

Highlights of 13 October 2026 Current Affairs

- President Droupadi Murmu has appointed new Governors across six states as part of a major state-level administrative reshuffle announced by Rashtrapati Bhavan. The gubernatorial reassignments aim to strengthen constitutional governance and administrative oversight in the respective regions. Under Article 155 of the Constitution of India, the President holds the authority to appoint state Governors on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers.
 - **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar - Tamil Nadu**(Previously serving as Governor of Kerala (also holding additional charge of Tamil Nadu))
 - **Om Prakash Mathur- Kerala** (Previously serving as Governor of Sikkim)
 - **Dushyant Gautam- Sikkim** (Former BJP National General Secretary and ex-Rajya Sabha MP)
 - **Braj Mohan Ram- Odisha** (Senior leader and former MP from Jharkhand)
 - **Dr. Sudha Yadav- Karnataka** (Former Lok Sabha MP and senior leader)
 - **Dr. Dhal Singh Bisen- Uttarakhand** (Former Lok Sabha MP from Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh)
- Lakshadweep Administrator Praful Patel has officially declared Lakshadweep as India's first 100% literate Union Territory under the ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. The announcement was made in Kavaratti following an intensive campaign by the Department of Education that successfully enabled all identified non-literate residents to pass the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT). ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Education to target non-literate individuals aged 15 and above. This milestone underscores the significance of foundational literacy, digital empowerment, and adult education models for national human capital development.
- The Government of India marked the fifth anniversary of the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, reflecting on five years of transformative multi-modal infrastructure planning. Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to break operational silos, the initiative integrates 16 Ministries on a unified GIS-based platform to enhance logistical efficiency across the nation. Over the past five years, the platform has streamlined project appraisal, reduced logistics costs, and accelerated connectivity projects in railway, highway, and maritime sectors. The national initiative serves as a crucial case study in public policy, economic infrastructure, and spatial planning.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has deferred the implementation of a 0.4% Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on select Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions exceeding ₹2,000 until after Diwali. The decision was taken to ensure smooth digital payment processing, merchant stability, and consumer convenience during the high-volume festive shopping season. The temporary relief applies specifically to merchant transactions facilitated via prepaid payment instruments (PPI) and wallet-based digital channels. Exam aspirants should note this update for economic and banking awareness, particularly regarding digital payment mechanisms, fintech regulatory policies, and NPCI operations.
- The Indian Navy is set to commission its indigenously built Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV), INS Samarthak, at the Naval Base in Karwar, Karnataka, on October 16, 2026.

Constructed by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) under the Ministry of Defence's 'Make in India' initiative, the ship features over 75% indigenous content. INS Samarthak is engineered to conduct surface surveillance, launch and recover unmanned aerial and underwater vehicles, assist in weapons testing, and support disaster relief operations. This commissioning marks a significant advancement in India's maritime self-reliance and naval modernization strategy.

- Indian cricket team batter Shubman Gill has set a new international record by winning the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for the fifth time. The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the honor following his outstanding performances and consistent run-scoring across formats in recent international series. This achievement makes him the first male cricketer to secure five ICC Player of the Month titles since the award's inception in 2021.
- Indian opening batter Shafali Verma has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for September 2026 by the International Cricket Council. The explosive cricketer earned the accolade following her dominant match-winning batting performances in international fixtures during the month. The monthly recognition highlights top performers in international women's cricket and reflects India's growing prominence on the global sports stage.
- The global entertainment and advocacy community mourned the passing of American actor and disability activist RJ Mitte, who passed away at the age of 34. Widely recognized for his groundbreaking role as Walter White Jr. in the critically acclaimed television series *Breaking Bad*, Mitte was a prominent spokesperson for actors with disabilities. Born with cerebral palsy, he dedicated much of his career to campaigning for equal opportunities, inclusion, and authentic representation of disabled individuals in mainstream media. His legacy as an influential cultural figure and international advocate remains highly relevant for general awareness topics related to arts, culture, and social advocacy.
- To commemorate the rich legacy of India's former President and renowned scientist, educational portals have released a compilation of the Top 50 GK Questions and Answers on Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Widely celebrated as the "Missile Man of India," Dr. Kalam served as the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007 and played a pioneering role in the development of India's civilian space program and military missile capabilities at ISRO and DRDO. The compilation focuses on key historical milestones, including the Pokhran-II nuclear tests, his major literary works such as *Wings of Fire*, and national civilian honors including the Bharat Ratna.
- International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2026 observed annually on October 13, aims to promote a global culture of risk-awareness, disaster preparedness, and resilient community infrastructure.
 - Official Theme: "Resilience Starts at Home"