

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 19 OCTOBER 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates and Lays Foundation Stones for Projects Worth ₹13,430 Crore in Andhra Pradesh on October 16, 2025.



On October 16, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, to inaugurate, dedicate, and lay foundation stones for multiple infrastructure, energy, and industrial projects valued at approximately ₹13,430 crore, marking a major boost to the state's development.

- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the transmission system strengthening at the Kurnool-III Pooling Station, estimated to cost over ₹2,880 crore.
- He also laid foundation stones for two major industrial areas — the Orvakal Industrial Area in Kurnool and the Kopparthi Industrial Area in Kadapa — with a combined investment exceeding ₹4,920 crore, designed to attract large-scale manufacturing and employment opportunities.

Key Points:-

- (i) In the railway sector, PM Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for several projects worth more than ₹1,200 crore across Andhra Pradesh, aimed at improving regional connectivity and

passenger convenience.

- (ii) He inaugurated the 422 km-long Srikakulam–Angul Natural Gas Pipeline project of Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) India Limited, constructed at a cost of ₹1,730 crore.

- (iii) PM Modi also inaugurated the Advanced Night Vision Products Factory at Nimmaluru in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh, which will strengthen India's defence production capabilities and reduce dependence on imported equipment.

2. Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh Visits India from 13–16 October 2025 to Mark 70 Years of Diplomatic Ties and 10 Years of Strategic Partnership



From October 13 to 16, 2025, Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh paid his first official visit to India at the invitation of President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The visit celebrated 70 years of diplomatic relations and 10 years of strategic partnership between India and Mongolia.

- President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh was accorded a ceremonial welcome by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New

Delhi. He received a Guard of Honour and participated in state-level discussions to reaffirm the shared values of democracy and Buddhism that connect both nations.

- During the visit, PM Narendra Modi formally received President Khurelsukh at Hyderabad House, New Delhi, where they held bilateral talks on expanding cooperation in sectors like mining, energy, and digital innovation. He also met Union Minister S. Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and Union Minister Rajnath Singh.
- On October 15, 2025, President Khurelsukh participated in the India–Mongolia Business Forum in New Delhi.

Key Points:-

- (i) India and Mongolia signed several MoUs to strengthen cooperation in heritage preservation, mineral exploration, digital technology, and humanitarian assistance.
- (ii) A major outcome of the visit was Mongolia's announcement to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA), a global initiative launched by India and France in 2015 in Paris to promote solar energy adoption and sustainable development.
- (iii) To honor the milestone of 70 years of diplomatic relations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Khurelsukh jointly released a commemorative postal stamp, symbolizing the enduring friendship and cooperation between India and Mongolia.

3. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Launches 8 New Development Projects at New Mangalore Port Authority During Golden Jubilee Celebrations.



In October 2025, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), inaugurated eight major development projects of the New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) during the Curtain Raiser Ceremony of its Golden Jubilee (50 years) held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

- These projects aim to strengthen India's port infrastructure, enhance logistics efficiency, and promote sustainability.
- The projects include construction of two covered storage sheds with a combined capacity of 14,000 Metric Tons (MT) using a pre-engineered design, and a dedicated cruise gate for international tourists to improve port facilities and passenger handling.
- The KK Gate entrance and exit were modified with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)-enabled cargo handling, customs, and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) facilities, streamlining operational efficiency and security at the port.

Key Points:-

- (i) The Truck Parking Terminal at the Customs House was expanded to handle 50–80 trucks daily, easing congestion and

facilitating smoother cargo operations.

(ii) A total of 675 meters (m)-long Pre-Quality Concrete (PQC) roads were constructed at the MDL Yard, equipped with proper drainage facilities to improve durability and operational efficiency of port infrastructure.

(iii) To mark the 50th anniversary of NMPA, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched a commemorative Rs.50 coin, a postal stamp, and the official Golden Jubilee Anthem, celebrating NMPA's contribution to India's maritime trade and regional economic growth.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Indian Army Hosts United Nations Troop Contributing Countries (UNTCC) Chiefs Conclave 2025 in New Delhi from 14–16 October.



In October 2025, the Indian Army (IA) hosted the United Nations Troop Contributing Countries (UNTCC) Chiefs Conclave 2025 from 14 to 16 October at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The event gathered senior military leaders from 32 nations and senior UN officials to discuss the evolution and future of UN peacekeeping operations.

