

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 21-10-2026

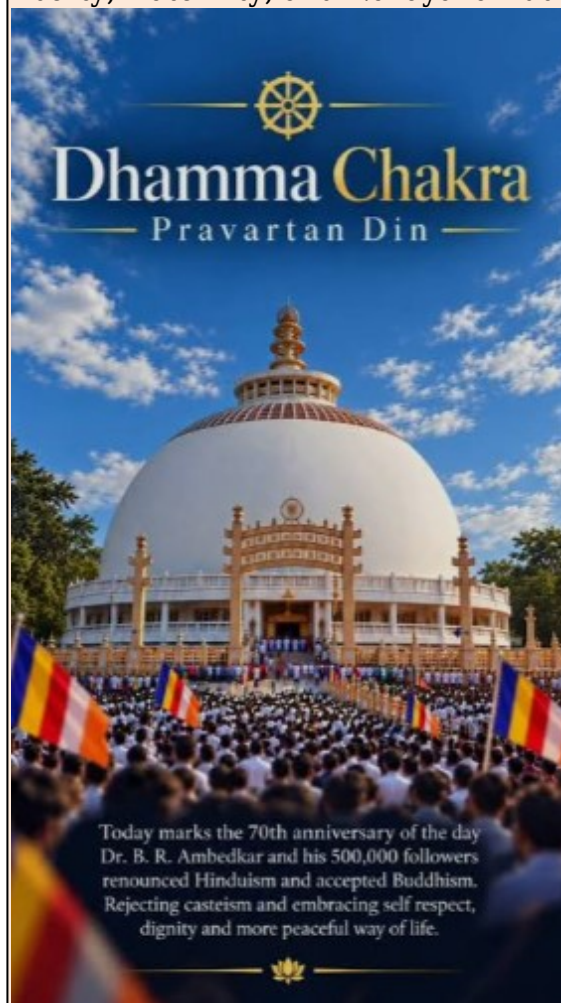
One Liners 21-10-2026

History, Art and Culture

Dhammachakra Pravartan Day

The 70th Dhammachakra Pravartan Day was celebrated on October 20, 2026, marking the milestone anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's historic conversion to Buddhism with hundreds of thousands of followers at Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur. Millions of devotees and international Buddhist monks gathered for the main ceremonies.

- **Date & Venue**- Celebrated mainly on October 20, 2026, at Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur, alongside events nationwide.
- **Presiding Dignitaries**- Headed by Bhadant Arya Nagarjuna Surai Sasai (President of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Smarak Samiti), joined by international monastic leaders and special guests.
- **Civic Arrangements**- The Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) provided 140 bathing spots, 1,285 toilet seats, 160 electric "Aapli" buses, and medical aid centers running through October 22.
- **Core Significance**- Commemorates the 1956 mass conversion event promoting equality, liberty, fraternity, and Navayana Buddhism.



International Day of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

The International Day of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was observed globally on October 17, 2026, marking its third annual edition since UNESCO proclaimed the date in November 2023.

- Communities, cultural groups, and NGOs worldwide organized events throughout October to celebrate living traditions and raise awareness for heritage safeguarding.

- **Date**- October 17, 2026 (third edition)

- **Origin**- Proclaimed at the 42nd session of the UNESCO General Conference under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

- **Scope** - Features over 840 inscribed elements across global registers, highlighting practices like traditional music, dance, craftsmanship, oral stories, and foodways.

- **Global Participation**- Involves States Parties, NGOs, UNESCO Chairs, and local communities hosting exhibits, performances, and public discussions through October 1-31, 2026.



International Relations and Issues

ASEAN emerges as fastest-growing region for exports

India's merchandise exports to ASEAN surged by 56% to reach \$23.08 billion during the first five months of FY27 (April-August), making it the country's fastest-growing regional export market. The expansion was largely driven by a 2.4-fold spike in petroleum product shipments, led by Singapore.

- **Key Growth Drivers**

- **Petroleum Products-** Shipments more than doubled to over \$6.1 billion, with Singapore accounting for nearly three-quarters of the volume.

- **Computer Hardware-** Exports leaped 20-fold to hit \$1.4 billion.

- **Electrical Machinery-** Grew 82% to reach \$1.6 billion.

- **Buffalo Meat-** Recorded a 42% increase, totaling \$1 billion.

- **Broader Context**

- **Market Diversification-** The Times of India notes that shifts in global energy flows and recalibrated trade routes following disruptions in West Asia heavily fueled the surge in petroleum exports.

