



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 17 OCTOBER 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Government Extends Tenure of 16th Finance Commission (FC) Till November 30, 2025.



Finance Commission

In October 2025, the Government of India (GoI) extended the tenure of the 16th Finance Commission (FC) by one month, moving its report submission deadline from October 31, 2025, to November 30, 2025. The commission will recommend Centre–State tax sharing for the period 2026–31.

- The 16th Finance Commission was constituted on December 31, 2023, with Dr. Arvind Panagariya, former Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), serving as the Chairman. The panel is tasked with suggesting financial distribution frameworks between the Centre and States.

- The primary objective of the commission is to recommend the distribution of taxes between the Centre and States. Its recommendations will cover the fiscal period from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2031.

- The commission includes members such as Annie George Mathew, Retired Bureaucrat, and Manoj Panda, Economist. It is supported by Secretary Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey, Joint Secretaries Rahul Jain and K.K. Mishra, and Economic Adviser Dr. Prasant K. Panda.

Key Points:-

(i) Part-time members include Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Chief Economic Advisor, State Bank of India (SBI), and T. Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The 16th FC builds on the work of the 15th Finance Commission, chaired by N.K. Singh, which had recommended a 41% share of the divisible tax pool for states.

(ii) The 16th FC will recommend on tax distribution, grants-in-aid under Article 275, and local body funding. It will also propose measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of States to support Panchayats and Municipalities.

(iii) The Finance Commission, established under Article 280 of the Constitution, is a constitutional body appointed every five years by the President of India to define financial relations between the Union and the States. The first Finance Commission was set up in 1951, and the 16th marks the latest in this series.

2. Mansukh Mandaviya Chairs 238th Central Board of Trustees (CBT) Meeting of EPF to Approve Key Labour Reforms.



In October 2025, Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E), chaired the 238th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) in New Delhi, Delhi. The meeting finalized key reforms including simplified withdrawal rules, the Vishwas Scheme, and doorstep pension services.

- The CBT approved the consolidation of 13 partial withdrawal provisions into three simplified categories: Essential Needs (illness, education, marriage), Housing Needs, and Special Circumstances.
- Members can now withdraw up to 100% of the eligible balance (75%) from their Provident Fund (PF), including both employee and employer contributions.
- As per the new policy, the number of EPF withdrawals for education and marriage has been raised from a combined limit of 3 to 15 — allowing 10 withdrawals for education and 5 for marriage. This move aims to enhance flexibility and support members' essential life needs.

Key Points:-

- (i) The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) introduced the Vishwas Scheme to resolve long-pending disputes related to delayed Provident Fund (PF) payments.
- (ii) The CBT approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between EPFO and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to offer doorstep Digital Life Certificate (DLC) services for pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) 1995.
- (iii) The board approved the EPFO 3.0 framework—a comprehensive digital transformation initiative focused on member-

centric services.

3. Ministry of Mines Reclassifies Limestone as a Major Mineral under the MMDR Act, 1957.



In October 2025, the Ministry of Mines (MoM) officially reclassified 'Limestone' as a Major Mineral by removing end-use restrictions. The notification, issued under Section 20A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957), aims to streamline mining operations and ensure a seamless transition for existing leaseholders.

- The Ministry directed that all existing minor mineral limestone leaseholders must register with the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) and continue paying royalty at state-prescribed rates until March 31, 2026. This measure ensures a smooth administrative shift from minor to major mineral status.
- Mining plans already approved by state governments for limestone extraction will remain valid until March 31, 2027. After this period, leaseholders will be required to obtain fresh approvals in accordance with the revised major mineral classification.

- To facilitate the transition process, the Ministry has exempted leaseholders from submitting digital aerial images of mining areas and online self-assessment reports under the star rating template until July 1, 2027, easing regulatory compliance during the initial adjustment phase.

4. Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal Inaugurates LIMBS Live Cases Dashboard to Boost Transparency in Government Litigation.



