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CURRENT AFFAIRS (24-10-2026)

FOR

COMPETITIVE EXAMS

(UPSC, APPSC, TGPSC)

[Study material by EKAM IAS Academy]

Q1. Consider the following statements about low-pressure systems over the Bay of Bengal:
1.Every low-pressure area develops into a cyclonic storm.
2.Warm sea-surface temperatures can favour tropical cyclone intensification.
3.The IMD issues warnings to help coastal communities prepare for cyclone-related hazards.
4.Heavy rainfall from a weather system can cause flooding even if it does not intensify into a cyclonic storm.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
A) 1 and 2 only
B) 2 and 3 only
C) 2, 3 and 4 only
D) 1, 2, 3 and 4
Answer: B

Q2. Consider the following statements about Alai Balai:
1.It was initiated by Bandaru Dattatreya in 2005.
2.It is associated with Telangana's cultural heritage and social harmony.
3. It is traditionally organised after Vijayadashami.
4. It is exclusively a religious gathering with participation restricted to one community.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
A) 1 and 2 only

B) 1, 2 and 3 only
C) 2, 3 and 4 only
D) 1, 2, 3 and 4
Answer: B

Articles

- LAC 'disturbed' by PLA's behaviour, admits MEA
- Jaishankar visits Azerbaijan to ease strain in ties over Operation Sindoor
- ANU faculty member wins Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar
- Tribute to valiant queen
- Qutub Shahi tombs
- 'Kakinada is at heart of India's return to making Penicillin'

LAC 'disturbed' by PLA's behaviour, admits MEA

India, China are in touch to improve border management along the LAC, says Ministry; response comes after ITBP chief's remarks on the situation in Arunachal Pradesh; Congress slams Centre

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The Line of Actual Control (LAC) has been "disturbed" by the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) patrolling behaviour, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday in response to questions about a report in *The Hindu* on skirmishes along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh.

The report, which had quoted the outgoing Director-General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Forces (ITBP), Shatrujeet Kapur, expressing concern over "face-offs" underway since July 2026, led to the Congress criticising the Centre.

Despite the Ministry's confirmation, the video of Mr. Kapur's speech, delivered at an event in Alwar on Thursday, was deleted from the ITBP's official YouTube channel. This was the first time the government has officially accepted that, more than two years after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping announced a détente between their militaries, the border areas remain tense and "get disturbed" over patrolling routes.

> Both sides [India and China] continue to use existing diplomatic and military mechanisms to resolve outstanding issues and avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation along the Line of Actual Control
>
> **RANDHIR JAISWAL**
> Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson

"As we have noted in the past, the situation in the India-China border areas gets disturbed from time to time when Chinese forces diverge from established patrolling patterns," Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told journalists at a briefing here, blaming the PLA for the divergences.

"Both sides continue to use existing diplomatic and military mechanisms to resolve outstanding issues and avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation along the Line of Actual Control," he added.

He reiterated the government's position since the beginning of the four-year military standoff at the LAC, including the Galwan clashes in 2020, that the "maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas is essential for the overall development of bilateral relations", and said that both sides were in touch about improving their understanding of the LAC for "better border management".

The government's response came after the Opposition demanded a clarification on the situation in Arunachal Pradesh. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asked PM to explain the "continuing face-offs" between Indian and Chinese troops at several locations along the Arunachal Pradesh border, questioning whether India's patrolling access had been compromised and whether the pre-May 2020 status quo had been restored.

In a post on X, Mr. Kharge said the confirmation by the chief of ITBP forces stationed at the LAC was "deeply alarming". He alleged that Mr. Modi's June 2020 statement that no one had entered Indian territory after the Galwan clashes had emboldened China.

