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Current Affairs

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INS Surya Launched

October 2026

NATIONAL

STANDARD NAMES IN LADAKH

The central government, in collaboration with the **Union Territory of Ladakh**, has identified **28 geographical locations and features** for **name standardization** on the **official map** of the **Survey of India (SoI)**.

NEW SITES ON UNESCO TENTATIVE LIST

The **Permanent Delegation of India to the UNESCO** has announced the inclusion of **5 new heritage sites** in the **Tentative List** of the World Heritage Convention (WHC). Four of these sites are located in **Madhya Pradesh**: the **Bagh Cave Paintings**, the **Group of Temples of the Chambal Valley**, the **Udaigiri Caves**, and the **Ginnorgarh Fort**.

A serial **transnational proposal between India and South Africa**, titled '**Sites of Satyagraha**', has also been included. This property consists of **9 components**, including 7 sites in India and 2 in South Africa (the **Pietermaritzburg Station and the Phoenix Settlement**).

GI TAG FOR MANDAR

The **Geographical Indications (GI) Registry** has granted the **GI tag** to '**Mandar**', a **traditional folk musical instrument** from **Jharkhand**.

GI TAG FOR AMBAJI MOHANTHAL

Ambaji Mohanthal, a **traditional sweet offering** of the **Ambaji Temple in Gujarat**, has been awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.

NEW RAMSAR SITES

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav has announced that **Sukhna Wetland** (Chandigarh) and **Sauj Jheel** (Uttar Pradesh) have been officially designated as **Ramsar Convention Sites of International Importance**. With this addition, the **total number of internationally recognized Ramsar sites in India** has reached **103**.

It is to be noted that with the latest addition of Sauj Jheel, **Uttar Pradesh** now possesses **14 Ramsar sites**, placing the state **second in the country** after **Tamil Nadu**, which accounts for **20 sites**.

100% LITERATE UT

Lakshadweep has been designated as a **100% literate Union Territory** under the **ULLAS** (**Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society**) - **Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**.

The recognition follows the successful completion of the **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)** by all eligible identified learners.

UNESCO TENTATIVE LIST

The Permanent Delegation of India to the UNESCO has added **3 new Indian sites** to the **UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List**.

The newly included locations are the **Karst-mud-volcano Complex of Baratang** and the **Andaman Subduction Volcanoes** (situated in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**), along with the **Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape** (**Chhattisgarh**). With these additions, the total number of Indian entries on the tentative list has increased to **81**, comprising **59 Cultural, 3 Mixed, and 19 Natural sites**.

CONTAINER MANUFACTURING PROMOTION SCHEME

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)** with an outlay of **₹10,000 crore** from **FY27 to FY40**, aiming to **establish a globally competitive container manufacturing ecosystem in India**.

The scheme includes **Interest Subvention Assistance (ISA)** with an outlay of **₹859 crore**, providing a **3% annual interest subvention** on eligible capital loans for manufacturers.

SPORTS MANUFACTURING SCHEME

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme** with an outlay of **₹1,856.67 crore** for the period from **FY27 to FY34**. The scheme aims to **promote investment, manufacturing, innovation, and exports**, thereby strengthening the position of India in the global sports goods sector.

The scheme provides financial support of **₹105 crore** to manufacturers for **obtaining and renewing certifications from International Sports Federations**. It also designates a combined outlay of **₹1,130 crore** for interventions aimed at **attracting investments and expanding domestic manufacturing**.

UNION CABINET APPROVES PM VGSY

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY)** as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**. The scheme will be implemented from the **FY27 to FY31**, aligning with the timeline of the **Sixteenth Finance Commission**.

The **5-year program** has a total financial outlay of **₹7,395.55 crore**, which includes a **Central Share of ₹4,869.48 crore** and a **State Share of ₹2,526.07 crore**.

ECONOMY

GDP FORECAST

According to the "**Asian Development Outlook (ADO) September 2026: Navigating Prolonged Energy Shocks and El Nino**" report released by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of India** for **FY27** is raised to **7%** (an **increase of 40 basis points** from the earlier estimate of 6.6%).

