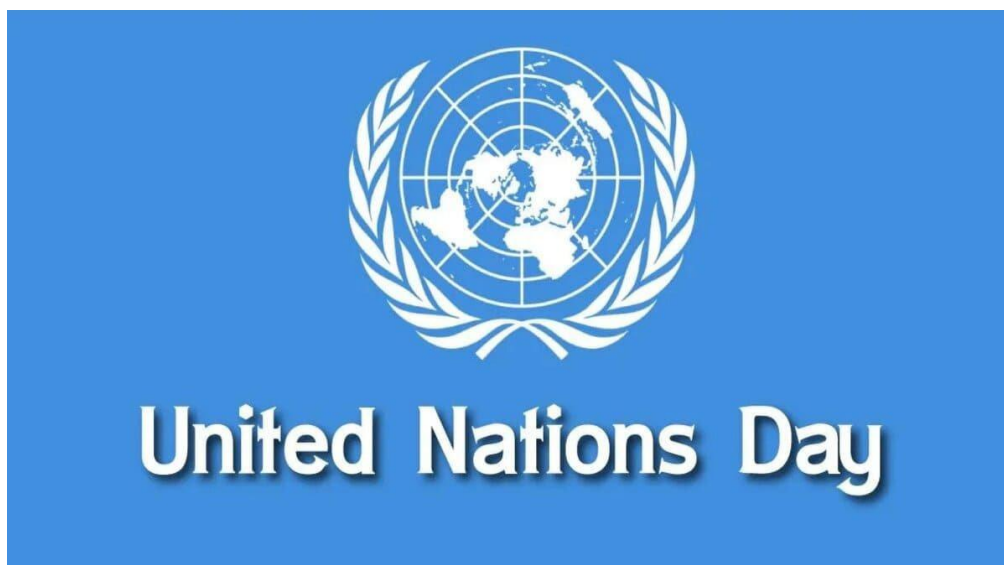


Daily Current Affairs

24 October 2026

United Nations Day 2026

- UN Day is celebrated each year on 24 October in recognition of the date on which the UN Charter came into effect in 1945.
- This year, it is the 81st anniversary of the organisation, marking over eight decades of collaboration across the world on issues related to peace and security, human rights, development, and humanitarian aid.
- The charter of the United Nations was signed by representatives of 50 countries on 26 June 1945 at the United Nations Conference on International Organisation held in San Francisco, United States. Poland became the 51st signatory of the Charter at a later date.
- The Charter came into effect on 24 October 1945, having been ratified by the five permanent members of the Security Council and a majority of other signatories.
- United Nations Day has been celebrated annually since 1948 and was officially established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1947.



World Polio Day 2026

- World Polio Day is marked every year on 24 October as an attempt to create awareness about poliomyelitis and help in the eradication of the disease by using vaccination all around the globe. The theme of World Polio Day in 2026 is **“Together, We End Polio”**.
- Polio, also known as poliomyelitis, is a highly contagious viral infection that can lead to paralysis of the affected person. The virus usually infects children under the age of five, but adults who have never received a vaccine can also get it.
- **Symptoms of Polio**
 - Fever, headache, and tiredness.
 - Pain and stiffness of muscles, especially of the back and limbs.
 - Muscle weakness.
 - Paralysis and breathing problems (in severe cases).
- The last case of wild polio virus in India occurred on 13 January 2011. The South-East Asia region of the World Health Organization was declared as having stopped transmission of wild polio virus on 27 March 2014 as the conditions were fulfilled. This included India also.



Ashoke Sen Wins Oskar Klein Medal 2026

- The Indian theoretical physicist, Ashoke Sen, has been honored with the Oskar Klein Medal 2026, and he has become the first Indian physicist to receive such an international award.
- This prize is awarded in recognition of his pathbreaking work on string theory, in which he has made groundbreaking work in S-duality, black hole entropy counting, and string field theory.

- Oskar Klein Medal is an annual international award of physics that has been in existence since 1988. It is awarded annually by the Stockholm University and the Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The award is named after Oskar Klein, a renowned Swedish theoretical physicist.



Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award

- The Assam Cabinet has recommended a national-level award in honor of the late Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika for individuals who have made significant contributions to the fields of music and culture.
- The first recipient of the award would be singer Usha Mangeshkar, owing to her contributions to Indian music and connection with Hazarika's musical creations.
- The Assam Cabinet has also increased the amount of money that comes with the Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev Award and finalized the list of Assam civilian awards for 2025.
- Srimanta Sankardev was an Assamese saint, scholar, poet, playwright, and social reformer belonging to 15th-16th centuries.
- He was a significant contributor to the Neo-Vaishnavite movement in Assam.



Youngest Female International Master in Chess

- Bodhana Sivanandan, a British chess player who is 11 years old with Indian descent, earned the title of the youngest ever female International Master (IM) on 23rd of October 2026.
- This was following her earning of the last IM norm after beating Viktoria Johansson of Sweden in the final round at the European Club Cup held in Budva, Montenegro.
- International Master is one of the most common titles granted by the International Federation of Chess, whose acronym is FIDE. This title is open, that is, all players regardless of their gender can obtain it. The higher title than the International Master title is the Grandmaster (GM).
- FIDE offers both general titles as well as distinct women's titles. A woman may earn any one of the two types of titles.