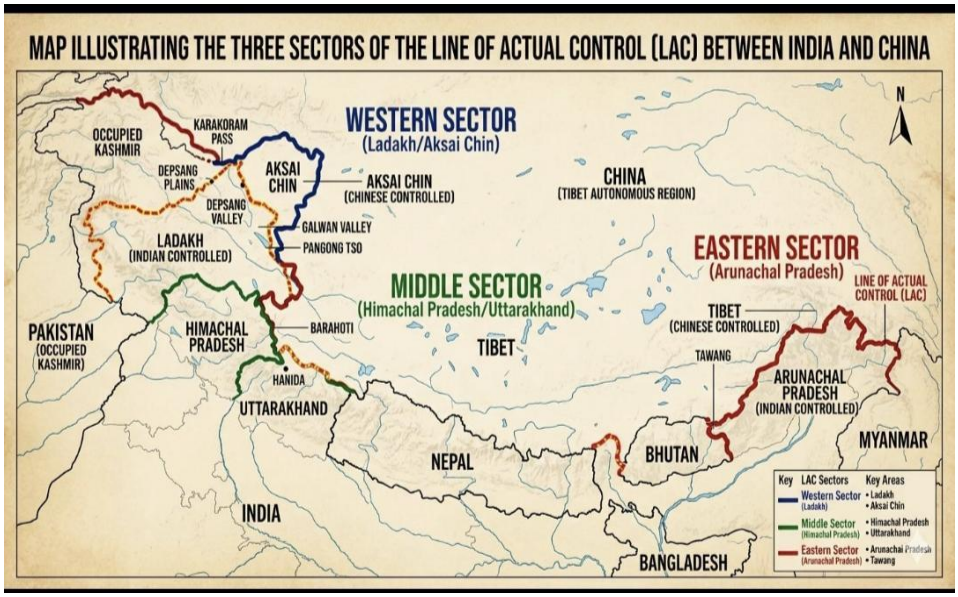
Congress media and publicity department chairman, Pawan Khera, commended the ITBP's 'Shaurya Commandos' for handling the confrontations with China, but accused the government of suppressing information from the border. "The fact that China entered our territory does not bother [the government]; what bothers them is that this has been reported," he said.

The Congress questioned the government's easing of restrictions on Chinese investment and the growing trade deficit.

"India's trade deficit with China zoomed even further to a record $112 billion in 2025-26, up from $99 billion the previous year. This has simply crushed our MSMEs in many industries," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said in a post, adding, "Make in India has become Import from China. This staggering trade deficit is in itself a very significant threat to our economic security."

Key highlights of the news

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) acknowledged that the Line of Actual Control (LAC) has been disturbed by the patrolling behaviour of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China.
India and China are in contact to improve border management and resolve outstanding issues.
The government emphasised the use of diplomatic and military mechanisms to avoid misunderstandings and miscalculations.
The issue relates to reported Chinese military activities and face-offs along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh.
The controversy also highlights concerns about transparency, border security and the overall state of India–China relations.



Line of Actual Control (LAC)

The de facto line separating Indian- and Chinese-controlled territories.
It is not a mutually agreed, fully demarcated international boundary.
Differences in perception of its alignment can lead to patrol confrontations.

Why is the LAC frequently disturbed?

- Unsettled boundary: No mutually agreed and fully demarcated boundary exists.
- Different perceptions: Indian and Chinese patrols may claim access to the same areas.
- Infrastructure development: Roads, bridges, airfields and other military infrastructure increase strategic competition.
- Strategic competition: Both countries seek to protect their territorial claims and security interests.
- Trust deficit: The 2020 Galwan clash severely affected bilateral relations.
- Military deployments: Increased troop presence and patrolling raise the risk of accidental escalation.

Existing mechanisms to manage the border

1. Diplomatic dialogue: Talks between the foreign ministries of both countries.
2. Military-level talks: Discussions between military commanders to resolve standoffs.
3. Border management agreements: Agreements aimed at maintaining peace and reducing the risk of conflict.
4. Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC): A bilateral mechanism for consultation on India–China border affairs.
5. Special Representatives mechanism: High-level dialogue to address the boundary question.

Way forward

Clarify the LAC: Work towards a common understanding of its alignment.
Strengthen confidence-building measures: Improve communication between local military commanders.
Follow existing agreements: Ensure that patrolling and troop movements do not trigger confrontations.
Maintain diplomatic engagement: Resolve disputes through dialogue rather than unilateral actions.
Improve border infrastructure: Strengthen India's surveillance, connectivity and logistical preparedness.
Adopt a comprehensive approach: Separate border dispute management from other areas of cooperation wherever feasible, while protecting national interests.