The report also projected the **inflation rate of India** for **FY27** at **5%**.

GDP GROWTH FORECAST

According to a report by the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, the **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India** for **Q2 FY27** is projected to grow by **7.3%**.

The MoF also highlighted a **positive export outlook**, with **total exports** reaching **$400 billion** during the **first five months of FY27**.

GDP FORECAST BY WORLD BANK

According to a report by the **World Bank (WB)**, the **GDP growth of India** for **FY27** is **revised upwards** to **7.1%** from the earlier projection of 6.6%.

Additionally, the WB projects the **GDP growth of India** at **7.2%** for **FY28** and **7%** for **FY29**.

NEW GST STANDING COMMITTEE

The central government has announced that **Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu** will become permanent members of a new **Standing Committee under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework**.

The committee, comprising **12 states**, aims to **strengthen tax administration and expand the taxpayer base**. India currently has **1.7 crore registered GST taxpayers**.

DEFENCE

EXERCISE VARUNA

The **24th edition** of the annual bilateral maritime exercise between the **Indian Navy (IN)** and the **French Navy** named "**VARUNA**" was conducted at the **Toulon Naval Base** in the **Mediterranean Sea, France**.

The IN was represented by **INS Trishul (F43)**, a modernised **Talwar-class guided-missile stealth frigate**, while the French Navy participated with multiple frontline units.

EXERCISE KAZIND

The **9th edition** of the **joint military exercise** named "**KAZIND-2026**" between **India** and **Kazakhstan** is held in **Oskemen, Kazakhstan**.

The Indian contingent has **60 personnel**, led by a **battalion of the Garhwal Rifles**, while the Kazakhstan contingent is represented by 60 personnel primarily from its **Land Forces**.

EXERCISE MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN

The Joint Military Exercise between **India** and the **UAE** named '**MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN 2026**' has commenced at the **Foreign Training Node** in **Uttarakhand**.

The Indian contingent is composed of troops from a **Bhairav Battalion**, while the **UAE Army** is represented by a **Mountain Infantry Battalion**. A total of **92 personnel** are participating in the exercise.

INS SURYA LAUNCHED

Union Minister **Rajnath Singh** has launched "**INS Surya**" (**FSS-1**), the **first indigenously designed and built Fleet Support Ship (FSS)** of the Indian Navy (IN), at **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL)** in **Visakhapatnam**.

He also initiated the **keel laying of FSS-5**, marking the start of construction for the fifth ship in the series. Infrastructure at HSL has been upgraded with a a **300-tonne Goliath crane**. These facilities will support the construction of vessels up to **45,000 Deadweight Tonnage (DWT)**.

EXERCISE KONKAN 2026

The annual bilateral maritime exercise between the **Indian Navy (IN)** and the **British Royal Navy (BRN)** named "**KONKAN 2026**" is held off the coast of **Plymouth, UK**.

INS Trishul, a frontline **Talwar-class guided-missile stealth frigate** of the IN, and **HMS Richmond**, a **Type 23 anti-submarine warfare frigate** of the BRN, participated in the exercise.

NGOPV SHREYAS LAUNCHED

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has launched the **first Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)** named "**Yard 3040 (Shreyas)**" in **Kolkata**.

The vessel, measuring **113 metres in length** and **14.6 metres in width**, has a **displacement of 3,000 tonnes**. It is capable of reaching a **maximum speed of 23 knots** and offers an **endurance range of 8,500 nautical miles** at a cruising speed of 14 knots.

INS MANGROL COMMISSIONED

The **Indian Navy** has commissioned '**INS Mangrol**', its **third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, at the **Naval Dockyard** in **Mumbai**.

The vessel was built by **Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL)** in **Kochi** with **over 80% indigenous content**, including the **indigenous Abhay hull-mounted sonar**.

EXERCISE INDRA 2026

The **bilateral naval exercise** "**Exercise INDRA 2026**" between the **Indian Navy** and the **Russian Federation Navy** has commenced at **Vladivostok** and the adjacent waters of the **Sea of Japan**.

