CURRENT AFFAIRS — 5 OCTOBER 2026

Monday, 5 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Bihar + National • BPSC Prelims & Mains digest

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TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Mokama** new double-line Ganga rail bridge (**1.9 km**, **17 steel spans**) opened; **Mahananda Express** first to cross.
- **Rajendra Setu** (Mokama-Simaria) - Bihar's first rail-cum-road Ganga bridge, opened **1959** by **Jawaharlal Nehru**.
- Bihar **Green Hydrogen Policy 2026**: **1 lakh tonnes/yr** by **2031**, **1 GW** electrolysers; nodal agency **BREDA**.
- Solar plants on **2,554 agricultural feeders** (**2,585 MW**, **₹2,761.55 crore**) approved by Bihar cabinet.
- VAT on **ATF** cut from **1% to 0%** at Regional Connectivity Scheme airports in Bihar.
- **Budhi Gandak** at Khagaria **115 cm** above danger mark; **Ganga** above danger from Patna to Bhagalpur.
- **Ghatora wetland** (Bihpur, **Bhagalpur**) - proposal for **Ramsar** recognition being prepared.
- **Patna Zoo** holds **165 gharials** - largest zoo population worldwide; release planned in **Gandak**.
- **RBI MPC** meets **5-7 Oct**; repo **5.25%**, CPI (Aug) **4.82%**; Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**.
- India finished **4th** at **Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya)** with **85 medals** (**21 gold**).

SECTION A • BIHAR SPECIAL — State schemes, policy, administration & economy

Mokama's new double-line Ganga rail bridge opens - first train crosses parallel to Rajendra Setu

BIHAR — BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Infrastructure)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy - transport infrastructure & regional connectivity; **Prelims**: Bihar geography - Ganga bridges.
Context	In the early hours of **5 October 2026**, the **Mahananda Express** became the first train to cross the new double-line rail bridge over the **Ganga at Mokama**, ending the single-line bottleneck of the 1959-built **Rajendra Setu** between north and south Bihar.
Key Facts	■ Main bridge **1.9 km** long with **17 steel spans**; whole project stretch **15.5 km** (incl. **3.6 km** viaduct, **8** minor bridges, **2** ROBs). ■ Built about **50 m** towards the Patna side of **Rajendra Setu**; reported cost about **₹2,400 crore**. ■ Design speed **140 km/h**; trains to run at about **90 km/h** initially; capacity up to **2.5 times**. ■ Cleared after inspection by the **Commissioner of Railway Safety (Eastern Circle)**; new **electronic interlocking** and **automatic signalling** installed. ■ Foundation laid in **2016**; formal inauguration by the **Prime Minister** is awaited.
Way Fwd	Fast-track doubling of feeder sections (**Barauni-Mokama**) and run more festive specials for **Chhath** traffic; convert freed capacity into freight corridors for north Bihar.
Concept	**Rajendra Setu** (Mokama-Simaria, Begusarai) - Bihar's **first rail-cum-road bridge over the Ganga**, opened **1959** by PM **Jawaharlal Nehru**. Other Ganga bridges: **Mahatma Gandhi Setu** (Patna-Hajipur, **5.75 km**, 1982), **Vikramshila Setu** (Bhagalpur), **Digha-Sonpur** and **Munger** rail-road bridges.

Bihar cabinet clears Green Hydrogen Policy 2026 and 2,585 MW solarisation of farm feeders

BIHAR — BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy, Energy & S&T)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy - energy & industrial policy; role of **science & technology** (clean energy). **Prelims**: state schemes, agencies.
Context	The state cabinet chaired by CM **Samrat Choudhary** on **30 September 2026** approved **30 proposals**, led by the **Bihar Green Hydrogen Policy 2026** and solar plants for all remaining agricultural feeders - a twin push for clean power and cheaper irrigation.
Key Facts	■ Policy targets by **2031**: **1 lakh tonnes/yr** green hydrogen/ammonia, **1 GW** electrolyser and **2.5 GW** renewable capacity. ■ Expected investment **₹16,000 crore** and about **12,000** jobs; nodal agency **BREDA**. ■ Solar plants on **2,554 agricultural feeders** - **2,585 MW** at **₹2,761.55 crore** (₹2,714.25 cr subsidy + ₹47.30 cr incentive to gram panchayats). ■ **VAT on ATF** cut from **1% to 0%** at Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN) airports. ■ **₹62 crore** for **30 water cannons** and **86 Vajra** riot-control vehicles; **₹351.85 crore** for electrifying **21,644** households in **Kaimur-Rohtas**.
Way Fwd	Pair hydrogen hubs with **solar-rich south Bihar** and water-secure sites; build skilled workforce via ITIs; ensure feeder solar cuts **DISCOM** losses and farm diesel use.
Concept	**Green hydrogen** = H2 from **electrolysis of water** using renewable power (grey = from natural gas). **National Green Hydrogen Mission** (Jan 2023, **₹19,744 crore**) targets **5 MMT** by **2030**. Feeder-level solarisation mirrors **PM-KUSUM Component C**.

