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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- Poonam Raut announces retirement from all forms of international cricket
- Mizoram woman farmer Mari ZT Lalrithangi included in FAO's '100 Women Heroines'
- Bank deposits in India rose to a record high of ₹284 trillion in September 2026
- Rocket-based propulsion technology in Tesla's proposed Roadster car: The possibilities and challenges of future transportation
- L. Murugan's resignation from the Union Council of Ministers: Discussion on Article 75(2) of the Constitution
- Number of Ramsar sites in India reaches 103: Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Lake receive international recognition
- Supreme Court verdict on reservation: Clarity on Backward Class certificate and eligibility for reservation after conversion
- India's net direct tax collections rise 13.21% to ₹13.38 lakh crore, with corporate tax and STT contributing the most.

1. Poonam Raut announces retirement from all formats of international cricket



Indian women's cricketer Poonam Raut announced her retirement from all formats of international cricket on October 15, 2026. She represented India from 2009 to 2021, playing a total of 112 matches across Test, One Day International (ODI), and T20 International (T20I) cricket. Poonam Raut featured in 4 Tests, 73 ODIs, and 35 T20Is, and expressed her gratitude to the Mumbai Cricket Association for their support during the early stages of her cricket career. She stated that playing for India was one of the greatest achievements of her life and that cricket played a significant role in shaping her personality.

2. FAO Includes Mizoram Farmer Mari ZT Lalrithangi Among '100 Women Heroes'



Mari ZT Lalrithangi, a female farmer from Sangau village in the Lawngtlai district of Mizoram, has been included by the FAO—as part of its 2026 International Women Farmers campaign—among 100 'women heroes' who have contributed to agri-food systems and rural development. She began her farming journey in 2024 with 1,000 strawberry plants, and by 2025, she had expanded to over 10,000 plants across two hectares of land. According to available information, her income grew from approximately ₹1.5 lakh in the first year to over ₹10 lakh in 2025—a testament to both agricultural entrepreneurship and women's empowerment.

3. Bank Deposits in India Reach a Record High of ₹284 Trillion in September 2026



In the second fortnight of September 2026, total deposits in the Indian banking system rose to ₹284 lakh crore (₹284 trillion), an increase of 8.4% compared to the end of March 2026. The RBI had launched a foreign currency swap window in June 2026, through which—according to available reports—approximately US$ 133 billion in foreign currency was garnered; this arrangement concluded on August 31, 2026. During the fortnight ending September 30, bank deposits saw an increase of ₹7.73 lakh crore, a rise likely driven by factors such as domestic savings and corporate deposits, in addition to the foreign currency swaps.

4. Rocket-Based Propulsion Technology in Tesla's Proposed Roadster: Possibilities and Challenges for Future Transportation



Tesla CEO Elon Musk has unveiled plans to incorporate rocket-like propulsion technology into the upcoming Tesla Roadster, aiming to enhance the vehicle's speed and performance. The proposed technology involves generating thrust by expelling compressed air through nozzles—a concept based on Newton's third law of motion. A suction system positioned beneath the vehicle could potentially improve road grip and stability; however, this is distinct from technology that enables actual flight.

5. L. Murugan's Resignation from the Union Council of Ministers: A Discussion on Article 75(2) of the Constitution



President Droupadi Murmu, acting on the advice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has accepted the resignation of L. Murugan from the Union Council of Ministers. He served as a Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. According to available information, Murugan resigned to focus on strengthening the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organization in Tamil Nadu. Article 75(2) of the Constitution stipulates that Union Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President, while Article 75(1) pertains to the appointment of ministers.

6. Number of Ramsar Sites in India Reaches 103: Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Lake Receive International Recognition



According to reports available on October 15, 2026, the inclusion of Chandigarh's Sukhna Wetland and Uttar Pradesh's Sauj Lake as Ramsar sites has brought the total number of such sites in India to 103. Sukhna Lake is a man-made lake situated at the foothills of the Shivalik range; created in 1958, it serves as an important habitat for both local and migratory birds. Sauj Lake is a freshwater wetland associated with the floodplains of the Ganges; it provides a habitat for waterbirds while contributing to biodiversity and supporting local livelihoods.

7. Supreme Court Ruling on Reservation: Clarity on Backward Class Certificates and Eligibility for Reservation Following Religious Conversion



According to available reports, on October 15, 2026, the Supreme Court upheld a 2024 judgment by the Madras High Court concerning eligibility for reservation under the 'Backward Class (Muslim)' category in Tamil Nadu following religious conversion. The core question was whether the mere act of converting to Islam qualifies an individual for reservation benefits by virtue of being considered a member of the notified 'Backward Class (Muslim)' category.

8. India's Net Direct Tax Collection Rises 13.21% to ₹13.38 Lakh Crore; Corporate Tax and STT Emerge as Key Contributors



According to provisional data from the Income Tax Department, as of October 14, 2026, India's net direct tax collection increased by 13.21% to ₹13.38 lakh crore, while gross collection rose by 14.89% to ₹16.03 lakh crore. Gross corporate tax collection grew by 17% to ₹7.53 lakh crore, and net corporate tax collection recorded an increase of 20.6%, reaching ₹5.99 lakh crore. Net collection from non-corporate taxes rose by 5.8% to ₹6.92 lakh crore; the difference between the growth rates of gross and net collections is attributed to an increase in tax refunds.

1. How many Test matches did Poonam Raut play in her international career?

A - 2 B - 4

C - 6 D - 8



Indian women's cricketer Poonam Raut announced her retirement from all formats of international cricket on October 15, 2026. Between 2009 and 2021, she played 4 Tests, 73 ODIs, and 35 T20 Internationals for India. She expressed her gratitude for the contribution of the Mumbai Cricket Association to her cricketing career and conveyed her desire to contribute to the development of cricket in the future.

