

Highlights of 28 October 2026 Current Affairs

- The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced the commencement of the Annual Unincorporated Sector Enterprises Survey starting from April 2027. This initiative aims to collect robust data on informal and unincorporated business entities across India to ensure accurate economic measurement. The survey will help policymakers gain clearer insight into employment, output, and investment trends within the informal economic framework.
- Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expanded the Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet by inducting four new ministers in Srinagar. The swearing-in ceremony was administered by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to strengthen the administrative machinery of the Union Territory. This expansion aims to optimize governance and ensure balanced regional representation in the newly formed state executive.
- The Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor was awarded the Best Passenger Service Award at the Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2026. Presented in New Delhi, the accolade recognizes National Capital Region Transport Corporation's (NCRTC) commitment to high-speed passenger comfort and operational efficiency. The Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) has significantly modernized commuter transit across the National Capital Region.
- A comprehensive assessment by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) warned that global coral reef ecosystems face severe collapse risks by 2075. Released at international climate discussions, the report underscores rising ocean temperatures, acidification, and overfishing as existential threats to marine biodiversity. Experts called for urgent global intervention and enhanced conservation protocols to mitigate reef degradation before critical ecological tipping points are breached.
- As part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India series, historical facts were highlighted for the Ellora Caves located in the Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district of Maharashtra. Dating from the 6th to 10th centuries CE, the site features 34 major rock-cut monasteries and temples representing Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain traditions. The landmark is globally renowned for Cave 16, which houses the monolithic Kailash Temple built during the Rashtrakuta dynasty.
- The Indian Men's Cricket Team broke multiple Twenty20 International (T20I) records during their ongoing series against New Zealand. Played across premier venues in India, the team achieved the fastest team hundred and recorded high match totals in international cricket. The historic performance highlighted India's dominant batting display and strategic prowess in the shorter format of the game.
- Indian batsman Abhishek Sharma achieved a milestone in domestic and international Twenty20 cricket by leading the record chart with 11 centuries. His explosive performances across domestic leagues and national appearances secured his position at the top of the century-makers list for Indian cricketers. Coaches and sports analysts commended his exceptional strike rate and consistency in high-pressure match situations.
- Key details were finalized for COP31 2026, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, outlining its host venue, scheduled dates, designated President, and executive officials. The global climate summit will gather international delegates, environmental experts, and world leaders to evaluate progress under the Paris Agreement.

Major priorities include climate finance mechanisms, carbon reduction goals, and international cooperation strategies.

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways introduced a Concessional Local Pass scheme for National Highway Toll Plazas across the country. Designed for residents living within a specific radius of toll plazas, the policy reduces financial burden through discounted, flat-rate monthly transit passes. The initiative aims to streamline local traffic movement while maintaining smooth highway transit operations.
- The United Arab Emirates conferred the First Class Order of Zayed II upon Indian pilot Smit Machchhar in Abu Dhabi. The prestigious state honor recognizes his exemplary bravery and quick decision-making during a critical aviation emergency. Government dignitaries presented the medal to acknowledge his heroics and to reinforce strong bilateral relations between India and the UAE.
- Exercise Garuda Shakti 2026, a joint Special Forces exercise between India and Indonesia, officially commenced at a designated military facility. The military exercise focuses on enhancing interoperability, tactical coordination, and joint counter-terrorism operational skills between the two armed forces. Special Forces personnel from both nations will execute joint heliborne operations, advanced combat firing, and tactical maneuvers.
- Mumbai was selected to host the first-ever India edition of the prestigious Earthshot Prize 2026 ceremony. Founded to reward innovative environmental solutions, the event gathers international climate leaders, innovators, and philanthropists in India's financial capital. Hosting the global awards highlights India's growing role in promoting sustainability and eco-friendly technologies.
- Goa Shipyard Limited officially launched INS Srishti, the latest Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) constructed for the Indian Navy. Built in Vasco da Gama, Goa, the vessel is designed to enhance maritime security, coastal surveillance, and EEZ patrolling capabilities. Equipped with state-of-the-art navigation and combat systems, the vessel represents a major milestone for indigenous defense manufacturing.
- Air Marshal Vikram Gaur was formally appointed as Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs under the Ministry of Defence in New Delhi. The senior officer assumes the pivotal role to assist in defense policy formulation, tri-services integration, and administrative coordination. His appointment comes as part of ongoing restructuring efforts to streamline defense administration and joint military capability.
- India's soybean imports reached a historical record of 1.1 million tonnes during the 2025–26 oil year, driven by shifting domestic processing demand and market dynamics. Industry figures released by trade bodies show a significant increase in crude soybean oil and bean shipments entering Indian ports. The import surge reflects consumption needs and international price parity factors impacting the domestic edible oil industry.
- The State Government of Chhattisgarh officially designated the Orange Oakleaf butterfly as its State Butterfly. Announced by environmental authorities in Raipur, the decision aims to raise ecological awareness and boost forest conservation efforts across the region. Known for its remarkable camouflage resembling a dry leaf, the species is widely found in the dense forest ecosystems of the state.
- The New India Foundation announced five books shortlisted for the prestigious Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2026. Selected by an eminent jury panel, the shortlist honors outstanding non-fiction works documenting modern and contemporary

Indian history and politics. The winning author will receive a trophy along with a substantial cash award to encourage scholarly research.

- Historical facts and architectural features were highlighted for the Sun Temple of Konark, a renowned UNESCO World Heritage Site in Puri district, Odisha. Constructed in the 13th century by King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty, the monument is designed in the shape of a giant stone chariot with 24 carved wheels. The landmark remains a masterwork of traditional Kalinga architecture and solar iconographic symbolism.
- The Union Cabinet approved a 3% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) for Central Government employees and pensioners with effect from July 1, 2026. Announced in New Delhi, the decision benefits over 1 crore active personnel and retirees by mitigating the impact of inflation. The financial enhancement increases the existing allowance rate to provide essential relief ahead of the festive season.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS) with a total financial outlay of ₹10,000 crore in New Delhi. The scheme aims to establish a robust domestic container manufacturing ecosystem to reduce reliance on foreign imports and strengthen supply chains. The initiative will boost local industrial infrastructure, generate employment, and support India's growing export-import trade sector.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to accelerate rural development and local governance across India. Spearheaded by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the flagship program focuses on infrastructure development, digital connectivity, and capacity building in Gram Panchayats. The initiative seeks to empower local self-governing institutions in achieving sustainable development targets.
- International Animation Day 2026 observed annually on October 28, celebrates the art, craft, and cultural impact of animation in global cinema and media. Official Theme: “Animators for Peace and Creativity”