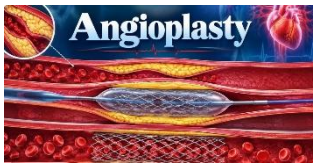
Current Affairs - 28 October 2026

WHAT IS ANGIOPLASTY?



- It is a **minimally invasive procedure** used to widen a narrowed or blocked blood vessel, often using a balloon catheter and, when indicated, a stent.
- It most commonly **treats atherosclerosis** (a **collection of plaque** made of fat and cholesterol) **in arteries.**
- Angioplasties are often necessary to try to **prevent serious complications** of atherosclerosis, like **heart attack and stroke.**
- Types of angioplasty: The two most common include:
  - Coronary artery angioplasty
  - Peripheral artery angioplasty
- Different angioplasty techniques include:
  - Balloon angioplasty
  - Angioplasty with or without stenting
  - Excimer Laser Coronary Angioplasty (ELCA)

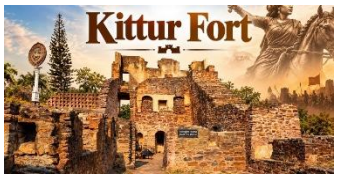
EMERGING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION CONCLAVE (ESTIC) 2026



- It is **India's premier STI platform**, bringing together **ministries, innovators,** and **global visionaries.**
- A **flagship annual event**, ESTIC fosters collaboration, showcases disruptive innovation, and drives forward the vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047."
- It will **showcase cutting-edge research, deep-tech breakthroughs**, and thought-provoking discussions with **Nobel Laureates, global experts, policymakers,** and emerging leaders - igniting a new era of scientific leadership.

- ESTIC 2026:
  - Theme: "Creative Minds, Catalysing Science, Empowering Technologies."
  - It is **organised** by the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** under the **guidance of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser** to the Government of India.

KITTUR FORT



- It is located in **Karnataka**.

History:

- It was **constructed** by **Allappa Gowda Sardesai**, the **fifth ruler of the Kittur dynasty** during his rule between **1660 and 1691 AD.**
- It became famous as the **stronghold of Rani Chennamma**, a **brave queen** who **led** one of India's earliest **armed rebellions against British rule in 1824,** about 33 years before the 1857 revolt.
- Though the **British eventually suppressed** the uprising, it remains a significant event in India's struggle for freedom.

Architecture:

- The fort was **constructed using black basalt** and features **Peshwa-Islamic architecture,** with a **three-storeyed palace** inside**.**
- The fort was equipped with **secret water well**s, a pole star viewing room, and a large palace hall for royal gatherings.
- A museum within the fort houses weapons, sculptures, and relics from the era of Queen Kittur Chennamma's rebellion.
- The fort features well-preserved ruins, including the old palace, a watchtower, water cisterns, and ancient temples.

NATIONAL STARTUP AWARDS



- It is a **flagship initiative launched in 2019** under the **Startup India initiative** to recognise innovation and entrepreneurship and strengthen India's startup ecosystem.
- It provides a national platform to **recognise entrepreneurial excellence** and showcase innovative solutions addressing critical challenges across sectors.
- It recognises startups demonstrating outstanding performance in **innovation, scalability, sustainability and socio-economic impact.**
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry

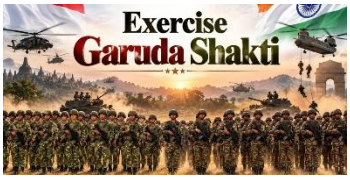
National Startup Awards 6.0:

- NSA 6.0 edition aims to encourage participation from startups across States and Union Territories, including **emerging entrepreneurial ecosystems in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.**
- It will recognise innovation, entrepreneurship and excellence across **20 sectoral categories and three special award categories**,
- This edition introduces **12 new sectoral categories**:
    - Biomanufacturing; Consumer Industries; Defence & Security; Rural Economy, Traditional Industries & Livelihoods; Education & Skilling; Electronics, Semiconductors & Advanced Manufacturing; Sports, Fitness & Sports-Tech; Future Mobility & Automotive; Ocean & Blue Economy; Space-Tech, Drones & Aerospace; Telecom, Connectivity & Digital Infrastructure; and Travel, Tourism & Hospitality.
- The three **special award categories** are:
    - Women-Led Startups
    - Startups from the North-Eastern Region
    - Student Innovator / Aspiring Entrepreneur

