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MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

OCTOBER

30 SOLVED MCQs



PUBLISHED BY

SARKARI JOB SABHA

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITION

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Your colourful roadmap through October 2026



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ABOUT THIS E-BOOK

This edition covers **25 September – 24 October 2026**. It has **9 themed chapters**, quick-revision tables, Static GK boosters, charts, flowcharts and a **30-question practice test** with answer key and short explanations at the end.

How to Read This Book

1. **Read the chapter banner** — Look at the chips to see what topics are coming.
2. **Study the colour cards** — Each card = one topic. Bold coloured words are key facts.
3. **Check charts & flowcharts** — Pictures help your memory stick.
4. **Revise Static GK boxes** — Old facts that exam questions link to news.
5. **Attempt the 30 MCQs** — Then check the answer key.

October 2026 at a Glance

The big numbers every student should remember

4th
India's rank at 20th Asian Games

85
India's medals (21 G, 27 S, 37 B)

5.50%
New Repo Rate after +25 bps hike

100th
India's GHI 2026 rank (24.1)

103
Ramsar Sites in India

81
India's UNESCO Tentative List sites

100 yrs
UPSC completed on 1 Oct 2026

56
Cheetahs in India now

7.1%
RBI GDP growth forecast FY27

5.2%
RBI CPI inflation forecast FY27

₹38,424 cr
Record military exports FY26 (+60%)

57th
GST Council meeting

This Month's Nobel Winners at a Glance

Prize	Winner(s)
Medicine	Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann & Georg Nagel
Physics	Francis Halzen
Chemistry	Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai
Literature	Anne Carson
Peace	Navanethem "Navi" Pillay
Economics	Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford

October 2026: Calendar of Big Dates

1. **1 Oct** — UPSC completes 100 years
2. **5–7 Oct** — RBI MPC meeting: Repo to 5.50%
3. **5–12 Oct** — Nobel Prizes announced
4. **8 Oct** — 94th Indian Air Force Day
5. **12 Oct** — New Governors named for 6 States
6. **15 Oct** — India reaches 103 Ramsar Sites
7. **18–24 Oct** — 5th Asian Para Games, Japan
8. **24 Oct** — World Polio Day

CHAPTER 01

01 Headline Focus: Major Events of October 2026

Nobel Prizes, the 20th Asian Games, the RBI rate hike and the Global Hunger Index: the biggest headlines of the month.



IN THIS CHAPTER

Nobel Prize 2026 | 20th Asian Games | 5th Asian Para Games | RBI MPC | Global Hunger Index

Nobel Prize 2026: Complete Winners & Key Facts

The 2026 Nobel Prizes were announced between **5 and 12 October 2026**. Each prize carries a **gold medal, a diploma and a cash award of 12 million Swedish kronor** (about US$1.2 million). Ceremonies are held every year on **10 December**: in **Stockholm** for five prizes and in **Oslo, Norway** for the Peace Prize.

Physiology or Medicine

- **Winner(s):** Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann & Georg Nagel
- **Why:** Discoveries on light-gated ion channels (channelrhodopsin) and development of **optogenetics**.
- **Awarded by:** Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm

Physics

- **Winner(s):** Francis Halzen (Belgian-American)
- **Why:** Contributions to the **IceCube Neutrino Observatory** (South Pole) and discovery of high-energy astrophysical neutrinos.
- **Awarded by:** Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm

Chemistry

- **Winner(s):** Henri B. Kagan (France) & Kenso Soai (Japan)
- **Why:** Discoveries of **non-linear effects and asymmetric autocatalysis** in organic synthesis.
- **Awarded by:** Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm

Literature

- **Winner(s):** Anne Carson (Canada)
- **Why:** Bold and inventive writing blending classical Greek/Roman traditions with modern forms (*Autobiography of Red*, *Eros the Bittersweet*).
- **Awarded by:** Swedish Academy, Stockholm

Peace

- **Winner(s):** Navanethem "Navi" Pillay (South Africa)
- **Why:** Contributions to **human rights and international criminal justice**; first South African woman to win; of Indian Tamil origin.
- **Awarded by:** Norwegian Nobel Committee, Oslo

Economic Sciences

- **Winner(s):** Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford
- **Why:** Microeconomic foundations of **macroeconomic stabilisation** (forward-looking consumption, Random Walk Hypothesis, Forward Guidance).
- **Awarded by:** Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm

STATIC GK BOOSTER

Founded through **Alfred Nobel's 1895 will** and first awarded in **1901** in five categories. **Economic Sciences** was instituted in **1968** by Sveriges Riksbank (first awarded in 1969 to Ragnar Frisch & Jan Tinbergen). Indian Economics laureates: **Amartya Sen (1998)** and **Abhijit Banerjee (2019)**. Navi Pillay served as **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2008–2014)** and ICTR/ICC judge (contributed to the 1998 Akayesu genocide ruling).

Nobel Prize Journey

1. **1895** — Alfred Nobel writes his will
2. **1901** — First Nobel Prizes (5 categories)
3. **1968** — Economics prize set up by Sveriges Riksbank
4. **1969** — First Economics winners: Frisch & Tinbergen
5. **5–12 Oct 2026** — This year's winners announced
6. **10 Dec 2026** — Award ceremonies: Stockholm & Oslo

Quick Check: Test Yourself!

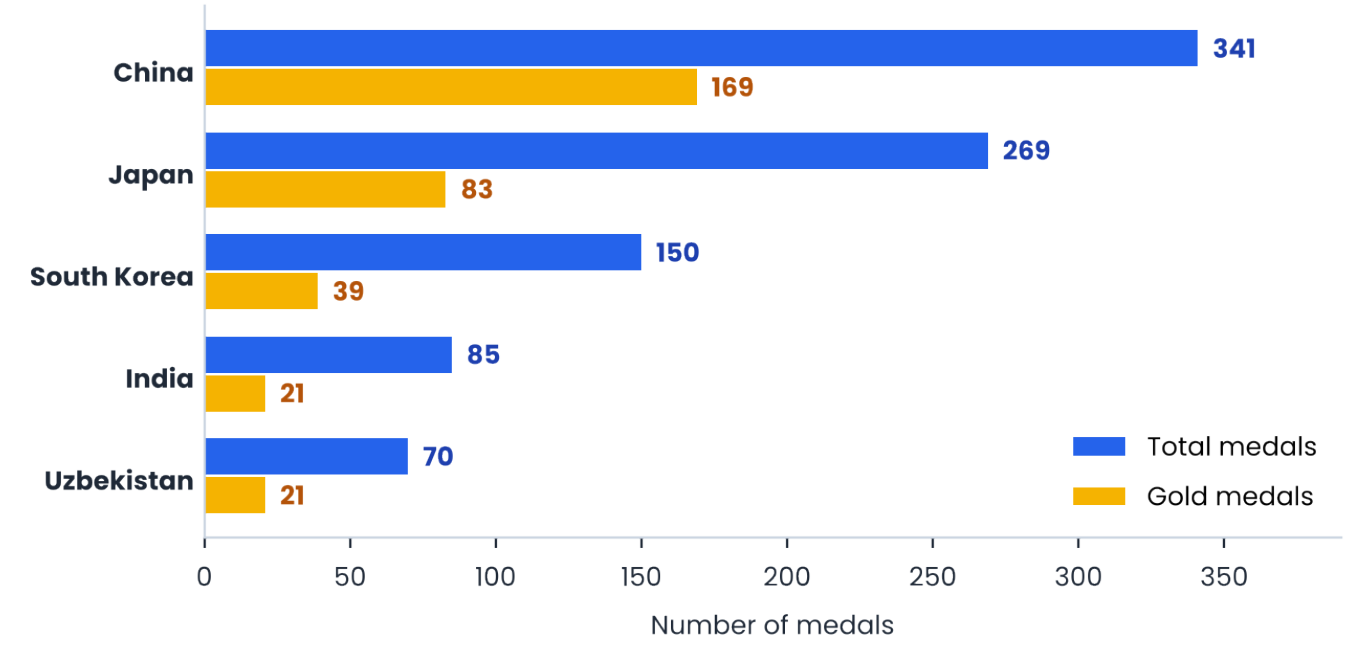
Q1. Which Nobel Prize is given in Oslo?	Ans: Peace Prize
Q2. Who won the 2026 Physics prize, and for which observatory?	Ans: Francis Halzen; IceCube (South Pole)
Q3. Name the two Indian Economics laureates.	Ans: Amartya Sen (1998), Abhijit Banerjee (2019)

20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan)

- **4th** — India's overall rank
- **85** — Total medals
- **21 • 27 • 37** — Gold • Silver • Bronze
- **341** — China's medals (top of table)

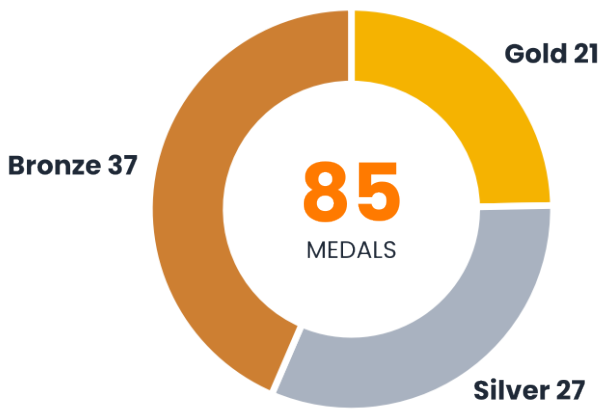
India finished **4th overall** in Aichi-Nagoya, winning **85 medals (21 Gold, 27 Silver, 37 Bronze)**, ahead of 5th-placed **Uzbekistan (70 medals)**. **China** topped the table with 341 medals.

Top 5 Countries: Gold vs Total Medals



Rank	Country	Gold	Total medals
1	China	169	341
2	Japan	83	269
3	South Korea	39	150
4	**India**	**21**	**85**
5	Uzbekistan	21	70

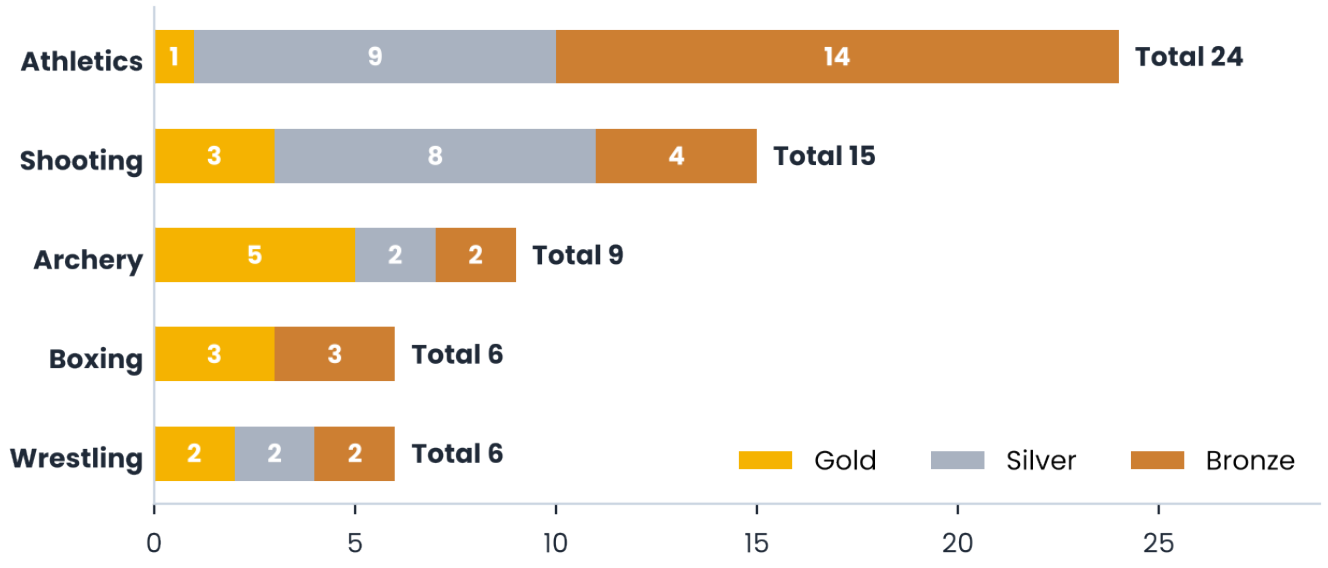
India's Medal Mix



Star Individual Gold Medallists

- **Kumkum Mohod**: Women's Individual Recurve Archery
- **Lovlina Borgohain**: Women's 75 kg Boxing
- **Aman Sehrawat**: Men's 57 kg Wrestling
- **Sujeet Kalkal**: Men's 65 kg Wrestling
- **Neeru Dhanda**: Women's Trap Shooting
- **Pranavi Urs**: Women's Individual Golf

India's Best Sports: Gold, Silver & Bronze



India's Top Sports	Gold – Silver – Bronze	Total
Athletics	1 – 9 – 14	24
Shooting	3 – 8 – 4	15
Archery	5 – 2 – 2	9
Boxing	3 – 0 – 3	6
Wrestling	2 – 2 – 2	6

🏏 Team Golds & Olympic Quota

- Team India won gold in **Men's & Women's Cricket**, **Men's & Women's Hockey**, **Men's & Women's Kabaddi**, and the **Women's 4×400m Relay** (Kiran, Prachi, Poovamma Machettira, Vithya Ramraj).
- **Men's Hockey** defended its title for the first time and **qualified for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics**.
- **Women's Hockey** won its **2nd Asian Games gold** after 1982.

🔥 Historic Milestones

- **Jay Meena**: Bronze in Men's Individual Soft Tennis, India's **first-ever Asian Games medal in Soft Tennis**.
- **Vithya Ramraj**: Bronze in Women's 400m Hurdles, **surpassing P.T. Usha's 1984 record**.
- **Pooja**: Bronze in Women's High Jump.

👥 5th Asian Para Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan)

Fact	Details
Dates	**18–24 October 2026**, Aichi-Nagoya, Japan
Opening ceremony	Paloma Mizuho Stadium, Nagoya
Slogan	"Imagine One Heart"
Ceremony theme	"WABI: We Are Beautiful Individuals"
India's flag-bearers	Para-badminton star **Pramod Bhagat** and para-athlete **Simran Sharma**

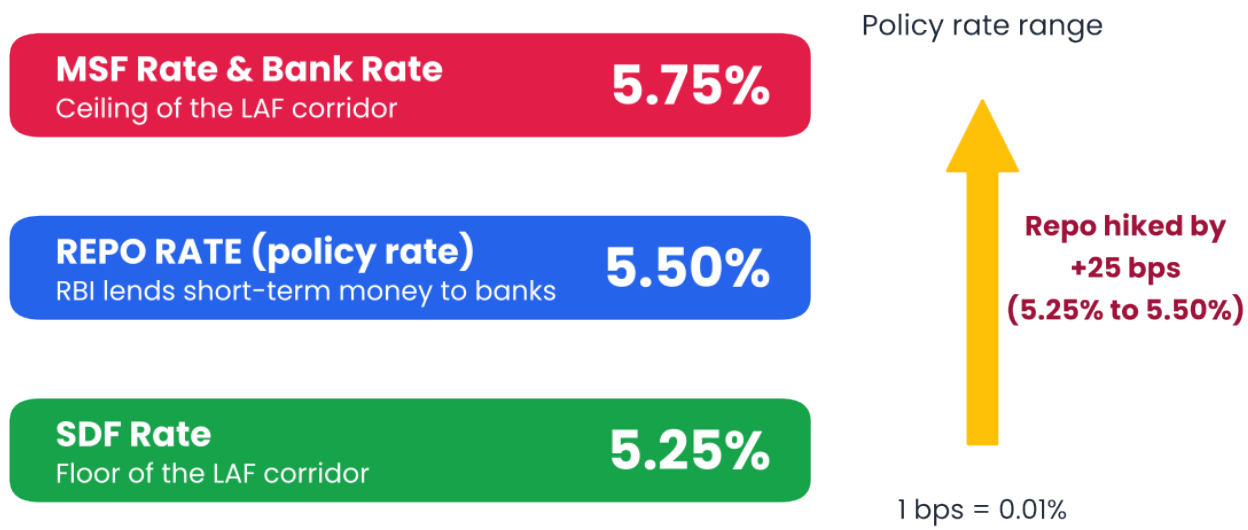
🏅 Key Indian Medallists

- **Mona Agarwal** (Gold, Games record 250.0 pts) & **Avani Lekhara** (Silver, 249.6 pts): Women's 10m Air Rifle SH1
- **Sheetal Devi & Toman Kumar**: Gold, Compound Mixed-Team Archery
- **Swati Chaudhary**: Silver, Women's W1 Archery, India's first Asian Para Games medal in W1
- **Nitesh Kumar**: Men's SL3 Para-Badminton Gold (beat Pramod Bhagat); **Naveen Sivakumar**: Men's SL4 Gold
- **Ravi Baby Sahana & Prachi Pandey**: India's first standing-category Para Table Tennis medallists (India won 5 bronze in para TT)

RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC): October 2026

At its **63rd meeting (5–7 October 2026)**, chaired by **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra**, the 6-member MPC **unanimously hiked the Repo Rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 5.50%**. This is the **first rate hike since February 2023**, and the stance was shifted to **"Calibrated Tightening"**.

The RBI Rate Ladder (October 2026)



Policy Rate / Indicator	Revised Figure	Context & Key Details
Repo Rate	**5.50%** (+25 bps)	Rate at which RBI lends short-term funds to banks; next meeting **2–4 Dec 2026**
SDF Rate	**5.25%**	Standing Deposit Facility (floor of LAF corridor)
MSF & Bank Rate	**5.75%**	Marginal Standing Facility (ceiling of LAF corridor) & Bank Rate
FY27 Real GDP Growth	**7.1%**	Revised upward from 6.7% (Q2: 7.2%, Q3: 6.9%, Q4: 6.8%, Q1 FY28: 7.1%)
FY27 CPI Inflation	**5.2%**	Raised by 20 bps; Aug 2026 CPI at 4.8%, Sept 2026 CPI ~5.5% (RBI upper limit 6%)

Easy Concept: What happens when the Repo Rate goes up?

