UNITED SCHOOLS ORGANISATION OF INDIA
75 YEARS
Legacy of enriching education beyond the classroom
Estd. 1951

WORLD INFORMO

USO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SINCE 1953

VOL. XII ISSUE VII — OCTOBER 2026



Ideas Take Shape. Possibilities Grow.

October brings a sense of energy and purpose to the academic year, as students continue to learn, participate, and grow through new experiences. With each activity, discussion, and challenge, they find opportunities to explore their interests, strengthen their skills, and build greater confidence in their abilities.

This is a time to encourage students to think creatively, work together, express their ideas, and approach challenges with curiosity and determination. With the support of educators, every learning experience can help them develop not only knowledge, but also collaboration, empathy, responsibility, and the confidence to take initiative.

As we move further into the academic year, let us continue to create meaningful opportunities that encourage students to learn, discover, and contribute. Together, we can nurture young minds who are curious, capable, and prepared to make a positive difference in the world around them.

USO Team
75 Years of Supporting Holistic Education

USO@75: Seventy-Five Sparks

Our Goal	Achieved	To Go
75 Sparks	55 Sparks	20 Sparks

Sparks are 75 meaningful initiatives engaging students, teachers, and schools - promoting inclusivity, innovation, and social awareness.

Scan to explore USO's Seventy-Five Sparks

In this edition

USO Inter-Schools Fest 2026

October Sparks

Ongoing Activities
- Biosphere Reserve Champions 2026
- Smart Schools Series: AI for Everyday Learning

Concluded Sparks

National Observances:
- Dussehra
- National Unity Day

UN Key Observances:
- International Day of Non-Violence
- World Mental Health Day
- World Food Day
- United Nations Day

Guidelines to Submit Articles

USO Activities Calendar for Schools

Our Theme for 2026 - 2027

Upcoming Activities

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BIRLA BALIKA VIDYAPEETH PILANI
विद्या विनयेन शोभते

USO INTER-SCHOOLS FEST 2026

A one-day celebration where students from schools in and around Pilani come together to compete, create, collaborate and celebrate their talents beyond the classroom.

REGISTER NOW

REGISTRATION FEE FROM SCHOOL:
₹750 (per school)
(includes 1 year USO membership valid till 31 Mar, 2027)

Saturday, Oct 31, 2026	8 AM to 5 PM	Birla Balika Vidyapeeth, Pilani, Rajasthan

COMPETITIONS

Individual Competitions

- **On-The-Spot Painting** — *Time limit: 60 min*
- **Speech (in English)** — *Time limit: 3-4 min*
- **Debate in English)** — *Time limit: 4-5 min*

Group Competitions

- **Group Dance (3-5 students)** — *Time limit: 4-6 min*
- **Drama - English (3-5 students)** — *Time limit: 4-6 min*
- **Science Fair (2 students)** — *All Day*

DETAILS

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Schools in and around Pilani
- Max. 2 teachers and 15 students per school
- Students of Std. 6-12

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL RECEIVES?

- Participation certificates for students
- Certificates for accompanying teachers
- Plaque for registered schools
- Trophies for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place

Scan the QR code to register your school
Visit usoindia.org

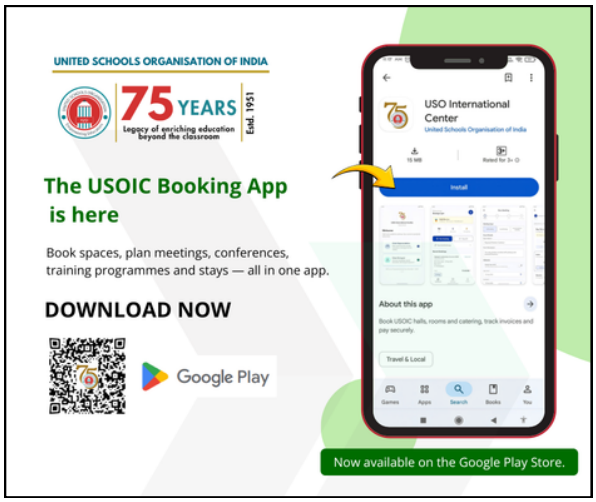
USO@75: Seventy-Five Sparks

Small moments. Lasting impact. A legacy of learning.