Q. "Recurring tensions along the Line of Actual Control pose a challenge to India–China relations. Examine the major causes of these tensions and suggest measures to ensure peace and stability along the border."

Jaishankar visits Azerbaijan to ease strain in ties over Operation Sindoor

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday met Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku and said the visit charted a "pathway" for the future of bilateral ties. The meeting comes more than a year after relations between India and Azerbaijan deteriorated over the latter's opposition to India's Operation Sindoor against Pakistan.

Mr. Jaishankar also met his counterpart Jayhun Bayramov, who said the two countries had "different view points on different issues" earlier, but highlighted new areas of cooperation such as energy, and tourism after what he described as a "fruitful discussion".

"We have common interest in really promoting peace and progress and prosperity. And threats like terrorism, conflict, and instability are our common enemies," Mr. Jaishankar said in his remarks to the media after the meeting with Mr. Bayramov.

"Delighted to welcome the External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar, to exchange views on the current state and prospects of Azerbaijan-India relations, including political dialogue, trade and investment, energy, tourism and cultural ties," said Mr. Bayramov, emphasising "continued dialogue and exploration of opportunities for cooperation in areas of mutual interest".

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar meets Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku on Friday. AFP

Way forward

"Our talks charted a pathway forward for our relationship. Agreed to deepen political consultations, exchange visits, enhance economic activities, build connectivity and foster people-to-people ties," Mr. Jaishankar said. He also extended India's support to the peace process between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The statement is the first major conciliatory step from the Indian side since Azerbaijan had expressed concern over the India-initiated Operation Sindoor of May 2025.

Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry had, on May 7, 2025, condemned the Indian strikes against Pakistan-based terror targets. "We condemn military attacks against the Islamic Republic of Pakistan that killed and injured several civilians," the Azerbaijani Ministry had said.

Kashmir issue

Azerbaijan has also been vocal on the Kashmir issue at the international level, often calling for its "resolution". Mr. Bayramov in his remarks on Friday downplayed the differences between the two sides. "We have touched upon a number of issues. I believe Azerbaijan-India relations are on their way to developing to a higher level," said Mr. Bayramov.

Mr. Jaishankar's visit to Baku is the first bilateral visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister in eight years. The late External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj had visited Azerbaijan in April 2018 for a Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial meeting.

Official sources here described the remarks from both sides on Friday as a sign of "diplomatic reset" as India expects to exert pressure on Turkiye and Pakistan by drawing Azerbaijan close.

Context:

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday met Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku and said the visit charted a "pathway" for the future of bilateral ties. The meeting comes more than a year after relations between India and Azerbaijan deteriorated over the latter's opposition to India's Operation Sindoor against Pakistan.

The visit aimed to ease tensions in India–Azerbaijan relations following Azerbaijan's criticism of Operation Sindoor, India's military operation against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered territory in May 2025.
Both countries discussed:
Political dialogue and diplomatic consultations.
Trade, investment and economic cooperation.
Energy, tourism and cultural exchanges.
Counterterrorism and regional peace.
Azerbaijan has expressed views on the Kashmir issue and condemned India's military strikes in 2025.
The visit signals an effort to reset bilateral relations through dialogue while protecting India's security interests.

Why did relations deteriorate?

- Azerbaijan criticised India's military action during Operation Sindoor and expressed support for Pakistan's position.
- Azerbaijan has raised the Kashmir issue in international forums.
- These positions created diplomatic friction between New Delhi and Baku.

- India's October 2026 diplomatic engagement seeks to improve ties without compromising its position on terrorism and national security.

Operation Sindoor

On 22 April 2025, a terrorist attack at Baisaran near Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, killed 26 people.
India attributed the attack to Pakistan-backed terrorism.
India launched Operation Sindoor on 7 May 2025 in response to the Pahalgam attack.

Key objectives

Target terrorist infrastructure linked to cross-border terrorism.
Punish the perpetrators and planners of the Pahalgam attack.
Deter future terrorist attacks against India.
Demonstrate India's ability to conduct targeted military operations while seeking to limit escalation.