On 14th October 2025, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Arjun Ram Meghwal, Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J), inaugurated the Live Cases Dashboard of the Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, aiming to improve transparency, accountability, and efficiency in managing government litigation.

- The LIMBS Live Cases Dashboard is designed to provide a comprehensive and real-time overview of ongoing court cases involving the government, enabling better decision-making and ensuring inter-ministerial coordination.

Key Points:-

(i) The dashboard offers live data

visualization of court cases, presents upcoming hearings, and allows ministries to proactively monitor and manage litigation progress, thereby enhancing operational efficiency and accountability.

(ii) As of the launch, LIMBS tracks 723,123 live cases across 53 ministries and departments, updated regularly by 13,175 ministry users and 18,458 advocates, making it a robust tool for governance and legal administration.

INTERNATIONAL

1. India Elected Unopposed to United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for 2026–28 Term.



In October 2025, India was elected unopposed to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the 2026–28 term, securing 177 out of 188 votes during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elections in New York, marking its seventh tenure on the Council.

- The UNHRC election took place during the UNGA Elections for Human Rights Council Membership in New York, USA. A total of 14 members were elected across different regional groups, ensuring global representation.

- The elected members included 4 African states (Angola, Egypt, Mauritius, South Africa), 4 Asia-Pacific states (India, Iraq, Pakistan, Vietnam), 2 Eastern European states (Estonia, Slovenia), 2 Latin American & Caribbean states (Chile, Ecuador), and 2 Western European & other states (Italy, United Kingdom).

Key Points:-

(i) The Council consists of 47 member states, serving three-year terms, elected by the UNGA via secret ballot. A state cannot be immediately re-elected after two consecutive terms. Seats are regionally distributed to ensure geographic balance: 13 for African States, 13 for Asia-Pacific States, 6 for Eastern European States, 8 for Latin American & Caribbean States, and 7 for Western European & other States.

(ii) Since 2006, India has served six terms: 2006–2007, 2008–2010, 2012–2014, 2015–2017, 2019–2021, and 2022–2024. Mandatory breaks occurred in 2011, 2018, and 2025, in compliance with rules prohibiting a third consecutive term.

(iii) India last served on the Council in 2024, completing two consecutive terms, and will now serve its seventh tenure from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2028, reinforcing its commitment to international human rights promotion and multilateral diplomacy.

2. INS Sahyadri Participates in Inaugural India-Republic of Korea Bilateral Naval Exercise.



From October 13 to 18, 2025, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri participated in the first-ever bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Republic of Korea Navy (RoKN), including a port call at Busan, South Korea, as part of its ongoing deployment in the South China Sea and Indo-Pacific regions.

- During the harbour phase, IN and RoKN officials conducted cross-deck visits, training sessions, sport fixtures, and shared best practices.

- The commanding officer of INS Sahyadri also met senior South Korean officials and local leaders to strengthen naval cooperation.

- In the sea phase, INS Sahyadri and Republic of Korea Ship (ROKS) Gyeongnam undertook joint naval exercises, focusing on operational coordination, tactical drills, and enhancing interoperability between the two navies.

Key Points:-

(i) INS Sahyadri is the third ship of the Shivalik-class stealth frigates, commissioned in 2012 and based at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

(ii) The ship represents the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision of the Government of India (GOI), showcasing indigenous capabilities in

defence.

(iii) This bilateral exercise marks a milestone in India-South Korea defence cooperation, enhancing maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region, fostering mutual trust, and demonstrating India's commitment to regional stability and operational collaboration with friendly navies.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. NPCI International Signs MoU with NTT DATA Japan to Enable UPI Payments Across Japan.



In October 2025, NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the global arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Technology (NTT) DATA to enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) acceptance at merchant locations in Japan, marking UPI's debut in East Asia.

- The MoU was signed by Ritesh Shukla, Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NIPL, and Masanori Kurihara, Head of Payments Services Sector at NTT DATA Japan, formalizing the partnership for digital payment integration.