- **Comparison with Other Regions-** While ASEAN and Africa (up 47% to \$26.19 billion) led overall momentum, the European Union experienced the slowest growth due to falling petroleum shipments.

OIL PRODUCTS GAME CHANGER

Region	2025-26	2026-27	% change
North America	44.4	47.9	7.9
EU	30.6	31.9	4.2
Africa	17.8	26.2	47.2
Asean	14.8	23.1	56.1
NE Asia	15.4	21	36.4
South Asia	10.3	12.8	24.3
Other European countries	7.7	9.5	23.4
Latin America	7.1	8.1	14.1
East Asia	3.6	4	11.1

Source: Commerce dept; Figs in \$Bn

France protests 2026

Massive protests and riots erupted across France in October 2026, driven by high living costs, surging fuel prices, and severe public school funding cuts. The unrest led to localized curfews, over 2,600 arrests, widespread looting, and a massive political crisis for President Emmanuel Macron.

- **Key Triggers and Participants**

- **Student Protests**- High school and university students began blockading schools in September over teacher shortages, overcrowded classes, and poor facilities.

- **Yellow Vests Revival**- Re-emerging social movements joined fuel-price protesters, creating a broad anti-government coalition.

- **Mass Mobilization**- On October 17-18, 2026, between 170,000 (official) and 800,000 (union) people took to the streets nationwide.

- **Violence and Government Response**

- **Severe Clashes**- Demonstrations turned violent in Paris, Limoges (where the historic town hall was firebombed), and other cities, resulting in over 1,500 ransacked businesses and an estimated 3,000 damaged shops.

- **Curfews and Security**- Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu and interior officials imposed localized and partial curfews in Paris, Nice, Lille, and other towns.

- **Military Support**- According to The Independent, the government announced plans to deploy the military Sentinelle force to back up police for upcoming weekend demonstrations.



New America name in New Mexico

President Donald Trump proposed renaming New Mexico to "New America" in a series of social media posts, claiming the change would boost property values and state pride. State and federal leaders from both parties quickly rejected the idea, noting that a president lacks the constitutional authority to unilaterally rename a U.S. state.

- **Details of the Proposal**

- **The Call to Action**– President Trump urged New Mexico to rename itself "New America" on Truth Social, arguing the state should not share a name with Mexico.

- **Stated Claims**– According to reporting from CNN, Trump claimed the new name would increase local home values and incomes, though he provided no evidence.

- **Precedent Actions**– Trump previously issued executive orders to rename federal landmarks, such as changing the Gulf of Mexico to the "Gulf of America" and Lake Ontario to "Lake America".

- **Reactions and Responses**

- **New Mexico Leadership**– Democratic Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham dismissed the proposal on X (formerly Twitter), as reported by KBTX, emphasizing that New Mexico's name dates back to the 16th century—long before the United States or modern Mexico existed.

- **Congressional Pushback**– U.S. Senator Ben Ray Lujan and other state figures rejected the rebrand, stating the name reflects centuries of rich cultural heritage.

- **Constitutional Limitations**– As outlined by USA Today, legal and political analysts note that a U.S. president cannot change a state's name by executive decree; any official state name change would require action through New Mexico's own legislative and constitutional processes.

Trump calls on New Mexico to change its name to 'New America'

