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DISTANCE BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY

21-10-2026





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Add :- 2nd floor EK Arcade near planetarium Kozhikode

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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- Mona Agarwal wins gold, Avani Lekhara wins silver at Para Asian Games 2026
- Sangeet Natak Akademi selects 106 young artistes for Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2024–2025
- Leadership change at HDFC Bank—resignation of Kaizad Bharucha and appointment of Anup Bagchi as MD & CEO
- Establishment of Delhi Transformation and Innovation Institute (DITI) and 'Vision Delhi 2047'
- Delhi Government's 'Go-Delhi Foundation' initiative – to boost startups and innovation
- NASA's PUFFINS mission—studying interstellar dust and the formation of stars and planets
- Global Hunger Index 2026—India ranks 100th, hunger and malnutrition remain a challenge
- Police Commemoration Day 2026—Honoring the supreme sacrifice of police personnel and their contribution to national security

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1. Mona Agarwal Wins Gold, Avani Lekhara Secures Silver at the 2026 Asian Para Games



At the 2026 Asian Para Games held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, Indian shooter Mona Agarwal won the gold medal in the women's 10m air rifle event with a score of 250 points, while Avani Lekhara secured the silver medal with 249.6 points. Mona Agarwal set a new Asian Para Games record during the competition and also scored 629.1 points in the qualifying round. Avani Lekhara has already made a name for herself by winning gold and bronze medals at the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. These achievements have helped promote para-sports, the empowerment of persons with disabilities, and an inclusive sporting culture in India.

2. Sangeet Natak Akademi Selects 106 Young Artists for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2024–2025



The General Council of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, during its meeting held in New Delhi from March 22 to 26, 2026, selected 106 young artists for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2024 and 2025. Instituted in 2006, this award is generally presented to talented artists under the age of 40 for their contributions to music, dance, theatre, folk and traditional arts, and puppetry. The award includes a cash prize of ₹25,000, a copper plaque (*tamrapatra*), and a ceremonial shawl (*angavastram*). Established in 1953, the Sangeet Natak Akademi is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and development of Indian performing arts.

3. Leadership Change at HDFC Bank: Resignation of Kaizad Bharucha and Appointment of Anup Bagchi as MD & CEO



Kaizad Bharucha, Deputy Managing Director of HDFC Bank, has requested to step down from his position, effective December 31, 2026. Associated with the bank since October 1995, he has made significant contributions to corporate banking, wholesale banking, and credit risk management. Anup Bagchi has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of HDFC Bank for a three-year term, effective October 27, 2026. Kaizad Bharucha's request to step down has been approved by the bank's Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee and the Board of Directors; however, it remains subject to approval by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

4. Establishment of the Delhi Institute of Transformation and Innovation (DITI) and 'Vision Delhi 2047'



The Delhi Government has established the Delhi Institute of Transformation and Innovation (DITI) to promote public policy formulation, development strategy, and administrative reforms, replacing the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC). Its objective is to foster evidence-based policy-making, the evaluation of government schemes, inter-departmental coordination, and inclusive development. The Governing Board of DITI will be chaired by the Chief Minister of Delhi, while the Executive Committee will be headed by the Chief Secretary of Delhi.

5. Delhi Government's 'Go-Delhi Foundation' Initiative—Boosting Startups and Innovation



On October 18, 2026, the Delhi Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, passed a proposal to establish the 'Go-Delhi Foundation' with an initial budget of ₹50 crore to foster startups and innovation. The foundation will provide support to startups and MSMEs in areas such as product development, prototyping, technical guidance, incubation, investor networking, and intellectual property rights (IPR). Operating on a 'hub-and-spoke' model, the organization will be incorporated as a non-profit company under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.

