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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

16 OCTOBER 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. 9th India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025 Held in New Delhi under the Theme "Innovate to Transform".

The 9th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025 — Asia's largest telecom, media, and technology event — was held from October 8 to 11, 2025, at the Yashobhoomi India International Convention & Expo Centre (IICC) in New Delhi, Delhi. The event's theme was "Innovate to Transform."

● The four-day conference was organised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Ministry of Communications (MoC) in collaboration with the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).

● Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated IMC 2025 and highlighted India's rapid growth in the telecom sector. Since 2014, India has recorded a 6-fold increase in electronics production and a 28-fold surge in mobile manufacturing, positioning the country as a global manufacturing hub.

● As part of IMC 2025, the 2nd International Bharat6G Symposium 2025 was inaugurated by Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Communications, and Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary (Telecom). The symposium was held from October 9 to 10, 2025, focusing on India's leadership in next-generation 6G technologies.

Key Points:-

(i) During the symposium, the Bharat 6G Alliance signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) — one with the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and another with the European Space Agency (ESA) — to strengthen international cooperation in advanced telecom research and space-based communication technologies.

(ii) IMC 2025 featured high-profile events such as the 23rd Bharat Telecom Summit, first SATCOM Summit, International AI Summit, Cyber Security Summit, OpenAI API Hackathon, and IMC Aspire Competition.

(iii) The IMC Awards 2025 recognized achievements across 15 categories, celebrating industry pioneers, innovators, and emerging digital enterprises shaping the future of global connectivity.

2. Piyush Goyal Launches New Digital Platforms to Mark 4th Anniversary of Pradhan Mantri GatiShakti – National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP).

On October 13, 2025, Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), unveiled key digital initiatives by the Logistics Division of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), MoC&I, during the 4th anniversary of Pradhan Mantri GatiShakti – National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, Delhi.

● **Launched on October 13, 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, PMGS-NMP is a "Whole-of-Government" initiative of the Government of India with a budget outlay of Rs. 100 crore, aimed at reshaping India's infrastructure and logistics efficiency through integrated planning and execution.**

● **Piyush Goyal launched "PM GatiShakti-Offshore," a digital platform promoting sustainable offshore development through multi-layered analysis and visualization, strengthening India's Blue Economy initiatives.**

● **He also launched the Knowledge Management System (KMS), a centralized repository for PMGS-related resources, and the Decentralized Data Uploading and Management System (DUMS), ensuring standardized and accurate data handling for infrastructure projects.**

Key Points:-

(i) The PMGS Dashboard provides a real-time overview of infrastructure projects, enabling better monitoring and governance, while PMGS Compendium Volume-3 documents success stories highlighting the mission's impact across infrastructure, social, and economic sectors.

(ii) The "PM GatiShakti Public" query-based web platform, developed by BISAG-N and launched via UGI, enhances public accessibility to GatiShakti data.

(iii) The "LEAPS 2025" (Logistics Excellence, Advancement, and Performance Shield) initiative recognizes innovation and leadership in India's logistics sector.

3. NITI Aayog Releases Report on "India's Blue Economy: Strategy for Harnessing Deep-Sea and Offshore Fisheries".

In October 2025, NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog released a report titled "India's Blue Economy: Strategy for Harnessing Deep-Sea and Offshore Fisheries," focusing on sustainable marine growth, deep-sea exploration, and capacity building in India's fisheries sector.

● **The report was launched by Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member (Agriculture), NITI Aayog, and B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO (Chief Executive Officer), NITI Aayog. Dr. Neelam Patel, Programme Director, NITI Aayog, presented a detailed overview of the report.**

● **India is the world's second-largest fish producer, contributing 8% to global fish production. Export earnings from fish and fishery products rose from Rs. 30,213 crore in FY2013–14 to Rs. 60,523 crore in FY2023–24, showing strong sectoral growth.**

Key Points:-

(i) The report proposed six strategic interventions — policy reforms, institutional and capacity strengthening, modernization of fleets and infrastructure, sustainable fisheries management, resource mobilization, and inclusive stakeholder participation.

(ii) The plan will be executed in three phases: (i) Foundation and early growth (Rs. 2,430 crore), (ii) Scaling up and global competitiveness (Rs. 4,210 crore), and (iii) Global leadership in sustainable fisheries (Rs. 1,690 crore).

(iii) The report aims to strengthen India's Blue Economy through innovation, responsible ocean governance, and deep-sea resource utilization while ensuring livelihood security and ecological sustainability.

4. Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates and Lays Foundation for 3 NH Projects Worth Over Rs 2,000 Crore in Puducherry.

