CURRENT AFFAIRS — 29 OCTOBER 2026

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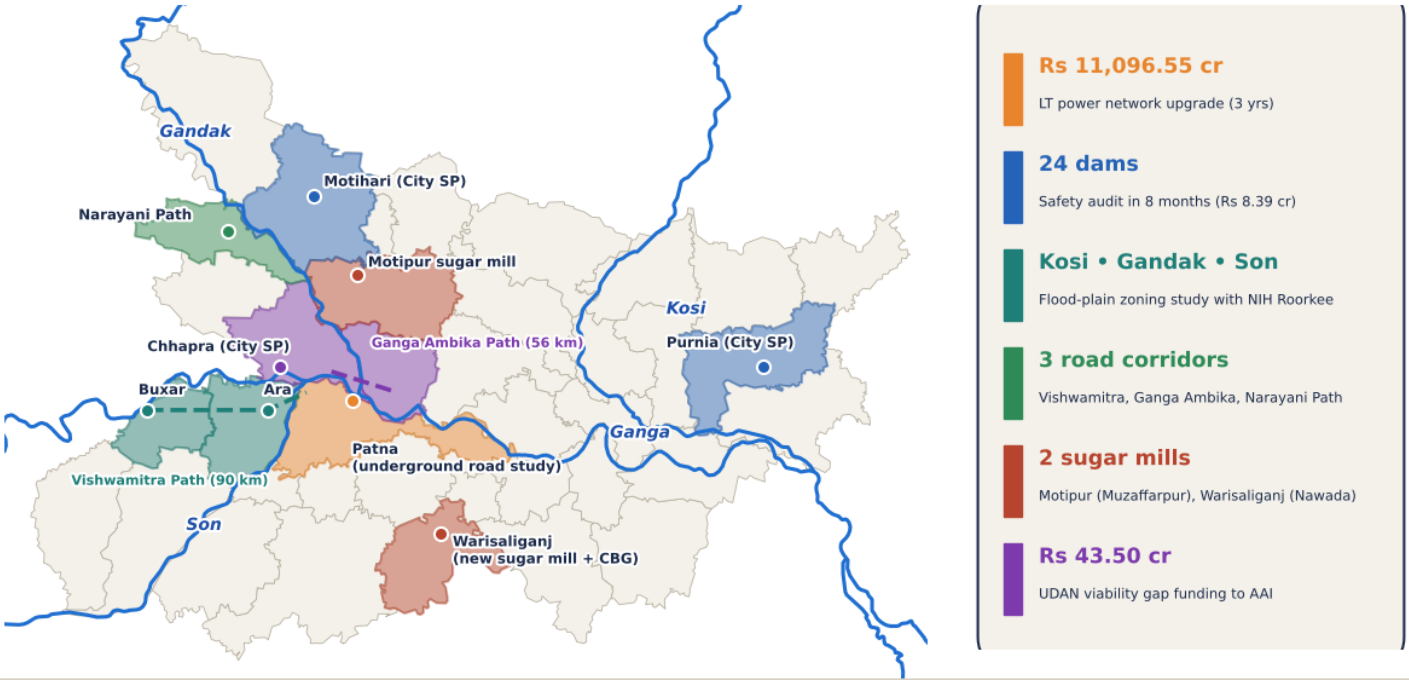
Thursday, 29 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Bihar + National • BPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Bihar Cabinet (28 Oct): **43 proposals** cleared, chaired by CM **Samrat Choudhary**.
- **Rs 11,096.55 cr** LT power upgrade: NBPDCL **Rs 6,066 cr** + SBPDCL **Rs 5,030.55 cr**.
- Bihar peak power demand: **1,802 MW (2012) → 9,475 MW**.
- Safety audit of **24 dams** under **Dam Safety Act, 2021** within **8 months**.
- Flood-plain zoning of **Kosi, Gandak, Son** with **NIH Roorkee** (Rs 1.99 cr).
- Bihar **MSME Policy 2026**: **1 crore** entrepreneurial families, **75% CD ratio** target.
- Bihar MLC polls (8 seats): **BJP 3**, JD(U) 1, RJD 1, Jan Suraaj 1, Independents 2.
- Union Cabinet: **CMPS Rs 10,000 cr** — container capacity **70,000 → 7.5 lakh TEUs**.
- Cyclone **Arnab** (VSCS) landfall near **Yanam** on 28 Oct, winds **125–135 km/h**.
- **CBD COP-17** in **Yerevan, Armenia**; India has **103 Ramsar sites**.

