

Highlights of 02 October 2026 Current Affairs

- Gandhi Jayanti observed annually on **October 2**, **Gandhi Jayanti** marks the birth anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi**, the iconic leader of India's freedom movement and a global symbol of peace and civil rights. Designated by the United Nations as the **International Day of Non-Violence**, the occasion offers an opportunity worldwide to reflect on the enduring power of peaceful resistance, truth, and moral integrity.
- In a landmark political development, King Mohammed VI officially appointed **Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri** as the **Prime Minister of Morocco**. Following the general elections where her party secured a leading plurality, El Mansouri's appointment breaks a historic glass ceiling, making her the **first woman to ever hold the office** in Morocco and only the second female head of government in the Arab world.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti observed annually on **October 2**, **Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti** marks the birth anniversary of **Lal Bahadur Shastri**, India's second Prime Minister. Celebrated on the same day as Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, the occasion honors a leader whose personal integrity, unyielding resolve, and deep empathy for the common citizen left an indelible mark on the nation.
- During the **Aadhaar Samvaad** stakeholder conference held in Kolkata, marking the 17th Aadhaar Day, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) announced **five major digital identity and governance initiatives**. The rollout focuses on expanding authentication choices, streamlining access for governance entities, improving citizen experience, and enhancing digital accessibility.
 - Key Initiatives Launched
 - **Face Authentication for Electronic Public Distribution System (ePDS):**
 - Developed jointly by UIDAI, the Department of Food and Public Distribution, and the National Informatics Centre (NIC), this consent-based, contactless biometric option gives beneficiaries an alternative verification path when fingerprint authentication is difficult. States and Union Territories can seamlessly integrate it into their public distribution network.
 - **SWIK Portal 2.0:**
 - Designed to optimize administrative approvals, the upgraded portal allows eligible non-government entities to submit proposals for permissible authentication use cases directly through the framework under the "Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance" rules.
 - **Sub-AUA / Sub-KUA (LITE) Framework:**
 - Aimed at lowering entry barriers, this framework allows government and eligible non-government entities with low-volume authentication requirements to utilize an existing Authentication User Agency (AUA) or KYC User Agency (KUA) infrastructure. This enables faster and simpler onboarding while maintaining strict security and privacy protocols.
 - **New Token Management System:**

- A streamlined queue and token management rollout designed to optimize visitor flow and reduce wait times for residents visiting UIDAI state and regional offices for physical services.
 - **Revamped UIDAI Website & Career Portal:**
 - The redesigned website features improved information architecture centered around citizen journeys (understanding services, finding documents, and tracking support). Integrated with **BHASHINI**, it currently supports **13 languages** (with plans to expand to 23) and incorporates advanced accessibility features like screen-reader compatibility and keyboard navigation. It also launches the **UIDAI Career Portal** to handle online applications for deputation opportunities transparently.
- The **2026 Nobel Prize announcement season** runs from **October 5 to October 12, 2026**. During this week, the respective prize-awarding institutions in Sweden and Norway unveil the laureates who have made groundbreaking contributions to science, literature, peace, and economics.
- The apex-level **Indian Navy Commanders' Conference (2026/02)** is currently underway at Nausena Bhawan in New Delhi. Running for three days from **September 29 to October 1, 2026**, the biannual meeting brings together the nation's top naval leadership, including operational and outstation area commanders, to conduct a military-strategic review of India's maritime preparedness.
- The **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** examining the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** is actively conducting review meetings and stakeholder consultations. The 31-member cross-party panel is headed by BJP Lok Sabha MP **Sanjay Jaiswal**.
 - **Legislative Origin:** Introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 25, 2026, the Bill was formally referred to the JPC during the Monsoon Session on August 12, 2026, following intense parliamentary debate and demands from various parties for deeper scrutiny.
 - **Core Timeline:** The committee has been mandated to complete extensive stakeholder consultations, review representations from civil society organizations and legal experts, and submit its final report to Parliament **ahead of the Winter Session**.
 - **Recent Proceedings:** The panel has held crucial briefing sessions with top representatives from the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and the Ministry of Law and Justice to analyze the technical and operational clauses of the proposed legislation.
- During the **14th meeting of the India-UAE High-Level Joint Task Force on Investments**—co-chaired by Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)—both nations committed to fast-tracking bilateral economic integration, anchored heavily on local currency settlements.
- At the **2026 MTV Video Music Awards** held at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles, **Taylor Swift** officially became the **most-awarded artist in VMA history**, breaking a historic tie and surpassing Beyoncé's previous all-time record.

- In a strategic push to reinforce commercial security and energy shipping lanes, the **European Union has formally applied for "observer status"** in a newly formed multinational maritime defense coalition led by **Saudi Arabia**. The diplomatic move was announced by EU foreign policy chief **Kaja Kallas** in Brussels, reflecting growing urgency among European leaders to safeguard critical maritime corridors against regional threats.
- Renowned folk artist **Phulan Chandel**, who played a pivotal role in popularizing Himachal Pradesh's traditional **Ghat Nritya** (Ghat dance) and ritualistic folk performances on national and international stages, passed away at the age of 63. She breathed her last following a period of illness, having received medical treatment at AIIMS Bilaspur and PGIMER Chandigarh.
- During the **National Agriculture Conference–Rabi Campaign 2026**, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced major funding allocations and a nationwide drive to boost agricultural sustainability and cooperative federalism. The Centre distributed approval letters for **over ₹1,200 crore** under the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY)** to 10 states. This advance funding is designed to empower states to execute agricultural programs seamlessly without financial bottlenecks.