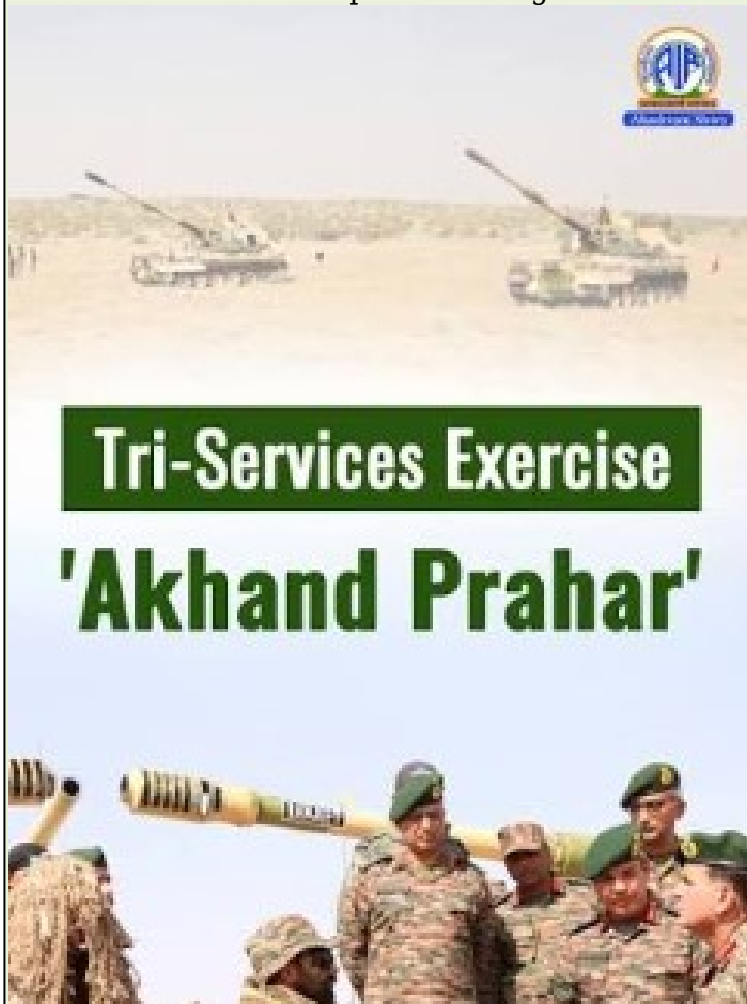
The president's comments about New Mexico – a blue state he lost by 6 points in 2024 – come as Republicans are anxious about holding their congressional majorities in November.



Exercise Akhand Prahar-II

The Indian Army conducted **Exercise Akhand Prahar-II** on or around October 18, 2026, in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Jointly executed by the Black Mace Brigade and the Battle Axe Division under the Konark Corps, the exercise tested multi-domain combat readiness, integrated battle drills, and the use of new-generation equipment.

- **Organiser-** Indian Army (Konark Corps / South Western Command)
- **Location-** Jaisalmer, Thar Desert, Rajasthan
- **Date-** Around October 18, 2026
- **Participating Formations-** Black Mace Brigade and Battle Axe Division
- **Commanding Review-** Applauded by Lieutenant General AVS Rathee, GOC Konark
- **Objectives & Focus Areas**
- **Technology Integration-** Evaluated New Generation Equipment (NGEs) and Force Multipliers (FMs).
- **Combined Arms Synergy-** Validated multi-domain battle drills and coordination among mechanized and infantry units in a desert environment.
- **Modern Warfare Preparedness-** Built upon the framework of the earlier Exercise Akhand Prahar-I to adapt to evolving battlefield demands.



First Drydocking in India

A.P. Moller - Maersk has initiated its first-ever planned drydocking in India by docking the Singapore-flagged container vessel Maersk Chattogram at L&T Shipbuilding's Kattupalli Shipyard near Chennai.

- **Key Project Details**

- **Vessel-** Maersk Chattogram (2,754 TEU, built 2016)
- **Location-** L&T Kattupalli Shipyard, near Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- **Arrival Date-** October 20, 2026
- **Drydock System-** India's largest shiplift system
- **Partnership Origin-** First operational milestone from the MoU signed between Maersk and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) during India Maritime Week 2025
- **Scope of Work**
- **Special Survey-** Mandatory five-year classification survey and inspection.
- **Overhaul & Maintenance-** Work covering the hull, structural elements, ship machinery, equipment, and propulsion systems.
- **Collaboration-** Involves Maersk's global and local technical teams working alongside L&T personnel, Indian subcontractors, and maritime service providers.



Health

World Trauma Day

World Trauma Day was observed on **October 17, 2026**, focusing on injury prevention, the critical "Golden Hour" of emergency response, and reducing life-threatening trauma from road crashes, falls, and workplace accidents.

- **Date-** October 17 (annually)
- **Origin-** Established in New Delhi, India, in 2011 to address rising road traffic injuries and trauma care needs.
- **Core Focus-** Emphasizes rapid emergency intervention, public first-aid training, and stronger pre-hospital trauma systems.
- **Global Impact-** Traumatic injuries represent a leading cause of death and disability worldwide, particularly among individuals under age 45.
- **Why the Day Matters**
- **The Golden Hour-** The first 60 minutes after a severe injury are vital; prompt medical care drastically improves survival rates.
- **Prevention First-** Campaigns urge safer road habits (helmets, seatbelts), strict workplace safety regulations, and bystander readiness in CPR and bleeding control.
- **Honor First Responders-** The observance recognizes paramedics, emergency doctors, nurses, and trauma teams who handle critical care under immense pressure.



