



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 11 & 12 OCTOBER 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates First Phase of Navi Mumbai International Airport and Launches Key Infrastructure Projects in Mumbai.



On October 8, 2025, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated Phase I of the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) and launched several major development projects in Mumbai, Maharashtra. These initiatives mark a major milestone in advancing India's transport infrastructure and align with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

- The Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), built at an estimated cost of Rs. 19,650 crore, is India's largest Greenfield airport project. It will operate as the second international airport for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, complementing Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA).

- Developed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, NMIA is jointly implemented by Adani Airports Holdings Limited (AAHL)—a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited—and the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO). The project is aligned with the Government of India's long-term vision, Viksit Bharat 2047.

- PM Modi inaugurated Phase 2B (final phase) of the Mumbai Metro Line-3, also known as the Aqua Line, connecting Acharya Atre Chowk to Cuffe Parade. The line aims to enhance last-mile connectivity and urban mobility in Mumbai.

Key Points:-

(i) The Mumbai Metro Line-3 is the first and only fully underground metro in Mumbai. It is built at a cost of Rs. 12,200 crore for this phase, taking the total project cost of the Aqua Line to Rs. 37,720 crore.

(ii) Covering a total distance of 33.5 kilometers from Cuffe Parade to Aarey (Jogeshwari-Vikhroli Link Road), the Aqua Line has 27 stations and is expected to serve nearly 13 lakh commuters every day, significantly easing congestion in the city.

(iii) PM Modi also launched the Mumbai One app, a comprehensive digital platform integrating metro, suburban train, and bus transport services. The app enables commuters to plan routes, book tickets, and make digital payments seamlessly through a single interface.

2. NITI Aayog Launches "AI for Inclusive Societal Development" Study to Empower Informal Workers through Mission Digital ShramSetu.



On October 8, 2025, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Jayant Chaudhary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and Union MoS, Ministry of Education (MoE), along with Suman Bery, Vice Chairperson of NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, launched NITI Aayog's study titled "AI for Inclusive Societal Development." The study, developed in collaboration with Deloitte, aims to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) for inclusive economic and social empowerment.

- The study represents a pioneering initiative to explore how AI and frontier technologies can enhance inclusion, employment, and productivity for India's 490 million informal workers—forming the backbone of the national economy.
- The roadmap identifies critical barriers such as limited access to financial services, lack of skilling opportunities, and inadequate social protection measures that hinder the economic growth of informal sector workers.
- It proposes the creation of a digital ecosystem for verified skill credentials, timely wage payments, and access to welfare benefits—modeled on the efficiency and security of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system.

Key Points:-

- (i) NITI Aayog's proposed 20-year "Mission Digital ShramSetu" aims to democratize access to AI, blockchain, and immersive learning technologies, ensuring that every informal worker in India benefits from digital empowerment.
- (ii) The mission will be executed in four phases—orientation (2025–26), institution setup (2026–27), pilot projects (by 2029),

and national rollout (post-2030).

- (iii) Each worker will receive a digital ID and wallet showcasing verified skills, work history, and entitlements, under the leadership of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

INTERNATIONAL

1. WHO Releases 6th Edition Global Report on Tobacco Use Trends 2000–2024 and Projections 2025–30.



In October 2025, the World Health Organisation (WHO) released the 6th edition of its report titled 'WHO Global Report on Trends in Prevalence of Tobacco Use 2000–2024 and Projections 2025–30'. The report highlights global tobacco consumption trends, projections for 2025–30, and assesses progress toward achieving a relative 30% reduction in tobacco use, with a special focus on South-East Asian countries.

- Three South-East Asian countries—Bangladesh, India, and Nepal—are on track to achieve at least a 30% relative reduction in tobacco use by the end of 2025. Six other countries—Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic (DPR) of Korea, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri

Lanka, and Thailand—are projected to experience smaller declines in tobacco use.

- Globally, tobacco users decreased from 1.38 billion in 2000 to 1.2 billion in 2024.
- The report projects a further reduction of 120 million users by 2025, reflecting a 27% relative decline in global tobacco consumption.