MOKAMA DOUBLE-LINE GANGA RAIL BRIDGE - AT A GLANCE (opened 5 Oct 2026)



Parallel to Rajendra Setu (1959, Mokama-Simaria) • first train: Mahananda Express • ~50 m towards Patna side

Fig 1: New Mokama rail bridge in numbers

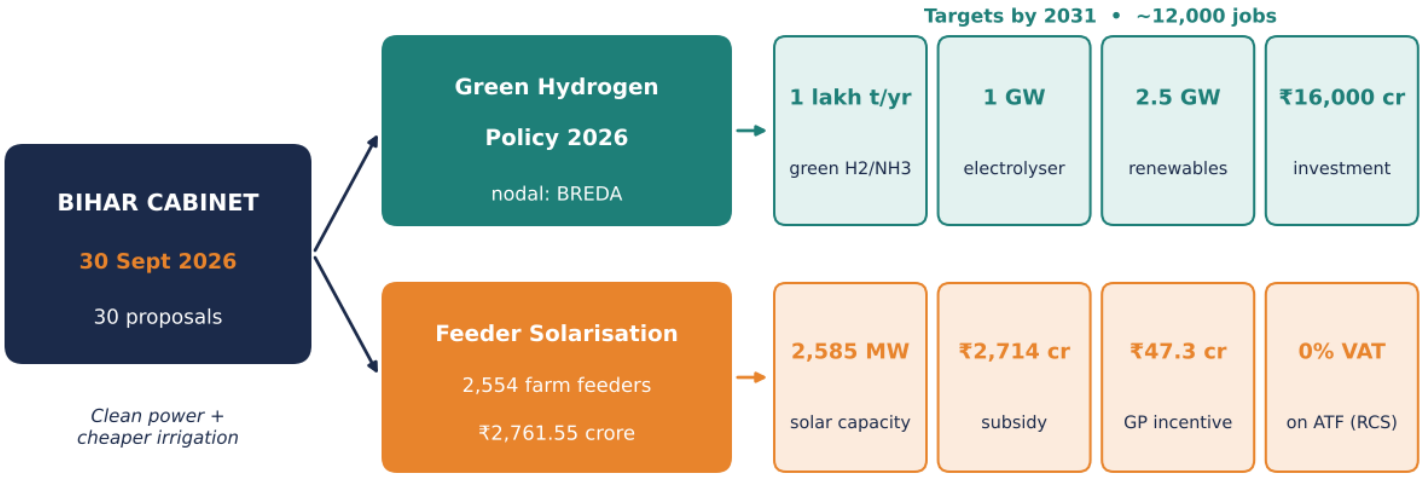


Fig 2: Bihar cabinet's clean-energy package (30 Sept 2026)

Flood watch: Ganga above danger mark from Patna to Bhagalpur; Budhi Gandak 115 cm over

