Daily Current Affairs
19 November 2026

International Men's Day 2026

- International Men's Day takes place every year on 19th of the November. 2026's theme is '**The Future Is Everyone**'. This means we are encouraging inclusivity, equity, and shared responsibility.
- The idea of 'The Future Is Everyone' in relation to International Men's Day was created by Lisa Britton (USA) around 2020. It is encouraging true inclusivity and appreciation of men and boys.
- International Men's Day was created by Dr Jerome Teelucksingh, a history teacher at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago, in 1999.
- International Men's Day began to gain popularity in India in 2007. **Uma Challa** has played a key role in promoting this celebration within India. She is affiliated with the Save Indian Family Foundation, which works on issues regarding men and within families.
- International Men's Day does not seek to oppose International Women's Day (March 8th). Both days allow people to have discussions on gender issues, to encourage wellbeing and equality and respect between genders.



World Toilet Day 2026

- World Toilet Day 2026 takes place on the 19th November. It aims to highlight how good sanitation is important for people. The 2026 theme focuses on linking good sanitation with gender equality. Issues within sanitation can cause problems for women and girls.
- Theme: Safe toilets. Equal futures.
- First Celebrated: 2001
- Officially Recognised by United Nations: 2013
- Established by: World Toilet Organisation
- Founded by: Jack Sim
- Organised by: UN-Water
- In 2001, World Toilet Day was created by the World Toilet Organisation (WTO). This organisation was started by Jack Sim, a philanthropist from Singapore.
- World Toilet Day links sanitation to many of the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.

SDG	Goal	Link to sanitation
SDG-6	Clean Water and Sanitation	To improve equal, safe sanitation and hygienic practices for everyone.
SDG-3	Good Health and Wellbeing	Reduces risk of illness due to poor sanitation and poor hygiene.
SDG-5	Gender Equality	Improves safety, dignity, menstrual hygiene, and equal opportunity for women.
SDG-10	Reduced inequalities	Improves inclusive sanitation for disadvantaged/vulnerable groups.



Rani Lakshmibai Birth Anniversary 2026

- Rani of Jhansi was an important figure in the Revolt of 1857. Rani Lakshmibai was born as Manikarnika Tambe in Varanasi. She married Maharaja Gangadhar Rao and became the queen of Jhansi.
- Due to her opposition to the annexation of Jhansi by the British under the Doctrine of Lapse and her role in the Revolt of 1857, she is greatly revered. Rani Lakshmibai's birthday is on 19th November.
- Manikarnika Tambe, who later became famed as Rani Lakshmibai, was born in Varanasi on 19th November 1828. Her father was Moropant Tambe and her mother was Bhagirathi Bai. As a child, she was referred to as Manu.
- In 1842, Manikarnika married Maharaja Gangadhar Rao Newalkar of Jhansi. As a result, she became known as Lakshmibai.
- Lakshmibai gave birth to a son however he passed away at a young age. Before he passed away in 1853, Maharaja Gangadhar Rao and Lakshmibai adopted another boy from the royal family. This boy was named **Damodar Rao**.
- Jhansi was annexed by the British in 1854 with the Doctrine of Lapse. This policy was introduced and enacted by Governor General, Lord Dalhousie.



AI Kavach

- AI Kavach is a cybersecurity and assurance laboratory developed in collaboration between **IIT Kanpur** and **Bharat1.ai**. It was launched in November 2026 to improve the security of AI systems within finance.
- It aims to identify security issues within AI systems and develop tools to protect from cyber-attacks and unintended or malicious activity within AI agents.
- This is the first AI cybersecurity and assurance lab focused on the financial sector in India.
- Over 300 students and professionals can be trained at AI Kavach by,
- Offering targeted research fellowships.
- Offering cybersecurity challenges.
- Offering training within industry.
- Working in research and industry partnerships.
- Within banking, insurance, and FinTech, AI is commonly used to detect fraud, assess creditworthiness, deliver customer service, verify identities and process transactions.
- However, as autonomous AI agents are set to be increasingly used in to the financial systems, there are increased cybersecurity concerns. These systems may have access to sensitive financial data, interact with digital systems, and perform tasks with minimal human involvement.



