CURRENT AFFAIRS — 08 October 2026

Thursday, 08 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Bihar + National • BPSC Prelims & Mains digest

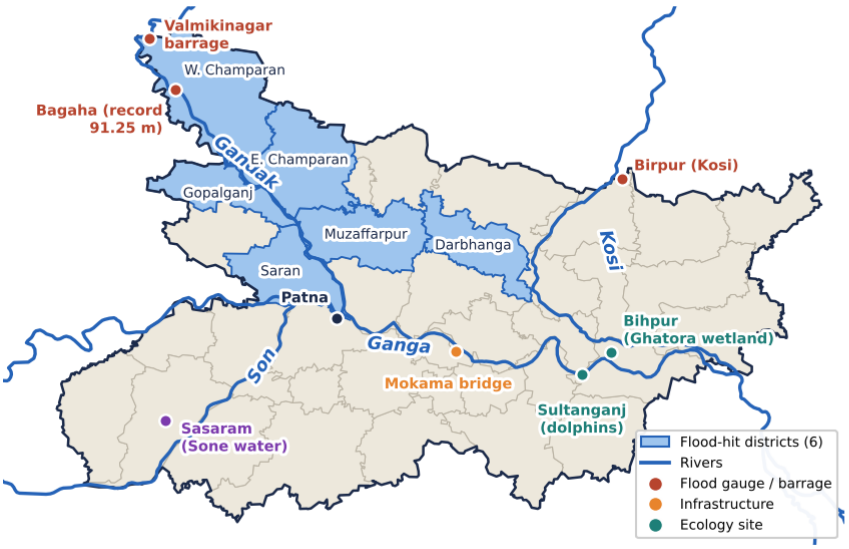
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TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Bihar floods: ~**10 lakh** hit in **6 districts**; Gandak, Kosi, Ganga above danger mark.
- New **Mokama** double-line Ganga rail bridge opens (**₹2,400 cr**).
- Bhagalpur Ganga dolphins: **~95 → ~200** in **27 years**.
- **Ghatora wetland** (Bhagalpur) moves toward **Ramsar** tag.
- CM: **Sone** water for **Sasaram & Aurangabad** by **March 2027**.
- Opposition march to **Lok Bhavan, Patna**, over voter-roll **SIR**.
- RBI repo up **25 bps to 5.50%** — first hike since **Feb 2023**.
- Cabinet: **₹10,000 cr SME Growth Fund** + new **ITLA**.
- India joins **15-economy** statement on **excess capacity**.
- SC gets **3 new judges**; working strength **37 of 38**.

SECTION A — BIHAR SPECIAL State floods, infrastructure, ecology, governance & polity

Bihar in News — Floods & Places (8 Oct 2026)



KEY NUMBERS

~10 lakh
people affected

169
gram panchayats

5.435 lakh
cusecs at Valmikinagar

91.25 m
Gandak @ Bagaha (record)

75.07 m
Kosi @ Birpur (DL 74.70)

Bihar floods: Gandak, Kosi & Ganga above danger mark; ~10 lakh hit in 6 districts

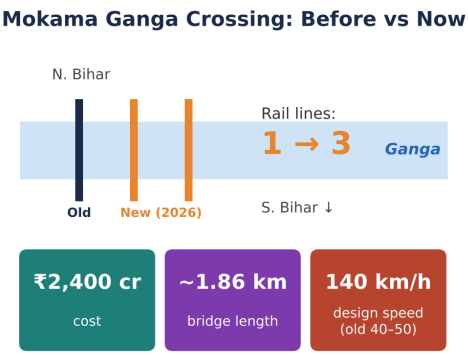
[BIHAR] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Geography)**

