



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 09 OCTOBER 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis Launches 'Abhijat Marathi OTT' Platform to Promote Marathi Culture.



On October 6, 2025, Chief Minister (CM) of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis, officially launched 'Abhijat Marathi Over-the-Top (OTT)', a free digital platform dedicated to preserving and promoting Marathi language and culture globally. The launch event, held in Mumbai, Maharashtra, was attended by Minister Uday Samant, cultural leader Kedar Joshi, and other dignitaries.

Key Points:-

- (i) The Abhijat Marathi OTT platform aims to serve as a "cultural bridge", connecting younger generations worldwide with the rich heritage of the Marathi language, literature, and performing arts, while fostering cultural pride among the diaspora.
- (ii) The platform offers a comprehensive digital library featuring classic Marathi films, contemporary web series, theatre productions, and cultural programs. It provides a unique blend of traditional and modern entertainment, making Marathi art forms accessible to all age groups.
- (iii) Designed with inclusivity in mind, Abhijat

Marathi OTT ensures free access to all users. It is available across multiple platforms, including mobile devices, web browsers, and smart televisions (TVs), enabling easy global reach for Marathi entertainment and culture.

2. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav Presides Over 71st National Wildlife Week (WLW) 2025 in Dehradun.



In October 2025, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), presided over the 71st National Wildlife Week (WLW 2025) celebrations held from October 2 to 8 at Hari Singh Auditorium, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGFNA), Forest Research Institute (FRI) Campus, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

- The theme of WLW 2025 was "Human-Wildlife Coexistence", focusing on gathering community support to move from 'conflict to coexistence'. The event was organised by the MoEF&CC in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), IGFNA, and FRI.
- During the event, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launched five major national projects for

species conservation — Phase-II of Project Dolphin, Project Sloth Bear, Project Gharial, Centre of Excellence on Human-Wildlife Conflict (CoE-HWC) at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), and Project Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves (TOTR).

- He also released four national-level action plans and field guides for species estimation, population assessment, and monitoring programmes to strengthen wildlife research and conservation strategies across India.

Key Points:-

- (i) The Minister virtually inaugurated the State Forest Service (SFS) Officers' Mess at the Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFoS) in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, aimed at improving training infrastructure and capacity building for forest officers.
- (ii) The three-week-long National Hackathon on Human-Wildlife Coexistence (HWC) concluded during the event, with participation from 420 innovators across 75 institutions and 20 States and Union Territories (UTs).
- (iii) The hackathon showcased Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based tools, spatial analytics, and community engagement models for real-time human-wildlife conflict mitigation.

3. Ministry of Mines Issues Guidelines for Rs 1,500 Crore Critical Mineral Recycling Incentive Scheme.



In October 2025, the Ministry of Mines (MoM) released guidelines for the Rs 1,500 crore Critical Mineral Recycling Incentive Scheme, following Union Cabinet approval chaired by PM Narendra Modi in September 2025, under the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM).

- The scheme aims to enhance India's capacity to recycle critical minerals from electronic waste (e-waste), spent Lithium-ion Batteries (LiB), and other scrap materials, reducing dependence on imports.
- Operational for six years (FY 2025-26 to FY31), the scheme is open for applications from 2 October 2025 to 1 April 2026. Incentives are allocated based on technical capability, recovery capacity, and compliance with safety standards.
- By promoting critical mineral recycling, the scheme supports sustainable waste management, strengthens domestic resource security, and advances sectors like electric mobility, renewable energy, and electronics.

4. National Conference on Land Administration & Disaster Management Held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.



In October 2025, the Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), in collaboration with the Revenue Department of Gujarat, organized the two-day National Conference on Land Administration & Disaster Management at the Mahatma Mandir Convention Centre in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, to strengthen land governance and disaster management frameworks.

- Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat, attended as Chief Guest, emphasizing digitization of land records, citizen-centric approaches, and the use of indigenous technology to secure land rights at the grassroots level.

- Held from 3–4 October 2025, the conference brought together officials, revenue officers, and subject-matter experts to deliberate on modernizing land administration and improving disaster management strategies.

- Discussions centered on promoting the objectives of the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) while addressing emerging challenges in disaster management, ensuring integration of technology in governance.

