

Highlights of 31 October 2026 Current Affairs

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas 2026 celebrations at the Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, on 31 October 2026, marking the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The celebrations honour Patel's contribution to India's national integration and his role in bringing princely states together after independence. The Prime Minister will also pay floral tributes to Patel and witness the Ekta Diwas Parade featuring central armed police forces and state police contingents.
- The sacred Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha will be displayed in Arunachal Pradesh from 31 October to 21 November 2026 as part of a three-week exposition organised by the Union Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the Arunachal Pradesh Government and other institutions. The relics, preserved at the National Museum in New Delhi, will be taken to Tawang, Bomdila and Namsai, beginning with Tawang on 31 October. The exposition aims to strengthen awareness of Buddhist heritage and highlight Arunachal Pradesh's rich Buddhist traditions. An international conference on Buddhism: Dissemination in the Himalayan Region and Beyond will also be organised with participation from India and six other countries.
- Manisha Bhanwala created history by winning the gold medal in the 59 kg category at the 2026 Wrestling World Championships held in Astana, Kazakhstan. She defeated Abigail Nette of the United States by 8–6 in the final after recovering from a 6–0 deficit, becoming the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Women's Wrestling World Championships. India recorded its best-ever performance in women's wrestling at the championships with four medals: Manisha Bhanwala (gold), Kajal Dhochak (silver, 76 kg), Neelam Sirohi (silver, 50 kg) and Tanu Sharma (bronze, 72 kg).
- Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, suffered a major security breach in which hackers stole cryptocurrency assets worth approximately \$6.3 billion. According to Binance's security update, its hot wallets were compromised on 29 October 2026, while most of the theft took place within approximately 20 minutes. The company stated that it would cover the financial losses through its Secure Asset Fund for Users (SAFU) and corporate funds, while investigations and efforts to recover the stolen assets continued. The incident has raised serious concerns about cybersecurity and the safety of digital assets.
- Bahram Vakil, co-founder of the law firm AZB & Partners, has been appointed Chairman of Trent Limited, a Tata Group retail company, succeeding Noel N. Tata. Noel Tata will retire as Chairman and Director of Trent on 11 November 2026, after which he will become Chairman Emeritus from 12 November 2026. Bahram Vakil's appointment as Chairman will also take effect on 12 November 2026, following the company's board decision. Important correction: This change concerns Trent Limited, not Tata Sons; N. Chandrasekaran remains the Chairman of Tata Sons.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, bank credit in India recorded year-on-year growth of 17.94%, reaching ₹232.54 lakh crore as of 15 October 2026. During the same period, bank deposits increased by 16.60% to ₹284.37 lakh crore. Credit growth therefore remained higher than deposit growth, reflecting increased borrowing demand and festive-season economic activity. These figures highlight the changing credit and deposit trends in India's banking sector.
- The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified the constitution of the National Social Security Board for Unorganised Workers and Gig and Platform Workers under the Code on Social Security. The Board will be chaired by the Union Minister for Labour and Employment and will include representatives from Central and State Governments, aggregator companies, employers, civil society organisations, workers' unions and gig-worker associations. This step

aims to bring gig and platform workers, including people working through digital platforms, within India's formal social security framework.

- Sir Patrick Stewart, the renowned British Shakespearean actor known for his roles in Star Trek and the X-Men film series, died at the age of 86. He was widely recognised for playing Captain Jean-Luc Picard in Star Trek: The Next Generation and Professor Charles Xavier in the X-Men films. According to reports, he died at his home in Los Angeles on 28 October 2026 following health complications involving Alzheimer's disease and Lewy body dementia. His contribution to theatre, television and cinema made him one of the most respected actors of his generation.

Important Day

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) 2026 is observed annually on 31 October to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and promote national unity, integrity and solidarity in India.