# Current Affairs

18 October 2026 · SSC, UPSSSC, Railway, Banking, UPSC, UP TET

## International

### South Korea Completes Experimental Northern Sea Route Voyage

South Korean container ship PanStar Acro completed a trial round trip to Europe via the Arctic Northern Sea Route, leaving on 22 Aug and returning to Busan on 11 Oct 2026, a 50-day voyage.

Why it matters: Which country completed an experimental voyage through the Arctic Northern Sea Route?

Source: Korea.net (Government of the Republic of Korea)

## Economy and Banking

### NPPA Undertakes Trade Margin Rationalisation on 137 Anti-Cancer Drugs

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has announced trade margin rationalisation for 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs, with the revised prices becoming effective from November 9, 2026.

Why it matters: Which agency announced trade margin rationalisation on anti-cancer drugs?

Source: PIB

## Defence and Security

### Indian Navy's First Training Squadron Concludes Port Call in Seychelles

Indian Navy ships INS Tir, INS Sujata, and Coast Guard Ship Sarathi concluded their visit to Port Victoria, Seychelles, reinforcing bilateral maritime cooperation.

Why it matters: Which naval ships departed from Seychelles after completing a training deployment?

Source: PIB

## Appointments

### Smriti Mandhana Appointed as UNICEF India Celebrity Advocate

On the occasion of International Girl Child Day, UNICEF India appointed star Indian cricketer and Arjuna Awardee Smriti Mandhana as its Celebrity Advocate.

Why it matters: Who was appointed as the UNICEF India Celebrity Advocate in October 2026?

Source: UNICEF India

## Schemes and Policies

### Central Bureau of Narcotics Organises Mission Yuva Raksha in MP

The Central Bureau of Narcotics Madhya Pradesh Unit organized five drug awareness programmes under Mission Yuva Raksha in partnership with Brahma Kumaris.

Why it matters: Which unit organised the Mission Yuva Raksha drug awareness programmes in MP?

Source: PIB

## Uttar Pradesh

### Lucknow Resident Rebuilds Life Through De-Addiction Support in UP

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment highlighted the successful recovery story of Rahul Kumar from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, overcoming substance use through rehabilitation.

Why it matters: Success story related to de-addiction and rehabilitation highlighted from which UP city?

Source: PIB

## Today's quiz

**1. Which of the following anti-cancer drugs category has been subjected to trade margin rationalisation by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority effective from November 9, 2026?**

A. 137 scheduled anti-cancer drugs
B. 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs
C. 150 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs
D. 150 scheduled anti-cancer drugs

**2. Consider the following statements regarding the recent appointments and recognitions by UNICEF India (2024):**
**1. UNICEF India appointed star Indian cricketer and Arjuna Awardee Smriti Mandhana as its Celebrity Advocate.**
**2. This appointment was made on the occasion of International Women's Day.**
**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

**3. Which of the following technological mechanisms is utilized by Modern Facial Recognition Technology to map facial features?**

A. Pixel-by-pixel image comparisons
B. Thermal infrared signature matching
C. Digital embeddings through artificial intelligence
D. Vector-based binary fingerprinting

Answers: 1. B 2. A 3. C

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