Daily Current Affairs
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Red Planet Day 2026

- Red Planet Day is observed annually on November 28th to commemorate the launch of the NASA's Mariner 4 spacecraft on November 28th in 1964. This mission became the first successful spacecraft to conduct a close flyby of Mars and transmit close-up images of another planet to Earth.
- In 2026 the observance of the day marks the 62nd anniversary of this milestone in space exploration. The day also highlights scientific research on Mars, its geological history, evidence of ancient water and the possibility of past microbial life.
- Mars is known as the Red Planet because of its distinctive reddish appearance. This colour comes from iron oxide, commonly known as rust, present in the planet's surface materials and dust.
- When iron-bearing minerals react with oxygen, oxidation produces reddish compounds. Dust containing these materials covers much of the Martian surface, giving the planet its characteristic colour.



India Wins Inaugural BIMSTEC U-23 Athletics Meet

- India won the inaugural BIMSTEC Under-23 Athletics Meet, held from November 25 to 27, 2026, at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Six BIMSTEC member nations competed across 32 events, with more than 200 athletes taking part.
- India finished first with 47 medals: 22 gold, 18 silver and seven bronze. Sri Lanka was runner-up with 38 medals (10 gold, 12 silver and 16 bronze), while Bangladesh placed third with 10 medals (two silver and eight bronze).
- On November 27, India won gold in all four relay events: the men's and women's 4x100m and 4x400m.
- Mrithika T won the women's 100m on November 25. Anurag Singh Kaler won the men's shot put, and Shashank Patil won the men's javelin throw. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi formally closed the meet on November 27, highlighting its role in strengthening ties and giving young athletes exposure.



India to Host ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2030

- India will host the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference in 2030. India's proposal received formal acceptance at the 2026 conference in Doha, Qatar, which concluded on 27 November.
- The ITU Council approved India's offer during its 2026 session in Geneva, after India formally expressed interest in November 2024. At the conference in Doha, Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia invited the global telecommunications community to attend the 2030 meeting through a video message.

- India was re-elected to the ITU Council for the 2027–2030 term on 16 November 2026, securing 151 votes. It has been an active ITU member since 1869 and has held continuous Council membership since 1952.
- Hosting the Plenipotentiary Conference is expected to strengthen India's global telecommunications leadership, promote digital innovation and deepen cooperation among Member States. The event will also provide a platform to showcase India's technological advances, digital inclusion initiatives and innovation ecosystem.



India Announces $500,000 Grant to IORA

- The 25th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) was held in New Delhi on 27th of November 2026 under the chairmanship of External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar.
- The meeting brought together representatives of all 23 IORA Member States and 12 Dialogue Partners to discuss regional cooperation and developments in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Its key outcomes included India's announcement of a $500,000 grant, endorsement of two proposed Centres of Excellence in India and the adoption of the Delhi Communiqué 2026.
- India is chairing IORA for the 2025–2027 period. Its chairship theme is,
- "**Innovation, Openness, Resilience and Adaptability in the Indian Ocean Region."**
- The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an intergovernmental organisation established on 7 March 1997 to promote regional cooperation, economic

dialogue and sustainable development among countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

- Its vision originated during former South African President Nelson Mandela's visit to India in 1995, when he highlighted the importance of cooperation among Indian Ocean countries.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. Red Planet Day is observed every year on which date?

A) 21 November
B) 25 November
C) 28 November
D) 30 November

Correct Answer: C

28 November

Explanation: Red Planet Day commemorates the launch of NASA's Mariner 4 spacecraft on 28 November 1964.

Q2. Which spacecraft became the first to successfully conduct a close flyby of Mars and transmit close-up images to Earth?

A) Mariner 2
B) Mariner 4
C) Viking 1
D) Mars Pathfinder

Correct Answer: B

Mariner 4

Explanation: NASA's Mariner 4 mission achieved this historic milestone in space exploration in 1965.

Q3. Why is Mars known as the Red Planet?

A) Presence of methane
B) High atmospheric temperature
C) Presence of iron oxide
D) Presence of liquid lava

Correct Answer: C

Presence of iron oxide

Explanation: Iron oxide, commonly known as rust, in Martian surface materials and dust gives Mars its reddish appearance.

Q4. Which country won the inaugural BIMSTEC U-23 Athletics Meet 2026?

A) Sri Lanka
B) Bangladesh
C) India
D) Thailand

Correct Answer: C

India

Explanation: India finished first with 47 medals, including 22 gold, 18 silver and seven bronze medals.

Q5. The inaugural BIMSTEC U-23 Athletics Meet 2026 was held at which stadium?

A) Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi
B) Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar
C) Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata
D) Sree Kanteerava Stadium, Bengaluru

Correct Answer: B

Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar

Explanation: The championship was held from 25 to 27 November 2026 in Odisha.

Q6. India will host the Plenipotentiary Conference of which international organisation in 2030?

A) UNESCO
B) International Telecommunication Union
C) International Maritime Organization
D) World Meteorological Organization

Correct Answer: B

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Explanation: India received formal acceptance to host the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 2030.

Q7. India secured how many votes during its re-election to the ITU Council for the 2027–2030 term?

A) 125
B) 135
C) 145
D) 151

Correct Answer: D

151 votes

Explanation: India was re-elected to the ITU Council on 16 November 2026, securing 151 votes.

Q8. The 25th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of IORA was held in which city on 27 November 2026?

A) Mumbai
B) Colombo
C) New Delhi
D) Port Louis

Correct Answer: C

New Delhi

Explanation: The meeting was chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar.

Q9. In which year was the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) established?

A) 1995
B) 1997

C) 2000
D) 2005

Correct Answer: B

1997

Explanation: IORA was established on 7 March 1997 to promote regional cooperation and sustainable development among Indian Ocean countries.

Q10. What was the financial grant announced by India to the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in November 2026?

A) US$100,000
B) US$250,000
C) US$500,000
D) US$1 million

Correct Answer: C

US$500,000

Explanation: India announced the grant during the 25th IORA Council of Ministers meeting in New Delhi.