



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 13 OCTOBER 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. NTPC Renewable Energy Signs MoU with Gujarat to Develop 15 GW Renewable Energy Projects.



In October 2025, NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPC REL), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Government of Gujarat to develop 15 Gigawatt (GW) renewable energy projects during the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference held at Mehsana, Gujarat.

- Under the MoU, NTPC REL will develop 15 GW of renewable energy capacity, comprising 10 GW of solar projects and 5 GW of wind projects, contributing to Gujarat's clean energy growth.
- The agreement covers both conventional and non-conventional energy sources, including Thermal, Hydro, Solar, Wind, Green hydrogen, Battery energy storage, Pumped hydro, and Waste-to-energy projects, fostering comprehensive energy cooperation.

Key Points:-

(i) The partnership leverages NTPC's technical expertise and Gujarat's supportive policy ecosystem to accelerate clean energy deployment, advancing India's net-zero

emissions target and sustainable development goals.

(ii) NTPC currently has an installed capacity of over 83 GW, with 30.90 GW under construction, including 13.3 GW of renewable assets, and aims to achieve 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032.

2. MoHUA Observed World Habitat Day 2025 on October 8 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



On October 8, 2025, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) observed World Habitat Day 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, under the theme "Urban Solutions to Crisis." The event aimed to highlight urban resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability. Union Minister of State (MoS) Tokhan Sahu, MoHUA, was the Guest of Honour at the occasion.

● World Habitat Day 2025 was observed globally on October 6, 2025, focusing on the theme "Urban Crisis Response." The observance emphasized the importance of addressing challenges like housing shortages, rapid urbanization, and climate resilience in cities.

● The event was attended by Srinivas Katikithala (Secretary, MoHUA), Satinder Pal Singh (Additional Secretary, MoHUA), Kuldip Narayan

(Joint Secretary & Mission Director, Housing for All Division), Shombi Sharp (UN Resident Coordinator, UN India), along with senior MoHUA officials and CMDs of affiliated organizations.

- The theme “Urban Solutions to Crisis” focused on finding innovative approaches for sustainable city planning, affordable housing, and inclusive infrastructure to ensure urban areas remain resilient during crises.

Key Points:-

(i) During the event, several publications from organizations under MoHUA were released, including those from Housing for All (HFA) Division, Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO), National Cooperative Housing Federation (NCHF), National Housing Bank (NHB), Central Government Employees Housing Welfare Organization (CGEWHO), and Building Materials Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC).

(ii) The Housing for All Division released a ‘Compendium of Good Practices’, showcasing successful state-level implementations under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U), highlighting effective housing strategies for urban development.

3. Ministry of Textiles Notifies Major Amendments to PLI Scheme for MMF Apparel, Fabrics, and Technical Textiles.



In October 2025, the Ministry of Textiles (MoT) announced significant amendments to the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Manmade Fibres (MMF) apparel, MMF fabrics, and technical textiles, aimed at boosting investments, easing business processes, and promoting growth in India’s textile sector.

- The MoT has added 8 new Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) codes for MMF apparel and 9 new HSN codes for MMF fabrics to the PLI scheme, widening the range of products eligible for incentives.

- Applicants are now allowed to set up project units within existing companies, removing the previous requirement of establishing new entities, thereby simplifying participation.

- With effect from August 1, 2025, the minimum investment requirement for new applicants has been reduced by 50%, from Rs 300 crore to Rs 150 crore (Part-I category) and Rs 100 crore to Rs 50 crore (Part-II category), encouraging greater industry participation.

Key Points:-

(i) From FY26, applicants must demonstrate a minimum of 10% incremental turnover over the previous year to qualify for incentives from Year 2 onwards, compared

to the earlier requirement of 25%, easing eligibility for companies.

(ii) To ensure wider industry participation, the MoT has announced that the PLI scheme application portal will remain open until December 31, 2025, allowing more companies to apply for benefits.

