

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 28-10-2026

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#### History, Art and Culture

##### Nelakondapalli Buddhist Heritage Destination

*The Nelakondapalli Buddhist Heritage Destination is an ancient archaeological site located in Khammam district, Telangana, India.*

- **Location-** Nelakondapalli village, Palair Assembly constituency, Khammam district, Telangana (near Balasamudram lake). **Primary Monument-** An imposing ancient Mahastupa (locally called *Eradibba* or *Virataraja Dibba*) standing about 46 feet tall with a diameter of roughly 170 feet (25-30 meters).
- **Historical Period-** Dates back to the Satavahana (2nd-3rd century CE), Ikshvaku (3rd-4th century CE), and later Vishnu Kuntin periods.
- **Archaeological Finds-** Excavations have revealed brick-built *viharas* (monastic residences), *chaitya* halls, wells, water cisterns, a 30 cm bronze Buddha idol, terracotta figures, and a miniature limestone stupa.
- **Recent Development-** On October 26, 2026, Telangana Revenue and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy laid the foundation stone for a **₹4.26-crore** project to develop the site into an international Buddhist heritage and tourism destination over an 18-month timeline.



#### International Relations and Issues

## **Brazil Election 2026**

Incumbent President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva won the 2026 Brazilian presidential runoff election on October 26, 2026, securing an unprecedented fourth non-consecutive term. Read the full breakdown on Britannica.

- **Election Results and Historical Comeback**

- **Final Vote Share-** Lula won with **51.8%** of the valid vote (securing a record 64 million votes), defeating right-wing Senator Flávio Bolsonaro (Liberal Party), who received **48.2%**.

- **First-Round Reversal-** In the first round on October 4, 2026, Flávio Bolsonaro led with 47% of the vote to Lula's 45%. Lula's victory marked the first time since Brazil restored direct presidential elections in 1989 that a candidate won the runoff after placing second in the first round.

- **Voter Turnout-** A major surge in voter turnout and a drop in abstention between the two rounds helped fuel Lula's comeback, particularly with strong support from Brazil's northeast region.

- **Post-Election Reaction and Challenges**

- **Contestation-** Flávio Bolsonaro and his political party refused to concede, claiming the election should be annulled. Jair Bolsonaro, Flávio's father and former president, left Brazil for the United States amid ongoing legal investigations.

- **Market Response-** Financial markets reacted nervously to the result, with the São Paulo stock exchange dropping sharply and the Brazilian real weakening against the U.S. dollar as investors evaluated Lula's fiscal and economic trajectory.

- **Governing Obstacles-** Lula's new term is set to begin on January 5, 2027. He faces a deeply polarized electorate, a hostile Congress heavily populated by Bolsonaro allies, and complex domestic and international pressures, including strained relations with U.S. leadership.



## 13th ADMM-Plus Meeting in Philippines

The 13th ADMM-Plus Meeting is taking place on October 28-29, 2026, in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, in the Philippines.

- **Host & Chair**- The Philippines holds the ASEAN Defence sector chairmanship for 2026 and is hosting the 20th ADMM and 13th ADMM-Plus. Theme- "Navigating Our Future, Together".
- **Indian Delegation**- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh leads the Indian delegation and is delivering an address on "Exchange of Views on Regional and International Security Issues".
- **Participants**- Brings together defence ministers and representatives from the 10 ASEAN member states and 8 dialogue partners (India, United States, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand).
- **Key Discussions**- Focuses on regional security, maritime security, cyber security, defence cooperation, and bilateral meetings on the sidelines.

# 13th ADMM-Plus

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR A SAFER AND MORE SECURE REGION

Held in **Cebu, Philippines**  
The Philippines serves as the **Chair** for ADMM-Plus.

The **Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister)** leads the Indian delegation at the 13th ADMM-Plus held in Cebu, Philippines.

**What is ADMM?**  
The ADMM is the highest consultative and cooperative defence mechanism within ASEAN.

**What is ADMM-Plus?**  
ADMM-Plus is the expanded platform that brings together ASEAN and its dialogue partners to enhance security and multilateral defence cooperation.

**Origin & Evolution**

- Inaugural ADMM-Plus convened in Hanoi, Vietnam (2010).
- Initially convened triennially/biennially; **since 2017**, it meets annually.