Key Points:-

- (i) For the first time, WHO reported global estimates of e-cigarette use. Over 100 million people worldwide currently use e-cigarettes, with approximately 86 million adults residing mainly in High-Income Countries (HICs). Teenagers are significantly affected, with around 15 million aged 13–15 years using e-cigarettes, and children are on average nine times more likely than adults to vape.
- (ii) Women have already achieved the 30% global reduction target by 2020, five years ahead of schedule. Female tobacco users declined from 277 million in 2010 to 206 million in 2024, with overall tobacco use among women falling from 11% to 6.6%.
- (iii) Men constitute over 80% of global tobacco users and are projected not to meet the 30% reduction target until 2031. Around 1 billion male users continue to consume tobacco, indicating the need for intensified efforts targeting male populations.

2. China Inaugurates World's First Solar Thermal Power Station in Gobi Desert



In October 2025, China inaugurated the world's first solar thermal power station in the Gobi Desert, Gansu Province. Developed by China Three Gorges Corporation, the plant marks a significant breakthrough in solar thermal technology, featuring two towers channeling energy into a single turbine.

- The power station uses around 27,000 mirrors to focus sunlight onto two 200-meter-high towers spaced about one kilometre apart, maximizing solar energy capture.
- The concentrated heat reaches up to 570°C (1,058°F), storing energy to produce steam that drives turbines, allowing electricity generation even after sunset or during cloudy periods.

Key Points:-

- (i) The station contributes to China's ambition to exceed 1,200 Gigawatt (GW) of combined wind and solar energy capacity by 2030.
- (ii) The world's largest operational solar thermal complex currently is the 700-megawatt (MW) Noor Energy 1 project in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

BANKING & FINANCE

1. HSBC India Launches "HSBC Innovation Banking" Platform to Support Startups with USD 1 Billion Funding.



On October 9, 2025, Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp Ltd (HSBC) India launched the HSBC Innovation Banking platform in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The initiative aims to support startups at all stages, from seed funding to IPO preparation, by providing USD 1 billion in non-dilutive debt funding, promoting India's growing technology and venture ecosystem.

- The platform offers USD 1 billion in loans to startups, enabling growth without giving away equity, allowing founders and investors to retain control over their businesses.
- HSBC leverages its global network of over 900 experts to help startups access international markets and gain strategic business insights.

Key Points:-

(i) HSBC Innovation Banking operates across major global technology and innovation hubs, including the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Continental Europe, Hong Kong, mainland China, and now India.

(ii) Dilip Gopinath has been appointed as the Head of HSBC Innovation Banking Platform in India, overseeing its operations and growth strategy.

2. Pramerica Life Insurance Enters Strategic Bancassurance Partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank to Expand Nationwide.



In October 2025, Pramerica Life Insurance Limited, one of India's fastest-growing life insurers, entered into a strategic bancassurance partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB). The collaboration aims to strengthen Pramerica's bancassurance network across 18 states, improving access to life insurance products for a wide range of customers nationwide.

- The partnership will offer a diverse range of life, savings, and health-focused insurance plans, including Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs) that combine both investment and insurance benefits.
- The rollout will be multi-phased, covering urban, semi-urban, and rural markets, targeting self-employed, salaried, underserved, and microfinance customers to enhance insurance penetration.

- The initiative will focus on southern states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala, supporting the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)'s vision of "Insurance for All by 2047."

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. Air India Enters Interline Partnership with STARLUX Airlines to Enhance Travel Connectivity Across Asia.



In October 2025, Air India entered into an interline partnership with Taiwan-based STARLUX Airlines, aimed at enhancing travel options for passengers across Asia. The agreement allows booking of single-ticket itineraries combining flights of both carriers, ensuring smoother journeys, coordinated baggage handling, and simplified travel processes.

- The collaboration aims to simplify travel between India and Taiwan by enabling passengers to book single-ticket itineraries that include flights from both airlines. It also provides through check-in services for passengers and baggage to their final destinations.

- Passengers can enjoy coordinated travel, including smoother journeys, simplified booking

processes, and efficient baggage handling, by combining Air India and STARLUX flights on a single itinerary.

Key Points:-

(i) Air India customers can reach Taipei (Taiwan) via major Southeast Asia hubs such as Hong Kong (China), Bangkok (Thailand), Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), enhancing regional connectivity.

(ii) STARLUX Airlines passengers can connect to Indian cities, including Delhi, Mumbai (Maharashtra), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), and Bengaluru (Karnataka), through the shared Southeast Asia gateways. Bookings are available through travel agents and will gradually be enabled on the Air India website and mobile app.