October Sparks

SPARK # 56

USOIC Booking App on Google Play Store





SPARK #57 - OCT 15





SPARK #58 - OCT 24



Ongoing Activities

MEMBERS ONLY



USO Club Member Schools will earn 10 USO Club Points for participation.

Biosphere Reserve Champions 2026

The Biosphere Reserve Champions initiative continues its journey under the Students 360° programme, engaging students from Std. 6–12 to explore India's UNESCO-designated Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites through innovation and Artificial Intelligence (AI). The initiative promotes exploration, research, creativity, and conservation awareness.

As the programme progressed to Phase II, students put their learning into action through assigned activities, including:

- Future Solutions Camp,
- School Innovation Camp, and
- Awareness Activity.

These activities encouraged students to explore their selected Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites through research, innovation, creativity, and environmental awareness.

Following the activities, students prepared their PPT presentations in the format provided by USO and submitted them for evaluation. The submitted presentations are currently under evaluation, and shortlisted students will progress to Phase III, where they will present their work before the judges in a live session in New Delhi.

FREE
MEMBERS ONLY



USO Club Member Schools will earn 10 USO Club Points for participation.

Webinar #7 AI For Every Mind

USO will continue its Smart Schools Series with Webinar #7: AI for Every Mind – Smart Studying for Every Learner. The session is designed to help educators explore how AI can support diverse learning needs and make studying more personalised, engaging, and effective.

The webinar will focus on practical ways AI can help learners understand difficult concepts, simplify information, organise study material, practise skills, revise effectively, and learn at their own pace.

Through practical demonstrations and real-life examples, participants will discover how AI can create personalised learning experiences, support different learning styles, and make everyday studying smarter and more accessible.

The session will also highlight effective prompting, responsible AI use, and simple strategies educators can apply to encourage curiosity, strengthen problem-solving, and promote independent learning.

Scan the QR Code to Know More

September Sparks: Concluded Activities

SPARK # 52

Teachers' Day Special Video Message



- Invited the wider USO community to share 30-second stories about their favourite teachers.
- Encouraged participants to reflect on lessons and values that stayed with them.
- Created a platform to express gratitude and celebrate the role of teachers.
- Highlighted the lasting impact of teachers through stories shared on USO's social media platforms.

SPARK # 53

वाद-विवाद प्रतियोगिता



- Conducted a Hindi debate on examination integrity.
- Engaged students in exploring both FOR and AGAINST perspectives.
- Encouraged critical thinking, argument-building, and rebuttal skills.
- Strengthened Hindi communication, confidence, and presentation skills.
- Recognised the 3 best video entries with USO Spark Goodies.

SPARK # 54

International Day of Peace - Slogan Competition



- Invited participation from schools across India in a peace-themed slogan competition.
- Encouraged students to express their understanding of peace through concise, creative, and original slogans.
- Challenged participants to communicate a meaningful message in 10 words or less.
- Promoted reflection, originality, creativity, and thoughtful expression on the importance of peace.

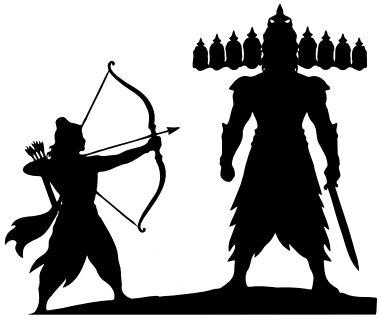
SPARK # 55

World Rivers Day E-Card Challenge



- Invited students to imagine what their river would say to people today.
- Encouraged students to express their thoughts through a 40–50 word handwritten message.
- Invited schools to submit up to three entries, with selected messages featured on USO's social media.
- Recognised selected student entries with special USO goodies.

National Observances



Dussehra
20 October

Dussehra is an important Indian festival that celebrates the victory of good over evil. It marks the triumph of Lord Rama over Ravana and is observed as a symbol of truth, righteousness, courage, and hope. The festival provides an opportunity to come together, celebrate cultural traditions, strengthen family and community bonds, and reflect on the importance of positive values in everyday life.

It is celebrated on the tenth day of the Hindu month of Ashwin and is also known as Vijayadashami. The celebration commemorates Lord Rama's victory over Ravana and, in several parts of India, Goddess Durga's victory over Mahishasura. The day is marked by prayers, Ramlila performances, cultural programmes, and the symbolic burning of effigies, representing the destruction of evil and the triumph of righteousness.

