

Highlights of 26 October 2026 Current Affairs

1. Ladakh Becomes India's First Fully Organic Union Territory

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena declared Ladakh India's first fully organic Union Territory. The declaration followed administrative measures to prohibit the procurement, distribution, sale, marketing and use of chemical and synthetic fertilisers for agricultural practices across the region. The initiative aims to promote sustainable agriculture, protect the fragile Himalayan ecosystem and improve farmers' livelihoods through better market access for organic produce. This development is important for competitive exams covering environment, sustainable agriculture and Union Territory administration.

2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates RBI Facilities in Odisha

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Reserve Bank of India's newly established Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The facilities are intended to strengthen India's digital banking infrastructure and improve the financial sector's ability to respond to cyber threats. The inauguration highlights the growing importance of secure financial data management as digital banking services expand across the country. For competitive examinations, remember the institution, the city and the state: RBI, Bhubaneswar and Odisha.

3. Renowned Indian Artist Jogen Chowdhury Dies at 87

Renowned Indian modern artist and former Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Jogen Chowdhury died at the age of 87. He was widely recognised for his contribution to modern Indian art and his distinctive figurative style. His artistic career and public service made him a notable figure in India's cultural and political landscape. This news is relevant to questions on eminent personalities, Indian art and culture, and former parliamentarians.

4. Ahmedabad to Host the 2029 World Weightlifting Championships

Ahmedabad, Gujarat, has secured the hosting rights for the 2029 International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Championships, with the decision announced at an IWF Executive Board meeting in Ningbo, China. India competed with Russia and Venezuela for the hosting rights, and the championship will mark the first time India hosts the senior IWF World Weightlifting Championships. The event is also expected to strengthen Ahmedabad's preparations for hosting major international sporting competitions, including the 2030 Commonwealth Games.

5. Cyclone Arnab Forecast to Make Landfall in Andhra Pradesh

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported that Cyclone Arnab was moving across the Bay of Bengal and was forecast to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast on the forenoon of 28 October 2026. According to the National Crisis Management Committee's review on 26 October, the storm was expected to cross between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam as a very severe cyclonic

storm, with sustained winds of 115–125 km/h and gusts reaching 140 km/h. Authorities in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Puducherry were preparing shelters, evacuation arrangements and emergency response teams.

6. ISRO Plans Four Functional Launch Pads by 2029

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to have four functional launch pads by 2029, according to the supplied report announcing expansion plans by ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan. The proposed expansion is intended to strengthen India's launch infrastructure and support increasing launch requirements. Launch pads are essential facilities for preparing and launching space vehicles, making their availability important for expanding India's space programme.

7. Kerala Approves India's First Cooperative-Sector Airline Project

The Kerala government approved a project to establish India's first cooperative-sector airline. The proposed initiative introduces a cooperative ownership model into the aviation sector, distinguishing it from conventional airline ownership structures. Its significance lies in exploring an alternative organisational model for aviation services and regional economic participation.

8. Shabari Naturals Wins G-Mark Global Design Award

Shabari Naturals received the G-Mark Global Design Award for packaging inspired by tribal art and cultural traditions. The recognition highlights the role of design in communicating cultural identity and differentiating consumer products in the market. Packaging that incorporates traditional artistic elements can also help businesses connect indigenous cultural heritage with contemporary branding.

9. Ebola Vaccine Trial Begins in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

A clinical trial involving Ervebo, an Ebola vaccine, was reported to have begun in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) to assess its potential against the Bundibugyo virus. The report highlights an effort to investigate whether an existing Ebola vaccine can provide protection against a different virus species associated with Ebola disease. Such research is significant for infectious-disease preparedness, vaccine development and public-health responses to outbreaks.

10. RELIEF Initiative Extended for Exporters Until March 2027

The Department of Commerce extended the RELIEF initiative for exporters until 31 March 2027, according to the supplied report. The extension is intended to continue support for exporters under the initiative beyond its earlier implementation period. Export-related support programmes are important because international trade can be affected by disruptions, rising costs and changing market conditions.

11. Defence Acquisition Council Approves Proposals Worth ₹2.12 Lakh Crore

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved capital acquisition proposals worth ₹2.12 lakh crore on 26 October 2026, according to the Ministry of Defence's announcement. The approvals concern proposed defence acquisitions for India's armed forces and form part of the country's efforts to strengthen military capabilities. Capital acquisition decisions are important for defence preparedness, equipment modernisation and the development of domestic defence manufacturing.

12. Ballon d'Or 2026: Harry Kane and Alexia Putellas Win Top Honours

Harry Kane won his first men's Ballon d'Or award in 2026, while Alexia Putellas claimed her third women's title. The Ballon d'Or is an internationally recognised football award presented to outstanding players for their performances.

13. Supreme Court Supports Raising District Judges' Retirement Age to 62

The Supreme Court of India reportedly supported a proposal to increase the retirement age of district judges from 60 to 62 years, with 14 states said to have agreed to the proposal. The issue concerns judicial service conditions and the age at which district-level judges retire. Any change would need to be understood in the context of the applicable constitutional provisions, judicial-service rules and the formal decision-making process.

14. Centre Permits E100 Ethanol Fuel in Flex-Fuel Vehicles

The Central Government reportedly amended the Motor Vehicles Rules to permit the use of E100 ethanol fuel in flex-fuel vehicles. E100 refers to fuel comprising nominally 100% ethanol, while flex-fuel vehicles are designed to operate on different ethanol-petrol blends or compatible fuels. The reported change is significant for alternative fuels, energy diversification and efforts to reduce dependence on conventional petroleum fuels.

Vigilance Awareness Week 2026

Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 is observed annually to promote integrity, transparency, accountability and the prevention of corruption in public administration. In 2026, it is being observed from 26 October to 1 November.

- Official Theme: "Probity for Prosperity"