Karthik Muralidharan Appointed ADB Chief Economist

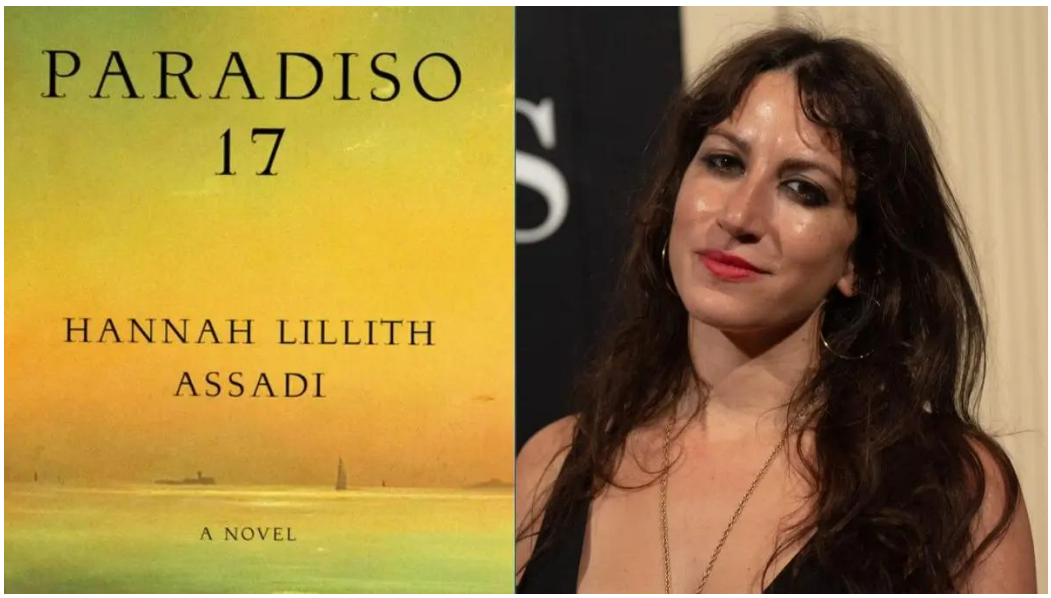
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) appointed Karthik Muralidharan as Chief Economist and Director General of the Economic Research and Development Impact Department. He will take up the position on 1st July 2027.
- Muralidharan is currently the Tata Chancellor's Professor of Economics at the University of California, San Diego. As Chief Economist, Muralidharan will provide economic research, analysis and forecasting across economies in Asia and the Pacific.
- The Asian Development Bank is a multilateral development bank set up in 1966. They work with economies in the Asia-Pacific region with development partners to encourage sustainable, inclusive development.
- Founding Year: 1966
- Based in: Manila, Philippines
- President: Masato Kanda
- New Chief Economist: Karthik Muralidharan



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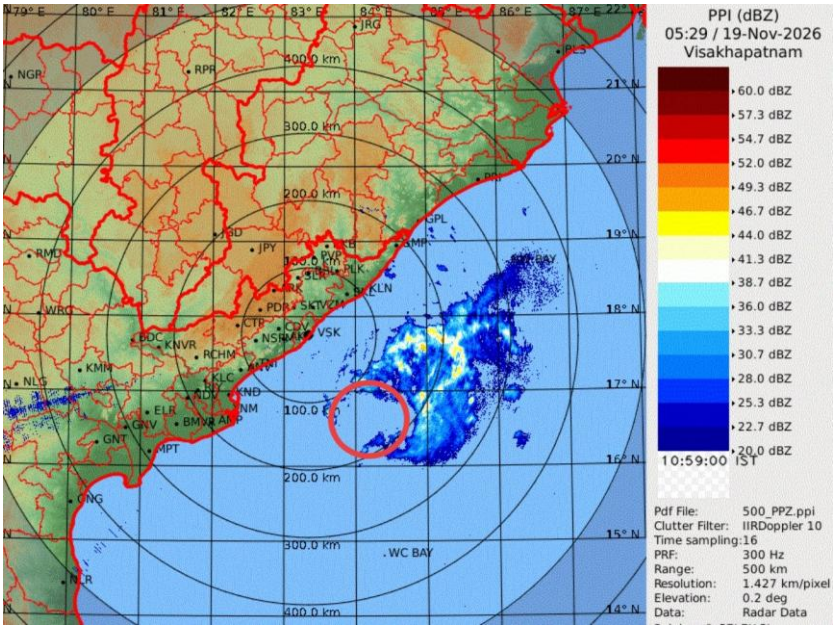
National Book Awards 2026