1. **RBI raises Repo Rate** — Money borrowed from RBI becomes costlier
2. **Banks pay more** — Their own cost of funds rises
3. **Loans get costlier** — Home, car and business loans
4. **People borrow & spend less** — Demand in the economy slows
5. **Inflation cools** — Prices rise more slowly

Words Made Easy

Repo Rate
The rate at which RBI lends short-term money to banks.

Basis point (bps)
1 bps = 0.01%. So 25 bps = 0.25%.

CPI inflation
How fast the prices of everyday goods are rising for consumers.

LAF corridor
The range between the SDF (floor) and MSF (ceiling) rates.

Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026

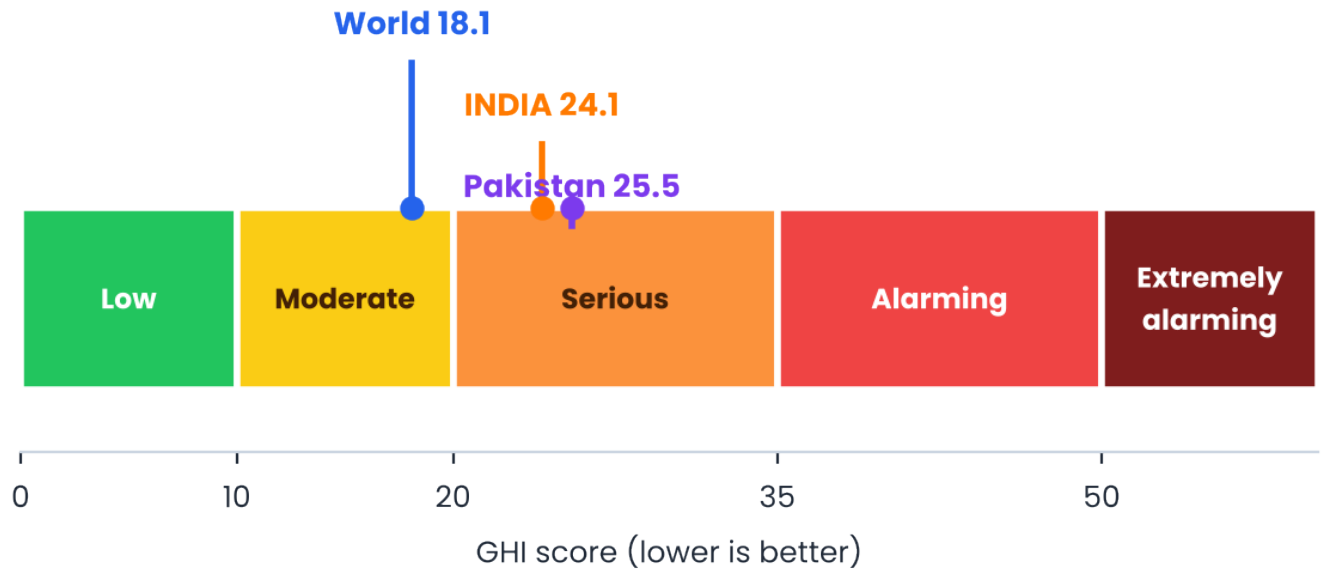
100th
India's rank out of 122 countries

24.1
India's score: "Serious Hunger"

106th
Pakistan's rank (score 25.5)

18.1
Global score (Moderate); 17.6 in 2018

Where India Stands on the Hunger Scale



Publishers & Theme

- Released every year by **Welthungerhilfe (WHH), IFHV and Helvetas**.
- 2026 theme: **"No Security Without Food Security"**.

India's Key Indicators

- Child stunting (under 5): **29.3%**
- Child wasting (under 5): **~19%** (highest in the world)
- Under-5 mortality rate: **2.7%–2.9%**

Four GHI Indicators & Best / Worst Countries

- The four indicators (scale **0–100, lower = better**): **Undernourishment, Child Stunting, Child Wasting, Child Mortality**.
- **Worst performers:** Somalia (122), DR Congo (121), Chad (120), Madagascar (119), Haiti (118).
- **Top group (1–24):** China, Uruguay, Türkiye.

Quick Check: Test Yourself!

Q1. What was the new Repo Rate after the October MPC?	Ans: 5.50% (+25 bps)
Q2. How many medals did India win at the 20th Asian Games?	Ans: 85 (21 G, 27 S, 37 B); 4th rank
Q3. What is India's GHI 2026 rank and score?	Ans: 100th of 122; 24.1 (Serious)

CHAPTER 02

02 Polity, Governance & Constitutional Developments

New Governors, UPSC's 100th year, 21 years of RTI, Gujarat's UCC, big court rulings and the institutions in the news.



IN THIS CHAPTER

New Governors | UPSC Centenary | RTI Act | Gujarat UCC | Supreme Court Rulings | NHRC & ECI | Governance Reforms

Governors Appointed & Transferred (12 October 2026)

6 States saw changes

4 New appointments

2 Transfers

12 Oct Announced by President Droupadi Murmu

President **Droupadi Murmu** announced gubernatorial changes across **6 States (4 new appointments and 2 transfers)** through a Rashtrapati Bhavan communiqué on **12 October 2026**.

State	Governor Appointed	Type	Constitutional Article (Part VI)
Odisha	Braj Mohan Ram	New	Art. 153: Governor for each State
Karnataka	Dr. Sudha Yadav	New	Art. 155: Appointed by President
Uttarakhand	Dr. Dhal Singh Bisen	New	Art. 156: 5-yr term; President's pleasure
Sikkim	Dushyant Gautam	New	Art. 157: Indian citizen, min. 35 years
Keralam	Om Prakash Mathur	Transfer (from Sikkim)	Art. 159 / 161: Oath / Pardoning power
Tamil Nadu	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Transfer (from Keralam)	Art. 163 / 200: Council of Ministers' aid & advice / Bill assent

Governor Articles in One Flow (Part VI)

1. **Art. 153** — A Governor for each State
2. **Art. 155** — Appointed by the President
3. **Art. 156** — 5-year term, at President's pleasure
4. **Art. 157** — Indian citizen, at least 35 years
5. **Art. 159 / 161** — Oath / Pardoning power
6. **Art. 163 / 200** — Aid & advice of CoM / Assent to Bills

Centenary of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC): 100 Years

The UPSC completed **100 years on 1 October 2026**. It began on **1 October 1926** as the **Public Service Commission**, following the **Lee Commission (1924)** and the **Government of India Act 1919**, with **Sir Ross Barker** as first Chairman at Metcalfe House, Delhi.

1. **1924** — Lee Commission recommends a Public Service Commission
2. **1 Oct 1926** — Public Service Commission set up; Sir Ross Barker first Chairman
3. **1 Apr 1937** — Becomes Federal PSC (H.K. Kripalani: first Indian Chairman, 1947)
4. **26 Jan 1950** — Constitutional UPSC (R.N. Banerjee: first UPSC Chairman)
5. **1 Oct 2026** — UPSC completes 100 years

Article (Part XIV)	Key Provision
315	Public Service Commissions for Union, States & Joint PSC
316–317	Appointment by President; removal via Supreme Court inquiry
318–319	Conditions of service; post-tenure bar
320–321	Exams, advisory role; extension of functions
322–323	Expenses charged on Consolidated Fund; Annual Report

Key Historical & Static Facts

- **HQ:** Dholpur House, New Delhi (permanent HQ since 1952; built 1920).
- **First Indian ICS:** Satyendranath Tagore (1864). **First ICS exam in India:** Allahabad (1922).
- **First woman Chairperson:** Rose Millian Bathew Kharbuli (1992).
- **Civil Services Day:** 21 April (Sardar Patel's 1947 "steel frame" speech).
- **Digital modernisation (2025–26):** Pratibha Setu, Universal Registration No., AI facial authentication in 2026.

21 Years of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005

21 yrs — Completed on 12 Oct 2026

3.85 lakh — Appeals/complaints pending in 28 Information Commissions

19y 8m — Longest estimated wait: Tripura

₹25,000 — Max penalty on errant PIOs (Sec. 20)

Milestone & Constitutional Basis

- Emerged from the grassroots **MKSS movement**; replaced the **Freedom of Information Act, 2002**.
- The Supreme Court recognised the **Right to Know under Article 19(1)(a)** in *State of U.P. v. Raj Narain (1975)* and *PUCL v. Union of India (2003)*.

Key Sections to Remember

- **Section 4:** proactive (suo motu) disclosure of 16 categories of information.
- **Section 8:** exemptions, such as sovereignty/security. The **DPDP Act 2023** amended Sec. 8(1)(j), broadening the personal-data exemption.
- **Section 20:** penalty up to ₹25,000 on errant PIOs.
- **RTI Amendment Act, 2019:** gave the Centre power over tenure and salaries of Information Commissioners.

QUICK REVISION
Satark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS) Report (Oct 2026): 3.85 lakh appeals/complaints are pending across 28 Information Commissions. Longest estimated disposal wait: **Tripura (19 yrs 8 mos)**, **Madhya Pradesh (19 yrs 2 mos)**, **Chhattisgarh (18 yrs)**.

Gujarat Uniform Civil Code (UCC) & Major Judicial Rulings

Gujarat: 2nd State for UCC

- Gujarat became the **second state after Uttarakhand** to receive **Presidential assent** for the Uniform Civil Code (passed by the Gujarat Assembly in **March 2026**).
- **Static link: Article 44 (DPSP)** directs the State to endeavour to secure a UCC throughout India.

Right to Internet Access (Supreme Court)

- In *Just Rights for Children Alliance v. S. Harish (2026)*, the SC held that **internet access is a fundamental right** under **Articles 21 and 19(1)(a)**, including for children, rejecting blanket bans on minors' social media.
- This reaffirms *Anuradha Bhasin (2020)* and *Pragya Prasun (2025)*.
- Separately, the SC asked the Centre to examine an **18-year threshold** for independent social media accounts.

Religious Conversion & Reservation (SC & HC)

- In *Secretary to Govt. v. Sameer Ahamed N. (2026)*, the SC upheld the Madras HC order striking down a 2024 TN Order that gave automatic Backward Class (Muslim) quota on conversion. **Article 16(4) quota is class-based, not transferable.**
- Under the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 (Art. 341)**, SC status is limited to **Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism**; conversion to Islam/Christianity ends SC status (reaffirmed in *Chinthada Anand v. State of AP, 2026*). The **Justice K.G. Balakrishnan Commission** (2022–present) is examining this issue.
- **Contrast with ST status:** the Allahabad HC held conversion does not automatically end ST status (**Art. 342 is religion-neutral**), provided tribal customs and community acceptance continue.

Foreign Nationals & Visas (Delhi HC)

- A valid visa does **not** give an absolute right to enter India (*Hans Muller 1955; Louis De Raedt 1991*): foreigners get **Art. 21, not Art. 19(1)(e)**.
- Under the **Immigration and Foreigners Act & Rules, 2025**, foreigners with visas of **more than 180 days must register before 180 days**.

Separation of Powers & One Nation One Election

- The SC declined a JPC meeting on the **Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024** (based on the Ram Nath Kovind Committee; inserts **Article 82A** for simultaneous Lok Sabha & State Assembly polls; excludes Panchayats/Municipalities).
- It cited **Article 50** (separation of judiciary from executive) and **Article 143** (formal presidential reference route).

Legislative Privileges

- The SC closed the *N. Ravi v. Speaker, Chennai* reference as infructuous.
- Privileges are under **Article 105 (Parliament)** and **Article 194 (State Legislatures)**. The Privileges Committee has **15 members in LS and 10 in RS**.

- In *Sita Soren (2024)*, the SC **overruled P.V. Narasimha Rao (1998)**: no immunity for lawmakers accepting bribes.

Right to Protest, BNSS & Jantar Mantar

- Delhi authorities **denotified Jantar Mantar** (built 1724 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II; 13 astronomical instruments; the Jaipur site is a UNESCO WHS, 2010) as a protest site, designating **Ramlila, Burari and CBD Grounds**.
- Mass detentions used **BNSS 2023 Section 163** (replaces Sec. 144 CrPC; duration 2 months, max 6 months), **Sec. 170** (warrantless preventive arrest up to 24 hrs) and **Sec. 172**.
- *Ram Manohar Lohia (1966)* distinguished **Law & Order, Public Order and Security of State**.

Case	What it is about
State of U.P. v. Raj Narain (1975); PUCL (2003)	Right to Know under Art. 19(1)(a)
Just Rights for Children Alliance v. S. Harish (2026)	Internet access is a fundamental right
Secretary to Govt. v. Sameer Ahamed N. (2026)	Conversion does not transfer a Backward Class quota
Chinthada Anand v. State of AP (2026)	SC status ends on conversion to Islam/Christianity
Sita Soren (2024)	Overruled Narasimha Rao (1998): no bribe immunity
Anoop Baranwal (2023)	CEC & EC selection panel (replaced by 2023 Act)
K.A. Najeeb (2021)	UAPA: "Meltdown Doctrine" on bail
B.R. Enterprises (1999)	Lottery: All-or-Nothing Rule
Ram Manohar Lohia (1966)	Law & Order vs Public Order vs Security of State

Constitutional, Statutory & Regulatory Institutions in News

NHRC: 33rd Foundation Day (12 Oct 2026)

- Statutory body set up on **12 October 1993** under the **Protection of Human Rights Act (PoHRA), 1993**.
- **Composition:** Chairperson (ex-CJI or SC Judge) + 5 full-time + 7 ex-officio members. **Appointed by the President** on the recommendation of a **6-member PM-headed committee**.
- **Tenure:** 3 years or 70 years of age. Guided by the **Paris Principles**.

Election Commission of India (ECI)

- Under **Article 324** (CEC + 2 ECs). After a 1:1 split verdict, the SC referred challenges to the **2023 CEC & ECs Appointment Act** (selection panel: PM + LoP + PM-nominated Union Cabinet Minister, replacing the CJI from *Anoop Baranwal 2023*) to a **Constitution Bench**.
- The **Kerala Assembly** passed a resolution seeking removal of **CEC Gyanesh Kumar**.

Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committees (DRSCs)

- Reconstituted for **2026–27**. Total **24 DRSCs** (17 in 1993; expanded to 24 in 2004), each with **31 members (21 LS + 10 RS)**; **1-year tenure**; Ministers barred; quorum 1/3rd (10).
- **Bhartruhari Mahtab** appointed Chairperson of the **Finance Committee**.

LAHDC (Amendment) Regulation, 2026 & India's Highest HC Bench

- Promulgated by the President under **Article 240**: constitutes **8 Hill Councils in Ladakh** (Leh, Kargil, Sankoo, Changthang, Nubra, Sham, Zanskar, Drass) with **100 notified constituencies** (up from 52; 7–24 elected seats per council + up to 4 nominated).
- The **Permanent Ladakh Bench** of the J&K and Ladakh High Court was inaugurated in **Leh (~3,500 m)**: India's highest-altitude High Court bench.

UAPA 1967 & AFSPA 1958

- **UAPA** (enacted via the 16th Amendment 1963): the 2019 amendment allowed designating **individuals** as terrorists; custody up to 30 days, chargesheet in 180 days; *K.A. Najeeb 2021* Meltdown Doctrine.
- MHA extended **AFSPA, 1958** for 6 months in disturbed areas of **Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland** (Sec. 3 declaration; Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy Committee 2005 recommended repeal).

Key Governance Reforms & Sectoral Laws

VBSA Bill, 2025: Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan

- A **single umbrella regulator for higher education**, replacing **UGC, AICTE and NCTE**.
- 1 Chair + up to 12 members; 3 councils; **excludes Medical & Legal education**; grants stay with the Ministry of Education; penalty up to **₹2 crore**.

Pharma Price Regulation

- **NPPA** (Dept. of Pharmaceuticals) enforces the **DPCO, 2013** under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. **NLEM 2022** covers **388 medicines** (16% retailer margin).
- **CDSCO** (MoHFW) regulates quality under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Lottery Regulation

- **Union List Entry 40** (Govt lotteries); **State List Entry 34** (betting/gambling).
- **40% GST** from Sept 2025; winnings taxed at 30% + 4% cess = **31.2%**; *B.R. Enterprises (1999)* All-or-Nothing Rule.

Interlinking of Rivers (ILR)

- **Brahmaputra–Godavari–Cauvery link** proposed at the Southern Zonal Council.
- **NPP 1980** identified **30 links (14 Himalayan, 16 Peninsular)**; **NWDA** est. 1982; **Article 262** & Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

FRA Lands (2006) & National Conclave on Tribal Rights

- **24 lakh+ Individual Forest Rights (IFR) titles** distributed (up to **4 ha**, heritable, non-transferable, cut-off **13 Dec 2005**; OTFDs need **75 years / 3 generations**).
- **Key ST constitutional safeguards:** Arts. 15(4), 16(4), 19(5), 29, 46, 338A (NCST), 342, Fifth Schedule; **PESA Act 1996**.

How a Forest Rights Claim Moves

1. **Gram Sabha** — Receives and verifies the claim
2. **SDLC** — Sub-Divisional Level Committee reviews it
3. **DLC** — District Level Committee gives final decision

Words Made Easy

UCC
One common set of personal laws (marriage, inheritance, etc.) for all citizens. Article 44 (DPSP).

DPSP
Directive Principles of State Policy: guidelines for the government; not enforceable in court.

Presidential assent
The President's approval that turns a passed Bill into law.

Statutory body
A body created by an Act of Parliament, like NHRC, rather than by the Constitution.

Quick Check: Test Yourself!