SECTION A • BIHAR SPECIAL — State Schemes, Policy, Administration & Economy

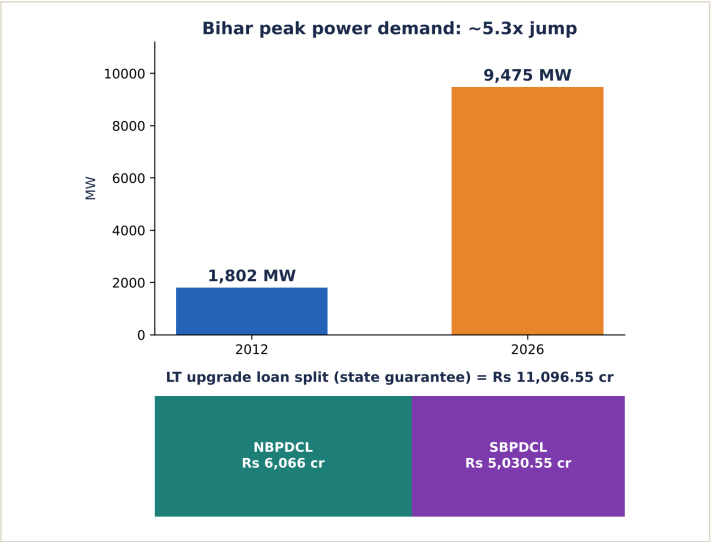
Bihar Cabinet, 28 Oct 2026 — where the key decisions land (43 approved)



Bihar Cabinet clears Rs 11,096.55-crore low-tension power network upgrade

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **Bihar economy — energy & infrastructure**; Prelims: Bihar power sector, discoms.
Context	On **28 Oct 2026** the cabinet approved a **3-year** plan to strengthen the **LT distribution network**, as overloaded cables and transformers struggle with soaring demand.
Key Facts	■ Outlay **Rs 11,096.55 crore**, phased over up to **3 years**. ■ **NBPDCL Rs 6,066 cr**; **SBPDCL Rs 5,030.55 cr** — loans with **state guarantee**. ■ Peak demand up from **1,802 MW (2012)** to **9,475 MW**. ■ Work: higher-capacity **LT aerial bundled cables** + upgrade of overloaded **distribution transformers**.
Way Fwd	Pair network upgrade with **smart metering**, loss reduction (**AT&C**) and rooftop solar to keep discoms financially viable.
Concept	**BSEB** was unbundled in **Nov 2012** into 5 companies incl. **NBPDCL & SBPDCL**. **LT** = low-tension consumer-end supply; central support via **RDSS (2021)**.



24-dam safety audit and flood-plain zoning of Kosi, Gandak and Son approved

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

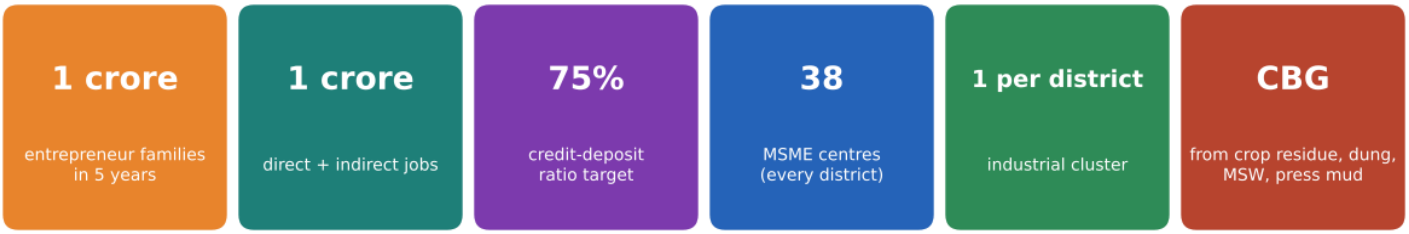
Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **Bihar geography — rivers, floods, disaster management**; Prelims: river systems of Bihar.
Context	The **Water Resources Department** will complete a statewide dam-safety assessment within **8 months** to sharpen flood preparedness before the next monsoon.
Key Facts	■ **24 dams**, **Rs 8.39 cr**, under the **Dam Safety Act, 2021**. ■ Hydrographic & **sediment surveys**, spillway checks, **dam-break analysis**, emergency plans, O&M manuals. ■ **Flood Plain Zone Delineation** study of **Kosi, Gandak, Son** with **NIH Roorkee — Rs 1.99 cr**. ■ Emergency plans to be made with **district administrations** and disaster agencies.
Way Fwd	Notify **flood-plain zoning** rules to curb construction in high-risk belts and link dam data with **early-warning** systems.
Concept	**Kosi** = 'Sorrow of Bihar' (barrage at **Bhimnagar**, Nepal); **Gandak** barrage at **Valmikinagar**; **Son** barrage at **Indrapuri**. NIH Roorkee is under **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