(iii) The PLI scheme, approved by the Government of India in September 2021, has a budget outlay of Rs 10,683 crore over 5 years to promote MMF apparel, fabrics, and technical textiles. Till now, 74 companies with a total pledged investment of Rs 28,711 crore have been selected as eligible beneficiaries.

4. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer Visited India on October 8–9, 2025, to Strengthen Trade, Education, Fintech, and Defence Cooperation.



From October 8 to 9, 2025, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer made his first official visit to India at the invitation of PM Narendra Modi, following the signing of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in July 2025.

- On October 8, 2025, PM Starmer arrived in Mumbai, Maharashtra, addressing business

leaders to enhance bilateral trade and investment between India and the UK.

- On October 9, 2025, he attended the 6th Global Fintech Fest (GFF) at Jio World Centre, focusing on strengthening financial technology collaboration.

- The India-UK Fintech Corridor was launched to promote innovation, and the inaugural CEO Forum meeting emphasized early ratification of CETA and the reactivation of the India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO).

Key Points:-

(i) PM Starmer announced the establishment of nine UK university campuses in India, supported by the University Grants Commission (UGC) under NEP 2020, alongside the launch of the India-UK Connectivity and Innovation Centre and Joint Centre for AI.

(ii) A Technology Startup Fund was initiated under a UK-India MoU with the State Bank of India (SBI) for startups in AI and climate technology, and a Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed between ICMR and the UK's NIHR for collaborative health research.

(iii) India signed a 350 million Euro (USD 468 million) defence deal with the UK for Lightweight Multirole Missiles (Martlet missiles) to supply the Indian Army (IA), enhancing strategic defence cooperation.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. Sixth Edition of Global Fintech Fest (GFF 2025) Held in Mumbai Showcasing AI-Powered Financial Innovations.



The sixth edition of the Global Fintech Fest (GFF 2025) was held from October 7 to 9, 2025, at the Jio World Convention Centre and the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The event brought together global leaders, regulators, and innovators to discuss the transformation of the financial ecosystem through Artificial Intelligence (AI).

- The event was jointly organized by the Payments Council of India (PCI), National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), and Fintech Convergence Council (FCC). The theme of GFF 2025 was “Empowering Finance for a Better World Powered by AI: Augmented Intelligence | Innovation | Inclusion”, emphasizing AI’s role in building inclusive and intelligent financial systems.

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, representing the Ministry of Finance (MoF), participated in the inaugural session. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the United Kingdom (UK) Prime Minister Keir Starmer delivered keynote addresses highlighting global collaboration in fintech innovation and digital transformation.

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Foreign Currency Settlement System (FCSS) at the International Financial

Services Centre (IFSC) located in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). This initiative aims to strengthen India’s position as a global financial hub by simplifying cross-border forex settlements.

Key Points:-

- The RBI introduced four new digital payment initiatives—UPI Help, Internet of Things (IoT) Payments with UPI, Banking Connect, and Reserve Pay—marking a significant step toward enhancing digital financial inclusion and promoting technological advancement in the payments ecosystem.
- The Indian financial services company Navi launched a revolutionary biometric payment system through its Navi UPI app. It became India’s first UPI application to enable large-scale biometric-based payments, allowing users to authenticate transactions using fingerprints or facial recognition instead of traditional UPI PINs.
- HDFC Bank introduced the “My Business Quick Response (QR)” solution powered by Vyaparify to help small entrepreneurs create their first commerce identity. Additionally, HDFC launched the “Pitch for Business” initiative, providing a platform for startups and innovators to showcase their ideas and access funding opportunities within the fintech ecosystem.

2. WTO Revises Global Trade Growth Forecast for 2026 to 0.5% and Projects CY25 Recovery.



In October 2025, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) released its latest report titled “Global Trade Outlook and Statistics Update: October 2025.” The report revised global merchandise trade volume growth to 0.5% for the calendar year (CY) 2026, down from its earlier estimate of 1.8%, while projecting a modest recovery in CY 2025.