BIHAR **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Geography & Disaster Mgmt)**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Geography of Bihar - river systems, floods; **Prelims**: rivers, gauging stations, tributaries of the Ganga.
Context	State water-resources data on **4 October 2026** showed the **Ganga, Gandak, Ghaghra, Budhi Gandak, Bagmati, Adhwara and Kosi** above danger levels at several points, though most stations forecast a fall by Monday.
Key Facts	■ **Budhi Gandak (Khagaria)**: **115 cm** above danger - the highest; **Kahalgaon (Ganga)**: **91 cm** and still rising. ■ Ganga at **Gandhi Ghat 85 cm**, **Hathidah 83 cm**, **Digha 14 cm**, **Bhagalpur 2 cm** above danger; **Munger** 8 cm below. ■ **Ghaghra (Darauli, Siwan) 59 cm**, **Gandak (Dumariaghat, Gopalganj) 48 cm**, **Kosi (Baltara) 34 cm**, **Son (Maner) 27 cm** above danger. ■ A police officer in **Saran** was suspended after a video showed him brandishing a pistol at a crowd during **flood relief**.
Way Fwd	Shift from embankment-only approach to **basin-scale management** - Indo-Nepal storage dams, **Kosi-Mechi link**, flood-plain zoning and real-time forecasting.
Concept	About **73%** of Bihar's area is **flood-prone**. North-bank tributaries of the Ganga: **Ghaghra, Gandak, Budhi Gandak, Bagmati, Kosi, Mahananda**; south-bank: **Son, Punpun, Kiul**. **Kosi** = 'Sorrow of Bihar'.

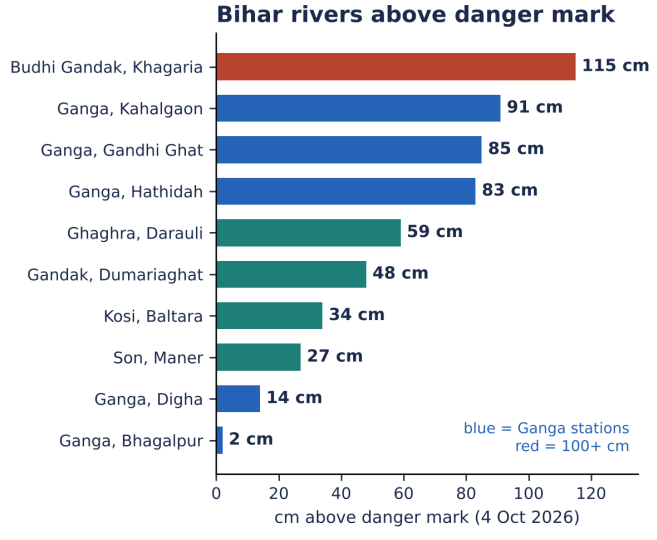


Fig 3: Gauge readings, 4 Oct 2026

Ghatora wetland enters Ramsar process; Patna Zoo's 165 gharials to repopulate the Gandak

ENVIRONMENT **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Geography & Ecology)**

Syllabus Linkage	**Prelims**: wetlands, Ramsar sites of Bihar, protected species; **GS-II**: Bihar geography - biodiversity & conservation.
Context	During **Wildlife Week (2-8 October)**, the **Bhagalpur** administration ordered a proposal seeking **Ramsar** status for **Ghatora wetland**, while **Patna Zoo** reported the world's largest captive gharial population.
Key Facts	■ **Ghatora wetland** lies in **Bihpur block, Bhagalpur**; proposal to carry technical data and **GIS maps** prepared with the **Bihar State Wetland Committee**. ■ Framework: **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017**. ■ Bihar's Ramsar sites include **Kanwar Jheel** (Begusarai, first - **2020**), **Nagi** & **Nakti** (Jamui), **Gokul Jalashay** (Buxar) and **Udaipur Jheel** (W. Champaran). ■ **Patna Zoo**: **165 gharials** - **14 adults** (4 male, 10 female) and **151 juveniles**; batch to be released in the **Gandak** at **Valmiki Tiger Reserve**.
Way Fwd	Notify wetland boundaries, curb encroachment and fishing pressure; monitor released gharials with tagging and involve riverine communities.
Concept	**Ramsar Convention** - signed **1971** at Ramsar, **Iran**; India joined **1982** (first sites **Chilika** & **Keoladeo**). **Gharial** - **Critically Endangered** (IUCN), **Schedule I** of the Wild Life (Protection) Act; key habitats **Chambal** and **Gandak**.

