

# Daily Current Affairs

## 19 October 2026

### Sangeet Natak Akademi Selects 2024 Yuva Puraskar

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi General Council selected 106 young artists for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2024 and 2025 at a meeting held in New Delhi from 22 to 26 March 2026.
- The awards are scheduled to be conferred by Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on 19 October 2026 at the Meghdoot Complex, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi is India's national academy for music, dance and drama. Established in 1953, it functions as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture. Its work includes promoting and preserving India's performing arts traditions. The Akademi's activities cover classical and folk forms, theatre, puppetry and other traditional performance practices.
- Instituted in 2006, the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar recognises young artists under the age of 40 for achievements in music, dance and drama. Each recipient receives ₹25,000, a Tamrapatra and an Angavastram. The award is named after Ustad Bismillah Khan, the Indian shehnai maestro who received the Bharat Ratna in 2001.
- The 2024 theatre awardees include Prasanna Kumar Soni, Atul Satya Koushik, Bidyut Kumar Nath, Arpita Dhagat, Anirudh Sarkar, K Veerammal, Rohit Chandra, Kalamandalam Ravikumar and Debiprasad Mishra. From Assam, Minakshi Medhi was selected for Sattriya Dance, Dilip Hira for Folk Music and Bidyut Kumar Nath for Theatre Direction.



## **DRDO Develops 20% Lighter Armour**

- DRDO has developed indigenous armour panels that are 20% lighter than existing systems. The Research and Development Establishment (Engineers) (R&DE(E)), based in Pune, developed the panels for future Indian Army combat vehicles.
- As of October 2026, the panels had completed in-house testing and met the organisation's internal operational requirements.
- The new panels meet STANAG 4569 Level 6 protection standards and are designed to withstand 30 mm armour-piercing (AP) ammunition. STANAG 4569 is a NATO standard that specifies protection levels for occupants of military vehicles against ballistic threats and other hazards.
- Armour panels are protective components fitted to vehicles to reduce the risk posed by projectiles. The stated 20% weight reduction is measured against existing armour systems. The development is indigenous, meaning that it was undertaken within India by a DRDO laboratory.
- DRDO listed the technology for industry transfer around 1 October 2026 under its Category A Transfer of Technology (ToT) programme. Three manufacturing licences were made available, and several major companies had expressed interest by October 2026.
- Under ToT, a technology developed by a public research organisation is transferred to industry for production. The panels had completed in-house tests, but the stated testing status refers to DRDO's internal evaluation.



## Sheetal Devi Equals World Record in Asian Para Games Archery

- Indian para-archer Sheetal Devi scored 704 points out of 720 in the women's compound archery ranking round at the 2026 Asian Para Games. The event took place at Okazaki Chuo Sogo Park Multipurpose Square in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, on 19 October 2026.
- A compound bow uses cables and cams to reduce the force required to hold the bow at full draw. In a standard 72-arrow ranking round, each arrow can score up to 10 points, giving a maximum total of 720. The X-ring is the innermost scoring area and can be used to break ties.
- Devi recorded 32 Xs and 57 arrows scoring 10 points. Her total of 704 matched the world record jointly held by Turkish archer Oznur Cure, also known as Oznur Girdi.
- Para archery is an adaptive form of archery for athletes with physical impairments. International para-archery competitions include recurve, compound and W1 events, with athletes competing in classifications based on eligibility criteria and impairment.
- Devi, a 19-year-old archer from Jammu and Kashmir, also set an Asian Para Games record. Her score exceeded her previous Games record of 680 points, set at Hangzhou in 2023.
- The 704-point result improved Devi's previous Asian record of 698, set in Bangkok in March 2026, by six points. An Asian record is a mark recognised for

the continent, while a world record is the highest recognised mark in the relevant event worldwide.



## **Amruta Pujari Wins Silver at U-23 World Wrestling Championships**

- Amruta Pujari won a silver medal in the women's 72kg category at the U-23 World Wrestling Championships in Las Vegas, United States, on 17 October 2026. India's women wrestlers finished the competition with two medals, while India's overall tally was three medals: two silver and one bronze.
- Pujari reached the final after recording two consecutive pinfall victories. In the final, Ukraine's Iryna Zablotska pinned her while leading 6-0 to win the gold medal. Komal won bronze in the women's 59kg category, defeating Kazakhstan's Viktoriia Khusainova 7-2 in the medal bout.
- India's other silver came from Vishvajit More in the Greco-Roman 55kg division on 15 October. He became India's first silver medallist in Greco-Roman wrestling at the U-23 World Wrestling Championships. Sweety lost the women's 53kg bronze-medal play-off to Ukraine's Anastasiia Polska by technical superiority, 0-11.
- A pinfall, also called a fall, occurs when a wrestler holds both of an opponent's shoulders against the mat. Technical superiority is a result declared when a wrestler establishes the required scoring lead under the rules of the relevant wrestling style.
- Repechage gives some wrestlers who lost to finalists another route to a bronze-medal bout. Wrestling at the championships included freestyle and Greco-

Roman events, conducted in separate weight categories for men and women. Greco-Roman wrestling restricts holds to the upper body and does not permit attacks below the waist.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. When is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty observed?**

- A) 15 October
- B) 16 October
- C) 17 October
- D) 24 October

**Answer: C) 17 October**

**2. World Food Day is observed every year on which date?**

- A) 10 October
- B) 16 October
- C) 17 October
- D) 24 October

**Answer: B) 16 October**

**3. Mahila Kisan Diwas is observed in India on:**

- A) 11 October
- B) 14 October
- C) 15 October
- D) 18 October

**Answer: C) 15 October**

**4. World Students' Day is associated with the birth anniversary of:**

- A) Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
- B) Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
- C) Vikram Sarabhai
- D) Homi J. Bhabha

**Answer: B) Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**

**5. According to the October 2026 Henley Passport Index, what was India's rank?**

- A) 80th
- B) 82nd
- C) 84th
- D) 85th

**Answer: C) 84th**

**6. Which country ranked first in the October 2026 Henley Passport Index?**

- A) Japan
- B) Singapore
- C) South Korea
- D) United Arab Emirates

**Answer: B) Singapore**

**7. Where was the World Health Summit 2026 held?**

- A) Geneva, Switzerland
- B) Paris, France
- C) Berlin, Germany
- D) Vienna, Austria

**Answer: C) Berlin, Germany**

**8. Who was named Pakistan's incoming chair of the World Bank and IMF Boards of Governors for 2027, according to the supplied material?**

- A) Ishaq Dar
- B) Ahad Khan Cheema
- C) Muhammad Aurangzeb
- D) Shehbaz Sharif

**Answer: B) Ahad Khan Cheema**

**9. Which Indian para table tennis player won a silver medal in women's singles Class 4 at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics?**

- A) Manika Batra
- B) Sonalben Patel
- C) Bhavina Patel
- D) Baby Sahana Ravi

**Answer: C) Bhavina Patel**

**10. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were established following which conference?**

- A) Bandung Conference, 1955
- B) Bretton Woods Conference, 1944
- C) San Francisco Conference, 1945
- D) Yalta Conference, 1945

**Answer: B) Bretton Woods Conference, 1944**