- The partnership aims to enhance digital payments for Indian tourists in Japan, enabling them to make seamless Quick Response (QR) code transactions using their existing UPI applications.

Key Points:-

(i) The collaboration leverages NTT DATA Japan's merchant network and CAFIS® system to facilitate UPI payments, initially targeting Indian travelers, with plans to expand adoption across the broader Japanese payment ecosystem.

(ii) This initiative strengthens UPI's global presence, positioning it as a trusted and widely accepted digital payment system in East Asia, promoting international interoperability and convenience for Indian citizens abroad.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. IMF's 'World Economic Outlook' Report Raises India's FY26 GDP Growth Projection to 6.6% Amid Strong Domestic Demand.



In October 2025, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) published its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) report titled 'Global Economy in Flux, Prospects Remain Dim',

outlining revised growth and inflation trends for both India and the global economy.

- The IMF increased India's GDP growth projection for FY26 to 6.6%, reflecting strong domestic demand and investment recovery. The earlier forecast stood at 6.4%.
- For FY27, India's growth is projected at 6.2%, slightly lower than previous estimates, indicating a gradual normalization of the rapid expansion seen in FY26.
- During the first quarter of FY26, India's economy expanded 7.8%, the fastest in over a year, with the IMF expecting around 7% growth in Q2, supported by manufacturing and services resilience.

Key Points:-

- (i) India's inflation estimate for FY26 was cut to 2.8% from 4.2% earlier, suggesting improved price control. For FY27, inflation is expected at 4%, slightly below the prior 4.1% forecast.
- (ii) Globally, the IMF expects economic growth to slow from 3.3% in 2024 to 3.2% in 2025, while maintaining the 2026 forecast at 3.1%, highlighting persistent challenges in advanced economies.
- (iii) From 2027 to 2030, global growth is expected to average 3.2% annually, with headline inflation easing to 4.2% in 2025 and 3.7% in 2026, reflecting a gradual recovery in global economic stability.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Tarun Garg Appointed as New MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India Limited and Becomes First Indian to Lead HMIL.



In October 2025, Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) announced the appointment of Tarun Garg as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective January 1, 2026. He will be the first Indian to head HMIL since its establishment in 1996, succeeding Unsoo Kim, who will return to South Korea to assume a strategic role at Hyundai Motor Company.

- Tarun Garg will take charge from Unsoo Kim, marking a major milestone in Hyundai India's leadership history as the company transitions to its first Indian MD & CEO after nearly three decades of global leadership.
- He began his career in 1994 at Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. as a management trainee and gradually rose through various roles in sales, marketing, and logistics, becoming Executive Director (Marketing) in 2019.

Key Points:-

- (i) Tarun Garg joined Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) in December 2019 as Director of Sales, Marketing & Service, and was promoted to Chief Operating Officer (COO) in January 2023, playing a pivotal role in enhancing Hyundai's market presence.
- (ii) He has been instrumental in

implementing digital transformation, strengthening rural outreach, expanding used-car programs, and introducing Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) across multiple Hyundai models, significantly boosting sales and operational efficiency.

2. FICCI Appoints Anant Goenka as President-Elect for 2025–26.



On October 14, 2025, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) announced the appointment of Anant Goenka, Vice Chairman of RPG Group, as its President-Elect for 2025–26. He will assume charge after the 98th FICCI Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled on November 28–29, 2025, succeeding Harsha Vardhan Agarwal.

- Anant Goenka, currently serving as Senior Vice President of FICCI, will take over as President following the conclusion of FICCI's 98th AGM, marking a key transition in one of India's oldest and most influential business chambers.

- He brings extensive experience in sectors such as tyres, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, IT, and specialty industries. He has played a vital role in

strengthening the RPG Group's diversified business operations.

- Before his current role, he served as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CEAT Ltd. and also worked with Unilever and KEC International. Additionally, he has been the Chairman of the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA).

