

Highlights of 07 October 2026 Current Affairs

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in partnership with the Government of West Bengal, has officially announced that **Kolkata** will host the **19th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) Convention** from **January 7 to 9, 2027**.
 - **Leadership & Dignitaries:**
 - The flagship three-day convention will be formally inaugurated by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
 - President **Droupadi Murmu** will confer the prestigious **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards** and preside over the valedictory session.
 - **Core Focus & Segments:** Alongside the primary diaspora engagement tracks, the event will feature a dedicated **Youth PBD** segment, bringing together young overseas Indian leaders, entrepreneurs, academics, innovators, and professionals from across the globe.
 - **Significance:** Celebrated biennially (marking the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa to India on January 9, 1915), the convention serves as a vital platform to strengthen connections, foster collaboration, and recognize the immense global contributions of the Indian diaspora.
- World Cotton Day 2026 observed annually on **October 7**, **World Cotton Day** highlights cotton's critical role as a global natural fiber, a major economic driver, and a vital lifeline for millions of smallholder farmers and textile workers worldwide.
- On **October 1–2, 2026**, **NABKISAN Finance Limited**—a subsidiary of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)—officially listed India's first social bond dedicated exclusively to the **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)** sector on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in Mumbai.
- India is observing the **72nd National Wildlife Week** from **October 2 to October 8, 2026**. This nationwide annual observance is dedicated to fostering awareness around biodiversity preservation, habitat safeguarding, and the protection of India's rich fauna.
 - **Official Theme:** *"Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife"*
 - **Core Objectives:**
 - Emphasizing the critical role of **ecological connectivity** and wildlife corridors.
 - Ensuring that wild animals can safely migrate and disperse between fragmented forests, grasslands, and wetlands without severe human interference.
 - Addressing and mitigating rising human-wildlife conflicts by actively engaging local communities, educational institutions, and frontline forestry staff.
- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has officially entered the pension fund management business, becoming the **second Public Sector Bank (PSB) in India** to do so. The formal Certificate of Appointment as a Sponsor of a Pension Fund was awarded under Section 27 of the PFRDA Act, 2013, during the **NPS Divas 2026** celebrations.
- Legendary Indian filmmaker, screenwriter, music composer, and cinematic pioneer **Singeetham Srinivasa Rao** passed away on **October 7, 2026**, at the age of 94. Renowned for his fearless experimentation, technical brilliance, and refusal to be bound

by conventional genre boundaries, he left an indelible mark across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi cinema.

- On **October 6, 2026**, veteran batter **Harmanpreet Kaur** officially announced her decision to step down as captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team across all three formats (Tests, ODIs, and T20Is). The announcement followed a high-level review meeting involving Harmanpreet, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, head coach Amol Muzumdar, and Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officials.
- The National Statistics Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the landmark findings of India's first-ever **National Household Travel Survey (NHTS)**, conducted between July 2025 and June 2026. The extensive nationwide study covered **4,92,023 households** (representing over **20.34 million individuals**) across 14,274 villages and 10,377 urban blocks, providing a granular empirical baseline for India's future transit, logistics, and urban policy framework.
- An Indian parliamentary delegation is currently participating in the **153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**, held from **October 5 to 9, 2026**, at the Arusha International Conference Centre in **Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania**. The high-level delegation is led by **Shri Harivansh**, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- On October 6, 2026, Raksha Mantri **Rajnath Singh** officially launched **INS Surya (FSS-1)**, India's first indigenously built Fleet Support Ship, at **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)** in Visakhapatnam. The landmark milestone marks a massive leap forward in the Indian Navy's capabilities, blue-water endurance, and strategic reach across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the **2026 Nobel Prize in Physics** to Belgian-American physicist **Francis Halzen**. He was honored "*for decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the discovery of high-energy neutrinos of astrophysical origin.*"
 - **Pioneering "Ghost Particle" Astronomy:** Neutrinos are extremely elusive subatomic particles that rarely interact with matter, allowing them to travel across the universe undisturbed from extreme cosmic events.
 - **The IceCube Observatory:** Halzen championed the visionary concept of turning a massive cubic kilometer of pristine ice deep beneath the Antarctic surface into a giant particle detector. By embedding thousands of optical sensors deep into the ice sheet, the facility successfully detects faint flashes of light produced by rare neutrino interactions.
 - **A New Era of Astronomy:** Under Halzen's leadership as the principal investigator, the IceCube collaboration effectively opened an entirely new window to observe the universe using high-energy particles rather than traditional light and electromagnetic radiation.
- On October 5, 2026, the President of India appointed three serving High Court Chief Justices as Judges of the Supreme Court of India under **Article 124(2)** of the Constitution. The appointments followed recommendations made by the Supreme Court Collegium on September 28, 2026. Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant administered the oath of office to the newly elevated judges on October 6, 2026.
 - **Justice Sunita Agarwal-** Chief Justice, Gujarat High Court (Allahabad High Court)

- **Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya**- Chief Justice, Delhi High Court (Allahabad High Court)
 - **Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh**- Chief Justice, Telangana High Court (Jharkhand High Court).
- Following Harmanpreet Kaur's decision to step down from leadership, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officially appointed star opening batter **Smriti Mandhana** as the full-time white-ball captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team on October 6, 2026.
- The Government of India officially announced the appointment of **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** as the next **Chief of the Air Staff (CAS)**. He will assume charge as the **29th Chief of the Air Staff** in the rank of Air Chief Marshal from the afternoon of **October 31, 2026**, succeeding outgoing Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, who superannuates on the same day.