MOUs and Agreement

1. DoT, NCA, and GSMA Sign MoU to Strengthen Telecom Collaboration and Digital Innovation.



In October 2025, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Ministry of Communication, the National Communications Academy (NCA), and the GSM Association (GSMA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in

New Delhi (Delhi) to advance cooperation in telecom policy, research, and capacity building, supporting India's Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat visions.

- The MoU was signed by Atul Sinha, Director General (DG) of NCA, and Vivek Badrinath, DG of GSMA, in the presence of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia.
- This MoU marks NCA's first-ever international agreement, establishing a strategic framework with GSMA to enhance research, telecom policy development, and professional training within India's communication ecosystem.
- The partnership aims to foster joint research programs, knowledge exchange, and collaborative projects between public and private telecom sectors to ensure global best practices are adapted to India's rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Key Points:-

- Under this initiative, skill enhancement modules, capacity-building workshops, and international exposure opportunities will be organized to empower telecom professionals and strengthen India's technical workforce.
- The MoU emphasizes joint efforts in advancing 5G, 6G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and quantum communication technologies to drive innovation and sustainable digital transformation across India's telecom industry.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. General Ruphin Fortunat Zafisambo Appointed as New Prime Minister of Madagascar.



In October 2025, Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina appointed General Ruphin Fortunat Zafisambo as the new Prime Minister (PM) of Madagascar, marking a significant political shift following the dismissal of the previous government amid widespread protests over power and water shortages.

- General Ruphin Fortunat Zafisambo succeeded Christian Ntsay, who had served as Prime Minister since 2018. His appointment reflects President Rajoelina's move to install a military officer in a role previously held by a civilian leader.

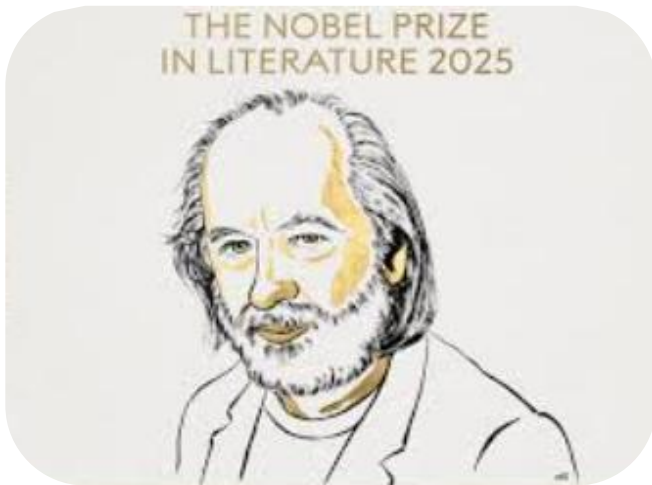
Key Points:-

- Zafisambo began his military education in 1991 at the Antsirabe Military Academy in Madagascar, establishing a foundation for a long and disciplined career in the armed forces.
- He began his public service during the rule of the High Transitional Authority (HAT), led by Andry Rajoelina, following Madagascar's 2009 political crisis, strengthening his ties to the current leadership.
- Before his appointment as Prime Minister, Zafisambo served as Deputy

Secretary General of the Government and later as Director of the Military Cabinet in the PM's office, where he acted as Chief of Military Staff to then-Prime Minister Christian Ntsay.

AWARDS

1. Hungarian Author László Krasznahorkai Wins 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature.



On 9 October 2025, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature 2025 to Hungarian author László Krasznahorkai “for his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art.” He became the second Hungarian writer to receive this honour after Imre Kertész in 2002.

- László Krasznahorkai, born in 1954 in Hungary, is an acclaimed novelist and screenwriter celebrated for his dense, philosophical prose and postmodern storytelling style that explores themes of despair and hope amid chaos.

- His most renowned works include *Satantango* (1985) and *The Melancholy of Resistance* (1989), both known for their complex narratives and existential themes. These novels inspired

acclaimed cinematic adaptations by Hungarian filmmaker Béla Tarr.

Key Points:-

(i) The Academy praised Krasznahorkai for his visionary literary voice that captures human resilience in times of apocalyptic terror and for his ability to redefine the boundaries of modern fiction through the power of art and language.

