UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 31-10-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

*National Unity Day (**Rashtriya Ekta Diwas**) is observed on **October 31, 2026**, marking the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister.*

• **Key Details for 2026**

• **Main Celebration Venue–** The primary official parade and events take place at the **Statue of Unity** in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat.

• **Ekta Parade–** An Ekta Parade is organized on Ekta Path featuring participants from state police forces, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), and paramilitary units.

• **Bharat Parv 2026–** A mega cultural festival showcasing India's diversity, regional traditions, handicrafts, and cuisines runs from **October 30 to November 15, 2026**.

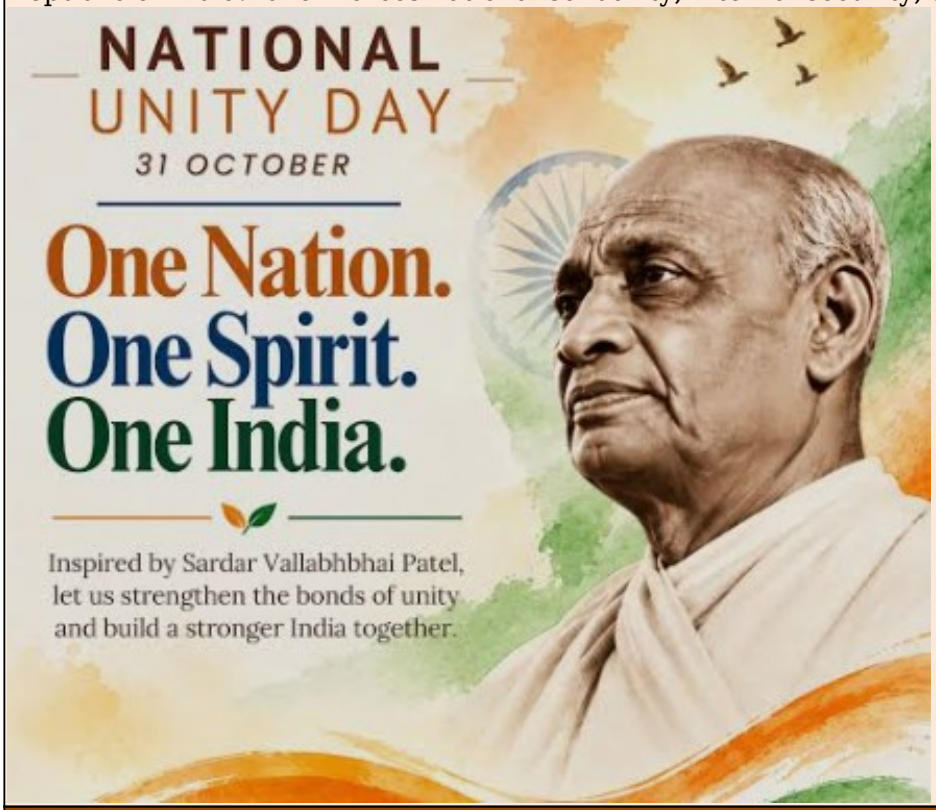
• **Nationwide Activities–**

• **Run for Unity** rallies and marches are organized across states and union territories (such as in Aizawl, Mizoram and various institutions).

• **Unity Pledge** ceremonies are administered in government offices, schools, and higher education institutions like the UGC and MYBharat.

• **Significance**

• The day honors Sardar Patel's pivotal role in integrating over 560 princely states into a unified Republic of India. It reinforces national solidarity, internal security, and patriotism.



Geography

Mayon Volcano eruption

Mayon Volcano erupted on October 30, 2026, sending an ash plume 3,000 meters (nearly 10,000 feet) into the air and prompting a rise in the alert level to Alert Level 3.

