November 26, 1949**.
- The Indian Parliament consists of **Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and the President**.

Customs Board to Merge 31 Duty Notifications

The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has announced the merger of **31 duty-related notifications**. This reform is aimed at simplifying customs procedures, reducing paperwork, and improving transparency in trade.

For aspirants preparing for banking, UPSC, and commerce-related exams, this move reflects India’s push toward ease of doing business and digital governance.

Exam Insight:

- CBIC functions under the Ministry of Finance.
- It administers GST, customs, and central excise laws.
- India’s rank in Ease of Doing Business (2020): 63rd globally.

Global Political Developments

Thailand: A Nation in Mourning and Transition

Thailand is engulfed in profound grief following the passing of **Her Majesty Queen Mother Sirikit** at the age of 93. A towering figure of dignity, compassion, and quiet strength, she stood alongside **King Bhumibol Adulyadej**—the nation’s revered monarch—for over seven decades, becoming a symbol of unity and resilience for the Thai people. Her Majesty’s unwavering commitment to rural development, cultural preservation, and national cohesion earned her deep reverence across generations.

Her death marks not only the end of a royal era but also a moment of collective reflection for a nation that has looked to the monarchy as a stabilizing force through decades of political turbulence.

This period of mourning arrives amid a complex political transition. Just months earlier, Thailand witnessed heightened tensions—including renewed border disputes with **Cambodia** over the **Preah Vihear temple** area—that added pressure on the previous administration.

These challenges, coupled with internal coalition fractures and public discontent, ultimately led to the resignation of the former Prime Minister earlier this year. In the wake of that political upheaval, **Anutin Charnvirakul**, leader of the Bhumjaithai Party and former Deputy Prime Minister, was elected as Thailand’s new Prime Minister in **September 2025**. His appointment ushers in a new chapter of governance at a time when the country seeks both stability and direction—now compounded by the solemn loss of one of its most cherished royal figures.

Static GK – Thailand

- Capital: **Bangkok**
- Currency: **Thai Baht**
- Monarchy: **Constitutional Monarchy**

Japan: Breaking Royal and Political Barriers

In a historic first, **Sanae Takaichi** became **Japan’s first woman Prime Minister** and the **104th overall**. This is a major milestone in Japan’s political landscape.

In royal news, **Prince Hisahito** became the **first male royal to reach adulthood in 40 years**, making him a key figure in the future of the Chrysanthemum Throne.

Static GK – Japan

- Emperor: **Naruhito**
- Capital: **Tokyo**
- Currency: **Yen (JPY)**

Aspirant Tip: Japan's monarchy is the **oldest continuing hereditary monarchy** in the world.

France: Legal Storm for a Former President

Nicolas Sarkozy, former President of France, has been **sentenced to five years in prison** for **conspiracy and illegal campaign financing**, linked to funds from Libya. This is one of the rare instances of a former French head of state facing such a sentence.

Static GK – France

- Capital: **Paris**
- Currency: **Euro (€)**

India Reopens Embassy in Kabul: A Diplomatic Reset

India has officially **restored full embassy operations in Kabul**, marking a renewed phase of diplomatic engagement with **Afghanistan**. This move signals India's intent to maintain regional stability, support humanitarian efforts, and monitor developments under the current Afghan administration.

The reopening is significant because India had suspended its Kabul mission in **August 2021**, following the Taliban's takeover. Since then, India has maintained limited contact through humanitarian aid and technical support. The full restoration now allows for visa services, cultural exchange, and strategic dialogue to resume.

Aspirant Insight:

- India was among the few countries to evacuate its entire diplomatic staff in 2021.
- Afghanistan shares borders with **Pakistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and China.**
- India has invested in major Afghan infrastructure projects like the **Zaranj–Delaram Highway** and the **Parliament building in Kabul.**

Manish Gupta Appointed Ambassador to Ireland

India has appointed **Manish Gupta**, former High Commissioner to Ghana, as the new **Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland.** His diplomatic experience in Africa and strategic affairs makes him a strong choice for strengthening India–Ireland ties.

Ireland has been a growing partner in education, technology, and climate cooperation. With this appointment, India aims to deepen collaboration in sectors like pharmaceuticals, IT, and student exchange programs.

