

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

➤ 10 OCTOBER 2025



NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Cabinet Committee Approves ₹24,634 Crore Railway Multi-Tracking Projects Under PM Gati Shakti.



In October 2025, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved four multi-tracking railway projects of the Ministry of Railways (MoR) worth ₹24,634 crore under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) to enhance connectivity and decongest major routes across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh.

- The four newly sanctioned multi-tracking projects will expand the Indian Railways (IR) network by around 894 kilometres, improving freight and passenger movement across 18 districts in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh, thereby strengthening regional economic integration.

- The sanctioned corridors include: Wardha–Bhusawal (3rd & 4th lines, 314 km) in Maharashtra; Gondia–Dongargarh (4th line, 84 km) in Maharashtra & Chhattisgarh; Vadodara–Ratlam (3rd & 4th lines, 259 km) in Gujarat & MP; and Itarsi–Bhopal–Bina (4th line, 84 km) in MP, addressing congestion and capacity constraints.

- These projects will improve rail accessibility to 3,633 villages with a total population of about 85.84 lakh, including two Aspirational Districts—Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh and Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh—boosting rural connectivity and socio-economic development.

Key Points:-

(i) The upgraded routes will link several key cultural and natural sites such as Sanchi Stupa, Satpura Tiger Reserve, Hazara Falls, Bhimbetka Rock Shelters in Madhya Pradesh, and Nawegaon National Park in Maharashtra, promoting tourism and local livelihood opportunities.

(ii) The projects are expected to create an additional freight capacity of 78 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), significantly enhancing logistics efficiency while reducing oil imports by 28 crore litres and cutting carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by about 139 crore kilograms.

(iii) Aligned with the PM Gati Shakti vision of multi-modal connectivity, these railway upgrades are equivalent to planting six crore trees in environmental benefit terms, contributing to India's sustainability goals while accelerating industrial and regional growth.

2. DRDO Launches India's First 'Indian Radio Software Architecture (IRSA) Standard 1.0' for Military Communication.



In October 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and the Tri-Services — Indian Army (IA), Indian Navy (IN), and Indian Air Force (IAF) — officially released the ‘Indian Radio Software Architecture (IRSA) Standard 1.0’ to enhance interoperability in military communication during a national workshop held at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi.

- The event was graced by Dr. Samir V. Kamat, Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D) and Chairman of DRDO, as the Chief Guest. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC), and Dr. Rajat Moona, Director of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Gandhinagar, Gujarat, attended as Guests of Honour.

- The Indian Radio Software Architecture (IRSA) is a comprehensive national software standard for Software Defined Radios (SDRs), defining standardized interfaces, Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), execution environments, and waveform portability mechanisms for seamless integration across defence communication systems.

Key Points:-

(i) IRSA 1.0 aims to ensure waveform portability, SDR interoperability, and establish a framework for certification and conformance across multiple defence platforms, thereby strengthening joint communication capability among the three armed services.

(ii) The initiative for IRSA was conceptualized in 2021, with a core technical team led by DRDO commencing formal development in 2022. Following detailed reviews and inter-agency consultations, the final version of IRSA 1.0 was approved and released in 2025.

(iii) With the launch of IRSA 1.0, India achieved a major milestone by creating its first national specification defining a standardized software architecture for SDRs, marking a significant step toward indigenous and interoperable military communication technology.

INTERNATIONAL

1. ILO Releases ‘The State of Social Justice 2025’ Report Highlighting Uneven Global Progress.



In September 2025, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) released its report titled ‘The State of Social Justice 2025: A Work in Progress’, noting that while the world is

wealthier, healthier, and better educated than in 1995, progress remains uneven, with inequality reduction stalling and benefits not equally shared. The report was released ahead of the 2nd World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) scheduled in November 2025 in Doha, Qatar.

- **Child labour among children aged 5–14 years has decreased from 250 million in 1995 to 106 million in 2024, with the rate falling from 20.6% to 7.8% over the same period, reflecting significant progress in protecting children from exploitative work.**
- **Extreme poverty declined from 4 in 10 people in 1995 to 1 in 10 in 2023, while working poverty dropped sharply to 6.9% in 2024 from 27.9% in 2000, demonstrating improvements in living standards worldwide.**
- **Since 2000, primary and secondary school completion rates have risen by 10% and 22% respectively, highlighting progress in global education access and attainment.**

Key Points:-

- (i) Despite improvements, about 800 million people still live on less than USD 3 per day, and 1 in 4 people globally lacks access to safely managed drinking water, indicating enduring social and economic challenges.
- (ii) The report highlighted persistent inequalities, with the top 1% of the world's population holding 20% of global income and 38% of total wealth, showing that benefits of global progress are unevenly distributed.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. RBI DG T. Rabi Sankar Launches Pilot Linking FX-Retail Platform with Bharat Bill Payment System.