• **What is Mayon Volcano?**
• **Location–** Albay province in southeastern Luzon, Philippines.
• **Shape–** A classic stratovolcano famed as the world's most symmetrical volcanic cone.
• **Height–** Rises 2,462 meters (8,077 feet) above the Albay Gulf.
• **Tectonic setting–** Part of the Pacific **Ring of Fire**, driven by the subduction of the Philippine Sea Plate.
• **The October 2026 Eruption**
• **The Event–** On October 30, 2026, at 11–53 a.m., the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (**PHIVOLCS**) recorded a six-minute explosive eruption.
• **Ash and Plume–** The explosion sent a grayish ash plume 3,000 meters high, drifting west-southwest and causing ashfall in nearby towns like Daraga, Camalig, and Guinobatan.
• **Alert Level 3–** PHIVOLCS raised the status to Alert Level 3, warning of an increased risk of hazardous lava flows, rockfalls, and **pyroclastic density currents** (fast-moving avalanches of hot gas, ash, and volcanic rock).
• **Evacuations–** Local authorities ordered mandatory evacuations for residents living inside the 6-kilometer Permanent Danger Zone and suspended school classes across Albay province.
• **Historical Context**
• Mayon is the most active volcano in the Philippines, with over 50 recorded eruptions.
• Its deadliest eruption occurred in **February 1814**, when pyroclastic flows and mudflows buried the town of Cagsawa and killed more than 1,200 people

International Relations and Issues

AMRAAM Assembly Facility

The United States and Japan agreed to establish a final assembly and inspection facility in Japan for the AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM).

• **Overview of the Agreement**

• **Announcement–** Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced the agreement on October 28, 2026, during the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Cebu, Philippines.

• **Operation Supercharge–** The facility is part of **Operation Supercharge**, a joint bilateral initiative to accelerate cooperation on defense equipment, technology, and missile manufacturing.

Partner Companies– The Japanese partner tied to the coproduction and circuit card manufacturing scope is **Mitsubishi Electric**, working alongside the U.S. manufacturer **Raytheon** (an RTX business).

• **Strategic Purpose & Significance**

• **Addressing Stockpile Shortages–** The move aims to alleviate dwindling U.S. and allied missile inventories caused by global demands and conflicts, creating a secondary production node rather than replacing U.S. lines.

• **F-35 Integration–** AMRAAMs are the primary active-radar guided beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles cleared to operate on the **F-35 Joint Strike Fighter** fleets flown by both nations.

• **SM-3 Block IIA Cooperation–** Alongside the AMRAAM facility agreement, the two nations agreed to share technical data to boost production of the **Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IIA** ship-based ballistic missile interceptor.

• **Regional Deterrence–** The alliance expansion is framed as a step toward reinforcing a denial defense along the First Island Chain in response to growing security challenges in the Indo-Pacific.

• **Key AMRAAM Characteristics**

• **Active Radar Guidance–** Uses active transmit-and-receive radar guidance instead of purely receive-only semi-active systems.

• **Fire-and-Forget–** Operates on a "fire-and-forget" principle, allowing aircrews to engage multiple targets simultaneously after launch.

• **Jamming Resistance–** Can switch from active radar homing to passive homing if targeted by electronic jamming.

Turkiye-Libya maritime deal 2026

On October 20, 2026, Libya's eastern-based House of Representatives (HoR) in Benghazi unanimously approved the controversial 2019 Turkey–Libya maritime boundary agreement, reversing its previous 2020 rejection of the deal.

• **Key Details of the 2026 Ratification**

• **The Vote–** The eastern parliament voted to revoke its prior resolutions and end its boycott of the agreement following a leadership change that brought Al-Salhin Abdelnabi al-Obeidi in as speaker.

• **Unified Libyan Stacking**– The agreement—originally signed in November 2019 by Turkey and the UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli—now officially has the backing of both rival Libyan power centers.

• Analysts also note the move aligns with political efforts by Saddam Haftar (deputy commander of eastern forces) to build ties with Ankara.

• **The Core Agreement**– The pact delineates an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) between Turkey and Libya across the Eastern Mediterranean, intended to facilitate joint seabed resource and energy exploration claims.

• **Regional and International Reactions**

• **Greece & Cyprus–** Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis strongly condemned the ratification on October 30, 2026, labeling it "blatantly illegal, null and void," and stating that it completely ignores the geography and territorial rights of Greek islands (such as Crete and Rhodes) under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

• **European Union & Egypt**– The EU, Egypt, Israel, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates have all rejected or criticized the move, viewing it as a violation of international law and a challenge to existing regional energy forums like the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum.

• Egypt recently renewed an offer to negotiate its own maritime boundary with Ankara amid the shifting dynamics.

• **Turkey–** President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has dismissed the international backlash, asserting that Turkey is lawfully protecting its sovereign maritime rights and interests in the Mediterranean.

