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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS DETAILED DIGEST

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1. NATIONAL & GOVERNANCE (DETAILED DIGEST)

Section 01

☐ Centre Introduces Principal Purpose Test in India-Mauritius Tax Treaty POLITY & GOVERNANCE

The Central Government notified amendments to the **India-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement**, introducing a **Principal Purpose Test (PPT)** to curb treaty abuse and tax avoidance.

- Protocol signed: **7 March 2024**.
- PPT can deny treaty benefits where obtaining the benefit is one of a transaction's principal purposes.
- The rule strengthens action against treaty shopping and artificial arrangements.
- Pre-**1 April 2017** investments are exempt from PPT.
- Mauritius-based investors may face greater scrutiny regarding commercial substance.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The India–Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement is a bilateral tax treaty; its 2024 amending protocol entered into force on 10 August 2026.

☐ Ministry of Cooperation Introduces MSCARO 2026 Audit Framework POLITY & GOVERNANCE

The **Ministry of Cooperation** introduced the **Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2026** to strengthen transparency, accountability and financial discipline in Multi-State Cooperative Societies. The framework introduces standardised audit reporting.

- Framework: **MSCARO 2026**.
- Auditors must report financial, governance and statutory-compliance parameters.
- Reports use clear Yes/No responses supported by remarks.
- The system will initially focus on larger cooperative societies.
- Sector: Multi-State Cooperative Societies.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: MSCARO 2026 concerns audit of multi-state cooperative societies; the nodal department is the Ministry of Cooperation.

☐ CJI Inaugurates India's Highest-Altitude High Court Bench in Ladakh POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Chief Justice of India **Surya Kant** inaugurated the newly established Ladakh Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Melongthang, Leh. The judicial facility is recognised as **India's highest-altitude High Court bench**.

- The CJI launched a Green Wall Initiative promoting environmental sustainability.
- A new e-Filing Portal allows advocates and litigants to file cases electronically.
- A Document Management System was launched for digitised judicial records.
- An Online Recruitment Portal was introduced to improve transparency and efficiency in judicial recruitment.
- The inauguration was attended by Chief Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: High Courts are established under Article 214 of the Constitution; the Ladakh bench functions under the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

☐ CBDT Introduces Form 173A for Tax Exemption Reporting POLITY & GOVERNANCE

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes** introduced **Form 173A** for reporting specified income-tax exemption claims relating to interest and capital gains from government securities. The provision became effective on **19 October 2026**.

- Authority: CBDT.
- The measure seeks to standardise reporting and strengthen verification of exemption claims.
- It applies to specified Foreign Institutional Investors and the Bank for International Settlements subject to prescribed conditions.
- Part A of the form contains investor and registration details.
- Part B captures securities, transactions, interest income and capital-gains information.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: New provision: Rule 281A; Notification: Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2026.

☐ Supreme Court Clarifies Religious Conversion and Reservation Claims POLITY & GOVERNANCE

On **15 October 2026**, the **Supreme Court** upheld the rejection of automatic **Backward Class Muslim reservation** for converts from Hinduism in Tamil Nadu, emphasising that conversion alone does not establish membership of a notified backward community.

- The case concerned a person seeking a Muslim Lebbai community certificate after conversion.
- The Court upheld the Madras High Court's quashing of a 2024 Tamil Nadu government order.
- Eligibility for reservation requires proof of membership in an officially notified backward community.
- Religious conversion by itself is insufficient to confer the claimed community status.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Article 15(4) permits special provisions for socially and educationally backward classes; Article 16(4) addresses reservation in public employment.

❑ PM Modi Inaugurates Five Development Projects Worth ₹3,350 Crore in Ladakh GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

On **15 October 2026**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated and dedicated five development projects worth approximately **₹3,350 crore** in Ladakh, covering aviation, strategic roads, hydropower, transmission infrastructure, water conservation and cultural heritage.

- The Leh airport's annual capacity is planned to rise from **10 lakh to 35 lakh passengers**.
- The Nimmu-Padum-Darcha Road links Ladakh with Himachal Pradesh through Zaskar Valley and Shinkun La.
- The package includes the **9 MW Hanu Small Hydroelectric Project**.
- **India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park** is being developed at Sindhu Ghat in Leh.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Road constructed by: Border Roads Organisation (BRO); Airport terminal cost: About ₹640 crore.

❑ BIS Launches Silver Refinery Scheme and Digital Standard Initiatives GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Union Minister **Pralhad Joshi** unveiled the **BIS Silver Refinery Scheme** along with new Indian Standards and digital-standardisation initiatives during World Standards Day 2026 celebrations in New Delhi.

- Organisation: **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.
- The scheme provides a national purity-certification framework for silver bullion and coins.
- Hallmarked items carry the BIS mark, purity grade and traceability information.
- The **BIS Digital Standard Reader** converts XML-formatted standards into interactive SMART standards.
- New standards cover fields including textiles, robotics, healthcare and clean mobility.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Bureau of Indian Standards is India's national standards body; World Standards Day is observed on 14 October.

❑ MoTA and Karmayogi Bharat Develop Tribal Affairs Capacity Building Platform GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and **Karmayogi Bharat** signed an MoU to develop and operate a Tribal Affairs Capacity Building Platform on the iGOT Karmayogi framework for Adi Karmayogi Volunteers and grassroots functionaries.

- Target group: Adi Karmayogi Volunteers.
- The platform will provide standardised, mobile-friendly learning resources.
- It includes assessments, certification and state-wise progress monitoring.
- Training in Maharashtra, Odisha, Goa and Tripura is targeted for completion by **31 October 2026**.
- All other states are targeted for completion by **31 December 2026**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Nodal department for Karmayogi Bharat: DoPT; Karmayogi Bharat is a Section 8 government-owned not-for-profit company.

❑ NITI Aayog Launches Data Centre Evaluation Framework REPORTS & INDICES

NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub released a framework to help states assess data-centre investments, infrastructure readiness and sustainability. Key pillars include power and energy, water and cooling.

- India data-centre capacity in 2020: About **375 MW**.
- Environmental sustainability is a major evaluation parameter.
- Economic and strategic value creation is also considered.
- The framework promotes time-bound approvals and resource efficiency.
- Capacity in 2026: Around **1.5 GW**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: NITI Aayog was established on 1 January 2015; it replaced the Planning Commission.

❑ September PLFS Reports LFPR at 55.5% REPORTS & INDICES

The **National Statistical Office** reported an overall Labour Force Participation Rate of **55.5%** and unemployment rate of **5.0%** for September 2026. Rural unemployment stood at 4.2%.

- Urban unemployment was 6.9%.
- Urban female LFPR reached its highest level since October 2025.
- Worker Population Ratio: **52.7%**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: PLFS stands for Periodic Labour Force Survey; the survey is conducted by the National Statistics Office.

❑ Henley Passport Index 2026: India Ranks 84th REPORTS & INDICES

India ranked **84th** in the October 2026 **Henley Passport Index**, with access to **55 destinations**. India improved from 85th in October 2025. India shares 84th rank with Algeria and Mauritania.

- Rank 1: Singapore.
- The index uses IATA travel data.
- Singapore access: **193 destinations**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The Henley Passport Index draws on IATA travel data; Singapore ranked first in the October 2026 ranking.

❑ Global Hunger Index 2026: India Ranks 100th REPORTS & INDICES

India ranked **100th among 122 countries** in the **Global Hunger Index 2026**. The index uses undernourishment, child stunting, wasting and mortality indicators. The global score was reported at 18.1.

- India rank: **100th**.
- A lower score represents better performance.
- Category: Serious.
- Report title: **No Security Without Food Security**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The Global Hunger Index uses four indicators—undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and child mortality; India's 2026 score was 24.1.

❑ NSC Approves ₹1,194.92 Crore for Five ITI Clusters under PM-SETU GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

The **National Steering Committee (NSC)** under the **PM-SETU** scheme approved **five Strategic Investment Plans worth ₹1,194.92 crore** for upgrading Industrial Training Institute clusters in Maharashtra, Odisha and Jammu & Kashmir. The approvals increased total sanctioned investment under the initiative to **₹3,687 crore**.

- Kataka ITI Cluster in Odisha received an investment of **₹240.50 crore** with Tata Steel Foundation as industry partner.
- Pune ITI Cluster received **₹241 crore**, while Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar received **₹238.01 crore**.
- Jammu and Srinagar ITI clusters received **₹240 crore** and **₹235.41 crore** respectively.
- The model combines State Governments, industry partners and participating ITIs to improve industry-linked vocational training.
- The decision was taken at the **6th National Steering Committee meeting**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: PM-SETU expands to Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs; the nodal ministry is the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

❑ PM-AJAY Declares 18,093 Villages as Adarsh Grams GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** announced that **18,093 villages** had been declared Adarsh Grams under the **Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)**, with the scheme covering more than **47,200 villages**.

- A total of **46,944 development works** have been completed under the programme.
- **27,032 Village Development Plans** have been prepared.
- As of September 2026, **785 student hostels** had been completed.
- For FY 2026-27, central assistance of **₹61.46 crore** was allocated for two hostel projects accommodating 264 students.
- About **47.79 lakh citizens** are covered under the programme.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: PM-AJAY expands to Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana; nodal ministry is the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

❑ UDAN Regional Connectivity Scheme Completes Ten Years GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

The **Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN**, launched on **21 October 2016**, completed **ten years** in 2026. The scheme was introduced to make air travel more affordable and connect unserved and underserved airports across India.

- Scheme: **UDAN - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik**.
- UDAN encourages connectivity to smaller cities and airports that previously had limited or no scheduled air services.
- The scheme combines route incentives with aviation infrastructure development.
- Its broader objective is to improve mobility, tourism and economic activity in regional centres.
- The **10-year milestone in 2026** makes its launch date especially relevant for competitive exams.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: UDAN expands to Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik; it was launched on 21 October 2016 and is implemented by the Airports Authority of India.

❑ World Bank Releases World Development Report 2026 on Artificial Intelligence REPORTS & INDICES

Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched the World Bank Group's **World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence** in New Delhi at an event organised by the IndiaAI Mission in collaboration with the World Bank Group.

- Its framework focuses on three actions: Adopt, Adapt and Advance.
- The report recommends affordable access to AI and stronger digital infrastructure and skills.
- It supports scaling AI applications in public services.
- It calls for risk-based regulation and fair labour practices.
- Shared computing resources and digital literacy are highlighted as tools for making AI development more inclusive.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The World Bank's World Development Report 2026 is titled The Promise of Artificial Intelligence; it discusses adoption and adaptation of AI.

❑ Upgraded Agri Welfare Portal Launched for Farmers GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the upgraded **Agri Welfare Portal** to provide farmers with single-window digital access to major schemes, financial assistance and agriculture-related information.

- Nodal ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- Farmers can check scheme eligibility and access application-related services from a single platform.
- Financial assistance for eligible schemes is linked with Direct Benefit Transfer.
- The platform incorporates accessibility features for Persons with Disabilities.
- Krishi Vigyan Kendras will support digital-literacy training for farmers.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: PM-KISAN is a central-sector income support scheme; PMFBY is the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana crop-insurance scheme.