In October 2025, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor (DG) T. Rabi Sankar launched a pilot linking the Forex (FX)-Retail platform of Clearcorp Dealing Systems (India) Ltd. (Clearcorp) with the Bharat Bill Payment System (Bharat Connect) to enhance accessibility and transparency in foreign exchange transactions.

- **The FX-Retail platform, operated by Clearcorp and launched in 2019, aims to ensure greater transparency and fairness in foreign exchange pricing for individual users. The RBI proposed the linkage in December 2024 to expand the platform's reach and improve user experience.**
- **The pilot was officially launched at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2025 held at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra, highlighting the RBI's focus on fintech integration.**
- **The linkage enables individual customers holding accounts with participating banks to register and transact on the FX-Retail platform via banks' digital channels and Third Party**

Application Providers (TPAPs), providing a seamless forex trading experience.

Key Points:-

- (i) The pilot is accessible to customers of Axis Bank, Federal Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), and Yes Bank. Transactions can be conducted through CRED and Mobikwik apps for purchasing US Dollars against the Indian Rupee on a 'value cash' basis.
- (ii) The platform supports outward remittances, loading of forex cards, and physical delivery of foreign currency notes.
- (iii) Federal Bank and SBI customers can also access FX-Retail via their internet banking applications, further broadening digital accessibility.

2. NPCI Launches New Tech Subsidiary 'NPCI Tech Solutions Limited' to Drive Fintech Innovation.



In October 2025, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the apex body regulating retail payment and settlement systems in India, launched its new subsidiary, NPCI Tech Solutions Limited (NTSL), aimed at fostering experimentation and breakthrough innovations in the fintech

sector. The announcement was made at the Global Fintech Fest 2025 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- NPCI Tech Solutions Limited (NTSL), headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, has been established to drive fintech innovation, develop scalable payment solutions, and support India's evolving digital economy.
- NTSL focuses on research and development (R&D), prototyping new payment technologies, enhancing interoperability of payment systems including Unified Payments Interface (UPI), RuPay, and cross-border payments, thereby facilitating seamless digital transactions.
- NTSL commenced operations with an authorized capital of Rs. 1.00 million and a paid-up capital of Rs. 0.50 million, providing the financial foundation for its innovation-driven initiatives.

Key Points:-

- (i) The company's board of directors includes prominent officials such as Ajay Kumar Choudhary, Dilip Asbe Pratap, Krishnamurthy Viswanath, and Nitin Mishra, ensuring strategic guidance and governance.
- (ii) NTSL joins NPCI's list of subsidiaries, which include NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL), NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), and NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL), each contributing to diverse aspects of India's digital payment ecosystem.
- (iii) NPCI has pioneered multiple digital payment products such as credit card on UPI, credit line on UPI, and UPI Lite. Through NIPL, it is expanding UPI internationally across Asia, Africa, the Middle-East, and Europe, while promoting

global acceptance of UPI and RuPay and developing systems for cross-border remittances.

3. Bajaj Finserv Rebrands Insurance Businesses as Bajaj General Insurance and Bajaj Life Insurance.



In October 2025, Bajaj Finserv Limited (BFS) rebranded its insurance businesses, renaming them Bajaj General Insurance and Bajaj Life Insurance, following the acquisition of Allianz SE’s 26% stake in its insurance joint ventures, making BFS the sole owner of both entities.

- Earlier in 2025, Bajaj Finserv acquired Allianz SE’s 26% stake in its two insurance joint ventures for Rs. 24,180 crore, gaining full ownership and enabling complete control over brand identity and operations.
- The rebranding is accompanied by a new campaign: “100% Bajaj. Made in India. Made for India. Made by India.” The updated logo reflects a bold, modern design emphasizing trust, transparency, and customer-centric values.
- The rebranding has received all necessary approvals from regulatory bodies, including the Registrar of Companies (RC), Competition

Commission of India (CCI), and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

4. SBI General Insurance Launches ‘Health Alpha’ – A Customizable DIY Health Insurance Plan.



In October 2025, SBI General Insurance Company Limited, a subsidiary of the State Bank of India (SBI), launched ‘Health Alpha’, a do-it-yourself (DIY) health insurance plan that enables customers to personalize their health coverage from over 50 available options, marking a step towards modernizing health insurance offerings in India.

