

Highlights of 03 October 2026 Current Affairs

- During a high-level meeting alongside the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, member states adopted a landmark **Declaration on Sea-Level Rise**. Representing the UN's first unified legal and political framework on the crisis, the declaration establishes critical protections for low-lying nations and small island developing states (SIDS) facing existential geographic threats from accelerating ocean warming.
- India's representation on the **UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List** has expanded to **78 sites**, following the official inclusion of **five new entries**. Announced by the Ministry of Culture, the latest additions highlight India's architectural antiquity, artistic heritage, and global historical movements.
 - **Bagh Cave Paintings (Madhya Pradesh):**
 - *Significance:* A group of nine rock-cut monuments carved into the Vindhya range, renowned for their ancient mural paintings executed on lime-mud plaster. Dating largely to the 5th and 6th centuries CE, they represent a high watermark of classical Indian rock-cut architecture and painting traditions alongside Ajanta.
 - **Udaigiri Caves (Madhya Pradesh):**
 - *Significance:* An early Hindu and Jain rock-cut sanctuary dating back to the Gupta Empire (early 5th century CE). It features remarkable iconographic masterpieces, most notably the colossal rock-cut sculpture of Varaha (the boar incarnation of Lord Vishnu) rescuing the earth goddess Bhudevi.
 - **Group of Temples of the Chambal Valley (Madhya Pradesh):**
 - *Significance:* Encompassing architectural complexes like Bateshwar, Padavali, and Kakarmath, these structures showcase the evolution of early medieval Nagara temple architecture and intricate dry-masonry stone craftsmanship under the Gurjara-Pratihara and Kachchhapaghata dynasties.
 - **Ginnorgarh Fort (Madhya Pradesh):**
 - *Significance:* A strategic 13th-century hill fort perched on an isolated hill in the Vindhyas, historically associated with the Gond dynasty. It features classic defensive fortifications and rare palace wall paintings.
 - **Sites of Satyagraha (Serial Transnational Proposal - India & South Africa):**
 - *Significance:* A unique transnational serial nomination connecting key locations that shaped Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violent resistance (*Satyagraha*). It links historic sites in South Africa (such as Pietermaritzburg Station and Phoenix Settlement) with monumental Indian milestones (including Sabarmati Ashram, Champaran, and Mani Bhavan).
- The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has officially granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** to the **Mandar**, a traditional folk percussion instrument deeply rooted in the tribal heritage and cultural identity of Jharkhand. The formal recognition follows an application filed in September 2021 by the Raidih Mandar Producer Company Limited from Gumla district, backed by historical documentation and extensive cultural research.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the national conference of **Lokayuktas and Upalokayuktas** in New Delhi, bringing together anti-corruption ombudsmen from across states to deliberate on institutional transparency, administrative accountability, and the modernization of grievance redressal systems.
- India's **Essar Group**, through its US-backed entity **Mesabi Metalics**, has announced a massive **\$18 billion investment** to construct a fully integrated American steel manufacturing enterprise. The landmark project was officially unveiled at the White House.
- In a remarkable transition from media broadcasting to royalty, **Edward Rukidi Kijanangoma**—a veteran television news anchor and editor with the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC)—has been officially crowned as the new king of Uganda's historic **Tooro Kingdom**. Taking the royal name **Edward Rukidi Nyabongo I**, he assumed the throne at a traditional coronation ceremony at the Karuziika Palace in Fort Portal, western Uganda.
- The Rajasthan government officially launched its maiden electric bus services under the central **PM-eBus Sewa** scheme, flagging off initial fleets to modernize urban public transport and cut carbon emissions across the state.
- Marking a notable step in multilateral engagement, India has dispatched a senior Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) official to Islamabad to lead the delegation at the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of National Coordinators' meeting**. The three-day preparatory meeting runs from **September 28 to 30, 2026**, under Pakistan's rotating chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State for 2026–27.
- Veteran politician, former Indian Army officer, and five-time Himachal Pradesh cabinet minister **Major Vijay Singh Mankotia** passed away following a heart attack at his ancestral home in Tiara village, Kangra district. He was 87.
- A high-level, bipartisan **US Congressional delegation** arrived in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, for a formal visit with the Tibetan spiritual leader, the **Dalai Lama**, reaffirming American legislative support for Tibetan autonomy and human rights.
- Tamil Nadu leads India in factory count and manufacturing employment released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), the **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2024–25** highlights a robust expansion in India's registered manufacturing sector, with **Tamil Nadu securing the top spot nationwide** for both the highest number of operating factories and total manufacturing employment.
- The Ministry of Power has officially notified the **Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE-III)** regulations for passenger vehicles in India. Taking effect from **April 1, 2027, through March 31, 2032**, these new norms mandate a strict **16.7% improvement in fleet-wide fuel efficiency** over five years.
- Apple has officially rolled out **Apple Pay** in India, marking its entry into one of the world's largest digital payments markets. In its initial phase, Apple has partnered exclusively with **Axis Bank**.
 - **Supported Cards:** At launch, the service is limited to **Axis Bank-issued credit cards** running on the **Visa and Mastercard** networks. Debit cards, RuPay cards, and cards from other major issuers are not supported in the initial rollout.
 - **Ecosystem Integration:** iPhone, iPad, and Apple Watch users can add their eligible Axis Bank cards directly to the Apple Wallet app or through the latest version of the Axis Bank mobile app.

- **Contactless & Online Payments:** Users can utilize Apple Pay for tap-and-pay transactions at physical retail point-of-sale (POS) terminals using Face ID or Touch ID, as well as for seamless checkouts within supported apps and web browsers on iOS devices.
- Leading investment services firm **Geojit Financial Services** has officially restructured its top leadership as part of a long-term succession plan. The changes took effect on **October 1, 2026**.
 - **Executive Chairman:** Founder **C.J. George**, who has served as the Chairman and Managing Director since the firm's inception in 1987, has transitioned to the role of **Executive Chairman**.
 - **Managing Director:** **Jones George** has officially taken over as the **Managing Director**, steering the next phase of the company's corporate expansion.