

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 20-10-2026

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International Relations and Issues

World Health Summit 2026

The World Health Summit 2026 took place from October 11-13, 2026, in Berlin, Germany, and online.

- **Key Details**

- **Theme** - "From Crisis to Resilience - Innovating for Health"

- **Scale** - Over 4,000 on-site participants from 130 countries and territories, 50,000+ online attendees, 400+ speakers, and 76+ sessions.

- **Core Topics** - Global health architecture, pandemic preparedness, women's, children's, and youth health, future-ready health systems, health in conflict settings, and environmental drivers of health.

- **Major Highlights & Announcements**

- **WHO Leadership** - Hosted the first joint public appearance and discussion involving prospective candidates for the next WHO Director-General.

- **Lancet Commission** - Released findings identifying two potential catastrophic threats to human health - the malicious use of artificial intelligence (AI) and nuclear conflict.

- **Wellcome Global Monitor** - Presented data showing a decline in trust in science compared to pre-pandemic levels.

- **Financing & Initiatives:**

- A €250 million program planned by the Government of Bangladesh and the European Investment Bank for women's health and district hospitals.

- A US\$100 million commitment from the Gates Foundation and Wellcome Leap for the Uzima Stillbirth Prevention Program.

- **Next Event** - The World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2027 is scheduled for May 7-9, 2027, in Hong Kong, China, under the theme "Health Across Borders".



Pakistan to Chair IMF-World Bank Boards in 2027

Pakistan has been selected as the incoming Chair of the Boards of Governors of the IMF and World Bank Group for 2027.

- Ahad Khan Cheema, Pakistan's Minister for Economic Affairs and Governor to the World Bank, will serve as the Chair.

- The announcement was made during the 2026 IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings in Bangkok.

- **Significance**

- Pakistan will hold the chairmanship for the first time since 1953.

- Pakistan described it as a "historic milestone" and an opportunity to participate more actively in global economic and development discussions.

- The chair can facilitate dialogue and coordination among member countries on global economic and development issues.

- **2026 Annual Meetings**

- **Venue** - Bangkok, Thailand

- **Dates** - October 12-18, 2026

- **Participation** - Over 15,000 participants from 191 countries.

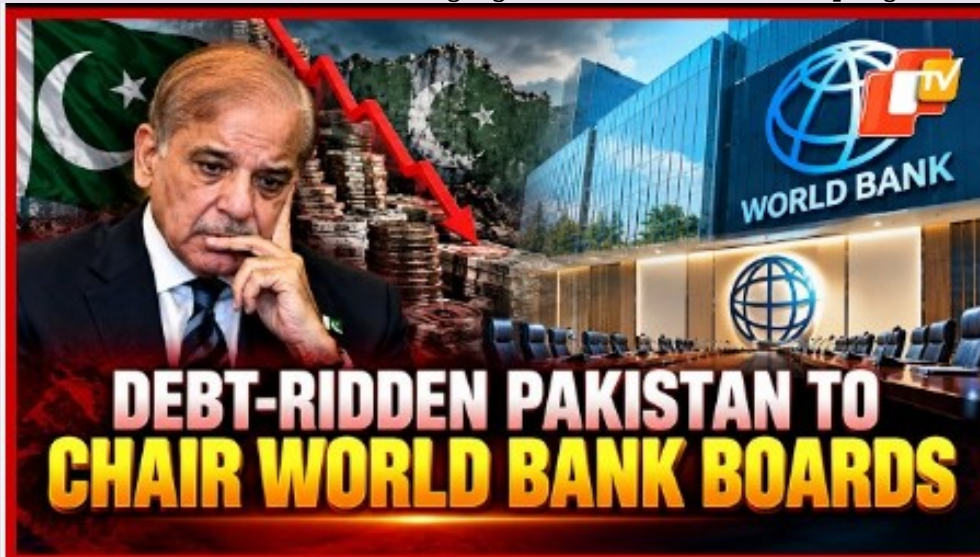
- **Pakistan-IMF Engagement**

- Pakistan is currently receiving IMF support through:

- USD 7 billion - Extended Fund Facility (EFF) - To address balance-of-payments problems and support economic reforms.