(ii) From 1901 to 2025, a total of 118 Nobel Prizes in Literature have been awarded to 122 laureates worldwide, including 18 women. The award is one of the most prestigious global honours in recognition of outstanding literary achievement.

(iii) The Nobel Prize in Literature medal, designed by Swedish sculptor Erik Lindberg in 1902, is accompanied by a personal diploma and a cash award. In 2025, the total cash prize was set at 11 million Swedish kronor (SEK), equivalent to approximately USD 1.2 million.

2. Mukesh Ambani Tops Forbes 100 India's Richest 2025 List with USD 105 Billion Net Worth.



In October 2025, Forbes, the American global media company, released the latest edition of

“Forbes 100 India’s Richest 2025” list. Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), retained his position as India’s richest man for the 14th consecutive year, with a net worth of USD 105 billion despite a 12% decline from the previous year.

- **Gautam Adani, founder and chairman of the Adani Group, secured the 2nd position on the list with a total wealth of USD 92 billion. Savitri Jindal, the matriarch of the OP Jindal Group, reclaimed the 3rd position with a net worth of USD 40.2 billion, highlighting her continued dominance among India’s top business figures.**

- The minimum net worth required to feature on the Forbes list slightly decreased from USD 3.3 billion in 2024 to USD 3.2 billion in 2025. This adjustment led to the exclusion of seven billionaires from this year’s ranking, marking a notable shift in India’s billionaire landscape.

- According to Forbes, the combined wealth of India’s top 100 richest individuals fell by 9%—a reduction of around USD 100 billion—bringing the total to USD 1 trillion in 2025. The decline was largely attributed to a weaker Indian rupee and a 3% drop in the benchmark Sensex since the last assessment.

Key Points:-

(i) Sunil Bharti Mittal, founder and chairman of Bharti Enterprises, emerged as the biggest gainer on the list. His net worth surged by USD 3.5 billion to reach USD 34.2 billion, propelling him from the 7th to the 4th position in the Forbes 2025 rankings.

(ii) The remaining top positions were secured by Shiv Nadar of HCL Technologies (5th with USD 33.2 billion), Radhakishan Damani of Avenue Supermarts Limited (DMart) (6th with USD 28.2 billion), and Dilip

Shangvi of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries (7th with USD 26.3 billion).

(iii) The Bajaj family ranked 8th with a net worth of USD 21.8 billion, followed by Cyrus Poonawalla of the Serum Institute of India (SII) in 9th place with USD 21.4 billion. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, rounded out the top 10 with a total wealth of USD 20.6 billion.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. Indian Air Force Celebrates 93rd Raising Day on 8th October 2025.



On 8th October 2025, India celebrated the 93rd Indian Air Force (IAF) Day, also known as IAF Raising Day, to commemorate the establishment of the IAF on 8 October 1932. The celebration at Air Force Station Hindan, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, honoured the legacy and evolution of the force under the theme “Indian Air Force – Infalible, Impervious and Precise.”

- **The Indian Air Force was founded on 8 October 1932 as part of the British Royal Air Force under the name Royal Indian Air Force (RIAF). Following India’s independence in 1947, the RIAF was renamed as the Indian Air Force**

(IAF), marking the beginning of an independent national aviation force.

- The 93rd IAF Day in 2025 was observed under the theme “Indian Air Force – Infallible, Impervious and Precise.” This theme highlights the IAF’s commitment to excellence, operational readiness, and technological precision in defending India’s skies.

- The central parade and celebrations took place at Air Force Station Hindan in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (UP). The event showcased the IAF’s strength, discipline, and modernization efforts through aerial displays and ceremonial parades.

Key Points:-

(i) The event was graced by General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of the Indian Armed Forces. Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), was honoured with an aerial salute by three Mi-17 1V helicopters flying in the ‘Dhwaj’ formation carrying the National Flag, IAF Flag, and Operation Sindoor Flag.

(ii) To mark the 93rd anniversary, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) jointly flagged off a scuba diving expedition from Goa on October 8, 2025. This initiative symbolized inter-service cooperation and celebrated the IAF’s nine-decade-long service to the nation.

2. World Post Day 2025 Observed on 9 October by the United Nations to Celebrate Global Postal Connectivity.



The UN recently observed World Post Day (WPD) on 9 October 2025 to mark the founding of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874, Bern, Switzerland. The day celebrates the important role of postal services in connecting people, communities, and economies.

