Current Affairs

20 October 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

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

NASA appoints Indian-origin Dr. Ramya Anche to lead PUFFINS mission

Dr. Ramya Anche, an Indian-origin researcher at Arizona University, has been selected as principal investigator for NASA's PUFFINS small-sat UV polarimetry mission slated for launch in 2030.

Why it matters: Who is the Indian-origin principal investigator for NASA's PUFFINS mission?

UNIFIL mandate in Lebanon set to expire, stability concerns raised

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is nearing the end of its mandate, prompting calls for continued stability measures in the region.

Why it matters: What is the status of UNIFIL's mandate in Lebanon as reported in Oct 2026?

Source: UN UNIFIL

Jammu-Kashmir connectivity: Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link and tunnels

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (about ₹43,780 crore), inaugurated in June 2025, already connects the Kashmir Valley to the national rail network. A PIB backgrounder of October 2026 lists it with other all-weather projects such as the Sonamarg and Zojila tunnels.

Why it matters: Which rail link, inaugurated in June 2025, connects the Kashmir Valley to the national rail network?

Source: PIB

Today's 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. 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.

3. 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

4. Assertion (A): Dr. Ramya Anche, an Indian-origin researcher at Arizona University, will lead NASA's PUFFINS small-sat UV polarimetry mission slated for launch in 2030.
Reason (R): The PUFFINS mission aims to study the polarimetric properties of Earth's upper atmosphere.
Which of the following is correct?

A. Both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A
B. Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A
C. A is true but R is false
D. A is false but R is true

Answers: 1. B 2. A 3. A 4. C

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