

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 13-10-2026

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Geography

Sudden flash flood in Nepal's Budhi Gandaki River

A sudden flash flood struck Nepal's Budhi Gandaki River in the Gorkha district early on October 11, 2026, sweeping away homes, bridges, and infrastructure.

- **What Caused the Flood?**

- **Landslide Dam Breach** - Preliminary investigations by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and ICIMOD indicate that a landslide (or a dry landslide) blocked a stream or the river channel near Chumchet/Chumchure.

- **Sudden Surge** - The temporary natural barrier eventually gave way, releasing a destructive torrent of water, mud, and boulders downstream.

- **Absence of Heavy Rain** - Authorities noted that there was no significant rainfall in the immediate source area or surrounding regions at the time, confirming it was a landslide-dam outburst rather than a rain-fed flood.

- **Impact and Damage**

- **Human Toll** - At least five people were reported missing. The Nepali Army and rescue teams deployed helicopters and ground personnel to evacuate residents and rescue stranded individuals.

- **Infrastructure Loss**

- 45 houses were completely destroyed and 27 others partially damaged.

- 34 cattle sheds and three vehicles were swept away.

- Two suspension bridges, two motorable bridges, and three hydropower projects (including the 341 MW project at Selleri) suffered damage.

- **Downstream Alerts** - Warnings were extended to communities along the Budhi Gandaki, Trishuli, and Narayani river systems as water levels fluctuated.

- **Broader Context** - This disaster occurred while Nepal was still recovering from severe monsoon and glacial-related floods earlier in the year—including a devastating August disaster that killed over 1,400 people.

- Experts highlight that retreating Himalayan glaciers, unstable mountain slopes, and loose sediment continue to pose high risks of sudden landslide-dam outbursts across the region.



Flash flood in Nepal's Budhi Gandaki River sweeps away several houses in Gorkha district

BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting

India is hosting the first-ever BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi on October 13, 2026.

• **Key Details**

• **Host & Chair** - Union Home Minister Amit Shah is chairing the landmark event in New Delhi.

• **Participating Nations** - Delegations from all seven BIMSTEC member states are attending -

• Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

• **Core Agenda** - The meeting focuses on strengthening regional security cooperation and tackling shared cross-border challenges, including -

- Countering terrorism
- Transnational organized crime
- Drug and human trafficking
- Narcotics and radicalization
- Illicit financial flows
- Cyber threats

• **Significance** - The grouping represents a combined population of roughly 1.7 billion people and an economy of about USD 5 trillion, serving as a vital platform for collective security and regional integration.



France's highest civilian distinction

Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal has been awarded France's highest civilian distinction by French President Emmanuel Macron.

- **Key Details**

- **Award** - Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour (*Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur*)

- **Recipient** - Sunil Bharti Mittal, founder and chairman of Bharti Enterprises

- **Significance** - Recognized for boosting India-France economic relations and advancing telecommunications, digital infrastructure, and satellite projects like Eutelsat.

- **Background & Context**

- **The Honour** - Established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte.

- **Partnership** - Mittal's engagement with France spans over 30 years, beginning with a 1992 collaboration to bring mobile telephony to India.

- **Accolades** - Previous honors include India's Padma Bhushan (2007) and an honorary KBE from King Charles III (2024).



Security

INS Mangrol

INS Mangrol (P82) is the third Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) commissioned into the Indian Navy on October 12, 2026, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

• **Key Overview**

- **Builder** - Built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** (Kochi) under Yard Number 525.

- **Indigenization** - Features over **80% indigenous content**, supporting the 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives.

- **Name Legacy** - Named after **Mangrol**, a coastal town and major fishing harbour in the Junagadh district of Gujarat. It inherits the legacy of the erstwhile **INS Mangrol (M85)**, an Agray-class minesweeper that served the Indian Navy until April 2004.

- **Timeline** - Delivered to the Indian Navy on August 21, 2026, and officially commissioned by Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command. **Core**

Capabilities & Operations

- **Primary Role** - Designed specifically to detect, track, and counter underwater and submarine threats in coastal zones and shallow waters where larger warships face operational limits.

- **Secondary Missions** - Capable of undertaking underwater surveillance, Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), and mine warfare tasks (including mine-laying).

- **Fleet Integration** - Works alongside maritime patrol aircraft, helicopters, and major fleet warships to safeguard ports, harbors, and coastal approaches.

• **Specifications & Armament**

• **Dimensions & Performance**

- **Length** - ~78 meters

- **Speed** - Up to 25 knots (powered by three diesel engines with waterjet propulsion for high shallow-water maneuverability)

- **Range & Endurance** - 1,800 nautical miles at 14 knots; 14-day endurance with a crew of 57

- **Sensors** - Equipped with the DRDO Abhay Hull-Mounted Sonar (HMS) and Low-Frequency Variable Depth Sonar (LFVDS).