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- **Award Money:**
    - Winning startups across the **20 sectoral categories** and the **two startup-focused special categories** will be eligible for a cash prize **of ₹25 lakh per category**.
    - The **Student Innovator / Aspiring Entrepreneur** Award will carry a **total prize pool of ₹25** lakh across four sub-categories.
    - In addition this award seeks to **facilitate mentorship, investor engagement**, market access, industry partnerships and enhanced visibility within India's startup ecosystem.

EXERCISE GARUDA SHAKTI



- It is the joint Special Forces exercise **conducted between India– Indonesia.**
- **Participating Troop:** The Indian contingent comprises troops from the **Parachute Regiment** (Special Forces).
- **Aim:** The exercise aims to strengthen mutual understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the Special Forces of the two nations.
- **Focus:** It focuses on tactics, techniques and procedures for special operations in **jungle environments, including obstacle crossing, combat marksmanship,** mountaineering, air assault training and combat-hardening sessions.
    - It also includes the exchange of expertise and information on weapons, equipment and operational practices.
- **Objective:** The joint training will culminate with a **validation exercise** designed to simulate realistic operational **scenarios and assess the endurance**, coordination and combat readiness of both contingents.

Significance: It will further strengthen **defence cooperation and bilateral relations** between India and Indonesia.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST DOPING



- It is a **UNESCO multilateral treaty** by which States agree to adopt national and international measures to prevent and **eliminate doping in sport.**
- **Background:** The Convention was adopted during the 33rd session of UNESCO's General Conference (19 October 2005) and entered **into force on 1 February 2007.**
- It is the **only legally binding** international instrument committed to promoting integrity and **eliminating doping in sport globally.**
- **Members:** It consists of **192 States Parties**, making it UNESCO's second most ratified treaty.
    - **India is a signatory** to the International Convention Against Doping in Sport.
- **Aim:** The Convention aims to **harmonize anti-doping legislation**, guidelines, regulations, and rules internationally in order to provide a level and safe playing environment for all athletes.
- **Governance:** The **Conference of Parties** (COP) is the sovereign body of the Convention, meeting in **ordinary session biennially.**
- It has overall responsibility for its **implementation and evolution.**
- **Features of International Convention against Doping in Sport:**
    - The convention allows governments to formally **recognize the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the Code.**
    - It works under a positive implementation approach, providing guidance, financial support, skill-training and capacity-building to empower States Parties aiming to enhance their implementation of the Convention.
    - It also provides a **global forum for public and private stakeholders** of the sport integrity ecosystem.
    - **Funding mechanism:** Anti-Doping Fund was formed to create awareness about doping.

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ISRAEL'S 2026 KNESSET ELECTIONS: HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

Israelis voted on October 27, 2026, in the first election since the October 7, 2023 Hamas-led attacks and the subsequent wars in Gaza, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen.

Pre-election polling showed PM Benjamin Netanyahu locked in a tight race with Gadi Eisenkot, a former Israel Defense Forces chief. With no bloc projected to win a clear majority, the outcome may remain unresolved for weeks or months — a familiar pattern in Israeli politics.

The Electoral System

- Israel is a **parliamentary democracy** with a **proportional representation system** — voters elect party lists, not individual constituency representatives.
- The country has a **unicameral** (single-house) parliament with 120 members, elected nationally every four years.
- Three main branches of power:
  - Legislature (Knesset).
  - Executive (PM holds executive power).
  - Judiciary (headed by the Supreme Court, interprets Basic Laws and reviews legislation).
- The government depends on the Knesset's confidence and must maintain a working majority (at least 61 seats) to govern.
- National elections are administered and overseen by the CEC (Central Elections Committee).

What Is a "List" in Israeli Elections?