❑ Three Indian Sites Added to UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List REPORTS & INDICES

Three Indian sites were added to the **UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List**: the Karst-mud-volcano Complex of Baratang, the Andaman Subduction Volcanoes, and the Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape. India's total number of Tentative List entries consequently rose to **81**.

- Category distribution: **59 cultural, 19 natural and 3 mixed**.
- Baratang contains distinctive karst formations and mud-volcano features.
- The Andaman Subduction Volcanoes include **Barren Island and Narcondam Island**.
- Barren Island is India's active volcanic island.
- Sirpur lies on the eastern bank of the Mahanadi and has major archaeological and cultural significance.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: UNESCO World Heritage Convention was adopted in 1972; the Tentative List identifies sites a country may later nominate for World Heritage status.

❑ Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0 Registration Opens GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Registration opened for the **5th edition** of **Kashi Tamil Sangamam**, scheduled from **28 November to 12 December 2026**. The initiative seeks to strengthen historical, spiritual, literary and cultural connections between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.

- Regions connected: Tamil Nadu and Kashi or Varanasi.
- The programme highlights India's shared cultural and knowledge traditions.
- Participants include students, scholars, artisans and representatives of different fields.
- The Sangamam provides a platform for cultural exchange between Tamil Nadu and Varanasi.
- Dates: **28 November-12 December 2026**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Kashi is another name for Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh; the Kashi Tamil Sangamam initiative connects Kashi with Tamil Nadu's cultural traditions.

❑ Nationwide Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign Launched GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

The **Department of Financial Services**, Ministry of Finance, announced a nationwide Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign from **21 October to 31 December 2026** covering **2.70 lakh Gram Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies**.

- Coverage: **2.70 lakh GPs and ULBs**.
- Banks will facilitate PMJDY accounts, re-KYC and pending CKYC identifiers.
- The campaign promotes enrolment in **PMJJBY, PMSBY, PMFBY and Atal Pension Yojana**.
- Eligible PM-KISAN beneficiaries will be assisted with Kisan Credit Card applications.
- Bank camps will also promote digital-fraud awareness and financial literacy.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Administrative ministry: Ministry of Finance; Nodal department: Department of Financial Services.

❑ UNESCO Publishes 2026 GEM Gender Report on Education Access REPORTS & INDICES

UNESCO released the 2026 Global Education Monitoring Gender Report titled "**Gender equity in access to education**", examining global progress and continuing inequalities in access to education.

- Publisher: UNESCO.
- Global gender parity had been reached in pre-primary, primary and secondary enrolment by 2024.
- Inequality remains significant in tertiary education and among disadvantaged groups.
- Child marriage, poverty and geography continue to affect educational access.
- Between 2000 and 2024, the share of countries with fewer than nine girls per ten boys fell substantially at primary and upper-secondary levels.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: UNESCO is headquartered in Paris, France; SDG 4 focuses on inclusive, equitable quality education and lifelong learning.

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2. BANKING & FINANCE (DETAILED DIGEST)

Section 02

☐ **Karnataka Bank Launches Nava Dhamaka 2026 with Nine Banking Solutions** BANKING & FINANCE

Karnataka Bank Limited launched **Nava Dhamaka 2026** in Bengaluru, introducing **nine banking solutions** across investments, digital payments, customer engagement and lending. The package includes an integrated online trading and wealth-management platform.

- Solutions introduced: **Nine**.
- UPI services are offered to eligible NRE and NRO account holders.
- PIN-less transactions are being introduced through the CBDC platform.
- An AI-enabled Voice Bot supports customer engagement and lead validation.
- KBL Startup Finance targets emerging entrepreneurs and startups.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Karnataka Bank is headquartered in Mangaluru, Karnataka; Bengaluru is the capital of Karnataka.

☐ **HSBC India Announces ₹200 Crore Financial Literacy Programme** BANKING & FINANCE

HSBC India announced a **₹200 crore**, four-year philanthropic programme covering **2026-2030** to strengthen financial literacy, digital safety and livelihood resilience across India. The initiative focuses on underserved communities and first-time formal-finance users.

- Priority groups include women, youth, migrant workers and persons with disabilities.
- Digital Pathways promotes safe access to technology-enabled financial services.
- Financial Capabilities focuses on literacy, fraud prevention and informed decisions.
- Income Pathways supports enterprise development and sustainable livelihoods.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Three pillars: Digital Pathways, Financial Capabilities and Income Pathways; Organisation: HSBC India.

☐ **India's Banking Deposits Reach About USD 2.99 Trillion** BANKING & FINANCE

India's banking-system deposits reached approximately **₹284 trillion**, equivalent to about **USD 2.99 trillion**, during the second half of September 2026, as reported in the banking statistics.

- Deposit value: About **₹284 trillion**.
- The reported level represents a record deposit base.
- Foreign-currency inflows supported deposit growth.
- A larger deposit base can strengthen banks' funding resources.
- Deposit growth alone does not measure the overall health of the banking system.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Commercial bank deposits include demand and time deposits; the Reserve Bank of India publishes banking statistics.

☐ **RBI Approves Emirates NBD-RBL Bank Amalgamation** BANKING & FINANCE

The **Reserve Bank of India** approved amalgamation of Emirates NBD Bank's Indian branches with **RBL Bank**, effective **1 December 2026**. Emirates NBD operates branches in Mumbai, Chennai and Gurugram.

- Legal provision: Section 44A(4), Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- The transaction also involved regulatory clearances from CCI and SEBI.
- Reported information indicates an RBI NOC for the proposed REC-PFC merger.
- Emirates NBD stake in RBL Bank: **60%**.
- Capital infusion: Around **₹26,016 crore**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The amalgamation was sanctioned under Section 44A(4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949; its effective date is 1 December 2026.

☐ **ICICI Life Introduces 'Har Kal Aasaan' Brand Identity** BANKING & FINANCE

ICICI Life Insurance introduced a new brand identity and the tagline **Har Kal Aasaan**. The rebranding emphasises transparency and simplicity. It aligns with the national goal of Insurance for All by 2047.

- Established: **2000**.
- Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Company: ICICI Life Insurance.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: ICICI Life Insurance Limited was previously known as ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited; its headquarters is Mumbai.

❑ LIC Launches Three New Insurance Plans BANKING & FINANCE

LIC launched New Jeevan Dhara-II, Health Shield and New Cancer Cover on **19 October 2026**. Jeevan Dhara-II is a deferred annuity product. Health Shield offers hospital cash and critical-illness benefits.

- Jeevan Dhara-II: Plan 892.
- New Cancer Cover provides fixed-stage benefits.
- Health Shield: Plan 907.
- New Cancer Cover: Plan 908.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The Life Insurance Corporation of India was established in 1956; it is headquartered in Mumbai.

❑ SEBI Revises Closing Auction Session Framework in Equity Cash Market BANKING & FINANCE

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** announced a revised framework for the Closing Auction Session in the equity cash segment. The new system will become effective from **7 December 2026**.

- The order-entry session will close randomly between 3:38 PM and 3:40 PM.
- From 3:30-3:31 PM, the reference price will be calculated and trading will shift from continuous trading to CAS.
- From 3:31-3:36 PM, both limit and market orders may be placed.
- The framework aims to improve closing-price discovery and market efficiency.
- Stock and index derivatives trading will continue until 3:45 PM.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: SEBI is India's securities-market regulator; the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act was enacted in 1992.

❑ 1 Finance Gets SEBI In-Principle Approval for MF Lite AMC BANKING & FINANCE

Wealth-tech firm **1 Finance Private Limited** received in-principle approval from SEBI to establish an Asset Management Company under the **MF Lite framework**, potentially making it the **first AMC to operate under the framework**.

- Regulator: SEBI.
- The company is targeting a launch in **Q4 FY27**.
- MF Lite AMCs require net worth of **₹35 crore**, reducible to ₹25 crore after five consecutive profitable years.
- A minimum **40% sponsor stake** is required.
- Standard AMC net-worth requirements apply if passive AUM exceeds **₹1 lakh crore**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: SEBI regulates mutual funds under the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996; MF Lite provides a simplified framework for passive funds.

❑ Canara HSBC Life Launches USD-Denominated Global Wealth Plan via GIFT City BANKING & FINANCE

Canara HSBC Life Insurance launched the **Global Wealth Plan**, a US-dollar-denominated, unit-linked, non-participating life insurance-cum-savings product through **GIFT City** in Gujarat for Non-Resident Indians. The three variants are Wealth, Wealth Plus and Wealth Forever.

- Wealth Plus includes a Premium Funding Benefit following the insured's death.
- The plan includes Loyalty Additions and Maturity Boosters, subject to policy conditions.
- Returns are market-linked and non-guaranteed, consistent with the ULIP structure.
- Investments and benefits are denominated in US dollars.
- Investment options include global equities, precious metals and debt funds.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The product is distributed through Policybazaar under the IFSC framework; The plan combines market-linked investment with life insurance protection.

❑ RBI Rejects Treasury Bill Auction Bids over Yield Demands BANKING & FINANCE

The **Reserve Bank of India** rejected all bids received in a Treasury Bill auction after investors sought yields above levels acceptable to the issuer. Treasury Bills are normally issued at a discount and redeemed at face value.

- Planned borrowing: **₹23,000 crore**.
- The difference between purchase price and redemption value represents the investor's return.
- Higher demanded yields imply a higher borrowing cost for the issuer.
- Rejection of bids signals unwillingness to borrow at the yields quoted in that auction.
- T-Bill maturities: **91, 182 and 364 days**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Treasury Bills are short-term Government of India securities; standard maturities include 91, 182 and 364 days.

❑ PFRDA Launches NPS Central Digital Platform BANKING & FINANCE

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority** launched **NPS Central**, a unified platform for National Pension System registration, investment and account-management services. Subscribers can use their registered mobile number and date of birth with OTP authentication.

- Regulator: PFRDA.
- The system reduces dependence on entering the **12-digit PRAN** for access.
- Users can make contributions, compare options, update details and download statements.
- The objective is to create integrated access across Central Recordkeeping Agencies.
- Launch occasion: NPS Diwas, **1 October 2026**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: PFRDA was established under the PFRDA Act, 2013; NPS was introduced for new central-government employees from 1 January 2004.

❑ AU Small Finance Bank and Paytm Launch Family Lounge Access RuPay Credit Card BANKING & FINANCE

AU Small Finance Bank partnered with **Paytm** to launch the Paytm AU SFB Credit Card, introduced as **India's first RuPay credit card offering family lounge access**.

- Network: RuPay.
- The card is designed for mobile-first users and UPI-linked spending.
- It offers rewards on eligible Paytm UPI transactions.
- Higher rewards are offered on specified Paytm Travel bookings and Gold purchases.
- Eligible family lounge access uses QR-based entry.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Lounge benefit: Up to 12 family lounge visits annually on eligible bookings; Annual fee: Nil.

❑ Bank of Baroda Launches Festive Campaign BANKING & FINANCE

Bank of Baroda launched the festive campaign "**bob Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang - Shubh bhi, Labh bhi**", offering benefits across retail loans, MSME financing, savings products and card spending.