- Health Alpha offers customers the flexibility to choose from over 50 coverage options, allowing them to design a policy suited to their individual health needs and financial goals, with coverage starting from Rs. 5 lakh and extendable to higher sums insured.
- The plan includes an optional coverage feature that provides up to a 10x annual combined bonus in case no claims are made during the policy term, rewarding policyholders for maintaining good health.

Key Points:-

(i) Health Alpha introduces an innovative add-on that covers gym and sports-related injuries, including expenses for physical therapy, diagnostic tests, specialist consultations, and prescription medicines incurred during recreational or fitness activities.

(ii) Under the 'Prepare in Advance' benefit, policyholders can extend waiting period continuity to newlywed spouses (up to age 35) and newborns (up to two children) if enrolled within 120 days of marriage or childbirth, ensuring comprehensive family protection.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. World Bank Raises India's GDP Forecast to 6.5% for FY26 in 'South Asia Update October 2025' Report.



In October 2025, the World Bank (WB) released its bi-annual report titled 'South Asia Update October 2025: Jobs, AI, and Trade', revising India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast upward to 6.5% for FY2025-26 (FY26)—an increase of 20 basis points (bps) from its previous estimate of 6.3%. The report highlights India's continued position as the world's fastest-growing major economy.

- The World Bank upgraded India's GDP forecast to 6.5% for FY26, citing strong domestic consumption, enhanced agricultural productivity, and rising rural wages as key growth drivers. The revised forecast reflects India's economic resilience amid global uncertainties.

- The report noted that India will continue to outpace all other major economies in growth, supported by robust internal demand and structural reforms. It further projected that India would surpass China to become the single largest source of global energy demand by 2050.

- Despite a strong FY26 projection, the World Bank downgraded India's FY27 GDP growth estimate to 6.3% from 6.5%, attributing the revision to the 50% tariff imposed by the United States of America (USA) on nearly three-quarters of Indian exports to the US.

Key Points:-

(i) The report highlighted that around 20% of India's goods exports, accounting for roughly 2% of GDP, were directed to the USA in 2024. These new tariffs are expected to adversely impact export revenues and industrial output, thereby moderating India's growth trajectory.

(ii) The World Bank projected South Asia's growth at 6.6% in CY2025, which will slow to 5.8% in CY2026 due to the US tariffs. For other South Asian nations, the report forecasted the following GDP growth rates: Bangladesh (4.8% in CY25, 6.3% in CY26); Nepal (2.1% and 4.7%); Sri Lanka (3.5% and 3.1%); Bhutan (7.3% and 6.1%); and the Maldives (3.9% and 4%) respectively.

MOUs and Agreement

1. IIT Madras Signs MoU with Indian Navy to Advance Naval Technology and Ocean Engineering.



In October 2025, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) and the Indian Navy (IN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the IIT Madras campus in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN), to jointly develop advanced naval technologies, ocean structures, and engineering solutions aimed at strengthening India's maritime capabilities.

- The MoU was formally signed by Brigadier Rajesh Karel, Senior Deputy Director General (Sr DDG) & Chief Engineer, Directorate General of Naval Projects (DGNP), Mumbai, and Professor Ashwin Mahalingam, Dean (i/c), Industrial Consultancy & Sponsored Research (ICSR), IIT Madras, in the presence of senior representatives from both institutions.
- The partnership aims to integrate IIT Madras' research and innovation capabilities with the Indian Navy's operational expertise to co-develop indigenous technologies that enhance naval efficiency, sustainability, and technological self-reliance.