OCTOBER 17
WORLD TRAUMA DAY

Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day

Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day is observed annually on October 21 to raise awareness about the critical role of iodine in thyroid function, metabolism, brain development, and the prevention of conditions like goitre and intellectual disabilities.

- **Why Iodine Matters**

- **Thyroid Hormones**- Iodine helps the thyroid gland produce T3 and T4 hormones. These regulate energy, growth, and body temperature.

- **Brain Development**- Adequate intake during pregnancy and early childhood prevents severe neurological and developmental delays.

- **Deficiency Risks**- Low levels lead to hypothyroidism, goitre (neck swelling), fatigue, and cognitive impairment.

- **Prevention and Control**

- **Universal Salt Iodisation**- Using adequately iodized salt (at least 15 ppm) is the simplest and most effective daily prevention strategy.

- **Dietary Sources**- Incorporating seafood, dairy products, eggs, and iodine-rich foods supports overall health.

- **National Initiatives**- India runs the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) to ensure widespread access to iodized salt. Official guidance is shared via public health bodies like the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



Police Commemoration Day 2026

Police Commemoration Day 2026 was observed on October 21 to honor Indian police martyrs. Union Home Minister Amit Shah led the national ceremony at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi, where he laid a wreath and flagged off a 90-rider "Fight Against Drugs" motorcycle rally heading to Ekta Nagar, Gujarat.

- **Historical Background & Significance**

- **Origin**– Commemorates October 21, 1959, when 10 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed in a Chinese troops ambush at Hot Springs, Ladakh.

- **Establishment**– Declared an annual observance during the Annual Conference of Inspectors General of Police in 1960.

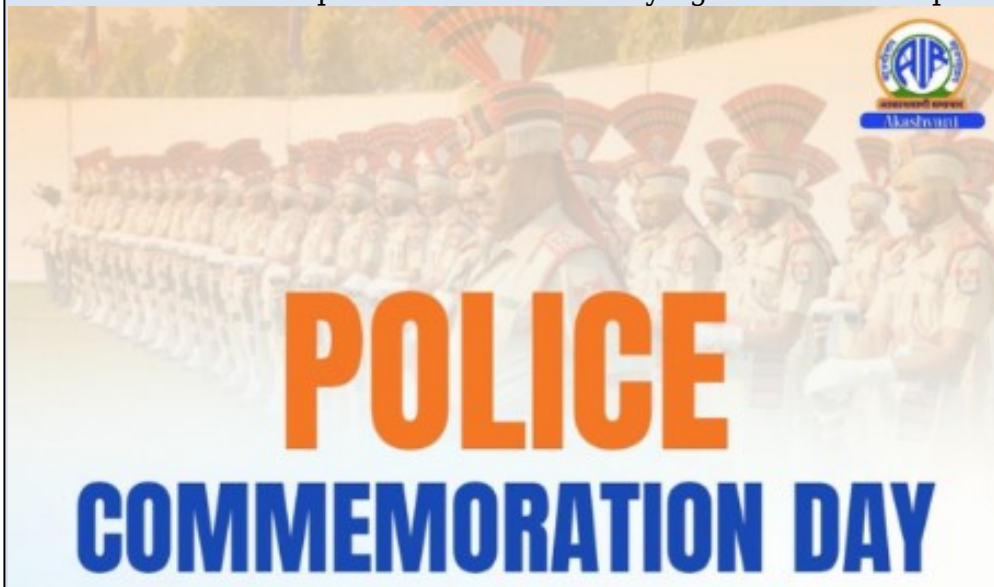
- **National Memorial**– Dedicated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 21, 2018, at Chanakyaपुरi, New Delhi.

- **Key Events in 2026**

- **New Delhi Ceremony**– Union Home Minister Amit Shah honored fallen personnel, and the Director of the Intelligence Bureau read out the names of police martyrs from the past year.

- **Anti-Drug Rally**– A nationwide motorcycle rally featuring about 90 police riders was flagged off from New Delhi, scheduled to conclude at the Ekta Parade in Kevadia, Gujarat, on October 31.

- **State Tributes**– Leaders and state police forces across India—including Tamil Nadu and Mizoram—held local parades and wreath-laying ceremonies at police memorials.



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