CURRENT AFFAIRS — 16 October 2026

Friday, 16 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Bihar + National • BPSC Prelims & Mains digest

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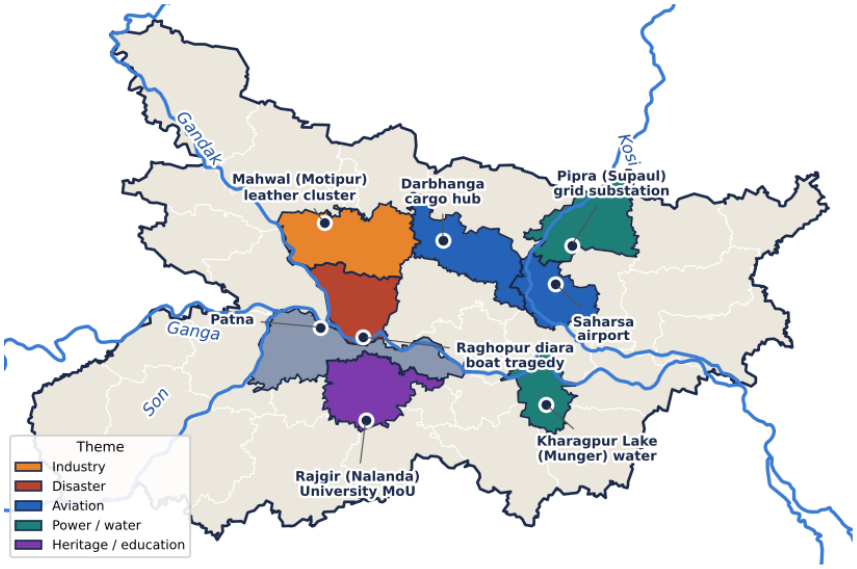
TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Muzaffarpur**: **₹140.95 cr** Mega Leather & Footwear Cluster opened at **Mahwal (Motipur)**.
- Bihar targets **1,000 MW** data-centre capacity by **2030**; jobs for **12 lakh** migrants.
- **Rabi Mahaabhiyan-2026**: **40** awareness vehicles flagged off from Patna.
- **Raghopur (Vaishali)** boat capsize: **13 children** dead; CO, SHO salaries withheld.
- **Saharsa** airport: **₹42.52 cr** AAI tender for new **1,000 m** runway & terminal.
- Ordinance planned to restart **dakhil-kharij** (mutation) of **flats** in Bihar.
- **Nalanda University** signs MoU with Paraguay's **National University of Asunción**.
- **Bihar MLC** polls for **8** graduates'/teachers' seats on **23 Oct**.
- September inflation: **WPI 11.39%**, **CPI 5.54%** (food **7.74%**).
- Exports **+23%** to **$44.4 bn**; NSAP → **PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana**.

SECTION A — BIHAR SPECIAL: Schemes • Policy • Administration • State Economy

BIHAR IN THE NEWS — 16 October 2026

District-wise locations of today's state stories (rivers: Ganga, Gandak, Kosi, Son)



KEY NUMBERS

₹140.95 cr
Mahwal leather cluster

13
children lost, Raghopur

₹6 lakh
ex-gratia + PMNRF per child

₹42.52 cr
Saharsa runway & terminal

₹225.91 cr
Darbhanga cargo-hub land

₹575.36 cr
Pipra (Supaul) substation

22 MLD
Munger water (Kharagpur Lake)

Muzaffarpur gets ₹140.95 cr Mega Leather Cluster; Bihar eyes 1,000 MW data centres by 2030