- The conclave served as a high-level platform to enhance dialogue and cooperation among

major troop-contributing countries. Senior military leadership from 32 nations and United Nations (UN) representatives attended to share insights on improving global peacekeeping effectiveness.

- The central theme of the conclave was “The Way Ahead for UN Peacekeeping Operations.” The Indian Army introduced the guiding principles of “4Cs” – Consultation, Cooperation, Coordination, and Capacity Building – to strengthen multilateral synergy in peacekeeping missions.

Key Points:-

(i) On 15 October 2025, UNTCC Chiefs visited Agra, Uttar Pradesh, for an Integrated New Age Technology Demonstration by the Indian Army.

(ii) The showcase highlighted cutting-edge indigenous equipment under the “Atmanirbhar Bharat” initiative, alongside a Defence Expo featuring 9 operational domains and 41 Indian exhibitors.

(iii) The conclave concluded on 16 October 2025 with a valedictory session at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, where President Droupadi Murmu interacted with the UNTCC Chiefs. She commended their continued efforts and commitment toward global peace and multilateral cooperation.

2. UNEP Report Highlights 391 Million Hectares of High-Risk Tropical Forests Vital for Climate, Water, Food, and Livelihoods.



In October 2025, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released its report “High-risk forests, high-value returns”, identifying 391 million hectares of tropical forests at high risk of deforestation. The report emphasizes that protecting these forests delivers critical climate, ecological, and socio-economic benefits while supporting global climate commitments like REDD+.

- High-risk tropical forests cover 391 million ha (~1/4 of global tropical forest area), storing high levels of carbon and providing additional ecosystem services. Conserving them supports climate mitigation and aligns with UN-REDD+ targets of 1 GtCO₂e annual emission reductions.
- These forests prevent approximately 2.3 million tonnes of nitrogen pollutants and 527 million tonnes of sediment from entering rivers annually. This reduces soil erosion, protects agricultural productivity, and safeguards infrastructure.
- High-risk forests recycle 10–14% of local rainfall, maintaining regional precipitation patterns and contributing to climate stability.

Key Points:-

- Forest conservation supports crop pollination, sustaining yields that feed about 10 million people annually. Across all

pantropical forests, pollination-supported crops meet the nutritional needs of 18 million people each year.

- Protecting these forests provides around 111 million tonnes of fuelwood annually and delivers non-timber forest products (NTFPs) like fruits, nuts, medicinal plants, and fibres. Approximately 25 million materially poor people depend on these forests for sustenance and local trade.

- High-risk forests stabilize soil, regulate water flow, and buffer extreme weather, reducing floods, landslides, and storms. Conserving them prevents an estimated USD 81 billion in annual GDP losses and safeguards lives, communities, and infrastructure.

3. Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana Elected as Co-Chair of UN-GGIM-AP for 2025–2028 Term.



In October 2025, Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana, Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and Surveyor General of India (SGI), was officially elected as Co-Chair of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) for a term of three years (2025–2028), alongside Woosug Cho from the Republic of Korea.

- Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana was elected during the 14th Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP held from 24 to 26 September 2025 in Goyang-si, Republic of Korea. His term as Co-Chair will last for three years, from 2025 to 2028.

- The elections and discussions took place in Goyang-si, Republic of Korea, hosted by the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII). Delegates from member states, technical experts, and observers participated in discussions on geospatial information management in the Asia-Pacific region.

- India's election as Co-Chair strengthens its leadership in shaping policies and strategies for efficient geospatial information management across the Asia-Pacific region, enabling India to influence regional collaboration and development in geospatial technologies.

Key Points:-

(i) UN-GGIM-AP is one of the five UN-GGIM regional committees, which also include Africa, Americas, Europe, and Arab States. It focuses on geospatial infrastructure and governance in the Asia-Pacific region.

(ii) The regional committee was initially established in 1995 as the Permanent Committee on Geographic Information System (GIS) Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP). It was renamed UN-GGIM-AP in 2012 after the creation of UN-GGIM in 2011.

(iii) UN-GGIM-AP is represented by the National Geospatial Information Authorities of 56 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Its key functions include maximizing economic, social, and environmental benefits of geospatial information through collaboration, capacity development, and shared solutions.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. LIC Launches Two New Insurance Plans – ‘Jan Suraksha Plan (880)’ and ‘Bima Lakshmi Plan (881)’.



In October 2025, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched two innovative insurance plans aimed at financial inclusion and women's empowerment. The plans, 'LIC Jan Suraksha Plan (880)' and 'LIC Bima Lakshmi Plan (881)', target lower-income groups and female policyholders, respectively, providing tailored life cover solutions.