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II: Bihar geography — rivers, floods, disaster management | Prelims: Bihar rivers, barrages, flood-prone districts
Context	A late-September surge from **Nepal** pushed the **Gandak** to a **record level at Bagaha** and breached embankments in **Saran, Gopalganj, Muzaffarpur** and **West Champaran**. As of **6 Oct**, several river gauges were still above the danger mark.
Key Facts	■ **~10 lakh** people in **169 gram panchayats** of **6 districts**: West & East Champaran, Gopalganj, Saran, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur. ■ **Valmikinagar barrage** discharge hit **5.435 lakh cusecs**; Gandak at **Bagaha (91.25 m)** beat the **2024 high (90.90 m)**. ■ Above danger on **6 Oct**: **Gandak @ Dumariaghat**, **Kosi @ Birpur** (75.07 m vs 74.70 m), **Ganga @ Sultanganj** (35.98 m vs 34.50 m). ■ CM **Samrat Choudhary** did an **aerial survey** on **30 Sept**; **NDRF/SDRF** stay deployed; community kitchens to run till people return home. ■ **7 engineers suspended** for negligence in flood response.
Way Fwd	Audit embankments before every monsoon, get real-time **Indo-Nepal** flood data, and speed up the **Kosi–Mechi link** and floodplain zoning.
Concept	**Gandak** (Narayani in Nepal) enters Bihar at **Valmikinagar**; **Gandak Agreement 1959** with Nepal. **Kosi** = 'Sorrow of Bihar'; its barrage is at **Bhimnagar (Nepal)**. Drainage & embankments = **State List (Entry 17)**; relief under **DM Act, 2005**.

New Mokama Ganga rail bridge opens: 3 rail lines now link North & South Bihar

[BIHAR] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy & Infrastructure)**

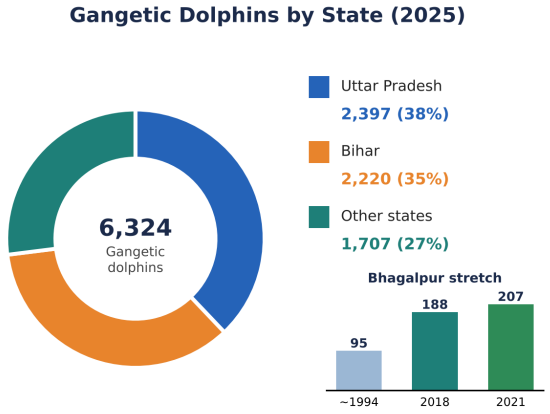
Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II: Bihar economy — infrastructure & connectivity | Prelims: Ganga bridges of Bihar
Context	The **Mahananda Express** became the first train on the new **double-line bridge** beside the old **Rajendra Setu** at **Mokama** on **6 Oct 2026**, after the Commissioner of Railway Safety cleared it on **3–4 Oct**.
Key Facts	■ Cost about **₹2,400 crore**; bridge **~1.86 km**, whole project **~14 km** with linking tracks. ■ Section **Rajendra Pul–Hathidah–Rampur Dumra**; links **Mokama–Barauni** with the **Howrah–Delhi main line**. ■ Design speed **140 km/h** vs **40–50 km/h** on single-line Rajendra Setu. ■ Sanctioned in **Rail Budget 2015–16**; work began **March 2016**; built by **IRCON** with **Afcons** as EPC contractor.
Way Fwd	Use the extra capacity for more freight and passenger trains between **north Bihar** and **Patna/Howrah**; keep Rajendra Setu for slower local trains.
Concept	**Rajendra Setu (1959)** = first rail-cum-road bridge on the Ganga in Bihar. Other Ganga bridges: **Mahatma Gandhi Setu** (Patna–Hajipur), **Digha–Sonepur** rail-road bridge, **Vikramshila Setu** (Bhagalpur). Railways = **Union List**.



Gangetic dolphins near Bhagalpur double in 27 years; fishing nets still the top threat

[BIHAR] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Geography & Environment)**

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: biodiversity, protected areas of Bihar | Mains GS-II: Bihar geography — rivers & ecology
Context	A forest-department assessment shows the dolphin count in the **Bhagalpur** stretch of the Ganga rose from about **95 to nearly 200** over **27 years**. A fresh survey done in **Jan–Feb 2026** is awaited.
Key Facts	■ Counts: **188 (2018) → 207 (2021)**; habitat = **Sultanganj–Kahalgaon** stretch. ■ India's 2025 estimate: **6,327** river dolphins in **28 rivers**; **UP 2,397**, **Bihar 2,220**. ■ Threats: **fishing nets**, barrages, low flow, **siltation**, boat traffic, **dolphin-oil bait**; few calves seen. ■ Plan: **interpretation centre**, watchtower and boating at **Sultanganj**; **Dolphin Mitras** help in rescue.
Way Fwd	Ban harmful nets in the sanctuary stretch, keep enough river flow, and link dolphin tourism to local fishing families' income.
Concept	**National Aquatic Animal (2009)**; **IUCN: Endangered**; **Schedule I**, WPA 1972; nearly blind, uses **echolocation**. **Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (1991)** = India's only dolphin sanctuary. **National Dolphin Day: 5 Oct**.