In October 2025, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for three major National Highway (NH) projects worth over Rs 2,000 crore in the Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry, aimed at boosting regional connectivity and infrastructure.

● **The event was attended by N. Rangaswamy, Chief Minister (CM) of Puducherry; K. Kailashnathan, Lieutenant (Lt.) Governor of Puducherry; and L. Murugan, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Parliamentary Affairs. Senior officials from MoRTH and state departments were also present during the inauguration.**

● **Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the 38 km-long 4-lane Puducherry–Poondiyankuppam section of NH-32, constructed at a total cost of Rs 1,588 crore.**

● **He also laid the foundation stone for a 3.88 km-long elevated corridor between Indira Gandhi Square and Rajiv Gandhi Square on NH-32, with an estimated cost of Rs 436 crore. The corridor is designed to handle 60,000 Passenger Car Units (PCUs) daily, reducing travel time from 35 minutes to just 10 minutes.**

Key Points:-

(i) The foundation stone was laid for improvement works on the 13.63 km stretch of the East Coast Road (ECR) under NH-332A, with an investment of Rs 25 crore. This upgrade will improve safety, drainage, and road quality along the coastal corridor.

(ii) Union Minister Gadkari announced five new NH projects for Puducherry, including strengthening NH-32 in Karaikal and constructing a 6-lane elevated corridor on NH-48.

(iii) He also allocated Rs 100 crore under the Setu Bandhan Scheme for building small bridges to enhance local connectivity.

5. Union Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu Launches 'Fare Se Fursat' Fixed Airfare Scheme to Ensure Affordable and Stable Air Travel.

In October 2025, Union Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), launched the 'Fare Se Fursat' fixed airfare scheme, designed to curb fluctuating airfares and make domestic air travel more predictable and affordable for passengers. The government-owned airline, Alliance Air, introduced the initiative to promote hassle-free travel across India.

● **The 'Fare Se Fursat' initiative will be implemented on a pilot basis from October 13 to December 31, 2025, covering select Tier-II and Tier-III city routes.**

● **This trial phase aims to assess the scheme's operational feasibility, passenger satisfaction, and potential for nationwide rollout.**

Key Points:-

(i) The scheme introduces static and transparent airfare rates on chosen routes, eliminating sudden price hikes and ensuring consistent fare structures. By providing predictable pricing, it enhances traveler confidence and encourages greater use of domestic flight services.

(ii) The scheme aligns with the Government

of India's flagship Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) initiative, promoting affordable regional connectivity.

(iii) Through 'Fare Se Fursat', the Ministry of Civil Aviation reinforces its goal of democratizing air travel and expanding access to underserved regions of India.

6. TechBharat Research Foundation and Google Cloud India Launch India's First AI Centre of Excellence for Public Good in Visakhapatnam.

On October 13, 2025, TechBharat Research Foundation (TBRF), in collaboration with Google Cloud India, launched India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Public Good in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP). The initiative, supported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, aims to harness AI for governance and social development.

● **The CoE has been established with the backing of the Government of Andhra Pradesh's Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (IT, E&C).**

● **The collaboration follows a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between TBRF and the state government to operationalize the centre in Visakhapatnam.**

● TBRF leads the CoE as a hub for applied AI research and public sector innovation, while Google Cloud India provides essential cloud infrastructure, AI tools, and access to its Gemini AI models. The government contributes administrative support and facilitates partnerships with local universities and departments for pilot projects.

<mark>Key Points:-</mark>

(i) The AI CoE focuses on solving governance and developmental challenges through deployable AI solutions.

(ii) The CoE's flagship program, the TechBharat AI Fellowship, is a 120-day on-site initiative designed to incubate innovators and researchers. Participants work on creating real-world AI prototypes tailored to address government and civic challenges.

(iii) The launch of this CoE strengthens India's position as a hub for responsible AI innovation and public service technology. It marks a key step toward integrating artificial intelligence into governance, improving efficiency, inclusivity, and data-driven policy-making across Andhra Pradesh and beyond.

7. ICAI Collaborates with MeitY to Support India's National AI Mission with Financial Data.

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

In October 2025, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) partnered with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to provide verified financial and economic data, supporting the development of India's sovereign Artificial Intelligence (AI) Large Language Models (LLMs) and enhancing the national AI ecosystem.

● **The partnership aims to strengthen indigenous AI development by providing accurate and verified financial and economic data from listed companies, enabling the creation of reliable and precise Large Language Models (LLMs) for public and governance use.**

<mark>Key Points:-</mark>

(i) ICAI is coordinating with 10 firms developing India's sovereign LLMs, supplying structured datasets such as balance sheets, audit reports, and other financial documents to improve model accuracy, reliability, and overall performance.

