

Highlights of 12 October 2026 Current Affairs

- The **Delhi Police**, under Standing Order issued by Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar, officially de-notified **Jantar Mantar** as a designated site for public demonstrations, sit-ins, and rallies. The decision partializes and modifies the earlier *Standing Order No. L&O/48/22* (dated April 28, 2022), following actionable recommendations from a special committee constituted by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** to examine viable alternative venues in the National Capital Region.
 - Three Newly Designated Protest Venues
 - **Ramlila Maidan** (Central / Old Delhi): Historic venue used for large-scale political rallies, national assemblies, and major public meetings. Located ~3–4 km from Jantar Mantar.
 - **Burari Ground** (Burari, North Delhi): Spacious open grounds designated to host medium-to-large assemblies. Located ~15–44 km from Central Delhi.
 - **CBD Ground** (Shahdara / East Delhi): Central Business District (CBD) Ground in East Delhi. Located ~13 km from Central Delhi.
- Senior bureaucrat **Prakash Rajpurohit** has been appointed as **Deputy Election Commissioner** in the Election Commission of India (ECI). The order was issued by the Ministry of Personnel as part of a joint secretary-level administrative reshuffle approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**. He replaces **Sanjay Kumar**, an IAS officer who previously looked after the critical Electoral Rolls and Information Technology (IT) divisions at the ECI.
- **World Arthritis Day (WAD)** is observed on October 12, 2026 globally every year to raise awareness about arthritis and other **Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (RMDs)**. The day aims to educate the public, support individuals living with joint conditions, and advocate for better medical infrastructure, early diagnosis, and access to treatment.
 - **Campaign Theme** “Achieve Your Dreams”
- The Maharashtra government has constituted a high-level inquiry and reform committee to overhaul the **Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC)** and investigate recent recruitment irregularities. Senior IAS officer and Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) Commissioner **Tukaram Mundhe** has been appointed as the **Secretary** of the committee.
- The **Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra** in Ayodhya has been officially certified as an ‘**Eat Right Place of Worship**’ by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The certification was formally presented by FSSAI Chief Executive Officer Rajit Punhani during a special ceremony held in Ayodhya.
- On **October 12, 2026**, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India marked its **33rd Foundation Day**, commemorating three decades of protecting and promoting human rights across the country.
 - **Establishment Date:** Formed on **October 12, 1993**, under the statutory framework of the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Sahyadri** arrived at the port city of **Vladivostok, Russia**, to participate in the bilateral maritime exercise **INDRA-2026**, scheduled from **October 13 to 18, 2026**.

- **Participating Forces:** Conducted between the **Indian Navy** and the **Russian Federation Navy (RuFN)**, the exercise is designed to boost interoperability, tactical coordination, and mutual understanding at sea.
- Bharti Enterprises Founder and Chairman **Sunil Bharti Mittal** has been named a **Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Légion d'Honneur** (Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour)—France's highest civilian distinction. French President Emmanuel Macron conferred the honor in recognition of Mittal's enduring commitment to strengthening economic, technological, and industrial collaboration between India and France.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced a mandatory **Credit Risk-o-Meter** for debt securities. Designed to make risk evaluation intuitive for retail and first-time investors who may find alphanumeric credit ratings (like AAA, AA, or BBB) complex, the framework maps credit ratings into **six distinct, colour-coded risk levels**.
- The World Bank Group announced a record-breaking mobilization of **\$112 billion in private capital** for developing economies for the financial year ending June 2026. The milestone comes as emerging markets and low-income nations navigate acute macroeconomic headwinds, including severe external debt burdens, tighter global financing conditions, and energy-related economic shocks.
- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the **2026 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences** jointly to American economists **Robert E. Hall** (Stanford University) and **Michael Woodford** (Columbia University). The laureates were recognized "**for the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation.**" Their pioneering separate yet complementary research has fundamentally transformed how central banks and governments understand and manage economic fluctuations, inflation, and employment.
- The **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)** marked its **first full year of implementation on October 11, 2026**. Rolled out on **October 11, 2025**, the flagship scheme acts as a targeted, six-year transformation framework modeled after NITI Aayog's *Aspirational Districts Programme*. It focuses on **100 Aspirational Agricultural Districts** that historically lag in crop yields, cropping intensity, irrigation coverage, and institutional credit flow.
- On **October 12, 2026**, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution **Pralhad Joshi** jointly launched '**Bharat Rice**' for defence personnel at a ceremony in New Delhi. Alongside the launch, the **Indian Army** signed a strategic 5-year **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** to optimize military logistics and supply chain resilience. The event was attended by Chief of the Army Staff **General Dhiraj Seth**, senior officials from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, and executive leadership from NAFED and FCI.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has revised its growth projections for India, raising the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for the financial year **2026–27 (FY27)** to **7.0%** (up by 30 basis points from its earlier estimate of 6.7%). The upward revision was announced alongside the release of the IMF's latest *World Economic Outlook* report, underscoring India's position as one of the fastest-growing major economies globally amidst a sluggish international landscape.

- India's retail inflation, measured by the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, accelerated to a 23-month high of **5.54% in September 2026** (up from 4.83% in August 2026). Data released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** reveals that the spike was primarily driven by a sharp surge in food and kitchen essentials, keeping headline inflation above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) medium-term target of 4.0% for the fourth consecutive month.