UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 14-10-2026

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Geography

Temperature record in key Pacific zone

*Sea surface temperatures in the El Niño monitoring region known as **Nino3.4** reached an all-time high of 29.70°C in September, according to the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service.*

• **Exceeded Past Events–** The September record surpassed the peak temperatures of previous strong El Niño events in 1982/1983, 1997/1998, and 2015/2016.

• **Before Peak Intensity–** This record occurred even before the weather pattern reached its expected peak later in the year.

• **Global Impact–** September was recorded as 1.63°C hotter than the pre-industrial average (1850–1900), contributing to a run of months exceeding the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C threshold.

• **Other Agency Reports–** Japan's weather agency reported that El Niño conditions reached 4°C above normal in its monitoring zone, while Australia's Bureau of Meteorology noted that average weekly sea-surface temperatures in the central Pacific hit record highs.



Social Issues

100% Literacy Status of Lakshadweep

Lakshadweep was officially declared a 100% literate Union Territory on October 11, 2026, by Administrator Praful Patel.

• **Announcement Date–** October 11, 2026

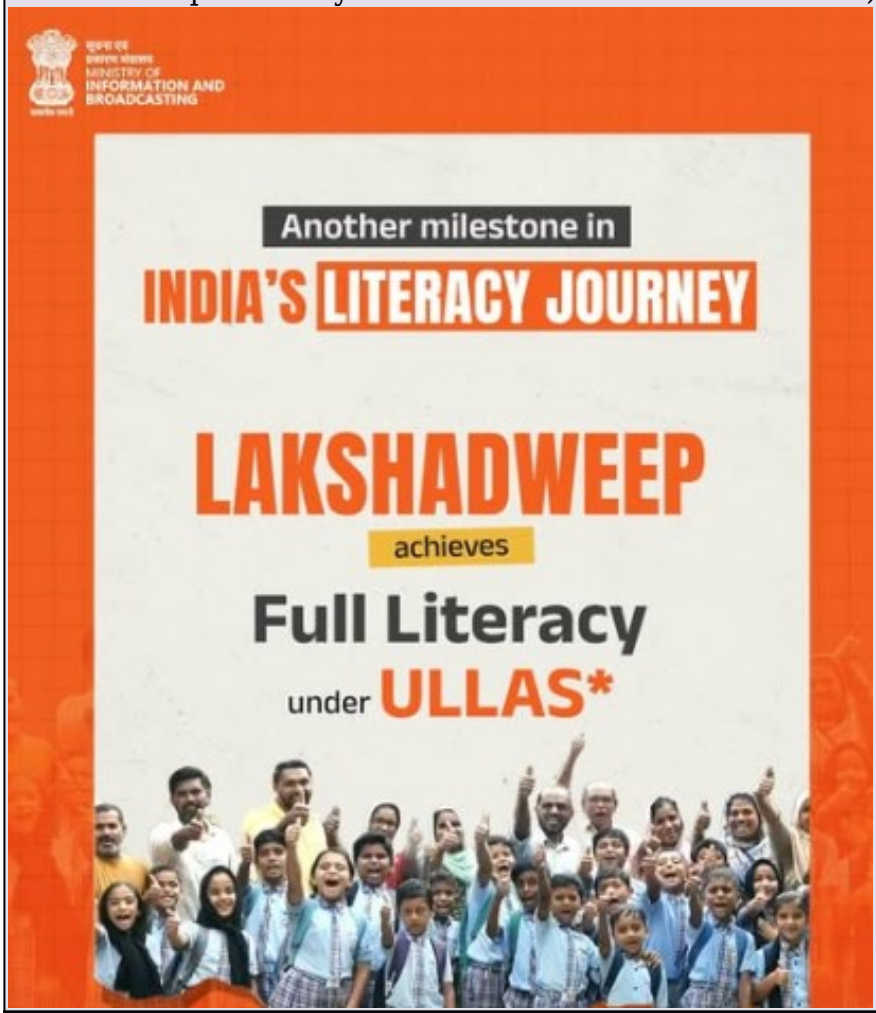
• **Location**– Secretariat in Kavaratti

• **Driving Program–** ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society), a Centrally sponsored adult education scheme.

• **Initial Target Group**– An initial survey identified 1,113 adult non-literate residents across the archipelago.

• **Assessment Test–** All eligible learners cleared the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) after targeted instruction and doorstep assessments by volunteer educators.

• **Context vs. Census**– This milestone represents full literacy under the ULLAS adult-education framework, differing from historical Census metrics (which previously recorded Lakshadweep's literacy rate at 91.85% in the 2011 Census).



