

Highlights of 01 October 2026 Current Affairs

- International Day of Older Persons observed annually on **October 1**, the United Nations **International Day of Older Persons** celebrates the invaluable contributions of older adults to society while addressing the structural challenges and policy shifts required by rapid global demographic changes.
 - **Theme: "The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives"**
- International Coffee Day observed globally on **October 1**, **International Coffee Day** is an official initiative established by the International Coffee Organization (ICO) to celebrate coffee's cultural, social, and economic significance while championing equity and sustainability throughout its supply chain.
- Airtel Africa has officially announced plans to list its mobile-led fintech arm, **Airtel Money**, on the **London Stock Exchange (LSE)**. The prospective Initial Public Offering (IPO) is projected to raise approximately **\$800 million**, placing the fintech platform's target valuation between **\$8 billion and \$9 billion**. If completed within this range, it will stand as one of the largest debut offerings on the LSE since 2021.
- Nomura's recent global technology sector analyses have challenged the "peak semiconductor" narrative, warning that the AI infrastructure boom is driving a severe, multi-year supply-demand crunch. Rather than leveling off, the industry faces the prospect of an **"epic" component shortage** extending through the second half of 2026 and into 2027.
- The Karnataka government officially granted **Tulu** the status of a **second additional administrative language** specifically within the coastal districts of **Dakshina Kannada and Udupi** (the core Tulu Nadu region).
- In a landmark ruling at The Hague, the International Criminal Court (ICC) found **Mahamat Said Abdel Kani**, a former commander of the Central African Republic's (CAR) **Seleka rebel coalition**, guilty of crimes against humanity and war crimes, including torture and persecution.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) announced that the **FASTag Annual Pass** has officially crossed the landmark threshold of **one crore passes issued** since its rollout. The milestone, achieved just over a year after the scheme's launch on August 15, 2025, underscores the rapid adoption of the fixed-cost toll option among private vehicle owners across India.
- At the **28th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Committee on Forestry (COFO 28)** in Rome, India presented a comprehensive overview of its national forestry metrics, landscape restoration milestones, and expanded climate commitments. As FAO's highest global intergovernmental forestry platform—convened alongside the 10th World Forest Week—the session focused heavily on forests and their critical contribution to food security, climate resilience, and sustainable development.
- At the **20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**, Indian track and field athlete **Vithya Ramraj** scripted history by breaking one of the longest-standing and most iconic records in Indian athletics. Competing in the **women's 400m hurdles final**, Vithya clocked a blistering **54.75 seconds** to secure the **bronze medal** and firmly etch her name in sporting history.

- Indian-origin British chess prodigy **Bodhana Sivanandan** has etched her name in sporting history by becoming the **youngest Woman Grandmaster (WGM)** in chess history at just **11 years old**. She secured her third and final WGM norm while representing England at the **46th Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan**.
- In a historic milestone for commercial spaceflight, SpaceX's **Starship** successfully reached Earth orbit for the first time during its **14th integrated test flight (Flight 14)** launched from Starbase, Texas. The mission achieved its core objectives by inserting itself into a targeted orbit and successfully deploying a payload of **26 next-generation Starlink V3 satellites**.
- At the **20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**, Indian trap shooter **Neeru Dhanda** delivered a historic performance, winning the gold medal in the **women's individual trap event** and marking India's fifth gold of the ongoing continental games.
- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri formally announced that **India Energy Week (IEW) 2027** will take place in **Kolkata from January 28 to 31, 2027**. Marking its landmark **fifth edition**, this will be the first time India's premier international energy conclave is hosted in **eastern India**.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav handed over **India's first PRAMAAN certificates** in New Delhi, marking a major milestone in the country's sustainable forestry and agroforestry sectors.
 - **Full Form: Programme for Recognition and Accreditation of Sustainable Management Practices for Agroforestry and Natural Forestry Resources (PRAMAAN)** serves as the operational trade name for the **Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)**, originally introduced by the ministry in December 2023.
 - **Core Purpose:** The homegrown certification framework acts as a rigorous, credible quality-assurance mechanism to verify sustainable management practices, trace wood and non-timber forest products back to certified origins, and meet tightening international trade transparency norms (such as the European Union Deforestation Regulation - EUDR).
- Scientists at the **Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV)** in Kerala have developed a pioneering **Dengue Early Warning System (DEWS)** that uses machine learning to forecast district-level outbreak trends. Designed to shift public health from a reactive response to proactive intervention, the model aims to give health authorities critical lead time before case numbers surge.