

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 26-10-2026

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International Relations and Issues

3rd Largest Exporter Of Defence Goods To Europe

India has emerged as the **third-largest exporter of arms and defence goods to Europe**, driven by rising demand under the European Union's "**ReArm Europe**" initiative.

- **Export Volume-** India's total defence exports reached a record **₹38,424 crore** (approximately **€3.6 billion**) in FY 2025-26, marking a 62.66% increase from the previous year.

- **Key Goods Exported-** Growth is heavily driven by shipments of **standard ammunition, artillery shells, and large- and small-calibre ammunition.**

- **Manufacturing Ecosystem-** India's defense industrial base now spans 16 major public-sector firms, around 840 large and medium private companies, and nearly 17,000 small businesses and startups.

- **Global Reach-** Indian military hardware and equipment are now exported to **more than 80 countries** worldwide.

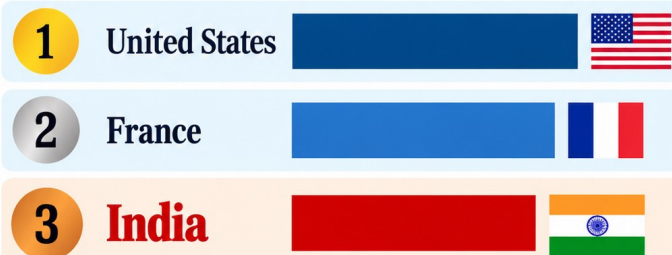
- **Source-** The announcement was made by Defence Secretary **Rajesh Kumar Singh**, citing data from a recent Bloomberg report

INDIA NOW THIRD-LARGEST ARMS EXPORTER TO EUROPE

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh says India has emerged as the third-largest arms exporter to Europe, driven by rising demand and a stronger domestic manufacturing base.



INDIA AMONG TOP ARMS EXPORTERS TO EUROPE



1st joint nuke air strike simulation

France and the United Kingdom staged their first-ever joint nuclear air strike simulation, codenamed "**Rummy**," on October 20, 2026.

- **Key Details of the Exercise**

- **Date-** Tuesday, October 20, 2026 (announced by the defense ministries on October 23, 2026).

- **Codenames & Participants-** Named Exercise "**Rummy**," the drill involved French Rafale fighter jets taking off from the Saint-Dizier air base in northeastern France.

- **Escort Role-** British Royal Air Force (RAF) Eurofighter Typhoon jets escorted the French Rafales.

- **Location-** The simulated long-range nuclear strike took place over the **Mediterranean Sea**.

- **Weapons-** No actual nuclear weapons were used during the drill. Both nations retain independent control over their respective nuclear arsenals.

- **Context-** The exercise follows a bilateral agreement on deeper nuclear cooperation and coordination between Paris and London, reflecting heightened defense posture and "forward deterrence" amid ongoing tensions with Russia.



BRICS Parliamentary Forum meet

The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum takes place in New Delhi, India, on October 26-27, 2026. India is hosting the event in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan as part of its 2026 BRICS Chairship.

- **Theme-** "Fostering Parliaments for People-Centric Development".
- **Host & Leadership-** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla leads the parliamentary proceedings, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the inaugural program.
- **Participants-** Presiding officers, members of parliament, and delegations from 11 member nations and 10 partner/invitee countries are attending.
- **Core Focus Areas**
 - **Legislative Cooperation-** Translating international commitments and executive agreements into domestic laws and institutional frameworks.
 - **Global Governance-** Discussing reforms in international institutions to amplify the voice of the Global South.
 - **Innovation & Technology-** Focusing on ethical artificial intelligence (AI), responsible innovation, and digital transformation.
 - **Sustainable Development & Security-** Addressing sustainable growth, economic inclusion, and joint collaboration on global challenges.



Ukraine in NATO Procurement Agency Partnership

Ukraine officially joined the NATO Support and Procurement Agency's (NSPA) Security Cooperation Support Partnership (SCSP) on October 22, 2026, granting its domestic defense industry direct access to alliance procurement contracts.

- **Partnership Framework**- Ukraine is the first and only non-NATO country to receive a dedicated, single-entry-point partnership within the SCSP.
- **Contract Access**- Ukrainian defense manufacturers can register in the NSPA supplier database, bid on tenders, and sign contracts for a period of four and a half years.
- **Other Members**- Ukraine joins Belgium, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and NATO Headquarters in this specific support partnership.
- **Timeline**-
- **April 2026**- The North Atlantic Council authorized NSPA to issue solicitations and sign contracts with Ukrainian companies.
- **October 14, 2026**- NSPA hosted a Ukraine Industry Day in Kyiv with around 150 domestic defense companies.
- **October 22, 2026**- Ukraine officially became the seventh participant in the SCSP.
- **Strategic Goals**- The initiative allows Ukraine to purchase weapons and equipment faster and more cost-effectively through centralized channels while allowing NATO allies to leverage Ukraine's battle-tested technologies and operational innovations.



30th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 30th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on **October 23, 2026**, in **New Delhi**.

