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DISTANCE BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY

27-10-2026



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HIGHLIGHTS

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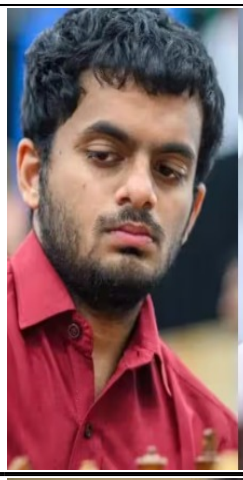
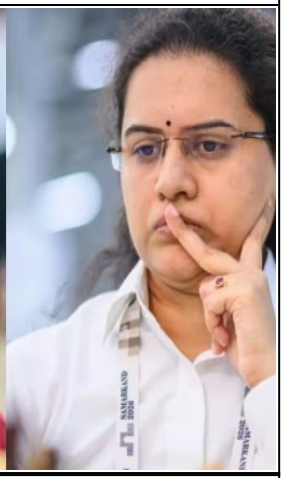
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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- European Chess Club Cup 2026: Nihal Sarin and Koneru Humpy win gold medals
- Bodhana Sivanandan becomes the youngest woman International Master, breaking Judit Polgar's record
- Leona Lamesi receives the 2026 Princess of Asturias Award: recognition for contributions to sport and humanitarian service
- Assam Government Decision: Announcement of National Award for Dr. Bhupen Hazari and Changes in Civil Honours of Assam
- Social media restrictions for children under 15 in Greece: Key digital safety and privacy issues
- First human infection with Schamonda virus in France: the challenge of animal health and public health surveillance
- National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC): Strengthening trade surveillance and export promotion in India
- Infantry Day / Shaurya Diwas: Commemorating the courage and sacrifice of the Indian Army Infantry

1. European Chess Club Cup 2026: Nihal Sarin and Koneru Humpy Win Gold Medals

The European Chess Club Cup 2026 was held in Montenegro, featuring an outstanding performance by Indian Grandmasters. Nihal Sarin won an individual gold medal in the Open section on Board 2, scoring 5/6 points, while Pentala Harikrishna secured a silver medal and Karthikeyan Murali earned a bronze medal. In the women's section, Koneru Humpy won an individual gold medal on Board 2 with 4.5/6 points, and her team, Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo, clinched the women's team title.

2. Bodhana Sivanandan Becomes the Youngest Female International Master, Breaks Judit Polgar's Record



On October 23, 2026, 11-year-old British chess player of Indian origin, Bodhana Sivanandan, set a record by becoming the youngest female International Master (IM) at the age of 11 years, 7 months, and 16 days. She secured her final IM norm by defeating Sweden's Victoria Johansson in the concluding round of the European Chess Club Cup in Budva, Montenegro, finishing with 5.5 points across seven rounds. With this achievement, she surpassed the record previously held by the renowned Hungarian chess player Judit Polgar, who had reached this milestone at the age of 12.

3. Lionel Messi Receives the 2026 Princess of Asturias Award: Honored for Contributions to Sports and Humanitarian Service



Argentine footballer Lionel Messi was presented with the 2026 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports in Oviedo, Spain, on October 23, 2026. He was selected in recognition of his outstanding achievements in football, sportsmanship, teamwork, and his humanitarian efforts toward the education and health of children in need. Messi won the FIFA World Cup with Argentina in 2022 and has received the Ballon d'Or award eight times; he has also served as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador since 2010.

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4. Assam Government's Decision: Announcement of the Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Award and Changes to Assam's Civilian Honours



The Assam Cabinet has recommended the institution of a national-level award in the name of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, aimed at honouring individuals who have made significant contributions to music, art, and culture. Renowned singer Usha Mangeshkar will be the first recipient of this award; it has been announced that she will be honoured on November 29, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

5. Social Media Ban for Children Under 15 in Greece: Key Issues Regarding Digital Safety and Privacy



On October 23, 2026, the Greek Parliament approved a law prohibiting the use of social media by children under the age of 15, with implementation proposed to begin on January 1, 2027. This ban will apply to platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and LinkedIn; parental consent will not serve as an exemption. For age verification, the use of privacy-preserving technologies—such as the 'KidsWallet' app and 'zero-knowledge proofs'—is planned, aiming to minimize the unnecessary disclosure of personal information.