• **Weapons**

- RBU-6000 Anti-Submarine Rocket Launcher

- Lightweight torpedo launchers

- Maareech Advanced Torpedo Decoy System

- 30mm Naval Surface Gun and 12.7mm M2 SRCGs

INDIAN NAVY COMMISSIONS THIRD ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE CRAFT INS MANGROL



Science

CERVAVAC

The Serum Institute of India has received official prequalification from the World Health Organization (WHO) for CERVAVAC, India's first indigenous human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

Key Details of CERVAVAC

- **Effective Date** - Listed by the WHO as effective from September 25, 2026, with public announcements made in early October 2026.
- **Developer & Manufacturer** - Developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII) in partnership with national and international bodies, marking SII's 32nd WHO prequalification.
- **Target Strains** - A recombinant quadrivalent HPV (qHPV) vaccine targeting strains 6, 11, 16, and 18. Strains 16 and 18 are high-risk types responsible for the majority of cervical, anal, and related cancers, while strains 6 and 11 cause genital warts.
- **Indication & Age Group** - Gender-neutral and licensed for administration to both girls and boys aged 9 through 26 years.
- **Global Impact** - Prequalification allows CERVAVAC to be procured by United Nations agencies (such as UNICEF) and international immunization programs like Gavi, opening access for low- and middle-income countries.



India's first dedicated high-altitude health research facility

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is establishing India's first dedicated high-altitude health research facility—the **ICMR Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research (ICMR-CHAMP)**—in Keylong, located in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.

Core Objectives & Research Areas

- **Hypoxia & Acclimatization** - Study how low oxygen levels (hypoxia) and extreme cold affect human physiology, physical endurance, and long-term health.
- **Dual Focus** - Conduct research that benefits both **military personnel** (such as soldiers acclimatizing to extreme high-altitude border posts) and **civilian tribal communities** living across the Himalayas.
- **Key Medical Themes** - Focus on mountain sickness, maternal and newborn health, child growth and nutrition, mental health, non-communicable diseases, and infectious/climate-sensitive diseases.

Technology & Healthcare Delivery

- **Remote Healthcare Solutions** - Investigate how modern tools like **drone-enabled medicine delivery**, **telemedicine**, and digital health platforms can overcome geographical isolation in difficult terrain.
- **Surveillance** - Build real-time public health surveillance and climate-resilient healthcare delivery models tailored for high-altitude zones.

Institutional Partnerships

- **Collaborative Framework** - Built through partnerships between ICMR, the **Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)**, the **Himachal Pradesh government**, and institutions like AIIMS Bilaspur.
- **Regional Reach** - The evidence generated will support public health policies across India's Himalayan and border regions, including Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.



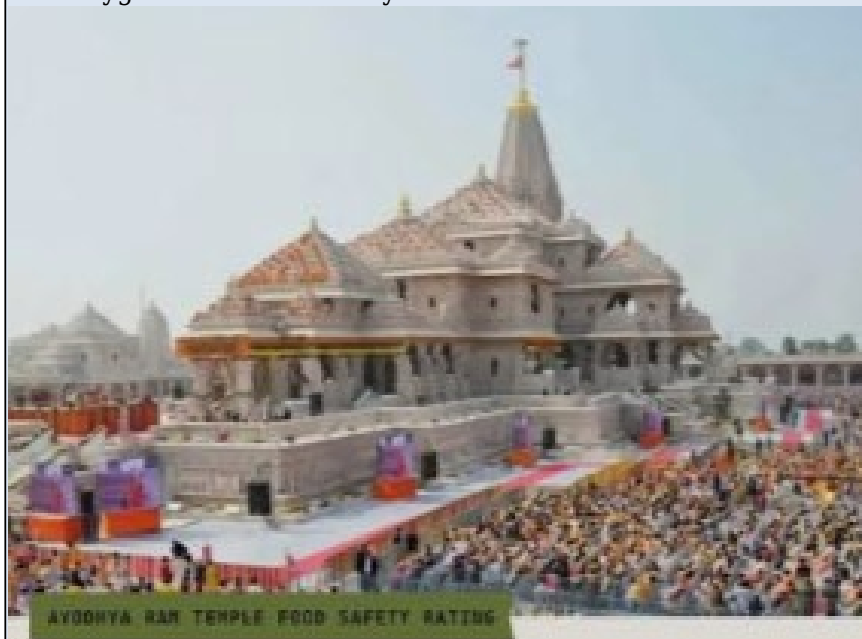
Miscellaneous

FSSAI's 'Eat Right Place of Worship' Certification

*The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra in Ayodhya received the top '**Ati Vishisht**' rating and the '**Eat Right Place of Worship**' certification from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for its prasad safety and hygiene.*

Key Details of the Certification

- **Score & Rating** - Scored **103 out of 114 points**, earning the highest '**Ati Vishisht**' (4-star) rating under FSSAI's **BHOG (Blissful Hygienic Offering to God)** programme.
- **Validity Period** - Valid for **two years from October 11, 2026, to October 10, 2028**.
- **Handover** - Presented by FSSAI CEO **Rajit Punhani** during a special ceremony in Ayodhya.
- **Other Certified Shrines** - Five other prominent shrines in Ayodhya—including **Hanumangarhi**, **Kanak Bhawan**, a **Jain temple**, and **Devkali temple**—also received BHOG certification.
- **Objective** - To ensure that food and prasad prepared, stored, and distributed to devotees meet strict hygiene and food safety standards.