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy — industrialisation, MSMEs, migration & employment. **Prelims**: industrial areas of Bihar, cluster development.
Context	On **15 October 2026**, CM **Samrat Choudhary** inaugurated a **₹140.95 crore** Mega Leather, Footwear & Accessories Cluster with a **Common Facility Centre** at **Mahwal Industrial Area, Motipur (Muzaffarpur)**, linking it to a goal of ending distress migration by **2030**.
Key Facts	■ About **12 lakh** people of Bihar still migrate for wage work; target — jobs within the state **before 2030**. ■ MoU between Bihar **Industries Department** and **FDDI** (Footwear Design & Development Institute); sheds and land-allotment letters handed over. ■ Target **1,000 MW** data-centre capacity by **2030** (projected investment ~**₹10 lakh crore**); a **12 MW** data centre is already running in **Patna**. ■ ~**10,000 MW** power for industry in 5 years; voluntary land-givers to get **10%** above the prescribed rate. ■ Integrated Manufacturing Cluster under way at **Gaya**; similar clusters proposed for **Muzaffarpur** and **Darbhanga**.
Way Fwd	FDDI-led skilling, assured power and fast plot allotment must turn sheds into running units; track jobs created against the 2030 migration goal.
Concept	**Industrial cluster** — co-located firms sharing common facilities (design, testing, effluent treatment) to cut costs. **FDDI** works under the Union **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**. Leather is **labour-intensive** — ideal for absorbing surplus farm labour.

Bihar's Industrial Push — Key Numbers

Mahwal cluster inauguration, Muzaffarpur • 15 Oct 2026

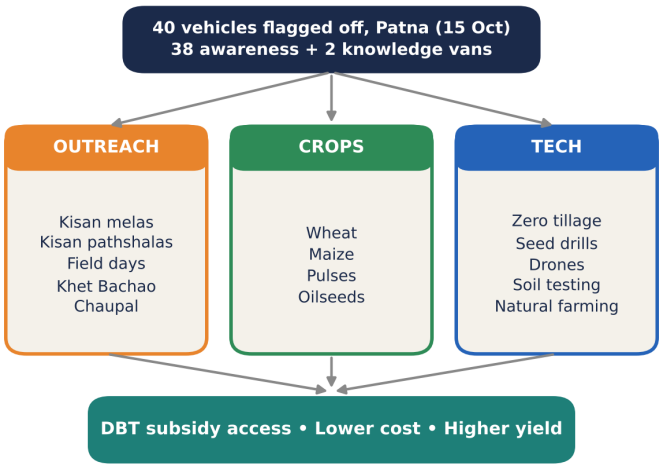
₹140.95 cr Leather & footwear cluster + CFC	**12 lakh** Wage migrants to absorb by 2030	**1,000 MW** Data-centre target by 2030
₹10 lakh cr Projected data-centre investment	**10,000 MW** Power for industry in 5 years	**+10%** Extra rate for voluntary land

Rabi Mahaabhiyan-2026 launched: 40 vehicles to take modern farming to villages

BIHAR BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Agriculture)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy — agriculture, cropping pattern, farm extension. **Prelims**: rabi crops, zero tillage, Krishi Road Map.
Context	On **15 October 2026**, CM Samrat Choudhary flagged off **40 vehicles** (**38** farmer-awareness + **2** knowledge vehicles) from the CM Secretariat, Patna, launching **Rabi Mahaabhiyan-2026** to make winter-crop farming scientific and profitable.
Key Facts	■ Focus crops: **wheat, maize, pulses and oilseeds**. ■ Themes: seed selection, **soil testing**, **zero tillage**, seed drills, **drones**, organic & natural farming. ■ Farmers told about **DBT** subsidies, block-level subsidised inputs and crop demonstrations. ■ Outreach via **Kisan melas**, **Kisan pathshalas**, field days and **Kisan Jan Kalyan Chaupal-cum-Khet Bachao Abhiyan-2026**. ■ Present: Dy CM **Vijay Kumar Choudhary** and Agriculture Minister **Vijay Kumar Sinha**.
Way Fwd	Timely seed and fertiliser supply plus soil-health-card advice can lift yields; zero tillage after paddy saves cost and ensures timely wheat sowing.
Concept	**Rabi** crops are sown **Oct–Dec** and harvested **Mar–Apr** (wheat, gram, lentil, mustard). **Zero tillage** = sowing wheat directly into paddy stubble with a seed drill, saving water and fuel. Bihar's **rabi maize** belt lies in **Kosi–Seemanchal**.

