

Highlights of 24 October 2026 Current Affairs

- **1. Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to Visit the Netherlands**
Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal is scheduled to visit the Netherlands from 24 to 27 October 2026 to strengthen India's trade, investment and industrial partnerships. The visit includes the India–Netherlands Business Forum in The Hague on 26 October, where Indian and Dutch businesses will discuss cooperation in agriculture and food processing, advanced technology, renewable energy, logistics, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals. Around 100 Indian businesses and startups are accompanying the minister on his Germany and Netherlands visit to explore new investment and collaboration opportunities.
- **2. Jio Platforms IPO Subscribed 22.19 Times**
Jio Platforms Limited, part of the Reliance Group led by Mukesh Ambani, concluded its initial public offering (IPO) on 23 October 2026 after receiving exceptionally strong investor demand. The ₹30,213-crore IPO was subscribed 22.19 times overall, with qualified institutional buyers subscribing to their allocated portion 70.55 times and retail investors subscribing 2.72 times. The offering attracted bids worth approximately ₹7.4 lakh crore, making it a major milestone in India's capital market and reflecting strong interest in the telecom and digital services business.
- **3. First Literature Festival for Diplomats to Be Held in New Delhi**
New Delhi will host Words Beyond Borders, a literature festival dedicated to diplomats, from 25 to 27 October 2026. The event is expected to bring together ambassadors and senior diplomats from countries including Ukraine, Türkiye, the United States, Italy, France and Germany, with participation restricted to diplomats who have published books. The initiative aims to encourage cultural exchange and bring students and young people closer to literature, diplomacy and international perspectives beyond conventional geopolitical discussions.
- **4. Greece Approves Social Media Ban for Children Under 15**
The Greek Parliament approved legislation on 23 October 2026 to prohibit children under the age of 15 from using social media platforms. The measure, associated with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis's government, seeks to protect children from potential online harms, including addictive platform use and risks to mental well-being. The legislation is scheduled to take effect on 1 January 2027 and includes age-verification requirements for social media companies.
- **5. France Reports First Known Human Case of Shamonda Virus**
French health authorities confirmed the first known human case of Shamonda virus infection in a severely immunocompromised patient treated at Hospices Civils de Lyon in Lyon, France. Authorities were notified of the infection on 7 October 2026, and the patient subsequently died after receiving treatment for a serious neurological condition. As of the public health update issued on 23 October, no human-to-human transmission or risk to the general population had been identified, while further investigations into the virus's transmission and potential health risks continued.
- **6. India Attracts \$11 Billion in Gross FDI in August**
India reportedly attracted approximately \$11 billion in gross foreign direct investment (FDI) in August 2026. Gross FDI represents foreign investment inflows before accounting for disinvestment and outward investment, making it an important indicator of

overseas investors' participation in the Indian economy. The figure highlights the importance of foreign capital in supporting investment, business expansion and economic activity; however, the source and year-on-year comparison for the reported amount were not included in the supplied data.

- **7. Smartphone Market Falls to a Decade Low in Q3 2026**

The smartphone market reportedly reached a decade-low level during the third quarter (Q3) of 2026, covering July to September. The development indicates weakness in smartphone market activity, although the supplied information does not specify whether the measure refers to shipments, sales, or market growth, nor does it identify the country or research agency. These details should be verified before using the figure as a definitive market statistic in an examination.

- **8. October Business Growth Reaches a Four-Month High**

Business growth reportedly reached a four-month high in October 2026, according to the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) information provided. PMI is an economic indicator based on surveys of purchasing managers and is used to assess changes in business activity, new orders, employment and related operating conditions. The supplied data does not identify the country, the specific PMI survey or its numerical reading, so these details require confirmation before publication.

- **9. Yashaswini Ghorpade and Harmeet Desai Win Historic Asian Table Tennis Medal**

Indian table tennis players Yashaswini Ghorpade and Harmeet Desai secured a bronze medal in mixed doubles at the 2026 Asian Table Tennis Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. On 23 October, the Indian pair defeated South Korea's Park Ganghyeon and Lee Daeun by 3–2 in the quarterfinals, guaranteeing a medal by reaching the semifinals. They subsequently lost to Japan's Sora Matsushima and Miwa Harimoto, but their achievement ended India's 72-year wait for a mixed doubles medal at the continental championships; the previous such medal had been won in 1954.

