

Highlights of 06 October 2026 Current Affairs

- The **2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** has been jointly awarded to **Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel** for their pioneering discoveries concerning **optogenetics** and light-gated ion channels.
 - **Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel:** Discovered **channelrhodopsins**, light-sensitive proteins found in single-celled green algae. They demonstrated that these proteins could act as ion channels that open or close in response to light, making target cells light-sensitive.
 - **Karl Deisseroth:** Pioneered the application of these findings to neuroscience. He successfully introduced the gene for channelrhodopsin into mammalian nerve cells, proving that light delivered via fiber optics could precisely control neural activity in living brains.
- During the spectacular closing ceremony of the **20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026** at the Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) flag was formally handed over to Qatar, marking the official transition of host responsibilities to **Doha for the 2030 edition**.
 - **High-Level Delegation:** The OCA flag was received on behalf of Qatar by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs **Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani**, under the supervision of OCA President **Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani**.
 - **Unveiling of Doha 2030 Identity:** Alongside the handover, Qatar introduced the official visual identity and tagline for the upcoming games: **"The Games We Live For."** The new branding integrates the OCA sun emblem into the letter "O" of DOHA, symbolizing both Qatari heritage and a unified human story driven by sport.
 - **A Returning Legacy:** This milestone marks Doha's return as host of the continental multi-sport extravaganza for the second time, having previously hosted the successful 15th Asian Games in **2006**—returning to the Qatari capital after a 24-year interval.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath officially announced the renaming of the **Bhadohi district as Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi**. The announcement was made during the inauguration of the golden jubilee edition of the **India Carpet Expo** in Bhadohi, alongside the launch of 112 development projects worth over ₹1,340 crore.
- **Prayagraj** (formerly known as Allahabad) in **Uttar Pradesh** is widely recognized as the **Guava Capital of India**.
 - **Legendary Varieties:** The region is globally renowned for its exceptional quality fruit, particularly two primary varieties:
 - **Allahabadi Safeda:** Known for its round shape, medium size, white flesh, sweet flavor, and relatively few seeds.
 - **Allahabadi Surkha:** Distinct for its attractive reddish/pink flesh, rich aroma, and unique flavor profile.
 - **Geographical Indication (GI):** The traditional status and unique qualities of the region's produce have earned official Geographical Indication (GI) recognition.
 - **Wider Agricultural Hub:** While Prayagraj is the epicenter, guava cultivation is deeply rooted across several surrounding districts in Uttar Pradesh, including

Kaushambi, Kaushambi, Aligarh, Budaun, and Farrukhabad, making the state a leading producer of the fruit nationwide.

- The inaugural edition of the **India-UAE joint military exercise "Mountain Guardian 2026"** commenced on October 5, 2026, at the Foreign Training Node in **Chaubatia, Uttarakhand**, and is scheduled to run through October 18, 2026.
 - **Primary Focus:** High-altitude and **mountain warfare**, aiming to enhance tactical proficiency, operational synergy, and interoperability between the Indian Army and the UAE Land Forces.
 - **Contingent Composition:** A total of **92 personnel** (46 from each side) are participating. The Indian Army is represented by troops from a **Bhairav Battalion**, while the UAE Land Forces have deployed a specialized **Mountain Infantry Battalion**.
 - **Inclusion of Women Officers:** In line with progressive defence integration, women officers and combatants from both nations are actively participating in specialist roles.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated **Chintan Shivir 2026**, a major national conclave on highway infrastructure, held on October 5–6, 2026, at **Ekta Nagar (Tent City 2 near the Statue of Unity) in the Narmada district of Gujarat**. Organized by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), the two-day conclave took place under the overarching motto **"Gatishakti se Pragati"**.
- On October 5, 2026, Assam's Dibrugarh district marked a historic milestone in regional logistics by dispatching its **first international cargo shipment to Bangladesh via inland waterways**. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Sarbananda Sonowal** officially flagged off the vessel from the **Bogibee Terminal**, with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma joining virtually.
- British author and former politician **Jeffrey Archer** passed away suddenly and peacefully at his home on **October 5, 2026**, at the age of 86. His publisher, HarperCollins, confirmed that he died between writing sessions.
- Elon Musk has confirmed that his aerospace company's artificial intelligence division, **SpaceX AI**, will be officially rebranded as **SpaceX SI**, with the "SI" standing for **Super Intelligence**.
 - **The Triggering Directive:** The decision follows a recent policy push and executive order by U.S. President Donald Trump—titled *"Inaugurating the Era of Super Intelligence"*—which mandated replacing the traditional term "Artificial Intelligence" (AI) with "Super Intelligence" (SI) across federal executive branch communications and official documents.
 - **Social Media Confirmation:** Responding to a user inquiry on X regarding whether a name change was on the horizon, Musk replied, *"Yes, we will make that change,"* adding in subsequent posts, *"No more AI. SI, it's better"* and characterizing SpaceX as a super-intelligent company.
 - **Evolution of the Unit:** This marks another high-profile identity shift for the enterprise. Originally founded independently as xAI in 2023, the division was integrated into SpaceX as an operating subsidiary earlier in the year and rebranded to SpaceX AI before transitioning toward the new **SpaceX SI** moniker.
- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) introduced two prestigious new accolades following the conclusion of the **20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026**, recognizing the

most exceptional individual performances by Indian athletes. The inaugural honors were awarded to 17-year-old archer **Kumkum Mohod** and 23-year-old wrestler **Sujeet Kalkal**.

- On October 4, 2026, the Government of Odisha officially launched **India's first dedicated MICE Incentive Portal** during the 7th edition of the **Odisha Travel Bazaar 2026**. The platform was unveiled by Odisha's Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister, **Pravati Parida**.
 - **First-of-Its-Kind Digital Mechanism:** Odisha has become the pioneering state in India to establish a dedicated digital framework to market its destinations for corporate conventions and streamline financial assistance.
 - **Streamlining Approvals & Incentives:** The portal provides event organizers, corporate houses, and tourism operators with a seamless, transparent single-window mechanism to apply for and track government financial incentives under the *Odisha Tourism (Amendment) Policy*.
 - **Promoting Business Tourism:** The initiative is designed to position Odisha—particularly the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Puri-Paradip corridor—as a premier national and international hub for **Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE)**.
 - **Expanding High-Value Sectors:** Alongside corporate conventions, the government aims to leverage the portal to accelerate approvals and scale up infrastructure for high-value segments, including destination weddings, large-scale sports events, and cultural-heritage tourism.
- **World Cerebral Palsy Day** is observed annually on **October 6** to raise global awareness, celebrate the lives and achievements of individuals living with cerebral palsy (CP), and advocate for systemic structural changes to advance disability rights.