6. NASA's PUFFINS Mission—Studying Interstellar Dust and the Formation of Stars and Planets



NASA's PUFFINS mission is a proposed small-satellite mission designed to study the properties of interstellar dust and its role in the formation of stars and planets. The mission is led by Dr. Ramya Manjunath Anche, an astrophysicist of Indian origin affiliated with the Steward Observatory at the University of Arizona, USA. Supported by $20 million in funding under NASA's Astrophysics Pioneers program, the project aims to study ultraviolet (UV) light originating from approximately 70 stars. By employing ultraviolet polarimetry, the mission will analyze the size, composition, and distribution of interstellar dust particles, as well as how they absorb and scatter light.

7. Global Hunger Index 2026—India Ranks 100th; Challenges of Hunger and Malnutrition Persist



According to the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026, India ranks 100th out of 122 countries with a score of 24.1, placing it in the 'serious' category, while Pakistan ranks 106th with a score of 25.5. In India, the prevalence of stunting among children under five is 29.3%, and child wasting is approximately 19%—figures that highlight significant nutritional challenges. The GHI is published by Welthungerhilfe, Concern Worldwide, and IFHV; it is calculated based on indicators including undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and the mortality rate of children under five.

8. Police Commemoration Day 2026—Honoring the Supreme Sacrifice and Contributions of Police Personnel to National Security



In India, Police Commemoration Day is observed annually on October 21, dedicated to honoring the courage and sacrifice of police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty. The day commemorates 10 Indian police personnel who were martyred during an attack by Chinese troops in the Hot Springs area of Ladakh on October 21, 1959. The National Police Memorial in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi—dedicated to the nation on October 21, 2018—serves as a site to honor the sacrifices of these fallen officers.

1. Who won the gold medal in the women's 10m air rifle event at the 2026 Asian Para Games?

A - Avani Lekhara | **B - Mona Agarwal**

C - Manisha Narwal | **D - Rubina Francis**

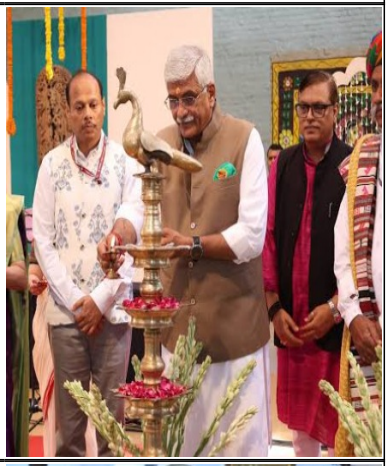


At the 2026 Asian Para Games held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, Mona Agarwal won the gold medal in the women's 10m air rifle event with a score of 250 points, while Avani Lekhara secured the silver medal with 249.6 points. Mona set an Asian Para Games record and scored 629.1 points in the qualifying round; this achievement encourages para-sports and the empowerment of persons with disabilities in India.

2. How many young artists have been selected for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2024 and 2025?

A - 96 | **B - 106**

C - 116 | **D - 126**



The Sangeet Natak Akademi has selected 106 young artists for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2024 and 2025. The award recognizes contributions in the fields of music, dance, theatre, folk and traditional arts, and puppetry. Instituted in 2006, the award carries a cash prize of ₹25,000, a copper plaque (*tamrapatra*), and a ceremonial shawl (*angavastram*). The Sangeet Natak Akademi, established in 1953, is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture.

3. For how many years has Anup Bagchi been appointed as the MD and CEO of HDFC Bank?

A - 2 years | **B - 3 years**

C - 4 years | **D - 5 years**



Kaizad Bharucha, Deputy Managing Director of HDFC Bank, has requested to step down from his position effective December 31, 2026. He has been associated with the bank since October 1995 and has contributed to corporate banking and credit risk management. Anup Bagchi has been appointed as the MD & CEO of HDFC Bank for a term of three years, effective October 27, 2026. Bharucha's request to step down is subject to approval by the RBI.

4. Which body will the Delhi Institute for Transformation and Innovation (DITI) replace?

A - NITI Aayog | **B - Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC)**

C - Finance Commission | **D - Municipal Corporation of Delhi**



The Delhi government has established the Delhi Institute for Transformation and Innovation (DITI) to promote public policy formulation, administrative reforms, and development strategies; it will replace the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC). The governing board of DITI will be chaired by the Chief Minister of Delhi, while the executive committee will be chaired by the Chief Secretary.

