

Highlights of 14 October 2026 Current Affairs

- In international rankings, the Mexican city of Mérida emerged as the winner of the Friendliest Cities Index 2026, published by the travel platform Fernwayer. The study analyzed over 1.2 million Reddit comments across 200 global cities to rate resident warmth and hospitality. In contrast, India's national capital, Delhi, was ranked among the ten least friendly cities with a score of 43.6.
- India hosted the historic first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting on October 13, 2026, in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The high-level security meeting was attended by delegation heads from all seven member nations: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The delegates adopted the landmark Delhi Declaration, pledging enhanced regional cooperation against terrorism, cross-border crime, human trafficking, drug smuggling, and cyber threats. This multilateral event reinforces regional security governance in the Bay of Bengal region, making it highly significant for international relations and defence awareness modules.
- To accelerate the goal of ending tuberculosis, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the Joint Squad for Health (JOSH) Campaign on October 13, 2026, across 11 states and 55 districts on a pilot basis. The nationwide youth-led initiative deploys teams comprising MY Bharat volunteers, National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets, and designated Class-I officers to conduct door-to-door awareness and encourage early screening. The campaign operates under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) to support India's target of eliminating TB.
 - **Youth and Community Mobilization:** The campaign heavily leverages digital platforms and social media outreach. It deploys **MY Bharat volunteers, National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets, and Class-I officers** to share success stories, educational content, and personal testimonials to normalize testing and treatment.
- According to a quarterly report released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), India's total internet subscriber base crossed 1.11 billion (1,114.17 million) at the end of June 2026. The data indicates a 1.96% quarterly growth from 1,092.79 million registered in March 2026, largely driven by an expansion in broadband connections. The report highlighted key telecom indicators, including rural-urban digital penetration differences and average revenue per user (ARPU) trends.
- In a landmark defence technology breakthrough, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested its Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) platform on October 14, 2026, for secure military communications. Developed by DRDO's Microelectronics Devices, Computational Systems, and Cyber Security (MCC) cluster alongside industry partner Taqbit Labs, the platform provides unbreakable encryption and instant detection of eavesdropping. The system eliminates the need for expensive physical optical fiber lines by establishing free-space quantum channels in sensitive field setups.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and France's National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) announced operational details for their joint thermal infrared observation satellite mission, TRISHNA, scheduled for launch in 2027. TRISHNA will be placed in a 761-kilometer Sun-synchronous orbit to monitor the Earth's surface temperature, terrestrial water stress, and urban heat island effects at high spatial resolution. The

payload consists of two primary instruments: a CNES-provided Thermal Infrared (TIR) instrument and an ISRO-developed Visible-Near Infrared-SWIR instrument.

- Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a federal law on October 12, 2026, ratifying an intergovernmental agreement with India on the temporary employment of citizens in each other's territories. The bilateral labor pact was originally signed in New Delhi on December 5, 2025, and provides a formal legal mechanism to protect the rights of workers abroad. The agreement is projected to expand the Indian workforce in Russia from 70,000 to over 100,000 across sectors such as construction, textiles, engineering, and electronics.
- Official data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed that India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation rose sharply to 11.39% in September 2026, up from 9.92% in August 2026. The broad-based inflationary spike was driven primarily by rising costs in fuel and power, manufactured products, and essential food items. Correspondingly, consumer price index (CPI) retail inflation also advanced to 5.54% during the same month due to surges in vegetable prices.
- Fourteen-year-old British photographer Oscar Whitfield won the prestigious Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026 award for his photograph titled "Labour of Love". Taken in Zimbabwe's Zambezi National Park, the winning black-and-white image captures a dung beetle pushing a dung ball at ground level. Organized by the Natural History Museum in London, the 62nd edition of the global competition received a record 65,403 entries from 121 countries.
 - In a historic first for the competition's 62-year run, both the adult overall winner (Federico Veronesi) and the young overall winner were awarded for **black-and-white photography**.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the strategic restructuring of IDBI Bank on October 14, 2026, allowing Canada's Fairfax Financial Holdings to acquire a 60.72% stake for ₹52,878.08 crore. The transaction marks the largest foreign direct investment (FDI) in India's financial sector history. Under the approved deal, the Government of India's stake will drop from 45.5% to 15%, while the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) will reduce its holding from 49.2% to 19%.
- World Student's Day 2026 observed annually on October 15, commemorates the birth anniversary of India's former President and renowned scientist Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to honor his lifelong dedication to education, youth empowerment, and student welfare.
 - Official Theme: "Empowering Youth for Innovation, Sustainability, and National Transformation"