Connectivity push: Rs 1,720-cr Bhagalpur-Hansdiha four-lane, expressway land acquisition in Kishanganj, Patna Water Metro

BIHAR BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy - Infrastructure)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy - roads, waterways, urban transport; **Prelims**: national waterways, expressways passing through Bihar.
Context	A cluster of approvals this week targets eastern and north-eastern Bihar - a Bihar-Jharkhand four-lane, land acquisition for the **Gorakhpur-Siliguri Expressway**, new Ganga-side roads and a river-based **Water Metro** for Patna.
Key Facts	■ **Bhagalpur-Hansdiha** (to Bhaljor, Jharkhand border): **67 km**, **₹1,720 crore** in two phases (₹857 cr + ₹863 cr); links **Bhagalpur-Banka**. ■ **Gorakhpur-Siliguri Expressway**: **72.5 km** in **Kishanganj** (Thakurganj, Terhagach circles); notification under **Section 3A, NH Act 1956**. ■ **219 km** Ganga-side roads by **BSRDC**: **Ambika Path** (56 km), **Vishwamitra Path** (90 km), **Narayani Path** (73 km). ■ **Patna Water Metro** on **NW-1**: **₹1,200 crore**, terminals at **Kangan Ghat** & **Pehalwan Ghat** by **IWAI**; target before **2029**.
Way Fwd	Time-bound land acquisition with fair compensation, multimodal integration (rail-road-river) and logistics parks along the **Seemanchal** corridor.
Concept	**NW-1** = Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly, **Prayagraj-Haldia** (about **1,620 km**), India's longest national waterway, declared in **1986**. **Section 3A** of the NH Act = declaration of **intention to acquire** land.

Bihar universities get 7 apprenticeship-embedded four-year degrees; panel on 7th pay scale for teachers

BIHAR BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar - Education & HRD)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy - human resource development, education policy; role of the **Governor** as Chancellor.
Context	With the **Governor's** approval of revised ordinances (effective **30 September 2026**), state universities can run seven job-linked four-year UG programmes; separately, the Education Department is forming a committee on the **7th pay scale** for teachers.
Key Facts	■ New courses: **BA Content & Creative Writing**; **BCom** in **BFSI**, **E-Commerce**, **HR Operations**, **Retail Operations**; **BSc Healthcare Management**; **BSc (Hons) Electronics**. ■ Governed by the **Bihar State Universities Act, 1976** and **Patna University Act, 1976**; needs Academic Council, Syndicate and Senate approval plus **tripartite MoUs**. ■ Teachers' panel to assess the **financial burden** of the **7th pay scale**; transfer, promotion and mutual-transfer windows under review (Education Minister **Mithilesh Tiwari**).
Way Fwd	Tie up with industry clusters for paid apprenticeships, train faculty, and settle teacher grievances quickly to protect classroom time.
Concept	**NEP 2020** introduced the **four-year UG** with multiple entry-exit; **Apprenticeship-Embedded Degree Programmes (AEDP)** blend classroom with on-the-job training. The **Governor** is **ex-officio Chancellor** of Bihar's state universities.