Economy

High-Level Committee on Banking Reforms

*The Indian government has constituted the **High-Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat** to review and recommend comprehensive reforms for the banking sector.*

• **Committee Leadership & Composition**
• **Chairman–** Suresh N. Patel (former Central Vigilance Commissioner)
• **Members–**
• Shirish Chandra Murmu (Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor)
• Padmaja Chunduru (former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank)
• N. S. Vishwanathan (former RBI Deputy Governor)
• **Member Secretary–** Joint Secretary (Banking), Department of Financial Services
• **Tenure–** 6 months (to submit recommendations by April 2027)
• **Key Terms of Reference & Focus Areas**
• **Global Competitiveness–** Build banks and financial institutions with the scale and resilience to support India's growth and global ranking goals by 2047.
• **Regulatory & Legal Frameworks–** Review laws and rules for commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), and Cooperative Banks to improve operational efficiency and ease of banking.
• **Capital & Investment–** Assess long-term capital requirements for banks, Development Financial Institutions (DFIs), and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), while evaluating private investment boosts.
• **AI & Digital Innovation–** Create a roadmap for adopting artificial intelligence and digital innovations while instituting safeguards against cyber risks.
• **Inclusion & Credit Delivery–** Review the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) framework and Lead Bank Scheme to ensure balanced, data-driven credit growth.
• **Workforce & Talent–** Formulate a talent acquisition and capacity-building strategy for a future-ready banking workforce.

Security

Rafale Marine's First Landing on INS Vikrant

*A French-origin **Rafale Marine** fighter jet completed its historic maiden landing and take-off on India's indigenous aircraft carrier, **INS Vikrant**, on October 29, 2026. The milestone was achieved on the jet's very first attempt.*

• **Key Details of the Milestone**

• **Date–** October 29, 2026

• **Location–** Onboard INS Vikrant at sea (following shore-based trials at the Shore Based Test Facility at INS Hansa in Goa)

• **Trial Focus–** Evaluating the aircraft's compatibility with INS Vikrant's **STOBAR** (Short Take-Off But Arrested Recovery) system, including ski-jump launches, deck arresting gear, elevator sizing, and structural integration.

• **Procurement and Fleet Background**

• **Order Size–** India has contracted **26 Rafale Marine** aircraft from France (22 single-seat fighters and 4 twin-seat trainers).

• **Contract Value–** Valued at approximately Rs.**63,000 crore** (or roughly €7.5 billion / US$36 billion reported across different estimates).

• **Timeline–** Deliveries are expected to begin by late 2028 or early 2029 and conclude by 2030–2031 to modernize the Indian Navy's carrier fleet.

Science

Genus Neoterpnosia

Neoterpnosia *is a genus of cicadas in the family Cicadidae, first described by entomologists Young June Lee and David Emery in 2014. It belongs to the subtribe Euterpnosiina within the tribe Leptopsaltriini and subfamily Cicadinae. The genus name translates literally to "new Terpnosia".*

• **Key Diagnostic Features**

• Members of this genus are distinguished from other genera in the subtribe Euterpnosiina by several distinct morphological traits–

• **Wing Venation–** The basal portion of the RA2 vein (the basal vein of apical cell 1) on the forewing is exceptionally short—measuring roughly one-third or less of the length of the longitudinal portion of RA2. It meets the longitudinal vein at an angle of roughly 135 degrees.

• **Abdominal Coloration & Structure–** The male abdominal tergites 2–5 or 2–6 feature lighter-colored sublateral or lateral patches that match the color of the abdominal sternites. Additionally, male abdominal segments 3, 4, and 5 are moderately inflated on the sides.

• **Lack of Tubercle Projections–** Unlike similar groups, the male abdominal sternites do not possess tubercle-like projections.

• **Genitalia–** The male pygofer is narrowly elliptical when viewed from below, features a well-developed basal lobe, and contains an uncus that is not bifurcated but has an incised apex.

• **Included Species**

• The genus includes five recognized species distributed across South and Southeast Asia–

• ***Neoterpnosia oberthuri*** **(Distant, 1912) –** The type species of the genus, originally described under *Terpnosia*. It is widely distributed across Bhutan, northeastern India, and China.

