Highlights of 01 November 2026 Current Affairs

President Droupadi Murmu to Attend Haryana's Hirak Jayanti Celebration in Kurukshetra

- President of India Droupadi Murmu attended the Hirak Jayanti (Diamond Jubilee) celebration marking the completion of 60 years of the formation of Haryana on 1 November 2026 at Kurukshetra, Haryana. The state-level celebration was organised at Kurukshetra University, where the President participated in the programme commemorating six decades of Haryana's journey since its establishment as a separate state in 1966. The occasion was significant as Haryana completed 60 years of statehood, marking an important milestone in the political and administrative history of northern India.
- During the celebration, President Murmu highlighted the contributions of the people of Haryana to India's development in different fields, including the freedom struggle, social change, democracy, literature and science. An exhibition was also organised to showcase Haryana's journey over the past six decades, including its progress in agriculture, industrial development, sports, education, healthcare and women's empowerment. The exhibition also highlighted the state's long-term development vision under Haryana Vision 2047. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini was also associated with the state-level celebrations.

Punjab Day 2026 Celebrated on 1 November

- Punjab Day 2026 was celebrated on 1 November to commemorate the formation of the present-day state of Punjab following the reorganisation of the erstwhile Punjab state in 1966. This day marks an important event in the history of Punjab, as the state acquired its present linguistic and administrative identity under the **Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966**. The reorganisation came into effect on 1 November 1966, following the demand for a separate Punjabi-speaking state.
- The demand for a Punjabi-speaking state was associated with the Punjabi Suba movement, which sought the reorganisation of Punjab on a linguistic basis. The Government of India accepted the principle of reorganising Punjab in 1966 and appointed a Boundary Commission under the chairmanship of Justice J. C. Shah in April 1966. The commission also included S. Dutt and M. M. Philip as members and was responsible for recommending boundaries between the proposed linguistic regions. The commission submitted its report on 31 May 1966.
- Parliament subsequently passed the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, and the new administrative arrangement came into effect on 1 November 1966. Under this arrangement, Haryana was established as a separate state, Chandigarh became a Union Territory and the remaining Punjab emerged as a predominantly Punjabi-speaking state. Certain hilly areas were also transferred to Himachal Pradesh. Therefore, 1 November is observed every year as Punjab Day to remember the historical reorganisation that shaped the present-day political map of the region.

Japanese Delegation to Visit Manipur, Including Japanese War Memorial

- A Japanese delegation is scheduled to visit Manipur, including the Japanese War Memorial situated in the Imphal region. The visit is associated with the historical connection between Japan and Manipur during the Second World War, particularly the Battle of Imphal, which was

fought in 1944. The memorial is an important historical site that commemorates the Japanese soldiers and others who lost their lives during the military campaign in the region.

- The memorial is also known as the India Peace Memorial or Imphal Peace Memorial and is located near Red Hill, also known as Maibam Lokpa Ching, in Manipur. It was established by the Government of Japan in remembrance of those who died during the Battle of Imphal, which took place between March and July 1944. The site witnessed intense fighting between Japanese forces and Allied troops, including British and Indian forces.
- The Battle of Imphal was one of the major military engagements of the Second World War in Northeast India. In March 1944, the Japanese 15th Army launched an offensive towards Imphal and Kohima with the objective of advancing into British-controlled India and disrupting Allied supply routes. The Japanese forces ultimately suffered defeat, and the Allied victory became an important turning point in the Burma campaign.
- The Japanese War Memorial therefore represents an important connection between the history of Manipur, Japan and the Second World War. Visits to such memorials help preserve historical memories and recognise the human cost of military conflicts. The exact dates, names of delegation members and official purpose of the present visit were not specified in the supplied information.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Marries Journalist Nidhi Razdan

- Omar Abdullah, the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, married senior television journalist Nidhi Razdan in a private ceremony held on 30 October 2026. The marriage was announced publicly on 31 October 2026 when Omar Abdullah shared photographs of the couple on social media platform X, accompanied by the message, "A new journey began yesterday." Nidhi Razdan also shared photographs from the occasion on her social media account.
- According to media reports, the marriage was solemnised under the Special Marriage Act, 1954, in the presence of close family members and relatives from both sides. The wedding-related gatherings took place in Srinagar and New Delhi, with family members attending the celebrations. Nidhi Razdan is a well-known Indian journalist who has worked in television journalism, while Omar Abdullah is a prominent political leader and currently serves as the Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Government of India Increases Windfall Tax on Diesel and ATF Exports

- The Government of India increased the windfall gains tax on the export of diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) through revised export duty rates announced by the Ministry of Finance on 31 October 2026. The revised rates became effective from 31 October 2026 and will remain applicable for the fortnight beginning on that date. The government also reduced the export levy on petrol to zero for the same period.
- Under the revised tax structure, the duty on diesel exports was increased from ₹8.50 per litre to ₹11.50 per litre, representing an increase of ₹3 per litre. Similarly, the duty on Aviation Turbine Fuel exports was raised from ₹10.50 per litre to ₹11 per litre, an increase of 50 paise per litre. In contrast, the levy on petrol exports was reduced from ₹2.50 per litre to zero for the next fortnight. These changes were notified by the Ministry of Finance through its revised tax notifications.
- A windfall tax is a special tax imposed on unusually high profits earned by companies due to favourable market conditions, such as a sudden rise in international commodity prices. In India,

export levies on petroleum products were introduced on 27 March 2026 through Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) and Road and Infrastructure Cess (RIC). The government introduced these levies amid the West Asia crisis to discourage excessive exports and ensure sufficient availability of petroleum products in the domestic market.

- The export duty rates are reviewed and revised periodically, generally every fortnight, based on changes in international prices of crude oil, petrol, diesel and ATF. The latest revision is specifically applicable to exports and should not be confused with the regular excise duty charged on petrol and diesel sold for domestic consumption. The Ministry of Finance clarified that there was no change in the existing excise duty rates on petrol and diesel cleared for domestic consumption.