Q1. Who was appointed Governor of Odisha on 12 Oct 2026?	Ans: Braj Mohan Ram
Q2. Who was the first Chairman of the Public Service Commission (1926)?	Ans: Sir Ross Barker
Q3. Which state became 2nd after Uttarakhand to get assent for UCC?	Ans: Gujarat
Q4. Where is India's highest-altitude High Court bench?	Ans: Leh (~3,500 m)

CHAPTER 03

03 Government Schemes, Policies, GI Tags & State Affairs

Milestones of flagship schemes, new launches, agriculture updates, GI-tagged treasures and a state-by-state revision table.



IN THIS CHAPTER

Flagship Schemes | NSAP Renamed | Agriculture & MSP | Literacy & ULLAS | Transport Norms | GI Tags | State-wise Table

🚀 Flagship Central Schemes: Milestones & New Launches

Read each scheme card for **launch / milestone**, **outlay or target** and **key pointers**.

✈️ RCS-UDAN & Modified UDAN

- **Milestone:** 10 years (21 Oct 2026); Modified UDAN on 4 Jul 2026
- **Outlay:** ₹28,840 cr (FY27–FY36)
- Airports: **74 (2014) to 166 (2026)**; 687 routes, 95 aerodromes
- Modified UDAN: **100 airports + 200 helipads**; 1st flight Shimla–Delhi (Apr 2017)

🗺️ PM GatiShakti NMP & ITLA

- **Milestone:** 5 years (13 Oct 2026); launched 2021
- **Target:** 7 Engines; **23,493+ layers**
- 58 Ministries + 36 States/UTs
- ITLA SPV approved for a 10+ year National Transport Master Plan & appraisal of projects ≥ ₹500 cr

🏫 PM-SETU (ITI Modernisation)

- **Milestone:** 1 year (4 Oct 2026); launched 2025
- **Outlay:** ₹60,000 cr; **1,000 ITIs**
- Hub-and-Spoke: **200 Hubs + 800 Spokes**; 5 NSTIs upgraded
- SPV 51% Anchor Industry; **32 new-age courses** (AI, EV, drones)

🌾 PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

- **Milestone:** 1 year (11 Oct 2026); a 6-year scheme
- **Target:** 100 Aspirational Agri Districts
- Converges **36 schemes across 11 ministries**
- 3-tier Samiti (DM / Chief Secy / Agri Minister); all 100 districts prepared DAPs

🌾 Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses

- **Milestone:** 1 year (11 Oct 2026); runs 2025–31
- **Outlay:** ₹11,440 cr; **350 LT by 2030-31**
- Focus crops: **Tur, Urad, Masur**
- 100% MSP procurement by NAFED & NCCF under PM-AASHA; traceability via SATHI portal

❤️ Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY & ABDM

- **Milestone:** 8 years of PM-JAY (2018); 5 years of ABDM (2021)
- **48.51 cr+ cards** (~33% of population)
- 1,961 procedures; citizens 70+ covered (**1.36 cr+ Vay Vandana cards**)
- 1,87,250 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs; PM-ABHIM ₹64,180 cr

👥 PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana (formerly NSAP)

- **Milestone:** renamed Oct 2026 (NSAP est. 1995)
- **Outlay:** ₹53,428 cr (2026–31)
- 100% Centrally funded (MoRD; **Art. 41 DPSP**)
- Disability threshold cut **80% to 40%**, min age 18 removed, central pension +25% (₹375 / ₹625)

⚖️ PM-AJAY (SC Empowerment)

- **Milestone:** launched FY21–22; App/Portal Oct 2026
- **Results:** 785 hostels built; ₹1,730+ cr
- MoSJE; merged PMAGY + SCA to SCSP + BJRCY
- GIA priority for SC families with income ≤ ₹2.50 lakh; villages with ≥ 40% SC

⚡ Green Energy Corridor Phase-III

- **Milestone:** Cabinet approved Oct 2026
- **Outlay:** ₹1.86 lakh cr (CFA ₹54,082 cr)
- Evacuates **135 GW** renewable energy via InSTS + **50 GWh BESS** by FY 2032–33
- Supports the **900 GW non-fossil target by 2035**

🏭 BHAVYA Scheme

- **Milestone:** approved Mar 2026; portal Jun 2026
- **Outlay:** ₹33,660 cr (FY27–FY32)
- **100 plug-and-play industrial parks**; DPIIT + NICDC; ₹1 cr/acre assistance
- **BHAVYA Rasayan:** ₹3,030 cr for 3 chemical parks

🛠️ National SC-ST Hub (NSSH)

- **Milestone:** launched 2016 (MSME / NSIC)
- **Target:** 4% SC/ST procurement
- 25% annual CPSE MSE procurement (4% SC/ST)
- SCLCSS 25% subsidy up to ₹25 lakh; procurement up **39x to ₹4,013.42 cr**

🔥 National PNG Drive 3.0

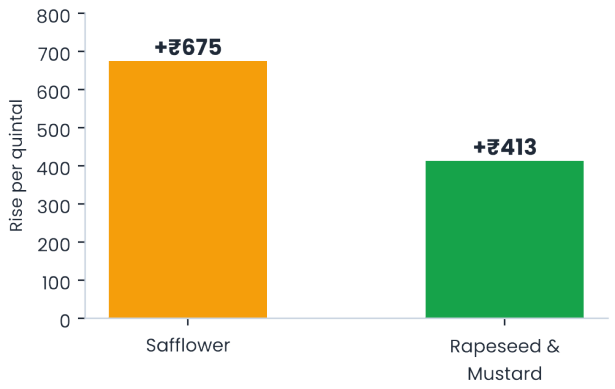
- **Period:** 1 Oct 2026 – 31 Mar 2027
- **Target:** 50 lakh new DPNG connections (FY27)
- Launched by **PNGRB** (20th Foundation Day)
- Aim: raise natural gas share from ~6% and cut LPG import vulnerability

✏️ **QUICK REVISION: RENAMED NSAP SUB-SCHEMES**
NSAP → PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana (effective 14 October 2026). Sub-schemes renamed: **IGNOAPS → PM Vridhavastha Pension Yojana | IGNWPS → PM Vidhawa Pension Yojana | IGNDPS → PM Divyangjan Pension Yojana | NFBS → PM Parivar Labh Yojana**.

Old Name	New Name (from 14 Oct 2026)
NSAP	PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana
IGNOAPS	PM Vridhavastha Pension Yojana
IGNWPS	PM Vidhawa Pension Yojana
IGNDPS	PM Divyangjan Pension Yojana
NFBS	PM Parivar Labh Yojana

Agriculture, Education, Transport & National Policy Updates

Biggest Rabi MSP Hikes



Rabi Crops MSP 2027–28

- CCEA approved higher MSP for **6 mandated Rabi crops**.
- Highest increase: **Safflower (+₹675/quintal)**.
- Next: **Rapeseed & Mustard (+₹413/quintal)**.

Sugarcane Farmers Committee & Static Facts

- Committee headed by **Prof. Ramesh Chand** (former NITI Aayog Member).
- **Static fact:** India is the **2nd-largest sugarcane producer** (UP & Maharashtra lead). **FRP 2026–27 = ₹365/quintal** (at 10.25% recovery). **Sugar MSP** unchanged at **₹31/kg since 2019**.

Agri Campaigns & Portals

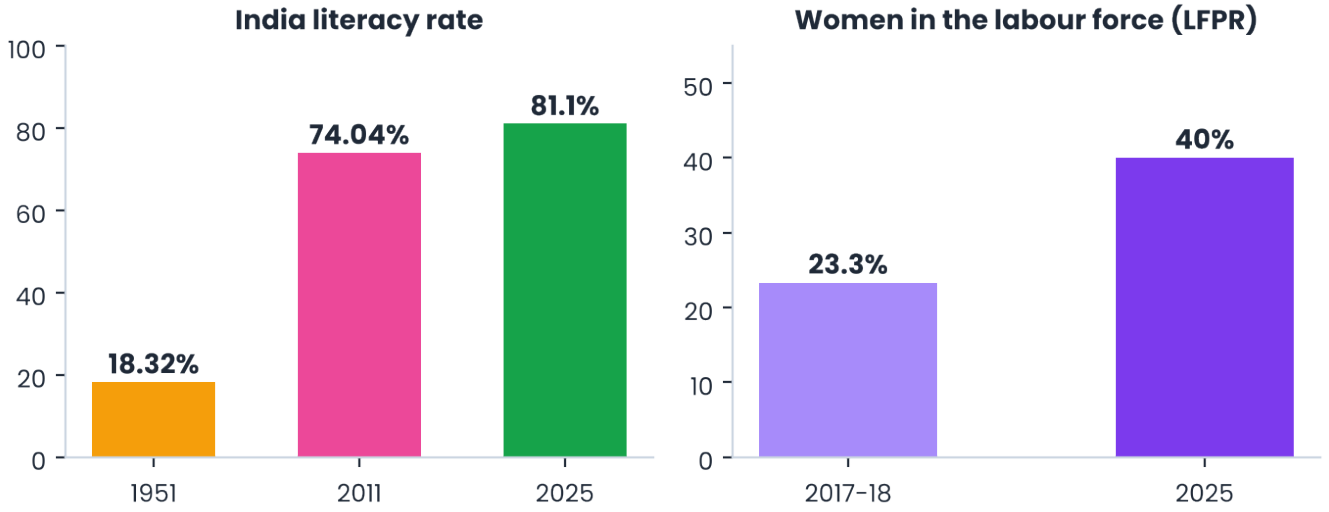
- Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched **Khet Bachao Abhiyan – Rabi 2026** (Karnal, Haryana; **22 Oct–30 Nov**).
- Launched the **Upgraded Agri Welfare Portal** (integrates PM-KISAN, PMFBY, AgriStack).
- Sanctioned **more than ₹1,200 crore under PM-RKVY** to 10 states.

VB–G RAM G Act, 2025

- MoRD notified **375 permissible works** under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (**26% livelihood-related**).
- MoRD also signed an MoU with the **National Academy of RUDSETI** (target: **6.35 lakh rural youth**).

India's Literacy & ULLAS (NILP)

How Literacy and Women's Work Participation Grew



Literacy: PLFS 2025 (81.1%). Women's LFPR figure is explained in Chapter 4.

Literacy Facts (PLFS 2025)

- Overall literacy **81.1%** (Urban 89%, Rural 77.4%); up from 74.04% in 2011 and 18.32% in 1951. **Full literacy benchmark = 95%**.
- **Lakshadweep** was declared **100% literate** under ULLAS. **10 States/UTs fully literate during 2024–26:** Ladakh, Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, HP, Chandigarh, A&N, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, J&K.
- **UDISE+ 2025–26** school enrolment: 24.72 crore+. **Higher Ed GER: 30%** (NEP 2020 target: 50% by 2035).

Transport & Auto Norms Timeline

1. **Jan 2027** — AEBS (Advanced Emergency Braking) proposed for new trucks/buses
2. **1 Apr 2027** — New CAFE Norms begin (till 31 Mar 2030), notified by Ministry of Power
3. **1 Apr 2029** — BS-VII draft: new cars/SUVs (3 phases till 2035)
4. **Oct 2030** — AEBS proposed for new car models
5. **Oct 2032** — AEBS proposed for existing models

FASTag, Railways & Other Policies

- **FASTag & Rajmargyatra:** NHAI launched **Toll Plaza Feedback** on the Rajmargyatra app; **FASTag Annual Pass revised ₹3,000 → ₹3,075** (effective 1 April 2026; 1 year or 200 crossings).
- **Productivity-Linked Bonus (PLB):** Cabinet approved **78-day PLB (₹2,028 crore)** for **11,40,770 Indian Railways employees** (max ₹17,951).

Key National Milestones & Policies

- **DDUGKY** completed 12 years; PM's **Mann Ki Baat** completed 12 years (first broadcast Vijayadashami 2014).
- Cabinet congratulated **PM Modi on 25 years as Head of Government** (Gujarat CM 2001, PM 2014).
- **19th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** to be held in **Kolkata (7–9 Jan 2027)**; **RoDTEP** extended till 31 Dec 2026.
- **WAVES OTT & MyWAVES** (Prasar Bharati; 26+ languages; "Gems of India" challenge).

- **Steel Industry Safety Council (SISC)** & SISD under the Ministry of Steel; **Telecommunications (Regulatory Sandbox) Rules, 2026** (up to 24 months, ₹10,000 fee).
- **BIS** launched Silver Refinery Scheme & 7 new standards on World Standards Day 2026; **NITI Aayog** released the Data Centre Evaluation Framework.
- **UIDAI** launched 5 initiatives at Aadhaar Samvaad (Kolkata, 17th Aadhaar Day, 29 Sept) & revised the Name Update SOP.
- **PRIP Scheme** (Dept. of Pharma): new discovery track up to ₹50 cr; **MSCARO 2026** (Ministry of Cooperation) for Multi-State Co-ops (> ₹50 cr).
- **HAL, NCF & ASI** MoU (₹23.60 cr) to conserve 3 heritage sites.

✨ Geographical Indication (GI) Tags & Cultural Highlights

🧠 **IN SIMPLE WORDS**
A **GI tag** is a label that shows a product comes from a particular place and has special qualities because of it (for example, a traditional sweet, craft or instrument).

Mandar (Jharkhand)

- Traditional **tribal percussion instrument** got a GI tag from **GI Registry, Chennai**.
- **Unique:** one side is made entirely of local **red soil**.
- Other Jharkhand GIs: **Sohrai-Khovar painting (1st GI)**, Koderma's **Kesariya Kalakand**.

⭐ Ambaji Mohanthal Prasad (Gujarat)

- Traditional **sweet offering of Ambaji Temple** received a GI tag.

✨ Kaladi Cheese (J&K)

- Traditional **dairy product of Udhampur** district (GI-tagged Oct 2023) achieved **commercial scalability**.

🌍 Jaipur in NatGeo Best of the World 2027

- Included ahead of its **300th anniversary** (founded **1727** by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II).
- Walled City is a **UNESCO WHS (2019)**.

State-Wise Current Affairs Quick-Revision Table

State / UT	High-Yield October 2026 Developments
Uttar Pradesh	Noida International Airport (Jewar) renamed **Narendra Modi International Airport**; Bhadohi renamed **Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi**; UP topped **Mission Karmayogi** (followed by Rajasthan & J&K); **Air Ayodhya** approved under RCS-UDAN.
Madhya Pradesh	India's **1st World-Class Geological Museum** (₹87 cr, Swadesh Darshan 2.0) at **Bhedaghat–Lamhetaghat, Jabalpur** (Narmada Valley history, 6 galleries, target Feb 2028).
Andhra Pradesh	India's **1st 3D-Printed Rural Housing Pilot** under PMAY-G (177 houses, ₹14 cr); state law enforcement launched **AI Centralised Drone Monitoring Portal (CDMP)** & **SafeStay AP** app.
Gujarat	India's **1st Port-Based e-Methanol Facility** at Deendayal Port, Kandla (₹2,300 cr, 150 TPD, DPA–APCL); 2nd state for UCC assent; Porbandar Forest Division restructured for **Barda Asiatic Lions**.
Himachal Pradesh	**ICMR-CHAMP** (India's 1st High-Altitude Health Research Centre) foundation laid at **Keylong**; CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu inaugurated the **1st Battery-Powered Solar Project in Spiti Valley**.
Ladakh	MoHFW approved Ladakh's **1st Govt Medical College in Leh** (2027–28); launched India's **1st High-Altitude Wildlife Safari (Uley; 477 of India's 718 snow leopards are in Ladakh)**; 28 geographical features identified on Survey of India map; PM Modi ₹3,350 cr projects incl. Leh Airport terminal; IIM Jammu Leh satellite campus.
Kerala (Keralam)	**Keralam Senior Citizens Bill, 2026** (living wills, caregiver certification, 3-yr jail for abuse); launched **WOMN** (Women On the Move & Menstrual Needs) at KSRTC; Institute of Advanced Virology built an **AI Dengue Early Warning System**.
Tamil Nadu	CM **C. Joseph Vijay** launched the **Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Ecosystem Scheme**; expanded **Vetri Payanam Thittam** (free bus travel for women & transgender persons, 84 lakh daily beneficiaries).
West Bengal	CM **Suvendu Adhikari** approved the **Bhagini Nivedita Scheme** (₹50,000 over 3 yrs for unmarried women in higher education) & 14,454 govt jobs; NITI Aayog SDG Budgeting workshop in Kolkata.
Delhi	CM **Rekha Gupta** doubled ASHA monthly incentives (**₹3,000 → ₹6,000**) under Seva Sankalp Abhiyan; Centre approved ₹65 cr **DRISHTI** project for PM-UDAY mapping.
Rajasthan & Punjab	Rajasthan announced its **1st State Veterinary Policy** (Mangla Pashu Bima Yojana: 43L+ animals). Punjab launched **SANGAT Mental Health Clubs** in 40 colleges (under Yudh Nashean Virudh).
Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Karnataka	**Odisha:** Exhibitions Incentive Portal; ONGC natural gas find in Mahanadi Offshore; Dhamra Port 100% renewable power. **Chhattisgarh:** ₹43,600 cr investment proposals (Singapore). **Nagaland:** Samaveshi Aajeevika Yojana (4,000 households with BRAC). **Karnataka:** Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 inaugurated in Mysuru.

Quick Check: Test Yourself!

Q1. Which airport was renamed Narendra Modi International Airport?	Ans: Noida International Airport (Jewar), UP
Q2. Which scheme was renamed from NSAP in Oct 2026?	Ans: PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana
Q3. Which Rabi crop got the highest MSP hike (+₹675)?	Ans: Safflower
Q4. Which instrument from Jharkhand got a GI tag?	Ans: Mandar

CHAPTER 04

04 Economy, Banking, Finance, GST & Economic Reports

RBI measures, the 57th GST Council, SEBI and stock exchanges, green and blue bonds, Make in India and the key economic numbers



IN THIS CHAPTER

RBI Measures | 57th GST Council | SEBI & Exchanges | Social & Blue Bonds | SME Fund & BMIP | Make in India | Economic Indicators

RBI Regulatory Measures & Banking Updates

20% FERR on forex derivative contracts above US$2 million

99% Daily CRR maintenance (up from 90%), effective 16 Oct

US$18.65 bn All-time high net dollar purchase (July 2026)

US$692.87 bn Forex reserves

Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve (FERR)

- RBI imposed a **20% FERR (Oct 2026)** on specified rupee-linked forex derivative contracts **exceeding US$2 million** (held daily without interest till contract expiry) to **curb speculative rupee depreciation**.
- Adapted from China's PBoC macroprudential tool.

