

# Daily Current Affairs

## 07 October 2026

### World Space Week 2026

- World Space Week 2026 is being observed from 4 October to 10 October 2026 across the world. The annual celebration highlights the contribution of space science and technology to human development and encourages greater international cooperation in space exploration.
- The theme for World Space Week 2026 is “**Rocket Revolution.**” It focuses on the rapid transformation taking place in launch technologies, particularly the rise of reusable rockets, private space companies, startups and new spacefaring nations.
- On 4 October 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the world’s first artificial satellite. The successful launch marked the beginning of the Space Age.
- The week concludes on 10 October, marking the date in 1967 when the Outer Space Treaty entered into force.
- The theme “Rocket Revolution” highlights major changes taking place in the global launch industry. Traditional expendable rockets are increasingly being complemented by reusable launch systems, which can significantly reduce the cost of accessing space.
- India is also preparing to expand its role in human spaceflight through the Gaganyaan programme.
- India’s maiden crewed Gaganyaan mission is planned for 2027. If successful, India would become the fourth country to independently send humans into space, after the Soviet Union/Russia, the United States and China.

| Country/Group | People Sent to Space |
|---------------|----------------------|
| United States | 369                  |

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Soviet Union/Russia | 138 |
| China               | 29  |



## **Maresh Kakde Wins 2026 Ramanujan Prize**

- Indian mathematician Maresh Kakde, a professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has been awarded the 2026 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries for his outstanding contributions to number theory.
- The award recognises Kakde's important research in algebraic number theory, particularly his work on Iwasawa theory, the Gross-Stark conjecture and the Brumer-Stark conjecture.
- The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries is awarded to outstanding mathematicians working in developing countries.
- It is jointly awarded by:
  - International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)
  - International Mathematical Union (IMU)
- The award is meant for mathematicians below the age of 45 who have made significant contributions to mathematical research while working in developing countries.
- The prize was established in 2005 and carries a cash award of USD 10,000.
- Number theory is the branch of mathematics concerned with numbers and their properties.
- Algebraic number theory goes a step further and uses algebraic methods to study numbers and the structures associated with them.

- It seeks to understand questions such as:
- How numbers behave in different mathematical systems
- Relationships between equations and number structures
- Patterns involving prime numbers
- Properties of algebraic numbers
- Links between different areas of mathematics
- One of Kakde's major areas of research is Iwasawa theory.
- In simple terms, Iwasawa theory studies how certain mathematical properties change when number systems are extended into increasingly complex structures.



## Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026

- The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026 has been awarded jointly to Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai for their pioneering contributions to asymmetric organic synthesis.
- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences honoured the two scientists “for the discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis.”
- Both laureates will share the prize equally, with each receiving a one-half share of the 2026 Chemistry Nobel Prize.
- Their discoveries are important for:
- Designing more selective chemical reactions
- Developing safer and more effective medicines

- Manufacturing complex organic compounds
- Understanding the origin and amplification of molecular chirality
- Advancing modern catalytic chemistry



## Smriti Mandhana Appointed New Captain of Indian Cricket Team

- Smriti Mandhana has been appointed as the new captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team, succeeding Harmanpreet Kaur, who has stepped down from the captaincy across formats.
- Smriti Mandhana, aged 30, was serving as the vice-captain of the Indian women's team before being elevated to the captaincy.
- She has previously captained India in 18 T20 Internationals and 4 One-Day Internationals.
- 
- Mandhana made her international debut in 2013 and has represented India in Tests, ODIs and T20Is.
- She has also led Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to two Women's Premier League titles.
- Harmanpreet Kaur, 37, stepped down after a highly successful tenure as India captain.
- She captained India in:
- 5 Tests

- 51 ODIs
- 155 T20Is
- Under her leadership, India achieved several major milestones, including:
- India's first-ever Women's 50-over World Cup title
- Four T20 Asia Cup titles
- Two Asian Games gold medals