Sunil Kumar Appointed Next ONGC Chairman

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Sunil Kumar as the next Chairman of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
- The approval was conveyed through an order dated October 21, 2026, following a proposal from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas based on the recommendation of the Search-cum-Selection Committee (SCSC).
- Kumar is currently serving as an Executive Director at ONGC. His appointment will take effect from the date he assumes charge, on or after December 7, 2026.
- The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is India's largest government-owned oil and gas exploration and production company.
- Status: Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India.
- Headquarters: Deendayal Urja Bhawan, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.
- Founded: August 14, 1956.



National Strategic Trade Command Centre Launched

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, has launched the National Strategic Trade Command Centre in New Delhi. The initiative aims to strengthen the monitoring, analysis and governance of India's international trade ecosystem through integrated data analytics and evidence-based decision-making.
- The command centre will provide senior policymakers and government officials with a consolidated view of India's trade performance, export promotion schemes, regulatory approvals, application processing and key operational indicators.
- The NSTCC will bring together dashboards covering important functions of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and several trade-related regulatory and facilitation processes.
- These include:
 - **Importer Exporter Code (IEC):** Identification of entities involved in import and export activities.
 - **Advance Authorisation:** A scheme that permits duty-free imports of inputs used to produce export goods, subject to applicable conditions.
 - **Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG):** A scheme designed to facilitate the import of capital goods for export production.
 - **Certificate of Origin:** Documentation certifying the country of origin of exported goods.

- **SCOMET:** Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies, a category associated with the regulation of specified sensitive goods and technologies.
- **Restricted imports and exports:** Monitoring of relevant trade restrictions and regulatory processes.
- **Other trade facilitation processes:** Regulatory approvals, application processing and operational indicators.



Pankaj Advani Wins 29th World Title

- Indian cueist Pankaj Advani won his 29th career world title at the WBL World Billiards Championships on 23 October 2026. He defeated England's Robert Hall 1,906–1,206 in the final, held in Great Wyrley, England. The five-hour match saw Advani recover from a deficit of more than 300 points.
- Advani's victory was his 21st world championship title in billiards. He received the John Roberts Trophy, named after the 19th-century English billiards champion John Roberts Sr. Advani made a break of 587 in the final, the highest break of the championship.
- A break is a series of points scored during a player's visit to the table before the turn ends. Advani reached the final after defeating defending champion David Causier 1,607–1,271 in the semi-final. In the quarter-final, he beat Sourav Kothari 1,134–575.
- Advani competes in billiards and snooker, two cue sports played on a baize-covered table with cues and balls. His 29 career world titles include titles across the two disciplines; the 2026 championship added to his billiards title tally. Shruthi L's win gave India the women's title at the same championship.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. When is United Nations Day observed every year?

- A. 21 September
- B. 24 October
- C. 10 December
- D. 26 June

Correct Answer: B. 24 October

Q2. In which year did the United Nations Charter come into force?

- A. 1942
- B. 1944
- C. 1945
- D. 1948

Correct Answer: C. 1945

Q3. What was the theme of World Polio Day 2026, according to the provided current-affairs material?

- A. End Polio Now
- B. Vaccines for Every Child
- C. Together, We End Polio
- D. A Polio-Free World

Correct Answer: C. Together, We End Polio

Q4. Who received the Oskar Klein Medal 2026 for contributions to theoretical physics?

- A. Abhay Ashtekar
- B. Ashoke Sen
- C. C. N. R. Rao
- D. Jayant Narlikar

Correct Answer: B. Ashoke Sen

Q5. Who was named as the first recipient of the proposed Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award in the supplied material?

- A. Lata Mangeshkar
- B. Asha Bhosle
- C. Usha Mangeshkar
- D. Shreya Ghoshal

Correct Answer: C. Usha Mangeshkar

Q6. Bodhana Sivanandan reportedly achieved which chess title in October 2026?

- A. Woman Grandmaster
- B. International Master
- C. Grandmaster
- D. Woman International Master

Correct Answer: B. International Master

Q7. Who was approved as the next Chairman of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)?

- A. Sunil Kumar
- B. Piyush Goyal
- C. Sourav Kothari
- D. Robert Hall

Correct Answer: A. Sunil Kumar

Q8. Who launched the National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC)?

- A. Union Minister of Finance
- B. Union Minister of External Affairs
- C. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal
- D. Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Correct Answer: C. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal

Q9. What is the full form of SCOMET in India's trade-regulation framework?

- A. Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies
- B. Strategic Council for Overseas Markets and Export Trade
- C. Special Committee on Maritime Export Trade
- D. Security Coordination Mechanism for External Trade

Correct Answer: A. Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies

Q10. Whom did Pankaj Advani defeat in the final of the 2026 WBL World Billiards Championships?

- A. David Causier
- B. Sourav Kothari
- C. Viktoria Johansson
- D. Robert Hall

Correct Answer: D. Robert Hall