- The campaign includes processing-fee waivers on specified retail products.
- Special concessions are available for certain women, salaried and other eligible borrower categories.
- **bob Green Plug** provides financing for EV charging and battery-swapping infrastructure.
- **Baroda Mahila Swavalamban** targets women entrepreneurs.
- Home-loan rates begin at **7.40% per annum** in the reported offer.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Bank of Baroda was founded in 1908; its corporate headquarters is in Vadodara, Gujarat.



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3. ECONOMY & BUSINESS (DETAILED DIGEST)

Section 03

❑ Government Forms Ramesh Chand Committee on Sugarcane and Sugar Pricing ECONOMY

The Union Government constituted a **four-member** committee headed by former NITI Aayog member **Ramesh Chand** to examine sugarcane farmers' demands and the ex-mill Minimum Selling Price of sugar.

- Members: **Four**.
- The panel will examine farmers' demand for higher remunerative returns.
- It will assess the ex-mill minimum selling price of sugar.
- Sugar-recovery testing and mill weighing practices are also within its scope.
- The committee will examine deductions linked to mechanical harvesting.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Sugarcane receives a Fair and Remunerative Price under central policy; the ex-mill Minimum Selling Price applies to sale of sugar.

❑ WTO Raises 2026 Global Merchandise Trade Growth Forecast to 3.9% ECONOMY

The **World Trade Organization** released its Global Trade Outlook and Statistics Update for October 2026, raising its global merchandise-trade growth forecast for 2026 to **3.9%** from an earlier estimate of **1.9%**.

- Previous estimate: **1.9%**.
- The WTO linked the upgrade partly to strong Artificial Intelligence-related investment.
- AI-led investments reportedly rose **67% year-on-year** in the first half of 2026.
- Services-trade growth for 2026 was projected at **3.3%**.
- Services growth is projected to rebound to **6.4%** in 2027.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The WTO was established on 1 January 1995; its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.

❑ India's Net Direct Tax Collection Rises 13.2% to ₹13.38 Lakh Crore ECONOMY

India's net direct-tax collection increased **13.2% year-on-year** to **₹13.38 lakh crore** as of **14 October 2026**. Net direct-tax figures are calculated after accounting for refunds.

- Growth: **13.2%** year-on-year.
- Direct taxes are imposed directly on the income or profits of persons and businesses.
- The figures are an important measure of government revenue mobilisation during the financial year.
- Reference date: **14 October 2026**.
- Major components: Corporate and non-corporate taxes.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Direct taxes include income tax and corporate tax; the Central Board of Direct Taxes operates under the Department of Revenue.

❑ CCEA Approves Strategic Sale of 60.72% Stake in IDBI Bank ECONOMY

On **14 October 2026**, the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** approved **10955230 Canada Inc.**, a Fairfax Financial Holdings subsidiary, as buyer of a **60.72% stake** in IDBI Bank for approximately ₹52,878.08 crore.

- The stake includes holdings divested by the Government and LIC.
- LIC's divested portion is reported at **30.24%**.
- Post-transaction, the Government is expected to retain **15%**.
- IDBI Bank is a scheduled commercial bank regulated by RBI.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: RBI placed IDBI Bank under Prompt Corrective Action on 5 May 2017; restrictions were lifted on 10 March 2021.

❑ India's Current Account Deficit Reported at USD 5.2 Billion ECONOMY

India's Current Account Deficit was reported at **USD 5.2 billion** for August 2026 in reported external-sector data, drawing attention to developments in India's external sector.

- The current account includes trade in goods and services, income and transfers.
- A deficit arises when current-account payments exceed receipts.
- CAD is an important indicator of a country's external-sector position.
- Period: August 2026.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The current account covers goods, services, primary income and secondary income; the balance of payments is compiled by the RBI.

❑ National Strategic Trade Command Centre Launched in New Delhi ECONOMY

Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** launched the **National Strategic Trade Command Centre** at Vanijya Bhawan to strengthen data-driven monitoring of India's trade ecosystem. NSTCC integrates multiple trade-related dashboards.

- Location: Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
- It covers IEC, EPCG, Advance Authorisation and Certificate of Origin.
- It supports product-wise and market-wise export analysis.
- It is expected to evolve into a whole-of-government decision-support platform.
- Developed by: Department of Commerce.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: SCOMET stands for Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies; DGFT is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

❑ India Exports First Organic Palmyra Jaggery Consignment to Bulgaria ECONOMY

India exported its **first organic Palmyra Jaggery Powder consignment** from Tamil Nadu to Bulgaria. The product is certified under NPOP and EU organic standards. The project covers **137 acres** of organic cultivation.

- Quantity: **1.755 tonnes**.
- Palmyra is the State Tree of Tamil Nadu.
- Origin: Erode district, Tamil Nadu.
- Destination: Varna, Bulgaria.
- Facilitated by: APEDA.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Shipping port: Chennai; Palmyra is the State Tree of Tamil Nadu.

❑ ADB and Japan Back Green Ammonia Project in Kakinada ECONOMY

The **Asian Development Bank** and Japan supported financing for a major renewable-powered green ammonia plant in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. The project is being developed in two phases.

- Capacity: About **1.1 million tonnes annually**.
- Each phase has capacity of **547,500 tonnes**.
- Phase 1 is scheduled for March 2029.
- The project will convert an existing gas-based ammonia and urea facility to renewable-powered production.
- It is the **first investment under the ACCEL initiative**, launched in May 2026.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The Asian Development Bank was established in 1966; its headquarters is in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

❑ Eight Core Industries Record 7.9% Growth in September 2026 ECONOMY

India's Index of Eight Core Industries recorded year-on-year growth of **7.9%** in September 2026, compared with final growth of **5.9%** in August. The eight sectors are coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity.

- April-September cumulative growth: **5.1%**.
- The index is compiled by the Office of the Economic Adviser under DPIIT.
- Core-sector performance is an important indicator of the broader industrial-production trend.
- Number of core industries: **8**.
- Base year stated for the series: **2022-23**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Eight Core Industries include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity; the index is issued by DPIIT.

❑ India Post Revenue Rises 24% in April-September 2026 ECONOMY

India Post recorded revenue of **₹8,212.7 crore** during April-September 2026, representing annual growth of **24%**. Revenue exceeded **₹4,000 crore** in two consecutive quarters.

- Organisation: India Post.
- India Post provides mail, parcel, savings, remittance and other financial services.
- The performance reflects increased business activity across its postal and associated services.
- Reporting period: April-September 2026.
- Year-on-year growth: **24%**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Department of Posts is under the Ministry of Communications; India Post's postal network operates across rural and urban India.



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4. SUMMITS, MOUS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (DETAILED DIGEST)

Section 04

❑ Government Approves India's Accession to SIOFA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Government approved India's accession to the **Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)**, enabling greater participation in international high-seas fisheries governance and authorised fishing opportunities in the Southern Indian Ocean.

- Abbreviation: **SIOFA**.
- Accession gives India full decision-making participation as a Contracting Party.
- India can participate in SIOFA's Scientific Committee and Compliance Committee.
- Indian-flagged vessels can undertake authorised fishing of eligible non-migratory stocks.
- The move aligns with India's **Guidelines for High Seas Fisheries** issued in December 2025.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: SIOFA covers southern Indian Ocean high-seas fisheries; India previously participated as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party from 2022.

❑ India and UK Deepen Science and Innovation Cooperation SUMMITS & MOUS

India and the United Kingdom strengthened scientific cooperation at the **8th India-UK Science and Innovation Council Meeting** in New Delhi and inaugurated a genomics Centre of Excellence involving BRIC-CDFD and Oxford Nanopore Technologies.

- Indian representative: **Dr. Jitendra Singh**.
- A genomics Centre of Excellence was inaugurated to advance biotechnology collaboration.
- The countries launched the UK-India Technology Translation Partnership.
- The InnoXchange Programme will connect startups, incubators and accelerators.
- A UK-India Biomanufacturing Partnership was also welcomed.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: UKRI stands for UK Research and Innovation; the United Kingdom's capital is London.

❑ India Operationalises Resident Mission in Costa Rica INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The **Ministry of External Affairs** operationalised India's resident diplomatic mission in **San José, Costa Rica**, with effect from **10 October 2026**, expanding India's diplomatic presence in Central America.

- Country: Costa Rica.
- The mission will promote bilateral trade, investment and commercial cooperation.
- Priority sectors include pharmaceuticals and information technology.
- It will strengthen cultural and people-to-people ties.
- The resident mission will improve consular support for Indian nationals in Costa Rica.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Costa Rica's capital is San José; the Indian diplomatic mission is supervised by the Ministry of External Affairs.

❑ NTPC and Africa50 Partner to Develop Power Projects in Africa SUMMITS & MOUS

NTPC Limited signed a cooperation agreement with **Africa50** to identify and develop commercially viable power projects and explore cross-border electricity trading across Africa. NTPC will contribute project assessment, engineering, construction and operational expertise.

- Indian company: NTPC Limited.
- Africa50 will identify priority projects and coordinate with governments and regulators.
- The partnership will explore regional electricity trading.
- The aim is to improve electricity availability for households and businesses across Africa.
- Partner: **Africa50**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: NTPC status: Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power; Headquarters: Casablanca, Morocco.

❑ India-New Zealand FTA Comes into Force INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The **India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement** came into effect on **20 October 2026**. Indian exports receive comprehensive duty-free access in New Zealand. It forms part of the bilateral Roadmap to 2030.

- Effective date: **20 October 2026**.
- The agreement supports the India-New Zealand Strategic Partnership.
- New Zealand provides zero-duty access to Indian goods covered by the agreement.
- India provides concessions across about **70% of its tariff lines**.
- Dairy, sugar and edible oils remain among sensitive excluded areas.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: India–New Zealand FTA was signed on 27 April 2026; it entered into force on 20 October 2026.

❑ India and Canada Sign 34 Commercial Agreements SUMMITS & MOUS

Indian and Canadian entities signed **34 commercial agreements and MoUs** worth nearly **CAD 300 million**. Focus sectors include aerospace, clean energy and ICT. Life sciences, AI and quantum technology are also important areas.

- Value: About **CAD 300 million**.
- The trade mission covered Mumbai and Bengaluru.
- Approximate value: ₹1,800 crore.
- CEPA target: **December 2026**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Canada's capital is Ottawa; CAD is the ISO currency code for the Canadian dollar.

❑ India Rolls Over ₹3,000 Crore Currency Swap for Maldives INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

India approved rollover of a **₹3,000 crore** currency swap facility for Maldives under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework. The facility supports short-term foreign-exchange liquidity.

- It is intended to strengthen financial stability.
- The assistance aligns with India's neighbourhood-focused diplomacy.
- Beneficiary: Maldives.
- Institutions: RBI and Maldives Monetary Authority.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The SAARC Currency Swap Framework is administered by the RBI; Maldives uses the Maldivian rufiyaa.