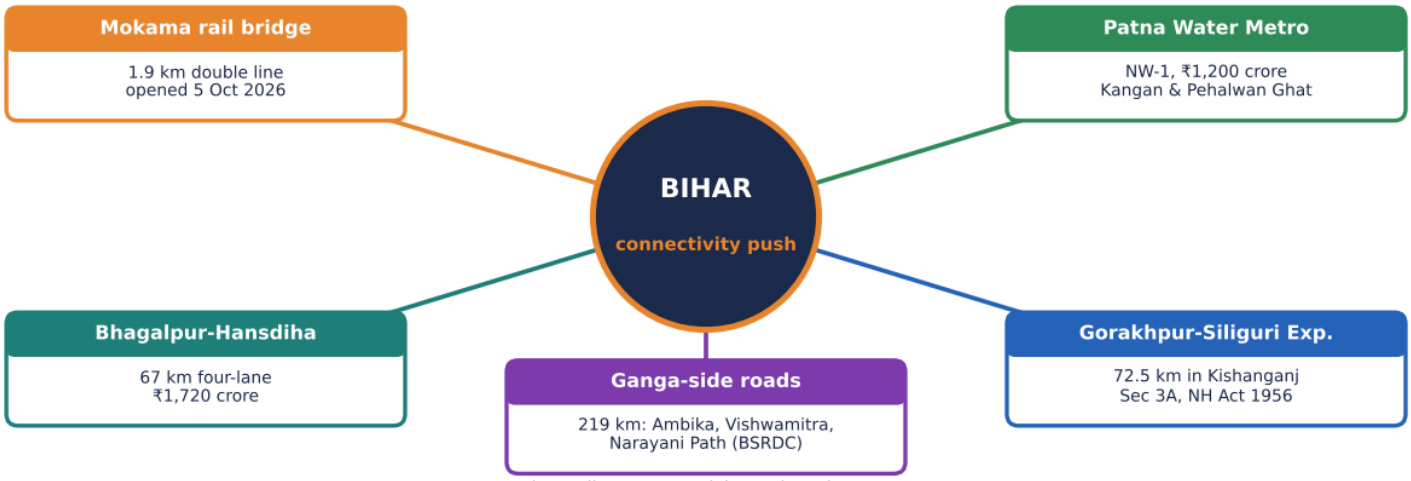


Fig 4: Bihar's connectivity projects in news

SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

Gross GST collection - September 2026

₹2.04 lakh crore

Up **14.7%** year-on-year (₹2,03,521 crore) - the **third straight month above ₹2 lakh crore**. Net GST **₹1.77 lakh crore** (+18.1%); H1 FY 2026-27 gross **₹12.46 lakh crore** (+11.6%). IGST **₹1,20,396 cr**, SGST **₹45,363 cr**, CGST **₹37,762 cr**.

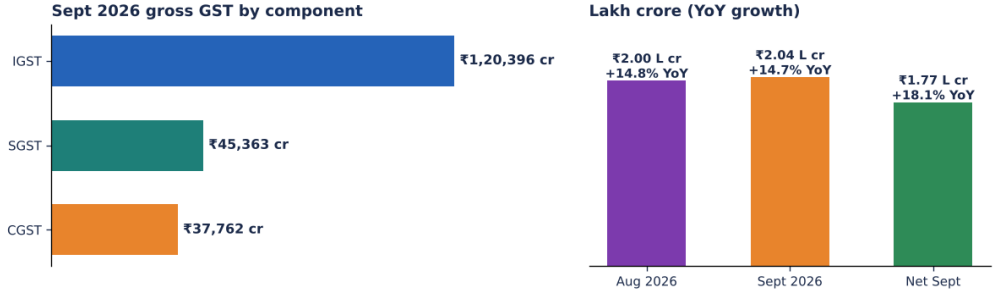


Fig 5: GST collections, September 2026 (official data)

SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD — Economy, IR, S&T, society

RBI's Monetary Policy Committee begins 5-7 October review; markets brace for a 25 bp hike

ECONOMY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Indian Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Indian economy - monetary policy, inflation; **Prelims**: repo, SDF, MSF, MPC composition.
Context	The six-member **MPC** started its meeting on **5 October**; the decision is due on **7 October**. Retail inflation has stayed above the **4%** target for three months, and most economists expect the first hike of this cycle.
Key Facts	■ Repo rate **5.25%** - unchanged for the last **four** reviews; a **25 bp** hike would take it to **5.50%**. ■ **CPI inflation** (Aug 2026) **4.82%**; **WPI** (Aug) **9.92%**. ■ Pressures: costlier **food & energy**, higher **crude**, a **US Fed** hike (Sept 2026) and about **6%** rupee depreciation in 2026. ■ RBI Governor: **Sanjay Malhotra**.
Way Fwd	Calibrated tightening with supply-side action on food (buffer stock releases, import duty tweaks) to anchor expectations without hurting growth.
Concept	**MPC** (Sec **45ZB**, RBI Act 1934, amended **2016**): **6 members** - 3 from RBI + 3 Centre-nominated; Governor has a **casting vote**. Target: **CPI 4% ± 2%**. Corridor: **SDF = repo - 25 bp**, **MSF = repo + 25 bp**.

Swiss President Guy Parmelin on state visit as India-EFTA TEPA turns one

IR BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (International Relations & Trade)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: India's foreign trade & bilateral relations; **Prelims**: trade blocs (EFTA), FTAs.
Context	President **Guy Parmelin** received a ceremonial welcome at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** on **5 October** and held talks with PM **Narendra Modi** at **Hyderabad House**; the **2nd India-EFTA Prosperity Summit** follows on **7 October**.
Key Facts	■ Visit: **5-7 October 2026**; Switzerland is India's **largest trade & investment partner** within **EFTA**. ■ **TEPA** signed **10 March 2024**; entered into force **1 October 2025**. ■ EFTA commitment: **$100 billion** investment over **15 years** and **1 million** direct jobs in India. ■ Focus areas: trade, investment, **science & innovation**, mobility and people-to-people ties.
Way Fwd	Operationalise the investment desk, ease skilled mobility and channel Swiss tech into **precision manufacturing, pharma and vocational training**.
Concept	**EFTA** (1960, Stockholm Convention): **Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein**. **TEPA** is India's first FTA carrying a **binding-style investment and jobs commitment**.