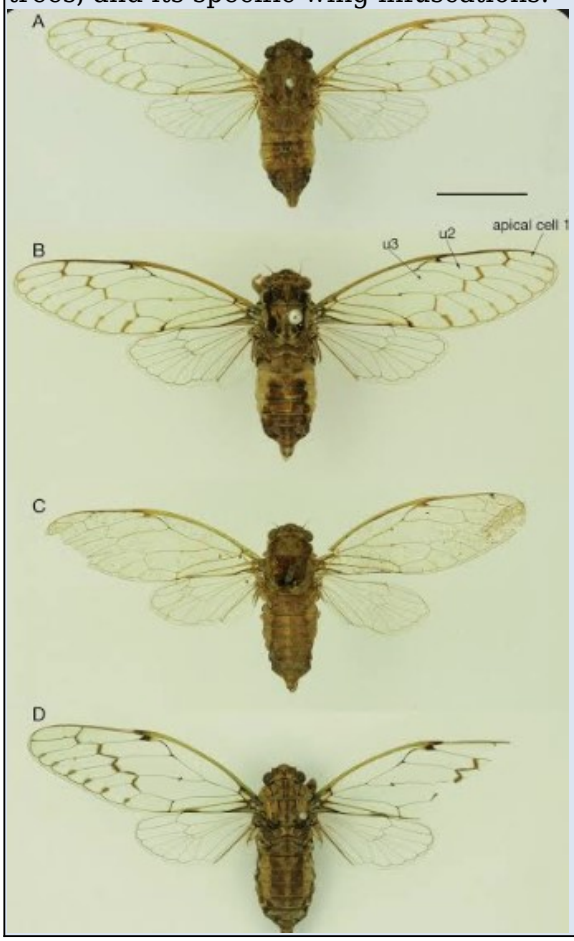
• ***Neoterpnosia versicolor*** **(Distant, 1912) –** Transferred from *Terpnosia* due to matching structural traits, this species is distributed across Nepal and Myanmar (Burma).

• ***Neoterpnosia personalis*** **Lee & Emery, 2014–** Discovered and described out of Vietnam.

• ***Neoterpnosia donghai*** **Lee & Emery, 2014–** Discovered and described out of India.

• ***Neoterpnosia mawphlangensis*** **Ting & Shangpliang, 2026–** A new species described out of the semi-evergreen subtropical pine forests of the Mawphlang Hills in Meghalaya, Northeast India.

• It is known for its distinct mating chorus that peaks at dusk, its heavy camouflage against mossy trees, and its specific wing infuscations.



Allocaecilius nilgiriensis

Allocaecilius nilgiriensis is a newly discovered species of barklouse (an insect in the order Psocodea) identified by scientists from the Zoological Survey of India.

• **Key Details**

• **Habitat & Distribution**– Found across the high-altitude shola and evergreen rainforests of the Southern Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

• **Classification–** It belongs to the family Pseudocaeciliidae and is only the second species of the genus Allocaecilius ever recorded in India.

• **Global Count**– This discovery brings the total number of known Allocaecilius species worldwide to 13.

• **Physical Features**–

• Distinctive brown patches on specific distal cells (R_1, R_3, and R_5) of its forewings.

• Specialized thumb-like structures on the male's lower abdomen (hypandrium).

• A deeply indented subgenital plate in females.

• **Ecological Role**– Barklice act as natural micro-scavengers, grazing on mold, fungi, algae, lichens, and dead organic debris on tree bark.

Fourth Spacewalk at the ISS by Anil Menon

NASA astronaut Anil Menon completed his fourth career spacewalk on October 29, 2026, alongside Canadian Space Agency (CSA) astronaut Joshua Kutryk, outside the International Space Station (ISS).

• **Duration**– The extravehicular activity (EVA) lasted 7 hours and 11 minutes (beginning at 7–57 a.m. EDT and concluding at 3–08 p.m. EDT).
• **Partner**– Menon was joined by CSA astronaut Joshua Kutryk (marking Kutryk's first spacewalk).
• Menon wore the spacesuit with red stripes as Crew Member 1, while Kutryk wore the unmarked suit as Crew Member 2.
• **Core Task**– The duo installed and deployed the seventh of eight new International Space Station Roll-Out Solar Arrays (iROSAs) on the station's 2A electrical power channel.
• This upgrade is part of a multi-year project boosting the station's power generation capacity by up to 30%.
• **Milestones–**
• It marked the 100th U.S. spacewalk conducted from the ISS's Quest airlock without a Space Shuttle docked.
• It was the 285th spacewalk overall supporting station assembly, maintenance, and upgrades.
• With this mission, Menon’s cumulative spacewalking time reached 26 hours and 31 minutes. He currently ranks second among Indian-origin astronauts in total spacewalks, behind Sunita Williams.
• **Upcoming Plans**
• A follow-up spacewalk is scheduled for November 5, 2026, where Menon and Kutryk are expected to install the eighth and final iROSA on the starboard side to complete the power-augmentation program.