Polity & Governance

Bharat Rice

*The Indian Army launched '**Bharat Rice**' on October 12, 2026, to upgrade the quality of rations for troops and signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to strengthen operational logistics.*

Key Features of Bharat Rice

• **Direct Delivery–** The rice is delivered directly to Army Supply Depots—including remote and forward locations in Ladakh and the Northeast—replacing the old practice where Army depots had to collect supplies from local FCI facilities.

• **Defense Specifications–** Custom-milled through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), the rice meets strict quality controls, with limits on broken, damaged, or discolored grains.

• **Ergonomic Packaging–** Packed in **10-kg and 30-kg bags** to make handling, lifting, and transport easier in difficult, mountainous terrain.

• **Allocation–** The Department of Food and Public Distribution has allocated **1.25 lakh metric tonnes** of Bharat Rice for the Army during the 2026–27 financial year.

• **The FCI Logistics Agreement**

• **5-Year Partnership–** The formal agreement allows the Indian Army to utilize designated FCI warehousing infrastructure, labor resources, and material-handling equipment during operational contingencies.

• **Strategic Mobilization–** Inspired by lessons from past mobilizations like *Operation Sindoor*, the pact integrates civilian logistics into military planning to enable rapid forward positioning of stores and supplies closer to conflict or high-altitude zones.



Environment

Aldabra giant tortoises

A scientific survey published in October 2026 revealed that Aldabra giant tortoises officially outnumber the human population of the Seychelles.

• **Population Numbers**

• **Tortoise Population–** Estimated at **180,000 to 183,000** Aldabra giant tortoises living on the remote Aldabra Atoll.

• **Human Population–** Roughly **122,000 to 135,000** people across the nation.

• **The Survey–** Conducted by the Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF) and the University of Exeter, analyzing field counts gathered between 2018 and 2022.

• **Conservation Context**

• **Remarkable Rebound–** Heavy 19th-century human exploitation reduced the tortoise numbers to fewer than 1,000 individuals.

• **Protection Milestones–** Aldabra Atoll became a strict nature reserve in 1981 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982.

• **Ongoing Threats–** Researchers warn that climate change, rising sea levels, longer droughts, and invasive species like feral cats and black rats still pose risks to eggs and hatchlings.



Security

Indian Coast Guard's "Tat Se Parwat" Expedition

*A **17-member Indian Coast Guard (ICG) mountaineering team** successfully summited **Mount Mukut (7,045 m)** on **7 October 2026**.*

• The expedition was named **"Tat Se Parwat"**, meaning **"From Sea to Summit."**
• It marked the **first ICG flag expedition to a peak above 7,000 metres**.
• **Preparation for Mount Everest**
• The Mount Mukut climb was the **fifth and final phase of an 18-month high-altitude training programme**.
• The programme is aimed at preparing the ICG for a proposed **Mount Everest expedition in 2027**.
• **Mount Everest–** 8,848.86 m — the world's highest mountain above sea level.
• The expedition is planned for **2027, the ICG's Golden Jubilee (Swarnim Jayanti)**.
• **ICG Expedition Details**
• The expedition was **flagged off on 15 September 2026** by **Director-General Paramesh Sivamani**.
• The successful team was **flagged in at Dehradun on 12 October 2026** by Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami**.
• **Role of Indian Coast Guard**
• Established in **1977**, the ICG is India's **maritime law-enforcement and search-and-rescue force**.
• Its Golden Jubilee in **2027** will mark **50 years of service**.
• **Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI)**
• **Location–** Darjeeling, West Bengal.
• **Established–** 1954.
• Provides specialised **mountaineering training and courses in climbing and allied skills**.
• The ICG team trained under **HMI's guidance** for high-altitude mountaineering.



Science

Perseverance Rover's New Record on Mars

NASA's Perseverance rover has set a new record for the longest distance driven by any vehicle on the surface of another world.

• **Record Details**

• **New Distance Record–** 28.10 miles (45.22 kilometers)

• **Previous Record Holder–** NASA's Opportunity rover (28.06 miles or 45.16 kilometers)

• **Date Achieved–** October 11, 2026 (Sol 2,006 of the mission)

• **Timeframe–** Reached the milestone in about 5.5 years, compared to the nearly 15 years it took Opportunity.

• **Key Highlights**

• **Autonomous Driving–** More than 90% of Perseverance's total distance has been driven using its "AutoNav" self-driving system, which maps hazards and plots routes automatically.

• **Previous Milestones Surpassed–** It previously passed the driving distances of Apollo 17 astronauts on the Moon (22.2 miles / 35.7 km) and the Soviet Union's Lunokhod 2 lunar rover (24.2 miles / 39 km).

• **Mission Status–** The rover's exploration along the Jezero Crater rim has been extended through the end of 2028.



Voice-First Multilingual AI

The Digital India BHASHINI Division deployed its voice-first multilingual AI platform, Shrutlekh, at the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) in Mussoorie to provide real-time, two-way English and Spanish translation.