Daily CRR & Paytm Payments Bank

- **Daily CRR maintenance** for scheduled banks raised from **90% to 99%** effective **16 October 2026** (the prescribed CRR rate is unchanged at **3%**).
- RBI **removed Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. from the list of Scheduled Banks** following licence cancellation and winding-up order.

Other Major RBI Actions

- Announced **Account Aggregator (NBFC-AA) interoperability** (7 Oct 2026); opened a **Special Forex Window** (12 Oct 2026) for 3 state-run OMCs.
- Recorded an **all-time high net dollar purchase of US$18.65 billion in July 2026** (forex reserves US$692.87 billion).
- **NRI deposit inflows rose 6-fold to US$36.2 billion** (Apr–Jul FY27); new **Services Export Reporting Framework** (₹10 lakh self-declaration threshold).
- Sanctioned the **merger of Emirates NBD's Indian branches into RBL Bank** (effective 1 Dec 2026).

30th FSDC Meeting (New Delhi) & Bank of Baroda

- **FSDC** chaired by **FM Nirmala Sitharaman** (the FSDC Sub-Committee is chaired by the RBI Governor); reviewed fintech, cybersecurity, asset tokenisation, GIFT-IFSC, ULI.
- **Bank of Baroda** became the **2nd Public Sector Bank (after SBI) to sponsor a Pension Fund** (PFRDA approval); launched cybersecurity mascot 'bob Cyber Veeru' & festive campaign "bob Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang".

💵 NPCI, Fintech & Financial Inclusion

- **NPCI** unveiled **FiMi Banking** (India's 1st sovereign compact AI model for retail banking) at Global Fintech Festival 2026.
- **M1xchange** became the 1st TReDS platform to implement CGTMSE guarantee. **AU Small Finance Bank & Paytm** launched India's 1st **Family Lounge Access RuPay Credit Card**. **SBI** won Global Finance's World's Best Consumer Bank Award for the 2nd straight year.
- **DFS** launched the nationwide **Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign** (21 Oct–31 Dec 2026; 2.70 lakh Gram Panchayats).
- **Small Savings Rates** unchanged for Q3 FY27 (**14th straight quarter**; Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana highest at **8.2%**).
- **PFRDA** launched **NPS Central** (1 Oct 2026; login via mobile/DOB/OTP instead of 12-digit PRAN). **HSBC India** announced a ₹200 cr financial literacy programme (2026–30).

⚖️ 57th GST Council Meeting, Capital Markets & Green/Social Bonds

The **57th GST Council** met in New Delhi and was chaired by **FM Nirmala Sitharaman**. Basis: **Article 279A (101st Amendment 2016)**; quorum 50%.

5% ✅ GST 2.0 slab: essentials	**18%** ⚖️ GST 2.0 slab: standard	**40%** 🔥 GST 2.0 slab: luxury / sin goods	**₹5 cr** ⚠️ New prosecution threshold (was ₹1 cr)

⚖️ How a GST Council Decision is Taken



Voting weight: **Centre 1/3** and **States 2/3**; a decision needs a **3/4th weighted majority**.

✅ Key Decisions (mostly effective 1 April 2027)

- **No rate changes** (annual rate reviews henceforth); **GST 2.0 streamlined to 5%, 18% and 40%** (luxury/sin).
- **Refund acknowledgement** cut from **15 to 10 days**; input services eligible under inverted duty from **1 Nov 2026**.
- **No GST notices below ₹10,000**; prosecution threshold raised **₹1 cr to ₹5 cr** (proposed removal of arrest powers).
- **Central GST faceless assessment** from FY27–28.

QUICK REVISION
GST Standing Committee: 5 states granted **permanent membership**: **Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu**.

SEBI & Exchanges

- **SEBI** approved **PRIM** (Portfolio Managers Route for Investing in Mutual Fund Units; 1% fixed fee cap); launched **"Samajh Se Investing Simple"** under Project Jagrook (Chandigarh; Chairman **Tuhin Kanta Pandey**); notified the Common Advertisement Code; relaxed merchant banker rules for private debt placements.
- **NSE** became the **world's 6th-largest stock exchange by market cap** after BSE listing (also traded on MSE). **NSE IX & London Stock Exchange** signed a cross-border MoU.
- **BSE & MMTC-PAMP** partnered on **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR)**. **GIFT City jumped 9 spots to 37th** in GFCI 40.

India's 1st WASH-Focused Social Bond

- Listed on **NSE** by **NABKISAN Finance Ltd.** (NABARD subsidiary) on **1 Oct 2026**.
- Raised **₹180 crore** (5-yr, **8.10% coupon**, AAA rated, Water.org technical advisor).

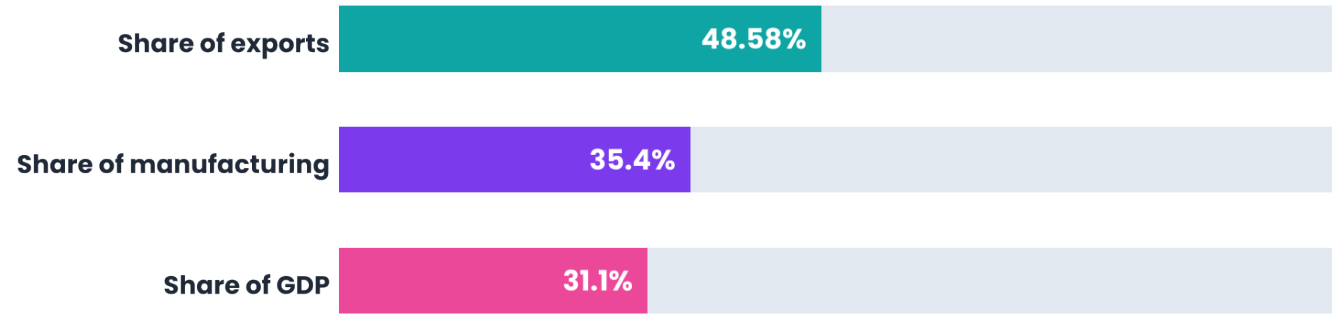
India's 1st Blue Bond

- To be issued by **Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd. (SMFCL)**: **₹600 crore** (10-yr, incl. ₹500 cr greenshoe; SBI Capital Markets arranger) for sustainable ocean/maritime projects.
- Vadodara Municipal Corp plans ₹200 cr blue bonds.

STATIC GK BOOSTER
Seychelles (2018) issued the world's **1st sovereign blue bond**.

SME Growth Fund, BMIP, Make in India & SWIFT Alternatives

MSMEs: India's Economic Backbone (Economic Survey 2025–26)



9.78 cr Udyam registrations (37.6% women-owned).

SME Growth Fund (SGF) & MSME Thresholds

- **Cabinet approved ₹10,000 crore** state-backed direct equity AIF (Budget 2026–27) for high-potential SMEs.
- **MSME thresholds: Micro** (≤ ₹2.5 cr investment / ≤ ₹10 cr turnover), **Small** (≤ ₹25 cr / ≤ ₹100 cr), **Medium** (≤ ₹125 cr / ≤ ₹500 cr).

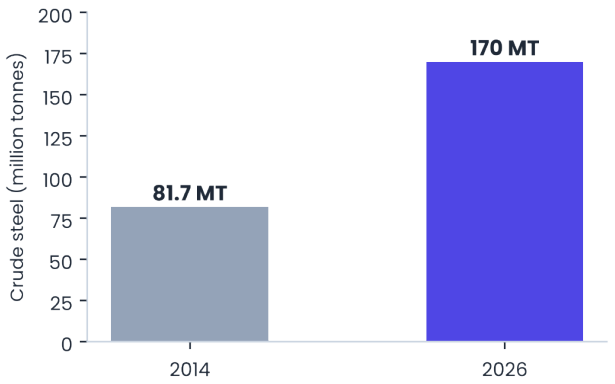
Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)

- India's **1st domestic maritime insurance pool** (launched **12 May 2026**; capacity ₹13,906.50 cr / $1.5B; sovereign backing ₹12,980 cr; administered by **GIC Re**; tenure 15 yrs; claims > $100M sovereign-backed).
- Cuts dependence on **13 foreign P&I clubs**.
- **World Maritime Day (24 Sept 2026)** theme: "From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence". India has **12 Major + 217 Non-Major ports**, **11,098 km coastline**, **14,500+ km inland waterways**.

12 Years of Make in India (launched 2014; 2.0 in 2021, 27 sectors)

- **Electronics production up 7x**; India is the **2nd-largest mobile phone manufacturer** (99.2% domestic); **smartphones** were the top export category (2025).
- Indigenous military manufacturing up **~283%**; **crude steel 81.7 to 170 MT**; pharma **3rd by volume / 11th by value**.
- **ISRO-SCL chips VIKRAM3201 & KALPANA3201**; **PLI across 14 sectors** attracted ₹2.6 lakh cr.

Crude Steel: 2014 vs 2026

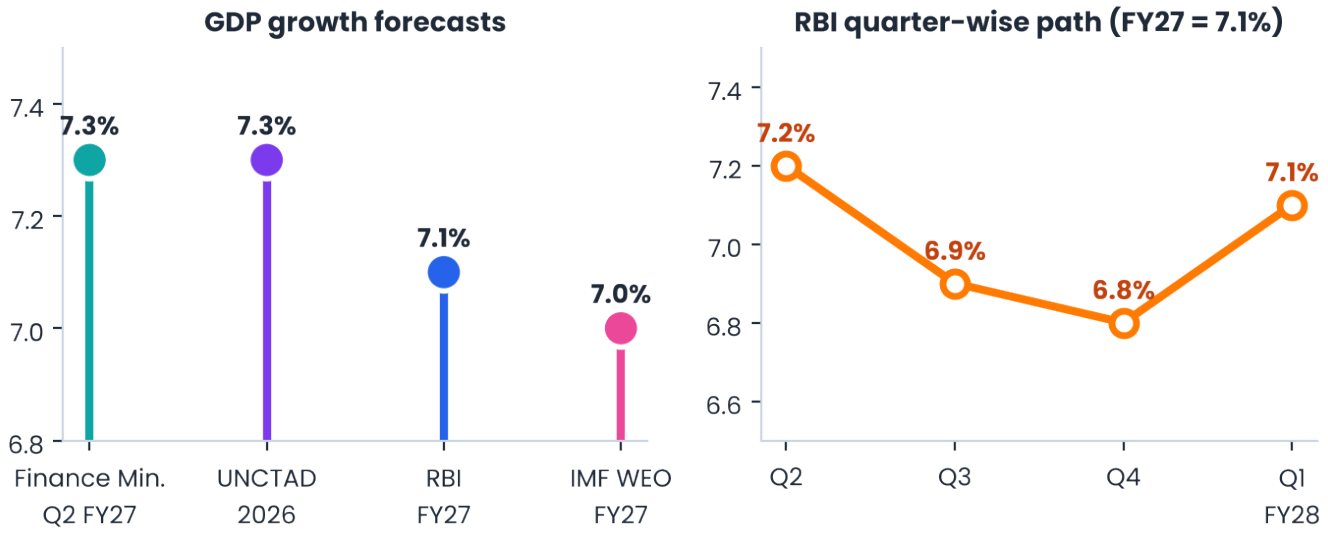


Alternatives to SWIFT

- **SWIFT:** est. 1973, HQ Brussels; 8/11-char BIC.
- **India's UPI:** 49% of global real-time payments; live in 11 countries.
- **China's CIPS** (2015); **Russia's SPFS** (2014); **Iran's SEPAMA**.
- **BIS Project mBridge** (mCBDC); **BIS Project Nexus** (India, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand); **BRICS Pay**.

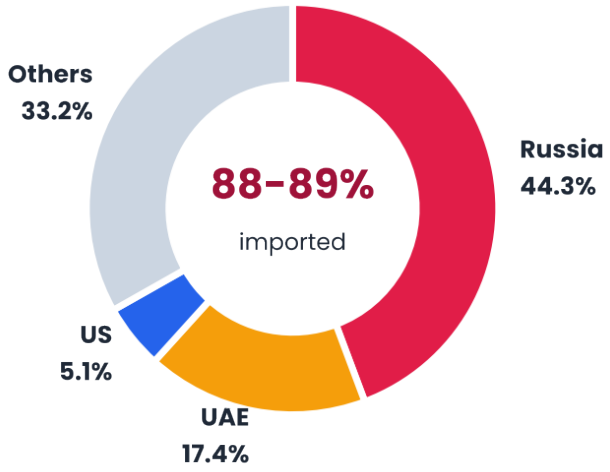
Key Economic Indicators, Growth Forecasts & Reports (October 2026)

GDP Growth: Who Predicts What?



Forecast range **7.0% to 7.3%**.

🔥 Crude Oil Imports (Aug 2026)



🚢 Crude Oil & Trade Numbers

- **88–89% import dependence.** Top suppliers: **Russia (44.3%), UAE (17.4%), US (5.1%)**.
- **SPR:** 5.33 MT (Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, Padur; ISPRL).
- Aug 2026 merchandise trade deficit at a **5-month low ($26.86B)**; exports up 26% to **$43.81B**; July 2026 CAD **$7B**.

Indicator / Report	Latest Figure / Rank	Key Takeaways
GDP Growth Forecasts	7.0% – 7.3%	Finance Ministry Q2 FY27: 7.3% | UNCTAD 2026: 7.3% | RBI FY27: 7.1% | IMF WEO FY27: 7.0%
Inflation & Core Industries	CPI 5.5% | Core 7.9%	Sept 2026 retail CPI ~5.5%; 8 Core Industries grew 7.9% YoY in Sept 2026 (Apr–Sept: 5.1%)
External Trade & CAD	Trade deficit $26.86B	Aug 2026 merchandise trade deficit 5-month low ($26.86B; exports up 26% to $43.81B); July 2026 CAD $7B
Crude Oil Imports (Aug 2026)	88–89% import dependence	Top suppliers: Russia (44.3%), UAE (17.4%), US (5.1%). SPR: 5.33 MT (Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, Padur; ISPRL)
Household Debt & Bond Yields	45.5% of GDP | 7.40%	Household debt rose to 45.5% of GDP (Sept 2025); India 10-yr G-Sec yield 7.40% (Oct 2026); US 10-yr > 5%
PLFS (Sept 2026) & Women LFPR	LFPR 55.5% | Women 40%	Overall LFPR 55.5% (Sept 2026). Female LFPR rose 23.3% (2017–18) to 40% (2025); 4 Labour Codes (Nov 2025)
RIS Ayush Services Report	US$36.92 Billion	FY24–25 valuation (16.91% CAGR); 1.76M jobs (43% women); Ayurveda ~48%; released on 11th Ayurveda Day, Nagpur
UNCTAD & World Bank	5.7% FDI | Top 10 AI	India: 5.7% of global greenfield FDI (2020–25); Top 10 emerging markets in World Bank AI Readiness; WB $19B critical minerals
ASI 2024–25 & Coir Sector	MH #1 GVA | Coir #1	Maharashtra highest manufacturing GVA. India is the world's #1 coir producer/exporter (~2/3rd share; ₹6,614 cr exports)

📈 Other Business & Trade Briefs

- **ADB & Japan** financed a renewable-powered **Green Ammonia plant at Kakinada, AP** (1st under ACCEL); **MoPSW** launched Shipbuilders & Buyer Credit Insurance Schemes (SCIS/BCSPS).
- **CBDT** introduced **Form 173A** for FII/FPI G-Sec tax exemptions; **IIFL Home Finance** secured a **$150M JICA loan** for low-income women housing; **ReNew** secured **$100M from Dutch FMO**.
- **CCI** approved BNP Paribas Cardif's 26% stake in IndiaFirst Life & Maybach Asia's 100% acquisition of Sahrudaya Health Care.
- **World Tourism Day (27 Sept):** tourism contributes **5.22% to India's GDP**; e-Visa covers **172 countries**. Global sulphur prices surged **$280 to $1,050/tonne**.
- **Piyush Goyal** inaugurated the **National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC)** at Vanijya Bhawan; Dept. of Commerce launched the **FTA Utilisation Cell**.

Words Made Easy

GDP
Gross Domestic Product: the total value of goods and services a country produces in a year.

CRR
Cash Reserve Ratio: the share of deposits banks must keep with the RBI.

MSME
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises: India's many small and mid-size businesses.

CAD
Current Account Deficit: when a country pays the world more than it earns.

Quick Check: Test Yourself!

Q1. What is the new daily CRR maintenance requirement?	Ans: 99% (from 90%)
Q2. Which three GST slabs remain under GST 2.0?	Ans: 5%, 18% and 40%
Q3. Who issues India's first Blue Bond (₹600 cr)?	Ans: Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd.
Q4. Which PSB became 2nd after SBI to sponsor a Pension Fund?	Ans: Bank of Baroda

CHAPTER 05

05 International Relations, Summits & Global Affairs

India's bilateral visits, SCO and BIMSTEC meetings, UNGA 81st session debates, global treaties and the month's big summits.