Sports

World Boxing U19 Championships 2026

*India finished its campaign at the **World Boxing U19 Championships 2026** in Budva, Montenegro, with a total of **four medals** (1 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze).*

Indian Medalists

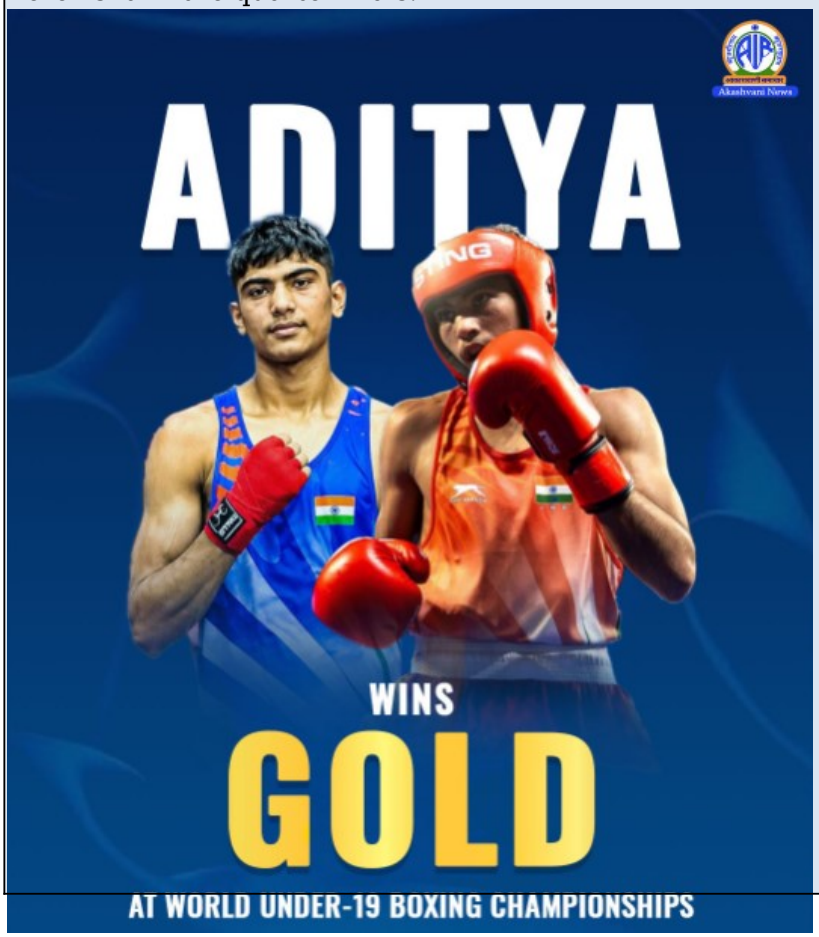
Weight Category	Boxer	Medal
Men's 55kg	Aditya	Gold
Women's 80kg	Megha Sheokand	Silver
Women's 65kg	Harshika	Bronze
Women's Over 80kg (80+kg)	Prachi Tokas	Bronze

Tournament Highlights

• **Aditya's Gold –** Aditya clinched India's sole gold medal in the men's 55kg category after defeating Russia's Islam Magomedov 4–1 in the final, bouncing back after losing the opening round. On his way to the final, he defeated Italy's Tommaso Orlando (5–0), Serbia's Filip Stanojevic, and Azerbaijan's Nihat Gasimov (5–0) in the semifinals.

• **Megha's Silver–** Megha Sheokand reached the women's 80kg final—defeating Kyrgyzstan's Meerim Chynybekova in the semifinals—before settling for the silver medal after a unanimous decision loss to Russia's Ekaterina Frolova.

• **Bronze Finishes–** Harshika (women's 65kg) and Prachi Tokas (women's 80+kg) both secured bronze medals after competitive semifinal matches, with Prachi having earlier defeated Kealey Perez 5–0 in the quarterfinals.



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