Bhagalpur's Ghatora wetland moves toward Ramsar recognition

[BIHAR] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Geography)**

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: Ramsar sites, wetlands of Bihar | Mains GS-II: Bihar geography & environment
Context	The **Bhagalpur** district administration has told officials to quickly prepare a proposal to list **Ghatora wetland** in **Bihpur block** as a **Ramsar site**, and to notify at least one wetland under the **Wetlands Rules, 2017**.
Key Facts	■ Ghatora lies in **Bihpur block**, on the **north bank** of the Ganga in Bhagalpur district. ■ A Ramsar listing needs a **state proposal** routed through the **Union Environment Ministry**. ■ Bihar's Ramsar sites: **Kanwar Jheel** (Begusarai), **Nagi** & **Nakti** (Jamui), **Gokul Jalashay** (Buxar), **Udaipur Jheel** (W. Champaran). ■ Notification under the **2017 Rules** bars **encroachment** and **waste dumping** in the wetland.
Way Fwd	Map the wetland boundary, settle land claims and involve fishing and farming communities before the proposal goes to the Centre.
Concept	**Ramsar Convention**: signed **1971** at Ramsar (Iran), in force **1975**; India joined in **1982** (first sites **Chilika** & **Keoladeo**). **Montreux Record**: **Keoladeo** (1990) & **Loktak** (1993). **World Wetlands Day: 2 Feb**.

CM in Rohtas: ₹400-crore projects; Sone water for Sasaram & Aurangabad by March 2027

[BIHAR] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy & Governance)**

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II: Bihar economy — urban water supply, development | Prelims: Bihar rivers & districts
Context	CM **Samrat Choudhary** opened and laid stones for projects worth over **₹400 crore** in **Rohtas** on **6 Oct**, and said **Sasaram** and **Aurangabad** will get **Sone river** water before **March 2027**.
Key Facts	■ Event at **Karup panchayat, Shiv Sagar block**, Rohtas. ■ A new **township**, named after the district, is planned in Rohtas. ■ Opened an **astronomy lab** at the new **PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya**. ■ **Sasaram** = Rohtas HQ (west of the Sone); **Aurangabad** lies on the **east bank**.
Way Fwd	Finish pipelines on schedule and set aside funds for water-quality testing and upkeep so the supply lasts.
Concept	**Sone** rises at **Amarkantak** (MP) and joins the Ganga near **Patna**; **Indrapuri barrage** at Dehri-on-Sone. **Sasaram** has the tomb of **Sher Shah Suri**. Link: **Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal** under **Saat Nishchay**.

Opposition marches to Lok Bhavan, Patna, over voter-roll revision (SIR)

[BIHAR] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Indian Polity)**

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II: Indian polity — Election Commission, Governor | Prelims: Art. 324, 326
Context	INDIA bloc parties led by LoP **Tejashwi Yadav** marched to **Lok Bhavan** (Governor's house) in Patna on **8 Oct** with a memorandum against the **CEC** over the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of voter rolls; leaders were detained. Block-level marches were held on **7 Oct**.
Key Facts	■ Demand: removal of **CEC Gyanesh Kumar**; opposition alleges lakhs of names were deleted in the SIR. ■ **SIR** = door-to-door re-check of voter rolls by the **ECI**; first done in **Bihar in 2025**. ■ Bihar Governor: **Syed Ata Hasnain**; Raj Bhavans were renamed **Lok Bhavan** in 2025. ■ CEC can be removed only like an **SC judge** — **Art. 324(5)**. ■ Appointment: **CEC & ECs Act, 2023** — panel of **PM, LoP & a Union Minister**.
Way Fwd	Publishing deletion lists, giving enough time for claims and objections, and open hearings can build trust in the rolls.
Concept	**Art. 324** = ECI's superintendence of elections; **Art. 326** = adult suffrage (18 yrs via **61st Amendment, 1988**). Rolls prepared under the **RP Act, 1950**. Key cases: **T.N. Seshan (1995)**, **Anoop Baranwal (2023)**.

SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY Bihar economy & energy

1 lakh tonnes / year

Bihar Green Hydrogen Policy 2026 — production target by 2031

Draft policy cleared by the **state Cabinet** (reported **1 Oct**): expected **₹16,000 crore** investment, **~12,000 jobs**, **1 GW** electrolyser manufacturing and **2.5 GW** linked renewable capacity; nodal agency **BREDA**; aligned with the **National Green Hydrogen Mission (2023)**.

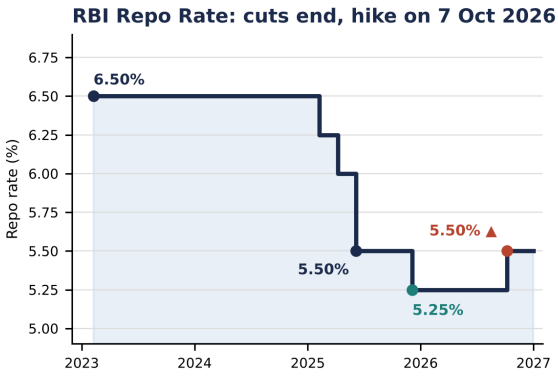


SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD Economy, IR, polity, defence

RBI raises repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50%; stance turns 'calibrated tightening'

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

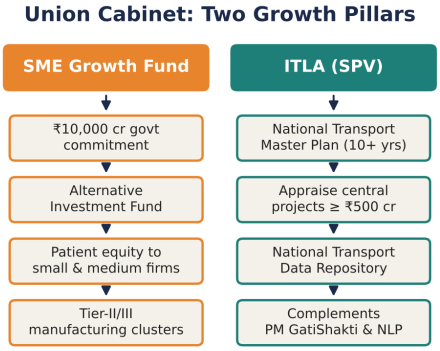
Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II: Indian economy — monetary policy, inflation | Prelims: repo, SDF, MSF, MPC
Context	On **7 Oct 2026**, the **MPC** under Governor **Sanjay Malhotra** raised the repo rate to **5.50%** — the **first hike since Feb 2023** — as crude prices jumped after the **West Asia** flare-up.
Key Facts	■ **SDF 5.25%** (floor); **MSF & Bank Rate 5.75%** (ceiling). ■ Rate vote **6–0**; stance change passed **4–2**. ■ FY27 projections: **CPI 5.2%** (from 5.0%), **GDP 7.1%**; Q1 FY27 growth was **7.8%**. ■ August CPI **4.82%** — above the **4%** target for a third month; Indian crude basket **$114–116/bbl** in Sept. ■ Floating loans linked to **EBLR** will see higher EMIs.
Way Fwd	Fiscal steps such as fuel-tax relief can share the burden; RBI must balance price stability with growth and keep liquidity steady.
Concept	**MPC**: 6 members under **Sec 45ZB, RBI Act** (Finance Act 2016); Governor has a **casting vote**. **Flexible inflation targeting**: **4% ± 2%** CPI. **Repo** = rate at which RBI lends to banks against govt securities.



Union Cabinet clears ₹10,000-cr SME Growth Fund and Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority

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

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II: Indian economy — MSMEs, infrastructure, logistics | Prelims: MSME definitions, PM GatiShakti
Context	The Union Cabinet approved a **₹10,000 crore** commitment to an **SME Growth Fund (SGF)**, announced in **Budget 2026-27**, and set up the **ITLA** as an apex planning body for all transport modes.
Key Facts	■ SGF gives **patient equity capital** through an **Alternative Investment Fund**; focus on small & medium **manufacturers**, incl. **Tier-II/III** clusters. ■ Limits: **small** = investment ≤ **₹25 cr**, turnover ≤ **₹100 cr**; **medium** = ≤ **₹125 cr** / ≤ **₹500 cr**. ■ ITLA (an **SPV**) will draft a **National Transport Master Plan** (**10+ years**) and appraise central projects of **₹500 cr+**. ■ It will build a **National Transport Data Repository** (e-way bill, FASTag, Vahan, GPS). ■ Logistics cost **7.8–8.9% of GDP** (2021-22); India **38th of 139** in LPI 2023.
Way Fwd	A clear role split between ITLA and the **GatiShakti Network Planning Group** will avoid overlap; states like **Bihar** should align their logistics plans.
Concept	**PM GatiShakti** (Oct 2021) = multimodal national master plan; **National Logistics Policy** (Sept 2022) targets a **top-25 LPI** rank by 2030. MSMEs defined under the **MSMED Act, 2006**.