- The WTO revised its trade forecast for CY25 upward from 0.9% (August 2025) to 2.4%, driven mainly by strong import demand in the United States and growth in Artificial Intelligence (AI)-related goods. However, for CY26, the forecast was lowered to 0.5% due to slowing global demand.

- The report stated that global merchandise trade growth will decline from 2.8% in 2024 to 2.4% in 2025, and further to 0.5% in 2026. It also noted that trade volumes rose significantly in the first half of CY25, showing a 4.9% year-on-year (YoY) increase.

- WTO identified several growth factors including favourable macroeconomic conditions, disinflation, and supportive fiscal policies. Additionally, emerging markets and AI-related goods such as semiconductors and telecom equipment played a key role in boosting trade during early 2025.

Key Points:-

(i) According to WTO’s report, the global GDP is expected to grow by 2.7% in CY25 and 2.6% in CY26, marking a marginal deceleration of 10 basis points. The moderation reflects slower growth in developed economies amid tightening financial conditions.

(ii) The WTO projected global services export growth to slow from 6.8% in CY24 to 4.6% in CY25, and further to 4.4% in CY26. Despite moderation, the services sector continues to be supported by digital trade and cross-border IT services.

(iii) The report highlighted that Asia and Africa are set to record the strongest export growth in 2025, while Europe and North America may face weaker imports in 2026. In the first half of 2025, most WTO regions witnessed positive YoY export growth, with Asia leading at 10.4%.

MOUs and Agreement

1. C-DAC and ICAT Sign MoU to Develop, Test, and Certify Indigenous Automotive Technologies.



In October 2025, the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), under the

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT), under the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop, test, and certify indigenous automotive technologies. The agreement was formalized during the Traffic InfraTech Expo 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, Delhi.

- The collaboration aims to promote indigenous automotive innovation in line with national initiatives like Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India, by developing technologies suited to Indian conditions and reducing reliance on foreign solutions.

- Both organisations will undertake joint Research and Development (R&D) focused on future mobility solutions, while facilitating collaboration among developers, startups, and manufacturers to strengthen the automotive innovation ecosystem.

Key Points:-

(i) ICAT will manage testing, validation, and certification of automotive technologies, whereas C-DAC will lead innovation and develop robust cybersecurity and industry-ready solutions for connected and smart vehicles.

(ii) ICAT defines technological requirements in consultation with the industry, while C-DAC takes the lead in designing and developing indigenous solutions, exploring emerging research areas and business opportunities in mobility.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. RBI Appoints Sanjay Kumar Hansda as Executive Director; Importantly Reshuffles Deputy Governor Portfolios.



In October 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed Sanjay Kumar Hansda as the new Executive Director (ED) of the central bank, effective from March 3, 2026. Importantly, this announcement came alongside a major reshuffle of deputy governor portfolios aimed at boosting operational efficiency and strengthening leadership coordination within the RBI.

- Sanjay Kumar Hansda's appointment marks a key leadership addition to the RBI. He will assume charge as Executive Director from March 3, 2026, following the completion of his deputation as Senior Adviser to the Executive Director (India) at the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- As Executive Director, Sanjay Kumar Hansda will importantly oversee the Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR) of the RBI.

- The DEPR is a core policy department responsible for economic research, macroeconomic assessments, and preparation of the RBI's Annual Report, forming the foundation for monetary policy formulation.

Key Points:-

(i) On October 9, 2025, the RBI announced a restructuring of the portfolios of its four Deputy Governors, effective immediately. The move was intended to enhance administrative efficiency, optimize workflow across departments, and align the bank's leadership structure with its evolving regulatory and supervisory priorities.

(ii) Shirish Chandra Murmu took charge as Deputy Governor of the RBI for a three-year term. He now oversees major departments such as Communication, Government and Bank Accounts, Regulation, and Enforcement.