6. First Human Case of Shamonda Virus in France: A Challenge for Animal and Public Health Surveillance



On October 22, 2026, French health authorities confirmed the first human case of the Shamonda virus; the patient subsequently passed away. The virus belongs to the Orthobunyavirus genus within the Peribunyaviridae family and is primarily found in livestock, including cattle, where it is transmitted by biting insects. First identified in Nigeria in 1965, the virus has since been reported in animals across parts of Africa and Japan.

7. National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC): Strengthening Trade Monitoring and Export Promotion in India



Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal inaugurated the National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC) in New Delhi, aimed at strengthening the monitoring of India's international trade and facilitating data-driven decision-making. The centre will provide integrated information regarding trade processes, export promotion schemes, regulatory approvals, and pending applications handled by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

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8. Infantry Day / Shaurya Diwas: Commemorating the Courage and Sacrifice of the Indian Army's Infantry



In India, October 27th is observed annually as Infantry Day (Shaurya Diwas), dedicated to the courage, sacrifice, and contributions of the Indian Army's infantry toward the defense of the nation. On October 27, 1947, the first Sikh Battalion of the Indian Army landed at Srinagar Airport to protect Jammu and Kashmir from tribal invaders. A day earlier, on October 26, 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir had signed the 'Instrument of Accession' with India.

1. Who won the gold medal on Board 2 in the Open section at the 2026 European Chess Club Cup?

A - Pentala Harikrishna
B - Karthikeyan Murali
C - Nihal Sarin
D - R. Praggnanandhaa

The 2026 European Chess Club Cup was held in Montenegro, where Nihal Sarin won the gold medal on Board 2 in the Open section, while Pentala Harikrishna won silver and Karthikeyan Murali won bronze. In the women's section, Koneru Humpy secured the gold medal on Board 2, and her team, Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo, won the women's team title.



2. Who set the record for becoming the youngest female International Master (IM)?

A - Judit Polgár
B - Bodhana Sivanandan
C - Victoria Johansson
D - Koneru Humpy

On October 23, 2026, 11-year-old British chess player of Indian origin, Bodhana Sivanandan, set the record for becoming the youngest female International Master (IM) at the age of 11 years, 7 months, and 16 days. She achieved her final IM norm by defeating Sweden's Victoria Johansson in the final round of the European Chess Club Cup in Budva, Montenegro, thereby breaking Judit Polgár's record.



3. Who was awarded the 2026 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports?

A - Cristiano Ronaldo
B - Lionel Messi
C - Neymar Jr.
D - Kylian Mbappé

Argentine footballer Lionel Messi was awarded the 2026 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports in Oviedo, Spain, on October 23, 2026. This honor was bestowed upon him in recognition of his outstanding achievements in football, his sportsmanship, and his humanitarian efforts directed toward the education and health of children.



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4. After whom has the Assam Cabinet recommended instituting a national award?

A - Lata Mangeshkar
B - Dr. Bhupen Hazarika
C - Srimanta Sankardev
D - Ravi Shankar

The Assam Cabinet has recommended instituting a national award in the name of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to music, art, and culture; the first recipient of this award will be singer Usha Mangeshkar. Additionally, the Government of Assam has increased the prize money for the 'Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev Award' from ₹10 lakh to ₹15 lakh and has selected recipients from various fields for the 'Assam Baibhav', 'Assam Saurav', and 'Assam Gaurav' awards for 2025.



5. Greece has approved a law banning the use of social media by children under which age?

A - 13 years **B - 14 years**

C - 15 years **D - 16 years**

The Greek Parliament has approved a law banning the use of social media by children under the age of 15, which is proposed to come into effect from January 1, 2027. This will apply to platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and LinkedIn. The initiative emphasizes ensuring children's online safety and digital privacy through age verification methods, utilizing technologies like the 'KidsWallet' app and 'zero-knowledge proofs.'