Aspirant Tip:

- Ireland is part of the **European Union**, but not part of the **Schengen Area.**
- The Irish Parliament is called the **Oireachtas**, consisting of **Dáil Éireann** and **Seanad Éireann.**
- Ireland is known for its **corporate tax policies**, making it a hub for global tech companies like Google, Meta, and Apple.

Ireland: A New President Takes Office

Catherine Connolly has been elected as the **10th President of Ireland**, becoming the second woman to hold the post. Her election reflects Ireland’s progressive political shift.

Static GK – Ireland:

- **Capital:** Dublin
- **Currency:** Euro (€)
- **Political System:** Parliamentary democracy
- **Official Languages:** Irish and English

Sports Highlights

Tanvi Sharma Shines at BWF World Junior Championships

India's rising badminton star **Tanvi Sharma** made history by reaching the finals of the **BWF World Junior Championships**, held in **Guwahati, Assam**. She became only the **third Indian female shuttler** to achieve this feat, following in the footsteps of **Saina Nehwal** and **P.V. Sindhu**.

Though she lost to Thailand's **Anyapat Phichitpreechsak**, her silver medal marked **India's first podium finish at this event in 17 years**, reigniting hope for India's future in global badminton.

Did You Know?

- The **Guwahati High Court** has jurisdiction over **Assam, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland**.
- The BWF World Junior Championships is a key stepping stone for future Olympic and World Championship contenders.

Aspirant Tip:

- India's badminton medal tally at junior level has historically been low—Tanvi's win is a strategic breakthrough.

Tommy Fleetwood Wins DP World India Championship

British golfer **Tommy Fleetwood** clinched the **DP World India Championship**, held at the prestigious **DLF Golf and Country Club** in Gurugram. His victory not only added to his international accolades but also brought global attention to India's growing presence in professional golf.

Fleetwood's win is significant because India is now hosting more elite-level golf tournaments, attracting top players and boosting sports tourism.

Aspirant Tip:

- Golf is governed globally by the **R&A and USGA**.

- India's top golfers include **Anirban Lahiri, Shubhankar Sharma, and Aditi Ashok**.
- DP World Tour is part of the European Tour group—important for international sports GK.

Elena Rybakina Triumphs at Ningbo Open (China)

Kazakhstan's tennis sensation **Elena Rybakina** won the **Ningbo Open title** in China, continuing her impressive run on the **WTA circuit**. Known for her powerful serve and baseline play, Rybakina has become a consistent performer in Grand Slams and international tournaments.

Her win at Ningbo adds to Kazakhstan's growing reputation in global tennis, a sport traditionally dominated by the US and Europe.

Aspirant Tip:

- Elena Rybakina won **Wimbledon 2022**, becoming Kazakhstan's first Grand Slam champion.
- WTA stands for **Women's Tennis Association**.
- Ningbo is a major port city in eastern China—often asked in geography-based questions.

Sophie Devine Retires from International Cricket

New Zealand's cricket captain **Sophie Devine** announced her retirement from international cricket, leaving behind a legacy of records and leadership. She became the **first player in T20I history (male or female) to score five consecutive half-centuries**, a feat unmatched in the format.

Devine's career is notable not just for her batting but also for her role in promoting women's cricket globally. She also represented New Zealand in **hockey**, making her a rare dual-sport international athlete.

Static GK – New Zealand:

- Prime Minister: **Christopher Luxon**
- Capital: **Wellington**

- Currency: **New Zealand Dollar (NZD)**

Aspirant Tip:

- Sophie Devine captained New Zealand in multiple ICC events.
- Dual-sport athletes are rare—her hockey background is a unique fact for sports-based MCQs.
- New Zealand is a key player in ICC Women's Cricket—often featured in sports current affairs.

Science & Environment

India's Scientific Legacy and Environmental Progress

Vigyan Ratna for Jayant Naralikal: Honoring a Cosmic Challenger

India posthumously awarded the prestigious **Vigyan Ratna** to **Dr. Jayant Vishnu Naralikal**, a legendary astrophysicist who passed away on **May 20, 2025**, at the age of **86**. Known for his bold challenge to the **Big Bang Theory**, Naralikal proposed the **Quasi-Steady State Theory**, offering an alternative view of the universe's origin.

His work in cosmology, gravitation, and mathematical physics earned global respect, and he played a key role in popularizing science in India through books, lectures, and the **Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)** in Pune.