(iii) A veteran of the RBI since 1991, Dropadi Murmu earlier served as Executive Director (ED), contributing to key operational and regulatory reforms within the central bank.

2. Sanju Samson Named as English Premier League (EPL) Ambassador to Promote Football in India.



In October 2025, Indian cricketer Sanju Samson was officially appointed as the English Premier League (EPL) Ambassador, marking a significant step in expanding the popularity of football in India. His

appointment reflects the growing cross-sport collaboration between cricket and football to inspire youth engagement across the nation.

● As the official EPL Ambassador, Sanju Samson will lead initiatives to promote the English Premier League brand throughout India. He will engage with fans through nationwide outreach programs, football-themed events, and digital campaigns designed to deepen the league's connection with Indian audiences.

Key Points:-

(i) Sanju Samson's new role highlights his dedication to strengthening football's presence in India. By bridging his influence as a cricketer with football promotion, he aims to encourage youth participation and increase fan engagement with global sports culture.

(ii) Apart from his EPL ambassadorial role, Sanju Samson also serves as the brand ambassador for Kerala Blasters FC (Football Club) in the Indian Super League (ISL). His dual association with cricket and football showcases his commitment to nurturing sports culture in Kerala and across India.

AWARDS

1. Maria Corina Machado Wins 2025 Nobel Peace Prize for Democratic Advocacy in Venezuela.



On 10th October 2025, Maria Corina Machado, a Venezuelan opposition leader, was awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize for her relentless efforts promoting democratic rights and advocating for a peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy, as announced by Jørgen Watne Frydnes, Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo, Norway. She became the first Venezuelan to receive this prestigious award.

- Maria Corina Machado serves as the National Coordinator of Vente Venezuela, a liberal political party she co-founded in 2013, and previously served as a Member of Venezuela's National Assembly from 2010 to 2015. She has led initiatives to promote civil society activism, criticized human rights violations, and campaigned for free and fair elections in Venezuela.

- Machado's work focuses on advancing democratic rights, ensuring peaceful political transitions, and empowering citizens through civic engagement. Her leadership has positioned her as a prominent figure advocating for democratic reforms in Venezuela amid challenging political conditions.

- She has been recognised internationally for her activism, including being named among the

BBC's 100 Most Influential Women in 2018, receiving the Charles T. Manatt Prize in 2014, the Libertad Cortes de Cádiz award in 2015, and the Liberal International Freedom Prize in 2019.

Key Points:-

- (i) The Nobel Peace Prize, awarded since 1901, has been presented 106 times to 143 laureates, including 112 individuals and 31 organizations.
- (ii) The prize includes a gold medal, a personal diploma, and a cash award. The medal was designed by Swedish sculptor and engraver Erik Lindberg.
- (iii) For 2025, the Nobel Peace Prize carries a total cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (SEK), approximately USD 1.2 million, in addition to the medal and diploma, recognising Maria Corina Machado's extraordinary efforts in promoting democracy and human rights in Venezuela.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2025 to be Observed on May 10 and October 11.



The United Nations (UN) observes World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) twice a year — on the second Saturday of May and October

— to raise awareness about the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. The 2025 observance will fall on 10th May and 11th October 2025.

- The theme for WMBD 2025 is “Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities & Communities.” It focuses on promoting bird-friendly environments across urban and rural spaces, emphasizing coexistence between human settlements and migratory species.

- World Migratory Bird Day originated in the United States of America (USA) in 1993 as the International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), established by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) in Washington, D.C., USA, to raise awareness about bird migration and conservation.

- WMBD is jointly organized by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), and the Environment for the Americas (EFTA). The East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) joined the global campaign in 2023 to expand conservation efforts.

