Highlights of 02 November 2026 Current Affairs

- Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM, has officially assumed charge as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff at the Air Headquarters in New Delhi, succeeding Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh following his superannuation. This pivotal leadership transition ensures strategic continuity and operational readiness for the Indian Air Force as it navigates evolving regional security challenges, modernizes its aerial defense capabilities, and integrates advanced indigenous aerospace technologies into its operational fleet.
- Concurrently, Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia has taken over as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff, marking a significant strategic reshuffle in the top command of the nation's aerial warfare branch. His extensive experience in operational planning and joint services integration will be instrumental in executing the IAF's ambitious modernization roadmap and enhancing jointness across the Indian Armed Forces to counter emerging multi-domain threats.
- Union Labour and Employment Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched interactive EPFO services on WhatsApp during the organization's 74th Foundation Day celebrations in New Delhi to digitize subscriber access and reduce physical dependencies. This innovative platform allows millions of organized sector workers to seamlessly check their PF balance, view their last five transactions, and download their passbook by simply messaging the official verified number 8796441800.
- The integration of provident fund services with WhatsApp significantly reduces bureaucratic delays and eliminates the need for physical office visits or complex portal navigations for routine financial inquiries. By leveraging the widespread penetration of instant messaging applications, the Ministry of Labour and Employment aims to ensure complete financial transparency and empower subscribers with real-time, secure access to their retirement savings from any location.
- Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced that the traditional yellow and red Kannada flag will be hoisted alongside the national tricolor on all state government buildings across the state. This landmark decision, announced shortly after the Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations, aims to legally recognize and reinforce the rich cultural identity, linguistic pride, and historical heritage of the Kannada-speaking population.
    - The state government is actively formulating a comprehensive legal framework and official rulebook to grant formal state flag status to the Kannada flag, potentially urging private firms and educational institutions to display it prominently. This proactive administrative move is designed to standardize the protocols for hoisting the state emblem while ensuring that it is displayed with the utmost respect and in strict accordance with constitutional guidelines.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has initiated Digi Yatra trials for international passengers at seven major airports, including Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Amritsar. This biometric-based, contactless boarding system now allows eligible Indian travelers with chip-enabled e-passports to experience seamless facial recognition processing, significantly reducing manual document verification times at immigration and boarding checkpoints.
    - The trial phase, running through the end of 2026, involves collaboration with major carriers like IndiGo to test the interoperability of facial recognition

technology with international flight manifests and e-passport databases. The successful expansion from domestic to international terminals marks a monumental technological upgrade in India's aviation infrastructure, positioning the country at the forefront of global smart-travel initiatives and enhancing the overall experience for outbound flyers.

- India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collection surged by an impressive 23% in October 2026, reaching the second-highest monthly gross collection of ₹2.31 lakh crore. This robust fiscal growth strongly indicates resilient domestic consumption, sustained economic activity across both manufacturing and services sectors, and significantly improved tax compliance driven by stringent enforcement and digital monitoring mechanisms.
    - The consistent upward trend in GST mop-up provides a highly stable fiscal foundation for the central government, enabling accelerated disbursement of funds for ongoing developmental, infrastructure, and welfare expenditures. Furthermore, the record collections reflect the successful formalization of the economy, as smaller enterprises increasingly integrate into the digital tax ecosystem, thereby broadening the overall revenue base and reducing the fiscal deficit.
- Indians remitted a massive $20 billion abroad during the first eight months of 2026, reflecting substantial cross-border financial outflows according to recent economic data compiled by global financial institutions. This outward remittance volume is primarily driven by escalating expenses related to overseas higher education, advanced medical treatments abroad, and regular family maintenance transfers by the global diaspora.
    - The trend highlights the growing global integration of Indian households and the increasing financial capacity of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) to support relatives back home. Despite global currency fluctuations, the rupee's relative stability and India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals continue to facilitate these massive outward capital flows, reinforcing the country's position as a top global remittance sender.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, a premier event running alongside the 9th Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly and the 4th International Conference on Green Hydrogen. The summit brings together global policymakers, industry leaders, and green technology innovators to share practical insights and accelerate India's transition towards sustainable, clean energy infrastructure.
- This high-level expo is strategically aligned with the nation's ambitious commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070 and expanding its renewable energy capacity to 500 GW by the end of the decade. By showcasing advancements in solar, wind, and green hydrogen technologies, the event aims to attract massive domestic and foreign investments into India's rapidly evolving green economy while fostering international cooperation in climate mitigation.
- In a parallel infrastructure milestone, the government has officially approved the Northern Bullet Train Corridor, which will connect Delhi to Guwahati via Siliguri, cutting the travel time to under 8 hours. This high-speed railway network, championed by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, represents a massive leap in logistical efficiency

and will drastically improve passenger mobility and freight transport across the northern and eastern corridors.
    - The strategic extension of the bullet train network to the North-Eastern region underscores the government's unwavering focus on integrating remote geographical areas with the national economic mainstream through advanced transit solutions. This transformative project will not only boost regional tourism and trade but also serve as a critical catalyst for the socio-economic development of the historically underserved Himalayan and northeastern states.
- International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists 2026 observed annually on 2 November, a UN-recognized day dedicated to raising awareness about the safety of journalists and combating the culture of impunity for crimes committed against them.
    - Official Theme: “Threats Evolve. Impunity Endures.”