Key Points:-

Anant Goenka has received several accolades, including the Kabiller Science of Empathy Prize (2023) from Kellogg, Forbes' Next Generation Business Leader of the Year (2017), and a spot in Economic Times–Spencer Stuart's "40 Under 40 Business Leaders" list.

SPORTS

1. 2025 IWF World Weightlifting Championships Held in Norway and Mirabai Chanu Wins Silver and Sets Two National Records.



The 2025 International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Weightlifting Championships took place in Førde, Norway, from October 2–11, 2025, organised by the IWF with support from the Norwegian Weightlifting Federation (NWF) and local

authorities. The championship witnessed multiple world records and outstanding performances by athletes from across the globe.

- In the Men's 79 kg category, Rizki Juniansyah of Indonesia lifted 157 kg in the Snatch and 204 kg in the Clean & Jerk, achieving a total of 361 kg. His 204 kg Clean & Jerk set a new world record (WR).

- In the Women's 48 kg category, Ri Song-gum of North Korea lifted 91 kg in the Snatch and 122 kg in the Clean & Jerk, totalling 213 kg. She won three gold medals and set three new world records during the event.

- Thanyathon Sukcharoen of Thailand, competing in the Women's 48 kg, lifted 88 kg in the Snatch and 110 kg in the Clean & Jerk, securing the bronze medal.

Key Points:-

(i) In the Women's 48 kg category, Mirabai Chanu of India lifted 84 kg in the Snatch (bronze) and 115 kg in the Clean & Jerk (silver), achieving a total of 199 kg. She won the silver medal overall and set two new National Records (NRs).

(ii) The championship was conducted under the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), with significant support from the Norwegian Weightlifting Federation (NWF) and local authorities, ensuring smooth execution of the global event.

AWARDS

1. Bharath Thammineni Becomes First Indian to Summit Nine of the World's 14 Peaks Above 8,000 Metres.



On October 14, 2025, mountaineer Bharath Thammineni from Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh (AP), achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first Indian to climb nine of the world's 14 mountains exceeding 8,000 metres, after successfully summiting Mount Cho Oyu (8,188 m) on the China–Nepal border, the sixth-highest peak globally.

- Bharath Thammineni's ascent of Mt Cho Oyu marks his ninth successful climb among the 14 world peaks above 8,000 metres. He began his expedition on October 12, 2025, and reached the summit on October 14, 2025, solidifying India's presence in global high-altitude mountaineering.

- His nine summited peaks include — Mt Everest (2017), Mt Manaslu (2018), Mt Lhotse (2019), Mt Kangchenjunga (2022), Mt Annapurna I (2022), Mt Makalu (2023), Mt Shishapangma (2024), Mt Dhaulagiri (2025), and Mt Cho Oyu (2025). These climbs span across Nepal, China, and India.

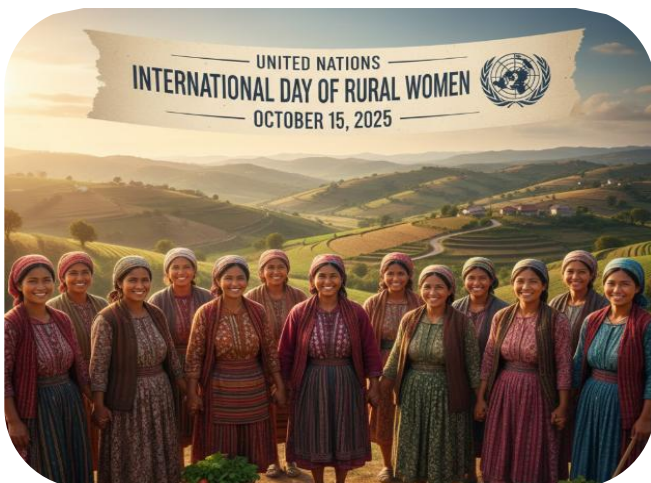
- Mount Cho Oyu, standing at 8,188 metres, is located on the China–Nepal border and is globally recognized as the sixth-highest mountain. Bharath reached its base camp on September 30, 2025, prior to his successful summit.