The **Indian Navy** is represented by '**INS Sahyadri**', an **indigenous Shivalik-class guided-missile stealth multi-role frigate**, while the **Russian Federation Navy** is represented by the **Hero of the Russian Federation Aldar Tsydenzhapov**, a **Steregushchiy-class corvette from the Pacific Fleet of Russia**.

EXERCISE AUSTRAHIND

The **5th edition** of the India-Australia joint military exercise "**AUSTRAHIND 2026**" has commenced at the **Foreign Training Node** in **Thiruvananthapuram**.

120 personnel each from the **Indian Army** and the **Australian Army** participated in the exercise. The **Indian contingent** comprises troops from the **Garhwal Rifles**, while the **Australian Army contingent** comprises troops from the **13 Brigade**.

SIMBEX 2026

The **33rd edition** of the bilateral maritime exercise "**SIMBEX-2026**" between **India** and **Singapore** is held in **Visakhapatnam**.

INS Nilgiri and **INS Kamorta** of the **Indian Navy** and the **Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)** ship **RSS Supreme** participated in the exercise.

INS SRISHTI LAUNCHED

The **Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL)** has launched "**INS Srishti**" (Yard 1283), the **4th Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)** for the **Indian Navy**, at the **Vaddem facility** of GSL in **Goa**.

The broader NGOPV contract encompasses a **total of 11 vessels**. Under this contract, GSL is constructing **7 ships** in Goa, while **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** in **Kolkata** is manufacturing the remaining **4 vessels**.

EXERCISE GARUDA SHAKTI

The **11th edition** of the India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise named "**Garuda Shakti**" has commenced in **Banyuwangi, Indonesia**.

The **Indian contingent** comprises troops from the **Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)**, while the **Indonesian contingent** consists of personnel from the **Indonesian Special Forces**.

STATE

LADAKH DECLARED ORGANIC UT

Ladakh has been declared **India's first 100% organic Union Territory** by **Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena**, following a **ban on the sale, distribution, and use of chemical and synthetic fertilizers**.

APPOINTMENTS

NEW APPOINTMENTS OF GOVERNORS

President Droupadi Murmu has **appointed new Governors** for **6 Indian states**. It includes: **Rajendra Arlekar** as the **full-time Governor** of **Tamil Nadu**, **OP Mathur** for **Kerala**, **Dr Sudha Yadav** for **Karnataka**, **Braj Mohan Ram** for **Odisha**, **Dhal Singh Bisen** for **Uttarakhand**, and **Dushyant Gautam** for **Sikkim**.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN INCOIS

Dr TM Balakrishnan Nair, the **Director** of the **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)**, has been elected as the **Chair** of the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)** under the **UNESCO**.

The election took place during the **second Intergovernmental Session** of IOCINDIO held in **Bali, Indonesia**. **Turki Al-Said** of Kuwait and **Badal Mohammed Rezah** of Mauritius were elected as the **Vice-Chairs of IOCINDIO**.

AWARDS

NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE

Karl Deisseroth, **Peter Hegemann**, and **Georg Nagel** have been awarded the **2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** by the **Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet** in **Stockholm, Sweden**.

They are recognized for their discovery of **light-gated ion channels** and the development of **optogenetics**, a biological technique that uses light-sensitive proteins to control specific neurons. The three laureates will share the prize money of **12 million Swedish kronor (SEK)** equally.

NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

Francis Louis Halzen, an **82-year-old Belgian-American particle physicist**, has been conferred the **2026 Nobel Prize in Physics** by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.

The award, carrying a prize value of **12 million Swedish kronor (SEK)**, recognizes his contributions to the **IceCube Neutrino Observatory (IceCube)** and the discovery of **high-energy neutrinos** from astrophysical sources. It is to be noted that the discovery is based on a concept proposed in **1988**, which involved the utilization of **Antarctic ice** as a massive neutrino detector.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Navanethem "Navi" Pillay, a **South African jurist and human rights pioneer of Indian origin**, has been awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize for 2026** by the **Norwegian Nobel Committee** for her **efforts to promote peace and international law**.

It is to be noted that she became the **first woman to open a law practice** in **Natal province of South Africa** in **1967**.

NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

Anne Carson, a **Canadian poet and essayist**, has been awarded the **Nobel Prize in Literature 2026** by the **Swedish Academy**.

She has been recognised for her bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature. With this, she becomes the **19th woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature**. The award carries a total prize amount of **12 million Swedish kronor (SEK)**.

NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS

American economists Robert E Hall (Stanford University) and **Michael Woodford** (Columbia University) have been jointly awarded the **2026 Nobel Prize in Economics** by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.

The pair was honoured "**for microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation**". The laureates will share a **cash prize of 12 million Swedish kronor ($1.2 million)**.

RAMANUJAN PRIZE 2026

Mahesh Kakde, a professor at the **IISc Bengaluru**, has been named the winner of the **2026 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries** for his work in **algebraic number theory**.

With this, he has become the **5th Indian** to receive the honour. The award carries a cash prize of **$10,000**.

OSKAR KLEIN MEDAL

Ashoke Sen, an **Indian physicist**, has been awarded the **2026 Oskar Klein Medal**, becoming the **first Indian physicist to receive the international honour**. The medal is jointly awarded by **Stockholm University** and the **Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.

Upon receiving the award, Professor Sen delivered the **2026 Oskar Klein Memorial Lecture** titled "**Gravity from strings and strings from gravity**". It is to be noted that he is also a recipient of the **Padma Shri** (2001) and the **Padma Bhushan** (2013).

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON AWARD

Reema Nanavaty, the **Director** of the **Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)**, has received the **Hillary Rodham Clinton Award** for her contributions to **women's economic empowerment, livelihoods, peace, and security**. She was previously honoured with the **Padma Shri** in **2013** in the **field of social work**.

Other recipients of the award include **Tory Burch** (**fashion designer and founder of the Tory Burch Foundation**) and **Muhammad Yunus** (**Nobel Peace Prize laureate** in **2006** and **founder of Grameen Bank**).

LEGION OF HONOUR

Sunil Bharti Mittal, the **founder and chairman of Bharti Enterprises**, has been honoured with the **Legion of Honour (Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour)**, the **highest civilian distinction of France**.

The distinction was conferred by **Thierry Mathou**, the Ambassador of France to India, recognising his contributions to **strengthening economic ties between India and France**.

SPORTS

20TH ASIAN GAMES

India finished **fourth** in the overall medal standings with **85 medals** (**21 gold, 27 silver, and 37 bronze**) at the **20th Asian Games (XX Asian Games)**, officially known as **Aichi-Nagoya 2026**, held in **Japan**.

China topped the tally with **341 medals** (169 gold), followed by Japan. The event concluded at the **Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium**. **Yu Zidi**, a 13-year-old swimmer from **China**, was named the **Most Valuable Player (MVP) - Female** for her three gold medals, while **Puripol Boonson**, a **Thai sprinter**, was named the **MVP - Male**.

REVIVAL COMMITTEE FOR HIL

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has formed a **7-member committee** to revive the financially troubled **Hockey India League (HIL)** and address concerns regarding its governance, financial model, and structure.

The committee includes **Vineel Krishna** (Sports Ministry Joint Secretary (Khelo India)), **Dilip Tirkey** (**Hockey India** President), **Bhola Nath Singh** (Secretary General), and **Sekar J Manoharan** (Treasurer). It is to be noted that HIL is a **professional field hockey competition** organised by Hockey India, which held its **inaugural season in 2013** and was **relaunched in 2024**.

70TH BALLON D OR

The **70th annual Ballon d'Or ceremony** was held at the **London Palladium**. **Harry Kane** of **Bayern Munich** and **England** won the **Men's Ballon d'Or**, becoming the **first English player to win the award in 25 years** (since Michael Owen in 2001).

Alexia Putellas of Barcelona / London City and **Spain** was awarded the **Women's Ballon d'Or**. The **Kopa Trophy** for young talent was won by **Lamine Yamal** (Men) and **Vicky Lopez** (Women). **Unai Simon** (Men) and **Cata Coll** (Women) received the **Yashin Trophy** for best goalkeeper, while **Harry Kane** (Men) and **Charlyn Corral** (Women) won the **Gerd Müller Trophy** as top scorers.

