Daily Current Affairs
03 November 2026

UN Peacekeeping Mission in Western Sahara Ends

- After 35 years, the United Nations peacekeeping mission MINURSO in Western Sahara has been dissolved after the UN Security Council failed to renew its mandate.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stated that MINURSO will go into a liquidation period on 1 November 2026 and transfer its assets back to the troop-contributing states.
- The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) was created in 1991 following an UN-brokered ceasefire between Morocco and the Polisario Front.
- It was primarily responsible for overseeing the ceasefire and organizing a referendum to decide the future of Western Sahara. However, there was a lack of agreement on determining who should vote at the referendum.
- Western Sahara was a Spanish colony. Spain left Western Sahara in 1976. Since then, the Polisario Front has been pushing for independence. Morocco claims sovereignty over the region, while the Polisario Front (supported by Algeria) supports independence.



Bhutan Dedicates Sacred Buddhist Stupa No. 76 to Narendra Modi

- Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck performed the consecration ceremony of the **108 Buddhist stupas** in the **Gelephu Mindfulness City** on 1st of November 2026 and dedicated the Stupa No. 76 to the PM Narendra Modi in a gesture that acknowledged his dedication and commitment towards the Gelephu Mindfulness City project and India-Bhutan collaboration.
- Thousands of volunteers built 108 stupas in one day along the banks of the Aie (Mau) River in Gelephu Mindfulness City. The stupas are an around 11.7km spiritual corridor located close to Bhutan's border with Assam, India.
- The stupas are 15m in height and are spaced 108m apart. Around 40,000 volunteers, monks and craftsmen took part in the process.
- The Jangchub Chortens are designed to symbolise enlightenment, wisdom and compassion. Stupas are sacred in Buddhism and are traditionally associated with the Buddha, his teachings and holy people. They are used for prayer, meditation and worship.
- Gelephu Mindfulness City is a development project conceptualised by Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. This project aims to merge Bhutan's spiritual values and love for nature with technology, innovation and economic growth.



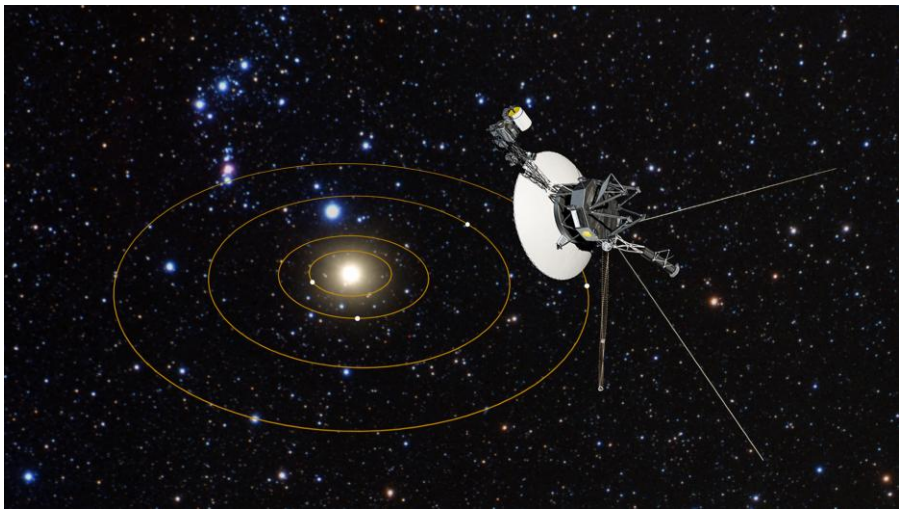
Prema Rawat Sets Women's T20 Fastest-Fifty Record

- Prema Rawat set a record for the fastest half-century in women's T20 cricket on 2 November 2026, scoring 50 not out from 14 balls for Uttarakhand against Hyderabad in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy. The match was played at the MCA Cricket Stadium in Gahunje, Pune.
- Rawat's innings included three fours and six sixes at a strike rate of 357. She surpassed the previous 15-ball benchmark, jointly held by Pakistan's Fatima Sana, England's Marie Kelly and New Zealand's Laura Harris. Sana retains the record for the fastest half-century in women's T20 International cricket.
- Uttarakhand scored 187 for two wickets, while Hyderabad finished on 98 for eight, giving Uttarakhand an 89-run victory. Rawat, a leg-spinner, also took two wickets for 12 runs in four overs and received the Player of the Match award.



