Weekly Current Affairs

Week 43, 19 Oct - 25 Oct 2026 · SSC, UPSSSC, Railway, Banking, UPSC, UP TET

National

CDSE II results: 8,956 candidates shortlisted for SSB interview

Based on the Combined Defence Services Examination (II) held on 13 September 2026, 8,956 candidates have qualified for the Service Selection Board interview.

Why it matters: How many candidates qualified for the SSB interview after CDSE II 2026?

Source: PIB

India-Saudi Arabia electrical interconnection initiative discussed

Secretary Pankaj Agarwal met Saudi Assistant Minister Nasser Al-Qahtani to review progress and explore avenues for the India-Saudi Arabia electrical interconnection project.

Why it matters: Which ministries' officials discussed the India-Saudi Arabia electrical interconnection in October 2026?

Source: PIB

5th India-Australia joint military exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 launched

The AUSTRAHIND 2026 exercise began on 19 October at Thiruvananthapuram, involving about 120 personnel from each side and running till 1 November.

Why it matters: When and where did the 5th India-Australia joint exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 commence?

Source: PIB

DRI seizes 9.14 kg methamphetamine in Bhopal

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence confiscated 9.139 kg of methamphetamine and arrested one individual at Bhopal ISBT on 21 Oct 2026, highlighting a surge in synthetic drug trafficking.

Why it matters: How much methamphetamine was seized by DRI in Bhopal on 21 Oct 2026?

Source: PIB

India-New Zealand FTA effective from 20 Oct 2026

The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement came into force on 20 October 2026, granting 100% duty-free access for Indian MSMEs, artisans, farmers and women entrepreneurs.

Why it matters: What key benefit does the India-New Zealand FTA provide to Indian exporters from 20 Oct 2026?

Source: PIB

Financial inclusion saturation campaign to cover 2.70 lakh GP and ULBs

From 21 Oct to 31 Dec 2026, banks will conduct camps for enrolment in PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY, PMJDY, re-KYC and digital fraud awareness across 2.70 lakh gram panchayats and urban local bodies.

Why it matters: What is the duration and coverage of the financial inclusion saturation campaign launched in Oct 2026?

Source: PIB

International

7th AgriVoltaics World Conference 2026 Concludes in New Delhi

The 7th AgriVoltaics World Conference concluded in New Delhi with a focus on farmer-centred solutions for the Global South, with France hosting the 8th edition in 2027.

Why it matters: Which country will host the 8th AgriVoltaics World Conference in 2027?

Source: PIB

Economy and Banking

DRI Seizes 137 kg Crystal Meth and Busts Coastal Drug Ring in Tamil Nadu

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 137 kg of crystal meth in a major coastal operation in Tamil Nadu, foiling a maritime smuggling attempt to Sri Lanka and arresting 4 individuals.

Why it matters: How much crystal meth was seized by DRI in Tamil Nadu?

Source: PIB

CCI Approves Maybach Asia's Acquisition of Sahrudaya Health Care

The Competition Commission of India has approved the acquisition of 100 percent equity share capital of Sahrudaya Health Care Private Limited by Maybach Asia Holdings II Pte. Ltd.

Why it matters: Which body approved the acquisition of Sahrudaya Health Care by Maybach Asia Holdings?

Source: PIB

SMFCL Scales up with Rs 5,107 Crs Disbursed under Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047

India's first maritime NBFC, SMFCL, has disbursed Rs 5,107 crores, aiming to reach Rs 60,205 crores by 2031 under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

Why it matters: Which organization is India's first maritime NBFC?

Source: PIB

NCRTC Celebrates Namo Bharat Diwas 2026 Marking Three Years of Operations

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation celebrated Namo Bharat Diwas 2026 in New Delhi on October 17, 2026, commemorating three successful years of Namo Bharat regional mobility operations.

Why it matters: NCRTC marked how many years of Namo Bharat operations in 2026?

Source: PIB

CCI Clears Integrace Private Limited to Acquire Universal Nutriscience

The Competition Commission of India has approved the acquisition of share capital of Universal Nutriscience Private Limited and related transactions by Integrace Private Limited.

Why it matters: Which regulatory body approved the Integrace and Universal Nutriscience deal?

Source: PIB

India Approves Rolling Over ₹30 Billion Currency Swap Facility for Maldives

India approved the rollover of the first ₹30 billion withdrawal under the bilateral currency swap agreement with Maldives to provide short-term foreign exchange liquidity.

Why it matters: How much currency swap facility did India roll over for Maldives?

Science and Technology

Bhashini and IISc Develop AI TTS Model for Saurashtra Language

Digital India Bhashini Division, under MeitY, partnered with IISc Bengaluru to develop an AI-based Text-to-Speech model for the minority Indo-Aryan Saurashtra language spoken primarily in Tamil Nadu.

Why it matters: Which institutions developed the text-to-speech model for the Saurashtra language?

ICAR-CPRI Develops Nutrient-Rich Biofortified Purple Potato Variety Kufri Jamunia

ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute developed the biofortified purple potato variety Kufri Jamunia to tackle hidden hunger and improve daily dietary intake of essential vitamins and minerals.