• **Event & Schedule**– Deployed during the Capacity Building Programme on Urban Service Delivery for Civil Servants from October 12 to October 23, 2026, at NCGG, Mussoorie.

• **Stakeholders**– Organized by NCGG, sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, and supported by MeitY, hosting delegates from Peru, Cambodia, Nigeria, Kenya, Palestine, Lebanon, The Gambia, Ecuador, and Spain.

• **BHASHINI Platform** – Utilizes voice-first AI for real-time translation, supporting 36 Indian languages in text, 23 in voice, and 35 international languages, while integrating with over 2,353 government platforms and 800+ official websites.



Health

WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence

The WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence (located in Berlin, Germany) has launched a five-year strategy aiming to help every country detect and understand emerging health threats within 24 hours of their emergence by 2030.

• **Background & Purpose**

• **Created in 2021–** The hub was established after the COVID-19 pandemic exposed critical gaps in global disease detection and response, with initial support from the German government.

• **Global Reach–** It has collaborated with 160 WHO member states, 190 partner organizations, and thousands of experts and policymakers.

• **Core Goal–** To turn early diagnosis into early action and stop local outbreaks before they grow into international pandemics.

• **Five Priority Initiatives**

• The hub delivers its 2030 strategy through five main programs–

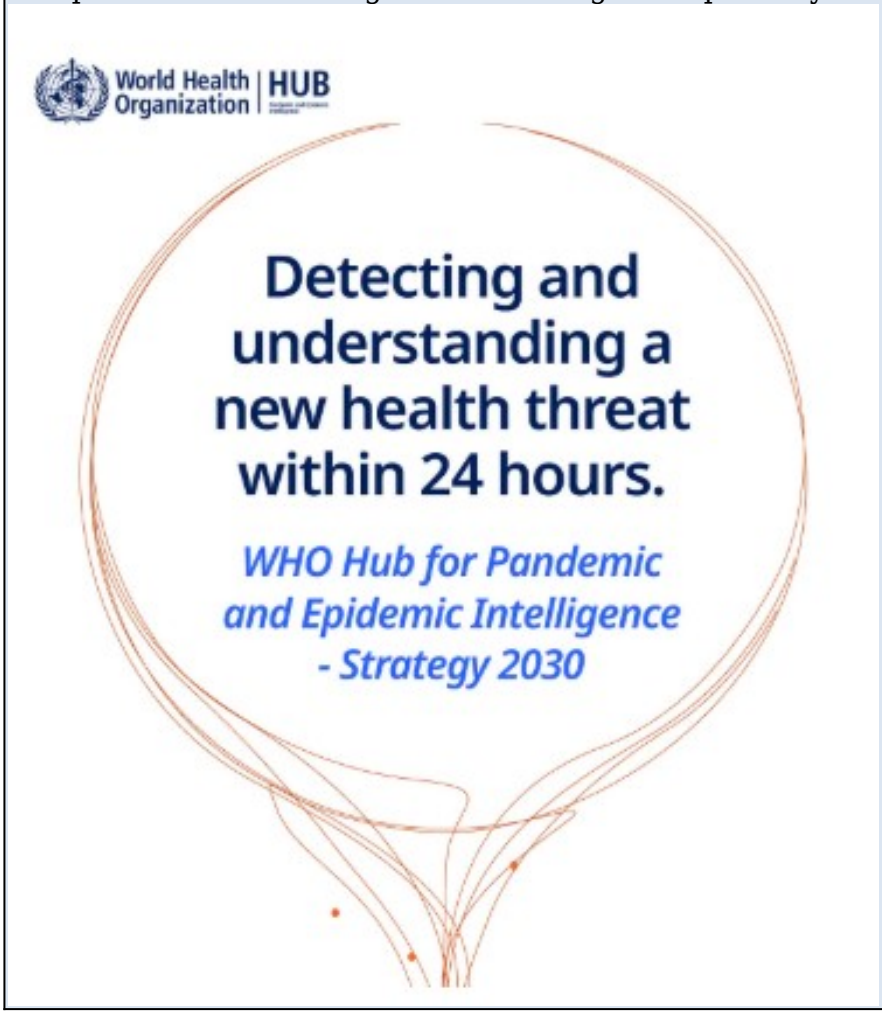
• **Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) –** Uses artificial intelligence to scan thousands of public data sources every day to spot early signs of health threats.

• **International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN) –** Boosts genetic sequencing and data analysis to identify pathogens faster and speed up tests, treatments, and vaccines.

• **The Collaboratory–** Connects more than 2,000 data science and modeling experts who can be mobilized quickly during a crisis.

• **Collaborative Surveillance Initiative–** Works in over 83 countries to build national systems using a "One Health" approach (connecting human, animal, and environmental health).