Rabi Mahaabhiyan-2026 — How It Works



Raghopur boat tragedy: 13 children dead; Vaishali administration acts against officials

BIHAR BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Disaster Management)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar geography & disaster management — riverine (diara) areas, boat safety, relief norms. **Prelims**: SDRF, Bihar's rivers.
Context	A private boat capsized around **8:30 pm on 13 October** in the **Raghopur** area of **Vaishali**, killing **13 children** (9 girls, 4 boys); 6 were rescued. On **16 October** the administration **withheld salaries** of the Raghopur **CO** and **SHO** and deputed the CO to the grievance cell.
Key Facts	■ **SDRF** joined search and rescue; the injured were taken to **NMCH, Patna**; night plying of a private boat questioned. ■ Relief per deceased child: **₹4 lakh** ex-gratia (disaster relief norms) + **₹2 lakh** from **PMNRF**. ■ Also **₹20,000** under **Mukhyamantri Parivarik Labh Yojana** and **₹3,000** under **Kabir Antyeshti Yojana**. ■ Injured under treatment: **₹50,000** each from PMNRF. ■ **Raghopur** is a large **diara** (riverine island) of the **Ganga** opposite Patna, heavily dependent on boats.
Way Fwd	Mandatory boat registration, life-jackets, a ban on overloaded and night trips, and faster all-weather links to diara areas.
Concept	**Disaster Management Act, 2005** → NDMA / SDMA / DDMA. **SDRF** = State Disaster Response **Force** (rescue unit) and also State Disaster Response **Fund** (relief money). **Diara** = flood-prone alluvial land within river channels of the Ganga and Kosi.

Saharsa airport to get new runway and terminal under ₹42.52 cr AAI plan

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy — infrastructure & regional connectivity. **Prelims**: airports of Bihar, UDAN, AAI.
Context	The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** has floated a **₹42.52 crore** tender for a new runway and terminal at **Saharsa** in the **Kosi** region; technical bids open on **28 October 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Runway **1,000 m × 30 m**; runway strip **1,120 m**; safety areas (RESA) at both ends. ■ Two-floor terminal of **1,580 sq m**, ATC tower, fire station; fit for **Code 2B** small aircraft (two at a time). ■ Airport has ~**60 acres**, needs **15** more — state to give ~**12 acres** and bear ~**₹147 crore** land cost. ■ Completion window: **450 days**, including two monsoon months. ■ Bihar cabinet (**12 Oct**) cleared **₹225.91 crore** to acquire ~**50 acres** for a **logistics park & cargo hub** at **Darbhanga** airport.
Way Fwd	Pair small-airport upgrades with UDAN route support so that Kosi–Mithila travellers get scheduled flights, not just new buildings.
Concept	**UDAN** (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik, **2016**) — Regional Connectivity Scheme with **viability gap funding**. **AAI** is a statutory body under the **AAI Act, 1994**. Operational airports of Bihar: **Patna, Gaya, Darbhanga, Purnea**.

Ordinance planned to restart dakhil-kharij (mutation) of flats in Bihar

POLITY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Polity & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Indian polity — Governor's ordinance power; Bihar land administration & e-governance. **Prelims**: Article 213, mutation, jamabandi.
Context	The **Revenue & Land Reforms Department** plans an **ordinance** to restart **dakhil-kharij** (mutation) for apartment flats, stalled since **April 2025**; new software is ready and **Law Department** approval is awaited, with rollout targeted for **next month**.
Key Facts	■ The **Bihar Land Mutation Act, 2011** and its **2012 Rules** lack a clear provision to mutate a flat owner's land share. ■ A buyer owns a **proportionate (undivided) share** of land that cannot be demarcated like a plot. ■ In **April 2025**, mutation, record transfer and **jamabandi** entries for flat owners were halted. ■ A separate online facility (apart from the **Bihar Bhumi** portal) is planned; a Bill will follow in the **winter session**.
Way Fwd	Clear statutory rules plus online mutation will cut circle-office visits and litigation; link the system with RERA and registration data.
Concept	**Article 213** — the Governor may promulgate an ordinance when the Legislature is **not in session**; it must be laid before the House and lapses **six weeks** after it reassembles. **Mutation** updates the revenue record (jamabandi) — it does **not** by itself confer title.