- A list is a slate of candidates prepared for the elections, sponsored by a single party or a group of parties.
- Any registered party or list may contest elections.
- **Under Section 7A of Basic** Law: The Knesset, the CEC or the Supreme Court may disqualify a political party or candidate if their platform/actions involve:
  - Denial of Israel's existence as a Jewish and democratic state.

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- Incitement to racism.
- Support for armed struggle against an enemy state or terrorist organisation.

How the Knesset Voting System Works?

- The Knesset (Israeli parliament) has 120 seats; a government needs 61 seats for a majority.
- Israel uses **proportional representation** — parties win seats in line with their vote share.
- Consequence: Every Israeli government has historically been a multi-party coalition, since no single party has ever won an outright majority alone.
- If no bloc reaches 61 seats:
  - A minority government becomes possible.
  - If that also fails, fresh elections are called.
  - Netanyahu would remain interim PM until a new government forms.

How Results and Government Formation Unfold?

- Exit polls: Published at 10pm local time on election day — but these can diverge significantly from final results.
- Preliminary results: Expected the next day; official results due November 4, 2026.
- Government Formation Process:
  - President Isaac Herzog consults party leaders and invites the one he believes has the best chance of forming a government.
  - This process can take over a month.
  - If that leader fails, Herzog may try another leader.
  - If that also fails, **Knesset members can request a third attempt**.
  - If all efforts fail, new elections are called.
- Israel held five elections between 2019 and 2022 due to repeated coalition-formation failures — underscoring the chronic political instability inherent in its proportional system.

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THEATRE COMMANDS - ENDING THE TURF WAR TO BUILD JOINTNESS

- India currently has **17** geographically dispersed, single-service commands, each reporting to its respective Service Headquarters.
- Their areas of responsibility do not necessarily correspond with those of the other services.
- In a **modern conflict** involving the western or northern borders or the maritime domain, operations could simultaneously cross several command boundaries.
- **Lack of coordination** among multiple commands can cause delays at a time when AI-enabled, algorithmic and network-centric warfare demands rapid decision-making.
- **Theatre commands** seek to overcome this fragmentation by placing the forces required for a particular geographical or operational theatre under a single theatre commander, with adequate operational authority.
- Theatreisation is not merely administrative restructuring; it is intended to achieve **jointness, integrated planning**, faster decision-making and coordinated application of military power.

The Air Power Debate:

- The strongest resistance has centred on the Air Force's doctrine of "**centralised** control and decentralised execution." Critics argue that assigning aircraft to different theatre commanders could fragment India's already limited air assets.

However, theatreisation need not require physically distributing squadrons among theatres, and

  - Air assets can remain at their existing bases.
  - Centralised control over air power can be retained.
  - **Operational tasking** can be decentralised according to theatre requirements.
  - A senior IAF Component Commander can advise the theatre commander on the employment of air power.

- Thus, the real issue is not the doctrine itself but who exercises operational control over air assets.

Modern Warfare is Changing:

- India cannot simply copy foreign models, but neither can it ignore contemporary conflicts.
- For example, **Ukraine** has demonstrated how missiles, drones and other asymmetric capabilities can challenge conventional naval power; Ukrainian attacks severely damaged Russia's Black Sea Fleet.
- Similarly, **Iran's** use of missiles and drones illustrates how long-range and unmanned systems can compensate, to some extent, for limitations in conventional air power.
- These developments underline the growing importance of **multi-domain operations**, unmanned systems, precision weapons, networked warfare and integrated command structures.
- The emerging model of warfare increasingly **blurs the boundaries** between land, sea, air, space and cyber domains, making inter-service integration a strategic necessity rather than merely an organisational preference.

Way Forward for India:

India faces a security environment that does not permit indefinite experimentation or delay.

- Therefore, it needs -
    - Bold and reform-oriented Service Chiefs willing to challenge entrenched organisational practices.
    - A strong CDS capable of acting as an honest broker among the three services.
    - Civilian **political oversight** to resolve disputes over roles, resources and operational control.
    - A clearly articulated National Security Strategy (**NSS**) to provide strategic direction.
    - Greater emphasis on joint planning, **interoperability**, integrated logistics and tri-service training.
    - Theatre structures tailored to India's geography, threat perception and force availability, rather than mechanically replicating foreign models.

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