Key Points:-

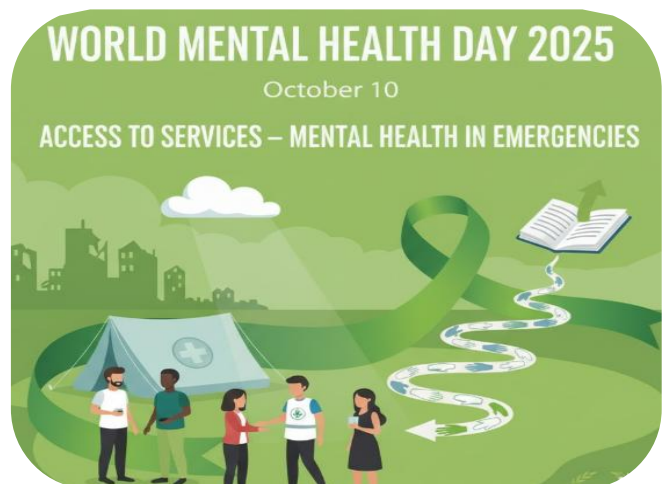
(i) The first official WMBD was observed on April 8–9, 2006, at the Ol Ari Nyiro Wildlife Reserve in Kenya. The May observance is held mainly in the USA and Canada, while the October observance is celebrated in Mexico, Central & South America, and the Caribbean, marking key bird migration periods.

(ii) The 2025 official poster has been created by Annamaria Savarino Drago from Mexico. The artwork symbolizes the coexistence of wildlife and human habitats, featuring birds in urban settings, highlighting the year's

“Shared Spaces” theme.

(iii) According to the CMS “State of the World’s Migratory Species” Report (2024), about 1 in 5 migratory species is threatened, and 44% show population declines, emphasizing the urgency for global conservation measures. The report stresses habitat protection as the core solution for migratory bird survival.

2. World Mental Health Day (WMHD) 2025 Observed on 10th October with Focus on Mental Health in Emergencies.



Introduction: World Mental Health Day (WMHD) is observed globally every year on 10th October to raise awareness, promote support for mental health, and highlight the importance of accessible mental health services. The 2025 theme focuses on access to services during catastrophes and emergencies.

- The theme for WMHD 2025 is “Access to services – mental health in catastrophes and emergencies,” emphasizing the urgent need for accessible mental health support during crises, natural disasters, and emergencies.

- WMHD was initiated in 1992 by the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) under the

leadership of then Deputy Secretary-General Richard Hunter. The first observance took place on 10th October 1992. The green ribbon, symbolizing hope, strength, and support, is the global emblem for mental health awareness.

Key Points:-

(i) On WMHD 2025, Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), launched new initiatives under the National Tele Mental Health Programme (Tele-MANAS) to enhance accessibility and inclusivity of mental health services across India.

(ii) Renowned actor Deepika Padukone has been appointed as India's Mental Health Ambassador to promote awareness, reduce stigma, and improve access to mental health services nationwide.

DEFENCE

1. Indian Coast Guard Conducts ReSAREX-25 to Strengthen Maritime Search and Rescue Operations.



In October 2025, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Karnataka unit conducted a two-day 'Regional Search and Rescue Exercise (ReSAREX-25)' in the Arabian Sea off Panambur coast, Mangaluru, Karnataka,

organised under the aegis of ICG Regional Headquarters (West), Mumbai, to enhance preparedness for maritime emergencies.

- ReSAREX-25 aimed to evaluate and enhance collective preparedness and coordination among all maritime search and rescue stakeholders for mass rescue operations (MROs) at sea.

- Pronab Mohanty, Director General of Police (DGP), Internal Security Division (ISD), attended as the Chief Guest and witnessed the exercise onboard ICGS Vikram.

Key Points:-

(i) The exercise involved multiple agencies, including Karnataka Police, State Agencies, Indian Mission Control Centre (INMCC), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA), Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Mumbai, and other coastal security and marine stakeholders.