Nalanda University signs MoU with Paraguay's National University of Asunción

BIHAR BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Culture & Heritage)

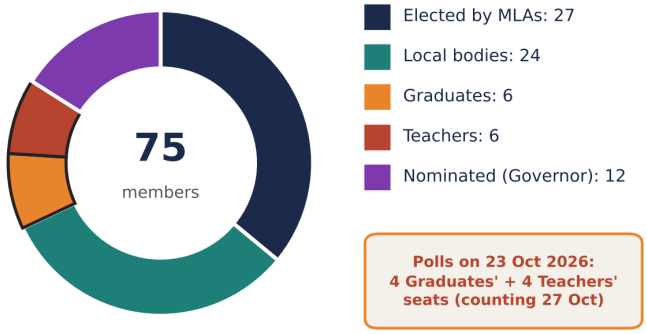
Syllabus Linkage	**GS-I**: Indian culture with Bihar's role — Nalanda's legacy. **GS-II**: India's soft power. **Prelims**: Nalanda Mahavihara, UNESCO sites of Bihar.
Context	On **15 October 2026**, **Nalanda University (Rajgir)** signed a virtual MoU with the **National University of Asunción (UNA)**, Paraguay's oldest and largest public university, in the **65th year** of India–Paraguay diplomatic ties.
Key Facts	■ Signed by VC Prof. **Sachin Chaturvedi** and UNA Rector Prof. **Zully Concepción Vera de Molinas**; Ambassador **Piyush Singh** present. ■ Covers **joint research**, faculty/student exchange, conferences and joint publications. ■ Priority areas: **languages & cultural studies**, **sustainability & climate change**, **trade & development cooperation**.
Way Fwd	Use Nalanda's revival brand for Latin-American outreach — combine soft power with research funding and student mobility.
Concept	Ancient **Nalanda Mahavihara** was founded under **Kumaragupta I** (Gupta dynasty, **5th c. CE**); UNESCO World Heritage Site since **2016**. The new university was set up under the **Nalanda University Act, 2010**; its Rajgir campus was inaugurated in **June 2024**.

Bihar MLC biennial polls on 23 October for 8 graduates' and teachers' seats

POLITY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Polity)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Indian polity — State Legislature, Legislative Council (Art. 169, 171). **Prelims**: composition of Bihar Vidhan Parishad.
Context	Biennial elections to **8 seats** of the **Bihar Legislative Council** — **4 Graduates'** and **4 Teachers'** constituencies — will be held on **23 October 2026**, with counting on **27 October**; parties held strategy meetings in Patna on **16 October**.
Key Facts	■ Graduates': **Patna, Darbhanga, Tirhut, Kosi**; Teachers': **Patna, Darbhanga, Tirhut, Saran**. ■ Terms of sitting members end on **16 November 2026**. ■ Schedule: notification **29 Sep**, nominations closed **6 Oct**, withdrawal **9 Oct**. ■ Same round covers **Karnataka (4)**, **Maharashtra (5)** and **UP (11)** — **28 seats** in all.
Way Fwd	Wider enrolment of eligible graduates and teachers and clean voter rolls will make these special constituencies truly representative.
Concept	**Article 171**: **1/3** elected by MLAs, **1/3** by local bodies, **1/12** by graduates (3 yrs standing), **1/12** by teachers (3 yrs, secondary level+), **1/6** nominated by the Governor. Bihar Council: **75** members; a permanent House — **1/3** retire every **2 years**.