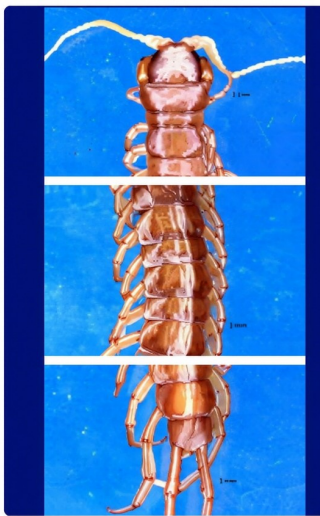
- USD 1.4 billion - Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) - To address climate-related risks and strengthen economic resilience.

- Pakistan is also expected to receive around USD 1.2 billion, subject to approval by the IMF Executive Board, following agreement on the latest programme reviews.



Three New Centipede Species in South India

- Scientists described three new centipede species from southern India – ***Rhysida quadrispinosa***, ***R. coorgensis*** and ***R. neyyarensis***.
- Their discovery increases India's known ***Rhysida*** species to 23.
- Research was conducted by **ZSI's Western Ghat Regional Centre, Kozhikode**, and Malabar Christian College.
- **Key Features**
 - Centipedes belong to the arthropod class **Chilopoda** and are terrestrial predators.
 - They possess **one pair of legs per trunk segment**.
 - Their first pair of appendages is modified into venom-delivering **forcipules**.
- **Biodiversity Significance**
 - The species were identified through **morphological examination** and comparison with taxonomic databases such as **ChiloBase 2.0**.
 - *R. coorgensis* and *R. neyyarensis* are named after **Coorg (Karnataka)** and **Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala)**, highlighting the **Western Ghats' rich biodiversity**.



Rhysida quadrispinosa



Rhysida neyyarensis



Rhysida coorgensis

Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl

A rare *Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl* (*Bubo nipalensis* or *Ketupa nipalensis*) was photographed for the first time in Kozhikode district, Kerala.

- **Location** - Janakikadu (Janakikkad Forest), an eco-tourism center along the Kuttiyadi River in Maruthonkara panchayat, Kozhikode.
- **Observers** - Wildlife photographer and birder Sunil Titto, accompanied by Janakikadu eco-tourism guide Sudheesh A.
- **Significance** - This is the first verified photographic record of the species in Kozhikode district, highlighting the rich biodiversity of the Janakikkad area, which houses over 160 recorded bird species.
- **About the Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl**
- **Local Names** - Known locally in Malayalam regions as “Kolliyan” and “Kattumoonga”.
- **Size & Appearance** - It is the second-largest owl species in India, measuring roughly 55 to 65 cm in length and weighing up to 2.5 kg, with a wingspan reaching up to 1.7 meters.
- **Key Features** - It has deep-set dark eyes, prominent outwardly sloping ear-tufts, rich chocolate-brown upper parts with white spots, and chevron-shaped black spots across its pale/pinkish underbelly.
- **Behavior & Calls** - It is a strictly nocturnal apex predator known for its strange, surprisingly human-like or screaming calls—often earning it the nickname "Ghost of the Forest" or associations with local folklore.
- **Diet** - It hunts snakes, birds, small mammals, and gamebirds at night.
- **Conservation Status** - Classified as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List, though habitat loss remains a broader environmental concern.