MSME Policy 2026 and Bio-Fuel & CBG Policy 2026 get cabinet nod; new sugar mill at Warisaliganj

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **industrial policy of Bihar, employment, agro-industry**; Prelims: state schemes & Saat Nischay-3.
Context	The **MSME Policy 2026** (issued **8 Oct**) received ex-post-facto approval with the vision **'One Crore Entrepreneurial Families'**; a new **CBG** policy turns farm and urban waste into fuel.
Key Facts	■ 5-year targets: **1 crore** entrepreneur families, **1 crore** direct + indirect jobs. ■ **75% credit-deposit ratio**, an **industrial cluster in every district**, **MSME centres in all 38 districts**. ■ **CBG** feedstock: crop residue, animal waste, **municipal solid waste**, **press mud**; tracked via **Single Window Portal**. ■ Under **Saat Nischay-3**: new mill + distillery + CBG plant at **Warisaliganj (Nawada)**; **Motipur (Muzaffarpur)** land split 115.08 / 151.58 acres.
Way Fwd	Raise Bihar's low **CD ratio** through cluster-based credit camps and link CBG plants with **SATAT** offtake to assure farmer income.
Concept	**CD ratio** = bank advances ÷ deposits in a state. **SATAT (2018)** promotes Compressed Bio-Gas; **press mud** is a sugar-mill by-product. MSMEs are defined under the **MSMED Act, 2006**.

Bihar MSME Policy 2026 + Bio-Fuel & CBG Policy 2026 — targets at a glance



Patna underground road study, three new road corridors and UDAN viability gap funding

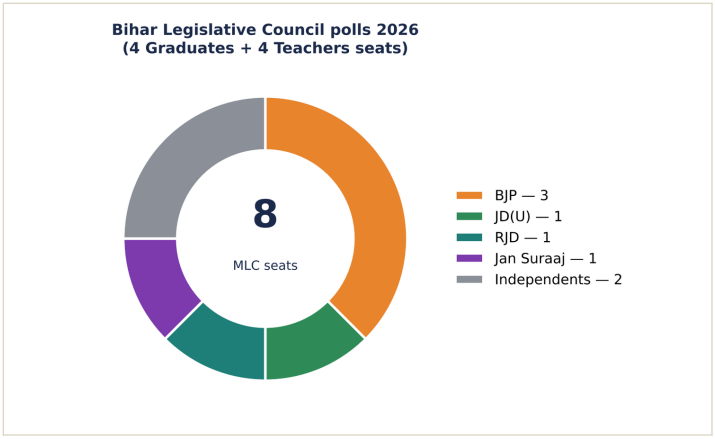
BIHAR BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Infrastructure)

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **urban transport, connectivity, regional air links**; Prelims: Bihar's roads, airports, UDAN.
Context	To decongest the capital and speed up regional links, the cabinet sanctioned feasibility work for underground roads in **Patna** and consultancy for three greenfield-style corridors.
Key Facts	■ **Rs 18.21 cr** study: **R Block–Kankarbagh**, **Dak Bungalow–Patna Women's College**. ■ **Rs 37.10 cr** consultancy: **Vishwamitra Path** (Buxar–Ara–Maner, **90 km**), **Ganga Ambika Path** (Bidupur–Dighwara, **56 km**), **Narayani Path** (Gopalganj, **73.51 km**). ■ **Rs 43.50 cr VGF** to **AAI** for **UDAN** (May 2026–Sep 2028, **Rs 1.5 cr/month**). ■ **Rs 58.80 cr** private hostel aid for **~49,000** engineering/polytechnic students (**Rs 1,000/bed**).
Way Fwd	Integrate underground roads with **Patna Metro** and the riverfront plan; adopt **transit-oriented development** to avoid new bottlenecks.
Concept	**VGF** = one-time/periodic grant bridging the gap between project cost and commercial viability. **UDAN** (RCS) was launched in **2016**; Bihar's **Darbhanga** airport is an UDAN success.

