

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 15-10-2026

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Geography

Single-Day Coal Loading Record

The Paradip Port Authority (PPA) set a new single-day coal loading record of 1,40,022 metric tonnes (MT) at its Mechanised Coal Handling Plant (MCHP) on **10 October 2026**.

- **Key Details of the Milestone**

- **Total Volume Loaded-** 1,40,022 metric tonnes of thermal coal within a single 24-hour cycle.

- **Vessels Loaded-** The cargo was split across two specialized bulk carriers, **M.V. APJ Indrani** and **M.V. Ripley Pinnacle**.

- **Previous Record-** It surpassed the old record of **1,37,500 MT** set on **29 May 2022** (loaded onto the *M.V. Arethousa* and *M.V. ISL Star*).

- **Improvement-** The new achievement is an increase of **2,522 MT** (roughly 1.8%) over the previous best.

- **Significance**

- **Operational Efficiency-** The milestone highlights better coordination, improved rail-to-ship high-speed conveyor performance, and enhanced workforce productivity at the Paradip Port Authority.

- **Energy Supply-** High-volume coal handling at key eastern seaboard terminals like Paradip (located in Odisha, India) plays a vital role in fueling domestic power grids and industrial freight demands.



International Relations and Issues

Mongolia's first-ever oil refinery

Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh visited the construction site of Mongolia's first-ever oil refinery in Altanshiree Soum, Dornogobi Province, to thank Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for India's continued support.

- **Location-** Altanshiree Soum, Dornogobi Province (near Sainshand), Mongolia.
- **Funding-** Built with financial and credit assistance from India, including an initial \$1 billion Line of Credit (LOC) announced during Prime Minister Modi's 2015 visit, with total project credit support valued around \$1.7 billion.
- **Capacity-** Designed to process 1.5 million metric tonnes of crude oil per year (MMTPA).
- **Goal-** To produce domestic refined fuels (such as gasoline, diesel, aviation fuel, and LPG), cut reliance on foreign energy imports, and boost Mongolia's long-term energy security.
- **Key Participants** - Developed via a government-to-government (G2G) framework with project management consultancy by India's Engineers India Limited (EIL) and construction execution by companies like Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL).

Indian company helps build Mongolia's first-ever oil refinery near the Chinese border

It is one of the biggest infrastructure projects in the country's history.

Resident Mission in Costa Rica

India operationalised its new resident diplomatic mission in San José, Costa Rica, on October 10, 2026.

- **Location-** San José, Costa Rica (temporary camp office located at Residence Inn by Marriott Escazú, Complejo Avenida Escazú, Autopista Próspero Fernández, San José, 10203).
- **Previous Arrangement-** Diplomatic relations were previously managed through India's mission in Panama alongside an honorary consular presence in San José.
- **Core Objectives**
 - Expand India's diplomatic footprint and political engagement in Central America.
 - Boost bilateral trade, investment, and economic cooperation (focusing on sectors like pharmaceuticals and information technology).
 - Strengthen people-to-people ties and multilateral/regional collaboration.
 - Provide enhanced consular assistance and protection for Indian nationals in Costa Rica.



India's Largest LNG Supplier in Sep 2026

Oman was India's largest supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in September 2026, overtaking the United States.

• Supplier Breakdown (September 2026)

- **Oman**- 585,000 tonnes (27% share; up 11.6% from August)
- **Nigeria**- 351,000 tonnes (Ranked 2nd; down 35% from August)
- **United States**- ~340,000-350,000 tonnes (Ranked 3rd; down ~59%-60.7% from August's 848,000 tonnes)
- **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**- 311,000 tonnes (Ranked 4th; up 27.3%)
- **Angola**- 205,000 tonnes (Ranked 5th)
- **Qatar**- ~94,000 tonnes (Ranked 6th; down sharply due to regional disruptions)

• Key Details

• **Total Imports**- India imported roughly 2.24 million tonnes of LNG in September 2026 (down 12.7% month-on-month, but up 7% year-on-year).