Key Points:-

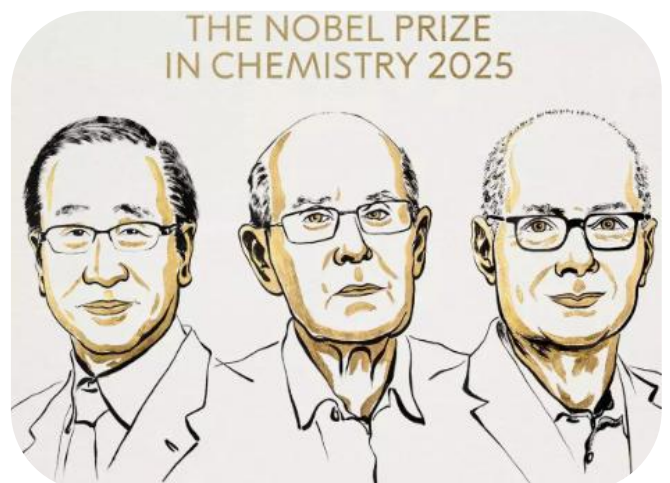
(i) A Joint Steering Committee (JSC) comprising members from IIT Madras and the Indian Navy will supervise project execution, promote research collaboration, enable prototype development, and ensure effective knowledge exchange between the academia and defence sectors.

(ii) The collaboration will address key domains such as ship design, hydrodynamics, ocean structural resilience, renewable energy integration in naval systems, and computational as well as experimental analysis of ocean engineering technologies.

(iii) The Department of Ocean Engineering at IIT Madras provides state-of-the-art research infrastructure, including one of Asia's largest towing tanks, enabling cutting-edge studies in ship resistance, propulsion, seakeeping, and manoeuvrability — supporting the Indian Navy's pursuit of advanced maritime innovations.h

AWARDS

1. 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry Awarded to Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, and Omar Mwanne Yaghi for Metal–Organic Frameworks (MOFs).



On 8 October 2025, Hans Ellegren, Secretary-General of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, announced that the 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was jointly awarded to Japanese chemist Susumu Kitagawa, Australian chemist Richard Robson, and Jordanian-American chemist Omar Mwanne Yaghi for their pioneering development of Metal–Organic Frameworks (MOFs), during a ceremony held in Stockholm, Sweden.

- The laureates were recognized for their groundbreaking work on Metal–Organic Frameworks (MOFs) — crystalline materials consisting of metal ions connected by organic linkers, forming a highly porous network with exceptionally large surface areas.
- MOFs have revolutionized modern chemistry and materials science through their wide applications in gas storage, separation, catalysis, carbon capture, drug delivery, and environmental remediation, making them vital to clean and sustainable technologies.

Key Points:-

- (i) The development of MOFs has advanced CO₂ sequestration, air and water purification, and renewable energy technologies, contributing significantly to environmental protection and sustainable industrial practices across the world.
- (ii) Since its inception in 1901, the Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded 117 times to 200 laureates as of 2025, recognizing exceptional contributions that have transformed global science and innovation.
- (iii) The Nobel medal, designed by Swedish sculptor Erik Lindberg, features a left-profile portrait of Alfred Nobel. Each laureate

receives a gold medal, personal diploma, and a share of the 11 million Swedish kronor (SEK) cash award for 2025.

2. COAS General Upendra Dwivedi Honors Mohanlal with COAS Commendation Card for Societal Contributions.



In October 2025, General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), awarded Malayalam film superstar and Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Mohanlal Viswanathan with the COAS Commendation Card at Army Headquarters, New Delhi. The honor recognized his exceptional societal contributions and sustained support to the Indian Armed Forces.

- Mohanlal has been associated with the Indian Army (IA) for 16 years and was conferred the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army in May 2009, reflecting his long-term commitment to the armed forces.

Key Points:-

- (i) With a career spanning over four decades, Mohanlal has acted in more than 400 films across Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi languages, making him one of India’s most celebrated actors.

(ii) He has been honored with prestigious awards including the Padma Shri (2001), Padma Bhushan (2019), and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2025) for his outstanding contributions to the field of arts and cinema.

(iii) Mohanlal leads the ViswaSanthi Foundation, which supports initiatives in education, healthcare, skill development, environmental conservation, and welfare projects nationwide, reflecting his commitment to societal development.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCE / COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

1. Government of India Unveils Logo for India-AI Impact Summit 2026.



In October 2025, the Government of India (GoI) unveiled the official logo for the India-Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact Summit 2026, scheduled to be held from February 19 to February 20, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi. The logo was selected through a national Logo Design Contest hosted on the MyGov platform.

- The Logo Design Contest ran from May 28 to June 12, 2025, on MyGov. The Emerging Technologies team under the Ministry of

Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) reviewed the final entries and selected the winning design.

- Out of 599 entries, the design by Ajith P. Suresh was finalized as the official logo of the India-AI Impact Summit 2026.