**11 ASEAN Member States**

Brunei Cambodia Indonesia Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Philippines Singapore Thailand Timor-Leste Vietnam

**Economy**

### India's First Cooperative-Sector Airline

The Kerala government has officially approved the proposal for **Co-Keralam**, India's first cooperative-sector airline, led by the Kerala Civil Aviation Development Cooperative Society.

#### **Key Details of the Project**

- **Leadership-** Spearheaded by C.N. Vijayakrishnan, Chairman of the MVR Cancer Centre and Research Institute.
- **Governance-** Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan serves as the chair of the project, with the state cooperative minister as vice-chair.
- **Funding & Investment-** Around 200 cooperative societies are expected to invest ₹2 crore each, raising a total equity pool of ₹400 crore.
- **Operations & Fleet-** The airline plans to operate leased 72-seater aircraft (such as ATR-type turboprops) to enhance regional air connectivity within southern India.
- **Ticket Pricing-** Proposed domestic fares are planned to range affordably between ₹3,500 and ₹7,000.
- **Current Status-** The initiative has received formal state approval and registration handover, though commercial flight schedules and regulatory clearances from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) are still pending.



## **Twin-Drone SAR System**

*The Indian Naval Academy Unveils Twin-Drone SAR System developed a two-drone maritime search and rescue (SAR) system designed to locate and assist people in distress at sea.*

### **How the System Works**

#### **• Quadcopter (Surveillance & Detection)-**

- - Equipped with 2K optical and thermal cameras.
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  - Uses a YOLO artificial intelligence model to scan live video feeds and spot human heat signatures against ocean water.
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- Flight time- Up to 45 minutes.
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- Payload capacity- 0.5 kg.
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- Maximum speed- 50 km/h.

#### **• Hexacopter (Payload Delivery)-**

- - Receives GPS coordinates from the quadcopter via long-range radio-frequency (RF) communication.
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- Flies to the target location and drops a self-inflating lifebuoy to the person in the water.
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- Flight time- Up to 25 minutes.
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- Payload capacity- 2.5 kg.
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- Maximum speed- 40 km/h.

#### **• Key Specifications & Control-**

- - Operating radius- 10 km for both drones.
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  - Human-in-the-loop- The final command to release the lifebuoy remains under direct human operator control.



## **GARUDA SHAKTI 2026**

*The Press Information Bureau (PIB) reports that the joint special forces exercise Garuda Shakti 2026 is underway.*

- **Edition-** 11th edition of the India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise.
- **Dates-** October 27 to November 6, 2026.
- **Location-** Banyuwangi, East Java, Indonesia.
- **Participating Units-**
- **India-** Troops from the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) of the Indian Army.
- **Indonesia-** Personnel from the Indonesian Special Forces.
- **Focus & Training Activities-**
- Jungle warfare tactics and survival
- Obstacle crossing, combat marksmanship, and mountaineering
- Air assault training and combat-hardening sessions
- Exchange of expertise on weapons, equipment, and special operations procedures (counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism)
- **Conclusion-** The exercise ends with a validation exercise simulating real operational scenarios to test readiness and coordination.



**Environment**

### Unusual sighting of greater flamingos at Veeranam lake

- An unusual sighting of greater flamingos occurred at Veeranam Lake in the Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu.

- **Key Details of the Sighting**

- **Location-** Veeranam Lake, an inland freshwater reservoir located about 50 km inland in Cuddalore district.

- **Normal Habitat-** Greater flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) are typically found in coastal and saline habitats such as the Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary, Muthupettai Lagoon, Pichavaram mangroves, and coastal mudflats.

- **Significance-** It is rare to find these coastal waterbirds at an inland freshwater body, highlighting how environmental stress shifts bird behavior.

- **Why Did This Happen?**

- **Altered Migration & Weather-** Researchers note that the sighting is linked to altered rainfall patterns during the Southwest monsoon and a severe water deficit.

- **Impact of Super El Niño-** Unusual climate conditions and subpar water flow from the Cauvery river left coastal mudflats dry with scarce food resources.

- **Foraging Opportunities at Veeranam-** The receding water levels at Veeranam Lake created shallow areas ideal for wading. Meanwhile, evaporation concentrated plankton and other food items, turning the freshwater lake into a temporary feeding station.



### Osbeckia assamensis

*Osbeckia assamensis* is a newly discovered species of flowering plant in the family Melastomataceae, identified in the grasslands of Manas National Park in Assam, India.