- LIC Jan Suraksha Plan (880) is a non-participating (non-par), non-linked individual savings insurance plan designed for lower-income individuals. The plan focuses on providing affordable life insurance coverage with flexible sum assured options ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakh, in multiples of Rs 5,000.

- Individuals aged between 18 years (completed) and 55 years can enroll in the Jan Suraksha Plan (880). This makes it accessible to a broad spectrum of the lower-income population seeking basic life insurance security.

- LIC Bima Lakshmi Plan (881) is a non-linked insurance plan exclusively designed for female policyholders. It provides life cover along with

periodic fixed money-back benefits either after 2–4 years or after premium payments cease.

Key Points:-

(i) The minimum sum assured for LIC Bima Lakshmi Plan (881) is Rs 2 lakh, with no upper limit, subject to LIC's board-approved underwriting policy. Individuals aged 18 years (as of last birthday) to 50 years are eligible to enroll, allowing young and middle-aged women to benefit from this plan.

(ii) Both plans are designed to provide affordable life insurance with structured savings components. Jan Suraksha focuses on lower-income groups with minimal premiums, while Bima Lakshmi combines life cover and periodic payouts, specifically encouraging women's financial security and independence.

2. Getepay Partners with ESAF Small Finance Bank to Deploy Next-Generation Payment Switch 'Vega'.



In October 2025, Getepay, a leading Payment Aggregator (PA), announced its partnership with ESAF Small Finance Bank (ESAF SFB) to deploy 'Vega', a next-generation payment switch aimed at strengthening India's digital payment

ecosystem through advanced, scalable technology.

- The collaboration between Getepay and ESAF SFB is focused on enhancing India's digital payment infrastructure by integrating Getepay's advanced payment technology with ESAF SFB's financial network, ensuring more efficient and secure transaction processing for customers.

- Vega, developed by Getepay, is a future-ready payment switch designed to provide banks and financial institutions with a scalable, high-performance infrastructure capable of real-time transaction processing and automated reconciliation, thereby modernizing traditional payment systems.

- Vega supports multiple payment modes and adheres to Indian banking standards, making it suitable for modernizing payment systems across financial institutions, improving operational efficiency, and enabling seamless digital transactions for customers.

3. Lxme Launches Lxmepay – India's First UPI Exclusively for Women.



In October 2025, Lxme, India's leading financial platform for women, announced the launch of Lxmepay, the country's first UPI

(Unified Payments Interface) exclusively designed for women. The platform aims to empower women to manage their finances, spend smartly, and grow their wealth with ease.

- Lxmepay is specifically built for women to help them budget effortlessly, track expenses, save, and grow wealth. The platform ensures that women have the tools to manage their financial journeys efficiently and confidently.
- The platform includes features like an expense tracker, bill payments, deals on women-focused brands, and a seamless interface to manage money. These features provide an intuitive and user-friendly experience for women to monitor and grow their finances.

Key Points:-

- (i) Lxmepay offers unique benefits such as Digital Gold Rewards on UPI transactions and app engagement, Smart Expense Tracking with automated insights and monthly alerts, and Seamless Investment Options allowing users to move from saving to investing with guided tools.
- (ii) Every feature is thoughtfully designed to reflect the financial needs and journeys of women.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Allianz Group Appoints Ritu Arora as Country Head for India.



In October 2025, Allianz Group, one of the world's leading global insurers and asset managers, announced the appointment of Ritu Arora as the Country Head for India, effective immediately. She will oversee Allianz's operations, strategic partnerships, and business growth in India, aligning with the company's long-term vision for the insurance and investment sectors.

- Ritu Arora will be responsible for steering Allianz's overall operations in India, focusing on strategic partnerships, business expansion, and aligning company initiatives with long-term objectives in the Indian insurance and investment markets.

- Before her current appointment, Ritu served as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Investment Officer (CIO) for Allianz Investment Management (AIM)-Asia Pacific, and also as an advisor to the Allianz SE Board, contributing significantly to the company's Asia-Pacific operations.

- With over 20 years of experience in insurance and investment management, Ritu led teams across 12 markets and 21 operating entities, managing one of the region's largest Asset Under Management (AUM) portfolios of nearly USD 50 billion during her tenure as CIO for Asia Pacific.

Key Points:-

(i) Ritu Arora has been actively associated with India's insurance industry since its deregulation in 2003. She was a founding member of PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited and Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited, bringing decades of leadership and expertise to India's financial ecosystem.

