# RADIUS EDUCATION

RADIUS
DISTANCE BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY

17-10-2026





# CURRENT AFFAIRS





## HIGHLIGHTS

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# TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- PLFS September 2026 Report — Unemployment Rate in India at 5.0%, Female Labour Force Participation Improves
- Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat becomes second home to Asiatic lions, boosting biodiversity conservation
- 2 MW solar power project inaugurated in Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh; battery storage to enhance reliability of energy supply
- Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurates KumarCon-2026 in New Delhi, promoting digital innovation in Ayurveda
- Proposed BS-VII emission standards in India – the next step towards controlling vehicular pollution and achieving clean transportation
- Directive to make travel insurance mandatory for passengers booking tickets from railway counters as well – Emphasis on parity between digital and offline services
- Union Cabinet approves 78 days' productivity-linked bonus for 11.40 lakh railway employees
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty—Emphasis on building a poverty-free and inclusive world

## 1. PLFS September 2026 Report — Unemployment Rate in India at 5.0%; Improvement in Female Labour Force Participation




**On October 15, 2026, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the monthly bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for September 2026. According to the report, the unemployment rate for the age group of 15 years and above stood at 5.0%, with a Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) of 55.5% and a Worker Population Ratio (WPR) of 52.7%. In September 2026, the rural LFPR was recorded at 58.0% and the urban LFPR at 50.7%, while the overall female LFPR rose to 34.6%.**

## 2. Gujarat's Barda Wildlife Sanctuary Becomes a Second Home for Asiatic Lions; Biodiversity Conservation to Get a Boost



**Located in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary is being developed as a second significant habitat for Asiatic lions outside the Gir forest. As of 2025, an estimated 17 lions are present in the sanctuary. Spanning approximately 192.31 square kilometers, the sanctuary was established in 1979 and is situated across the Porbandar and Devbhumi Dwarka districts. In January 2023, a male lion migrated naturally from Gir to Barda, following which the Gujarat Forest Department relocated five female lions to the area.**

## 3. 2 MW Solar Power Project Inaugurated in Himachal Pradesh's Spiti Valley; Battery Storage to Enhance Reliability of Power Supply



**Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu inaugurated a 2 MW solar power project in Rongtong, Spiti Valley, which has an annual electricity generation capacity of approximately 3.6 million (36 lakh) units. Developed at a cost of about ₹4.42 crore, the project includes a 1 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which helps provide electricity when needed. This initiative aims to promote clean energy in remote Himalayan regions, reduce dependence on traditional energy sources, and improve the reliability of the power supply.**

## 4. Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurates KAUMARACON-2026 in New Delhi; promotes digital innovation in Ayurveda




**On October 15, 2026, Vice President of India C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the third international conference, KAUMARACON-2026, in New Delhi. Organized by the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), the conference focused on child health, research, and clinical innovation within the field of Kaumarabhritya (Ayurvedic pediatrics). Kaumarabhritya is one of the eight primary branches of Ayurveda, dedicated to infant and child health, nutrition, growth and development, and the prevention and treatment of pediatric diseases.**

## 5. Proposed BS-VII Emission Standards in India — The Next Step Toward Controlling Vehicular Pollution and Promoting Cleaner Transport



According to information from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), a draft for the Bharat Stage VII (BS-VII) emission standards was proposed on October 12, 2026. The plan involves implementing these standards in three phases, starting from April 1, 2029, 2031, and 2035. Bharat Stage emission standards regulate pollutants emitted by vehicles, such as carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), hydrocarbons (HC), and particulate matter (PM). India previously skipped the BS-V stage, transitioning directly to BS-VI standards in April 2020.

## 6. Directive to Make Travel Insurance Mandatory for Passengers Booking Tickets at Railway Counters — Emphasis on Parity Between Digital and Offline Services



According to reports, the Supreme Court issued a directive on October 6, 2026, mandating travel insurance for tickets booked at railway reservation counters, effective from October 27, 2026. This measure aims to ensure that passengers booking tickets offline receive the same facilities as those booking online. Under the existing optional online insurance scheme, coverage includes ₹10 lakh in the event of death or permanent total disability, ₹7.5 lakh for permanent partial disability, and up to ₹2 lakh for hospitalization expenses.

## 7. Union Cabinet Approves 78-Day Productivity-Linked Bonus for 11.40 Lakh Railway Employees




On October 14, 2026, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a Productivity-Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days' wages for 11,40,770 eligible Indian Railways employees, with a total expenditure of ₹2,009.61 crore. Each eligible employee will receive a maximum bonus of ₹17,951, aimed at recognizing the employees' contributions and encouraging operational efficiency and productivity. In the 2025-26 financial year, Indian Railways recorded approximately 1,670 million tonnes of freight traffic and 7.41 billion passenger journeys.

## 8. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty — Emphasizing the Creation of a Poverty-Free and Inclusive World



The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed annually on October 17th, with the objective of raising awareness about poverty, hunger, social exclusion, and economic inequality. The United Nations General Assembly established this day through Resolution 47/196 in December 1992; its historical roots trace back to a gathering held in Paris on October 17, 1987. It is linked to Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1), which aims to eradicate poverty in all its forms by 2030—a goal that relies on access to education, healthcare, nutrition, and social protection.