(ii) The contingency plan for MRO was activated during the exercise, with MRCC Mumbai acting as Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator (SMC) and the Maritime Rescue Sub Centre, New Mangaluru, functioning as the Command Post.

(iii) ReSAREX-25 successfully validated operational efficiency, inter-agency communication, and rescue coordination mechanisms, strengthening stakeholder readiness to handle mass casualty incidents at sea.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy Launches Book “Maine Cancer Ko Jeet Liye” by Dr. Palakonda Vijay Anand Reddy.



On 9th October 2025, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, Ministry of Coals and Ministry of Mines (MoM), launched the book titled “Maine Cancer Ko Jeet Liye” (I am a Cancer Survivor) by Dr. Palakonda Vijay Anand Reddy at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi. The book is published by Penguin Random House India and highlights inspiring cancer survival stories.

- The book features 108 stories of cancer survivors, each showcasing extraordinary courage, determination, and the triumph of hope over adversity, aiming to inspire readers and provide emotional support to patients and their families.

Key Points:-

- Originally written in English, the book has been translated into Hindi by Dr. R. Suman Latha and Dr. T. C. Vasanta, and into Telugu by Dr. Durgempudi Chandrasekhar Reddy and Dr. Govindaraju Chakradhar, making it accessible to a broader audience across India.
- The launch by Union Minister G. Kishan

Reddy emphasizes the government’s support for health awareness, cancer survivorship initiatives, and spreading hope through motivational literature for patients and caregivers.

ENVIRONMENT

1. Researchers Discover Two New Firefly Species and a New Wasp Species in India.



In October 2025, researchers discovered two new non-luminous firefly species — *Lamellipalodes kurumba* and *Lamellipalodes debprasama* — in Coonoor, Tamil Nadu (TN), and a new wasp species — *Nesolynx banatibanea* — in Central Park, Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal (WB), marking India’s seventh recorded wasp species.

- The two new firefly species were found in the Nilgiris district, Tamil Nadu, and their discovery was published in the *International Journal of Tropical Insect Science (IJTIS)* by Springer Nature.
- *Lamellipalodes kurumba* was named after the Kurumba tribe for conserving Nilgiris biodiversity, while *Lamellipalodes debprasama* was named in tribute to the researchers’

parents. Both belong to the genus *Lamellipalpodes* under the family *Lampyridae*.

- The research was jointly conducted by iForNature Nature Club Laboratory, Wildlife and Nature Conservation Trust (WNCT), Kalyani University, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), and Pondicherry University (PU).

Key Points:-

(i) The new wasp species, *Nesolynx banatibanea*, was discovered in Kolkata, West Bengal, and the findings were published in the Journal of the Korean Society of Applied Entomology.

(ii) *Nesolynx banatibanea* is India's seventh recorded wasp species, belonging to the Hyperparasitoid type—parasites of other parasitoid wasps—highlighting biodiversity and ecological significance.

(iii) The wasp was discovered by Arnob Chakrovorty, Neveen S. Gadallah, Banani Bhattacharjee, Arjan Das Roy, and others. It was named *banatibanea* after "Banatibanea," a Bengali term linked to Central Park, where the species was found.

Static GK

Gujarat	Chief minister: Bhupendra Patel	Governor: Acharya Devvrat
National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):	Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) : Dilip Asbe	Headquarter : Mumbai
World Trade Organization	Director-General: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala	Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
Ministry of Textiles (MoT)	Minister : Giriraj Singh	Headquarters: New Delhi
United Kingdom (UK)	Prime Minister (PM) : Keir Starmer	Capital : London
RBI	Governor : Sanjay Malhotra	Headquarter : Mumbai
West Bengal (WB)	Chief Minister (CM): Mamata Banerjee	Governor: C. V. Ananda Bose
World	President:	Headquarters :

Federation for Mental Health(WFMH)	Tsuyoshi Akiyama	Virginia, the United States of America (USA)
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