Key Points:-

- (i) The term “Eight-Thousanders” refers to the 14 highest peaks in the world, all located in the Himalayas and Karakoram ranges across Nepal, Tibet (China), and Pakistan. The remaining five — K2, Gasherbrum I, Gasherbrum II, Broad Peak, and Nanga Parbat — are situated along the China–Pakistan border and PoK (Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir).
- (ii) Beyond mountaineering, Bharath Thammineni is the founder of Boots & Crampons, a premier Indian mountaineering company dedicated to promoting adventure tourism and professional climbing expeditions.
- (iii) He has mentored several young climbers, including Karthikeya Viswanath, the youngest Indian to complete the Seven Summits Challenge, and Tonsi Angmo, the first blind woman to scale Mt Everest, showcasing his commitment to inspiring future Indian mountaineers.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. United Nations Observed International Day of Rural Women on October 15, 2025.



The United Nations (UN) International Day of Rural Women (IDRW) is observed annually on October 15 to recognize and honor the contributions of rural and indigenous women to agriculture, food security, and rural development. In 2025, the day is promoted by UN Women with the theme “The Rise of Rural Women: Building Resilient Futures with Beijing+30”, highlighting empowerment, digital inclusion, social protection, and leadership.

- The 2025 theme emphasizes the empowerment of rural and indigenous women to drive sustainable, climate-resilient development, with a focus on digital inclusion, social protection, and leadership, aligned with the Beijing+30 goals.

- The IDRW was established in 1995 during the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, and officially adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on December 18, 2007 through Resolution A/RES/62/136, designating October 15 as the day. The day was first observed in 2008.

- On May 2, 2024, the UNGA adopted Resolution A/RES/78/279, declaring 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer. Proposed by the USA and co-sponsored by 123 countries, this initiative recognizes the vital role of women in global agriculture, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) alongside other UN agencies.

Key Points:-

- (i) Women produce half of the world’s food and serve as stewards of environment and biodiversity. They constitute approximately 40% of global agricultural labor, exceeding 50% in parts of Africa and Asia, highlighting their central role in sustaining food systems.

(ii) Despite their contributions, women own only 15% of agricultural land and face limited access to land, credit, education, and technology. Providing equal access to resources could increase farm yields by 20–30%, feeding an additional 100–150 million people globally.

(iii) In India, the day is observed as National Women Farmers' Day (Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas) on October 15 to honor the significant contributions of women in agriculture to the country's food security and rural economy.

DEFENCE

1. Indian Air Force & UK's Carrier Strike Group Conduct Joint Aerial Exercise over Indian Ocean Region.



In October 2025, the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the United Kingdom (UK)'s Carrier Strike Group (CSG) conducted a joint aerial exercise over the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and operational synergy.

● The exercise followed the successful sea phase of the bilateral maritime drill 'KONKAN 25' between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Royal Navy.

● The joint aerial exercise was aimed at enhancing interoperability, mutual trust, and operational coordination between the Indian Air Force and the UK's Royal Navy.

● The IAF deployed Sukhoi-30 MKI and Jaguar fighter aircraft along with advanced surveillance platforms such as the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) and Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) aircraft, showcasing India's growing aerial capabilities.

Key Points:-

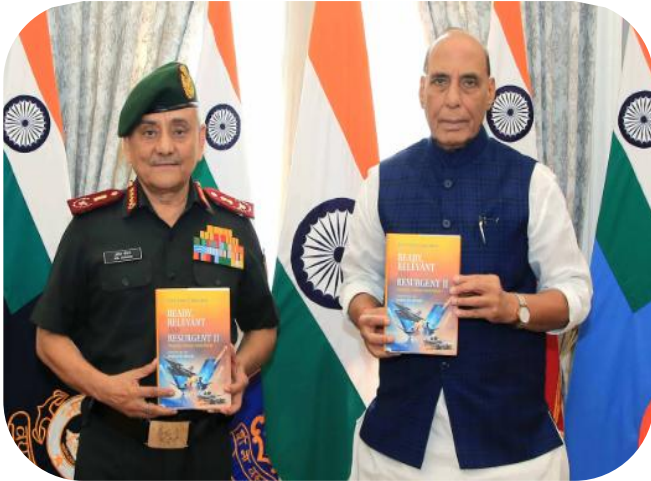
(i) From the UK's Royal Navy, state-of-the-art F-35B fighter jets participated in the exercise, operating from the aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales, marking a major milestone in UK-India aerial interoperability.

