

Highlights of 11 October 2026 Current Affairs

- During the Wildlife Week celebrations at Choglamsar Protected Forest in Leh, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor **Vinai Kumar Saxena** officially flagged off six specially modified safari vehicles, marking the launch of **India's first high-altitude wildlife safari**. The initiative offers visitors structured, guided excursions across the cold desert landscape to observe the elusive "Ghost of the Mountains"—the snow leopard—along with other high-altitude wildlife in their natural habitat.
- The **Nameri Tiger Reserve** in Assam has officially been awarded **CA|TS Approved** (Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards) status following evaluation and approval by the CA|TS International Executive Committee. The international accreditation marks a major conservation milestone, recognizing the reserve's adherence to global benchmarks in managing tiger habitats and wildlife protection.
- New York Governor **Kathy Hochul** signed an Executive Order declaring a statewide **Disaster Emergency** in response to a surge in measles cases across rural and under-immunized communities. The action represents the first disaster emergency declaration by a U.S. state addressing measles transmission since the nation's broader case surge began in 2025.
- **Akie Abe**, widow of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, jointly inaugurated the **Shinzo Abe Memorial Corridor** at the **Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre** in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, alongside Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) issued an updated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) governing **Aadhaar name changes and corrections**. The revised rules strictly classify name updates into distinct categories—ranging from minor formatting tweaks to complete name updates—with explicit document requirements for each category.
- HDFC Bank has proposed a substantial target annual compensation package of **₹35.9 crore** for its incoming Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, **Anup Bagchi**. Set to take charge on **October 27, 2026** (succeeding outgoing MD & CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan), Bagchi is poised to become the highest-paid bank chief executive in India.
- The famous **Mohanthal prasad** of the revered Shaktipeeth Ambaji Temple in Gujarat's Banaskantha district has officially been awarded the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag** by the Central GI Registry. The certification places Ambaji's traditional sweet offering alongside other elite, legally protected Indian temple prasads like the Tirupati Laddu and Palani Panchamirtham.
- The Indian Navy is set to commission **INS Mangrol**, the third vessel under the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) project, on **October 12, 2026**, at the Naval Dockyard in **Mumbai**. The commissioning ceremony will be presided over by **Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan**, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command.
- **World Development Report (WDR) 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence** offers the first comprehensive global assessment of what artificial intelligence means for emerging and developing economies. The landmark report examines how developing nations can harness AI to leapfrog historical development barriers while carefully managing acute economic, social, and structural risks.

- The West Bengal State Cabinet has officially approved the **Bhagini Nivedita Scheme**, aimed at empowering young women and boosting female enrollment in higher education across the state. Under the scheme, eligible unmarried female students pursuing undergraduate degrees will receive financial assistance totaling **₹50,000** spread over a three-year study period.
- The Swedish Academy announced Canadian poet, essayist, translator, and classicist **Anne Carson** as the winner of the **2026 Nobel Prize in Literature**. The Swedish Academy cited her *"for her bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature"*.
- China has officially nominated **Dr. Song Li**, a senior public health official from China's National Health Commission (NHC), to succeed Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as the next **Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- Greece has finalized agreements with the United States for a foreign military sales package valued at **up to \$4 billion**. The announcement followed high-level diplomatic discussions between U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Greek officials during the U.S.–Greece Strategic Dialogue in Athens.
- On **October 9, 2026**, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned **ICGS Ajit**, an indigenously designed and constructed Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV), at **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** in Vasco da Gama, Goa. The commissioning ceremony was presided over by **Dr. Sirish Choudhary**, Principal Integrated Financial Advisor (ICG).
- On **October 9, 2026** (at 12:56 PM local time), a powerful **7.7-magnitude earthquake** struck the **Azuero Peninsula** in central Panama. The severe seismic event damaged infrastructure, triggered temporary Pacific tsunami advisories, and prompted President **José Raúl Mulino** to declare a disaster emergency.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a regulatory circular (*RBI/2026-27/290*) raising the **minimum daily Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) maintenance threshold for scheduled banks from 90% to 99%**. The revised requirement takes effect from the reporting fortnight beginning **October 16, 2026**.
- President Donald Trump announced the appointment of **Katie Zacharia** as the new White House Press Secretary. She succeeds Karoline Leavitt, who departed the role in late August 2026. Prior to her appointment, Zacharia served as a communications adviser for the Trump Media & Technology Group and Truth Social, as well as working as a political commentator for Newsmax.
- On **October 10, 2026**, coinciding with World Mental Health Day, Chief Justice of India **Surya Kant** constituted a **Standing Committee on Judicial Well-Being** under the aegis of the Supreme Court of India. The landmark initiative establishes a structured institutional mechanism to identify and address the mental and physical health challenges faced by judicial officers across the country.
- International Day of the Girl Child 2026 observed annually on **October 11**, the **International Day of the Girl Child** highlights the unique challenges girls face globally while championing their empowerment, leadership, and human rights.
 - **Official Theme:** *"End child marriage and invest in girls' rights!"*