- Hannah Lillith Assadi, a Palestinian-Jewish writer, has won the National Book Award for Fiction for the year of 2026. Paradiso 17 tells the story of a Palestinian individual who was forced to migrate in 1948 in the Nakba.
- The winners of other categories were announced, as well as Salman Rushdie, an Indian British author, receiving a special medal for his contribution to literature in America.
- Hannah Lillith Assadi has won the National Book Award in fiction with her third book, Paradiso 17. She will receive $10,000 in prize money.
- Paradiso 17 explores the emotional effects of displacement on a Palestinian man forced to leave his home in the Nakba of 1948.
- Salman Rushdie, an Indian British author, has received the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters in 2026.
- Rushdie, born in Bombay (Mumbai) in 1947, is internationally known for his novels,
- Midnight’s Children (1981) – won the Booker Prize.
- The Satanic Verses (1988).
- The Moor’s Last Sigh (1995).
- The Golden House (2017).
- Victory City (2023).



Cyclone Akvan 2026

- Cyclone Akvan has developed into a Severe Cyclonic Storm within the west-central Bay of Bengal.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast in its 19th November morning bulletin that the storm will Make Landfall on the coast of North Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and South Odisha between Narsapur and Puri (just to the East of Gopalpur) by midday on 20th November 2026.
- Tropical Cyclones are large weather systems that can cause strong winds, heavy rainfall, rough seas, storm surges and coastal flooding.
- The name Akvan has been provided by Iran within the regional list of tropical cyclone names managed by the WMO/UNESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.
- The current list of names, in operation since April 2020, contains 169 names. 13 names have been provided by each of the 13 contributing countries.
- Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen all contribute names.
- Within the North Indian Ocean (Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea), qualifying cyclones receive their names from the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) in New Delhi, India.



Climate Risk Index 2027

- In the Climate Risk Index 2027 released by German watch on 17th November 2026, India comes in as the 10th most impacted country by extreme weather events between 1996 and 2025.
- Between 1996-2025, extreme weather events in India caused over 78,000 deaths, affected over 1.2 billion people, and caused economic losses exceeding $170 billion. In 2025 alone, India came 12th.
- **Countries Most Affected by Extreme Weather Events (overall)**

Rank	Country
1	Dominica
2	Myanmar
3	Honduras
4	Libya
5	Haiti
6	Grenada
7	Philippines

8	Nicaragua
9	Bahamas
10	India



REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. International Men's Day is observed every year on which date?

A) 10 November
B) 14 November
C) 19 November
D) 25 November

Answer: C) 19 November

Q2. Who founded International Men's Day in 1999?

A) Jack Sim
B) Dr Jerome Teelucksingh
C) Uma Challa
D) Lisa Britton

Answer: B) Dr Jerome Teelucksingh

Q3. What is the theme of World Toilet Day 2026?

A) Sanitation for All
B) Clean Water, Healthy Life
C) Safe Toilets. Equal Futures.
D) Toilets and Climate Change

Answer: C) Safe Toilets. Equal Futures.

Q4. World Toilet Day was officially recognised by the United Nations in which year?

A) 2001
B) 2005
C) 2010
D) 2013

Answer: D) 2013

Q5. Rani Lakshmibai was born with which name?

A) Ahilyabai Holkar
B) Manikarnika Tambe
C) Bhagirathi Bai
D) Rani Durgavati

Answer: B) Manikarnika Tambe

Q6. The Doctrine of Lapse, under which Jhansi was annexed in 1854, was introduced and implemented by whom?

A) Lord Canning
B) Lord Wellesley
C) Lord Dalhousie
D) Lord Curzon

Answer: C) Lord Dalhousie

Q7. AI Kavach was developed through collaboration between IIT Kanpur and which organisation?

A) Bharat1.ai
B) DRDO
C) NITI Aayog
D) CERT-In

Answer: A) Bharat1.ai

Q8. Karthik Muralidharan has been appointed Chief Economist of which organisation?

A) World Bank
B) International Monetary Fund
C) Asian Development Bank
D) World Trade Organization

Answer: C) Asian Development Bank

Q9. Which book won the Fiction category at the National Book Awards 2026, according to the supplied material?

A) Midnight's Children
B) Paradiso 17
C) The Satanic Verses
D) Victory City

Answer: B) Paradiso 17

Q10. According to the Climate Risk Index 2027, what was India's rank among the countries most affected by extreme weather events during 1996–2025?

A) 5th
B) 8th
C) 10th
D) 12th

Answer: C) 10th