Focus Areas & Discussions

- **Macroeconomic & Cyber Risks-** Assessed domestic and global economic conditions, geopolitical uncertainties, and cybersecurity strategies including the FSCSS.
- **Investment & Assets-** Focused on boosting domestic capital flows, fintech innovation, asset tokenisation, and expediting the return of unclaimed financial assets.
- **Governance-** Recommended holding more frequent meetings to address evolving global challenges.

Financial Stability and Development Council

The FSDC, set up in 2010, is a body consisting all regulators and the Ministry of Finance. It is the highest forum in matters relating to financial stability. The Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister



India's Agricultural Excellence at World Food Prize Foundation Symposium 2026

The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), New Delhi, showcased India's agricultural research excellence at the 2026 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue themed "**Before Hunger Wins,**" held from October 20-22, 2026, in Des Moines, Iowa, USA. **Key Highlights of India's Participation**

- **Exhibition Booth-** Displayed major research publications from both NAAS and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- **Global Youth Institute (GYI)** - Young Indian students participated, with an Indian student winning a Global Youth Institute Award.
- **Academic Roundtable-** Hosted a special roundtable focused on **Agricultural Higher Education**, led by Dr. M. L. Jat to build global partnerships and support the Global South.
- **MoU Signing-** NAAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)**, USA, to boost joint agricultural research, knowledge exchange, and capacity building.



World Polio Day 2026

World Polio Day 2026 was observed on Saturday, October 24, 2026, with the theme **"Together, We End Polio"** (alongside other focus messages like "A Global Mission to Reach Every Child").

Key Highlights from World Polio Day 2026

- **Global Milestone (Americas)** - The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) marked **35 years** since the last wild poliovirus case in the Americas (reported in 1991, with certification in 1994). However, vaccination coverage remained below the recommended 95% threshold.
- **Core Mission-** Organized largely through Rotary International, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), the day mobilized governments, donors, and health workers to finish eradicating wild polio in remaining endemic regions (such as Pakistan and Afghanistan).
- **Regional & Local Focus-** Public health agencies and leaders—including regional WHO offices and national campaigns—stressed maintaining routine immunizations, closing post-pandemic coverage gaps, and honoring frontline healthcare workers and volunteers.



Nagastra 2 Anti-Tank Loitering Munition System

The Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL) delivered the first batch of the indigenous Nagastra 2 Anti-Tank Loitering Munition System to the Indian Army in October 2026, following successful technical trials at the Mahajan Field Firing Range.

Key Specifications & Features

- **Developer-** Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (Nagpur, India)
- **Warhead-** 4 kg tandem shaped-charge anti-tank warhead designed to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) and penetrate up to **650 mm** of Rolled Homogeneous Armour (RHA)
- **Operational Range-**
 - Up to **25 km** in recover-and-reuse mode
 - Up to **50 km** in fire-and-forget mode
- **Endurance-** Up to **60 minutes** of flight time
- **Surveillance-** Equipped with day-and-night electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) surveillance cameras
- **Electronic Warfare (EW) Resilience-** Features Electronic Counter-Countermeasures (ECCM) to counter GPS jamming, spoofing, and communication interference in contested environments.
- **Indigenization-** Over **80%** indigenous content

The graphic features the title 'Nagastra-2' in large, bold, blue and yellow letters at the top. Below it, a banner reads 'INDIA'S INDIGENOUS ANTI-TANK LOITERING MUNITION'. The central image shows the Nagastra-2 missile mounted on a launcher in a desert field, with a green tent and military vehicles in the background. Below the image, a section titled 'Key Capabilities' lists four features: 4 kg Tandem shaped-charge warhead, 650 mm Claimed RHA penetration, ECCM Electronic counter-countermeasures, and Designed to counter jamming and GPS spoofing. At the bottom, a banner reads 'Strengthening India's Indigenous Defence Capabilities' with the Indian tricolor and a soldier's silhouette.

Nagastra-2

INDIA'S INDIGENOUS ANTI-TANK LOITERING MUNITION

Key Capabilities

BUILT FOR MODERN BATTLEFIELD CHALLENGES

- 4 kg**
Tandem shaped-charge warhead
- 650 mm**
Claimed RHA penetration
- ECCM**
Electronic counter-countermeasures
- Designed to counter jamming and GPS spoofing

Strengthening India's
Indigenous Defence Capabilities

Miscellaneous

2026 Oskar Klein Medal

Renowned Indian theoretical physicist Ashoke Sen has been awarded the 2026 Oskar Klein Medal, making him the first Indian physicist to receive this international honor.

- **About the Oskar Klein Medal**

- **Organizers-** Awarded annually by Stockholm University and the Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

- **History-** Established in 1988 to honor the legacy of Swedish theoretical physicist Oskar Klein.

- **Distinguished Past Recipients-** Includes Nobel laureates such as Stephen Hawking, Peter Higgs, Chen-Ning Yang, Steven Weinberg, Hans Bethe, and Kip Thorne.