IN THIS CHAPTER

India–Poland | India–US | India–Switzerland | Neighbours | SCO & BIMSTEC | UNGA 81 | WHO Treaty | Summits

🤝 Major Bilateral Engagements

$6.36B — India–Poland trade (target: double by 2030)

$100B — EFTA FDI commitment over 15 years (TEPA)

300–500 — Young Professionals per year (India–Switzerland)

$100,000 — One-time fee on new H-1B visas (US)

🤝 India–Poland Relations (PM Visit)

- Reviewed the **Strategic Partnership (est. Aug 2024)** & **Action Plan (2024–28)**. Target: **double bilateral trade by 2030** (current **$6.36B**, surplus in India's favour; Poland is India's largest Central/Eastern Europe partner).
- Poland officially announced **joining CDRI**, reaffirmed support for India's **permanent UNSC seat & 2028–29 non-permanent bid**, and condemned the April 2025 **Pahalgam terror attack**.
- **Static fact (WWII link): Jam Saheb Digvijay Sinhji** (Maharaja of Nawanagar) sheltered **1,000 Polish orphans**; the **Valivade camp (Kolhapur)** hosted 5,000 refugees.

🚩 India–US Relations (Secretary of State Visit)

- The US called India a **"refining superpower"**, urged processing heavy **Venezuelan Merey crude**, and temporarily suspended certain Russian-oil sanctions. Reaffirmed **US-India TRUST (2025)** & **4 foundational pacts: LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA, GSOMIA**.
- **Friction:** the US froze **PERM (Green Card labour certification)** for 8 tech firms (TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCL, Cognizant) and imposed a **$100,000 one-time fee on new H-1B visas**; MEA rejected the "indentured servants" remark.

✈️ India–Switzerland State Visit

- Marked the **1st anniversary of the India–EFTA TEPA** (effective Oct 2025: EFTA committed **$100B FDI & 1M direct jobs over 15 yrs**).
- Signed a **Migration & Mobility Partnership** (5-yr multi-entry visas), **Young Professionals Scheme** (300–500/yr), **Transport MoU** (alpine tunnelling/ropeways) and **DST–SNSF** research.
- **Static:** 1948 Treaty of Friendship; India is an **Associate Member of CERN**.

🗺️ Neighbourhood & Regional Diplomacy

🌊 Maldives

- India **rolled over the ₹30 billion currency swap drawdown** under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework (2024–27).
- RBI–MMA pact (Oct 2024): **$400M USD/Euro + ₹30B INR**.

⚡ Bhutan

- India handed over **₹290 crore** for development projects (incl. ₹8.83 cr for **Digital Drukyul**).
- **Adani Power & Druk Green** signed a pact for the **770 MW Chamkharchhu-I** hydropower project.

🚢 India–EU Green Shipping Corridor & Other Bilateral Deals

- Industry coalition launched at the **3rd Sagarmanthan (2026)**; **Deendayal, Paradip & V.O. Chidambaranar** ports designated **green-hydrogen hubs**.
- **India–New Zealand** Customs MoC (19 Oct; e-Rules of Origin for FTA effective **20 Oct 2026**); **India–Mauritius DTAA** amended with the **Principal Purpose Test (PPT)**; India opened a **Resident Diplomatic Mission in Costa Rica**.
- **EAM S. Jaishankar** visited **Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire & Ethiopia**; **India–Myanmar** 5 Quick Impact Projects under Mekong-Ganga Cooperation; **India–Singapore** exploring a **2,000 MW cross-border power link** (ASEAN Power Grid); **India–Canada** commercial pacts aiming for CEPA by 2026.
- India, EU, Australia, Brazil & Canada launched the **Platform for Multilateralism, Peace & UN Reform**.

🎯 **EXAM TIP**
China's Export Controls (from 18 Nov 2026): licensing controls expanded from critical minerals (gallium, germanium, graphite, antimony, rare earths) to **Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs), walking excavators and shotcrete machines**. China controls **~70%** of global TBM production & rare-earth refining.

🌍 Multilateral Groupings, UNGA 81st Session & Global Treaties

🌍 25th SCO Council of Heads of Government (Dushanbe, Tajikistan)

- Addressed by **Union Minister Rajnath Singh**; India to host the **1st SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum** by end-2026.
- Separately, an Indian diplomat attended the **SCO National Coordinators meeting in Pakistan** (1st official visit since Operation Sindoor).
- **SCO static:** est. **2001** (from 1996 Shanghai Five); **10 members** (India & Pakistan 2017, Iran 2023, Belarus 2024); **Secretariat: Beijing**; **RATS: Tashkent**.

🗺️ 1st BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting (New Delhi)

- Adopted the **Delhi Declaration** condemning cross-border terrorism, cyber slavery and trafficking; urged **UNSC 1267** sanctions.
- **BIMSTEC static: 7 members** (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand); est. **6 June 1997** (Bangkok Declaration); **Secretariat: Dhaka**.

UNGA 81st Session (Sept 2026): Key Debates

UNSC Veto Power (Art. 27(3))

- **Russia** reaffirmed support for India's permanent seat.
- **G4** (India, Brazil, Germany, Japan) proposes a **15-year veto moratorium**; Africa's **Ezulwini Consensus & L.69 Group** seek full veto parity.
- **Liechtenstein Initiative (Res. 76/262)** mandates a UNGA debate within **10 days** of any veto.

Liechtenstein Initiative: What Happens After a Veto?

1. **A veto is cast**
   A permanent UNSC member blocks a draft resolution
2. **Within 10 days**
   The General Assembly must hold a debate
3. **Everyone is heard**
   Members discuss the use of the veto

'Enemy State' Clauses (Arts. 53, 77, 107)

- **Japan** urged deleting the WWII Axis-era clauses from the UN Charter.

UN Declaration on Sea-Level Rise

- Protects **Small Island Developing States' (SIDS)** legal statehood & **UNCLOS** maritime zones even if territory submerges.
- Global sea level rose **5.9 mm in 2024**.

WMD Safeguards (UNGA First Committee)

- India reaffirmed the **CWC (1997; ratified 1996)** & **BWC (1975; ratified 1974)** and its domestic **WMD Act, 2005**.

India Joins SIOFA as Full Contracting Party

- Cabinet approved accession to the **Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement** (adopted 2006, operational 2016, **HQ Le Port, Réunion Island**), upgrading from **CNCP**.
- Regulates **non-highly migratory high-seas fisheries** (complementing **IOTC** for tuna).

WHO Pandemic Agreement

- A **legally binding treaty under Article 19 of the WHO Constitution** (adopted **May 2025**; only the **2nd Art. 19 treaty** after the **2003 FCTC**).
- Ratification is **paused** pending the **Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) Annex**.

Other Global Updates

- **UNIFIL** (est. 1978, Blue Line Lebanon–Israel): final mandate ends **31 Dec 2026** (600+ Indian peacekeepers).
- South Korea's **PanStar Acro** completed a 50-day trial voyage via the **Arctic Northern Sea Route** (~35% shorter than Suez Canal).
- **World Bank Group** launched its 1st **Digital Strategy** in Seoul; the **Southeast Asia Haze Crisis** exposed enforcement limits of the **2003 AATHP**.

THE 10 SCO MEMBERS (India & Pakistan joined in 2017)

SCO: India | Pakistan | China | Russia | Kazakhstan | Kyrgyzstan | Tajikistan | Uzbekistan | Iran (2023) | Belarus (2024)

THE 7 BIMSTEC MEMBERS

Bangladesh | Bhutan | India | Myanmar | Nepal | Sri Lanka | Thailand

Major Summits & Conferences (October 2026)

Summit / Conference	Venue	Key Highlights & Theme
153rd IPU Assembly	Arusha, Tanzania	India led by RS Dy. Chair Harivansh; **Milton Dick (Australia)** elected 32nd IPU President; **Nauru 184th member**; IPU HQ Geneva (est. 1889)
69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conf.	Cape Town, South Africa	India led by Harivansh Narayan Singh; **Canada to host 70th edition in 2027**
70th Intl. Whaling Commission (IWC-70)	Hobart, Australia	80th anniversary of the 1946 Convention (89 members; **India joined 1981**); India prioritises the **Arabian Sea humpback whale**
7th AgriVoltaics World Conference	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	**1st time in Global South**; theme "Powering the Global South"; MNRE + Germany BMUV; Annadatas to Urjadatas
61st CIML Meeting (OIML)	New Delhi	**1st time hosted by India**; Dept. of Consumer Affairs + OIML (est. 1955) on legal metrology standards
KAUMARACON-2026	New Delhi (AIIA)	3rd Intl. Conf. on **Kaumarabhritya (Ayurvedic paediatrics)**; inaugurated by VP **C.P. Radhakrishnan**; launched AYUSH Start-up Portal
3rd Intl. Bharat 6G Symposium	Yashobhoomi, New Delhi	Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA); 1st anniversary of New Delhi Declaration (2025); vision: **6G leadership by 2030**
10th India Mobile Congress 2026	Yashobhoomi, New Delhi	**7–10 Oct 2026**; theme "Scale Without Boundaries"; also hosted 2nd UN GI-AI4FS (TEC & ICAR)
2nd ESTIC 2026	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	**27–29 Oct 2026**; organised by CSIR; theme "Creative Minds, Catalyzing Science, Empowering Technologies"
5th Kautilya Economic Conclave	New Delhi	IEG + Finance Ministry (est. 2022); theme "Resilience in an Age of Flux"; RBI Governor outlined 5 stability priorities
G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting	Milwaukee, USA	Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** participated; **15 countries** issued a Joint Statement

Words Made Easy

Bilateral
Between two countries, like India–Poland talks.

Multilateral
Involving many countries, like the UN, SCO or BIMSTEC.

Veto
A permanent UNSC member's power to block a resolution.

TEPA
Trade & Economic Partnership Agreement (India–EFTA).

Quick Check: Test Yourself!

Q1. Which country hosted the 25th SCO Council of Heads of Government?	Ans: Tajikistan (Dushanbe)
Q2. Which Indian bilateral deal marked 1st anniversary this month: with EFTA/Switzerland?	Ans: India–EFTA TEPA (effective Oct 2025)
Q3. Who was elected 32nd IPU President?	Ans: Milton Dick (Australia)

CHAPTER 06

06 National Security, Armed Forces & Military Exercises

New Air Chief, CISF reorganisation, India's security doctrine, new warships, DRDO breakthroughs, big contracts and joint exercises.

IN THIS CHAPTER

29th Air Chief | CISF Overhaul | Security Doctrine | Naval Commissions | DRDO Tech | Defence Contracts | Joint Exercises

Leadership, Strategic Doctrine & Organisational Reforms

29th
Chief of the Air Staff: Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

₹38,424 cr
Record military exports FY 2025–26 (+60% YoY)

~190
India's nuclear warheads (SIPRI 2026)

1 Nov
CISF functional overhaul begins

29th Chief of the Air Staff (CAS)

- **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** appointed 29th CAS **effective 31 October 2026**, succeeding **Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh**.
- Served as **CISC** and **AOC-in-C Central Air Command**; **PVSM (2026)**; flew Mirage-2000, Tejas, Jaguar and MiG variants.

CISF Functional Overhaul (Effective 1 Nov 2026)

- MHA replaced CISF's **8 geographical sectors** with **functional, sector-specific commands** (3 specialised sectors: **Aviation, DAE, DoS** are unchanged).
- CISF designated **Recognised Security Organisation (RSO)** for ports under IMO's **ISPS Code** and nodal agency for aerial security of critical infrastructure.
- **Static:** CISF est. **1969** under the **CISF Act, 1968**.

New CISF Command	Headquarters
Coal	Ranchi
Steel	Bhilai
Petroleum & Natural Gas	Guwahati
Power	New Delhi & Kolkata
Port Security	West Coast: Mumbai | East Coast: Chennai
GBMM & MRTS	NCR

Central Armed Forces Act, 2026

- The **Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026** came into effect on **8 October 2026**.
- Mandates **50% of IG posts** and **at least 67% of ADG posts** to be filled by **IPS officers on deputation**.

🎯 DefCon 2026 & India's Security Doctrine

- Raksha Mantri cautioned against the **"perimeter fallacy"**, highlighting a shift from **Deterrence by Denial** to **Deterrence by Punishment**; **PRAHAAR** is India's first National Counter-Terrorism Policy.

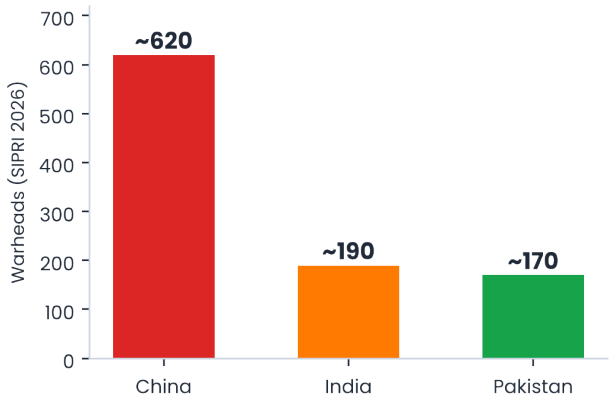
🔥 India's Deterrence by Punishment: Key Moments

1. **2016** — Surgical Strikes
2. **2019** — Balakot
3. **2025** — Operation Sindoor

🔑 India's Nuclear Doctrine (2003)

- **Credible Minimum Deterrence (CMD)**
- **No First Use (NFU)**
- **Massive Retaliation**
- **Civilian Control** via NCA (PM-led Political Council)
- Debate renewed after Sept 2026 Bangladesh–US civil nuclear MoU.

📈 Warheads, SIPRI 2026



QUICK REVISION
Per **SIPRI 2026**: India ~**190** warheads (12 deployed), Pakistan ~**170**, China ~**620**.

🚀 Record Military Exports & Initiatives

- India's military hardware exports hit a **record ₹38,424 crore in FY 2025–26 (+60% YoY)**; presented **SIDM Champion Awards 2026**.
- CDS **Gen. N.S. Raja Subramani** inaugurated **Project Seabird Phase IIA** infrastructure at **Karwar, Karnataka**.
- Indian Army launched **'Bharat Rice'** (5-yr MoU with FCI; NAFED supplier) and inaugurated the **GYANDEEP Hindi library** at Sena Bhawan; **IIT Kanpur** launched a Drone Hub & $1B fundraising campaign.

Naval Commissions, DRDO Breakthroughs & Strategic Deals

INS Mangrol (P82)

- **3rd Mahe-class ASW-SWC** (after INS Mahe P80, INS Malvan P81).
- Built by **Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL)**, **80%+ indigenous**; commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.
- Equipped with **Abhay sonar** & **Mareech torpedo decoy**.

Surya (FSS-1)

- India's **1st indigenously built Fleet Support Ship** (**43,500 tonnes**, ~82% indigenous).
- Launched at **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL), Visakhapatnam** (keel laid for FSS-5).

NGOPV 'Shreyas' (Yard 3040)

- **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel** launched at **GRSE, Kolkata**.

ICG ALH Mk-III (CG 875)

- First indigenous **HAL-built ALH Mk-III** inducted into Coast Guard Region (West) at **Ratnagiri** (831 Squadron).
- ICG scaled **Mount Mukut (7,045 m)**: its first 7,000m+ expedition.

DRDO & Indigenous Tech Milestones

DRDO Breakthroughs

- **HAPS Flight Test:** DRDO's **ADRDE (Agra)** flight-tested an indigenous stratospheric **High Altitude Platform System** (reached **21 km** altitude, stayed at 20 km for 30+ mins).
- **Kaveri Dry Engine (KDE):** completed Russia trials for DRDO's **Ghatak UCAV**.
- **QKD Live Military Trial:** Quantum Key Distribution tested on a live network at **PXE Chandipur, Odisha** (6% QBER, ~5 kbps).
- **EyeROV TROUT:** India's 1st indigenous **military-grade underwater ROV** delivered to the Indian Navy.
- **Hypersonic missiles:** South Korea tested its 1st indigenous hypersonic missile (HGV). India's DRDO programmes: **LR-AShM, ET-LDHCM (Project Vishnu, Mach 8+), BrahMos-II (Mach 7)**.

Major Procurement Contracts & Pacts

- **SAT-SAAW Glide Bombs:** ₹810.79 cr contract with BDL for 160 DRDO-designed glide bombs (IAF).
- **GSAT-7C & Varunastra:** ₹4,106 cr MoD deals for Navy satellite GSAT-7C & Varunastra torpedoes (₹1,543 cr, BDL).
- **BEL Radars & BrahMos:** ₹770 cr with BEL for LLLR-I radars (Army); ₹661.5 cr with BrahMos Aerospace for fire control systems.
- **Industry JVs:** Embraer (51%) & Mahindra (49%) in **Novavayu Aerospace (C-390)**; Hical & Safran Rafale JV; **HAL Koraput** delivered its 2,000th aero-engine & acquired 100% of HATSOFF; HAL & SkyPulse ₹2,491 cr MoU for 30 helicopters.
- **BonV Aero (Odisha)** delivered 45 logistics UAVs to Eastern Command; **Zuppa & TNUAVC** drone training for Agniveers; India–Czech JDC industrial push; Japan urged fast-tracking the **UNICORN** naval radar.

EXAM TIP
Badr Cooperation Pact (Doha): signed by **Qatar, Türkiye, Pakistan and Indonesia** ("Badr" = full moon) for joint military manufacturing & tech transfer.

Master Table: Joint Military Exercises (October 2026)

Exercises are a favourite exam topic. Remember the **partner country**, **venue** and **edition**.