Bihar Vidhan Parishad — Composition (Art. 171)



SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

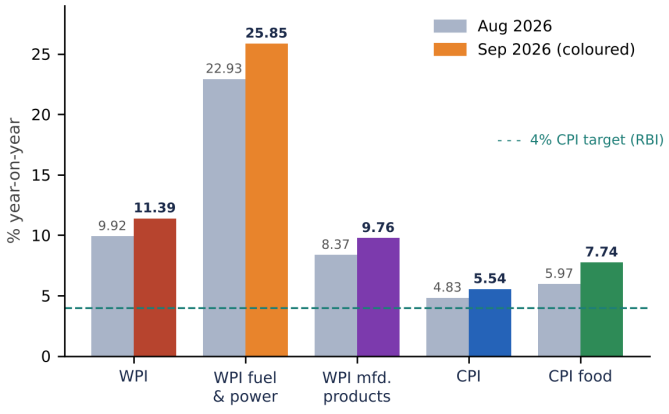
WPI INFLATION, SEPTEMBER 2026

11.39%

Wholesale inflation rose from **9.92%** in August, led by **fuel & power (25.85%)**; retail **CPI** rose to **5.54%** (food **7.74%**, rural **6.08%**). The **RBI** raised the **repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50%** on **7 October** — its first hike since **February 2023**.

Exam angle: WPI is compiled by the **Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT** (base **2022-23**); CPI by **NSO, MoSPI** (base **2024**). RBI targets **CPI 4% ± 2%** under flexible inflation targeting.

Inflation Climbs: August vs September 2026



SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD: Polity • Economy • Environment • Defence

Exports jump 23% to $44.4 bn in September; trade deficit narrows to $30.21 bn

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Indian economy — foreign trade, balance of payments. **Prelims**: trade deficit, CAD, export promotion.
Context	Data released on **15 October 2026** show merchandise exports rose **23%** year-on-year to **$44.4 billion** in September; imports grew **8%** to **$74.61 billion**, narrowing the trade deficit to **$30.21 billion**.
Key Facts	■ Deficit narrowed by **$2.79 bn** from ~**$33 bn** in September 2025. ■ Drivers: **electronics +70.4%** ($5.3 bn), **petroleum products +31.9%** ($6.2 bn), **chemicals +24.2%** ($3 bn). ■ **April–September 2026**: exports **$259.89 bn** (+18.51%), imports **$437.53 bn** (+16.31%). ■ India–US trade deal: first tranche called **'finalised'**; legal vetting still pending.
Way Fwd	Sustain electronics momentum through PLI and market diversification; high crude prices keep the import bill a risk to the CAD.

Concept	**Trade deficit** = merchandise imports − exports. With services trade and remittances it shapes the **Current Account Deficit (CAD)**. Monthly trade data are released by the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** around the **15th**.



NSAP extended till 2030-31 and renamed Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana

SOCIETY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Welfare Schemes)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Indian economy & polity — social security, DPSP, welfare of vulnerable sections. **Prelims**: NSAP components, RPwD Act.
Context	On **14 October 2026** the Union Cabinet extended the **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** for **2026-27 to 2030-31** with an outlay of **₹53,428 crore**, renaming it **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana**.
Key Facts	■ ~**3.20 crore** beneficiaries in all **36 States/UTs**; **100%** central funding (states may top up). ■ Disability pension: threshold cut from **80% to 40%**, available **from birth**; ₹300 → **₹375** (0–79 yrs), ₹500 → **₹625** (80+). ■ Renamed: IGNOAPS → **PM Vridhavastha Pension Yojana**; IGNWPS → **PM Vidhawa Pension Yojana**; IGNDPS → **PM Divyangjan Pension Yojana**. ■ NFBS → **PM Parivar Labh Yojana** (**₹20,000** one-time); old-age central rate stays **₹200** (60–79) / **₹500** (80+).
Way Fwd	Index central pension amounts to inflation (the ₹200 rate dates to 2006-07) and seamlessly merge state top-ups through DBT.
Concept	NSAP began on **15 August 1995**, flowing from **Article 41** (DPSP — public assistance in old age, sickness, disablement). The **RPwD Act, 2016** defines **40%** as 'benchmark disability'. Bihar pays its own social-security pensions on top through DBT.