India joins 15-economy call against global 'structural excess capacity'

[IR] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (International Relations & Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II: India & world economy, trade | Prelims: G20, OECD, international groupings
Context	After the **G20 Trade Ministers' meeting** at **Milwaukee (USA)** on **30 Sept–1 Oct**, India signed a joint statement with **14 other economies** urging an end to **non-market policies** that create **structural excess capacity**.

Key Facts	■ Signatories (15): **Argentina, Australia, Canada, EU, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Poland, Türkiye, UK, USA**. ■ Sectors flagged: **autos & EVs, batteries, chemicals, foundational semiconductors, solar panels**. ■ Warns of dependence on **one country** and risk of **economic coercion** such as export curbs. ■ New **sectoral platforms**; technical meetings before **Dec 2026** alongside the **OECD Trade Committee**.
Way Fwd	India can use this platform to shield its **PLI**-backed solar and battery makers while keeping supply chains open.
Concept	**Dumping** = export below normal value; countered by **anti-dumping duty** (**Art. VI, GATT**). India's trade-remedy body: **DGTR**. **G20** formed in **1999**; India hosted the **2023 New Delhi summit**.

Three new Supreme Court judges take oath; working strength now 37 of 38

[POLITY] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Indian Polity)**

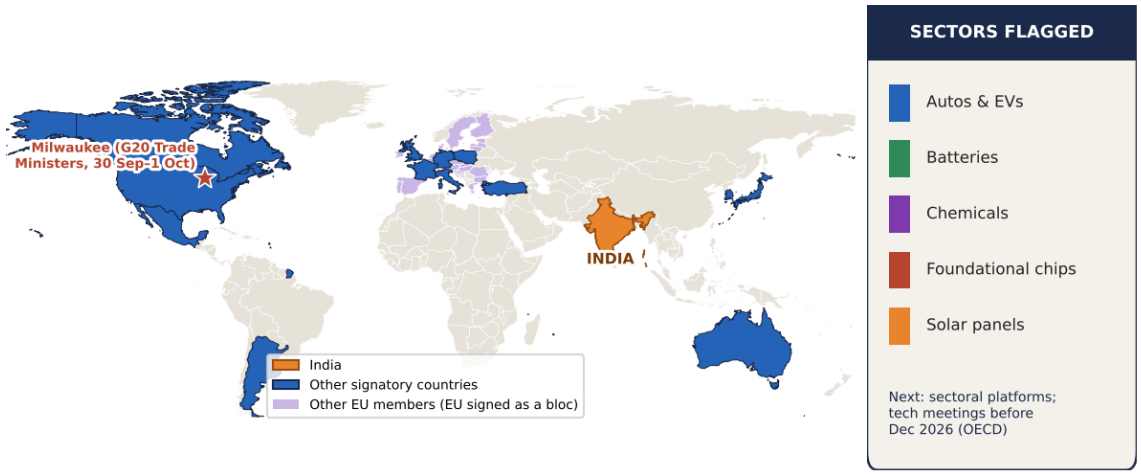
Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II: Indian polity — judiciary | Prelims: Art. 124, collegium system
Context	CJI **Surya Kant** gave the oath to Justices **Sunita Agarwal**, **Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya** and **Aparesh Kumar Singh** on **6 Oct 2026**; the Collegium had recommended them on **28 Sept**.
Key Facts	■ They were Chief Justices of the **Gujarat**, **Delhi** and **Telangana** High Courts respectively. ■ Working strength up from **34 to 37**; sanctioned strength **38** (incl. CJI) after a 2026 increase. ■ The SC now has **3 women judges**. ■ Eligibility: HC judge for **5 yrs**, or HC advocate for **10 yrs**, or a **distinguished jurist**.
Way Fwd	Quick filling of vacancies and a finalised **Memorandum of Procedure** will help cut case pendency.
Concept	**Art. 124** = SC and appointment of judges; **Art. 127** ad hoc judges; **Art. 128** retired judges. Parliament fixes strength by the **SC (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**. Collegium from the **Second Judges Case (1993)**.