Key Points:-

(i) The logo features the Ashoka Chakra at its centre, symbolizing ethical governance, justice, and constitutional values, reflecting India's principles in AI development.

(ii) Neural network flares radiating from the centre signify AI's transformative impact across industries, languages, and geographies, emphasizing inclusive and widespread progress.

(iii) The colour gradient represents innovation, inclusivity, and diversity, while clean and modern typography ensures clarity, trust, and effective recall across digital and print platforms.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. India Observes National Post Week (NPW) 2025 from October 6 to 10 to Highlight India Post's Role in Socio-Economic Development.



The Department of Posts (DoP), also known as India Post, under the Ministry of Communications, is observing National Post Week (NPW) 2025 from October 6 to 10, 2025. The observance highlights India Post's growing contribution toward digital transformation, financial inclusion, and community service in India's socio-economic progress.

- The week began with Technology Day, focusing on India Post's ongoing digital transformation. Workshops and awareness programs were held to train employees on digital tools, postal technology, and e-commerce-integrated postal services, showcasing the modernization of postal operations.

- The second day celebrated Financial Inclusion Day, emphasizing the role of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) in bringing financial services to rural and underserved populations through awareness camps and interactive sessions.

Key Points:-

- (i) On this day, Philately exhibitions, competitions, and letter-writing sessions were organized nationwide to promote the culture of stamp collection and preserve traditional communication methods, while also highlighting citizen-focused postal initiatives.
- (ii) India Post celebrated World Post Day 2025 on October 9 under the theme “#POST FOR PEOPLE – LOCAL SERVICE. GLOBAL REACH.”
- (iii) The final day, Customer Day (October 10), emphasized India Post's commitment to customer satisfaction, reliability, and accessibility, strengthening trust and

engagement with postal users.

2. United Nations Observes World Cotton Day 2025 on 7 October Highlighting Cotton's Role in Global Economy.



The United Nations (UN) annually observes World Cotton Day (WCD) on 7 October to emphasize cotton's critical role in economic growth, global trade, and poverty reduction. The day also highlights technological innovations, sustainability, and competitiveness in the cotton sector globally.

- The concept of WCD was proposed in 2019 by four sub-Saharan African cotton producers — Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali, collectively known as the Cotton Four. They suggested to the World Trade Organization (WTO) that 7 October be designated as World Cotton Day.

- In August 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/75/318, officially recognizing 7 October of every year as World Cotton Day, formalizing its global observance.

- The first-ever World Cotton Day was celebrated on 7 October 2021, marking the beginning of annual global recognition of the cotton sector's socio-economic significance.

Key Points:-

(i) On 7 October 2025, WCD 2025 was celebrated at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy with the theme “The Fabric of Our Lives”. The event, focusing on cotton sector challenges and opportunities, was jointly organized by the Republic of Chad, FAO, and International Trade Centre (ITC).

(ii) On the same day, the Ministry of Textiles (MoT), Government of India, celebrated WCD in New Delhi under the theme “Cotton 2040: Technology, Climate & Competitiveness”, in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), emphasizing innovation, climate resilience, and global competitiveness in India’s cotton sector.

Inspector General (DIG) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), in New Delhi, Delhi. The book highlights India’s aviation journey and explores strategies to enhance the sector’s global competitiveness.

- **The 445-page book showcases India’s aviation journey from dreams to destinations, illustrating milestones, technological advancements, and the country’s progress in civil aviation.**

- **Drawing on Shiv Kumar Mohanaka’s 30 years of experience in CISF, the book provides a detailed and authoritative perspective on the Indian aviation sector, including security, operations, and infrastructure development.**

- **The book incorporates findings from a survey of 1,500 Indian flyers, offering insights into passenger experiences and suggestions on how India’s aviation ecosystem can evolve to meet international standards.**

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Unveils Book “Above and Beyond – Exploring the Amazing World of Aviation” in New Delhi.



On 7 October 2025, Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), unveiled the book “Above and Beyond – Exploring the Amazing World of Aviation” by Shiv Kumar Mohanaka, Deputy

Static GK

Maharashtra	Chief Minister (CM) : Devendra Fadnavis	Governor : Acharya Devvrat
DRDO	Chairman : Dr. Samir V. Kamat	Headquarters: New Delhi
RBI	Governor : Sanjay Malhotra	Headquarter : Mumbai
World Bank (WB)	President : Ajay Banga	Headquarters: Washington, DC, the United States of America (USA)