❑ Pakistan to Chair IMF and World Bank Boards of Governors in 2027 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Pakistan was named incoming chair of the Boards of Governors of the **IMF** and **World Bank Group** for **2027**. The announcement was made during annual meetings in Bangkok.

- Country: Pakistan.
- The position gives Pakistan a role in international development discussions.
- Chair year: **2027**.
- Previous time in position: **1953**.
- Representative: Ahad Khan Cheema.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: IMF headquarters is in Washington, DC; the World Bank Group headquarters is also in Washington, DC.

□ India and Myanmar Sign Five Quick Impact Project MoUs SUMMITS & MOUS

India and Myanmar signed **five** Quick Impact Project MoUs under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation framework. Projects include WASH infrastructure for schools. Road, training, sports and audit-software initiatives are included.

- Total value: **USD 247,502.47**.
- The five projects cover WASH, boiler operations, roads, sports facilities and software support.
- More than **25 Quick Impact Projects** had been sanctioned across Myanmar by March 2026.
- QIPs are designed as short-gestation, high-visibility development projects.
- The agreements underline India's development partnership with neighbouring Southeast Asian countries.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: India can provide up to USD 500,000 annually for QIPs under the framework; The cooperation mechanism covers tourism, culture, education and transportation.

□ India to Host 61st International Committee of Legal Metrology Meeting SUMMITS & MOUS

India is scheduled to host the **61st Meeting** of the **International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML)** in New Delhi from **26 to 28 October 2026**, marking the **first time India will host the CIML meeting**.

- An international seminar on "Evolutions in Legal Metrology" is scheduled for 26 October.
- An OIML Strategy Workshop will be held on 27 October to discuss digitalisation and technological changes.
- The meeting will focus on international recommendations, technical work and the OIML Certification System.
- The previous, 60th CIML meeting was held in Paris in October 2025.
- OIML was established in **1955** and is headquartered in Paris, France.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: OIML stands for International Organisation of Legal Metrology; its headquarters is in Paris, France.

□ World Health Summit 2026 Held in Berlin SUMMITS & MOUS

The **World Health Summit 2026** was held in Berlin, Germany, from **11 to 13 October 2026** under the theme "From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health."

- The WHO launched the Hub 2030 Strategy to support rapid detection and assessment of emerging health threats.
- Bangladesh and the European Investment Bank announced a **EUR 250 million** women's health programme.
- The Gates Foundation and Wellcome Leap committed **USD 100 million** for stillbirth prevention.
- Germany pledged **EUR 10 million** for maternal and child health.
- More than **4,000 participants** from over 130 countries and territories attended in person.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The World Health Organization was established in 1948; its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.

□ 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference Held in Cape Town SUMMITS & MOUS

The **69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference** was held in **Cape Town, South Africa** under the theme "Strengthening International Law and Parliamentary Democracy in a Changing World Order: Commonwealth Leadership".

- Edition: **69th CPC**.
- Representatives from more than **100 CPA branches** participated in associated proceedings.
- **Ruth Forrest** of Tasmania received the Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year 2026 Award.
- Canada will host the **70th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in 2027**.
- Venue: Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was founded in 1911; South Africa's legislative capital is Cape Town.

□ World Bank Group Launches First Comprehensive Digital Strategy INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The **World Bank Group** launched its **first comprehensive digital strategy** at the Global AI and Digital Summit 2026 in Seoul to expand connectivity, digital employment and artificial-intelligence readiness in developing economies.

- Launch venue: Seoul, South Korea.
- The strategy identifies internet access and affordability as major development priorities.
- More than **2 billion people** remained offline globally in 2025, in the reported data.
- The World Bank also announced an AI Infrastructure and Readiness Initiative.
- The initial AI infrastructure programme will focus on Africa and Latin America.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The World Bank Group is headquartered in Washington, DC; the International Telecommunication Union is headquartered in Geneva.

❑ 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum to Be Held in New Delhi SUMMITS & MOUS

The **12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum** is scheduled to be held in **New Delhi** on **26-27 October 2026**, with discussions centred on people-centric development and parliamentary cooperation.

- Edition: **12th**.
- The forum brings together legislators from participating BRICS countries.
- It provides a platform for institutional cooperation and exchange of parliamentary experience.
- People-centric development is a major focus of the 2026 meeting.
- Venue: New Delhi, India.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: BRICS originally comprised Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa; India's Parliament has Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

❑ 25th SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting Held in Dushanbe SUMMITS & MOUS

The **25th Meeting** of the Council of Heads of Government of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, from **19-20 October 2026**. India was represented by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**.

- Edition: **25th SCO CHG Meeting**.
- India announced that it would host the **first SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum** by the end of 2026.
- The meeting adopted a Joint Communiqué.
- Members approved the Programme of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation Action Plan for **2026-2030**.
- Cooperation in transport, industry, trade, investment and innovation was discussed.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Indian representative: Rajnath Singh; Chair: Tajikistan.

❑ India and New Zealand Sign MoC for Electronic Origin Data Exchange SUMMITS & MOUS

India and New Zealand signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for the electronic exchange of origin data for goods traded under the **India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement**, which came into force on **20 October 2026**.

- Indian authority: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.
- The arrangement strengthens customs cooperation and operational efficiency.
- Electronic origin verification can reduce clearance time and transaction costs.
- Rules of Origin determine whether products qualify for preferential FTA tariff treatment.
- The mechanism is expected to support bilateral trade and improve business certainty.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: A certificate of origin helps establish preferential tariff eligibility; CBIC is the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.

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5. DEFENCE & SECURITY (DETAILED DIGEST)

Section 05

❑ MoD Signs ₹4,106 Crore Contracts for GSAT-7C and Varunastra Torpedoes DEFENCE & SECURITY

On **15 October 2026**, the **Ministry of Defence** signed contracts worth approximately **₹4,106 crore** for the GSAT-7C communication satellite for the Indian Air Force and Varunastra Heavy Weight Torpedoes for the Indian Navy.

- GSAT-7C is intended to provide secure and resilient communications for Indian Air Force assets.
- The satellite is described as indigenously designed, developed and manufactured.
- Varunastra is an indigenous ship-launched heavy-weight anti-submarine torpedo.
- It was developed by the **Naval Science and Technological Laboratory**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: NewSpace India Limited is ISRO's commercial arm; Naval Science and Technological Laboratory developed the Varunastra torpedo.

❑ Indian Navy Commissions INS Samarthak DEFENCE & SECURITY

Vice-President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** commissioned **INS Samarthak**, described as the **Indian Navy's first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel**, at Karwar. The ship can test future weapons, sensors and unmanned systems.

- Builder: Larsen & Toubro.
- It supports surveillance and reconnaissance missions.
- It can also undertake HADR operations.
- Indigenous content: More than **75%**.
- Commissioning location: Karwar, Karnataka.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Exercise Cambrian Patrol is organised by the British Army in Wales; it tests navigation, endurance and small-team fieldcraft.

❑ Indian Army Inducts 450 Nagastra-1 Loitering Munitions DEFENCE & SECURITY

The Indian Army inducted **450 Nagastra-1** loitering munitions supplied by **Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited**. It uses electric propulsion. Reported GPS strike precision is around **2 metres**.

- Quantity: **450**.
- It has an abort-and-recovery parachute mechanism.
- Endurance: **60 minutes**.
- Autonomous range: **30 km**.
- Manufacturer: Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Loitering munitions can patrol before striking a target; Nagastra-1 is a loitering munition operated by the Indian Army.

❑ Assam Regiment Wins Gold at Exercise Cambrian Patrol DEFENCE & SECURITY

The **Assam Regiment** won a gold medal at **Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026** in Wales. The exercise tests tactical skills, endurance and military navigation. The Indian team finished among the gold-medal teams.

- Venue: Wales, United Kingdom.
- Organiser: British Army.
- Participation: More than **100 teams**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: INS Samarthak is a multi-purpose vessel of the Indian Navy; Karwar Naval Base is in Karnataka.

❑ India and Russia Conduct Exercise INDRA-2026 DEFENCE & SECURITY

India and Russia conducted the **15th edition** of bilateral Naval Exercise **INDRA-2026** at Vladivostok and in the Sea of Japan from **13 to 18 October 2026** to improve operational interoperability and maritime coordination.

- Activities included tactical manoeuvres, artillery firing, boarding drills and vessel-rescue simulations.
- The harbour phase featured planning conferences, cross-deck visits and professional interactions.
- Related land activities in Russia's Chelyabinsk Region and Far East were scheduled to continue until **23 October 2026**.
- The broader exercise reinforces India-Russia military interoperability.
- The Russian Navy was represented by the ship Aldar Tsydenzhapov.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Exercise INDRA is a bilateral India–Russia military exercise; Vladivostok is a Russian Pacific port.

❑ Fifth India-Australia Exercise AUSTRAHIND Begins in Kerala DEFENCE & SECURITY

India and Australia commenced the **5th edition** of **Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026** at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on **19 October 2026**. The exercise will continue until **1 November 2026**.

- Venue: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The theme is "Joint Sub-Conventional Operations in Island and Coastal Environment."
- Training covers surveillance, reconnaissance, protection of vital installations and HADR operations.
- A delegation from **New Zealand** is participating as an observer for the **first time**.
- AUSTRAHIND aims to improve interoperability, jointmanship and Indo-Pacific operational coordination.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Australian contingent includes personnel from 13 Brigade; Indian contingent includes troops from the Garhwal Rifles.

❑ DRDO Develops 20% Lighter Armour for Combat Vehicles DEFENCE & SECURITY

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** developed indigenous armour panels that are **20% lighter** than conventional systems while retaining certified protection against **30 mm armour-piercing ammunition**.

- Lower weight can improve vehicle mobility and fuel efficiency.
- The panels are designed for demanding terrain, including high-altitude deployment.
- The design may reduce mechanical stress on engines and suspension systems.
- The development supports indigenisation of advanced military materials.
- DRDO was established in **1958** and operates under the Ministry of Defence.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: DRDO was formed in 1958; it works under the Ministry of Defence.

❑ CISF Restructured into Sector-Specific Functional Commands DEFENCE & SECURITY

The **Ministry of Home Affairs** approved restructuring of the Central Industrial Security Force from **1 November 2026**, replacing much of its territorial supervision model with specialised, sector-specific functional commands for strategic and critical infrastructure.

- Effective date: **1 November 2026**.
- Functional commands include sectors for power, coal, steel, petroleum and natural gas, ports and mass rapid transit systems.
- The Western and Southern sectors will become West Coast Port and East Coast Port sectors.
- Existing arrangements for the Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space and airport sectors will continue.
- The change aims to improve specialisation, standardisation, accountability and coordination.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: CISF was established in 1969; it is one of India's Central Armed Police Forces under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

❑ DRDO Develops Man-Portable Electronic Intelligence Modules DEFENCE & SECURITY

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation**, through the Defence Electronics Research Laboratory in Hyderabad, initiated development of portable **Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) modules** for identifying enemy radar signals and supporting counter-drone operations.