Purpose: This day encourages individuals to reflect on their actions, choices, and behaviour, recognise qualities that may hinder personal growth, and work towards positive change. It inspires self-awareness, integrity, self-discipline, and responsible conduct in everyday life, reminding us that meaningful change begins with our own thoughts and actions.

Importance: Dussehra holds deep cultural and spiritual significance, bringing families and communities together through traditional celebrations and shared customs. It keeps cultural heritage alive while fostering a sense of togetherness, respect, harmony, and hope.



National Unity Day
31 October

National Unity Day, also known as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, is observed every year on 31 October to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The day highlights the importance of national unity, integrity, and solidarity and reminds people of the strength that comes from standing together. It provides an opportunity to promote harmony, mutual respect, cooperation, and responsibility towards the nation.

It is observed through unity pledges, awareness programmes, educational activities, rallies, cultural events, and community initiatives. The occasion also highlights Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's contribution towards the integration of India and his vision of a united nation. These activities encourage people to respect diversity, overcome differences, and work together to strengthen unity in society.

Purpose: National Unity Day encourages individuals to recognise the value of unity in a diverse society and reflect on how their actions can promote understanding and cooperation. It inspires citizens to rise above differences, build stronger relationships, and uphold a shared sense of responsibility towards the nation.

Importance: The day honours Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's significant role in bringing the princely states together and shaping a unified India. It reminds citizens of the strength of collective effort and the importance of preserving the nation's unity and integrity while respecting its diversity.

UN Key Observances



International Day of Non-Violence, 2 October

International Day of Non-Violence highlights the power of peaceful action in creating a culture of respect, tolerance, and understanding. Observed on 2 October, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the day promotes non-violence as a universal principle and encourages peaceful ways of addressing differences and conflicts.

Theme: The day focuses on disseminating the message of non-violence through education and public awareness. It reaffirms the universal relevance of non-violence and the importance of building a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding, and non-violence.

Purpose: This day aims to raise awareness about the importance of non-violence and encourage individuals and communities to choose peaceful approaches to resolving differences. It also highlights the role of education and public awareness in building respect, dialogue, cooperation, and peaceful relationships. It encourages people to practise empathy, patience, and understanding in their everyday interactions.

Importance: Non-violence helps create environments where people can communicate with respect, understand different perspectives, and resolve conflicts without harm. By encouraging tolerance, empathy, dialogue, cooperation, and peaceful action, the day contributes to stronger, safer, and more inclusive communities and a culture of peace. It reminds us that acts of kindness and understanding can make a difference in society.



World Mental Health Day 10 October

World Mental Health Day highlights the importance of mental health and well-being in everyday life. It provides an opportunity to raise awareness, encourage understanding, reduce stigma, and promote efforts that support mental health for everyone. It also encourages open conversations, empathy, and access to meaningful support for people facing mental health challenges.

Theme: 'Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change' focuses on recognising the knowledge and perspectives of people with lived experience of mental health conditions. The 2026 campaign encourages their meaningful participation in shaping mental health policies, services, and decisions that affect their lives.

Purpose: This day aims to increase awareness of mental health issues and encourage meaningful action to strengthen mental health support. It also highlights the importance of listening to people with lived experience and involving them in the development and improvement of mental health services.

Importance: Good mental health supports people in coping with everyday challenges, learning, working, building healthy relationships, and participating meaningfully in their communities. Creating safe and supportive spaces where people can speak openly, be heard without judgement, and access appropriate care and support helps promote dignity, inclusion, resilience, confidence, emotional strength, and overall well-being in daily life.

UN Key Observances



World Food Day
16 October

World Food Day highlights the importance of ensuring that everyone has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, and diverse food. It raises awareness about hunger and food security while encouraging collective action to build sustainable food systems that nourish people and protect the planet.

Theme: 'Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow.' highlights how innovation, combined with traditional knowledge and inclusive approaches, can help transform agrifood systems. It encourages solutions that improve access to nutritious food while protecting natural resources and creating a more sustainable food future.

Purpose: This day aims to raise awareness about hunger, food security, nutrition, and the importance of sustainable agrifood systems. It encourages governments, communities, farmers, young people, and individuals to take meaningful action, reduce food waste, make informed food choices, and support solutions that can help ensure food for everyone.