Security

JWALA-MK1

- The JWALA-MK1 is India's first indigenously developed private-sector micro-missile, engineered as a "hard-kill" short-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) to physically destroy hostile drones and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).
 - It is developed by the Indian private defense technology firm **IG Defence**.
 - **Key Specifications & Characteristics**
 - **Type** - Short-range surface-to-air micro-missile
 - **Engagement Range** - 2 to 5 km
 - **Altitude Range** - 50 meters to 5,000 meters
 - **Accuracy** - Circular Error Probable (CEP) of under 2 meters at maximum range
 - **Propulsion** - Dual-pulse solid rocket motor (with successful motor test-firings completed)
 - **Guidance & Control** - Fin-controlled design
 - **Warhead** - 0.5 to 1.5 kg pre-fragmented high-explosive payload with a proximity fuze
 - **Launch System** - Truck-mounted multi-canister launcher
 - **Response Time** - Under 7 seconds from detection to launch
- Integration and Ecosystem**
- **GRID Defend Network** - The JWALA-MK1 does not function as a standalone weapon.
 - It acts as the physical effector inside IG Defence's AI-enabled **GRID Defend** battle-management ecosystem, which connects radar sensors, command networks, and electronic warfare systems into a unified picture.
 - **Electronic Warfare Resistance** - Built to operate effectively in GPS-denied and electronically contested or jammed environments.
 - **Economic Rationale** - Designed to provide a cost-effective "hard-kill" alternative to expensive traditional air-defense missiles when countering low-cost drone swarms.

WHAT IS JWALA-MK1?

Developed by IG Defence, JWALA-MK1 is a short-range missile designed to **physically destroy hostile drones**

- **RANGE:** 2-5 km
- **MILESTONE:** Two solid rocket motors tested in October 2026

Miscellaneous

AUSTRAHIND 2026

*The fifth edition of the Press Information Bureau reported that the India-Australia Joint Military Exercise **AUSTRAHIND 2026** commenced on October 19, 2026, at the Foreign Training Node in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.*

Key Details

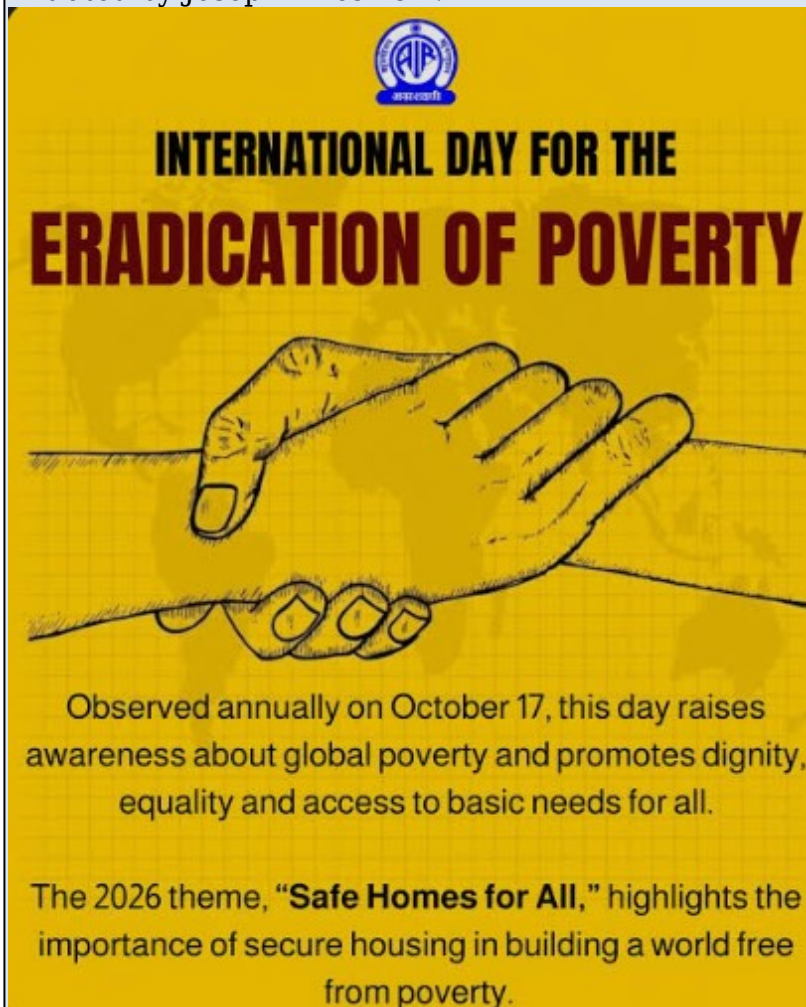
- **Schedule & Location** - Running from October 19 to November 1, 2026, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- **Focus** - Joint Sub-Conventional Operations in Island and Coastal Environments under Chapter Seven of the UN Mandate, highlighting tactical coordination.
- **Participants** - Around 120 personnel per side, featuring the Indian Army's Garhwal Rifles and the Australian Army's 13th Brigade.
- **Context** - Succeeds the fourth edition held in Perth, Australia, in 2025.