- Developer: DRDO's Defence Electronics Research Laboratory.
- The modules are designed to intercept and analyse signals emitted by radar and other electronic systems.
- Digital signal processing separates overlapping emissions through deinterleaving.
- Machine-learning techniques can assist identification of radar signatures.
- DRDO also reported lighter indigenous armour panels designed for specified high-level ballistic protection.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: ELINT stands for Electronic Intelligence; it deals with interception and analysis of electromagnetic signals.

❑ Defence Ministry Signs ₹770 Crore Radar Contract with BEL DEFENCE & SECURITY

The Ministry of Defence signed a contract worth approximately **₹770 crore** with **Bharat Electronics Limited** for Improved Low Level Light Weight Radars for the Indian Army.

- Contract value: About **₹770 crore**.
- Low-level radars are used to detect and track aerial threats operating at low altitude.
- The procurement is intended to strengthen surveillance and operational preparedness.
- BEL is a defence public-sector enterprise under the Ministry of Defence.
- Company: **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Bharat Electronics Limited is a defence public-sector enterprise; its headquarters is in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

❑ 33rd SIMBEX-2026 Begins in Visakhapatnam DEFENCE & SECURITY

The **33rd edition** of the **Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-2026)** commenced at Visakhapatnam and is being conducted from **21-26 October 2026**. Singapore is represented by the Republic of Singapore Navy ship RSS Supreme.

- Countries: India and Singapore.
- Indian participation includes **INS Nilgiri** and **INS Kamorta**.
- The harbour phase runs from 21-23 October, followed by a sea phase from 24-26 October.
- Sea drills include anti-submarine, anti-surface and anti-air warfare activities.
- SIMBEX began in **1994** and was originally called Exercise Lion King.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: SIMBEX began in 1994 under the name Exercise Lion King; the participating navies are those of India and Singapore.

❑ DRDO Selects Partners for Indigenous 20 mm Aviation Gun System DEFENCE & SECURITY

DRDO's **Armament Research and Development Establishment** shortlisted **SSS Defence and Kalyani Group** as Development-cum-Production Partners for an indigenous **20 mm aviation gun and turret system**.

- DRDO laboratory: ARDE.
- The system is intended for HAL's ALH Mk-IV Rudra and LCH Prachand helicopters.
- The project is described as **India's first indigenous aviation gun and turret system**.
- Production orders are expected after design, development and acceptance stages.
- The reported production split provides 60% to the lowest bidder and 40% to the other selected partner.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: ARDE is a DRDO laboratory based in Pune; HAL's Rudra and Prachand are Indian attack-helicopter platforms.



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6. SCIENCE, TECH & SPACE (DETAILED DIGEST)

Section 06

❑ ISRO Completes Gaganyaan Module Separation Tests SPACE

ISRO completed Crew Module-Service Module separation tests at VSSC ahead of Gaganyaan's first uncrewed mission. Electrical and fluid umbilicals were tested. Avionics and thermal-protection systems were evaluated.

- Test centre: VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram.
- The tests validated separation sequencing.
- Gaganyaan aims to send Indian astronauts to Low Earth Orbit.
- Modules: Crew Module and Service Module.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: VSSC stands for Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre; it is located at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

☐ Skyroot and Reflect Orbital Sign Two-Launch Contract SPACE

Skyroot Aerospace signed a two-launch agreement with US-based **Reflect Orbital**. The satellites are intended to redirect sunlight after sunset. Possible applications include solar farms and disaster response.

- Launches: **Two**.
- The concept includes adjustable illumination.
- Launch vehicles: Vikram-1 and Vikram-1U.
- Technology: Satellite mirrors.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Vikram-1 is a privately developed launch vehicle from Skyroot Aerospace; the company is based in Hyderabad.

☐ Japan Launches MMX Mission to Return Samples from Mars Moon Phobos SPACE

The **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** launched the **Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission** aboard an H3 rocket to collect material from Phobos. If successful, it will become the **world's first mission to return samples from a Martian moon**.

- MMX aims to collect at least **10 grams** of material from Phobos.
- The spacecraft carries the **IDEFIX rover**, developed by CNES and DLR.
- Its instruments will study terrain, minerals, chemical composition and space radiation.
- The returned material could help scientists understand the origin and evolution of the Martian moons.
- MMX is expected to reach Mars in **August 2027**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Phobos and Deimos are the two moons of Mars; JAXA is Japan's space agency.

☐ NASA Perseverance Sets Mars Driving Record SPACE

On **11 October 2026**, **NASA's Perseverance rover** reached **45.22 km** travelled on Mars, surpassing Opportunity's off-world distance record. NASA announced the milestone on 12 October, highlighting the rover's autonomous navigation capability.

- Agency: NASA.
- Perseverance studies Martian geology and searches for evidence of ancient microbial life.
- Its autonomous navigation system detects hazards and plans routes using onboard cameras and computing.
- Greater autonomy reduces dependence on individual driving commands from Earth.
- Reported information indicates Indian astronomer **Dr. Ramya Manjunath Anche** as Principal Investigator of NASA's PUFFINS mission.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Perseverance landed on Mars on 18 February 2021; the earlier rover distance record was 45.16 km, held by Opportunity.

☐ NIPER Raebareli and AstraZeneca Partner Under Biopharma SHAKTI SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NIPER Raebareli and **AstraZeneca India** signed an MoU to strengthen India's clinical-research capacity under the **Biopharma SHAKTI** initiative. The initiative targets clinical-research capacity beyond major metropolitan centres.

- Long-term target: **1,000 clinical trial sites**.
- The initial phase will adopt 25 trial sites for capability assessment and mentoring.
- NIPER Raebareli will establish a Centre of Excellence for training and certification.
- The programme is supported by the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
- It aims to create trained personnel and inspection-ready clinical sites.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: NIPER stands for National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research; its Raebareli campus is in Uttar Pradesh.

☐ NCISM Launches CCRAS SPARK 5.0 and Ayurshodh 2026 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NCISM Chairperson **Prof. Maneesha Kothekar** launched **CCRAS SPARK 5.0** and **CCRAS Ayurshodh 2026** to strengthen research and innovation in Ayurveda. Ayurshodh includes research communication, publication and innovation categories.

- SPARK: Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken.
- CCRAS-Prabodh uses a three-minute thesis presentation format.
- CCRAS-Prakash recognises original research publications.
- CCRAS-Navonmesha recognises prototypes and innovative solutions.
- CCRAS functions under the Ministry of Ayush.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Registration: 15 October-15 November 2026; Target: BAMS students in third or fourth professional year.

❑ IIT Kanpur Announces USD 1 Billion Research Campaign SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched IIT Kanpur's **Greater Than Us** fundraising campaign targeting **USD 1 billion by March 2029**. The campaign supports advanced research and infrastructure.

- Institution: IIT Kanpur.
- Priority areas include AI, quantum technology, semiconductors and cybersecurity.
- The proposed drone hub will focus on indigenous defence technologies.
- It seeks to reduce dependence on imported critical components.
- Target: **USD 1 billion**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: IIT Kanpur was established in 1959; the campaign Greater Than Us targets USD 1 billion by March 2029.

❑ BHASHINI and IISc Develop Sourashtra TTS Models SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

BHASHINI and **IISc Bengaluru** developed Text-to-Speech models for the Sourashtra language. Both male and female voice models were developed. The models use more than **28 hours** of speech data.

- Technology: Text-to-Speech.
- The initiative promotes digital inclusion for low-resource Indian languages.
- The models use a VITS-based speech-generation architecture.
- The corpus contains more than **28 hours** of male and female recordings.
- Training data includes Tamil and Sourashtra scripts.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: BHASHINI is India's national language-translation mission; VITS is a neural text-to-speech model architecture.

❑ Samsung and IISc Inaugurate Quantum Research Lab SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Samsung Semiconductor India Research and **IISc Bengaluru** inaugurated a Quantum Research Lab. Research areas include qubits and cryogenic electronics. Single-photon sources and quantum-device reliability are key areas.

- Location: IISc Bengaluru.
- The lab strengthens industry-academia collaboration.
- Focus: Quantum technologies and semiconductor devices.
- Related mission: National Quantum Mission.
- Mission outlay: **₹6,003.65 crore**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The Indian Institute of Science was established in 1909; its main campus is in Bengaluru.

❑ AIIA Hosts KAUMARACON-2026 and Launches Digital Ayurveda Initiatives SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Vice-President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** inaugurated **KAUMARACON-2026**, the 3rd International Conference on Kaumarabhritya, at the All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi. The conference coincided with **AIIA's 10th Foundation Day** and included several digital, academic and institutional initiatives.

- Theme: "Shaping the Future of Child Health: Global Perspectives, Research Innovations, and Clinical Frontiers in Kaumarabhritya."
- Five initiatives launched included the AYUSH Start-up Portal, AIIA-ICAINE website, AyuDIVA, Vamana App and Panchakarma Assessment App.
- AIIA exchanged an MoU with **Maharishi International University, USA** for academic and research cooperation.
- On Foundation Day, AIIA signed MoUs with Rashtriya Ayurved Vidyapeeth and Arogya Bharati.
- The institute also released more than **15 academic publications** and introduced the FESDAP e-course.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: AIIA celebrated its 10th Foundation Day on 17 October 2026; AIIA is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of AYUSH.

❑ ICAR-CPRI Highlights Nutrient-Rich Purple Potato 'Kufri Jamunia' SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The **ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute** highlighted **Kufri Jamunia**, a purple potato variety rich in Vitamin C, anthocyanins, carotenoids, zinc and iron, developed to support nutritional security and address hidden hunger.

- The variety combines antioxidant compounds with minerals such as zinc and iron.
- It has a mealy texture, shallow eyes and a pleasant flavour.
- Other speciality ICAR-CPRI varieties include **Kufri Neelkanth** and **Kufri Manik**.
- Biofortified and nutrient-rich crop varieties can support efforts against micronutrient deficiency.
- It is recommended for cultivation in the North Indian plains.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: ICAR-CPRI stands for ICAR–Central Potato Research Institute; it is located at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

MoES and AcSIR Partner for PhD Programmes SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The **Ministry of Earth Sciences** and the **Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research** signed an MoU recognising all **10 MoES research institutes** as AcSIR Associated Research Institutes.

- Research institutes covered: **10**.
- Research areas include atmosphere, oceans, polar regions, cryosphere, geosciences and marine systems.
- Students will work at MoES institutes under AcSIR-recognised faculty.
- The partnership enables shared facilities, academic coordination and interdisciplinary research.
- Location of signing: Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: AcSIR stands for Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research; MoES stands for Ministry of Earth Sciences.



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7. ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY (DETAILED DIGEST)

Section 07

India's Ramsar Site Tally Reaches 103 with Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Sukhna Wetland in Chandigarh and **Sauj Jheel** in Uttar Pradesh were designated Wetlands of International Importance, taking India's total number of Ramsar Sites to **103**.

- Ramsar Convention adopted: **1971** at Ramsar, Iran.
- Sukhna is a peri-urban reservoir at the foothills of the Outer Himalayas.
- It provides habitat for migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway.
- Sauj Jheel is a shallow floodplain wetland associated with the Ganga river system.
- It regularly supports large numbers of waterbirds, including the vulnerable Sarus Crane.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Ramsar Convention was adopted in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran; India became a contracting party on 1 February 1982.