5. What is the proposed initial budget for the establishment of the 'Go-Delhi Foundation'?

A - ₹25 crore
B - ₹40 crore
C - ₹50 crore
D - ₹100 crore

On October 18, 2026, the Delhi government passed a proposal to establish the 'Go-Delhi Foundation' with an initial budget of ₹50 crore to promote startups and MSMEs. The foundation will provide support in areas such as product development, incubation, technical guidance, and connecting with investors. It will operate on a 'hub-and-spoke' model and be incorporated as a non-profit company under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013. Its objective is to foster innovation, job creation, and entrepreneurship.



6. Who is leading the PUFFINS mission?

A - Sunita Williams
B - Dr. Ramya Manjunath Anche
C - Kalpana Chawla
D - Dr. Aditi Pant

NASA's PUFFINS is a proposed small-satellite mission aimed at studying the properties of interstellar dust and its role in the formation of stars and planets. The mission is led by Indian-origin astrophysicist Dr. Ramya Manjunath Anche and has received $20 million in funding under NASA's 'Astrophysics Pioneers' program. The mission will study ultraviolet light from approximately 70 stars and, using ultraviolet polarimetry, will analyze the size, composition, and distribution of interstellar dust particles, as well as how they absorb and scatter light.



7. What is India's rank in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026?

A - 90th
B - 95th
C - 100th
D - 106th

According to the provided information, in the 2026 Global Hunger Index (GHI), India ranks 100th out of 122 countries with a score of 24.1, placing it in the 'serious' category; Pakistan ranks 106th with a score of 25.5. The GHI is calculated based on undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and the mortality rate of children under the age of five. Achieving the United Nations' SDG-2 (Zero Hunger) is crucial for ending hunger and malnutrition.

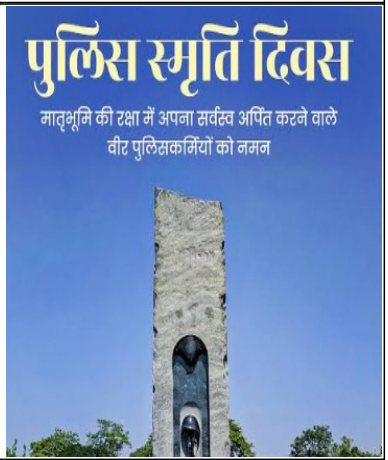


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8. In which region of Ladakh did Indian police personnel attain martyrdom on October 21, 1959?

A - Siachen
B - Kargil
C - Hot Springs
D - Pangong Lake

Police Commemoration Day is observed in India every year on October 21, commemorating the sacrifice of 10 Indian police personnel who were martyred in an attack by Chinese troops in the Hot Springs region of Ladakh on October 21, 1959. The National Police Memorial in New Delhi was dedicated to the nation on October 21, 2018. Under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, 'police' and 'public order' are subjects under the State List.



One Liner

1. What is the primary scientific objective of NASA's PUFFINS mission? - To study the properties of interstellar dust through ultraviolet polarimetry

2. Kaizad Bharucha has served as the Deputy Managing Director of which private sector bank? - HDFC Bank

3. Which medal did Avani Lekhara win in the women's 10m air rifle event at the 2026 Asian Para Games? - Silver medal

4. Which United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) relates to ending hunger and ensuring food security? - SDG-2 — Zero Hunger

5. On which date is Police Commemoration Day observed in India every year? - October 21

6. In which year was the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (award) instituted? - The year 2006

7. What is the primary long-term goal of the Delhi Institute of Transformation and Innovation (DITI)? - To build a 'Developed Delhi' under the 'Vision Delhi 2047' framework

8. On the basis of how many key indicators is the Global Hunger Index (GHI) calculated? - Based on four indicators

9. Who won the gold medal in the women's 10m air rifle event at the 2026 Asian Para Games? - Mona Agarwal

10. What initial budget was proposed for the Go-Delhi Foundation? - ₹50 crore