Exercise	Participating Nations	Venue	Edition, Assets & Key Facts
SIMBEX-2026	India – Singapore (Navy)	Visakhapatnam & Bay of Bengal	**33rd edition**; est. 1994 as Ex Lion King; INS Nilgiri, INS Kamorta, RSS Supreme
AUSTRAHIND 2026	India – Australia (Army)	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	**5th edition** (est. 2022); **New Zealand observer for 1st time**; Garhwal Rifles
KONKAN-26	India – UK (Navy)	Off Plymouth, UK	Annual since 2004; INS Trishul & HMS Sutherland (UK Army: Ajeya Warrior; Air: Indradhanush)
IBSAMAR IX 2026	India – Brazil – South Africa	South Africa	**9th edition** (biennial since 2008); INS Tarkash (Talwar-class frigate)
MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN	India – UAE (Army)	Chaubatia, Uttarakhand	Mountain warfare; India's Bhairav Battalion & UAE Mountain Infantry
KAZIND 2026	India – Kazakhstan	Oskemen, Kazakhstan	**9th edition**; UN-mandated sub-conventional counter-terrorism
2nd AIME 2026	India – ASEAN (Navy)	Subic Bay / Zambales, Philippines	Co-hosted with Philippine Navy (1st Singapore 2023); INS Sahyadri & INS Kulish
Tarang Shakti 2026	Multinational (IAF)	Jodhpur, Rajasthan	**2nd edition** (~40 nations; 8 with air assets); theme "Power in Partnership"
VARUNA (24th)	India – France (Navy)	Toulon, France	**24th edition** (est. 2001); INS Trishul (F43) participated
SAREX-2026	ICG + 30 Countries	Off Paradip, Odisha	**12th National Maritime SAR Exercise**; Mass Rescue simulation; 32 observers
Jai Se Vijay	Indian Army (Domestic)	Rajasthan (Indo-Pak border)	Theme "Mission Ready, Future Ready"; operational readiness drill
Lokayan-2026	Indian Navy (Sail Ship)	Salalah, Oman	Three-masted sail training ship **INS Sudarshini**; advances **MAHASAGAR** vision

Words Made Easy

CDS
Chief of Defence Staff: the top military officer who coordinates the three services.

Deterrence
Keeping a rival from attacking by showing you can respond strongly.

ASW
Anti-Submarine Warfare: warships built to hunt submarines.

UCAV
Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle: a combat drone.

Quick Check: Test Yourself!

Q1. Who is the 29th Chief of the Air Staff?	Ans: Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
Q2. Where is the CISF Coal Sector Command headquartered?	Ans: Ranchi
Q3. Which country joined AUSTRAHIND 2026 as observer for the first time?	Ans: New Zealand
Q4. What is India's first indigenous Fleet Support Ship called?	Ans: Surya (FSS-1)

CHAPTER 07

07 Environment, Heritage, Species & Places in News

New Ramsar sites, UNESCO Tentative List, global climate and nature reports, forests, El Niño, wildlife and places in the headlines.

IN THIS CHAPTER

Ramsar Sites: 103 | UNESCO Tentative List | Emissions Gap Report | Living Planet Report | Forests & Coasts | Super El Niño | Species in News | Places in News

India's Ramsar Sites Network Reaches 103 (15 October 2026)

103	2	1971	30,000+
Ramsar Sites in India	New sites added on 15 Oct 2026	Year of the Ramsar Convention	Waterbirds at Sauj Jheel

Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** announced two new **Wetlands of International Importance** under the **Ramsar Convention (1971)**, taking India's total to **103 Ramsar Sites**.

Sukhna Wetland (Chandigarh)

- **Man-made urban reservoir** built in **1958** (architect **Le Corbusier**) in the Shivalik foothills.
- Central Asian Flyway habitat.
- Key species: **Common Pochard (VU)**, **Pallas's Fish Eagle (EN)**, **Black Pond Turtle (EN)**.

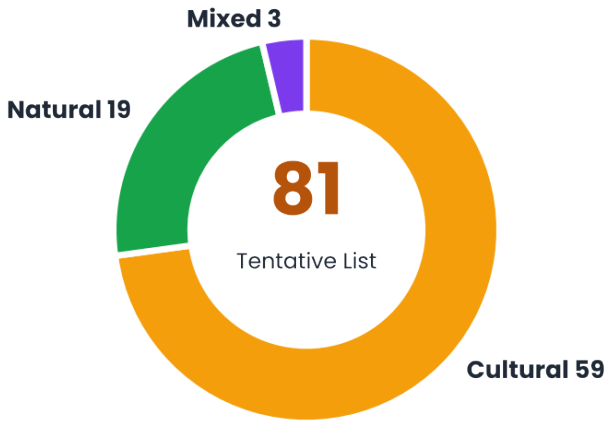
Sauj Jheel (Uttar Pradesh, Mainpuri)

- Shallow freshwater lake in the **Ganga floodplain** near **Saman Bird Sanctuary**; supports **30,000+ waterbirds**.
- BirdLife International **IBA**.
- Key species: **Sarus Crane (VU)**, **Greater Spotted Eagle**, **Sacred Lotus**.

India's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List Expands to 81 Sites

After the addition of **5 sites/proposals (taking the tally to 78)** and **3 subsequent sites**, India now has **81 sites on the UNESCO Tentative List** (59 cultural, 19 natural, 3 mixed) alongside **45 inscribed World Heritage Sites**. A site must stay on the Tentative List for **at least 1 year** before nomination.

The 81 Tentative Sites



3 Subsequent Additions (to 81)

- **Baratang Karst-Mud Volcano Complex** (A&N Islands)
- **Andaman Subduction Volcanoes** (A&N Islands)
- **Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape** (Chhattisgarh)

The Initial 5 Additions

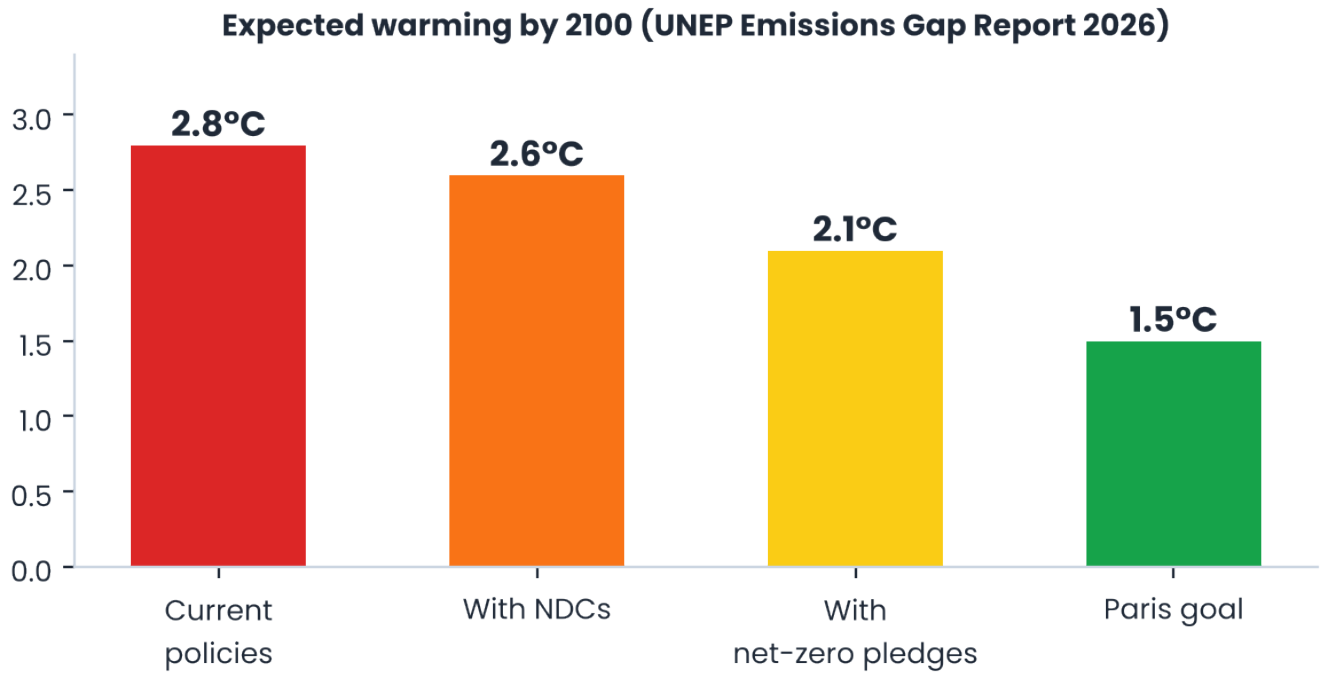
- **Bagh Cave Paintings (MP):** 9 Gupta-era Buddhist rock-cut caves along the Baghni River.
- **Udaigiri Caves (MP):** 20 Gupta caves (Chandragupta II / Kumaragupta I), Varaha panel.
- **Group of Temples of Chambal Valley (MP):** Bateshwar, Padavali, Kakarmath (Morena; Gurjara-Pratihara & Kachchhapaghata, Nagara style).
- **Ginnorgarh Fort (MP):** Raj Gond hill-fort inside Ratapani WLS.
- **Rangpur-Sivasagar Historical Ensemble (Assam):** Tai Ahom capital (Rang Ghar, Talatal Ghar, Namdang Stone Bridge).
- **Sites of Satyagraha** (Serial Transnational): 2 in South Africa (Pietermaritzburg, Phoenix Settlement) and 7 in India (Champaran, Sabarmati, Mani Bhavan, Harijan Sevak Sangh, Sevagram, Aga Khan Palace, Gandhi Smriti).

Global Climate Reports, Forestry & Environmental Programmes

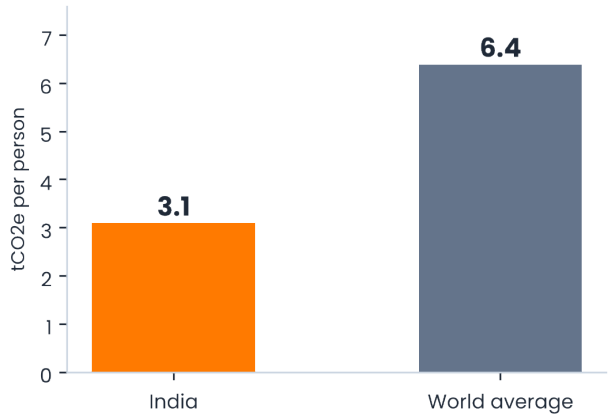
UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2026 (17th Edition): "The Point of Return"

- Released ahead of **COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye, Nov 2026)**. Current policies project **2.8°C** warming by 2100 (2.6°C with NDCs; 2.1°C with net-zero).
- Limiting 1.5°C overshoot needs GHG cuts of **18% (2030), 45% (2035), 69% (2040)** vs 2025.
- India is the **3rd-largest emitter (~4.5 GtCO2e)**, but per-capita emissions (**3.1 tCO2e**) are under half the world average (**6.4 tCO2e**) and India is among only **6 G20 nations** on track for unconditional 2030 NDCs.

How Hot Will It Get? (by 2100)



Emissions per Person (tCO2e)



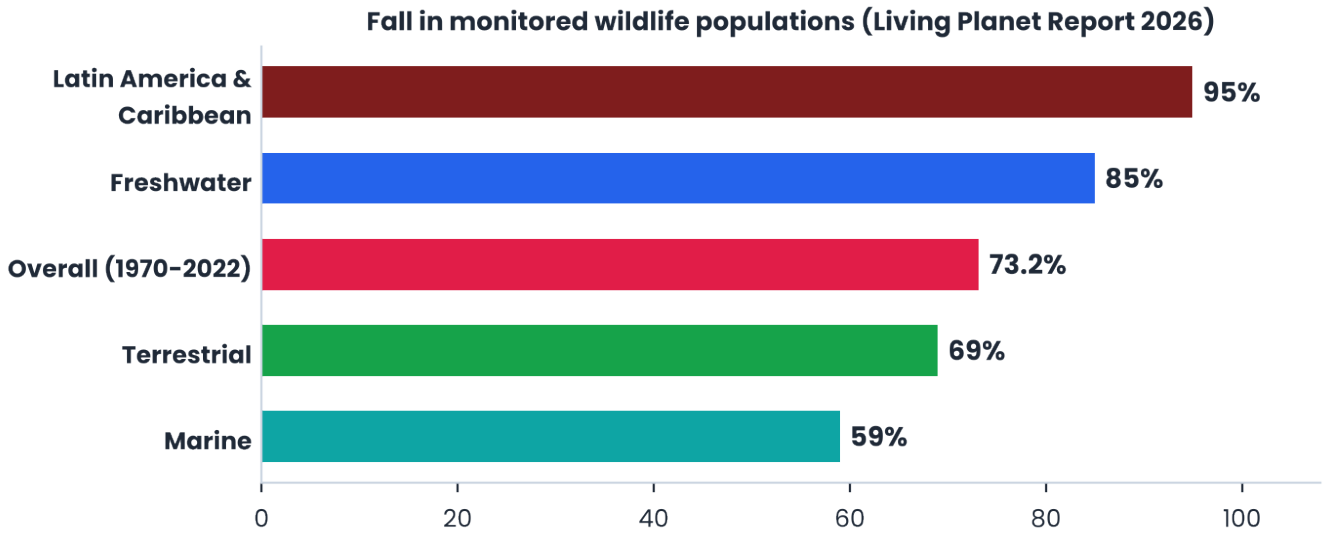
Quick Facts

- **Report:** UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2026.
- **Title:** "The Point of Return".
- **Next:** COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye (Nov 2026).
- **India:** 3rd-largest emitter overall, but below world average per person.

WWF–ZSL Living Planet Report 2026: "The Science of Hope" (biennial)

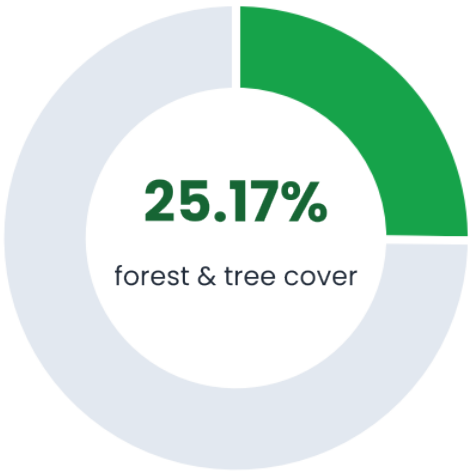
- Monitored vertebrate populations declined **73.2% (1970–2022)**: **Freshwater 85%, Terrestrial 69%, Marine 59%**; **Latin America & Caribbean worst hit (95%)**.
- India has **2.4% of global land**, ~8% flora, 7.5% fauna and **4 of 36 biodiversity hotspots**; unveiled the **National Red List Assessment Initiative (2025–30)**.

Falling Wildlife Populations



Forests, Coasts, EVs & Carbon Markets

India's Forest & Tree Cover



FAO COFO 28 (Rome)

- Theme: **"Forests for food, resilience and prosperity"**.
- Forest & tree cover **82.74 million ha (25.17%)**.
- Ranks **9th** globally in total forest area and **3rd** in net annual forest gain (FAO FRA 2025).
- **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam:** 3.5B+ saplings; **Bonn Challenge** restored 21.76M ha (target 26M ha by 2030).

National Coastal Mission 2.0 & PM E-DRIVE

- **NCM 2.0:** Central Sector Scheme; outlay **₹767 crore (2025–31)**; covers 9 coastal states & 4 UTs; ICZMPs & CMSPs for **1,000 km priority coastline**, mangrove/coral restoration.
- **PM E-DRIVE:** outlay **₹10,900 crore** (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2028; subsumes EMPS 2024); incentivised **23.2+ lakh EVs** (26.59 lakh sold by June 2026) and **6,562 chargers**.

Carbon Markets & Environmental Accounting

- **Open Coalition on Compliance Carbon Markets (OCCCM)** (Brazil Chair; EU & China Co-Chairs) adopted its 1st work plan in Wuhan as **India's CCTS** (under the Energy Conservation Amendment Act 2022) became operational across **9 initial sectors**.
- **MoSPI** released the **Strategy for Environmental-Economic Accounts in India 2026–2030** (UN SEEA framework).

Super El Niño 2026–27 & Drought

+3.7°C
Possible Niño 3.4 SST anomaly (WMO warning)

≥ +2°C
Counts as a "Super El Niño"

265 of 358
Maharashtra talukas declared drought-hit

~74%
Maharashtra landmass affected

What WMO Warned & What Happened

- A Super El Niño **weakens the SW Monsoon** while **intensifying Tamil Nadu's NE Monsoon flood risk**.
- **Maharashtra** declared drought in **265 of 358 talukas (~74% landmass)**.
- **Static:** the **State Government is the final authority** for drought declaration; **nodal ministry: Agriculture**; relief via **SDRF/NDRF**.

Pollution & River Conservation

Delhi Winter Action Plan 2026–27

- **Airshed approach with CAQM**: "**No PUCC, No Fuel**" via ANPR cameras, **50% WFH**, parking fees doubled, **60 monitoring stations**, **Green Delhi App**.

Namami Gange, NBA & Green Diwali

- **Namami Gange (2014, NMCG):** India's 1st **4-storey municipal STP** at **Muni Ki Reti (Uttarakhand, 7.5 MLD)**; technologies: FCR, NEREDA, Johkasou, Electrocoagulation.
- **NBA** disbursed **₹2.02 cr ABS funds** (cumulative ₹202 cr; **MP highest**) under the **Biological Diversity Act 2002 / Nagoya Protocol**.
- **Green Diwali Campaign 2026** (WWF-India & MoEFCC) targets **130 NCAP cities** under **Mission LiFE**.

Species in News

Wild Buffalo

- **Bubalus arnee**, IUCN **Endangered**, Schedule I.
- MP began **reintroducing wild buffaloes from Kaziranga NP (Assam) to Kanha Tiger Reserve (Supkhar)** after ~100 years (target: 50 in 3 yrs).

Blackbuck

- **Antilope cervicapra**, Schedule I.
- Chhattisgarh is translocating **50 blackbucks** from **Barnawapara WLS** to **Gomarda WLS** (extinct there since the 1970s).