- **10. S. Meghana Retires from All Forms of Cricket**

Indian cricketer S. Meghana was reported to have retired from all forms of cricket in the supplied current affairs information.

- **11. Olympic Champion Peres Jepchirchir Suspended**

Olympic champion and Kenyan long-distance runner Peres Jepchirchir was reported to have been suspended.

- **12. Bodhana Sivanandan Becomes the Youngest Female International Master in Chess**

Bodhana Sivanandan, an English chess prodigy of Indian origin, became the youngest female International Master (IM) in chess history in October 2026. At 11 years, seven months and 16 days, she broke the 38-year-old age record previously held by Hungarian chess legend Judit Polgar, completing the requirements for the title during the European Club Cup in Budva, Montenegro. Her achievement further established her as one of the most remarkable young talents in international chess and followed her recent record-setting performance in women's chess.

- **13. Ashoke Sen Wins the Oskar Klein Medal 2026**

Renowned Indian theoretical physicist Professor Ashoke Sen received the prestigious Oskar Klein Medal for 2026, becoming the first Indian physicist to receive the honour. The announcement was made in October 2026, and Sen delivered the associated Oskar

Klein Memorial Lecture, titled “Gravity from Strings and Strings from Gravity,” at Stockholm University's AlbaNova Centre on 22 October. The medal, awarded by Stockholm University and the Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, recognises distinguished contributions to physics; Sen is internationally recognised for his work on string theory, S-duality and black hole entropy.

- **14. Usha Mangeshkar to Receive the Inaugural Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award**

Veteran Indian playback singer Usha Mangeshkar was reported to have been selected for the inaugural Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award. The award is named after the celebrated Assamese singer, composer, lyricist and filmmaker Dr Bhupen Hazarika, whose contributions helped shape Indian music and cultural expression. The supplied information does not specify the awarding organisation, presentation date or official citation for Mangeshkar, so these details should be confirmed before the announcement is treated as a fully verified award record.

- **15. Lionel Messi Recognised with the 2026 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports**

Argentine football star Lionel Messi was listed in the supplied information as a recipient of the 2026 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports. The Princess of Asturias Awards recognise outstanding contributions in several fields, including sports, the arts, scientific research and international cooperation, and are presented in Spain. The award details and official citation for Messi should be checked against the foundation's official announcement before publication.

- **16. LA 2028 Olympic Cricket Qualifiers: Qualification and Format**

Cricket is scheduled to return to the Olympic Games at Los Angeles 2028, with qualification determining which national teams will compete in the Olympic tournament.

- **17. United Nations Day 2026**

United Nations Day is observed annually on 24 October to commemorate the entry into force of the United Nations Charter in 1945 and to highlight the organisation's work for international peace, security, cooperation and human rights. The United Nations (UN) was established in 1945 and has six principal organs: the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice and Secretariat. India is a founding member of the UN and contributes to its work through diplomacy, peacekeeping operations and multilateral cooperation. The official theme for United Nations Day 2026 was not included in the supplied data and requires confirmation from the United Nations.

- **18. World Polio Day 2026**

World Polio Day is observed annually on 24 October to raise awareness about poliomyelitis, a highly infectious viral disease that can cause permanent paralysis, particularly in children. The day highlights vaccination, surveillance and international cooperation aimed at eradicating polio worldwide. India was certified polio-free by the World Health Organization's South-East Asia Regional Certification Commission in March 2014, following its last reported case of wild poliovirus in January 2011.

- **19. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Raising Day 2026**

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Raising Day commemorates the establishment of the force on 24 October 1962 following the India-China conflict. The ITBP operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs and is primarily responsible for guarding India's borders along the Himalayan frontier with China, while also performing duties involving

internal security, disaster response and high-altitude rescue operations. The occasion recognises the service and commitment of ITBP personnel working in some of India's most challenging mountainous and high-altitude environments.