Publication Guide

Volume #1.8

Issue #D1

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The Issue tag indicates the Day or Week or Month. ‘D’ indicates Day, and ‘M’ indicates Month.

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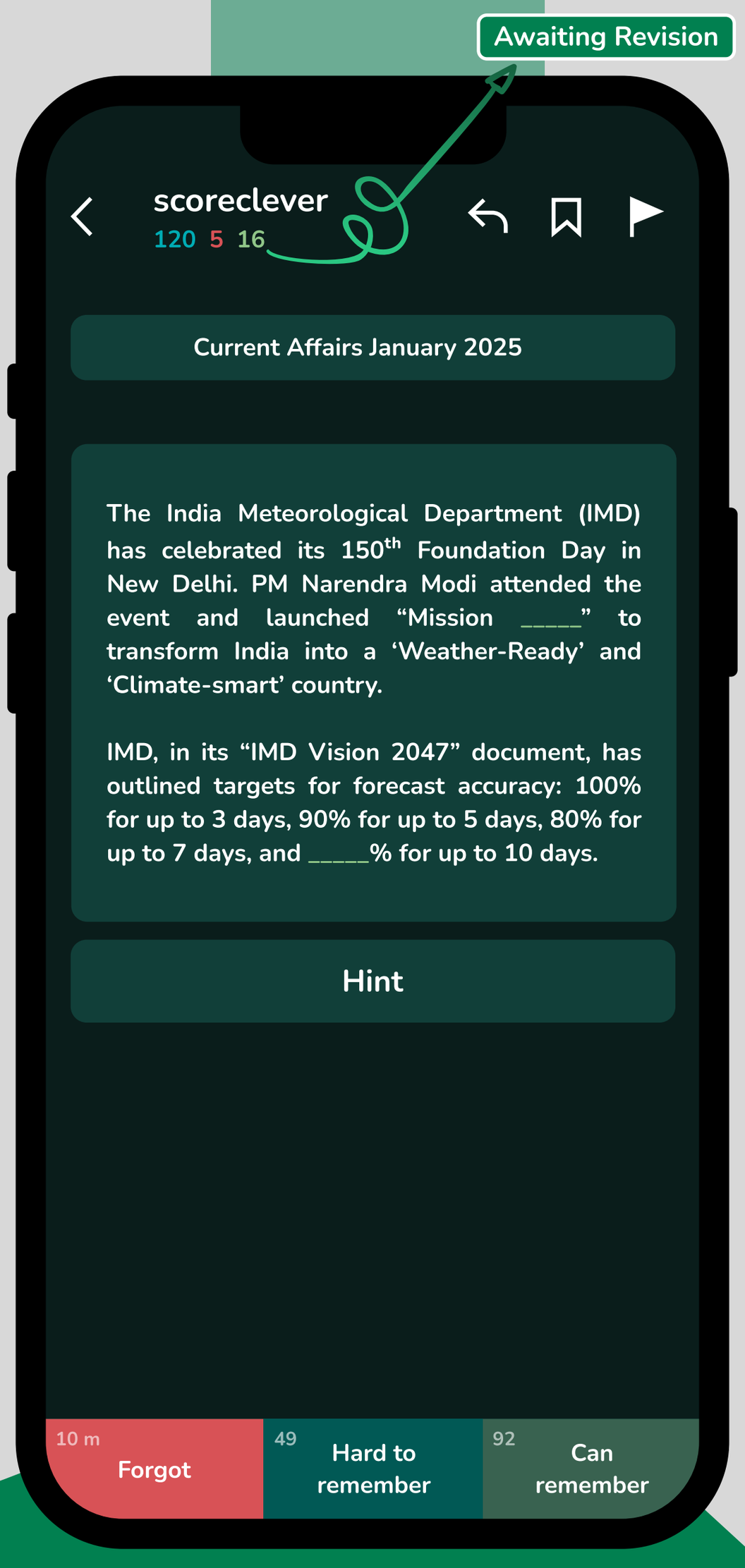
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