MoRTH Proposes BS-VII Emission Standards from 2029 ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** proposed a phased rollout of **Bharat Stage VII** emission standards for new cars and SUVs from **1 April 2029**.

- Phase 1: **April 2029**.
- The standards are broadly aligned with Euro 7 norms.
- They include controls on brake particles and tyre abrasion.
- Battery-durability requirements are also included.
- The proposed particulate-size threshold is reduced from **23 nm to 10 nm**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Bharat Stage VI emission norms took effect on 1 April 2020; MoRTH is the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

National Biodiversity Authority Disburses ₹1.19 Crore ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

The **National Biodiversity Authority** disbursed **₹1.19 crore** under the Access and Benefit Sharing mechanism. ABS promotes equitable sharing of benefits from biological resources. The funds support conservation and sustainable use.

- Amount: **₹1.19 crore**.
- Community welfare is an important component.
- Recipients: 29 State Biodiversity Boards and 1 UT Biodiversity Council.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The National Biodiversity Authority was established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; its headquarters is in Chennai.

WWF-India Launches Nationwide Green Diwali Campaign ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

The **WWF-India EIACP Centre** launched a nationwide **Green Diwali campaign** for the period **20 October to 8 November 2026** to encourage environmentally responsible festival celebrations.

- Coverage focus: **130 NCAP cities**.
- The campaign seeks to reduce air and noise pollution.
- It promotes reusable decorations and responsible waste management.
- The initiative uses public awareness to encourage environmentally conscious choices during the festive period.
- The campaign promotes cracker-free celebrations and energy-efficient lighting.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: WWF-India was established in 1969; Mission LiFE stands for Lifestyle for Environment.

❑ Three New Centipede Species Discovered in Western Ghats ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India and Malabar Christian College identified **three new centipede species** in Kerala and Karnataka, increasing the number of known Indian species of the genus *Rhysida* to **23**.

- Species: *Rhysida quadrispinosa*, *Rhysida coorgensis* and *Rhysida neyyarensis*.
- *R. coorgensis* is named after Coorg in Karnataka.
- *R. neyyarensis* takes its name from Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala.
- The findings were published in the International Journal of Tropical Insect Science.
- The discovery adds to documentation of Western Ghats biodiversity.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The Zoological Survey of India was established in 1916; its headquarters is Kolkata.

❑ 7th AgriVoltaics World Conference Begins in New Delhi ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

The **7th AgriVoltaics World Conference** began at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** on **21 October 2026**, focusing on combining agriculture with solar-energy generation on the same land.

- Dates: **21-23 October 2026**.
- Agrivoltaics permits farming beneath or between appropriately designed solar installations.
- The approach can improve land-use efficiency.
- It can diversify farm income while supporting renewable-power generation.
- The conference brings together policymakers, researchers, farmers and industry representatives.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Agrivoltaics integrates agriculture with solar-power generation; photovoltaic panels convert sunlight into electricity.

❑ Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve Introduces Sensor-Based Waterhole System ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra launched a pilot sensor-based system on **22 October 2026** to automate water-level management at wildlife waterholes. The project is described as **India's first-of-its-kind sensor-based wildlife waterhole-management system**.

- State: Maharashtra.
- Sensors automatically activate pumps when water falls below a defined level.
- The system shuts pumps off when waterholes are filled, reducing overflow and groundwater wastage.
- Many artificial waterholes already use solar-powered pumping systems.
- The initiative also reduces manual intervention in remote forest areas.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is in Maharashtra; it covers parts of Chandrapur district.



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8. APPOINTMENTS & PERSONS IN NEWS (DETAILED DIGEST)

Section 08

❑ T. M. Balakrishnan Nair Elected Chair of UNESCO Indian Ocean Panel APPOINTMENTS

Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director of INCOIS, was elected Chair of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean during its second Intergovernmental Session in Bali.

- Appointee: **T. M. Balakrishnan Nair**.
- Nair will lead cooperation in oceanographic research and operational oceanography.
- His responsibilities include ocean information services and sustainable marine-resource management.
- IOCINDIO was approved by UNESCO's IOC in **2023**.
- It was formally launched in **May 2025**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: INCOIS stands for Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services; its headquarters is Hyderabad.

❑ President Accepts L. Murugan's Resignation Under Article 75(2) APPOINTMENTS

President **Droupadi Murmu** accepted Dr. **L. Murugan's** resignation from the Union Council of Ministers on **15 October 2026** under Article 75(2) of the Constitution.

- Minister: **Dr. L. Murugan**.
- Article 75(2) states that Union ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President.
- Article 75(3), separately, provides for collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers to the Lok Sabha.
- The development is relevant for constitutional-polity questions on the Union executive.
- Date: **15 October 2026**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Article 75(2) provides that Union ministers hold office during the President's pleasure; Article 75(3) establishes collective responsibility to the Lok Sabha.

❑ Sudha Yadav Takes Oath as Governor of Karnataka APPOINTMENTS

Sudha Yadav took oath as Governor of Karnataka on **16 October 2026**. Dhal Singh Bisen was appointed Governor of Uttarakhand. Braj Mohan Ram was appointed Governor of Odisha.

- State: Karnataka.
- Dushyant Gautam was appointed Governor of Sikkim.
- Om Prakash Mathur was reassigned to Kerala.
- Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar was reassigned to Tamil Nadu.
- Predecessor: Thaawarchand Gehlot.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The President appoints governors under Article 155; Article 156 states that a governor holds office during the President's pleasure.

❑ SCL Das Appointed Part-Time Chairperson of FSIB APPOINTMENTS

Subhas Chandra Lal Das was appointed part-time Chairperson of the **Financial Services Institutions Bureau**. FSIB recommends candidates for senior public-sector financial posts. New part-time members from banking, insurance and regulatory backgrounds were also appointed.

- Tenure: **Three years**.
- FSIB plays an important role in leadership selection across public-sector banks and specified financial institutions.
- The bureau's recommendations support stronger corporate governance and professional management.
- The appointment is particularly relevant for Banking and Insurance examinations.
- Institution: FSIB.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: FSIB stands for Financial Services Institutions Bureau; it recommends leadership appointments at public-sector financial institutions.

❑ Sudhakar Dalela Appointed India's Next Ambassador to Nepal APPOINTMENTS

Sudhakar Dalela was appointed India's next Ambassador to Nepal. Dalela has served as Secretary (Economic Relations). He has also represented India as Sherpa for BRICS, IBSA and I2U2.

- Country: Nepal.
- Predecessor: Naveen Srivastava.
- Previous posting: Ambassador to Bhutan.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Nepal's capital is Kathmandu; its currency is the Nepalese rupee.



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9. AWARDS, HONOURS & BOOKS (DETAILED DIGEST)

Section 09

❑ Mari ZT Lalrithangi Recognised by FAO as Woman Hero in Agrifood Systems AWARDS & HONOURS

Mizoram farmer **Mari ZT Lalrithangi** was recognised by the **Food and Agriculture Organization** under its "100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development" initiative.

- Awardee: **Mari ZT Lalrithangi**.
- Lalrithangi developed an integrated farming model.
- Her activities combine strawberry cultivation, fish farming and poultry.
- The recognition highlights women's entrepreneurship in agrifood systems.
- Her model also demonstrates diversified and sustainable rural livelihoods.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: FAO was established on 16 October 1945; its headquarters is Rome, Italy.

❑ SBI Wins World's Best Consumer Bank 2026 Award AWARDS & HONOURS

State Bank of India won the **World's Best Consumer Bank 2026** award for the second consecutive year. The recognition highlighted digital banking and financial inclusion.

- Consecutive wins: **Two**.
- SBI was also named Best Bank in India 2026.
- The bank's YONO digital platform crossed **10 crore registered users**.
- SBI is headquartered in Mumbai and was established in its present form on 1 July 1955.
- Publisher: Global Finance.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: State Bank of India was formed on 1 July 1955; its headquarters is in Mumbai.

❑ Reema Nanavaty Receives Hillary Rodham Clinton Award AWARDS & HONOURS

Indian social worker and SEWA leader **Reema Nanavaty** received the **Hillary Rodham Clinton Award** in Washington for her work in women's economic empowerment, livelihoods, peace and security.

- Organisation: Self-Employed Women's Association.
- The award is associated with Georgetown University's Institute for Women, Peace and Security.
- Other 2026 recipients included **Tory Burch** and Nobel laureate **Muhammad Yunus**.
- Nanavaty has worked on women-led enterprises, renewable energy and livelihood programmes.
- Award venue: Washington, D.C.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Nanavaty received the Padma Shri in 2013; Award recipient: Reema Nanavaty.

❑ Lingampalli Himaja Reaches James Dyson Award Global Top 20 AWARDS & HONOURS

Andhra Pradesh student **Lingampalli Himaja** entered the **global Top 20** of the James Dyson Award 2026 for **Rudhra**, a voice-enabled Braille printer designed to help visually impaired users create documents independently.

- Innovator: Lingampalli Himaja.
- Rudhra combines voice-to-text conversion with automated Braille embossing.
- The prototype uses Raspberry Pi, stepper motors and a solenoid mechanism.
- The design reduces dependence on manual slate-and-stylus Braille writing.
- The global winning entry carries a reported **£30,000** development prize.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The James Dyson Award is an international student design competition; it was established by the James Dyson Foundation.

❑ Devadas Chimakode Selected for Karnataka Janapada Academy Award 2026 AWARDS & HONOURS

Veteran folk artist **Devadas Chimakode** was selected for the Karnataka Janapada Academy's annual honorary award for 2026 for his contribution to Karnataka's folk traditions. Chimakode is associated with Suggi Kunitha, folk singing and instrumental traditions.

- Awardee: Devadas Chimakode.
- He is also known for the Halage percussion tradition.
- The Karnataka Janapada Academy works for preservation and promotion of folk arts.
- State: Karnataka.
- District represented: Bidar.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Karnataka Janapada Academy promotes folk culture in Karnataka; Bidar is in northern Karnataka.

❑ The Evolution of TV News in India Released BOOKS & AUTHORS

A book titled **The Evolution of TV News in India**, authored by **Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey**, was released by **Surya Prakash**. The work deals with the historical development of television news and broadcast journalism in India.

- Book title: The Evolution of TV News in India.
- Author: Harsaran Bir Kaur Pandey.
- The publication examines the development of television news in India.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Doordarshan began television broadcasts in 1959; Prasar Bharati was established under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990.



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10. SPORTS (DETAILED DIGEST)

Section 10

❑ Punam Raut Retires from International Cricket SPORTS

Indian women's cricket batter **Punam Raut** announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket, concluding an international career spanning **2009-2021**. Raut scored three ODI centuries and 15 half-centuries.

- Tests: 4.
- She scored **719 T20I runs**.
- Raut and Deepti Sharma recorded a **320-run** opening ODI partnership against Ireland in 2017.
- She represented India in three ODI World Cups and four T20 World Cups.
- She scored **86** in the 2017 Women's ODI World Cup final against England.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Punam Raut represented India in Test, ODI and T20I cricket; ODI stands for One Day International.