- **Theme 2025: “#PostForPeople: Local Service. Global Reach”** – highlights that postal services are important public services connecting local communities to global markets.

- WPD celebrates the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) on 9 October 1874. The UN recommended celebrating it annually in 1969.

- Originally called “UPU Day,” it was officially renamed World Post Day in 1984.

Key Points:-

(i) Since 1971, children aged 9–15 years write letters to future generations. The 54th edition in 2025 is organized by UPU, UNICEF, and UNESCO.

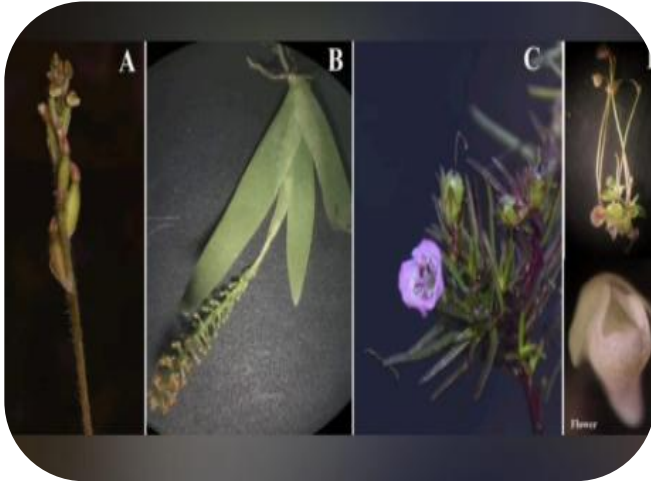
(ii) There are 650,000+ post offices worldwide with 5.3 million staff, delivering mail and financial services everywhere.

(iii) 1.5 billion people depend on postal networks for payments, savings, and money

transfers. Around 53% of post offices offer insurance. The global parcels market grew from USD 450B (2018) to USD 500B (2020).

ENVIRONMENT

1. Researchers Discover Four New Plant Species in Western Ghats, Karnataka.



In October 2025, a team of researchers led by Professor K. Kotresha from Karnatak Science College, Dharwad (Karnataka) discovered four new plant species—*Zeuxine seetharamii*, *Oberonia marnkuliensis*, *Parasopubia gorensis*, and *Utricularia kumtensis*—in the Western Ghats, a UNESCO-recognized biodiversity hotspot.

- *Zeuxine seetharamii* belongs to the Orchidaceae (orchid) family and is notable for its unique floral arrangement along the stem, distinguishing it from other *Zeuxine* species. Its discovery highlights the continued botanical richness of the Western Ghats.

- *Oberonia marnkuliensis*, also part of the Orchidaceae (orchid) family, was identified in the moist, shaded areas of Marnkuli Hill, Shivamogga (Karnataka). This species adds to the region's endemic orchid diversity and emphasizes the ecological significance of shaded microhabitats.

- *Parasopubia gorensis*, a member of the Genus *Parasopubia*, thrives in shaded, humid environments. Its growth and reproduction are closely linked to the stable, moisture-rich forest conditions of the Western Ghats.

Key Points:-

(i) *Utricularia kumtensis* belongs to the Lentibulariaceae (carnivorous plant) family and was discovered in wet, marshy areas. It adapts to nutrient-poor, waterlogged soils, relying on carnivory to supplement its nutritional intake, characteristic of its genus.

(ii) The discovery of these species underscores the biodiversity importance of the Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and highlights the critical need for ongoing research and conservation efforts to protect these unique ecosystems from environmental threats.

Static GK

Maharashtra	Chief Minister (CM) : Devendra Fadnavis	Governor : Acharya Devvrat
Department of Telecommunications (DoT)	Minister : Jyotiraditya Scindia	Headquarters : New Delhi
World Health Organisation (WHO)	Director General (DG) : Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus	Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
China	President: Xi Jinping	Capital: Beijing
Madagascar	President : Andry Rajoelina	Capital : Antananarivo
Indian Air Force (IAF)	Chief of Air Staff (CAS) : Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh	Headquarters : New Delhi
Universal Postal Union(UPU)	Director General(DG) : Masahiko Metoki	Headquartered : Bern, Switzerland
Karnataka	Chief Minister	Governor : Thawar

	(CM) : Siddaramaiah	Chand Gehlot
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