Centre pushes domestic rare-earth magnet capacity to cut 80-90% dependence on one supplier

SCI-TECH BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Role of S&T, Industry)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: role and impact of **science & technology**; critical minerals and strategic manufacturing; **Prelims**: rare earth elements.
Context	On **5 October**, **Shaktikanta Das**, Principal Secretary-2 to the PM, said almost **80-90%** of rare-earth magnet supply originates in **China**, and that India is scaling up domestic magnet capacity after export curbs since **October 2025**.
Key Facts	■ Uses: **EV motors**, wind turbines, electronics, drones and **defence** systems. ■ **Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets** (Nov **2025**): **₹7,280 crore**, target **6,000 tonnes/yr**. ■ Complements the **National Critical Mineral Mission** (2025) and **IREL**'s monazite-based supply. ■ China tightened rare-earth export controls in **October 2025**.
Way Fwd	Build the full chain - mining, separation, metal/alloy, magnet - plus recycling of e-waste magnets and partnerships with trusted suppliers.
Concept	**Rare earth elements** = **17** elements (**15 lanthanides + scandium + yttrium**). **NdFeB** (neodymium-iron-boron) is the strongest permanent magnet. India's main source: **monazite** in coastal placer sands.

PM-SETU completes one year: 850 ITIs identified for hub-and-spoke upgrade

SOCIETY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Economy - Skills & Employment)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Indian economy - human resource development, employment; **Prelims**: central schemes and their funding pattern.
Context	Launched on **4 October 2025**, **PM-SETU** (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) aims to turn **1,000** government ITIs into industry-run skilling clusters.
Key Facts	■ Outlay **₹60,000 crore**: Centre **₹30,000 cr**, States **₹20,000 cr**, Industry **₹10,000 cr**. ■ Model: **200 hub + 800 spoke** ITIs; year one identified **850** (**172 hubs, 678 spokes**). ■ **14 clusters** approved in **8 states + 1 UT** (**₹3,446 crore**); **32** new-age courses (AI, EVs, semiconductors, robotics). ■ Partnerships with **Singapore, France, Australia** and a joint declaration with **Germany**.
Way Fwd	Bihar should fast-track its cluster approvals and align ITI trades with new hubs - green hydrogen, solar, food processing and logistics.
Concept	**ITIs** run **craftsmen training** under the **Directorate General of Training (MSDE)**. Hub-and-spoke = one well-equipped hub mentors about **4** spokes, sharing labs, trainers and industry links.

PM-SETU outlay sharing

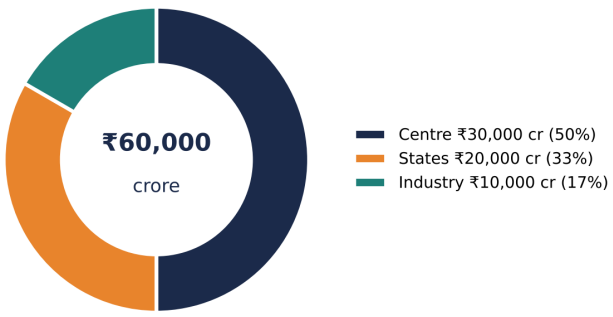


Fig 6: PM-SETU funding pattern

Asian Games 2026: India signs off fourth with 85 medals; cricket, hockey, kabaddi golds swept

SOCIETY BPSC: Prelims (Sports & Awards)

Syllabus Linkage	**Prelims**: sports events, venues, records and firsts.
Context	The **20th Asian Games** at **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan** (**19 Sept-4 Oct 2026**) closed on **4 October**; India's tally was its second-best after the record at Hangzhou.
Key Facts	■ India: **85 medals** - **21 gold, 27 silver, 37 bronze**; rank **4th** (China, Japan, Korea ahead). ■ Gold in **men's & women's** cricket, hockey and kabaddi; women's hockey gold beat **China 1-0**. ■ Firsts: **Kumkum Mohod** - first individual women's **recurve** gold; **Pranavi Sharath Urs** - first Indian woman to win individual **golf** gold. ■ Record haul remains **107 medals (28 gold)** at **Hangzhou 2022**.
Way Fwd	Build on team-sport dominance and widen the base in athletics, swimming and shooting ahead of **Commonwealth and Olympic** cycles.