Why it matters: Which institution developed the purple potato variety Kufri Jamunia?

Source: PIB

IISER Thiruvananthapuram Researchers Develop Solid Compound for Hydrogen and Methane

Researchers at IISER Thiruvananthapuram developed a solid compound called magnesium hydridomethylzincate that releases hydrogen and methane when heated.

Why it matters: Which institute developed the solid compound releasing hydrogen and methane upon heating?

Defence and Security

IAF conducts industry outreach on unmanned systems roadmap

The Indian Air Force held an outreach programme on 21 Oct 2026 at Vigyan Bhawan to discuss long-term unmanned and autonomous system requirements with MSMEs, startups and industry partners.

Why it matters: Which ministry organised an outreach on unmanned systems on 21 Oct 2026?

Source: PIB

MHA Approves Restructuring of CISF Operational Framework from Nov 2026

The Ministry of Home Affairs approved the restructuring of CISF, replacing geographical sectors with sector-centred functional commands like coal, steel, petroleum, and power effective November 1, 2026.

Why it matters: When does the restructured functional command structure of CISF take effect?

33rd Edition of SIMBEX-2026 Begins in Visakhapatnam

The 33rd edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-2026) commenced off the coast of Visakhapatnam, featuring Republic of Singapore Navy ship RSS Supreme.

Why it matters: Where was the 33rd edition of SIMBEX-2026 held?

IBSAMAR IX concludes at Simon's Town, South Africa

The ninth India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime Exercise ended on 20 Oct 2026 at Simon's Town, featuring joint naval drills and professional interactions among the three navies.

Why it matters: Where did the IBSAMAR IX 2026 maritime exercise conclude?

Source: PIB

India-UK Bilateral Maritime Exercise Konkan-26 Concludes in Plymouth

The annual bilateral naval exercise Konkan-26 between the Indian Navy and UK Royal Navy concluded off the coast of Plymouth, featuring INS Trishul and HMS Sutherland.

Why it matters: Exercise Konkan-26 was held between India and which country?

Environment

Delhi AQI hits 244-245, Stage-I GRAP invoked

On 21 Oct 2026, Delhi's daily average AQI rose to 244 at 2 PM and 245 at 4 PM, prompting the Central Pollution Control Board to invoke Stage-I of the Graded Response Action Plan.

Why it matters: What AQI values triggered Stage-I GRAP in Delhi on 21 Oct 2026?

Source: PIB

Schemes and Policies

8-Day Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 Begins in Guwahati

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launched the 8-day Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 in Guwahati, featuring 75 artisans including 31 women showcasing 40 varieties of handloom and handicraft products.

Why it matters: Which ministry organised the Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 in Guwahati?

Source: PIB

PM-DAKSH Scheme Merged with MSDE's PMKVY Scheme from 2024-25

The PM-DAKSH scheme has been merged with the PMKVY scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship starting from the financial year 2024-25.

Why it matters: With which scheme has PM-DAKSH been merged from 2024-25?

Source: PIB

Tripartite MoU Signed to Boost Livelihoods for ST Youth in Rourkela

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs through NSTFDC signed a tripartite MoU to strengthen livelihood opportunities, benefiting over 600 students at the Livelihood Business Incubation Centre in Rourkela.

Why it matters: Which ministry supports the Livelihood Business Incubation Centre at Rourkela?

Source: PIB

Quiz

1. How many candidates qualified for the Service Selection Board interview in the Combined Defence Services Examination (II) held on 13 September 2026?

A. 7,842
B. 8,956
C. 9,112
D. 10,023

2. In 2026, the 8-day Shilp Samagam Mela was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in which city?

A. Guwahati / गुवाहाटी
B. Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
C. Chennai / चेन्नई
D. New Delhi / नई दिल्ली

3. Which of the following events took place on 21 October 2026 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi?

A. A. Launch of the 'Modified UDAN' phase for regional aviation
B. B. Indian Air Force outreach programme on unmanned and autonomous systems
C. C. Inauguration of the nationwide motorcycle rally by the Home Minister
D. D. Opening ceremony of the 61st International Committee of Legal Metrology meeting

4. Which ministry implements the PM-DAKSH scheme following its merger with the PMKVY scheme starting from the financial year 2024-25?

A. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
B. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
C. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
D. Ministry of Finance

5. What is the targeted disbursement amount for India's first maritime NBFC, SMFCL, by the year 2031 under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047?

A. Rs 5,107 crores
B. Rs 15,400 crores
C. Rs 60,205 crores
D. Rs 1,00,500 crores

6. Which of the following statements about the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement is correct?

A. It came into force on 20 October 2026 and provides 100% duty-free access to Indian MSMEs, artisans, farmers and women entrepreneurs.
B. It was signed on 20 October 2026 but offers only 50% duty-free access to Indian exporters.
C. It will be implemented from 1 January 2027 and excludes agricultural products.
D. It grants Indian companies a 30% tariff reduction on all goods.

7. Which organization partnered with the Digital India Bhashini Division under MeitY in 2026 to develop an AI-based Text-to-Speech model for the Saurashtra language?