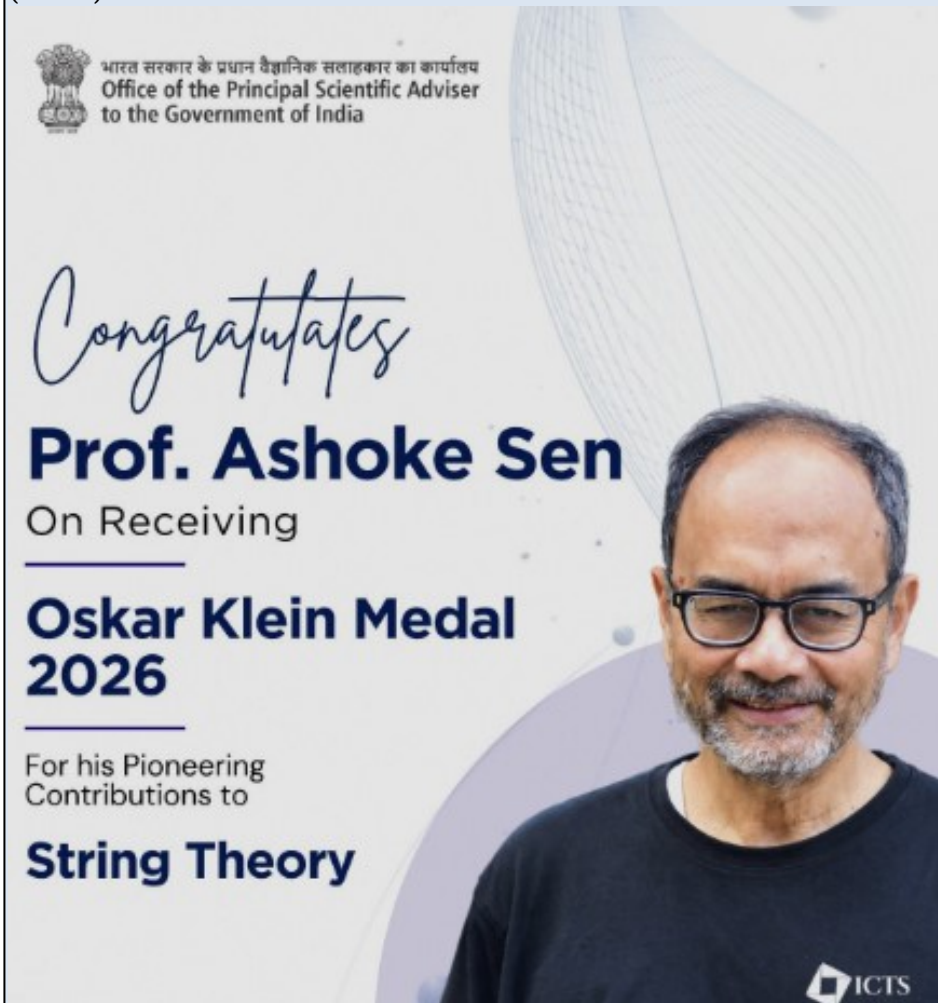
- **Why Ashoke Sen Won**

- **Pioneering Research-** Recognized for his foundational contributions to string theory, S-duality, string field theory, and the precise counting of black hole entropy.

- **Memorial Lecture-** Received the medal and delivered the official Oskar Klein Memorial Lecture titled "*Gravity from Strings and Strings from Gravity*" at Stockholm University's AlbaNova Centre on October 22, 2026.

- **Current Role-** Serves as the Infosys-Madhava Chair Professor at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS) in Bengaluru.

- **Other Major Honors-** Previously awarded the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics (2012), the Dirac Medal (2014), the Padma Shri (2001), and the Padma Bhushan (2013).



National Urban Conclave 2026

The National Urban Conclave 2026 concluded on October 25, 2026, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- **Dates-** October 24-25, 2026
- **Location-** Bhubaneswar, Odisha (Mayfair Sanctuary)
- **Theme-** “Urban Rising - Rethinking Urban Systems, Solutions and Delivery”
- **Organizers-** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in collaboration with the Government of Odisha, HUDCO, NBCC, and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) as the knowledge partner.
- **Attendance-** Over 1,200 delegates, including government officials, urban local body representatives, industry experts, and academics. **Key Takeaways & Recommendations**
- **Urban Governance & Finance-** Emphasized strengthening municipal finance, empowering urban local bodies, and moving past mere infrastructure creation to improve the actual "ease of living".
- **Major Initiatives & Launches**
 - Unveiled the **CPWD Nirman** and **CPWDway** platforms for digital project monitoring.
 - Launched the **Used Water Marketplace** under AMRUT 2.0 and the **UCF Portal**.
 - Released the children's book *Swachhata Ke Superheroes* and new street food hubs under PM SVANidhi.
 - Signed an MoU between JICA and CPHEEO for circular water treatment cooperation.
 - Flagged off 25 electric buses under the PM e-Bus Sewa Scheme in Odisha by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.





SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
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