56
Cheetahs in India now

4
Cubs born to India-born female KGP12 at Kuno NP (MP)

60%+
Share of global wild Asian elephants in India

255
Elephants saved by NFR's Plan Bee

Project Cheetah: The Journey (launched Sept 2022)

1. **2022** — Cheetahs translocated from Namibia
2. **2023** — Cheetahs from South Africa
3. **2026** — Cheetahs from Botswana
4. **Now: 56** — KGP12 gives birth to 4 cubs at Kuno NP

Asian Elephants & New Species

- India holds **more than 60%** of global wild Asian elephants (**Karnataka highest**, followed by Assam, TN; **33 Elephant Reserves**, 1st Singhbhum; **Gajraj** AI track-safety system; **NFR's Plan Bee** saved 255 elephants).
- **ZSI & Malabar Christian College** discovered **3 new centipede species** (*Rhysida quadrispinosa, R. coorgensis, R. neyyarensis*) in Kerala & Karnataka.
- A field study flagged **illegal GM cotton** (cp4-epsps, Vip3A) on 24–30% area (only **cry1Ac & cry2Ab Bt cotton** is GEAC-approved).

Places in News

Place	Country / Region	Why in News & Key Geography / Static GK
St. Petersburg	NW Russia	Ukrainian drone strike on an oil terminal; on the **Neva River** (Gulf of Finland / Baltic Sea); northern gateway of the **7,200-km INSTC**; formerly Petrograd / Leningrad
Black Sea	SE Europe	Attacks on 3 commercial vessels; borders **6 nations** (Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Türkiye, Bulgaria, Romania); links to the Mediterranean via **Bosporus–Dardanelles** & Azov via **Kerch Strait**
Kamchatka Peninsula	Russia's Far East	M 7.0 earthquake; between Sea of Okhotsk & Pacific/Bering Sea; **Pacific Ring of Fire**; **Klyuchevskoy** is Eurasia's highest active volcano (UNESCO WHS)
France	Western Europe	Nationwide protests; 8 land borders; **Loire** is the longest river; Alps (SE) & Pyrenees (Spain border); G7, EU, NATO, UNSC P5
Ghana	West Africa	EAM Jaishankar visit; **Prime Meridian (0°)** passes through **Tema**; Lake Volta (Akosombo Dam); Africa's top gold producer; capital **Accra** hosts the **AfCFTA Secretariat**

Words Made Easy

Ramsar Site
A wetland recognised as internationally important under the 1971 Ramsar Convention.

Tentative List
UNESCO's waiting list: a country lists sites it may nominate for World Heritage status.

NDC
Nationally Determined Contribution: a country's own climate-action pledge.

El Niño
Warming of the central Pacific that can weaken the Indian monsoon.

Quick Check: Test Yourself!

Q1. How many Ramsar Sites does India have now?	Ans: 103 (Sukhna Wetland & Sauj Jheel added)
Q2. How many sites are on India's UNESCO Tentative List?	Ans: 81 (59 cultural, 19 natural, 3 mixed)
Q3. How many cheetahs are in India now?	Ans: 56
Q4. Where is COP31 being held?	Ans: Antalya, Türkiye (Nov 2026)

CHAPTER 08

08 Science, Technology, Space Missions & Health

Gaganyaan tests, Japan's Mars-moons mission, quantum and AI milestones, clean-energy firsts and important health updates.



IN THIS CHAPTER

Space Missions | Quantum & Supercomputing | AI & Digital India | Starlink | Clean Energy Firsts | CERVAVAC Vaccine | TB-Free India | Health Briefs

Space Missions & Astronomy

45.22 km
Perseverance's Mars drive: new off-Earth record

2030
NASA PUFFINS telescope launch; lunar reactor target

3rd
India–France joint satellite: TRISHNA

3.89B
Solar masses of blazar OJ 287

ISRO Gaganyaan Separation Tests

- Completed **Crew & Service Module separation tests** at **VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram** ahead of the **uncrewed Gaganyaan-1 (G1)** carrying the half-humanoid **Vyommitra**.

Japan's MMX Mars Mission (JAXA)

- Launched on an **H3 rocket** to study Mars's moons **Phobos & Deimos** and **return a regolith sample from Phobos**: the world's 1st Martian-system sample return.
- Carries the **French-German rover IDEFIX**.

MMX Mission in Four Steps

1. **Launch** — On the H3 rocket
2. **Study** — Mars's moons Phobos & Deimos
3. **Collect** — Regolith sample from Phobos (rover IDEFIX helps)
4. **Return** — Bring the sample back to Earth

NASA Perseverance Rover Record

- Travelled **45.22 km** on Mars (Jezero Crater), **breaking Opportunity rover's 45.16 km** off-Earth driving record.

Dr. Ramya Anche & NASA PUFFINS

- Indian-origin astronomer selected as **Principal Investigator** of NASA's **PUFFINS SmallSat UV space telescope** (launch 2030; IUCAA Pune & IIA Bengaluru collaborating).

TRISHNA, Lunar Nuclear Power & Space Startups

- **TRISHNA (ISRO–CNES):** 3rd India–France joint satellite (after **Megha-Tropiques & SARAL**) for **thermal infrared Earth observation**; launch via PSLV.
- **Nuclear power on the Moon:** NASA–DOE **Fission Surface Power (FSP)** targets a lunar **HALEU reactor by 2030**; China–Russia **ILRS by 2035**; ISRO–DAE developing **100-W RTGs** for Bharatiya Antariksh Station & a 2040 crewed Moon mission.
- **ARIES Nainital** 10-yr study on rare binary black hole blazar **OJ 287** (3.89B solar masses); Kerala scientists identified Martian analogue minerals **Melanterite (Neyveli, TN)** & **Gypsum (Tiruchirappalli Badlands & Atacama, Chile)**.
- **EON Space Labs (Hyderabad)** patented the MIRA space telescope; **SatLeo Labs (Ahmedabad)** launched **TAPAS-1** thermal CubeSat on Falcon 9; **TakeMe2Space** plans India's 1st orbital data centre (2028); **Skyroot** signed a deal with Reflect Orbital (Vikram rockets); SpaceX launched 130 payloads incl. Google's Project Suncatcher AI chips.

Quantum Tech, Supercomputing, AI, Energy & Cybersecurity

5.56 km
India's 1st free-space QKD link (QBER < 5%)

₹6,003.65 cr
National Quantum Mission outlay (2023)

40
Supercomputers deployed under NSM (68 PetaFLOPS)

6,000
Indigenous Rudra servers deployed

India's 1st 5.56 km Free-Space QKD Link

- Demonstrated between **BISAG-N and IIT Gandhinagar** with startup **QNu Labs** (Armos hardware + Vedic Kavach PQC software; **QBER < 5%**).
- **National Quantum Mission (NQM, 2023, ₹6,003.65 cr)** targets **2,000 km** satellite/fibre QKD.
- **TDB** also approved a ₹150 cr RDI fund for QNu Labs; **Samsung & IISc** launched a Quantum Research Lab in Bengaluru.

National Supercomputing Mission (NSM, launched 2015, ₹4,500 cr)

- Deployed **40 supercomputers (68 PetaFLOPS)** by Sept 2026 (DST & MeitY; C-DAC & IISc); **6,000 indigenous Rudra servers**; **PARAM Shavak** ("supercomputing-in-a-box").
- **Static: PARAM 8000 (1991)** was India's 1st supercomputer.

AI & Digital Public Infrastructure

- **BHASHINI:** developed AI Text-to-Speech (VITS) for **Sourashtra** (Tamil Nadu Indo-Aryan language) with IISc Bengaluru; launched **CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad** with CAG; enabled real-time translation at NCGG Mussoorie.
- **World Development Report 2026 (World Bank):** "**The Promise of Artificial Intelligence**" launched by MeitY under IndiaAI Mission; recommends the "**Adopt, Adapt, Advance**" ladder & Small AI.
- **AI Hubs & Chips:** MeitY launched IndiaAI CoE '**CAIK**' in Thiruvananthapuram; selected **CoRover.ai** for agentic AI (DigiLocker 1st); **TDB** approved ₹130 cr for BigEndian's **VeerAI chip**, ₹151 cr for ideaForge **YETI UAV**, ₹86 cr for Peptris AI drug discovery.
- **IIT Ropar** launched **AVNI** agri-AI; IICT & YouTube launched 4 AI short films; **C-DAC & Bank of India** quantum-AI MoU; **RDI Scheme (₹1 lakh cr)** approved its 1st batch of **19 Second-Level Fund Managers**; the US launched a **Super Intelligence Force**.

Starlink & Satellite Internet

- SpaceX's LEO constellation (**~11,000 satellites at 550 km**; ~25 ms latency); received **DoT GMPCS licence (June 2025)** & **IN-SPACe nod (July 2025)**; partnerships with **Jio & Airtel**; commercial launch awaits spectrum/security nods.

🛠️ Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing)

- **MeitY's NSAM (2022)** trained 1.54L+ & supported 56 startups; **Agnikul's Agnibaan SOrTeD** (3D-printed rocket engine); 2nd NAMS held in New Delhi (March 2026).

⚡ Energy, Agri-Biotech & Cyber

⚡ Pumped Storage Hydropower (PSPs)

- **CEA** identified **345.38 GW** potential (**Maharashtra highest: 67.36 GW**); India ranks **4th globally (7.18 GW)** after China, Japan, US (IRENA).

☀️ Clean Energy Firsts

- India's **1st Offshore Wind Farm Prototype** off **Thoothukudi, TN** (₹77 cr).
- **Tata Power & Norway's Ocean Sun** membrane floating solar at **Mulshi reservoir**.
- **Coal India & HURL** coal-gasification urea MoU at **Sindri, Jharkhand**.

⚠️ Kufri Jamunia & Cybersecurity / Weather

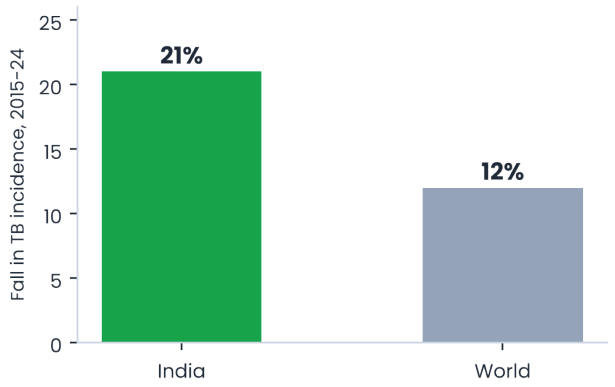
- **Kufri Jamunia:** biofortified **purple potato** developed by **ICAR-CPRI** (rich in Vitamin C, anthocyanins, iron, zinc; other varieties: Kufri Neelkanth, Kufri Manik).
- **IMD** launched a **WebGIS Cyclone Warning & Marine Weather DSS**. India's 1st **Cyber Trojan Horse ("The Trojan Project")** unveiled at **c0c0n 2026 (Kochi)**; critical **PHP2Shell** flaws (CVE-2026-109618/19, severity 9.2/10); **Tata Communications & SASTRA** Cybersecurity CoE (Thanjavur).

💊 Health, Vaccines & Disease Updates

💊 CERVAVAC Gets WHO Prequalification (Sept 2026)

- Developed by **Serum Institute of India (SII, Pune)** with **DBT/BIRAC**; India's **1st indigenous gender-neutral quadrivalent HPV vaccine** (covers **HPV 6, 11, 16, 18**; ages 9–26).
- Supports the **WHO 2030 cervical cancer 90-70-90 goals**.

❤️ TB Incidence Fall, 2015–24



❤️ Towards a TB-Free India

- **21% decline** in TB incidence (2015–24) vs **12% globally** (WHO Report 2025); treatment coverage **92%**; **67,933 TB Mukt Panchayats**.
- MoHFW launched **JOSH** (Joint Squad for Health) teams (MY Bharat & NCC; 55 districts in 11 states).

QUICK REVISION
Key TB tools: Nikshay Poshan Yojana (₹1,000/month DBT), **BPaLM** 6-month MDR-TB regimen, **AI Cough Against TB**, **DeepCXR**, **Khushi** chatbot.

🦠 Shamonda Virus: 1st Human Fatality in France

- Vector-borne **Orthobunyavirus** spread by **Culicoides midges** (first isolated in **Nigeria 1965**; previously livestock-only; **no vaccine/antiviral**).

❤️ WHO's 1st Paediatric & Adolescent Obesity Guidelines

- **Strongly discourages** anti-obesity drugs (GLP-1 agonists like semaglutide) & bariatric surgery for children aged **0–9**; **conditional use for ages 10–19**.
- Global burden: **170M** obese youth (India: **27M+**).

🔬 Other Health Briefs

- **CSIR-CCMB** developed an India-specific **Sickle Cell Anaemia severity tool**; **Plague (Yersinia pestis)** alert in Irkutsk, Siberia.
- **WHO–UNICEF JMP Report:** India has **50M children without school sanitation** (highest globally).
- **TDB & Panacea Medical** developing an indigenous **32-slice CT scanner**; **CCRAS** launched **SPARK 5.0 & Ayurshodh 2026**.

🧠 Words Made Easy

QKD
Quantum Key Distribution: sending secret keys using quantum physics so hackers can be detected.

QBER
Quantum Bit Error Rate: how many errors appear in a quantum link (lower is better).

Prequalification
WHO's quality check that lets UN agencies buy a vaccine for many countries.

Regolith
Loose dust and rock on the surface of a moon or planet.

❓ Quick Check: Test Yourself!

Q1. Which moon will Japan's MMX collect samples from?	Ans: Phobos
Q2. Which Indian HPV vaccine got WHO prequalification?	Ans: CERVAVAC (Serum Institute of India)
Q3. What is the length of India's 1st free-space QKD link?	Ans: 5.56 km (BISAG-N to IIT Gandhinagar)
Q4. How many supercomputers are deployed under NSM?	Ans: 40 (68 PetaFLOPS)

09

CHAPTER 09

Appointments, Awards, Sports, Important Days, History & Obituaries

Who got which post, who won which award, sports highlights, all the important days of October and the history behind the headlines.



IN THIS CHAPTER

Appointments | Awards & Honours | Sports Highlights | Important Days | History & Culture | Books | Obituaries

Important Appointments (October 2026)

Person	Post / Organisation	Key Detail
Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit	29th Chief of the Air Staff (IAF)	Effective 31 Oct 2026; succeeds ACM A.P. Singh
Bimal N. Patel	Judge, Intl. Tribunal for Law of the Sea (ITLOS)	9-yr term (2026–35); HQ Hamburg, Germany
Dilip Asbe	Independent Director, SWIFT Supervisory Board	MD & CEO of NPCI; 15-member SWIFT Board
Sunil Kumar	Next Chairman, ONGC	3-yr term from Dec 2026; succeeds Arun Kumar Singh
Smriti Mandhana	Captain, Indian Women's Cricket Team & UNICEF India Celebrity Advocate	Succeeds Harmanpreet Kaur; UNICEF role on 11 Oct (Day of the Girl Child)
Anup Kumar Saha	MD & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank	3-yr term effective 1 Jan 2027 (RBI approved)
Sidhartha Mishra	MD & CEO, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance	5-yr term; succeeds Anup Bagchi
Sanjay Kumar	MD & CEO, Petronet LNG Ltd.	Formerly Director (Marketing), GAIL
Sudhakar Malli	Executive Director, RBI	Effective 1 Oct 2026
Narendra Bhooshan	Secretary, Ministry of Environment (MoEFCC)	1992-batch UP IAS; succeeds Leena Nandan
Dhirendra Ojha	Principal DG, Press Information Bureau (PIB)	1-yr re-employment till 30 Sept 2027
Prakash Rajpurohit	Deputy Election Commissioner (ECI)	Till 8 April 2030; succeeds Sanjay Kumar
Sharad Mathur	MD & CEO, IndusInd General Insurance	Formerly Reliance General Insurance
Anca-Maria Verma	IIMSAM Ambassador-at-Large for India	5-yr term (2026–31)
Edward Rukidi Kijanangoma	13th King (Omukama), Tooro Kingdom (Uganda)	Succeeds King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru

Awards & Honours (October 2026)

Award / Honour	Recipient	Field / Key Facts
Oskar Klein Medal 2026	Prof. Ashoke Sen (ICTS Bengaluru)	**1st Indian to win**; String Theory & Black Hole Physics; Stockholm Univ. & Nobel Physics Committee
Ramanujan Prize 2026	Prof. Mahesh Kakde (IISc)	Algebraic number theory; cash award US$10,000
France's Legion of Honour	Sunil Bharti Mittal	Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur (France's highest civilian award, est. 1802)
Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award	Usha Mangeshkar	**1st recipient**; Assam Govt; ₹10 lakh; presented once every 3 years
Princess of Asturias Award for Sports 2026	Lionel Messi (Argentina)	Presented by Princess Leonor in Oviedo, Spain (23 Oct 2026)
Israel Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism	Capt. Smit Machchhar (India)	Flydubai pilot who saved 174 lives during a cockpit attack
US National Science & Technology Medal	Elon Musk (+ 5 tech leaders)	Presented by US President Donald Trump in Washington
Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (2024 & 2025)	106 Young Artists	Sangeet Natak Akademi (est. 2006); age ≤ 40; ₹25,000
Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026	Oscar Whitfield (14, UK/Zimbabwe)	Photo "Labour of Love" (dung beetle); Natural History Museum

1st
Indian to win the Oskar Klein Medal: Prof. Ashoke Sen

US$10,000
Ramanujan Prize 2026 cash award

174
Lives saved by Capt. Smit Machchhar

₹10 lakh
Bhupen Hazarika National Award

Other Sports Highlights (October 2026)

114 balls
Harry Brook's fastest ODI double century (202 off 116)

11 yrs
Bodhana Sivanandan: youngest female IM in chess

38 yrs
Age of Judit Polgar's record that Bodhana broke

₹40 cr
NSDF, SAI & IOC partnership for Boxing

Cricket

- England captain **Harry Brook** scored the **fastest ODI double century (114 balls)** vs Sri Lanka at Rawalpindi (**22 Oct 2026**), breaking **Shubman Gill's 117-ball record** (202 off 116).
- **ICC Players of the Month (Sept 2026):** Shafali Verma (Women) & Shubman Gill (Men). Indian batter **Sabbhineni Meghana retired from all formats at 30**.