2. Mari ZT Lalrithangi is a female farmer from which state?

A - Assam B - Mizoram

C - Meghalaya D - Tripura



Mari ZT Lalrithangi, a female farmer from the Lawngtlai district of Mizoram, was included by the FAO among 100 'women heroes' for her contributions to agriculture and rural development, as part of the 2026 International Women Farmers campaign. She began farming with 1,000 strawberry plants in 2024, and by 2025, she had expanded to over 10,000 plants across two hectares of land, increasing her income from ₹1.5 lakh to over ₹10 lakh.

3. What was the total deposit amount in the Indian banking system as of September 2026?

A - ₹254 lakh crore B - ₹264 lakh crore

C - ₹284 lakh crore D - ₹304 lakh crore



In the second fortnight of September 2026, the total deposits in the Indian banking system rose to ₹284 lakh crore, an increase of 8.4% compared to the end of March 2026. An increase of ₹7.73 lakh crore in deposits was recorded during the fortnight ending September 30. According to reports, approximately 133 billion US dollars were received through a foreign exchange swap window initiated by the RBI in June 2026; this arrangement concluded on August 31, 2026. The growth in deposits could support the lending capacity of banks.

4. For which company's roadster car has a plan been presented to utilize rocket-like propulsion technology?

A - BMW B - Tesla

C - Toyota D - Ford



Tesla CEO Elon Musk has presented a plan to incorporate rocket-like propulsion technology into a future roadster model. The concept involves generating thrust by expelling compressed air through nozzles, thereby enhancing the car's performance. This proposed technology is based on Newton's third law of motion, while a suction system beneath the vehicle could potentially improve grip and stability. However, its commercial implementation would require verification regarding safety, energy efficiency, and compliance with regulatory standards.

5. Who accepted L. Murugan's resignation from the Union Council of Ministers?

A - Prime Minister Narendra Modi
B - President Droupadi Murmu
C - Speaker of the Lok Sabha
D - Vice President



President Droupadi Murmu, on the advice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accepted L. Murugan's resignation from the Union Council of Ministers. He was serving as a Minister of State in the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs. According to available information, he will now focus on strengthening the BJP organization in Tamil Nadu.

6. In which Union Territory is the Sukhna Wetland located?

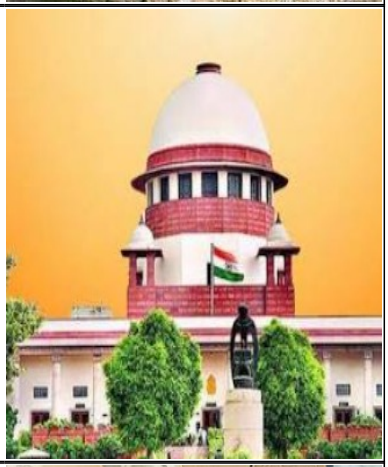
A - Delhi
B - Chandigarh
C - Jammu & Kashmir
D - Ladakh



According to news available on October 15, 2026, the inclusion of the Sukhna Wetland in Chandigarh and Sauj Lake in Uttar Pradesh as Ramsar sites brought the total number of such sites in India to 103. Both wetlands are significant for the conservation of biodiversity and waterbirds. The Ramsar Convention was adopted on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar and came into force in 1975; its objective is to ensure the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

7. In a case concerning reservation eligibility following religious conversion, which High Court's verdict did the Supreme Court uphold?

A - Delhi High Court
B - Madras High Court
C - Bombay High Court
D - Allahabad High Court



According to available reports, on October 15, 2026, the Supreme Court upheld a 2024 judgment by the Madras High Court concerning eligibility for reservation under the 'Backward Class (Muslim)' category following religious conversion in Tamil Nadu. The core issue was whether the mere act of converting to Islam qualifies an individual to be included in the notified 'Backward Class' category and thereby claim the benefits of reservation.

8. What was India's net direct tax collection as of October 14, 2026?

A - ₹11.38 lakh crore
B - ₹12.38 lakh crore
C - ₹13.38 lakh crore
D - ₹16.03 lakh crore



According to provisional data from the Income Tax Department, as of October 14, 2026, India's net direct tax collection increased by 13.21% to reach ₹13.38 lakh crore, while gross collection rose by 14.89% to ₹16.03 lakh crore. During this period, net corporate tax collection stood at ₹5.99 lakh crore, and non-corporate tax collection was recorded at ₹6.92 lakh crore. Securities Transaction Tax (STT) collection grew by 51.6% to ₹46,840 crore. Direct taxes serve as a primary source of government revenue, while STT is levied on specified taxable transactions within the stock market.

One Liner

1. The rocket-like propulsion technology in Tesla's proposed Roadster is based on which principle? - Newton's third law of motion

2. Which article regarding reservation in public employment is significant in the context of reservation eligibility following religious conversion? - Article 16(4)

3. In which Union Territory is Sukhna Lake located? - Chandigarh

4. Which article contains the provision that Union Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President? - Article 75(2)

5. In the context of direct tax collection data, what does 'STT' stand for? - Securities Transaction Tax

6. In which year was the Ramsar Convention adopted? - 1971

7. Which international organization included Mizoram's Mari Z.T. Lalrithangi among its 100 'Women Heroes'? - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

8. What was the total deposit amount in the Indian banking system as of September 2026? - ₹284 lakh crore

9. Where is the headquarters of the FAO located? - Rome, Italy

10. In which year did Poonam Raut announce her retirement from international cricket? - October 15, 2026