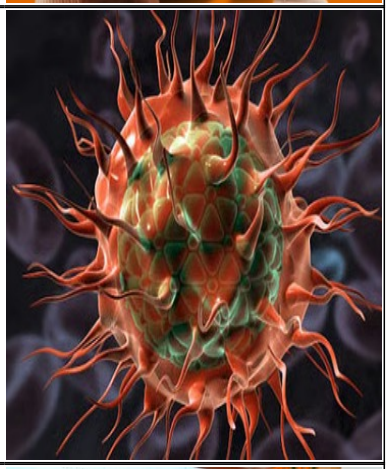


6. In which country was the first human infection of the Shamonda virus confirmed in October 2026?

A - Germany **B - France**

C - Italy **D - Spain**

On October 22, 2026, French health authorities confirmed the first human infection of the Shamonda virus; the infected patient subsequently passed away. The virus belongs to the *Orthobunyavirus* genus within the *Peribunyaviridae* family and is primarily found in livestock. It was first identified in Nigeria in 1965. This incident underscores the importance of the 'One Health' approach, which integrates the health of humans, animals, and the environment.



7. Who inaugurated the National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC)?

A - Amit Shah **B - Piyush Goyal**

C - Nirmala Sitharaman **D - Ashwini Vaishnaw**

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal inaugurated the National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC) in New Delhi. The centre aims to monitor India's international trade and strengthen data-driven decision-making processes.



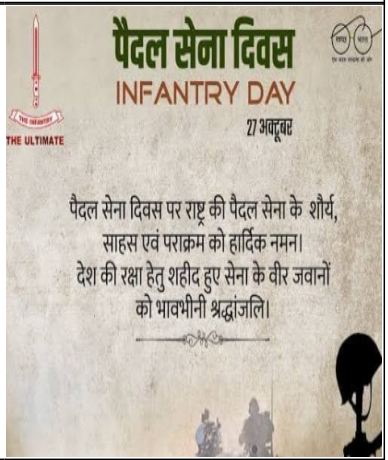
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8. When is Infantry Day (Shaurya Diwas) celebrated in India every year?

A - 15 January **B - 26 October**

C - 27 October **D - 7 December**

In India, Infantry Day (Shaurya Diwas) is celebrated annually on 27 October to honour the courage, sacrifices, and contributions of the Indian Army's infantry in defending the nation. On 27 October 1947, the 1st Battalion of the Sikh Regiment landed at Srinagar Airport to protect Jammu and Kashmir from tribal invaders. A day earlier, on 26 October 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh had signed the Instrument of Accession with India. The infantry of the Indian Army plays a crucial role in ground operations, particularly in border regions and under challenging conditions.



One Liner

1. Who set the record for becoming the youngest female International Master (IM)? - Bodhana Sivanandan

2. The proposed social media ban in Greece will apply to children in which age group? - Children under 15 years of age

3. With which country did Lionel Messi win the FIFA World Cup in 2022? - Argentina

4. In which country did Nihal Sarin win an individual gold medal at the 2026 European Chess Club Cup? - Montenegro

5. The first human infection of the Shamonda virus, reported in France in 2026, was linked to which type of animals? - Primarily livestock, including cattle

6. To what amount has the cash prize for the 'Mahapurush Srimanta Sankaradeva Award' in Assam been increased? - ₹15 lakh

7. Who was the first recipient of the national award instituted in the name of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika? - Usha Mangeshkar

8. Which footballer was awarded the 2026 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports? - Lionel Messi

9. Which Indian Grandmaster won an individual gold medal in the women's category at the 2026 European Chess Club Cup? - Koneru Humpy

10. What is the full name of FIDE, the world body that grants international chess titles? - Fédération Internationale des Échecs (International Chess Federation)