❑ Ahmedabad Enters Race to Host 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games SPORTS

The International Olympic Committee confirmed that India is among the parties in dialogue to host the **2036 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games**, with India's proposed bid centred on **Ahmedabad**.

- Games: **2036 Summer Olympics and Paralympics**.
- Other interested locations cited include Munich, Doha, Istanbul, Budapest and South Korean and South African proposals.
- The proposed roadmap places bid shortlisting in **March 2027**.
- Preferred hosts are expected to be identified in **December 2028**.
- A final host announcement is targeted for **mid-2029**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: IOC headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland; India campaign: "Rising Together".

❑ An Se Young Wins Record 47th Career Women's Singles Title SPORTS

South Korean badminton player **An Se Young** won the Denmark Open 2026 and claimed her **47th career title**. She defeated Akane Yamaguchi in the final.

- Country: South Korea.
- The reported score was 21-23, 21-14, 21-18.
- She surpassed the earlier 46-title mark cited for Susi Susanti.
- Career titles: **47**.
- Tournament: Denmark Open 2026.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The Denmark Open is a BWF World Tour tournament; BWF stands for Badminton World Federation.

❑ Indian Para-Athletes Shine at Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games 2026 SPORTS

Indian para-athletes **Mona Agarwal**, **Avani Lekhara**, **Simran** and **Pranav Soorma** distinguished themselves at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games 2026 through medal-winning performances and records in shooting and athletics.

- Mona Agarwal set a new Asian Para Games qualification record with 629.1 points.
- Simran won women's 200m T12 gold with a new Games record.
- Pranav Soorma won men's discus F51/52/53 gold with an Asian record.
- **Avani Lekhara** won silver with 249.6 points.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: SH1 is a shooting classification for athletes with eligible physical impairments; the 2026 Asian Para Games host was Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

❑ Deepthi Jeevanji Wins Asian Para Games 400m T20 Gold SPORTS

Indian para-athlete **Deepthi Jeevanji** won the women's 400m T20 gold medal at the Asian Para Games 2026 with a new Games record of **56.36 seconds**.

- Event: Women's 400m T20.
- Japan's Niina Kanno won silver and Akane Kato won bronze.
- Jeevanji had previously won major international medals in the 400m T20 discipline.
- Time: **56.36 seconds**.
- T20 classification is for athletes with intellectual impairment.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The T20 para-athletics class is for athletes with intellectual impairment; Aichi-Nagoya in Japan hosted the 2026 Asian Para Games.

❑ Sachin Khilari Leads Indian Medal Sweep in Shot Put F46 SPORTS

Sachin Khilari retained the men's Shot Put F46 gold medal at the Asian Para Games 2026 as India completed a **clean sweep of all three podium places**.

- Sport: Para athletics.
- Khilari successfully defended his Asian Para Games title.
- F46 relates to athletes with eligible upper-limb impairments.
- The podium sweep highlighted India's strength in para field events.
- Event: Men's Shot Put F46.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: F46 covers specified upper-limb impairments in para athletics; shot put is a field event.

❑ Praveen Kumar Wins High Jump Gold with Games Record SPORTS

Indian para-athlete **Praveen Kumar** won gold in the men's T44/64 high jump at the Asian Para Games 2026 and established a new Games record, while compatriot **Banti** secured silver.

- Event: Men's High Jump T44/64.
- Praveen Kumar's performance produced a new Games record.
- India secured the top two positions in the event.
- The T44/T64 classifications cover specified lower-limb impairment categories in para athletics.
- Competition: Asian Para Games 2026.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: T44 and T64 are para-athletics categories covering eligible lower-limb impairments; high jump is a field event.

❑ India Records Major Medal Wins at Asian Para Games SPORTS

Indian athletes **Suvarna Raj**, **Sheetal Devi** and **Swati Chaudhary** recorded notable Asian Para Games results across discus and para archery, contributing additional medals for India at the Aichi-Nagoya Games in Japan.

- Suvarna Raj: Women's F54 discus gold with **15.66 metres**.
- Sheetal Devi won the women's compound individual title and mixed-team gold with Toman Kumar.
- Swati Chaudhary: Women's individual W1 silver.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The W1 para-archery class covers athletes with substantial physical impairments; compound archery is a bow category.

❑ Bangladesh and Nepal to Host 2027 U19 Women's T20 World Cup SPORTS

The **International Cricket Council** announced that Bangladesh and Nepal will jointly host the **3rd ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup** from **21 January to 6 February 2027**.

- Hosts: Bangladesh and Nepal.
- India is grouped with Ireland, West Indies and Nepal.
- India begins its campaign against West Indies on **22 January 2027** in Kathmandu.
- The semi-finals are scheduled for 4 February.
- The final will be played on **6 February 2027**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The inaugural ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup was held in 2023; India won the first edition.

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11. OBITUARIES (DETAILED DIGEST)

Section 11

❑ Art Gallerist Peter Nagy Passes Away OBITUARIES

Peter Nagy, founder of the contemporary-art gallery **Nature Morte**, passed away at the age of **67**. He was known for his contributions to India's contemporary-art ecosystem.

- Nagy founded the gallery Nature Morte.
- Nature Morte was re-established in New Delhi in 1997.
- His work helped build a platform for contemporary artists and exhibitions.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Nature Morte is associated with contemporary art; the gallery reopened in New Delhi in 1997.

❑ Former KUFOS Vice-Chancellor B. Madhusoodana Kurup Dies OBITUARIES

Fisheries scientist **B. Madhusoodana Kurup**, founding Vice-Chancellor of the **Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies**, passed away at the age of **71**. His academic career focused on fisheries education, research and ocean sciences.

- Kurup was the founding Vice-Chancellor of KUFOS.
- His academic work was associated with fisheries science.
- KUFOS is a specialised university focused on fisheries and ocean studies in Kerala.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: KUFOS stands for Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies; its academic focus is fisheries and ocean sciences.

❑ Sengol Craftsperson Vummidi Ethiraj Passes Away OBITUARIES

Vummidi Ethiraj, a craftsperson associated with the creation of the historic **Sengol**, passed away at the age of **99**. His legacy is linked with ceremonial metalwork, traditional artistry and the preservation of Tamil craftsmanship.

- Ethiraj was associated with fine metalwork and traditional craftsmanship.
- He was linked to the making of the historic Sengol.
- The Sengol became a widely discussed symbol of Indian ceremonial heritage.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Sengol means sceptre in Tamil; it is associated with ceremonial symbolism and Tamil metalwork traditions.



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12. STATE AFFAIRS (DETAILED DIGEST)

Section 12

❑ Mizoram Launches Four Digital Financial Management Initiatives STATE AFFAIRS

Mizoram Chief Minister **Lalduhoma** launched four digital public-finance initiatives in Aizawl to improve transparency, accountability and efficiency in the state's financial management system. MIWAS will streamline works accounts across six government departments.

- Capital: Aizawl.
- e-Budget enables online preparation and submission of budget proposals through IFMIS.
- e-Sanction digitises expenditure-sanction processing and checks spending against available allocations.
- The 100% DBT system transfers eligible scheme payments directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts.
- They include **MIWAS, e-Sanction, e-Budget and 100% DBT**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Mizoram's capital is Aizawl; DBT stands for Direct Benefit Transfer.

❑ Ladakh's First Government Medical College Approved STATE AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare approved operationalisation of **Ladakh's first Government Medical College** at **Stipuk Pharka, Leh** from the **2027-28 academic year**. A one-time relaxation permits phased recruitment before completion of 80% of the proposed infrastructure.

- Location: Stipuk Pharka, Leh.
- Two newly constructed buildings will initially serve as the academic block and student hostel.
- The existing **200-bed** hospital will provide clinical exposure to the first MBBS batch.
- The college is expected to expand medical-education capacity in the Union Territory.
- Academic operations: From **2027-28**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Clinical training support: Sonam Norboo Memorial Hospital; Regular posts sanctioned: 103.

❑ National SARAS Mela Held Outside Delhi-NCR for First Time STATE AFFAIRS

The National SARAS Mela was organised in **Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh**, marking the **first time the national-level marketplace was held outside Delhi-NCR**. The mela provides a national marketing platform for rural women entrepreneurs.

- Linked programme: **DAY-NRLM**.
- It strengthens market access for Self-Help Group products.
- The Vijayawada edition expands the platform's geographical reach beyond Delhi-NCR.
- Primary participants: Rural women and Self-Help Groups.
- Focus: Rural products, handicrafts, handlooms and traditional foods.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: SARAS fairs promote products of rural Self-Help Groups; DAY-NRLM stands for Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission.

❑ Ladakh Notifies 100 Constituencies for Eight LAHDCs STATE AFFAIRS

Ladakh notified **100 constituencies** across **8 Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils** under the LAHDC (Amendment) Regulation, 2026, significantly expanding representation compared with the earlier structure.

- Total constituencies: **100**.
- Sankoo gets 13 constituencies and Changthang gets 10.
- Nubra, Sham and Zaskar receive 9 constituencies each, while Drass gets 7.
- The amended framework allows nomination of **4 members** representing women and under-represented communities.
- The expansion is intended to strengthen grassroots representation.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: LAHDC stands for Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council; Kargil and Leh are important council centres in Ladakh.

❑ Khet Bachao Abhiyan - Rabi 2026 Launched in Karnal STATE AFFAIRS

Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the nationwide **Khet Bachao Abhiyan - Rabi 2026** in Karnal, Haryana, on **22 October 2026**. The campaign promotes balanced fertiliser use based on soil testing.

- Launch location: Karnal, Haryana.
- It emphasises crop diversification, residue management and natural farming.
- Farmer IDs and wider Kisan Credit Card coverage are important implementation areas.
- Awareness of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana will be expanded through field outreach.
- Campaign period: **22 October-30 November 2026**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Rabi season primarily covers winter-sown crops; wheat and mustard are major rabi crops.

❑ Sankoo Declared Eighth District of Ladakh STATE AFFAIRS

The weekly quick-revision material reports **Sankoo** becoming the **eighth district of Ladakh**. The district was carved out from the Kargil area as part of the Union Territory's administrative restructuring.

- Sankoo was carved from the existing Kargil district.
- The administrative development concerns the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- The number of districts in Ladakh was reported as eight following the change.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Ladakh became a Union Territory on 31 October 2019; Leh and Kargil were its original two districts.



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13. IMPORTANT DAYS (DETAILED DIGEST)

Section 13

❑ World Students' Day 2026 — 15 October IMPORTANT DAYS

World Students' Day was observed on **15 October 2026**, marking the **95th birth anniversary** of India's former President **Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**. Kalam is popularly remembered as the "Missile Man of India".

- He contributed to India's SLV-III programme and guided-missile development.
- He was associated with the Pokhran-II nuclear tests of 1998.
- The observance highlights education, scientific thinking and the role of students in nation-building.
- Person commemorated: Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: A. P. J. Abdul Kalam was born on 15 October 1931; he served as India's President from 2002 to 2007.