'Kakinada is at heart of India's return to making Penicillin'

HRD Minister N. Lokesh on Friday said Lyfius Pharma Private Limited's Penicillin-G facility in the Kakinada SEZ was helping India cut its dependence on imported raw materials for essential antibiotics. "Proud that Kakinada is at the heart of India's return to making Penicillin. A.P. is ready to play a key role in building a self-reliant pharma supply chain for the nation," Mr. Lokesh said while thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a post on X. Earlier in the day, Mr. Modi said on X that "Penicillin-G is being made in India, Again! India is strengthening its domestic pharmaceutical industry and reducing dependence on imported raw materials for medicines." In an official release by the Centre, Mr. Modi was quoted as saying, "With over ₹5,000 crore invested and around 40 projects initiated under the PLI scheme, India is taking important steps towards 'Aatmanirbharta' in pharmaceutical manufacturing."

Key highlights of the news

- Location: Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
- Company: Lyfius Pharma Private Limited.
- Facility: Penicillin-G manufacturing facility in the Kakinada Special Economic Zone (SEZ).
- Main objective: To reduce India's dependence on imported raw materials used in manufacturing essential antibiotics.
- National objective: Pharmaceutical self-reliance under the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- Investment mentioned in the article: Over ₹5,000 crore under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, covering around 40 projects.

What is Penicillin-G?

- Penicillin-G is an important antibiotic used to treat certain bacterial infections.
- It is a key starting material for manufacturing several penicillin-based antibiotics.
- It is produced through industrial fermentation using suitable microorganisms.
- It is not effective against viral infections such as the common cold or influenza.

Importance for Andhra Pradesh

- Industrial development: Strengthens the pharmaceutical industry in Kakinada.
- Employment generation: Can create direct and indirect jobs in manufacturing, logistics and allied sectors.
- Import substitution: Reduces reliance on foreign suppliers for essential pharmaceutical ingredients.
- Investment: Encourages private investment and industrial growth in Andhra Pradesh.
- National security: Improves the availability of essential medicines during global supply-chain disruptions.
- Atmanirbhar Bharat: Promotes domestic manufacturing and pharmaceutical self-reliance.

Q1. With reference to the Penicillin-G manufacturing facility at Kakinada, consider the following statements:
1. It is located in Andhra Pradesh.
2. It is associated with the PLI Scheme for Bulk Drugs.
3. Penicillin-G is an antibiotic used to treat certain bacterial infections.
4. The scheme aims to increase India's dependence on imported pharmaceutical ingredients.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Qutb Shahi Tombs await a way out of legal maze

While an MoU to set up a trust to manage the Qutb Shahi Tombs remains on paper, 90 court cases have stalled the completion of an interpretation centre at the heritage site. The delay has left the project vulnerable to water damage and deprives visitors of facilities designed to explain Hyderabad's history and the Qutb Shahi rulers' contribution to it

Serish Nanisetti
serish.n@thehindu.co.in
HYDERABAD

When a group of friends visit the garden area at the Qutb Shahi Tombs, they inevitably end up asking one question: "Where are we?" The funerary garden has two parking lots, two entrances and a single ticketing window. The resulting chaos is something the staff at the heritage site have grown accustomed to.

In February this year, the State government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with several government departments and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) to set up a trust to manage the heritage site. Months later, the MoU remains a piece of paper, with no progress on releasing the initial funding needed to operationalise the trust.

The result has been a continuum of chaos and confusion. A management trust would help ensure a seamless experience for visitors and tourists, improve upkeep and make the site more responsive to their needs.

The 400-year-old funerary complex, that has rich archaeological history, remains beset by government indifference and legal challenges. While one parking lot leads to the ticket counter and the current entrance to the site, near the grand tomb of the seventh king, Abdullah Qutb Shah, which features an arch adorned with pineapple fresco, the other parking lot, which has a greater capacity, leads to the half-complete interpretation centre. And thereby hangs a tale.

The nearly finished interpretation centre at the Qutb Shahi Tombs complex that is getting weathered due to disuse.