Bihar Legislative Council polls: BJP wins 3 of 8 seats, Jan Suraaj opens account

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **state legislature — Legislative Council (Art. 169, 171)**; Prelims: Bihar Vidhan Parishad.
Context	Polling for **4 Graduates' and 4 Teachers'** constituencies was held on **23 Oct**; counting on **27–28 Oct** threw up a fragmented verdict.
Key Facts	■ Tally: **BJP 3**, **JD(U) 1**, **RJD 1**, **Jan Suraaj 1**, **Independents 2** (NDA = 4). ■ **Patna Graduates**: Neeraj Kumar (JD(U)); **Kosi Graduates**: Dr N.K. Yadav (BJP), margin **10,026**. ■ **Darbhanga Teachers**: Dr Suresh Prasad Rai — first MLC for **Jan Suraaj**. ■ Turnout: **82.85%** (Teachers) vs **~53%** (Graduates).
Way Fwd	Improve graduate-voter enrolment and use Councils for **expert-led deliberation** rather than as a parking slot for politicians.
Concept	**Art. 171**: Council ≤ **1/3** of MLAs, min **40**; **1/12** graduates, **1/12** teachers, **1/3** local bodies, **1/3** MLAs, **1/6** Governor-nominated. Bihar Council has **75** seats; MLC term **6 years**.



Governor-Chancellor freezes policy decisions at six universities as VC tenures end

BIHAR **BPSC: Mains GS-II (Governance & Education)**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **role of Governor, higher education governance in Bihar**; Prelims: Bihar's universities.
Context	A letter dated **27 Oct 2026** from the Governor's Secretariat bars major decisions without the **Chancellor's approval** in the final phase of VC tenures.
Key Facts	■ Covers **LNMU & KSDSU (Darbhanga)**, **JPU (Chapra)**, **BNMU (Madhepura)**, **AKU (Patna)**, **BRABU (Muzaffarpur)**. ■ Barred: new **appointments, transfers**, policy decisions, schemes creating fresh **financial liabilities**. ■ Issued by **Additional Chief Secretary** to the Governor; copies to the **Higher Education Department**.
Way Fwd	Fix a **time-bound VC selection** calendar so that lame-duck periods do not stall academic administration.
Concept	The Governor is **Chancellor** of state universities by **state statute** (Bihar State Universities Act, **1976**), not by the Constitution — so these powers are exercised in a **statutory**, not constitutional, capacity.

SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

Bihar peak power demand (2012 → 2026)

1,802 MW → 9,475 MW (~5.3x)

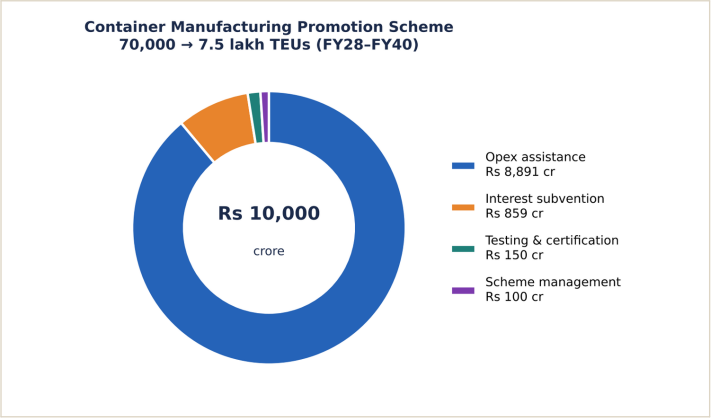
The jump explains the cabinet's **Rs 11,096.55 crore** LT network upgrade — overloaded cables and transformers are now the bottleneck, not generation alone.

SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD — Polity, Economy, Environment, IR, Sci-Tech

Union Cabinet approves Rs 10,000-crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **industrial policy, logistics, Make in India**; Prelims: TEU, maritime schemes.
Context	Cleared on **28 Oct 2026**, the **CMPS** (Budget 2026-27 announcement) aims to cut import dependence for shipping containers under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways**.
Key Facts	■ Period **FY 2027-28 to FY 2039-40** (3 yrs set-up + 10 yrs production support). ■ Capacity **~70,000 → 7.5 lakh TEUs**; domestic content **70% → 90%**. ■ Split: opex **Rs 8,891 cr**, interest subvention (**3%**) **Rs 859 cr**, testing **Rs 150 cr**, admin **Rs 100 cr**. ■ Eligibility: greenfield **≥1 lakh TEU/yr**; brownfield **≥25,000 TEU**; port land at **25%** of notified rate.
Way Fwd	Co-locate container clusters with **steel** hubs and inland waterways; Bihar can bid via **Kolkata–Haldia** linked logistics on **NW-1**.
Concept	**TEU** = Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit (standard container measure). **NW-1** (Ganga: Haldia–Prayagraj) passes through **Patna**; scheme aligns with **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.