Key Points:-

(i) Seven panel discussions were conducted on critical themes, including modernizing revenue laws, upgrading land record and registration systems, re-engineering revenue court cases, resurvey efforts, disaster management, adoption of best practices, and human resource planning.

(ii) The conference inaugurated the RO Mobile App for real-time monitoring of Revenue Officers' work, and the Integrated Land Administration (ILA) System, a unified digital platform for registration, resurvey, GIS mapping, and revenue court management.

(iii) New revenue offices and residential buildings were inaugurated; SVAMITVA property cards and safety kits were distributed to nomadic tribal families. Several MoUs were signed with academic institutions for the establishment of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in land administration and disaster management.

5. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Approves Establishment of 'NaMo Semiconductor Laboratory' at IIT Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



In October 2025, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), approved the setup of the 'NaMo Semiconductor

Laboratory' at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar, Odisha, funded under the MPLAD (Members of Parliament Local Area Development) Scheme with an allocation of ₹4.95 crore.

- The NaMo Semiconductor Laboratory aims to strengthen India's indigenous capabilities in semiconductor design, manufacturing, and packaging while promoting advanced research and skill development in chip technology to support national missions like 'Make in India' and 'Design in India'.
- The project is being developed within IIT Bhubaneswar's Silicon Carbide Research and Innovation Centre (SiCRIC) and includes advanced cleanroom facilities. Around ₹4.6 crore is allocated for high-end equipment and ₹35 lakh for specialized software under the MPLAD Scheme.

Key Points:-

(i) India currently contributes 20% of the global semiconductor design talent pool, and 295 universities are actively using Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools. This laboratory aims to further nurture student innovation and research excellence in semiconductor technology.

(ii) So far, 28 student-designed semiconductor chips from 20 academic institutions have been successfully fabricated at the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali, Punjab, marking India's growing footprint in the global semiconductor ecosystem.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. SEBI Launches 'UPI Handle' and 'SEBI Check' Initiatives to Safeguard Investors.



In October 2025, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently launched two major initiatives — the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) Handle and SEBI Check — to strengthen investor protection and ensure transparency in the capital market. These initiatives were developed in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

- The initiatives aim to prevent fraudulent transactions and unauthorized intermediaries in the securities market.
- Both projects were jointly developed with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to bring advanced safety and verification layers into digital financial transactions.
- SEBI introduced verified "@valid" UPI IDs for all registered investor-facing intermediaries, including brokers and mutual funds. Over 90% of investors and all mutual funds have already adopted these verified handles. The suffix, such as ".brk" for brokers and ".mf" for mutual funds, indicates the intermediary type.

Key Points:-

(i) When an investor makes a UPI payment using a registered @valid handle, a green triangle with a thumbs-up symbol appears on the payment screen for authentication.

This visual cue ensures transaction legitimacy and acts as a warning signal in the absence of the symbol, alerting investors about potential fraud.

(ii) The SEBI Check is a digital self-verification tool that allows investors to verify the authenticity of SEBI-registered entities before making payments. It supports UPI transactions and other transfer modes such as NEFT (National Electronic Funds Transfer), RTGS (Real-Time Gross Settlement), and IMPS (Immediate Payment Service).

(iii) Investors can access verification details through the SEBI portal or the Saarthi mobile app. The SEBI Check system also includes a QR code featuring the same green thumbs-up logo for quick and error-free authentication of registered intermediaries.

2. Cosmos Co-operative Bank Launches India's First Youth-Focused Digital Banking App 'Cosmo Galgal' in Partnership with Umunthu System Pvt. Ltd..



In October 2025, Cosmos Co-operative Bank, one of India's oldest urban co-operative banks, partnered with Umunthu System Private Limited to launch 'Cosmo

Galgal', India's first youth-centric digital banking solution from a co-operative bank. The app enables users to open zero-balance savings accounts with integrated video KYC in under 15 minutes.

- The Cosmo Galgal app offers a full suite of banking services including deposits, fund transfers, fixed deposits, and access to account statements, providing seamless branch-free banking for youth customers.

- Its TrendZ feature auto-categorizes user transactions, offering real-time spending insights. The app's auto-budgeting tool divides expenses into essentials, savings, and discretionary spending, promoting smart financial habits among young users.