"Some people have weaponised the judiciary to stall important projects. There are so many cases that the Aga Khan Trust for Culture wanted to withdraw from the project, but somehow the State was able to convince it to stay on and complete the work. But now it looks like the people of the city don't want anything to do with heritage. We are unable to do anything to break this legal imbroglio," says Sajjad Shahid of the Telangana chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). At the last count, there were 90 cases in different courts filed by a small group of people.

When it rains, the water flows down the slope of the Qutb Shahi Tombs complex and collects around what looks like an unfinished building. This is the semi-finished interpretation centre planned for the heritage site as well as the Golconda Fort.

"You can see this building is nearly complete. But there is a court order and we have stopped the work. If the building was complete, nothing would have happened to it. But because it is only half-complete, it is suffering damage due to water seepage and stagnation, as the flooring has not been completed," says a staff member of Aga Khan Trust for Culture. The trust is building the interpretation centre with funding from the Union government.

A few days ago, visitors attending a talk at the unfinished building were surprised to see signboards reading "Orientation Court", "Qutb Shahi Sultans Gallery", "Cafe" and "World Heritage Gallery", among others.

The signboards offered a glimpse of how the interpretation centre was designed to tell the story of Hyderabad's evolution from the fortified city of Golconda to the modern metropolis, while highlighting the role of the Qutb Shahi rulers in shaping the city's culture and history. However, legal challenges have stymied the plan.

The legal tangle has reached even the Lok Sabha, where Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said: "Due to ongoing title dispute of the land in question, the matter remain sub-judice, till date."

He was responding to a question about the release of the remaining ₹26.29 crore required to facilitate the timely completion of the project, 'Development of Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, Paigah Tombs, Hayat Bakshi Mosque, Raymond's Tomb', sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

The project was initiated in 2017-18 under the 'Heritage Circuit of Swadesh Darshan Scheme', with a sanctioned amount of ₹96.90 crore. Of this, ₹70.61 crore has been released and utilised by the Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation for the project.

Qutb Shahi Tomb Complex:

- Constructed by the Qutb Shahi dynasty, which governed from 1518 to 1687 AD, this site is situated in Ibrahim Bagh, Hyderabad.
- The complex comprises 30 architectural elements including tombs, mosques, and a mortuary bath dedicated to the Qutb Shahi rulers.
- Notable for being 500 years old, the site includes expansive mausoleums, idgah, graves, ritual mosques, a traditional hammam (bath), and baolis (stepwells).

Architectural Significance:

- The site exemplifies an Indo-Muslim dynastic necropolis.
- Situated on an elevated platform, the tombs merge Persian, Pathan, and Hindu architectural influences, featuringgrey granite and elaborate stucco decorations.
- This unique necropolis is globally distinguished as the burial site of an entire dynasty, set within meticulously landscaped gardens adorned with detailed stonework.

Insights into the Qutb Shahi Dynasty:

- The Qutb Shahis were Muslim rulers of the Golconda kingdom, positioned in the southeastern Deccan region of India, which was one of the five successor states of the Bahmani Sultanate.
- Founded by Quli Qutb Shah, originally a Turkish administrator for the eastern provinces of the Bahmani realm.
- Spanning from 1518 to 1687, this period saw the establishment of Golconda as the initial capital by Qutb Shah after declaring sovereignty in 1518.
- Later, towards the late 17th century, Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah initiated the development of Hyderabad, which lies a short distance from the original capital.
- The territorial expanse of the kingdom included regions from the Godavari River in the north to the borders of Tamil Nadu in the south, extending west to Bijapur and east to the Bay of Bengal.

Tribute to valiant queen

Celebrating a legacy: Folk artistes perform during a procession welcoming Veera Jyoti in Kakati, the village of freedom fighter Rani Channamma, near Belagavi in Karnataka on Friday. Veera Jyoti refers to the ceremonial torch or flame carried during the Kittur Utsav to commemorate the historic victory of Rani Channamma over the British East India Company. P.K. BADIGER

Context:

"Veera Jyoti" (Heroic Flame) is the symbolic state torch lit annually during the Kittur Utsav in Karnataka. It travels from her birthplace in Kakati to the historic Kittur Fort to commemorate the valour, courage, and armed resistance of Kittur Rani Chennamma against the British East India Company (EIC)

Rani Chennamma (1778 – 1829)

She was married to Raja Mallasarja of Kittur (or Kitturu)
After death of her husband & only son she adopted Shivalingappa.
However, the British rejected him as the legitimate heir to Kittur, leading to the Kittur Revolt in 1824.