(ii) The sovereign AI model is expected to be operational before the AI Impact Summit in February 2026.

(iii) Additionally, the initiative will incorporate mechanisms to detect and prevent online

and financial fraud through robust digital verification methods.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Fourth Edition of India–Australia Joint Military Exercise 'AUSTRAHIND 2025' Commences in Perth.

In October 2025, the fourth edition of the India–Australia Joint Military Exercise, AUSTRAHIND 2025, commenced at Irwin Barracks, Perth, Australia. Scheduled from October 13 to 26, 2025, the exercise aims to enhance interoperability, operational readiness, and defence cooperation between the Indian Army (IA) and the Australian Army.

● The first edition of Exercise AUSTRAHIND was held in 2022 at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan, India. Conducted annually on a rotational basis, the exercise alternates between India and Australia. The previous 2024 edition took place in Pune, Maharashtra, India.

● The exercise focuses on strengthening military cooperation, facilitating the exchange of Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) for sub-conventional warfare, particularly in urban and semi-urban environments.

● AUSTRAHIND 2025 involves joint company-level operations including mission planning, tactical manoeuvres, and special-arms skills training in open and semi-desert terrains to enhance operational readiness and coordination between forces.

Key Points:-

(i) A 120-member contingent from the Indian Army, led by a Battalion of Gorkha Rifles and supported by troops from various arms and services, is participating in the two-week exercise, focusing on collaborative training and operational synergy.

(ii) The Australian Army has deployed a matching contingent comprising infantry units, tactical teams, and combat support elements to ensure effective bilateral training and knowledge exchange during the exercise.

(iii) The exercise is divided into two phases: a Training Phase covering technical skills, fitness, and weapons familiarization, and a Validation Phase where joint units execute coordinated missions to test teamwork, decision-making, and adaptability.

2. Maldives Becomes First Country to Achieve 'Triple Elimination' of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B.

In October 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) validated the Maldives for Eliminating Mother-to-Child Transmission (EMTCT) of hepatitis B, making it the first country globally to achieve the triple elimination of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B. This milestone builds on Maldives' earlier 2019 validation for HIV and syphilis elimination.

● **No babies were born with HIV or syphilis in 2022 and 2023, and a 2023 national survey confirmed zero hepatitis B cases among first-grade children. These results surpass global EMTCT elimination targets, reflecting successful maternal and child health interventions.**

● **Over 95% of pregnant women in the Maldives receive antenatal care, including near-universal testing for HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B. Additionally, more than 95% of newborns receive timely hepatitis B vaccination along with complete immunization schedules.**

● **The Maldives provides free antenatal care, vaccines, and diagnostic services to all residents, including migrant populations, ensuring equitable access to essential health services and preventive care.**
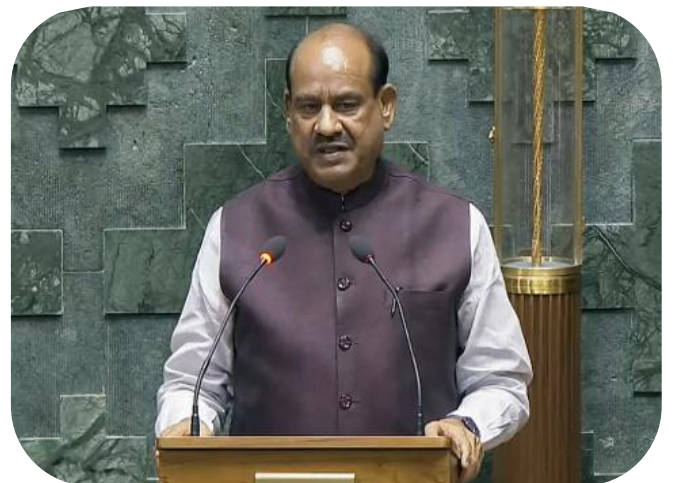
Key Points:-

(i) The health sector in the Maldives benefits from strong policy support and investment, with over 10% of the country's GDP allocated to healthcare, contributing to robust infrastructure and effective disease elimination programs.

(ii) Achieving EMTCT requires meeting specific impact and process targets: HIV ≤50 new pediatric infections per 100,000 live births, syphilis ≤50 congenital cases per 100,000 live births, and hepatitis B HBsAg prevalence ≤0.1% (≤100 per 100,000 children), all of which Maldives has successfully met.