Supreme Court issues notice on lifelong immunity to CEC and Election Commissioners

POLITY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Polity)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Indian polity — Election Commission, judicial review, Articles 14, 21, 324, 361. **Prelims**: CEC appointment law, 2023.
Context	A bench led by CJI **Surya Kant** issued notice to the Centre and ECI on an **ADR** petition challenging **Section 16** of the **CEC and Other ECs Act, 2023**, which bars civil or criminal proceedings for official acts — even after retirement.
Key Facts	■ Section 16 was added by amendment circulated on **11 Dec 2023** — not in the original Bill — and passed **without debate** in the Rajya Sabha. ■ Grounds: violates **Articles 14 and 21** and the **basic structure**; immunity is lifelong and not limited to good-faith acts. ■ **Article 361** protects the President and Governors from criminal proceedings **only during their term**. ■ Plea tagged with a similar pending **Lok Prahari** petition.
Way Fwd	Limit immunity to good-faith acts with a prior-sanction mechanism — protecting independence without placing commissioners beyond accountability.
Concept	**Article 324** vests superintendence of elections in the ECI. After **Anoop Baranwal (2023)**, the **2023 Act** set a selection panel of **PM, LoP and a Union Minister** (replacing the CJI). The CEC is removable only like a **Supreme Court judge**.

India to become full member of Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

ENVIRONMENT BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Environment & IR)

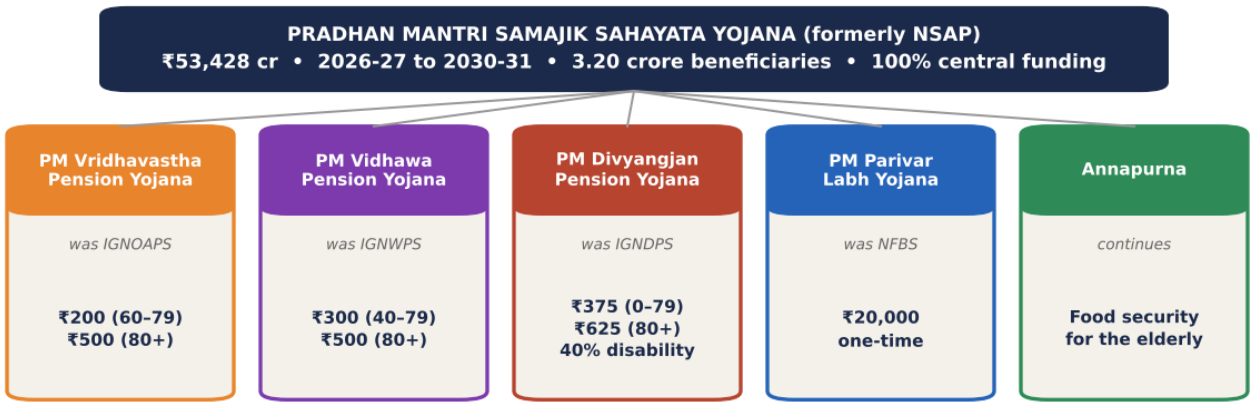
Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: India & the world — maritime cooperation; blue economy. **Prelims**: RFMOs, UNCLOS, EEZ, high seas.
Context	The Centre has approved India's accession to the **Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)**, upgrading its status from **Cooperating Non-Contracting Party** (since **2022**) to full **Contracting Party**.
Key Facts	■ SIOFA manages **non-tuna** high-seas stocks (e.g., **toothfish, alfonsino, squid**); highly migratory species are excluded. ■ Tuna is regulated by the **Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)** — India a member since **1996**. ■ India gains seats on **Scientific & Compliance Committees** and in the **High Seas Boarding and Inspection** scheme. ■ High seas cover ~**65%** of the ocean; Indian vessels mostly fish within **60–80 nautical miles**.
Way Fwd	Build a deep-sea fleet under PMMSY, train crews and curb IUU fishing so that membership translates into sustainable catch and livelihoods.
Concept	**EEZ** extends up to **200 nautical miles** (**UNCLOS 1982**); beyond lie the **high seas**. **Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)** set catch limits there. Related: the **BBNJ (High Seas) Treaty** on marine biodiversity.