International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed globally every year on October 17.

- **Multi-Year Campaign Theme (2026-2028)** - “United for Peace and Human Rights”
- **Specific Focus for 2026** - “Safe Homes for All,” which highlights adequate, secure housing as a foundational requirement for personal dignity, economic security, and social inclusion.
- **Core Context & Statistics:**
 - Over 2.8 billion people worldwide live with some form of housing inadequacy.
 - Approximately 750 million people still live without electricity.
 - Around 700 million people live in extreme poverty, while more than 1 billion experience multidimensional poverty.
- **Background & Origins**
 - **Establishment** - Declared by the UN General Assembly in 1992 via Resolution 47/196.
 - **Historical Roots** - Traced back to October 17, 1987, when over 100,000 people gathered at the Trocadéro in Paris to honor victims of extreme poverty, violence, and hunger, initiated by Joseph Wresinski.



World Menopause Day 2026

World Menopause Day 2026 took place on Sunday, October 18, 2026, with the official theme "Chronic Pain at Midlife".

- **Date** - October 18, 2026
- **Organizing Body** - International Menopause Society (IMS)
- **Official Theme** - "Chronic Pain at Midlife - From Recognition to Evidence-Based Care"
- **Core Focus:**
 - Addressing underrepresented chronic pain, joint aches, and persistent physical discomfort during and after the menopause transition.
 - Countering the gendered dismissal or misattribution of women's midlife pain.
 - Advocating for individualized, multidisciplinary, and evidence-based clinical support.
- **Global & Local Initiatives:**
 - The IMS released multilingual white papers, toolkits, factsheets, and infographics for healthcare providers and the public.
 - Public health agencies (such as in Northern Ireland and Australia) and government bodies (such as India's Ministry of Ayush) emphasized early awareness, lifestyle adjustments, and reducing the stigma surrounding perimenopause and menopause.



World Osteoporosis Day 2026

World Osteoporosis Day 2026 is observed on October 20, 2026, with the global campaign led by the International Osteoporosis Foundation.

- **Theme & Slogan** - "Build, Protect, Strengthen Your Bones for Life" (or Build, Protect, Strengthen Your Bones).
- **Core Focus** - Raising global awareness about osteoporosis as a "silent disease"—where bone loss occurs without symptoms until a fracture happens.
- **Key Statistics:**
 - 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men aged 50 and older suffer from osteoporotic fractures.
 - Only about 20% of fracture patients receive a proper diagnosis or treatment.
- **The 5 Pillars of Bone Health:**
 - **Regular Exercise** - Weight-bearing, muscle-strengthening, and balance activities.
 - **Optimal Nutrition** - Adequate calcium, vitamin D, protein, and safe sun exposure.
 - **Healthy Lifestyle** - Maintaining a healthy body weight and avoiding smoking or excessive alcohol.
 - **Risk Identification** - Recognizing personal and family risk factors (such as age, menopause, or hormonal changes).
 - **Testing & Treatment** - Early bone mineral density testing and timely medical intervention for high-risk individuals.