Concept	Asian Games are run by the **Olympic Council of Asia**; the **first** edition was held in **New Delhi, 1951**. Next hosts: **Doha 2030**, **Riyadh 2034**.

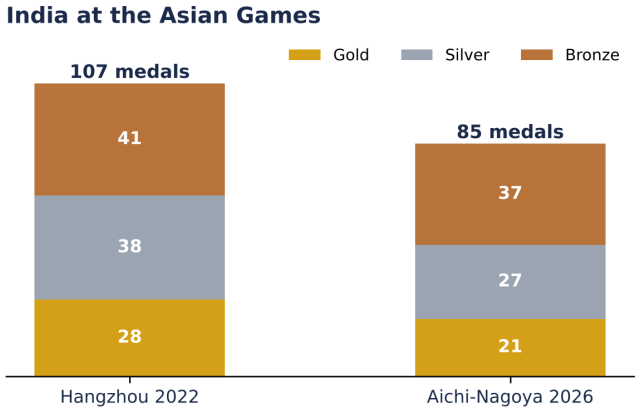


Fig 7: India's medal haul compared

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Topic	Quick fact
Days	**World Teachers' Day** - **5 October** (observed since **1994**).
Observance	**Wildlife Week** in India - **2-8 October**.
Bihar bridges	**Mahatma Gandhi Setu** (Patna-Hajipur) - **5.75 km**, opened **1982**.
Bihar heritage	Bihar cabinet cleared **₹3,516 crore** for **Vishnupad Temple** (Gaya) development on **15 Sept 2026**.
Bihar ecology	**Valmiki Tiger Reserve** (West Champaran) - Bihar's first tiger reserve, on the **Gandak**.
Sports	Next Asian Games: **Doha 2030**; first Asian Games: **New Delhi 1951**.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to Rajendra Setu and the new Mokama rail bridge, consider the following statements: 1. Rajendra Setu connects Mokama with Simaria in Begusarai district. 2. Rajendra Setu was opened in 1959 by Jawaharlal Nehru. 3. The new bridge is a single-line road bridge built downstream of Bhagalpur. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
Answer: (b) — Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The new structure is a **1.9 km double-line rail bridge** at **Mokama**, about 50 m from Rajendra Setu - not a road bridge near Bhagalpur.

Q2. Under the Bihar Green Hydrogen Policy 2026 approved on 30 September 2026, the annual green hydrogen/ammonia production target for 2031 is:
(a) 50,000 tonnes (b) 1 lakh tonnes (c) 5 lakh tonnes (d) 5 million tonnes
Answer: (b) — The policy targets **1 lakh tonnes (0.1 MMT) per year** by **2031** with **1 GW** electrolysers; **5 MMT by 2030** is the **national** mission target.

Mains Practice: Floods in north Bihar are an annual disaster rooted in geography and aggravated by an embankment-centric approach. Examine the causes and suggest an integrated flood-management strategy for the state. (BPSC Mains GS-II, 38 marks)
Hint: Intro: **73%** area flood-prone; Himalayan rivers - **Kosi, Gandak, Budhi Gandak, Bagmati** (use today's gauge data). Causes: heavy silt, shifting courses, Nepal catchment, embankment breaches, drainage congestion. Strategy: Indo-Nepal storage dams, **Kosi-Mechi link**, flood-plain zoning, early warning, flood-resilient agriculture (makhana, fisheries), community preparedness. Conclude with 'living with floods'.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Mokama bridge **1.9 km** | Green H2 **1 lakh t by 2031** | Feeder solar **2,585 MW** | Repo **5.25%**, CPI **4.82%** | GST **₹2.04 lakh cr** | TEPA **$100 bn** | Asian Games **85 medals**

Compiled & simplified by the **StudyForGS.com Research Team** • ▶ **YouTube: @Study_ForGS** • ➤ **Telegram: t.me/studyforgeneralstudies**