Chess

- **11-year-old British-Indian Bodhana Sivanandan** became the **youngest female International Master (IM)** (broke Judit Polgar's 38-year-old record).
- At the **European Chess Club Cup 2026 (Montenegro)**, **Nihal Sarin & Koneru Humpy** won individual Gold; **Pentala Harikrishna** won Silver.

Tennis, Table Tennis & Sports MoUs

- **Novak Djokovic** won the **China Open 2026 (Beijing)**; **Carlos Alcaraz** won the **Japan Open** for the 2nd straight year (beat Jiri Lehecka).
- **Yashaswini Ghorpade & Harmeet Desai** won a Mixed Doubles medal at the **29th Asian Table Tennis Championships (Tashkent)**.
- **NSDF, SAI & Indian Oil** partnered (₹40 cr over 2 yrs) to strengthen Indian Boxing; **IOA & Korean Sport & Olympic Committee** signed a sports MoU in Nagoya.

Important Days & Themes (October 2026)

Date	Observance	2026 Theme / Key Static Fact
1 Oct	Intl. Day of Older Persons / World Vegetarian Day / Intl. Coffee Day	Older Persons: "The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives"
2 Oct	Intl. Day of Non-Violence / Gandhi & Shastri Jayanti	UN observance; also death anniversary of K. Kamaraj (Bharat Ratna 1976)
4–10 Oct	World Space Week	2026 Theme: "Rocket Revolution"
5 Oct	World Teachers' Day / World Habitat Day	Teachers: "Standing with teachers: 60 years..."; Habitat (1st Mon)
7 Oct	World Cotton Day	2026 Tashkent theme: "Cotton for Good..."; India–Mali UN HQ event; Kasturi Cotton Bharat
8 Oct	94th Indian Air Force Day	Theme: "Indian Air Force – Infallible, Impervious and Precise"
9–15 Oct	National Postal Week	World Post Day (9 Oct) Theme: "World Post"
11 Oct	International Day of the Girl Child	First observed 2012 (UNGA 2011); Smriti Mandhana named UNICEF Advocate
12 & 13 Oct	World Arthritis Day (12) / Intl. Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13)	Arthritis: "Achieve Your Dreams"; IDDRR: "Resilience Starts at Home"
15 Oct	Global Handwashing Day	Theme: "Be a Handwashing Hero"
16 Oct	World Food Day / World Anaesthesia Day	WFD marks FAO foundation (1945); Anaesthesia: "Along the Patient Pathway"
17 & 21 Oct	Intl. Day for Eradication of Poverty (17) / World Iodine Deficiency Day (21)	Iodine is essential for T3 & T4 thyroid hormones
22 & 24 Oct	Intl. Stuttering Awareness Day (22) / World Polio Day (24)	Polio: "One day, one focus: ending polio for good" (Jonas Salk; India polio-free 2014)

History, Culture, Books & Obituaries

Mahatma Gandhi (born 2 Oct 1869): A Timeline

1. **1894** — Natal Indian Congress
2. **1904** — Phoenix Settlement
3. **1910** — Tolstoy Farm
4. **9 Jan 1915** — Returns to India
5. **1917** — Champaran
6. **1918** — Kheda
7. **1930** — Dandi March
8. **1932** — Harijan Sevak Sangh

REMEMBER
Gandhi also wrote **Hind Swaraj**.

Lal Bahadur Shastri (born 2 Oct 1904)

- "**Shastri**" title from **Kashi Vidyapeeth (1926)**; **resigned as Union Transport Minister (1956)**; **PM (1964–66)**.
- Linked to **NDDB / White Revolution**; slogan "**Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan**"; died in **Tashkent (11 Jan 1966)**.

Shyamji Krishna Varma (4 Oct 1857)

- Founded **India House (1905)**, **Indian Home Rule Society (1905)** & **The Indian Sociologist** in London.
- Memorial: **Kranti Teerth (Mandvi, Gujarat)**.

Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (207th Anniv., b. 1820)

- **Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856**; wrote **Barnaparichay**.
- Co-founded **Hindu Female School (1849, now Bethune College)**.

Shaheed Bhagat Singh (119th Anniv., b. 28 Sept 1907)

- Founded **Naujawan Bharat Sabha (1926)** and **HSRA (1928)**; wrote *Why I Am an Atheist*; hanged **23 March 1931** (Shaheed Diwas).

Sengol in New NCERT Class 9 Textbook

- From Tamil **semmai** (righteousness); Chola/Nayaka tradition; cited in **Silappadikaram & Tirukkural**.
- Commissioned by **Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam** (suggested by C. Rajagopalachari) on **14 Aug 1947**; **installed in the New Parliament (28 May 2023)**.

Book in News

- "*The Evolution of TV News in India: From Doordarshan to Digital Disruption – An Insider's Account*" by **Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey** (released by former Prasar Bharati Chairman **Surya Prakash**).

Notable Obituaries (October 2026)

- **Nana Patekar** (75, veteran actor, Padma Shri); **Vummidi Ethiraj** (99, renowned Chennai jeweller who crafted the historic 1947 Sengol); **Roshan Kumari** (Padma Shri Kathak dancer).
- **P. Vasu 'Socio Vasu'** (103, Kerala freedom fighter); **P. Krishnan** (69, former Sportstar Senior Dy. Editor); **Jeffrey Archer** (86, bestselling British author & politician).

- **Eva Marie Saint** (102, Oscar-winning actress, *On the Waterfront*); **Mike Burton** (79, 3-time US Olympic swimming champion); **Tom Skerritt** (93, Emmy-winning actor).

❓ Quick Check: Test Yourself!

Q1. Who became the first Indian to win the Oskar Klein Medal?	Ans: **Prof. Ashoke Sen**
Q2. Who is the new captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team?	Ans: **Smriti Mandhana**
Q3. Which day is observed on 16 October?	Ans: **World Food Day**
Q4. Who scored the fastest ODI double century (114 balls)?	Ans: **Harry Brook**

10

CHAPTER 10

Practice Test: 30 MCQs with Answer Key & Explanations

Attempt all 30 questions, then check your score with the answer key and short explanations.



IN THIS CHAPTER

30 Questions | Answer Key | Explanations | Score Card

30 Questions to attempt

4 Options each: (a) (b) (c) (d)

30 Marks: 1 for each right answer

Key Answer key & explanations follow the questions

HOW TO ATTEMPT

Cover the **Answer Key** with your hand, tick one option for each question, then check. Mark the ones you got wrong and revise that chapter again.

Q1 Who won the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize, becoming the first South African woman to receive the honour?

(a) Anne Carson	(b) Navanethem "Navi" Pillay
(c) Tulia Ackson	(d) Narges Mohammadi

Q2 Francis Halzen was awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics for his pioneering contributions to which facility?

(a) Large Hadron Collider (CERN)	(b) India Neutrino Observatory (INO)
(c) IceCube Neutrino Observatory	(d) James Webb Space Telescope

Q3 What was India's final rank and total medal tally at the 20th Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan?

(a) 3rd rank, 107 medals	(b) 4th rank, 85 medals
(c) 4th rank, 70 medals	(d) 5th rank, 85 medals

Q4 Who became India's first-ever Asian Games medallist in Soft Tennis by winning Bronze at Aichi-Nagoya 2026?

(a) Aman Sehrawat	(b) Sujeet Kalkal
(c) Jay Meena	(d) Harmeet Desai

Q5 At its 63rd meeting in October 2026, the RBI MPC raised the Repo Rate by 25 bps to what level?

(a) 5.25%	(b) 5.50%
(c) 5.75%	(d) 6.00%

Q6 What is India's rank and score in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026?

(a) 105th / 27.3	(b) 100th / 24.1
(c) 106th / 25.5	(d) 96th / 22.4

Q7 In the October 2026 gubernatorial reshuffle, who was appointed as the new Governor of Odisha?

(a) Dr. Sudha Yadav	(b) Dushyant Gautam
(c) Braj Mohan Ram	(d) Om Prakash Mathur

Q8 Which two wetlands were designated as Ramsar Sites in October 2026, taking India's total to 103?

(a) Sukhna Wetland & Sauj Jheel	(b) Chilika Lake & Sauj Jheel
(c) Sukhna Wetland & Renuka Lake	(d) Bhoj Wetland & Saman Sanctuary

Q9 Which state became the second in India, after Uttarakhand, to receive Presidential assent for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC)?

(a) Assam	(b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Gujarat	(d) Uttar Pradesh

Q10 The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) completed 100 years on 1 October 2026. Who was its first Chairman in 1926?

(a) H.K. Kripalani	(b) Sir Ross Barker
(c) R.N. Banerjee	(d) Lord Lee

Q11 Under the renamed Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana (formerly NSAP), the benchmark disability threshold for pension was reduced from 80% to:

(a) 30%	(b) 40%
(c) 50%	(d) 60%

Q12 Who was appointed as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) effective 31 October 2026?

(a) Air Marshal Premkumar K.	(b) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
(c) Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh	(d) General N.S. Raja Subramani

Q13 Where was India's highest-altitude permanent High Court Bench inaugurated in October 2026?

(a) Shimla	**(b)** Gangtok
(c) Leh	**(d)** Kargil

Q14 Jharkhand's traditional percussion instrument that received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in October 2026 is:

(a) Nagara	**(b)** Mandar
(c) Dholak	**(d)** Mridangam

Q15 Which institution listed India's first WASH-focused Social Bond (₹180 crore) on the National Stock Exchange (NSE)?

(a) SIDBI	**(b)** Sagarmala Finance Corp.
(c) NABKISAN Finance Ltd.	**(d)** State Bank of India

Q16 Which organisation is set to issue India's first Blue Bond (₹600 crore) for sustainable maritime and ocean-economy projects?

(a) Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd.	**(b)** NABARD
(c) Export-Import Bank of India	**(d)** PFC Ltd.

Q17 Which Public Sector Bank became the second PSB, after SBI, to receive PFRDA approval to sponsor a Pension Fund?

(a) Punjab National Bank	**(b)** Canara Bank
(c) Bank of Baroda	**(d)** Union Bank of India

Q18 Which Indian physicist became the first Indian to receive the prestigious Oskar Klein Medal (2026)?

(a) Prof. Mahesh Kakde	**(b)** Prof. Ashoke Sen
(c) Dr. Ramya Anche	**(d)** Prof. C.N.R. Rao

Q19 Where will India's first world-class Geological Museum (₹87 crore, Swadesh Darshan 2.0) be developed?

(a) Bhuj, Gujarat	**(b)** Bhedaghat–Lamhetaghat, Jabalpur (MP)
(c) Udaipur, Rajasthan	**(d)** Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Q20 India's first indigenously built Fleet Support Ship, launched at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (Visakhapatnam), is named:

(a) INS Mangrol	**(b)** Shreyas
(c) Surya (FSS-1)	**(d)** INS Tarkash

Q21 Which four countries signed the Badr Defence Cooperation MoU in Doha in October 2026?

(a) Qatar, Türkiye, Pakistan & Indonesia	**(b)** UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt & Jordan
(c) Qatar, Iran, Türkiye & Malaysia	**(d)** India, UAE, France & Australia

Q22 Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 (5th edition) was held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Which country participated as an observer for the first time?

(a) Japan	**(b)** Singapore
(c) New Zealand	**(d)** United Kingdom

Q23 Which Indian indigenous quadrivalent HPV vaccine received WHO Prequalification in September 2026?

(a) Gardasil-4	**(b)** CERVAVAC
(c) Covovax	**(d)** ZyCoV-D

Q24 Japan's Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission aims to return regolith samples from which moon of Mars?

(a) Deimos	**(b)** Europa
(c) Phobos	**(d)** Titan

Q25 Which Union Territory was declared 100% literate under the ULLAS (New India Literacy Programme) in October 2026?

(a) Puducherry	**(b)** Lakshadweep
(c) Dadra & Nagar Haveli	**(d)** Delhi

Q26 Under CISF's functional reorganisation (effective 1 Nov 2026), where is the Coal Sector Command headquartered?

(a) Dhanbad	**(b)** Bhilai
(c) Ranchi	**(d)** Bilaspur

Q27 Who was selected as the first recipient of Assam's Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Award?

(a) Asha Bhosle	**(b)** Usha Mangeshkar
(c) Shreya Ghoshal	**(d)** Ilaiyaraaja

Q28 Which Rabi crop received the highest MSP hike (+₹675/quintal) for the Rabi Marketing Season 2027–28?

(a) Wheat	**(b)** Lentil (Masur)
(c) Rapeseed & Mustard	**(d)** Safflower

Q29 Which cricketer broke Shubman Gill's record to score the fastest ODI double century (114 balls) in October 2026?

(a) Travis Head	**(b)** Harry Brook
(c) Yashasvi Jaiswal	**(d)** Glenn Maxwell

Q30 Which country hosted the 25th SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting in October 2026?

(a) Kazakhstan	**(b)** Uzbekistan
(c) Tajikistan (Dushanbe)	**(d)** Kyrgyzstan

Answer Key (Q1 – Q30)

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
(b)	(c)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(c)	(a)	(c)	(b)
Q11	**Q12**	**Q13**	**Q14**	**Q15**	**Q16**	**Q17**	**Q18**	**Q19**	**Q20**
(b)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(c)	(a)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(c)
Q21	**Q22**	**Q23**	**Q24**	**Q25**	**Q26**	**Q27**	**Q28**	**Q29**	**Q30**
(a)	(c)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(d)	(b)	(c)

Concise Explanations

✅ Questions 1–10

- **1. (b) Navanethem "Navi" Pillay** – South African jurist of Indian Tamil origin; former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2008–14).
- **2. (c) IceCube Neutrino Observatory** – located at the South Pole; uses 5,160 optical sensors in 1 km³ of Antarctic ice.
- **3. (b) 4th rank, 85 medals** – India won 21 Gold, 27 Silver and 37 Bronze behind China (341), Japan (269) and South Korea (150).
- **4. (c) Jay Meena** – won Bronze in Men's Individual Soft Tennis at Aichi-Nagoya 2026.
- **5. (b) 5.50%** – first repo hike since Feb 2023; SDF stands at 5.25%, MSF and Bank Rate at 5.75%.
- **6. (b) 100th / 24.1** – places India in the "Serious Hunger" category; Pakistan ranked 106th (25.5).
- **7. (c) Braj Mohan Ram** – appointed Governor of Odisha on 12 Oct 2026 alongside Sudha Yadav (Karnataka), Dhal Singh Bisen (Uttarakhand) and Dushyant Gautam (Sikkim).
- **8. (a) Sukhna Wetland & Sauj Jheel** – located in Chandigarh and Mainpuri (UP), respectively; announced 15 Oct 2026.
- **9. (c) Gujarat** – second state after Uttarakhand to obtain Presidential assent for UCC (Article 44 DPSP).
- **10. (b) Sir Ross Barker** – appointed first Chairman of the Public Service Commission on 1 Oct 1926; H.K. Kripalani was the first Indian Chairman (1947).

✅ Questions 11–20

- **11. (b) 40%** – aligned with RPwD Act, 2016; minimum age of 18 years was also removed for PM Divyangjan Pension Yojana.
- **12. (b) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** – succeeded ACM Amar Preet Singh on 31 Oct 2026.
- **13. (c) Leh** – Permanent Ladakh Bench of J&K and Ladakh High Court inaugurated at ~3,500 m altitude.
- **14. (b) Mandar** – traditional tribal percussion instrument of Jharkhand with one side crafted from local red soil.
- **15. (c) NABKISAN Finance Ltd.** – NABARD subsidiary; 5-year AAA-rated WASH Social Bond at 8.10% coupon.
- **16. (a) Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd.** – maiden ₹600 crore Blue Bond (10-year, incl. ₹500 cr greenshoe).
- **17. (c) Bank of Baroda** – received PFRDA Certificate of Registration under Section 27 of the PFRDA Act, 2013.
- **18. (b) Prof. Ashoke Sen** – awarded by Stockholm University & Nobel Physics Committee for string theory & black hole physics.
- **19. (b) Bhedaghat–Lamhetaghat, Jabalpur (MP)** – showcases Narmada Valley's geological history across 6 galleries.
- **20. (c) Surya (FSS-1)** – 43,500-tonne vessel with ~82% indigenous content for replenishing warships at sea.

✅ Questions 21–30

- **21. (a) Qatar, Türkiye, Pakistan & Indonesia** – signed in Doha for joint defence manufacturing and tech transfer.
- **22. (c) New Zealand** – joined India–Australia Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 as an observer for the first time.
- **23. (b) CERVAVAC** – developed by Serum Institute of India (Pune); covers HPV strains 6, 11, 16 and 18.
- **24. (c) Phobos** – MMX will collect regolith from Phobos (assisted by French-German rover IDEFIX) while also observing Deimos.
- **25. (b) Lakshadweep** – declared 100% literate at Kavaratti after all identified adult non-literates cleared FLNAT.
- **26. (c) Ranchi** – Steel Sector is at Bhilai, Petroleum at Guwahati, Power at New Delhi & Kolkata, Ports at Mumbai & Chennai.
- **27. (b) Usha Mangeshkar** – inaugural recipient of the triennial ₹10 lakh award instituted by the Assam Government.
- **28. (d) Safflower** – increased by ₹675/quintal, followed by Rapeseed & Mustard (+₹413/quintal).
- **29. (b) Harry Brook** – England captain scored 202 off 116 balls (200 in 114 balls) against Sri Lanka at Rawalpindi.
- **30. (c) Tajikistan (Dushanbe)** – Defence Minister Rajnath Singh represented India at the 25th SCO CHG Meeting.

🏆 Your Score Card

Your Score	Your Level	What to do next
25 – 30	Current Affairs Champion	Fantastic! Keep reading every month.
18 – 24	Star Performer	Revise the chapters where you lost marks.
10 – 17	Rising Learner	Re-read the colour cards and quick-check boxes.
0 – 9	Fresh Starter	Read chapter by chapter, then try the test again.

All the best for your exams!

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