Importance: Access to nutritious food is essential for health, learning, growth, and overall well-being. Building sustainable food systems also helps protect soil, water, biodiversity, and the livelihoods of those who produce our food. By reducing food waste, supporting responsible choices, and embracing innovation, we can contribute to a healthier, more resilient, and food-secure future for all. Together, we can help create a world where everyone has access to safe and nutritious food.



United Nations Day
24 October

United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter on 24 October 1945. The day provides an opportunity to recognise the role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation, peace, human rights, development, and collective action on global challenges.

Theme: United Nations Day highlights the shared responsibility of nations and communities to work together towards peace, human rights, sustainable development, and a better future. It emphasises the importance of dialogue, cooperation, mutual understanding, and collective action in addressing global challenges.

Purpose: This day aims to raise awareness of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and encourage people to understand the importance of international cooperation. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on shared global challenges and the need for countries and communities to work together towards common goals.

Importance: The United Nations provides a platform where countries can come together to address issues that cross borders, including peace and security, human rights, education, health, poverty, and sustainable development. By encouraging dialogue, cooperation, and shared responsibility, United Nations Day reminds us that collective efforts and global partnerships can help build a more peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable world for present and future generations.

CALL FOR FEATURE



Since 1953, World Informo, USO's monthly newsletter, has provided a platform for students and teachers to share ideas, exchange perspectives, and contribute to meaningful discussions on issues that shape education and society.

OCTOBER 2026 THEME

Examination Integrity:

Building Trust, Fairness and Excellence in Education

We invite students and teachers to submit original feature articles on the above theme. Articles should present a balanced perspective, supported by facts, examples, research, or personal experiences, while encouraging critical thinking and offering constructive insights or solutions.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Articles should be **500–750** words.
- The submission must be the author's original work and should not have been published elsewhere.
- **Please include the following details with your submission:**
  - Full Name
  - Recent Photograph
  - School Name
  - Class/Standard (for students)
  - State
- Email your article to **info@usoindia.org** with the subject line: **Article for World Informo.**

Please note: A new theme will be announced every month, providing contributors with opportunities to write on a wide range of contemporary educational and societal issues.

SELECTED FEATURE ARTICLES WILL:

- Be published in World Informo.
- Be featured on the USO Blog.
- Receive a USO e-Certificate of Publication.

We look forward to receiving your thoughtful and inspiring contributions and sharing **your voice** with readers across India.

USO Activities Calendar For Schools
October, November, December 2026

October 2026

- **Oct 1:** BRC Phase 2 Ongoing
- **Oct 10**: Smart Schools Series: AI Webinar #7 - AI for Every Mind – Smart Studying for Every Learner
- **Oct 24:** USO National Tests Results Declaration
- **Oct 31:** USO Inter-Schools Fest at Birla Balika Vidyapeeth, Pilani, Rajasthan

November 2026

- **Nov 1st Week:** BRC Phase 2 - Results To Be Declared
- **Nov 3-4:** USO House Diwali Mela (annual initiative with Special Schools in Delhi / NCR area)
- **Nov 14:** Smart Schools Series: AI Webinar #8 (Topic: TBD)

December 2026

- **Dec 3:** AccessAbility Series (assessment for Special Schools)
- **Dec 3:** Beyond Boundaries for Special Schools
- **Dec 12:** Smart Schools Series: AI Webinar #9 (Topic: TBD)

Sparks in October

Spark # 56	Spark # 57	Spark # 58	Spark # 59
Oct 8: USOIC Booking App on Google Play Store	**Oct 15:** World Student Day (BRICS Quiz)	**Oct 24:** United Nations Day (Quiz on United Nations)	**Oct 31:** USO Inter-Schools Fest, Pilani

USO's Theme for 2026 – 2027
Our 75-yr theme is linked to SDG 4: Quality Education



Rooted in our theme **Empower, Educate & Evolve** USO's journey aligns with **SDG 4: Quality Education** ensuring inclusive, equitable, and lifelong learning for all. As we celebrate 75 years, this shared vision continues to shape every initiative, bringing meaningful change to classrooms and communities. Designated as our two-year theme (for 2025-26 & 2026-27), Empower, Educate & Evolve serves as a guiding force to reimagine learning, strengthen educational ecosystems, and spark lasting transformation.

Thanks for READING

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