'Surya', India's first indigenous Fleet Support Ship, launched at Visakhapatnam

[DEFENCE] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Science & Technology)**

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II: role of S&T — defence indigenisation | Prelims: Navy ships, shipyards
Context	Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched **FSS-1 'Surya'** at **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL)**, **Visakhapatnam**, and laid the keel of **FSS-5**.
Key Facts	■ FSS = **at-sea replenishment** (fuel, water, stores); extends Navy reach in the **Indian Ocean Region**. ■ Designed & built **indigenously** by **HSL** (Miniratna Category-I, 2025). ■ Also opened upgraded **Slipway-4** and a **300-tonne Goliath crane** (Make in India). ■ Free India's first ship, **'Jala Usha'**, was launched at Visakhapatnam in **1948**.
Way Fwd	Timely delivery of all five ships and a deeper local supplier base will strengthen **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in shipbuilding.
Concept	A **blue-water navy** needs logistic support ships to stay at sea. Related: **Maritime India Vision 2030**, **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**, Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy.

Joint Statement on Structural Excess Capacity — 15 Signatories



SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE Bihar + National quick facts

1. **Chemistry Nobel 2026**: **Henri Kagan** (France) & **Kenso Soai** (Japan) — non-linear effects & **asymmetric autocatalysis**.	**4.** **Asian Games 2026** (Aichi-Nagoya): India **4th** with **85 medals** (**21 gold**); **Doha** hosts **2030**.
2. **IMC 2026** (10th edition) opened by PM on **8 Oct** at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi**; theme **'Scale Without Boundaries'**.	**5.** **57th GST Council** met on **8 Oct**; agenda: faster refunds, arrest powers (**Sec 69, CGST Act**); Council under **Art. 279A**.
3. **Mountain Guardian 2026**: India–UAE army exercise, **5–18 Oct**, **Chaubatia (Uttarakhand)**.	**6.** **Bihar**: Gandak peak **5.435 lakh cusecs** at **Valmikinagar**; all-time record **5.625 lakh cusecs** (**28 Sept 2024**).

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER BPSC-pattern MCQs + Mains question

Q1. Consider the following statements about the RBI monetary policy of 7 October 2026: 1. The repo rate was raised to 5.50%. 2. The Standing Deposit Facility rate forms the ceiling of the policy corridor. 3. The Monetary Policy Committee is constituted under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act, 1934. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only (B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (B) Repo is **5.50%** and the MPC is under **Sec 45ZB**. The **SDF (5.25%)** is the **floor**; the **MSF (5.75%)** is the ceiling, so statement 2 is wrong.

Q2. Which one of the following pairs (barrage/gauge site — river) is correctly matched?

(A) Valmikinagar — Kosi (B) Birpur — Gandak
(C) Indrapuri — Sone (D) Sultanganj — Bagmati

Answer: (C) **Indrapuri barrage** is on the **Sone** (Rohtas). **Valmikinagar** = **Gandak**; **Birpur** = **Kosi**; **Sultanganj** = **Ganga**.

MAINS PRACTICE: Recurring Gandak and Kosi floods show the limits of an embankment-centred approach in north Bihar. Discuss with reference to the 2026 floods and suggest an integrated flood-management strategy for the state. (BPSC Mains GS-II, 38 marks)

Hint: Intro with 2026 data (**6 districts**, **~10 lakh** hit, **5.435 lakh cusecs** at Valmikinagar, record at **Bagaha**). Body: causes (Nepal catchment rain, **siltation**, embankment breaches), effects (waterlogging, erosion, displacement); solutions — **Indo-Nepal** data sharing, **Kosi–Mechi link**, floodplain zoning, early warning, **SDRF** and community kitchens. Conclude with 'living with floods'.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Gandak record surge floods **6 north-Bihar districts**, **Mokama** gets a **3-line** Ganga rail crossing, **RBI** lifts repo to **5.50%**, and India joins a **15-economy** push against **excess capacity**.

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