## Djokovic Wins Seventh China Open Title

- Serbian tennis legend Novak Djokovic won the 2026 China Open men's singles title in Beijing on 6 October 2026, securing his seventh title at the tournament and the 102nd tour-level trophy of his career.
- The final ended unexpectedly when Australia's Alex de Minaur retired because of a groin injury early in the second set. At the time, Djokovic was leading 7-6(3), 0-1.
- With this victory, Djokovic improved his remarkable China Open record to 34-0 across seven appearances.
- He has now won the tournament every time he has entered, underlining his dominance at the Beijing event.
- The 2026 title also made Djokovic the oldest ATP 500 champion since the category was introduced in 2009, achieving the feat at the age of 39 years.
- The China Open is a professional tennis tournament held in Beijing, People's Republic of China.
- The men's event is part of the ATP Tour and is classified as an ATP 500 tournament.

- The ATP 500 category was introduced in 2009 and awards 500 ranking points to the singles champion.



## **Alcaraz Wins Japan Open for Second Straight Title**

- Spanish tennis star Carlos Alcaraz won the 2026 Japan Open men's singles title in Tokyo on 6 October 2026, defeating Jiri Lehecka of the Czech Republic in straight sets.
- Alcaraz won the final 7-6(4), 6-4, successfully defending his title and claiming his second consecutive Japan Open crown.
- The Japan Open Tennis Championships is a professional ATP Tour event held in Tokyo, Japan.
- The men's singles tournament is played on hard courts and is one of the important Asian events on the ATP calendar.
- The Japan Open victory was Alcaraz's third title of the 2026 season.
- His notable titles in 2026 included:
  - Australian Open
  - Japan Open
  - One additional ATP title during the season
- With the Tokyo triumph, Alcaraz increased his career title tally to 27.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. What is the theme of World Space Week 2026?**

- A) Space for Humanity
- B) Rocket Revolution
- C) Space and Sustainability
- D) Exploring New Worlds

**Answer: B) Rocket Revolution**

**2. Sputnik 1, the world's first artificial satellite, was launched by which country?**

- A) United States
- B) China
- C) Soviet Union
- D) France

**Answer: C) Soviet Union**

**3. Who has been awarded the 2026 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries?**

- A) C. R. Rao
- B) Mahesh Kakde
- C) Manjul Bhargava
- D) Akshay Venkatesh

**Answer: B) Mahesh Kakde**

**4. Mahesh Kakde is associated with which institution?**

- A) IIT Delhi
- B) IISc Bengaluru

- C) IIT Bombay
- D) ISI Kolkata

**Answer: B) IISc Bengaluru**

**5. Who were jointly awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry according to the source?**

- A) Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai
- B) Kenso Soai and Carolyn Bertozzi
- C) Henri B. Kagan and Omar Yaghi
- D) Kenso Soai and Mounqi Bawendi

**Answer: A) Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai**

**6. Smriti Mandhana was appointed captain of which team?**

- A) Indian Women's Hockey Team
- B) Indian Women's Cricket Team
- C) Indian Women's Football Team
- D) India A Women's Cricket Team

**Answer: B) Indian Women's Cricket Team**

**7. Who won the 2026 China Open men's singles title?**

- A) Carlos Alcaraz
- B) Alex de Minaur
- C) Novak Djokovic
- D) Jannik Sinner

**Answer: C) Novak Djokovic**

**8. Novak Djokovic's 2026 China Open victory was his how manyeth title at the tournament?**

- A) Fifth
- B) Sixth
- C) Seventh
- D) Eighth

**Answer: C) Seventh**

**9. Who did Carlos Alcaraz defeat in the 2026 Japan Open final?**

- A) Alex de Minaur
- B) Jiri Lehecka
- C) Novak Djokovic
- D) Daniil Medvedev

**Answer: B) Jiri Lehecka**

**10. What was Carlos Alcaraz's career title tally after winning the 2026 Japan Open?**

- A) 25
- B) 26
- C) 27
- D) 28

**Answer: C) 27**