(iii) HIV weakens immunity and can pass from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding. Syphilis can cause severe congenital complications if untreated. Hepatitis B affects the liver and may lead to acute or chronic disease. Maldives' success reflects effective control and prevention of these infections.

3. Om Birla Leads Indian Parliamentary Delegation to 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Barbados.

In October 2025, Lok Sabha (LS) Speaker Om Birla led an Indian Parliamentary Delegation (IPD) to the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC), held under

the theme "The Commonwealth – A Global Partner" in Bridgetown, Barbados, from October 5 to 12, 2025. The event focused on democratic governance, parliamentary practices, and global cooperation.

● **The 68th CPC was hosted by the Parliament of Barbados and the CPA (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association) Barbados Branch.**

● **The Indian delegation included LS Speaker Om Birla, Harivansh (Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha), Anurag Sharma, Dr. D. Purandeswari, Dr. K. Sudhakar, Rekha Sharma, Dr. Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade, and secretaries-general of both Houses of Parliament. Several members also held leadership positions in CPA and CWP (Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians) committees.**

● **Om Birla chaired a workshop on "Leveraging Technology: Enhancing Democracy through Digital Transformations and Tackling the Digital Divide," highlighting India's initiatives in digital governance and parliamentary modernization.**

Key Points:-

(i) The CPC featured plenary sessions, panel discussions, and thematic workshops addressing contemporary issues such as the future of multilateralism, the role of parliaments in the digital era, and promoting inclusive governance.

(ii) Om Birla held bilateral discussions with parliamentary counterparts from Australia, Barbados, Jamaica, and Zambia, inviting leaders to attend the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in New Delhi in January 2026.

(iii) The LS Speaker also visited the National Assembly of Barbados, viewing the historic Speaker's Chair gifted by the Government of

India in 1966, symbolizing India-Barbados parliamentary ties.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. IIT-Madras Incubated Muse Wearables Launches India's First Wearables Payment Ring "Ring One".

On October 13, 2025, Muse Wearables, an IIT-Madras incubated startup, partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch India's first wearables payment ecosystem through its innovative device, Ring One, enabling secure and contactless payments.

● **Ring One supports Near Field Communication (NFC) payments, allowing users to tap the ring on any NFC-enabled Point of Sale (POS) terminal to make payments without requiring a phone, card, or wallet.**

● **Payments are processed via the Muse Wallet, a deep-tech payments platform, in partnership with the Rupay Network managed by NPCI. The ring converts Rupay debit and credit cards into a token securely stored inside a tamper-proof Secure Element (SE) chip embedded in the device.**

Key Points:-

(i) The ring only allows transactions when worn and automatically disables payment capabilities when removed, preventing unauthorized use in case of loss or theft.

(ii) This launch marks India's first wearables payment ecosystem, combining convenience, cutting-edge technology, and secure digital payment infrastructure in a compact wearable device.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. NSO: Retail Inflation Eases to 99-Month Low at 1.54% in September 2025.

In September 2025, the National Statistics Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), released the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for rural, urban, and combined segments. India's retail inflation, measured by CPI, dropped to a 99-month low of 1.54%, marking the lowest Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) inflation since 2017 and remaining below the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s medium-term target of 4%.

● The CPI-based retail inflation declined from 2.07% in August 2025 to 1.54% in September 2025, significantly lower than the 5.5%

registered in September 2024, reflecting a sustained easing in consumer price pressures.

● Food inflation, tracked via the All India Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), registered negative growth for the fourth consecutive month, falling by 164 basis points from -0.64% in August 2025 to -2.28% in September 2025. Rural and urban food inflation stood at -2.17% and -2.47%, respectively.

Key Points:-

(i) The fall in headline and food inflation was mainly driven by a favourable base effect and reduction in prices of key items including vegetables, oil and fats, fruits, pulses and products, cereals and products, eggs, and fuel.

(ii) Among major states, Kerala recorded the highest Y-o-Y inflation at 9.05%, followed by Jammu & Kashmir (4.38%), Karnataka (3.33%), Punjab (3.06%), and Tamil Nadu (2.77%).

(iii) Certain states, such as Uttar Pradesh (-0.61%) and Assam (-0.56%), experienced negative inflation, reflecting a decline in overall consumer prices in these regions.

SPORTS

1. India Clinches 2–0 Test Series Win Against West Indies; Shubman Gill Registers First Home Series Win as Captain.

In October 2025, India defeated West Indies by 7 wickets in the second and final Test at Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi, to seal the series 2–0. The victory marked India's first home Test series triumph under the captaincy of Shubman Gill and formed part of the 2025–2027 ICC World Test Championship cycle.