A. IIT Delhi / आईआईटी दिल्ली
B. IISc Bengaluru / आईआईएससी बेंगलुरु
C. IIT Madras / आईआईटी मद्रास
D. IIM Ahmedabad / आईआईएम अहमदाबाद

8. On 21 October 2026, Delhi's air quality index (AQI) reached critical levels. Which action did the Central Pollution Control Board take?

A. A. Declared a state of emergency under the National Disaster Management Act
B. B. Invoked Stage-I of the Graded Response Action Plan
C. C. Ordered a complete shutdown of all vehicular traffic for 24 hours
D. D. Issued a fine to all industrial units exceeding emission norms

9. Consider the following statements regarding international developments in 2026:
1. Qatar, Turkey, Pakistan, and Indonesia signed the Badr defense cooperation MoU in Doha.
2. The World Bank Group launched its first digital strategy in Seoul, South Korea.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

10. Consider the following statements regarding the 7th AgriVoltaics World Conference held in 2026:
1. The conference concluded in New Delhi with a focus on farmer-centred solutions for the Global South.
2. France is scheduled to host the 8th edition of the conference in 2027.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. Only 1
B. Only 2
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

11. Consider the following statements:
1. Russia supplied 44.3% of India's crude oil imports in August 2026.
2. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is scheduled to renew its mandate for another five years starting January 2027.
Which is/are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

12. Consider the following statements regarding the restructuring of CISF approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2026:
1. Geographical sectors are being replaced with sector-centred functional commands like coal, steel, petroleum, and power.
2. The restructuring becomes effective from November 1, 2026.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only / केवल 1
B. 2 only / केवल 2
C. Both 1 and 2 / 1 और 2 दोनों
D. Neither 1 nor 2 / न तो 1, न ही 2

13. Consider the following statements:
1. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized over 9 kg of methamphetamine at Bhopal ISBT on 21 Oct 2026.
2. The seizure was part of a broader crackdown on narcotics trafficking involving multiple Indian states.
Which statement(s) is/are correct?

A. A. Only statement 1 is correct
B. B. Only statement 2 is correct
C. C. Both statements 1 and 2 are correct
D. D. Neither statement 1 nor statement 2 is correct

14. The President of India promulgated the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Amendment) Regulation, which extends hill councils to all eight districts of Ladakh with 100 notified constituencies. In which year was this promulgated?

A. 2024
B. 2025
C. 2026
D. 2027

15. Where did the 33rd edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-2026) commence, featuring Republic of Singapore Navy ship RSS Supreme?

A. Off the coast of Kochi
B. Off the coast of Visakhapatnam
C. Off the coast of Mumbai
D. Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar

16. Match the event with its corresponding date or period.
1. AUSTRAHIND 2026 exercise
2. Bank camps for PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY, PMJDY enrolment
3. Launch of NASA's PUFFINS mission (planned)
4. Strengthening connectivity in Jammu-Kashmir through the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line
A. 19 Oct 2026 – 1 Nov 2026
B. 21 Oct 2026 – 31 Dec 2026
C. 2030
D. Ongoing project (no specific 2026 date)

A. 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D
B. 1-B, 2-A, 3-D, 4-C
C. 1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B
D. 1-D, 2-C, 3-B, 4-A

17. Consider the following statements regarding India's financial agreements in 2026:
1. India approved the rollover of the first ₹30 billion withdrawal under a bilateral currency swap agreement with Maldives.
2. The primary objective is to provide short-term foreign exchange liquidity.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only / केवल 1
B. 2 only / केवल 2
C. Both 1 and 2 / 1 और 2 दोनों
D. Neither 1 nor 2 / न तो 1, न ही 2

18. Match the event with its corresponding date (year 2026).

A. A. Ninth India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime Exercise concluded – 20 Oct
B. B. First time New Delhi hosts the 61st ICLM meeting – 15 Sep
C. C. China's export licence requirement for dual-use heavy equipment – 18 Nov
D. D. Launch of the Open Coalition on Compliance Carbon Market work plan – 5 Aug

19. Consider the following statements regarding corporate acquisitions approved by the Competition Commission of India (CCI):
1. Acquisition of 100 percent equity share capital of Sahrudaya Health Care Private Limited by Maybach Asia Holdings II Pte. Ltd.
2. Acquisition of share capital of Universal Nutriscience Private Limited and related transactions by Integrace Private Limited.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

20. Consider the following statements:

1. Researchers at IISER Thiruvananthapuram developed a solid compound called magnesium hydridomethylzincate that releases hydrogen and methane when heated.

2. Japan's Martian Moons Exploration (MMX) mission, led by JAXA, aims to study Phobos and Deimos and bring back regolith samples from Deimos using the H3 launch vehicle.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. Only 1
B. Only 2
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answers: 1. B 2. A 3. B 4. A 5. C 6. A 7. B 8. B 9. C 10. C 11. A 12. C 13. A 14. C 15. B 16. A 17. C 18. C 19. C 20. A

The most exam-relevant items of the period, picked from our approved daily current affairs. Compiled from official releases (PIB, ministries, regulators); every item was written afresh.
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