(ii) The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is extending the range of the Astra Mark-2 Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Air-to-Air Missile from 160 km to over 200 km.

(iii) The IAF plans to procure around 700 Astra Mk-2 missiles for integration with Sukhoi Su-30MKI and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, enhancing India's indigenous air combat capability.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. **Rajnath Singh Releases Book 'Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II' by CDS General Anil Chauhan.**



In October 2025, Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD), released the book “Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II: Shaping a Future Ready Force”, authored by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan. The book was published by Pentagon Press and provides strategic insights into the future transformation of India’s Armed Forces.

- The book presents a comprehensive, forward-looking plan aimed at making India’s Armed Forces future-ready, offering detailed perspectives on modern military strategy and the evolving nature of warfare.
- It highlights emerging domains such as cyberspace, space-enabled operations, and cognitive warfare, emphasizing their increasing significance for India’s defence preparedness.

Key Points:-

- (i) This volume builds upon the earlier book, “Ready, Relevant and Resurgent: A Blueprint for the Transformation of India’s Military”, which was released in May 2025, providing a follow-up roadmap for military transformation.
- (ii) The book serves as a guiding framework for policy-makers, defence strategists, and military planners, reinforcing India’s

commitment to a resilient and technologically advanced armed force.

OBITUARY

1. Goa’s Former CM and Agriculture Minister Ravi Sitaram Naik Passes Away at 79.



On 15 October 2025, Ravi Sitaram Naik, Goa’s Agriculture Minister and former Chief Minister (CM), passed away at the age of 79 in Ponda, Goa. Born on 2 September 1946, he was a veteran politician with a career spanning several decades, holding key positions in both state and national politics.

- Ravi Naik began his political journey in 1980 with the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP). He was elected as Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) seven times, representing the Ponda constituency six times and Marcaim once.

- He served as Chief Minister of Goa on two occasions: January 1991 to May 1993 under the Progressive Democratic Front Government and 2–8 April 1994, which is recorded as the shortest tenure of any Goa CM.

Key Points:-

- (i) Ravi Naik was elected as a Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from North Goa in

1998, representing the Indian National Congress (INC), showcasing his influence at the national level.

(ii) Ahead of the 2022 Goa Legislative Assembly Election, he joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), reflecting his political adaptability and continued relevance in Goa politics.

(iii) At the time of his demise, he was serving as Goa's Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Handicrafts, Textile & Coir, and Minister of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs in the state government led by CM Pramod Sawant.

Static GK

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)	Central Provident Fund Commissioner (CPFC) : Ramesh Krishnamurthi	Headquarters: New Delhi
Ministry of Mines (MoM)	Union Minister : Gangapuram (G.)Kishan Reddy	Headquarters: New Delhi
United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) : Volker Turk	Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Managing Director (MD) : Kristalina Georgieva	Headquarters : Washington DC, the United States of America (USA)
Andhra Pradesh (AP)	Chief Minister (CM) : Nara Chandrababu Naidu	Governor : Justice Retired (Rt) Syed Abdul Nazeer
Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL)	Headquarters : Gurugram, Haryana	Established : 1996
Federation of Indian Chambers of	Founder: Ghanshyam	Headquarters: New Delhi

Commerce & Industry (FICCI)	Das Birla	
International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)	President : Mohamed Hassan	Established : 1905
UN Women	Executive Director(ED) : Sima Sami Bahous	Headquarters : New York, the United States of America (USA)