Aspirant Insight:

- Jayant Naralikal collaborated with **Fred Hoyle**, co-authoring the Quasi-Steady State Theory.
- He received the **Padma Vibhushan** in 2004.
- IUCAA is a premier institute for astrophysics research in India.

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar: India's New Science Awards

To promote excellence in science and technology, the **Government of India** has launched the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar**, a national-level award system recognizing contributions across disciplines. These awards reflect India's commitment to nurturing innovation and honoring scientific leadership.

The awards are conferred in **four categories**:

- **Vigyan Ratna (VR)**: For lifetime achievements in any field of science and technology.
- **Vigyan Shri (VS)**: For distinguished contributions by senior scientists.
- **Vigyan Yuva–Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY–SSB)**: For young scientists (under 45) showing exceptional promise.
- **Vigyan Team (VT)**: For collaborative achievements by teams of three or more scientists.

These awards span **13 domains**, including: Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Mathematics & Computer Science, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology & Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology, and allied fields.

Aspirant Tip:

- Named after **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar**, founder of India's scientific research system.
- These awards are likely to feature in UPSC, State PSC, and science-based MCQs.
- India's science policy aims to make the country a global leader in innovation by 2047.

India's Forest Rankings Improve Globally

India has climbed to **9th place** in terms of **total forest area** globally, according to the **Global Forest Resource Assessment 2025**, released by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** in **Bali**. Last year, India ranked **10th**.

More impressively, India now ranks **3rd worldwide** in terms of **annual forest area gain**, reflecting successful afforestation and conservation efforts.

Global Forest Area Snapshot (2025):

- Total global forest area: **4.14 billion hectares** (32% of land surface)
- India's forest area: **72.74 million hectares** (2% of global total)
- Top 5 countries by forest area:

1. **Russia** – 832.5 million ha
2. **Brazil** – 486 million ha
3. **Canada** – 368.8 million ha
4. **USA** – 308.89 million ha
5. **China** – 227.15 million ha

Punjab's Forest Profile: A Micro View

Punjab's total geographical area is **50,362 km²**, which is **1.54%** of India's total land area.

- **Rural area:** 48,265 km² (96%)
- **Urban area:** 2,097 km² (4%)

According to the latest **18th India State of Forest Report (2023)**:

- **Forest Area:** 3,084 km² (6.12% of Punjab's land)
- **Forest Cover:** 1,846.03 km²

India's National Forest Stats:

- Total area: **3,287,267 km²**
- **Forest & Tree Cover:** 827,357 km² (25.17%)
 - Forest Cover: 715,343 km² (21.76%)
 - Tree Cover: 112,014 km² (3.41%)

Aspirant Tip:

- FAO's Global Forest Resource Assessment is released every 5 years.
- India's forest policy aims to achieve **33% forest cover**.
- Forest cover vs. tree cover: Forest cover includes dense and open forests; tree cover includes scattered trees outside forests.

Literature & Culture – October 2025

Celebrating Knowledge, Legacy, and Global Dialogue

“The Burning Earth” Wins British Academy Book Prize

Indian-origin historian **Sunil Amrith** has won the prestigious **British Academy Book Prize** for his work **“The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years.”** The book explores how environmental changes have shaped human societies, economies, and global politics across centuries.

The award carries a prize of **£25,000** and is one of the most respected honors in the field of non-fiction writing. It recognizes works that demonstrate **rigour, originality**, and contribute to **public understanding of world cultures**.

About the Prize:

- Formerly known as the **Nayef Al-Rodhan Prize**
- Established in **2013**
- Organized by the **British Academy**, UK’s national body for humanities and social sciences
- Focuses on **global cultural interaction and intellectual excellence**

Aspirant Tip:

- Sunil Amrith is also a recipient of the **MacArthur Fellowship** (often called the “Genius Grant”)
- The British Academy Book Prize is often awarded to authors who bridge history, politics, and culture—ideal for essay and interview references.

MF Hussain Exhibition in Qatar

A grand exhibition in **Qatar** is honoring the legacy of **Maqbool Fida Husain**, one of India’s most celebrated modern artists. Known for his bold strokes and vibrant depictions of Indian mythology, cinema, and politics, MF Hussain’s work continues to inspire global audiences.

This exhibition showcases rare paintings, sketches, and multimedia installations, highlighting his journey from the streets of Mumbai to international acclaim.