● **India dominated the two-match Test series against West Indies, winning both matches convincingly to claim a 2–0 series sweep. The second Test victory at Delhi showcased a disciplined bowling performance and composed batting, ensuring India's continued supremacy at home.**

● **This series marked Shubman Gill's first home Test series win as captain of the Indian cricket team. Under his leadership, India displayed strategic control and consistency, maintaining their reputation as a formidable home side in red-ball cricket.**

Key Points:-

(i) With this victory, India equalled South Africa's record of 10 consecutive Test series wins against a single opponent. Between 2000 and 2025, India registered 10 straight series victories over West Indies, matching South Africa's streak against the same team from 1998 to 2024.

(ii) Ravindra Jadeja was named Player of the Series for his all-round brilliance—scoring 104 runs and claiming 8 wickets across two Tests. This marked his third Test Player of the Series award, following earlier honours against Australia in 2017 and 2023.

(iii) Jadeja surpassed Harbhajan Singh to become India's third-highest wicket-taker in international matches at home with 377 wickets. Meanwhile, Shubman Gill overtook Virat Kohli to become India's highest run-scorer in ICC World Test Championship history, scoring 2,757 runs in 39 matches at an average of 42.41.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Standards Day 2025 Observed on October 14 with Theme "A Shared Vision for a Better World: Standards for SDGs".

World Standards Day (WSD), also called International Standards Day, is observed annually on October 14 to celebrate the importance of standardization and honour individuals contributing to the development of voluntary standards. In 2025, the theme focuses on the role of international standards in promoting sustainable development and global cooperation.

● The 2025 theme, "A Shared Vision for a Better World: Standards for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," emphasizes the crucial role of international standards in achieving SDGs and fostering global collaboration for sustainable progress.

● WSD traces its origin to October 14, 1946, when delegates from 25 countries met in London, United Kingdom (UK), to create an international body dedicated to promoting standardization.

● Following this initiative, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) was officially formed in 1947 to develop and promote global standards across industries.

Key Points:-

(i) The first WSD was celebrated on October 14, 1970, under ISO President Faruk Sunter. The observance is jointly led by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), ISO, and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

(ii) On October 14, 2025, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD) and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), presided over the WSD2025 programme at the National Institute of Training for Standardization (NITS), Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

(iii) During the event organized by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Lighting Code of India 2025, the Learning Management System (LMS), and the Online Standards Development (OSD) Module of the BIS Standards Portal were launched, strengthening India's standardization ecosystem.

2. Punya Salila Srivastav Inaugurates CPR Awareness Week 2025 to Promote Lifesaving Skills Nationwide.

On October 13, 2025, Punya Salila Srivastav, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), inaugurated the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Awareness Week 2025. The initiative aims to build nationwide awareness and capacity among the public regarding CPR techniques. The week is being observed from October 13 to 17, 2025.

● The primary vision of CPR Awareness Week 2025 is to ensure that every household, school, office, and public place has at least one person trained in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), empowering citizens to respond effectively during cardiac emergencies and save lives.

● The inauguration, led by Punya Salila Srivastav, featured a live hands-only CPR demonstration conducted by expert medical professionals. Participants were encouraged to actively learn and practice this critical emergency response technique.

Key Points:-

(i) The week-long campaign includes nationwide pledge drives, expert sessions, panel discussions, and both physical and

virtual CPR demonstrations. These activities aim to strengthen community preparedness and improve bystander response rates during emergencies.

(ii) To enhance citizen engagement, the MoHFW collaborated with the MyGov and MyBharat platforms to launch online CPR pledges and interactive quizzes, encouraging people across India to commit to learning CPR and spreading awareness in their communities.

(iii) The CPR Awareness Week aligns with India's broader public health goals of promoting emergency response literacy and preventive healthcare.

Static GK

Ministry of Communications	Union Minister : Jyotiraditaya M. Scindia	Headquarters: New Delhi
National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog	Chairman : Prime Minister (PM) of India (Currently Narendra Modi)	Vice Chairperson : Sumant K Bery
Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry	Chief Minister : N. Rangaswamy Lieutenant (Lt.)	Governor : Kuniyil (K.)Kailashnathan
Indian Army(IA)	Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) : General Upendra Dwivedi	Headquarters: New Delhi
Maldives	President : Mohamed Muizzu	Capital : Male
Barbados	Prime Minister(PM) : Mia Amor Mottley	Capital : Bridgetown
International	President :	Headquarters :

Organization for Standardization (ISO)	Dr. Sung Hwan Cho	Geneva, Switzerland