(ii) Ritu has been recognized for her leadership in finance, receiving the "Leading Women in Finance" award by Women in Leadership Forum India and the "Women Leader of Choice" award in 2013 by WILL, reflecting her influence and contributions in the financial sector.

SPORTS

1. Australian Olympic Champion Ariarne Titmus Announces Retirement from Competitive Swimming.



In October 2025, Australian swimmer Ariarne Elizabeth Titmus, one of the world's top middle-distance freestyle specialists, officially announced her retirement from competitive swimming due to personal and health-related reasons. Her illustrious career includes multiple Olympic, Commonwealth, and World

Championship medals, along with record-breaking performances.

- Ariarne Titmus began her swimming journey under the mentorship of renowned coach Dean Boxall.

- Titmus made her Olympic debut at the Tokyo 2020 Games in Japan, where she won two gold medals (200m and 400m freestyle), one silver (800m freestyle), and one bronze (4×200m freestyle relay).

- At the Paris 2024 Olympics in France, she continued her dominance with two golds (400m freestyle and 4×200m relay) and two silvers (200m and 800m freestyle).

Key Points:-

(i) Titmus earned four medals at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, including three golds (400m, 800m, 4×200m freestyle relay) and one silver (200m freestyle).

(ii) At the 2022 Birmingham Games, she further extended her dominance with four gold medals in the 200m, 400m, 800m freestyle events, and the 4×200m freestyle relay.

(iii) Ariarne Titmus currently holds the World Record in the women's 200m freestyle with a time of 1:52.23, set at the 2024 Australian Olympic Trials. She is also part of Australia's World Record-holding 800m freestyle relay team, which clocked 7:37.50 at the 2023 World Championships.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. International Day of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2025 Observed Globally on 17th October.



The International Day of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (IDICH) was observed on 17th October 2025, marking its 2nd edition. The day, organised by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), aims to promote awareness and safeguarding of the world's diverse intangible cultural traditions and living heritage.

- The IDICH was officially declared in November 2023 during the 42nd UNESCO General Conference, with Resolution A/RES/42/34 proclaiming 17th October as the official date. The first observance took place on 17th October 2024.

- The day highlights the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, including oral traditions, festivals, performing arts, traditional craftsmanship, and knowledge of nature — representing humanity's living identity.

- The 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage—which came into force in 2006—has been ratified by 181 States Parties, encompassing over 700 recognized traditions worldwide.

Key Points:-

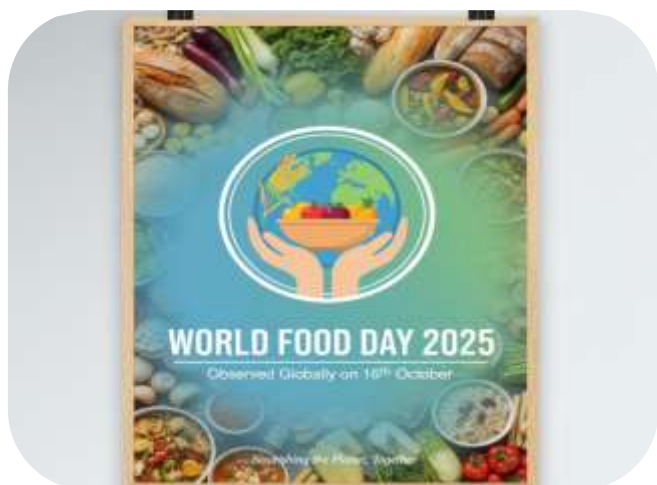
(i) UNESCO maintains the Lists of Intangible

Cultural Heritage and the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, currently including 788 elements from 150 countries.

(ii) It also oversees the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, which promotes awareness and reviews new nominations.

(iii) The 20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage will be held from 8th to 13th December 2025 in New Delhi, India, coinciding with a global awareness campaign running throughout October 2025 to celebrate and protect living heritage.

2. World Food Day 2025 Observed Globally on 16th October.



World Food Day (WFD) is observed annually on 16th October to promote awareness of food security, nutritious diets, and sustainable agriculture. The year 2025 also marks the 80th anniversary of the FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, established in 1945.

- WFD was established in 1979 at the 20th FAO Conference in Rome, and officially recognized by

the UNGA on 5th December 1980 through Resolution A/RES/35/70.