Aspirant Tip:

- MF Hussain was a founding member of the **Progressive Artists' Group** in Bombay.
- He was awarded the **Padma Vibhushan** in 1991.
- He spent his final years in **Qatar**, where he was offered citizenship.

“The Reverse Swing” by Ashok Tandon

Veteran journalist **Ashok Tandon** has authored *“The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation”*, a thought-provoking book on **India–UK relations**. It traces the journey from colonial rule to modern-day strategic partnership, covering diplomacy, trade, and cultural exchange.

Aspirant Tip:

- India–UK ties include cooperation in **education, defense, climate change, and digital innovation**.
- The book is useful for understanding post-colonial narratives and foreign policy evolution.

Canada Post Issues Diwali Stamp

In a gesture of cultural celebration, **Canada Post** has released a special **Diwali stamp**, honoring the festival of lights and the Indian diaspora’s contributions to Canadian society.

The stamp features traditional Diwali motifs like **diyas, rangoli, and lotus flowers**, symbolizing prosperity and unity.

Aspirant Tip:

- Canada has over **1.4 million people of Indian origin**.
- Diwali stamps have previously been issued by **USA, UK, and Singapore**—a sign of global recognition of Indian festivals.

ASEAN Summit 2025 – Malaysia Hosts the 47th Edition

The **47th ASEAN Summit** kicked off in **Malaysia**, with **Timor-Leste** officially joining as the **11th member**. The summit’s theme, **“Inclusivity and Sustainability,”** reflects the bloc’s focus on equitable growth, climate action, and regional cooperation.

Aspirant Tip:

- ASEAN was founded in **1967** with five members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.
- Headquarters: **Jakarta, Indonesia**
- India is a **dialogue partner** of ASEAN and participates in the **East Asia Summit**.

Business & Technology – October 2025 Strategic Expansions and AI Collaborations

Hero MotoCorp Expands to UK

India's largest two-wheeler manufacturer, Hero MotoCorp, has officially entered the **UK market** through a strategic partnership with **Moto GB**. This milestone marks Hero MotoCorp's presence in more than **50 countries**, significantly enhancing its global reach.

As part of this expansion, the company is introducing models specifically designed to meet European regulatory and performance standards, along with electric vehicle offerings—demonstrating its commitment to sustainability and alignment with worldwide environmental objectives.

Aspirant Tip:

- Hero MotoCorp was formerly part of **Hero Honda**, split in 2010.
- It is the **world's largest manufacturer of two-wheelers by volume**.
- EVs are a key focus area for Hero's future strategy.

Meta AI Acquires 30% Stake in Reliance AI Venture

In a major tech collaboration, **Meta AI** has acquired a **30% stake** in **Reliance's AI venture**, with Reliance retaining **70% ownership**. This partnership aims to accelerate AI development in India, focusing on **language models, digital infrastructure**, and **consumer applications**.

Aspirant Tip:

- Reliance is investing heavily in **Jio Platforms, AI, and semiconductors**.
- Meta owns platforms like **Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp**—widely used in India.
- AI is a key area in India’s **Digital India** and **Startup India** missions.

Tributes – Honoring Icons We Lost

Govardhan Kumar Asrani

Veteran actor **Govardhan Kumar Asrani**, widely celebrated for his memorable portrayal of the **humorous jailor** in the classic film **Sholay**, has passed away at the age of 84. Over the course of his illustrious career, he appeared in more than 350 films, masterfully weaving together elements of comedy, drama, and satire to leave an enduring mark on Indian cinema.

Aspirant Tip:

- Asrani was a graduate of **FTII Pune**.
- His role in *Sholay* remains one of the most quoted in Indian cinema.

Satish Shah

Popular actor **Satish Shah**, known for his roles in “**Sarabhai vs Sarabhai**”, “**Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi**”, and countless Bollywood comedies, passed away at **74**. His comic timing and versatility made him a household name.

Aspirant Tip:

- Satish Shah was part of India’s golden era of television comedy.
- He also served as a jury member in several film festivals.

Jayant Narlikar – A Scientific Luminary

Astrophysicist **Jayant Narlikar**, who challenged the **Big Bang Theory** with his **Quasi-Steady State Theory**, passed away at **86**. He was posthumously awarded the **Vigyan Ratna**, India’s highest science honor.

Aspirant Tip:

- Narlikar co-founded **IUCAA Pune**.
- He was known for blending **mathematics, cosmology, and philosophy** in his work.