About Kittur revolt:

It is regarded as the first Indian armed rebellion against British EIC. Also, one of the earliest woman-led anti-colonial struggles.
Though British lost 1st battle in 1824, Rani Chennamma was later captured & imprisoned, till her death in 1829.

What is Doctrine of Lapse?

1. The doctrine of lapse was an annexation policy applied by the British East India Company in India until 1859.
2. Under the doctrine, the ruler of an independent state died childless, the right of ruling the State reverted or 'lapsed' to the sovereign.
3. The policy is most commonly associated with Lord Dalhousie who was the Governor General of the East India Company in India between 1848 and 1856.
4. However, it was not solely his invention. The East India Company had annexed Kittur in 1824, Mandvi in 1839, Kolaba and Jalaun in 1840 and Surat in 1842 by imposing a 'doctrine of lapse'.

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1.Rani Chennamma led an armed rebellion against the British East India Company due to the violation of the trade agreement by the British East India Company.
2.Kittur Utsav is a three-day festival which celebrates the Queen Rani Chennamma's victory over East India's company in 1824.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 nor 2

ANU faculty member wins Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Pavani Pasumarthi, a Carnatic music faculty member at Acharya Nagarjuna University (ANU), has received the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar from the Sangeet Natak Akademi for her contribution to Kuchipudi music.

The award was presented by Union Minister for Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at a ceremony held at Rabindra Bhavan in New Delhi on October 19, 2026.

The honour recognises Ms. Pavani's artistic excellence and contribution to preserving and promoting India's classical performing arts.

Her achievement has brought recognition to ANU and highlighted the significance of Kuchipudi music in the country's cultural heritage. The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar is conferred on young artistes for their outstanding talent and promise in Indian music, dance and other performing arts.

Pavani Pasumarthi, ANU Carnatic music faculty member, receives the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar from Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi

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Context:

Pavani Pasumarthi, a Carnatic music faculty member at Acharya Nagarjuna University (ANU), has received the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar from the Sangeet Natak Akademi for her contribution to Kuchipudi music.
The award was presented by Union Minister for Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at a ceremony held at Rabindra Bhavan in New Delhi on October 19, 2026.

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar

Institution: Instituted by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2006.
Eligibility:
- Recognises young artists up to the age of 40 years.
- The award is not conferred posthumously.
- A person who has received the award once is not eligible to receive it again in another field or category.

Fields of Activity: The award may be conferred in the following five fields consist of Music, Dance, Theatre, Other Traditional/Folk/Tribal/Dance/Music/Theatre and Puppetry
Award Components: A cash prize of ₹25,000, a Tamrapatra (copper plaque), and an Angavastram.

About Ustad Bismillah Khan

- He was a classical musician to popularize shehnai in Indian classical music.
- Birth: He was born on March 21, 1916, in Dumraon, Bihar, into a family of court musicians.
- He is known for his devotion to Indian classical music and his ability to blend Hindustani classical ragas with the unique tonal quality of the shehnai.
- His music was characterized by its purity, spiritual depth, and emotional intensity, often evoking a sense of devotion and tranquility.
- Recognitions: He represented the Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb (the syncretic culture of Hindu-Muslim unity) through his music and persona.

- He played at the All India Music Conference in Kolkata in 1937, earning wide recognition.
  He also played shehnai at the Red Fort on August 15, 1947, marking India's Independence and establishing a tradition.
  He performed there on every Independence Day until his death.

Achievements and Honors

- He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2001, becoming the third classical musician to receive India's highest civilian honor.
- Other major awards: He was also awarded with Padma Shri (1961), Padma Bhushan (1968) and Padma Vibhushan (1980).