Key Points:-

(i) Cosmo Galgal supports Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions, allowing users to link Cosmos Bank accounts with any UPI app. It also provides virtual debit cards for online use and physical RuPay Platinum cards with built-in rewards.

(ii) To enhance inclusivity, the app is available in English, Hindi, Marathi, and Gujarati, with plans to expand into more regional languages, making it accessible to a diverse user base across India.

(iii) Founded in 1906 by Krishnaji Sadashiv Gore and Shankar Hari Barve, Cosmos Co-operative Bank is headquartered at Cosmos Tower, Pune, Maharashtra, and continues its legacy of innovation through digital transformation in the co-operative banking sector.

3. PhonePe and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Launch 'Wish Credit Card' — India's FD-Backed Credit Card Starting from ₹2,000.



On October 6, 2025, PhonePe, a leading digital payments and financial services platform, in collaboration with Utkarsh Small Finance Bank (Utkarsh SFB), launched the 'Wish Credit Card', a Fixed Deposit (FD)-backed RuPay credit card available directly through the PhonePe app, with deposits starting from as low as ₹2,000.

Key Points:-

- (i) The 'Wish Credit Card' is designed to expand credit access for users in tier-2 and tier-3 cities and for first-time credit card applicants, offering a simple, digital onboarding experience without traditional income proof or credit history requirements.
- (ii) This RuPay-based credit card supports Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions and links directly to the user's fixed deposit, ensuring credit security while allowing the FD to continue earning interest for the cardholder.
- (iii) The card offers 3% reward points on monthly recharges and bill payments via the PhonePe app, 1% rewards on Scan & Pay and select e-commerce purchases, plus an additional ₹200 bonus reward on monthly

spends exceeding ₹15,000. Reward points can be redeemed at a rate of 1 point = ₹1.

4. Razorpay and YES Bank Launch India's First Biometric Card Authentication System Compliant with RBI 2025 Guidelines.



In October 2025, Razorpay in collaboration with YES Bank launched India's first biometric card authentication system aligned with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) 2025 guidelines. The system integrates facial recognition with an AI-driven risk engine to enhance security and reliability for online card payments.

Key Points:-

- (i) The Access Control Server (ACS) enables biometric verification using facial recognition, replacing traditional two-factor authentication methods that relied on PINs and SMS OTPs (One Time Passwords). This ensures safer online transactions and reduces the risk of fraud.
- (ii) The system minimizes transaction failures caused by OTP delays or errors, providing a smoother user experience. It is fully compliant with RBI's updated 2025 digital authentication guidelines, strengthening India's secure digital payment

ecosystem.

(iii) The AI-powered ACS system is capable of processing up to 10,000 transactions per second, offering scalable and efficient online payment processing while reducing errors related to OTP-based authentication.

5. IndusInd International Holdings Limited (IIHL) Completes 100% Acquisition of Sterling Bank, Bahamas.



In October 2025, IndusInd International Holdings Limited (IIHL), the promoter of IndusInd Bank Limited, Mauritius, successfully completed the acquisition of a 100% stake in Sterling Bank, Bahamas, through its wholly owned subsidiary, IIHL (Capital), Mauritius. This marks a major global expansion step for the company.

- IIHL initially acquired a 51% stake in Sterling Bank in September 2022. With the acquisition of the remaining 49% equity in October 2025, Sterling Bank has now become a fully owned subsidiary of IIHL, marking the company's full operational control over the Bahamian banking entity.

- Following the completion of the acquisition, Sterling Bank is set to be renamed as IIHL Bank & Trust Ltd. This rebranding reflects IIHL's

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strategic intent to align its international banking operations under a unified brand identity.

Key Points:-

(i) Through this acquisition, IIHL aims to significantly expand its footprint across the Banking, Financial Services, Securities, and Insurance (BFSI) sectors globally. The company plans to leverage this move to strengthen its international presence and diversify its service portfolio across markets.

(ii) IIHL's strategic roadmap includes integrating advanced financial technologies, enhancing global product offerings, and achieving a market capitalization target of USD 50 billion by the year 2030. This acquisition is a key milestone toward that long-term growth vision.