• **Discovery & Publication-** Formally described by researchers Barnali Das and Professor Namita Nath and published in the botanical journal *Phytotaxa* on October 22, 2026. Field surveys were conducted between 2021 and 2025.

• **Plant Description-**

• Perennial erect shrub growing between 2 and 2.5 metres tall.

• Features an unbranched or sparsely branched quadrangular stem with strigose (rigid/hairy) textures.

• Bears bright pink flowers (measuring 3 to 3.5 cm) arranged in clusters of 30 to 35 flowers per inflorescence.

• **Flowering & Fruiting Season-** Spans from September to February.

• **Distinction-** Closely resembles *Osbeckia nayarii*, but differs in stem structure, leaf/calyx features, flower cluster size (*O. nayarii* has 5–12 flowers), and seed size.

• **Conservation Status-** Classified as **Data Deficient (DD)** under the IUCN criteria.



**New Flower Species *Osbeckia assamensis* Discovered in Assam's Manas National Park**

## New Giant Waterlily Species in Colombia

Scientists formally identified *Victoria colombiana* on October 9, 2026, as a new giant waterlily species published in the botanical journal *Phytotaxa*. It is the fourth scientifically recognized member of the giant waterlily genus *Victoria* (family *Nymphaeaceae*).

- **Discovery and Identification**

- **Social Media Sighting-** In 2021, Carlos Magdalena—a horticulturist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew—noticed unusual waterlily photos on Instagram posted by American plant enthusiast Jeremiah Harris.

- **Satellite Verification-** Magdalena used satellite imagery to spot the massive, circular floating pads in lakes within the Inírida River system (located in Colombia's Guainía department).

- **Field Expedition-** A joint team from Kew Gardens, the Bogotá Botanical Garden, and local Indigenous guides (including Gustavo Melo from the Tucano community) traveled to a flooded rainforest lake to collect a rare flowering specimen.

- **Physical Features**

- **Massive Leaves-** The bright green, flat leaves (sometimes featuring a small upturned rim) can reach up to 2 to 2.5 meters across and are large enough to be detected via satellite.

- **Prickles and Spines-** The undersides feature short, soft prickles that push away neighboring plants as it grows.

- **Bloom Cycle-** The plant is an annual (growing leaves between April and October and blooming in July and August). Its flowers emerge as spiny underwater buds and bloom over the course of two nights, closing during the intervening day.

- **Habitat and Evolution**

- **Geographic Isolation-** It grows in the upper Orinoco drainage basin, a river system isolated from the Amazon basin over long geological periods, which helped the species evolve independently.

- **Population and Conservation**

- **Critically Endangered-** Researchers estimate that only **30 to 50 individual plants** remain in the wild.

- **Conservation Plans-** Efforts include growing seeds at the Bogotá Botanical Garden and Kew Gardens, alongside planned protections within local Indigenous territories.



In 2021, a plant grower posted photos of giant water lilies in Colombia on Instagram; the pictures led researchers to a new species with less than 100 plants on Earth

## Sports

### 2029 World Weightlifting Championship

Ahmedabad will host the Senior World Weightlifting Championships in 2029, marking the first time India has ever staged the senior edition of the global event.

#### **Key Details of the Announcement**

- **Decision-** The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) awarded the hosting rights to Ahmedabad, Gujarat, during its Executive Board meeting in Ningbo, China.
- **Historical Significance-** This is the first time India will host the senior World Weightlifting Championships since the event was first held in 1891.
- **Qualifying Context-** The 2029 championship will serve as a crucial qualifying event for the **2030 Commonwealth Games**, which are also scheduled to be hosted in Ahmedabad.
- **Broader IWF Allocations-** During the same meeting, the IWF awarded the 2030 Senior World Weightlifting Championships to Moscow, Russia, the 2028 World Youth Championships to Prishtina, Kosovo, and the 2028 World Junior Championships to Caracas, Venezuela.
- **Gujarat's Sporting Momentum-** This follows other major regional events, including the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2025, the Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026 (held in Gandhinagar/Ahmedabad), and aligns with broader ambitions like India's bid for the 2036 Olympics.

**AHMEDABAD TO  
HOST 2029 WORLD  
WEIGHTLIFTING  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**



**IWF**



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*