

Highlights of 10 October 2026 Current Affairs

- Israeli President Isaac Herzog announced that Indian pilot **Captain Smit Machchhar** will be awarded Israel's prestigious **Presidential Award for Civil Heroism**. The honor recognizes his extraordinary bravery and professional presence of mind in preventing a catastrophic aviation disaster aboard a commercial flight.
- Japanese retail giant **Seven & i Holdings** confirmed that its master franchisee, **Reliance Retail**, permanently closed all remaining **7-Eleven convenience stores in India**. The closure marks the end of a five-year franchise run and the brand's complete exit from the Indian market.
- During the state visit of Swiss Confederation President **Guy Parmelin** to New Delhi, India and Switzerland signed **five major bilateral cooperation instruments** aimed at expanding economic integration, talent mobility, and technological collaboration. The agreements build directly upon the broader framework of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).
 - **Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (MMPA):**
 - Establishes a formal, secure channel for legal student and professional mobility while tightening cooperation against illegal migration and human trafficking.
 - Introduces streamlined multi-entry visa provisions (up to 5 years, with stays permitted for up to 6 months per visit).
 - **Young Professionals Scheme:**
 - Facilitates temporary work-and-learn exchanges, enabling an initial annual quota of **300 young professionals from each country** (expandable to 500) to gain vital cross-border corporate and language exposure.
 - **Transport and Infrastructure Technology:**
 - Establishes direct technical cooperation between India's Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Switzerland's Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research.
 - Focuses heavily on sustainable transit, including electric vehicle infrastructure, advanced tunneling technologies, mountainous ropeway transit systems (such as ropeway projects in regions like Varanasi), and circular economy solutions.
 - **Science, Innovation, and Startups:**
 - Connects India's Department of Science and Technology (DST) with the Swiss National Science Foundation for joint research in clean energy, health, and space technologies.
 - Implements the **Indo-Swiss Academia-Industry Training program** via the Zurich University of Applied Sciences to fast-track tech transfer and early-stage startup collaboration.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) announced a monumental **₹1 lakh crore investment plan** in Andhra Pradesh to scale up sustainable bio-energy infrastructure across the state. The expansion strategy—unveiled by RIL Executive Director Anant Ambani—marks one of the largest corporate commitments to green infrastructure outside Gujarat.
- Recent satellite imagery and defense reports highlight rapid and extensive construction activity by China on **Antelope Reef** (known as Lingyang Reef / Xisha Islands) in the

contested **Paracel Islands** archipelago of the South China Sea. Security analysts and regional defense attachés have characterized the project as one of Beijing's most substantial offshore military expansions in the waterway in a decade.

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is significantly expanding its orbital tracking and Space Situational Awareness (SSA) capabilities with the establishment of a state-of-the-art **Advanced Radar Research Facility (IARRF)** in **Chandrapur, near Guwahati, Assam**.
 - **Part of Project NETRA:** The facility operates under the umbrella of **Project NETRA** (Network for Space Objects Tracking and Analysis), ISRO's indigenous initiative designed to safeguard India's multi-billion-dollar commercial and strategic space assets from space debris and orbital collision risks.
 - **Enhanced Tracking & Self-Reliance:** Operating under the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), the center will drastically reduce India's historical reliance on foreign tracking data (such as US-managed NORAD feeds) by providing autonomous, high-precision telemetry and tracking data.
 - **Geographical Advantage:** Situated in Northeast India, the Guwahati radar site provides an optimal viewing vantage point for monitoring critical orbital trajectories and space objects that are otherwise difficult to track from southern or western tracking stations.
- Chief Justice of India (CJI) **Surya Kant** inaugurated a major **two-day National Stakeholders Consultation** at the Supreme Court premises in New Delhi, marking a decade of the implementation of the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**. Organized by the Supreme Court's **Juvenile Justice Committee** in association with **UNICEF India**, the high-level event brings together apex court and high court judges, senior government policymakers, legal practitioners, and child rights experts to evaluate the law's decade-long journey.
- The **16th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2026** officially commenced on **October 10, 2026**, in **Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh**. Running through **October 21**, the marquee domestic tournament brings together **29 teams** competing across three distinct divisions.
- On **October 9, 2026**, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced South African jurist and human rights pioneer **Navanethem "Navi" Pillay** as the recipient of the **2026 Nobel Peace Prize**.
 - **Official Citation:** Awarded *"for her efforts to promote peace and international law,"* highlighting how legal institutions, accountability, and international justice serve as foundational pillars to prevent conflict and protect human dignity.
- On **October 9, 2026**, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, officially passed a resolution approving the renaming of the upcoming greenfield facility in Jewar—popularly known as Noida International Airport—to **Narendra Modi International Airport**.
- The four-day **1st Solang Manali Paragliding Accuracy Pre-World Cup** officially kicked off in **Solang Nala, Manali, Himachal Pradesh**. Running through **October 12**, the international sports spectacle marks Manali's debut as a competitive host for precision paragliding landing events. Organized by the **Manali Paragliding Association** with support from **Himachal Tourism**, the event was formally inaugurated by Rajesh

Dharmani, Minister for Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training, and Town and Country Planning.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted members of **Team India** at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg in New Delhi following their historic performance at the **48th WorldSkills Competition** held in Shanghai, China. The Indian contingent achieved its best-ever global standing at the premier technical skills showcase, finishing **10th overall** with **6 Silver Medals** and **20 Medals for Excellence** across diverse vocational and emerging tech trades.
- World Mental Health Day observed annually on **October 10, World Mental Health Day** serves as a global platform to raise awareness about mental health, break societal stigma, and advocate for equitable care systems.
 - Theme for 2026: *"Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change"*