# RADIUS EDUCATION

**1. What was the unemployment rate for the age group of 15 years and above in September 2026?**

**A - 4.2%** **B - 5.0%**

**C - 6.9%** **D - 5.5%**




**According to the PLFS bulletin released by MoSPI on October 15, 2026, the unemployment rate for the age group of 15 years and above in September 2026 was 5.0%, with an LFPR (Labour Force Participation Rate) of 55.5% and a WPR (Worker Population Ratio) of 52.7%. During this period, the total female LFPR was 34.6%, while the rural unemployment rate was 4.2% and the urban unemployment rate was 6.9%.**

**2. In which Indian state is the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary located?**

**A - Rajasthan** **B - Gujarat**

**C - Maharashtra** **D - Madhya Pradesh**



**Located in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary is being developed as a second significant habitat for Asiatic lions outside the Gir forest; as of 2025, an estimated 17 lions are present there. Spanning an area of approximately 192.31 square kilometers, the sanctuary aims to increase the lion population to strengthen their conservation—a process that requires secure wildlife corridors, an adequate prey base, and the prevention of human-wildlife conflict.**

**3. What is the installed capacity of the Rongtong Solar Power Project?**

**A - 1 MW** **B - 2 MW**

**C - 5 MW** **D - 10 MW**



**Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu inaugurated a 2 MW solar power project in Rongtong, Spiti Valley, developed at a cost of ₹4.42 crore. The project has an annual electricity generation capacity of approximately 3.6 million (36 lakh) units. It includes a 1 MWh battery energy storage system. Additionally, an allocation of ₹47.95 crore was announced for two substations in Sumdo and Kaza, along with ₹6 crore for the Rongtong Hydroelectric Project.**

RADIUS DISTANCE BETWEEN DREAM AND

**4. Who inaugurated the Kaumarcon-2026 conference?**

**A - Narendra Modi** **B - C.P. Radhakrishnan**

**C - Jagdeep Dhankhar** **D - Droupadi Murmu**




**Vice President of India C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the third international 'Kaumarcon-2026' conference, organized by the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi on October 15, 2026. The conference focused on child health, research, and clinical innovations in *Kaumarabhritya* (pediatrics). Five digital initiatives were unveiled during the event, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged between the AIIA and Maharishi International University (USA), aimed at fostering research, digital innovation, and international collaboration in the field of Ayurveda.**

**5. When will the first proposed phase of implementing BS-VII standards begin?**

A - April 1, 2027
B - April 1, 2028
C - April 1, 2029
D - April 1, 2030



According to information available from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), the draft for BS-VII emission standards was proposed on October 12, 2026. The plan is to implement these standards in three phases, starting from April 1, 2029, 2031, and 2035. The objective of these standards is to control pollutants emitted by vehicles; the proposed provisions are expected to include emission testing under real-world road conditions, as well as addressing particulate matter generated from brakes and tires.

**6. What is the coverage amount specified for death or permanent total disability under the travel insurance scheme?**

A - ₹5 lakh
B - ₹7.5 lakh
C - ₹10 lakh
D - ₹15 lakh




On October 6, 2026, the Supreme Court directed that travel insurance be made mandatory for tickets booked at railway reservation counters, effective from October 27, 2026, to ensure that both online and offline passengers receive equal benefits. The insurance scheme provides coverage of ₹10 lakh for death or permanent total disability, ₹7.5 lakh for permanent partial disability, and up to ₹2 lakh for hospitalization. The responsibility for its implementation has been entrusted to the Railway Board.

**7. For how many days has the Productivity-Linked Bonus (PLB) been approved for eligible Indian Railways employees?**

A - 60 days
B - 70 days
C - 78 days
D - 90 days



On October 14, 2026, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a Productivity-Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days' wages for 11,40,770 eligible Indian Railways employees. This will entail a total expenditure of ₹2,009.61 crore, with a maximum payout of ₹17,951 per employee. In the 2025-26 financial year, the Railways recorded approximately 1,670 million tonnes of freight traffic and 7.41 billion passenger journeys.

**8. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is associated with which Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)?**

A - SDG 1
B - SDG 2
C - SDG 3
D - SDG 5



The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed annually on October 17. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1992 through Resolution 47/196, with its historical origins traced back to a gathering held in Paris on October 17, 1987. This day emphasizes the goal of eradicating poverty by 2030, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1). In India, initiatives such as MGNREGA, the National Food Security Act, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, and Ayushman Bharat contribute toward this objective.

# One Liner

1. What is the capacity of the Rongtong Solar Project located in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh? - 2 Megawatts

2. According to the PLFS for September 2026, what was the unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 years and above? - 5.0%

3. What was the theme of KAUMARACON-2026? - Child Health and the 'Kaumarabhritya' (pediatrics) branch of Ayurveda

4. What was India's Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) recorded in September 2026? - 55.5%

5. Which Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) relates to the eradication of poverty? - SDG 1 — Eradication of Poverty

6. How many days of Productivity-Linked Bonus (PLB) were announced for railway employees based on their performance in the 2025-26 financial year? - 78 days

7. From which date was the first phase of the proposed BS-VII emission standards in India intended to be implemented? - April 1, 2029

8. In which wildlife sanctuary in Gujarat were 17 Asiatic lions found, according to 2025 estimates? - Barda Wildlife Sanctuary

9. When is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty observed each year? - October 17

10. What date was mentioned in reports for the implementation of mandatory travel insurance for railway counter tickets? - October 27, 2026