MOUs and Agreement

1. RPF, NDRF, and IRIDM Sign Tri-Party MoU to Strengthen Railway Disaster Response and Airtel Secures Multi-Year IRSOC Contract.



On October 6, 2025, the Railway Protection Force (RPF), Ministry of Railways, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), and Indian Railway Institute of Disaster Management (IRIDM), Bengaluru, signed a tri-party MoU at Rail

Bhawan, New Delhi, to enhance disaster preparedness and rapid response across Indian Railways.

- Simultaneously, Airtel Business secured a multi-year contract from the Indian Railways Security Operations Centre (IRSOC) to strengthen cybersecurity infrastructure. :
- The MoU emphasizes rapid action during the critical “golden hour” — the first few minutes or hours following a disaster. The agreement prioritizes drills, protocols, and planning to ensure timely rescue and mitigation during emergencies.
- JRRPFA (Joint Railway RPF Academy) will act as the nodal training hub; NDRF will conduct field-level sensitization modules; and IRIDM will design, document, and update advanced disaster management curricula to improve railway disaster preparedness.

Key Points:-

- (i) The contract includes safeguarding systems for ticketing, train tracking, freight operations, signaling, and digital payments. The operations will cover 26 railway zones, providing protection for approximately 1,60,000 railway employees.
- (ii) In October 2025, Airtel Business, the Business-to-Business (B2B) arm of Bharti Airtel Limited, secured a multi-year contract from IRSOC, an AI-based cybersecurity initiative by Indian Railways, to protect critical IT systems across the railway network.
- (iii) These initiatives aim to integrate disaster response and cybersecurity measures into Indian Railways’ operations, ensuring timely emergency action, minimizing risks to passengers and assets, and strengthening the resilience of critical railway

infrastructure.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Hagrama Mohilary Sworn in as Chief Executive Member (CEM) of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) in Assam.



On October 5, 2025, President of Bodoland People’s Front (BPF) Hagrama Mohilary was sworn in as the Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) during a ceremony held in Kokrajhar, Assam. Rihon Daimary, former Minister of Assam, took oath as the Deputy CEM. The event was attended by Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister (CM) of Assam, and Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Governor of Assam.

- Hagrama Mohilary, the founder and President of the Bodoland People’s Front (BPF), assumed charge as the CEM of BTC for the second time. His deputy, Rihon Daimary, was sworn in alongside him during the oath-taking ceremony in Kokrajhar.
- The Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) administers four key districts in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) — Kokrajhar, Baksa, Udalguri, and Chirang. It functions as an

autonomous administrative body under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

- A former Commander of the Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT), Mohilary played a central role in the 2003 Bodoland Accord and became the first CEM of BTC in 2005. Under his leadership, BTC focused on improving infrastructure, education, and healthcare across BTR.

Key Points:-

- Formed in 2003 following the Bodoland Accord signed between the Government of India and BLT, BTC ensures self-governance for the Bodo community, focusing on education, culture, land, and forest management. It comprises 46 members — 40 elected and 6 nominated — with the CEM heading the council.
- The swearing-in marks the continuation of BPF's leadership in BTC, reflecting its long-standing influence in the region's political and developmental framework.
- The ceremony also reinforced the state government's support for regional self-administration under the Sixth Schedule.

SPORTS

1. George Russell Wins 2025 Singapore Grand Prix and McLaren Secures Constructors' Title.



On October 5, 2025, George Russell from the United Kingdom (UK), representing Mercedes-Benz, won the 24th Formula One (F1) Singapore Grand Prix at the Marina Bay Street Circuit, marking the 18th round of the 2025 F1 World Championship. McLaren clinched the 2025 Constructors' Championship with six races remaining.

- George Russell achieved his fifth career F1 victory and second win of the 2025 season, leading from pole position to the finish line and showcasing a dominant performance at the Singapore circuit.
- Belgian-Dutch driver Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing) secured second place, while British driver Lando Norris (McLaren) finished third, adding crucial points for their respective teams in the Drivers' and Constructors' standings.
- After the Singapore GP, George Russell leads with 336 points, followed by Max Verstappen with 273 points, and Lando Norris with 313 points, tightening the race for the championship title.