Exercise INDRA 2026: India–Russia tri-service drills; naval phase in Sea of Japan

DEFENCE BPSC: Prelims (Defence & IR)

Syllabus Linkage	**Prelims**: defence exercises & partner countries. **GS-II**: India–Russia relations.
Context	India–Russia tri-service exercise **INDRA 2026** opened on **14 October** in Russia's **Far East** and **Chelyabinsk** region; the naval practical phase in the **Sea of Japan** runs on **16–17 October**.
Key Facts	■ Land phase till **23 October**; Russian core — **90th Guards Tank Division**. ■ Indian Navy frigate **INS Sahyadri** with Russian corvette **Aldar Tsydenzhapov**; maritime opening at **Vladivostok**. ■ Air crews fly **Su-30SM** fighters and **Mi-8** helicopters; drills include **counter-drone** and unmanned-boat defence.
Way Fwd	Keeps interoperability with a long-standing defence partner while India diversifies suppliers and builds indigenous capability.
Concept	**INDRA** — India–Russia exercise series since **2003**. Others: **Yudh Abhyas** (USA), **Mitra Shakti** (Sri Lanka), **Garuda Shakti** (Indonesia), **Malabar** (Quad navies).

Visual: Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana — restructured NSAP at a glance



SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **BHAVYA** (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana): **₹33,660 crore** for **100** plug-and-play industrial parks, **2026-27 to 2031-32**.	**2.** First **ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum** held at **MP-IDSA, New Delhi** on **14–15 October 2026**.
3. Bihar cabinet (**12 Oct**): **₹575.36 crore** grid substation at **Pipra (Supaul)**; **72 MLD** Ganga-based water scheme for **Mahua–Chehrakalan (Vaishali)**.	**4.** **Munger** water scheme (**₹279.51 crore**, **22 MLD**) draws on **Kharagpur Lake** for 177 wards.
5. **RBI repo rate**: **5.50%** after a **25 bps** hike on **7 October 2026**.	**6.** **Mahila Kisan Diwas** — **15 October**; women farmers honoured at **ICAR-RCER, Patna**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. (Prelims) With reference to the Bihar Legislative Council, consider the following statements: 1. It has 75 members. 2. One-twelfth of the members of a State Legislative Council are elected by teachers. 3. The Council can be dissolved by the Governor. 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) — Bihar Vidhan Parishad has **75** members and **1/12** are elected by teachers under **Article 171**. It is a **permanent House** — it cannot be dissolved; one-third of members retire every two years.

Q2. (Prelims) Consider the following pairs (place in news — district of Bihar): 1. Mahwal Industrial Area — Muzaffarpur 2. Raghopur diara — Vaishali 3. Kharagpur Lake — Munger. How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one **(b)** Only two **(c)** All three **(d)** None

Answer: (c) — All three are correct: the **₹140.95 crore** leather cluster is at **Mahwal (Motipur, Muzaffarpur)**; **Raghopur** is a Ganga **diara** in **Vaishali**; **Kharagpur Lake** (Haveli Kharagpur) is in **Munger**.

Mains Practice: Distress migration from Bihar is both an economic and a social challenge. Examine how labour-intensive industrial clusters and new-age sectors such as data centres can generate jobs within the state by 2030. (BPSC Mains GS-II, 38 marks)

Hint: Intro: ~**12 lakh** wage migrants. Body: **Mahwal leather cluster (₹140.95 cr)** with FDDI skilling; **IMC Gaya**; **1,000 MW** data-centre target; **BHAVYA** parks; challenges — power, land, skills, logistics. Conclude: cluster approach + skilling + ease of doing business.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Revise: **Mahwal (Muzaffarpur)** leather cluster **₹140.95 cr** • **Raghopur** = Ganga diara (Vaishali) • **Art. 171** MLC • **Art. 213** ordinance • **WPI 11.39%** • exports **$44.4 bn** • NSAP → **PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana**.

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