❑ World Food Day 2026 — 16 October IMPORTANT DAYS

World Food Day was observed on **16 October 2026** to raise awareness about hunger, nutrition, food security and sustainable agrifood systems. The observance promotes action against hunger and malnutrition.

- The 2026 theme links innovation with future nutrition and sustainable food systems.
- The date commemorates the establishment of the FAO.
- The day encourages participation by governments, farmers, institutions and communities.
- Organisation: **Food and Agriculture Organization**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: FAO was founded on 16 October 1945; World Food Day is observed annually on 16 October.

❑ International Day for the Eradication of Poverty — 17 October IMPORTANT DAYS

The **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** was observed on **17 October 2026**. The day promotes dignity and human-rights-based approaches to poverty eradication. The observance calls for international cooperation to address social exclusion and economic deprivation.

- Date: **17 October**.
- Theme: **United for Peace and Human Rights**.
- UN-recognised since: **1993**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The United Nations General Assembly designated 17 October in 1992; the observance is called the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

❑ International Day of Intangible Cultural Heritage — 17 October IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Intangible Cultural Heritage was observed on **17 October 2026**. **UNESCO** encouraged communities and institutions to celebrate living traditions and promote safeguarding of cultural practices passed down through generations.

- UNESCO proclaimed the international day at its 42nd General Conference in November 2023.
- The third edition of this day was observed in 2026.
- Living heritage includes oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, crafts and festive events.
- The observance supports the objectives of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted in 2003; it entered into force on 20 April 2006.

❑ World Menopause Day — 18 October **IMPORTANT DAYS**

World Menopause Day was observed on **18 October 2026**. The observance promotes awareness of menopause and women's health during midlife. The International Menopause Society promotes public understanding, clinical awareness and informed health discussions.

- Date: **18 October**.
- Theme: **Chronic Pain At Midlife**.
- Promoting body: International Menopause Society.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: World Menopause Day falls on 18 October; the International Menopause Society promotes the observance.

❑ National Solidarity Day 2026 — 20 October **IMPORTANT DAYS**

National Solidarity Day was observed on **20 October 2026** to remember the soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the 1962 Sino-Indian War. The observance honours the service and sacrifice of Indian soldiers.

- A committee constituted during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure designated 20 October as National Solidarity Day.
- Historical context: Sino-Indian War of **1962**.
- 2026 marked the **64th anniversary** of the beginning of the conflict.
- First observance: **1966**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: National Solidarity Day is observed on 20 October; it commemorates the outbreak of the Sino-Indian War in 1962.

❑ World Osteoporosis Day 2026 — 20 October **IMPORTANT DAYS**

World Osteoporosis Day is observed annually on **20 October** to promote awareness about osteoporosis prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The 2026 campaign theme is "Build, Protect, Strengthen Your Bones for Life."

- The campaign emphasises lifelong bone health and prevention of fragility fractures.
- Osteoporosis causes bones to become weaker and more susceptible to fractures.
- Early diagnosis, adequate nutrition and physical activity are key elements of prevention and management.
- The first observance took place on **20 October 1996**.
- The global campaign is coordinated by the **International Osteoporosis Foundation**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: WHO co-sponsored World Osteoporosis Day campaigns in 1998 and 1999; The day was launched in 1996 by the UK's National Osteoporosis Society.

❑ Police Commemoration Day 2026 — 21 October **IMPORTANT DAYS**

India observed **Police Commemoration Day** on **21 October 2026** to honour police personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. The personnel were killed during an encounter with Chinese troops on 21 October 1959.

- The annual observance was formally adopted following a police leadership conference in 1960.
- In 2026, Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid tribute at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi.
- A nationwide motorcycle rally carrying the theme "Fight Against Drugs" was also flagged off.
- Historical event: Hot Springs incident of **1959**.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Police Commemoration Day is observed on 21 October; it commemorates police personnel killed at Hot Springs, Ladakh, in 1959.

❑ World Iodine Deficiency Day 2026 — 21 October **IMPORTANT DAYS**

World Iodine Deficiency Day, also called Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day, was observed on **21 October 2026** to raise awareness about iodine deficiency and adequate dietary iodine intake.

- Iodine is an essential micronutrient needed for thyroid-hormone production.
- Key thyroid hormones include triiodothyronine (T3) and thyroxine (T4).
- Thyroid hormones play important roles in metabolism, growth and brain development.
- Also known as: Global IDD Prevention Day.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Iodine is needed for production of thyroid hormones T3 and T4; iodine deficiency can cause goitre.

❑ International Stuttering Awareness Day — 22 October **IMPORTANT DAYS**

International Stuttering Awareness Day was observed on **22 October 2026** to encourage understanding and acceptance of people who stutter. The 2026 campaign highlighted diverse personal experiences of speech and communication.

- The day has been observed annually on 22 October since 1998.
- The 2026 online-conference theme was "**Shades of Stuttering — What's yours?**".
- The International Stuttering Association participates in global awareness efforts.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: International Stuttering Awareness Day falls on 22 October; the observance has been marked since 1998.

☐ **International Day of the Snow Leopard — 23 October** IMPORTANT DAYS

The **International Day of the Snow Leopard** was observed on **23 October 2026**, drawing attention to conservation of this vulnerable mountain species. The United Nations formally proclaimed the observance in 2024.

- The **Bishkek Declaration** on snow leopard conservation was adopted on 23 October 2013.
- The initiative involved **12 snow leopard range countries**, including India.
- Threats include habitat loss, poaching, declining prey populations and climate change.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: The snow leopard is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List; the 2013 Bishkek Declaration established a 12-country conservation commitment.

☐ **Mahila Kisan Diwas Observed on 15 October 2026** IMPORTANT DAYS

Mahila Kisan Diwas was observed on **15 October 2026**, highlighting women farmers' contribution to agriculture and rural livelihoods. A national programme in New Delhi connected their role with the broader vision of developed agriculture and Viksit Bharat.

- The observance recognises women's roles in agriculture and allied activities.
- A national event in New Delhi highlighted women farmers' contribution to developed agriculture.
- The public-awareness message linked women farmers with the wider Viksit Bharat vision.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: Mahila Kisan Diwas is marked on 15 October; agriculture is a State List subject under Entry 14 of the Seventh Schedule.

☐ **World Standards Day Observed on 14 October 2026** IMPORTANT DAYS

World Standards Day was observed on **14 October 2026**. At the national celebration in New Delhi, the **Bureau of Indian Standards** launched its Silver Refinery Scheme, presented new standards and announced digital-standardisation initiatives.

- The observance focuses attention on the importance of technical and quality standards.
- BIS released seven Indian Standards in the reported programme.
- Related initiatives included the BIS Digital Standard Reader and SMART standards.

Exam Pointer: Static GK: World Standards Day is marked on 14 October; Bureau of Indian Standards is India's national standards body.

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14. WEEKLY REVISION QUIZ (MCQS)

Solve before checking the answer key

☐ **Q1. How many Ramsar sites did India have after adding Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel?**

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| A) 103 | B) 101 |
| C) 99 | D) 105 |

☐ **Q2. Which ministry is responsible for PM-AJAY?**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| A) Ministry of Rural Development | B) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment |
| C) Ministry of Education | D) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare |

☐ **Q3. What percentage of IDBI Bank's equity stake was approved for strategic sale?**

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| A) 51% | B) 49% |
| C) 60.72% | D) 74% |

☐ **Q4. When did the India–New Zealand FTA enter into force?**

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| A) 15 October 2026 | B) 19 October 2026 |
| C) 21 October 2026 | D) 20 October 2026 |

☐ **Q5. Which two weapons or systems were covered by the ₹4,106 crore defence contracts?**

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| A) GSAT-7C and Varunastra | B) Akash and BrahMos |
| C) Tejas and Astra | D) Pinaka and Nag |

☐ **Q6. Which agency conducted the Martian Moons eXploration mission?**

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| A) ESA | B) JAXA |
| C) CNSA | D) NASA |

☐ **Q7. What is the name of the purple potato variety highlighted by ICAR-CPRI?**

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| A) Kufri Jyoti | B) Kufri Chandramukhi |
| C) Kufri Jamunia | D) Kufri Badshah |

☐ **Q8. Who was appointed Governor of Karnataka in October 2026?**

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| A) Anandiben Patel | B) Arif Mohammad Khan |
| C) Tamilisai Soundararajan | D) Sudha Yadav |

- ☐ **Q9. Who was recognised by FAO as a Woman Hero in Agrifood Systems?**
 A) Mari ZT Lalrithangi B) Sudha Yadav
 C) Reema Nanavaty D) Sheetal Devi
- ☐ **Q10. Who won the women's 400 m T20 gold at the Asian Para Games 2026?**
 A) Mona Agarwal B) Deepthi Jeevanji
 C) Avani Lekhara D) Suvarna Raj
- ☐ **Q11. On what date is Police Commemoration Day observed in India?**
 A) 20 October B) 16 October
 C) 17 October D) 21 October
- ☐ **Q12. Which state hosted the fifth edition of Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026?**
 A) Kerala B) Rajasthan
 C) Punjab D) Himachal Pradesh
- ☐ **Q13. Who published the World Development Report 2026 on artificial intelligence?**
 A) United Nations Development Programme B) World Bank
 C) UNESCO D) World Economic Forum
- ☐ **Q14. Who were the co-hosts of the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2027?**
 A) India and Sri Lanka B) Australia and New Zealand
 C) Bangladesh and Nepal D) England and Ireland
- ☐ **Q15. What event date marks World Food Day annually?**
 A) 15 October B) 17 October
 C) 21 October D) 16 October

Answers & Explanations Key

Q1. [A] Exp: India's Ramsar tally reached 103 after the inclusion of Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel.

Q2. [B] Exp: PM-AJAY is implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Q3. [C] Exp: The CCEA approved a 60.72% stake sale to a Fairfax Financial Holdings subsidiary.

Q4. [D] Exp: The India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement entered into force on 20 October 2026.

Q5. [A] Exp: The Defence Ministry signed contracts covering the GSAT-7C satellite and Varunastra heavy-weight torpedoes.

Q6. [B] Exp: JAXA operates the Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission targeting Phobos.

Q7. [C] Exp: ICAR-CPRI highlighted the nutrient-rich purple potato variety Kufri Jamunia.

Q8. [D] Exp: Dr Sudha Yadav was appointed Governor of Karnataka in October 2026.

Q9. [A] Exp: FAO recognised Mizoram's Mari ZT Lalrithangi as a Woman Hero in Agrifood Systems.

Q10. [B] Exp: Deepthi Jeevanji won the women's 400 m T20 gold medal with a Games record of 56.36 seconds.

Q11. [D] Exp: Police Commemoration Day is observed in India on 21 October.

Q12. [A] Exp: The fifth India–Australia Exercise AUSTRAHIND began in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Q13. [B] Exp: The World Bank published World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence.

Q14. [C] Exp: Bangladesh and Nepal were announced as co-hosts of the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2027.

Q15. [D] Exp: World Food Day falls on 16 October, commemorating the founding of the FAO in 1945.



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