• **Reason for the Shift**- European buyers increased competition for spot US cargoes, while regional conflicts and shipping shifts around West Asia caused India to diversify toward non-Hormuz or flexible supply routes like Oman.



**Oman Replaces US as India's
Top LNG Supplier Amid West
Asia Conflict**

10th National Convention of Agrivision-2026

The 10th National Convention of Agrivision-2026 was held on October 13-14, 2026, at the Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium, ICAR-National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), Pusa, New Delhi.

- **Theme / Focus** - Centered on "TradiTech-led Transformation" and shifting from a production-centric outlook to a value-chain and integrated agri-food model.
- **Organisers** - Hosted by Agrivision with the ICAR Agricultural Education Division.
- **Participation** - Brought together about 450 students from 25 states, alongside experts and policymakers.
- **Key Addresses & Announcements** - Minister advocated for agricultural diversification and announced intentions to form an **Agriculture Council** to address substandard private colleges.
- A commemorative 10-year journey booklet was also unveiled.
- **Strategic Focus** - Discussions centered on market integration, leveraging AI and robotics in farming, and inspiring youth-led agri-entrepreneurship and research.



Bambara groundnut (*Vigna subterranea*)

It is a drought-tolerant, protein-rich indigenous grain legume native to sub-Saharan Africa, and new computer simulation maps reveal precise regions, planting windows, and land-use limits for cultivating it in southern Africa.

- **What is Bambara Groundnut?**

- **Nutritional Powerhouse**- Often called a "complete food," it contains roughly 63% carbohydrate, 19% protein, and 6.5% fat.

- **Drought & Soil Adaptability**- It thrives in poor, sandy, low-fertility soils with minimal rainfall (300-500 mm annually) and fixes nitrogen (40-80 kg per hectare), making it ideal for intercropping with maize or millet.

- **Underutilized Status**- It is the third most important grain legume in tropical Africa (behind peanuts and cowpeas), though largely grown as a subsistence crop by smallholders.

- **What the New Maps Show (South Africa and Eswatini)**

- Researchers using daily weather data across 49 growing seasons created high-resolution suitability maps for Eswatini and South Africa.

- **Optimal Planting Time**- October is the most favorable month for rainfed planting. Planting later reduces survival rates because of the rising risk of frost near the end of the season. Frost Impact- Factoring in frost risk reduces suitable land areas by 28%.

- **Competing Land Use**- Accounting for land already occupied by mining, urban development, commercial forestry, sugarcane, and fruit trees reduces available land by another 20%.

- **Why Simple Maps Mislead**- A basic map showing where a plant can grow is different from showing where it can reliably harvest a useful yield, especially under drought or Super El Niño pressures.



Environment

Phoenix Species Project

The Phoenix Species Project is a \$200 million global conservation initiative launched on August 4, 2026, by Leonardo DiCaprio's conservation group Re-wild and the Bezos Earth Fund, chaired by Jeff Bezos.

- **Funding-** \$200 million commitment aimed at recovering 100 of the world's most critically endangered species.
- **Scope-** Operates across 30 countries and diverse habitats including oceans, tropical rainforests, and volcanic plains.
- **Featured Species**
 - Golden-crowned sifaka (lemur from Madagascar)
 - Hickory Nut Gorge green salamander (North Carolina)
 - Malayan / Sunda pangolin (Southeast Asia)
 - Visayan warty pig (Philippines)
 - Cozumel harvest mouse (Mexico)
 - Pink land iguana (Galápagos Islands)
 - Pancake tortoise (Tanzania)
 - Starry night harlequin toad (Colombia)
 - Attenborough's long-beaked echidna (New Guinea)
- **Approach-** Provides direct funding, scientific resources, and long-term support to local communities and Indigenous-led conservation groups.