Voyager 1 Nears One Light-Day from Earth

- NASA's Voyager 1 is projected to become the first human-made object one light-day from Earth at 10:16 UTC on 18 November 2026, about 25.902 billion kilometres (16.094 billion miles) away.
- As of 3 November 2026, Voyager 1 was about 25.86 billion kilometres from Earth; its radio signal took 23 hours, 57 minutes and 49 seconds to reach Earth. A command will take nearly 24 hours to arrive, with a reply requiring about another 24 hours, making a round trip roughly two days.
- Deep Space Network failed to detect Voyager 1's signal during scheduled communication attempts, and NASA lost contact for 48 hours. Contact was restored on 20 October.
- Engineers at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory traced the interruption to a group of thrusters going offline; backup thrusters took over and triggered the spacecraft's fault protection system.
- NASA is replacing power-hungry heating devices to extend the mission. Launched on 5 September 1977, Voyager 1 is travelling through interstellar space at about 61,000 kilometres per hour towards Gliese 445 (AC+79 3888) in Ursa Minor. Its twin, Voyager 2, is expected to reach one light-day from Earth in November 2035.



Dhinidhi Desinghu Wins Historic Youth Olympics Swimming Bronze

- 16-year-old Dhinidhi Desinghu won bronze in the women's 100m freestyle at the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal. She became the first Indian swimmer to win a medal at the event.

- Desinghu clocked 56.27 seconds, setting a national record and improving on her previous mark of 56.57 seconds, set at the Senior National Championships in June. Croatia's Ana Bobanovic won gold in 55.89 seconds, while New Zealand's Alyssa Lawson took silver in 56.13 seconds.
- Desinghu had topped her heat in 56.80 seconds, becoming the first Indian female swimmer to reach a Youth Olympics final. The 100m freestyle is not her main event: she holds the national women's 200m freestyle record of 2:01.81, set at the Asian Age Group Championships in July.
- She was the youngest member of India's contingent at the 2024 Paris Olympics, aged 14.
- 15-year-old Khushbu Rajakbhai Darjada won silver in the women's 63kg judo category. She became India's second Youth Olympics judo medallist after Thangjam Tababi Devi, who won silver in the 44kg category in 2018.
- 16-year-old Dhinidhi Desinghu won bronze in the 100m freestyle at the Dakar Youth Olympics, becoming India's first swimming medallist. Her 56.27-second swim set a national record, improving to 56.57.
- Khushbu Rajakbhai Darjada won India's judo silver (63kg), after Thangjam Tababi Devi's 2018 silver. Youth Olympic eligibility uses age on 31 December; universality places aid under-represented nations, with adapted sports including 3x3 basketball, futsal and beach handball.





REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. In which year was the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) established?

(A) 1988
(B) 1990
(C) 1991
(D) 1995

Answer: (C) 1991

Q2. MINURSO was established following a ceasefire agreement between which two parties?

(A) Morocco and Algeria
(B) Morocco and the Polisario Front
(C) Spain and Morocco
(D) Algeria and Mauritania

Answer: (B) Morocco and the Polisario Front

Q3. Which Buddhist stupa was dedicated to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Bhutan?

(A) Stupa No. 54
(B) Stupa No. 76
(C) Stupa No. 88
(D) Stupa No. 108

Answer: (B) Stupa No. 76

Q4. How many Buddhist stupas were consecrated in Gelephu Mindfulness City, Bhutan, on 1 November 2026?

(A) 54
(B) 76
(C) 100
(D) 108

Answer: (D) 108

Q5. Who established the record for the fastest half-century in women's T20 cricket by scoring 50 runs in just 14 balls?

(A) Smriti Mandhana
(B) Prema Rawat

(C) Harmanpreet Kaur
(D) Shafali Verma

Answer: (B) Prema Rawat

Q6. Prema Rawat represented which state against Hyderabad in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy?

(A) Himachal Pradesh
(B) Uttarakhand
(C) Rajasthan
(D) Haryana

Answer: (B) Uttarakhand

Q7. NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft was launched on which date?

(A) 5 September 1977
(B) 10 October 1978
(C) 20 August 1977
(D) 15 November 1979

Answer: (A) 5 September 1977

Q8. Voyager 1 is projected to become the first human-made object to reach a distance of one light-day from Earth on which date?

(A) 3 November 2026
(B) 10 November 2026
(C) 18 November 2026
(D) 20 December 2026

Answer: (C) 18 November 2026

Q9. Dhinidhi Desinghu won a bronze medal in which event at the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal?

(A) Women's 50m freestyle
(B) Women's 100m freestyle
(C) Women's 200m freestyle
(D) Women's 100m butterfly

Answer: (B) Women's 100m freestyle

Q10. Who became India's second Youth Olympic Games judo medallist by winning silver in the women's 63kg category?

(A) Thangjam Tababi Devi
(B) Khushbu Rajakbhai Darjada
(C) Dhinidhi Desinghu
(D) Ana Bobanovic

Answer: (B) Khushbu Rajakbhai Darjada