

Highlights of 08 October 2026 Current Affairs

- The Central Government launched the nationwide **"Reform Utsav"** campaign starting **October 2, 2026** (coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti). Designed as a first-of-its-kind, multi-month citizen-driven governance initiative, the campaign aims to showcase transformative structural reforms, promote inclusive growth, and strengthen citizen-centric service delivery across all central ministries and departments.
- **October 8, 2026**, marks the **94th anniversary of the Indian Air Force (IAF)**. Formed officially on October 8, 1932, the day commemorates the history, valour, and vital national security contributions of India's air warriors.
 - **Official Theme:** *"Indian Air Force – Infallible, Impervious and Precise"* (highlighting operational reliability, resilience, and pinpoint precision).
 - **Main Air Show & Venue:** The focal point of this year's celebrations features a high-impact aerial display at the **Jodhpur Air Force Station**, aligning with the ongoing multinational air exercise **Tarang Shakti 2026**.
- Legendary actor, filmmaker, and Padma Shri recipient **Nana Patekar** passed away on the morning of **October 8, 2026**, at the age of 75. He suffered a severe cardiac arrest at his residence in Dona Paula, Goa, and was rushed to a private hospital, where doctors attempted resuscitation before pronouncing him dead at 5:20 AM.
- The milestone **10th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026** officially kicked off on **October 7 and runs through October 10, 2026**, at **Yashobhoomi (India International Convention & Expo Centre), New Delhi**. Jointly organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), IMC 2026 stands as Asia's premier digital technology, telecom, and deep-tech forum.
- During the 63rd meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held from October 5 to 7, 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a crucial shift in its monetary stance, **raising the policy repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 5.50%**. This marks India's first interest rate hike in over three years, signaling a decisive departure from the prolonged pause and subsequent easing cycles.
- On October 7, 2026, Minister of State for Defence **Sanjay Seth** formally inaugurated the **12th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026)**, organized by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The high-stakes biennial exercise features extensive live-action maritime and aerial demonstrations off the **Paradip coast in Odisha**, backed by the concurrent convening of the **24th National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Board Meeting** in Bhubaneswar.
- On **October 6, 2026**, during the *ASHA Sammelan-2026* and *ASHA Samman Samaroh* held at Thyagraj Stadium, the Delhi Government rolled out a series of major public health and administrative initiatives. The event was jointly led by Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.
- In its latest *India Development Update* and October South Asia Economic Update, the World Bank revised its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projection for India for the financial year 2026–27 (FY27) upward to **7.1%**, marking a 0.5 percentage point increase from its previous 6.6% forecast made in April. The upward revision mirrors the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) concurrent economic outlook, reflecting stronger-than-expected momentum across domestic and external pillars.

- In a report released on **October 6, 2026**, titled “*India and Artificial Intelligence: Seizing the Development Opportunity*”, the World Bank officially ranked **India among the top 10 emerging-market performers** in artificial intelligence (AI) readiness.
 - **Surge in Private AI Investment:** The World Bank highlighted that private investment in artificial intelligence within India more than tripled, jumping from **\$1.2 billion in 2024 to \$4.1 billion in 2025**, reflecting immense confidence from domestic enterprises, startups, and global tech investors.
 - **Growth of Global Capability Centres (GCCs):** Employment in India-based GCCs expanded significantly, rising to **2.36 million professionals**, solidifying the nation's role as a powerhouse for global IT, automation, and advanced data analytics.
- **Novak Djokovic** captured his first ATP Tour title of the 2026 season by winning the **China Open** in Beijing. The victory marked his **seventh China Open crown** and the **102nd tour-level trophy** of his legendary career.
- Spanish star **Carlos Alcaraz** successfully defended his crown at the **Japan Open Tennis Championships**, defeating the Czech Republic’s **Jiří Lehečka** in straight sets. The top-seeded Spaniard captured the ATP 500 hard-court title at Tokyo's Ariake Coliseum with a hard-fought **7-6(4), 6-4** victory.
- The third edition of **Sagarmanthan: The Great Oceans Dialogue** is currently underway in New Delhi, running from **October 7 to 9, 2026**. Co-hosted jointly by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India**, and the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)**, the summit has established itself as one of the world's leading international forums dedicated to ocean geopolitics, maritime trade, shipping, and sustainable blue economies.
- Uttarakhand officially crossed a historic educational milestone, being declared **India's sixth fully literate state** under the central **ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society)** framework and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- The Union Cabinet approved the conferment of **Classical Language status to five additional languages**, expanding the total number of recognized classical languages in India from six to **eleven**.
 - **Marathi**
 - **Bengali**
 - **Assamese**
 - **Pali**
 - **Prakrit**
- On **October 8, 2026**, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **J.P. Nadda** officially launched **JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Teams** under the **TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan** at a national event held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Co-launched alongside Youth Affairs and Sports Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, the initiative aims to harness the energy and grassroots reach of youth to accelerate India's journey toward eliminating tuberculosis.
- During External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar’s official diplomatic visit to West Africa, **India and Ghana formally signed and exchanged two landmark Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** to expand bilateral collaboration in science, education, and agriculture. The agreements were exchanged in the presence of EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar and Ghana’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa.

- Indian mathematician and **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** professor **Mahesh Kakde** has been awarded the prestigious **2026 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries**. The announcement recognizes his monumental contributions to advanced algebraic number theory.