**LEONARDO DICAPRIO AND JEFF BEZOS BACK
\$200 MILLION INITIATIVE TO PROTECT 100 OF
THE WORLD'S MOST ENDANGERED SPECIES
ACROSS 30 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING RARE LEMURS,
SALAMANDERS, PANGOLINS, AND ECHIDNAS**

Security

INS Samarthak

*INS Samarthak is the Indian Navy's first indigenously built Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV), scheduled to be commissioned at the **Naval Base in Karwar on October 16, 2026.***

- **Builder-** Built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at the Kattupalli Shipyard near Chennai.
- **Indigenous Content** - Over 75% homegrown components, supporting the *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* (Self-Reliant India) initiative.
- **Cost & Class-** First of four planned MPVs under an ₹887-crore contract.
- **Displacement & Dimensions-** 3,750 tonnes displacement, 107 meters in length, and an 18.6-meter beam.
- **Performance-** Maximum speed of 15 knots and an endurance range of 4,500 nautical miles with a crew of 116 (including 8 officers).
- **Motto & Crest-** Motto is Victory is Our Sole Aim, featuring a crest with an Indian elephant emerging from the waves.
- **Core Roles & Capabilities**
- **Trial and Evaluation Platform-** Serves as a testbed for next-generation indigenous weapons, sensors, and naval systems.
- **Surveillance & Patrol-** Conducts maritime surveillance, reconnaissance, and offshore patrols.
- **Unmanned Systems-** Acts as a mothership for unmanned and autonomous surface and aerial vehicles.
- **Disaster Relief & Support-** Equipped for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations, conversion to a limited hospital ship, salvage operations, towing, and marine pollution control.
- **Armament-** Features an Oto Melara 76 mm gun, CRN-91 30mm guns, SRCG guns, Varunastra and Shyena torpedo launchers, RBU-6000, SANKET MkIII, Kavach counter-measures, and support for a HAL Dhruv helicopter.



Indian Navy Gets Samarthak 🇮🇳⚓!

Indian Navy receives its first indigenous multi-purpose vessel, Samarthak, designed for surveillance, trials and operational support roles.

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World Economic Outlook October 2026 report

The International Monetary Fund published the World Economic Outlook October 2026 report, projecting global economic growth to slow to 3.1 percent in 2026 before rebounding to 3.4 percent in 2027.

- **Growth Forecast-** Global output growth is projected at 3.1% for 2026.
- **Global Inflation-** Headline inflation is expected to rise to **4.7 percent in 2026** before easing down to **4.1 percent in 2027** (or 3.9% in previous updates).
- **Driving Forces** - Economic activity continues to display resilience despite the impact of the Middle East conflict and energy pressures, supported by private sector adaptation and strong investments in artificial intelligence (AI).
- **Key Risks-** Downside risks remain prominent due to depleted emergency energy stocks, high public debt, elevated borrowing costs, and widening divides between tech-driven economies and energy-importing nations.
- **Regional & Country Projections (2026)**
- **India-** Growth is projected at **7.0 percent to 7.4 percent** for 2026, remaining one of the fastest-growing major economies, with inflation expected around 5 percent.
- **United States-** Projected to grow by **2.3 percent** in 2026.
- **China-** Growth projections have been revised down to **4.4 percent** amid domestic consumption sluggishness and property sector headwinds.
- **Middle East and Central Asia-** The region faces severe strains, with growth or output heavily impacted by regional conflicts.



Miscellaneous

World Students' Day

World Students' Day is celebrated annually in India on October 15 to honor the birth anniversary and legacy of the 11th President of India, renowned scientist, and visionary educator Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

- **Date** - Thursday, October 15, 2026
- **Honoree** - Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (born October 15, 1931, in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu)
- **Official Theme** - There is no formally designated or government-announced theme for 2026.
- **UN Status** - Despite its name, World Students' Day is **not** an officially recognized or declared observance by the United Nations (which instead marks October 15 as the International Day of Rural Women).
- **Significance and Focus**
- **Education & Innovation** - Emphasizes improving access to quality education, scientific curiosity, and creative problem-solving.
- **Youth Empowerment** - Celebrates Dr. Kalam's deep connection with students and his lifelong mission to inspire young minds to build a developed nation.
- **Famous Quote** - "*Dream, dream, dream. Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action.*"