Key Points:-

- McLaren clinched its 10th Constructors' Championship title — and second consecutive win — a historic feat last achieved in 1991, marking a resurgence of

the team's dominance in F1.

(ii) McLaren secured 12 wins out of 18 races in the season, including several 1–2 finishes, demonstrating superior teamwork and car performance in both qualifying and main races.

(iii) The Singapore Grand Prix, held at the Marina Bay Street Circuit since 2008, remains one of the most prestigious night races on the F1 calendar, testing drivers with its tight corners and illuminated street layout.

AWARDS

1. Nobel Prize in Physics 2025 Awarded to John Clarke, Michel Henri Devoret, and John Matthew Martinis.



On 7 October 2025, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics jointly to British physicist John Clarke, French physicist Michel Henri Devoret, and American physicist John Matthew Martinis for their discovery of “macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit” in Stockholm, Sweden. Their work demonstrated that quantum mechanics governs macroscopic systems, forming the basis for modern quantum technologies.

- The laureates conducted pioneering experiments in the mid-1980s using chip-based Josephson junctions built from superconductors, demonstrating quantum tunnelling and energy quantisation in macroscopic systems.

- Their findings proved that macroscopic systems can exhibit quantum behavior, laying the foundation for next-generation technologies such as quantum computers, quantum cryptography, flash memory, and ultra-precise quantum sensors.

Key Points:-

(i) The discovery of Josephson junction phenomena is critical for the development of quantum computers, quantum cryptography systems, and advanced quantum sensors, enabling more reliable, high-precision applications.

(ii) Since 1901, a total of 119 Nobel Prizes in Physics have been awarded to 230 laureates. Each prize includes a gold medal, a personal diploma, and a cash award.

(iii) The Nobel Prize medal, designed by Swedish sculptor and engraver Erik Lindberg, carries a cash award of 11 million Swedish Kronor (SEK), which is shared among the three laureates for their collaborative contributions to quantum science.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. United Nations Observes World Habitat Day 2025 on October 6.



The United Nations (UN) observed World Habitat Day (WHD) 2025 on 6th October, marking the annual event that highlights the state of human settlements and promotes the universal right to adequate shelter. The observance took place under the theme “Urban Crisis Response.”

- The 2025 theme “Urban Crisis Response” emphasizes building crisis-ready governance, resilient urban infrastructure, and inclusive communities that protect vulnerable populations in cities worldwide.
- World Habitat Day is observed annually on the first Monday of October. The 2025 event was hosted at the UN-Habitat Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, with coordination by UN-Habitat.
- The observance was established through UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/40/202 adopted on 17 December 1985, designating the first Monday of October as World Habitat Day to reflect on urban challenges and sustainable development.

Key Points:-

(i) The first World Habitat Day was celebrated in 1986 in Nairobi, Kenya, marking the beginning of a global effort to raise awareness about shelter and

sustainable urbanization.

(ii) World Habitat Day begins the month-long Urban October initiative, which focuses on global urban issues and concludes with World Cities Day on 31st October, promoting sustainable city growth.

(iii) The UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour, one of the world’s most prestigious awards for urban development, recognized Israel Smart (Nigeria), Public Works Studio (Lebanon), Just a Change (Portugal), and Clara Marina Brugada Molina (Mexico) for their contributions to sustainable urban progress.

Static GK

Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	Chairman : Tuhin Kanta Pandey	Headquarter : Mumbai
Assam	Chief Minister (CM) : Himanta Biswa Sarma	Governor : Lakshman Prasad Acharya
United Nations Human Settlements Programme(UN-Habitat)	Executive Director(ED) : Anacláudia Rossbach	Headquarters : Nairobi, Kenya
Maharashtra	Chief minister: Devendra Fadnavis	Governor: Acharya Devvrat
the Marina Bay Street Circuit	Circuit Length (2025): 4.927 km (3.061 mi)	Race Distance: 305.337 km, 62 laps
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)	Union Minister : Bhupendra Yadav	Headquarters : New Delhi
Ministry of Mines (MoM)	Union Minister : Gangapuram (G.) Kishan Reddy	Headquarters : New Delhi
Gujarat	Chief Minister (CM):	Governor : Acharya

	Bhupendrabhai Patel	Devvrat
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