The Ram temple in Ayodhya received the highest 'Ati Vishisht' rating under FSSAI's 'Eat Right Place of Worship' initiative for food safety. The temple scored 103 out of 114 points in the evaluation.

IBSAMAR IX

IBSAMAR IX is the ninth edition of the trilateral maritime exercise between the navies of India, Brazil, and South Africa, held under the IBSA framework.

- **Dates** - October 12-22, 2026 (with activities running from October 8-21/22)
- **Location** - Simon's Town and False Bay area (West Coast) in South Africa
- **Host & Lead Nation** - South Africa is hosting the exercise, with India acting as the lead nation.
- **Theme** - "Stronger Together Towards a Shared Future in the Maritime Domain"
- **Objective** - Enhance interoperability, strengthen maritime cooperation, and improve collective preparedness for security challenges in the Indian Ocean Region.
- **Participating Forces**
 - **India** - Represented by the frontline guided-missile stealth frigate INS Tarkash (embarked with an integral Chetak helicopter).
 - **Brazil** - Represented by the corvette/ship BNS Barroso (embarked with an integral Lynx helicopter).
 - **South Africa** - Deployed the frigate SAS Amatola, offshore patrol vessel SAS King Sekhukhune I, mine hunter SAS Adam Kok III, and the Type 209 diesel-electric submarine SAS Manthatisi.
- **Core Activities & Drills**
 - **Warfare Training** - Surface warfare, anti-air warfare, and anti-submarine warfare.
 - **Maritime Operations** - Maritime interdiction, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS), anti-piracy operations, and naval air operations.
 - **Support & Safety** - Search and Rescue (SAR), damage control, and firefighting drills, alongside professional interactions among the crews.

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INTERNATIONAL NAVAL COOPERATION AND MARITIME SECURITY IBSAMAR 2026

BRAZIL'S BARROSO WARSHIP HAS ARRIVED IN SIMON'S TOWN

The Brazilian Navy's CV Barroso (V34), an Inhaúma-class corvette, docked at Naval Base Simon's Town on 8 October 2026 as part of Exercise IBSAMAR IX, joining the Indian Navy and the South African Navy in a joint maritime exercise.



THE PARTICIPATING NAVIES



SOUTH AFRICA

Host nation providing logistical support and facilities.



INDIA

INS Tarkash (F50) 125 m, 3,300-tonne Teg-class stealth frigate, commissioned in 2012, arrived from Kenya.



BRAZIL

CV Barroso (V34) Inhaúma-class corvette, arrived in Simon's Town on 8 October 2026.

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR)

The 2026 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) is observed under the global theme "Resilience Starts at Home."

- **Date** - October 13, 2026
- **Theme** - "Resilience Starts at Home"
- **Focus** - Placing safe housing, household preparedness, and community-level action at the center of disaster risk reduction.
- **Coordinating Body** - United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- **Background** - Established by the UN General Assembly in 1989 to promote a global culture of risk awareness, prevention, mitigation, and preparedness.



National Postal Week 2026

India celebrates National Postal Week 2026 from October 9 to October 15, 2026, under the Department of Posts.

- **Theme** - "One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities"
- Daily Schedule & Focus Days
- **October 9** - World Post Day (highlights postal services connecting people, communities, and businesses)
- **October 12** - Fun with Philately Day (promotes stamp collection and its educational/historical importance)
- **October 13** - Financial Inclusion & CCS Day (highlights India Post's financial and community care services)
- **October 14** - Mails & Parcels Day (focuses on reliable mail and parcel delivery)

A detailed banner for National Postal Week 2026. The top section features the India Post logo, the Government of India Ministry of Communications Department of Posts, and the text "National Postal Week 2026 9th to 15th October 2026". Below this, it says "Connecting People | Empowering Communities | Building a Stronger India" and "World Post Day Theme: 'World Post Day: One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities'". The bottom section is titled "Specially Themed Days" and lists five days with their respective themes and descriptions:

9th October 2026 (Friday)	12th October 2026 (Monday)	13th October 2026 (Tuesday)	14th October 2026 (Wednesday)	15th October 2026 (Thursday)
World Post Day Celebrating the universal role of postal services in connecting people, communities and businesses.	Fun with Philately Day Promoting philately, heritage and education through the joy of stamps.	Financial Inclusion & CCS Day Expanding access to financial services through the extensive postal network.	Mails & Parcels Day Ensuring reliable, efficient and accessible mail and parcel services across the country.	Technology & Innovation Day Showcasing digital solutions and innovations for better service delivery and customer experience.



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