• **Digital Enablers for Public Health Intelligence Initiative–** Builds secure digital tools and platforms for sharing data and using AI responsibly.



Miscellaneous

World Day Against the Death Penalty

The 24th World Day Against the Death Penalty was observed on ***October 10, 2026****.*

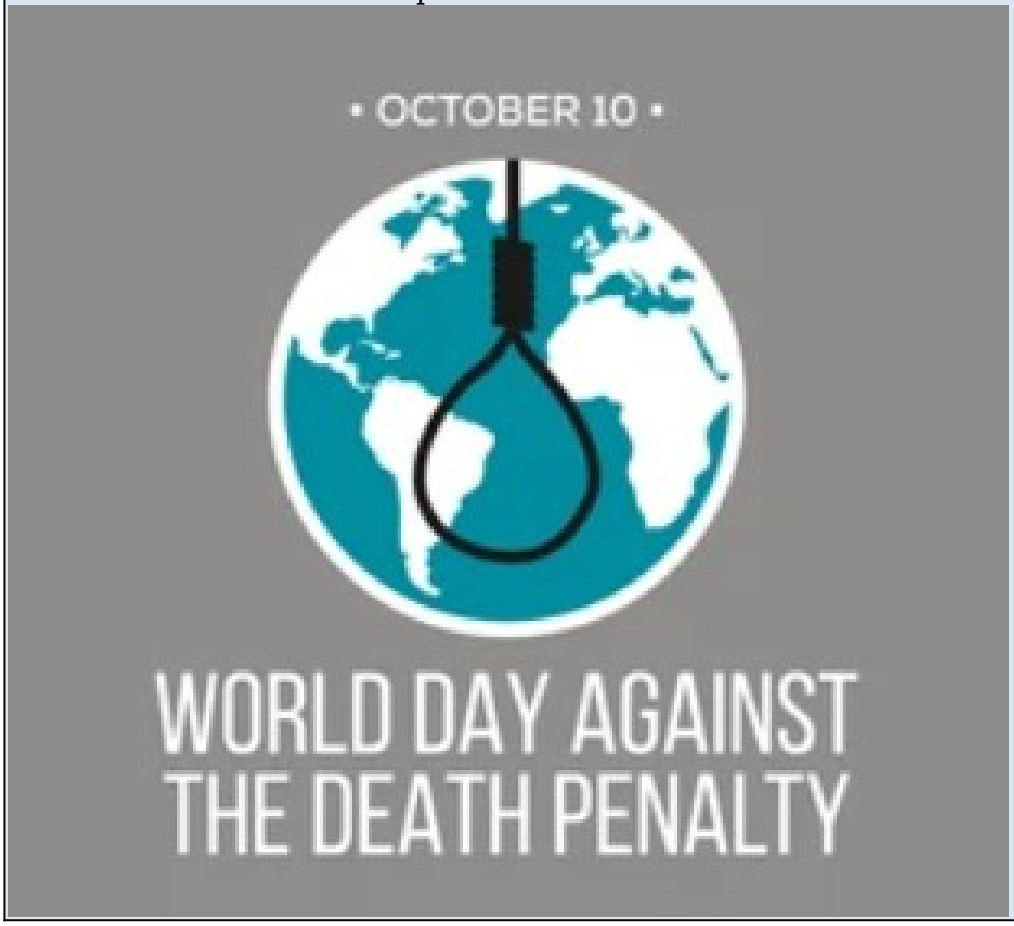
Key Details for 2026

• **Theme –**"Stories for Life" — putting a person-first approach and human stories at the center of abolitionist advocacy.

• **Global Calls to Action –** The United Nations OHCHR and the European Union / Council of Europe urged retaining states to establish immediate moratoriums on executions in line with UN General Assembly Resolution 79/179.

• **Major Events –** The 9th World Congress against the Death Penalty took place earlier in the year (June 30 – July 2, 2026) in Paris, and Morocco was announced as the host for the 10th World Congress in 2029.

• **Civil Society Mobilization –** Organizations like the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty coordinated global rallies, press conferences, and awareness campaigns across more than 180 countries to push for the universal abolition of the death penalty.



World Standards Day 2026

World Standards Day 2026 is celebrated on October 14, 2026, featuring the theme "Shared Vision for a Better World" with a special spotlight on SDG 7– Affordable and Clean Energy.

• **Key Details of World Standards Day 2026**

• **Date** – October 14, 2026

• **Theme** – "Shared Vision for a Better World"

• **Core Focus** – Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) — affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

• **Organizers** – World Standards Cooperation (WSC), comprising the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

• **Significance** – Commemorates the historic 1946 London meeting where delegates decided to create an international organization for standardization.

• **India Observance** – The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is marking the occasion with special programs (such as the event hosted by the BIS Raipur Branch Office) emphasizing clean energy standards and energy efficiency.



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