- The inaugural WFD was celebrated on 16th October 1981, creating a global platform to combat hunger and malnutrition.
- The theme “Hand in hand for better food and a better future!” focuses on global cooperation, healthy diets, sustainable food systems, and achieving SDG 2 – Zero Hunger.

Key Points:-

- (i) From 10th–17th October 2025, the World Food Forum was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, launching four new World Restoration Flagships and showcasing the Food and Agriculture Museum & Network.
- (ii) On 16th October 2025, the summit “Food is Medicine and Eating for Health” was held in Tempe, Arizona, USA, emphasizing the link between nutrition and health with global experts and policymakers.

DEFENCE

1. MoD Signs Rs 659.47 Crore Contract for Advanced Night Sight Systems and Euro 350 Million Deal with Thales UK for LMM System.



In October 2025, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed two major defence procurement contracts — one with MKU Limited and Medbit Technologies for Advanced Night Sight systems for the Indian Army, and another with Thales UK for the Lightweight Modular Missile (LMM) system to boost air defence capabilities.

- The Ministry of Defence inked a Rs 659.47 crore contract with a consortium of MKU Limited (Lead Member) and Medbit Technologies Private Limited to supply Advanced Night Sight (Image Intensifier) systems for the Indian Army’s 7.62 x 51mm SIG 716 Assault Rifles, along with all necessary accessories.

- This procurement aims to enhance soldiers’ night combat efficiency by enabling accurate target engagement up to 500 metres even under starlit conditions. The system marks a significant upgrade from existing Passive Night Sights (PNS), ensuring superior clarity and precision during nocturnal operations.

- Each Advanced Night Sight unit includes critical components such as lens covers, battery packs, eye guards, chargers, cleaning kits, and maintenance tools — ensuring durability, operational readiness, and ease of maintenance in diverse terrains.

Key Points:-

- (i) In another major development, the Indian Army’s Corps of Army Air Defence (AAD) signed a Euro 350 million (USD 468 million) deal with Thales UK for procuring the Lightweight Modular Missile (LMM) System — a next-generation portable air defence weapon system designed to counter drones, aircraft, and other aerial threats.
- (ii) The LMM system operates on the Laser Beam Riding guidance principle, offering

high precision and resilience against evasive aerial targets.

(iii) The contract was finalized during British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's visit to India, further strengthening UK–India defence cooperation and advancing the Indo-Pacific strategic partnership.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. Malayalam Poet B.K. Harinarayanan Authors Biography 'Sivam Subham' on M.S. Subbulakshmi and T. Sadasivam.



In October 2025, renowned Malayalam poet and lyricist B.K. Harinarayanan authored a biography titled 'Sivam Subham: The Biography of a Couple', based on the life of legendary Carnatic singer M.S. Subbulakshmi and her husband T. Sadasivam. The book, published by Current Books, was originally written in Malayalam and later translated into English by Harinarayanan's brother, Parameswaran.

- The biography comprises 38 chapters, offering a detailed portrayal of M.S. Subbulakshmi's journey — from her early life as the daughter of musician Shanmukhavadiyu from the Devadasi community, to her first concert at age 10, her

meeting with T. Sadasivam, her entry into films, and their simple yet memorable marriage.

Key Points:-

(i) The book goes beyond tracing the musical and artistic legacy of M.S. Subbulakshmi. Named after the couple's residence, 'Sivam Subham' in Kotturpuram, Chennai (Tamil Nadu), it explores the personal and emotional dimensions of their enduring partnership, highlighting their shared values and simplicity.

(ii) The biography 'Sivam Subham' is dedicated to Vijesh Thottingal, symbolizing gratitude and inspiration that influenced the creation of this literary tribute to one of India's most revered artistic couples.

Static GK

Andhra Pradesh (AP)	Chief Minister : Nara Chandrababu Naidu	Governor : Justice (Retired) Syed (S.) Abdul Nazeer
Mongolia	President : Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh	Capital : Ulaanbaatar
Indian Army	Chief of the Army Staff (COAS): General Upendra Dwivedi	Headquarters: New Delhi
Ministry of Defence(MoD)	Union Minister : Rajnath Singh	Headquarters: New Delhi
New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA)	Chairperson : Dr. Venkata Ramana Akkaraju	Headquarters : Panambur, Mangalore, Karnataka
United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)	Headquarters : New York, the United States of America(USA)	Established : 2011
Food and Agriculture Organization(FAO)	Director General : Qu Dongyu	Headquarters : Rome, Italy