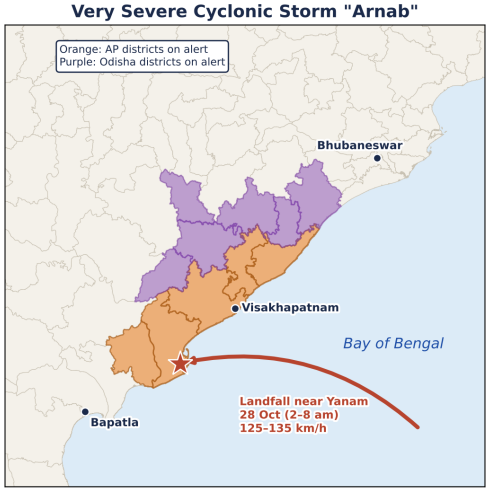


Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Arnab makes landfall near Yanam

ENVIRONMENT **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Disaster Mgmt.)**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **disaster management, role of S&T in forecasting**; Prelims: cyclone classification, naming.
Context	Arnab crossed the coast between **Bapatla and Visakhapatnam** near **Yanam** on **28 Oct** (2–8 am) after mass evacuations in **Andhra Pradesh and Odisha**.
Key Facts	■ Sustained winds **125–135 km/h**, gusts **~150 km/h**; weakened to **SCS** by 8:30 am. ■ About **4 lakh** people marked for evacuation in AP; Odisha planned **48,000**. ■ Odisha alert districts incl. **Ganjam, Gajapati, Koraput, Malkangiri**. ■ IMD forecast **heavy rain at isolated places in Bihar** on **29 Oct**.
Way Fwd	Bihar should watch post-landfall depressions — late-season rain can hit **paddy harvest** and trigger **Kosi** rises in **Supaul**.
Concept	IMD scale: **CS 62–88**, **SCS 89–117**, **VSCS 118–165**, **ESCS 166–220**, **SuCS ≥222 km/h**. Names come from the **WMO/ESCAP** list (2020); 'Arnab' was contributed by **Bangladesh**. **Yanam** belongs to **Puducherry UT**.

Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "Arnab"



India reaffirms Kunming-Montreal biodiversity commitments at CBD COP-17, Yerevan

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

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: **environment & ecology, international conventions**; GS-II: S&T and environment linkage.
Context	COP-17 runs **19–30 Oct 2026** in **Yerevan, Armenia**; Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** delivered India's statement on **27 Oct**.
Key Facts	■ India's updated **NBSAP**: **23 national targets**, **142 indicators**. ■ India now has **1,134 Protected Areas**, **103 Ramsar sites**, **57 BHS**, **18 Biosphere Reserves**. ■ Demands **predictable finance** & tech transfer; backs **Cali Fund** for DSI benefit-sharing. ■ Precautionary approach to **synthetic biology**.
Way Fwd	Bihar can add wetlands like **Kanwar Jheel**-type sites to State action plans and fund **Biodiversity Management Committees**.
Concept	**CBD** (Rio, **1992**; in force **29 Dec 1993**). **KMGBF** (COP-15, Montreal, **2022**): **23 targets**, **30x30**. Bihar's Ramsar sites: **Kanwar Jheel** (Begusarai, first), **Nagi & Nakti** (Jamui), **Gokul Jalashay** (Buxar), **Udaipur Jheel** (W. Champaran).

India's biodiversity scorecard @ CBD COP-17

1,134 Protected Areas	**103** Ramsar sites	**57** Biodiversity Heritage Sites
18 Biosphere Reserves (13 in UNESCO MAB)	**23 / 142** NBSAP targets / indicators	**30x30** KMGBF target: 30% area by 2030

India and Mexico launch Preferential Trade Agreement negotiations

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **India's external trade, trade agreements**; Prelims: PTA vs FTA, Latin America ties.
Context	Terms of Reference were signed in **Mexico City** on **26 Oct 2026**, after Mexico imposed tariffs of up to **50%** on non-FTA partners from **1 Jan 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Bilateral trade FY26 **~US$ 7.83 bn**; India's exports **US$ 5.73 bn**. ■ Auto exports to Mexico **US$ 1.92 bn**; tariffs hit **1,463** items. ■ Builds on the **Modi–Sheinbaum** understanding at the **G7, Canada (June 2025)**.
Way Fwd	Prioritise **autos, textiles, pharma** lines; a PTA can later scale into a full **CEPA**.
Concept	**PTA** cuts tariffs on a **limited list** of goods; **FTA** removes duties on **substantially all** trade; **CEPA** adds services & investment.

PM inaugurates Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2026

SCI-TECH BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Science & Tech)

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **role and impact of science & technology in India's development**; Prelims: ANRF, RDI Fund.
Context	Held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** from **27 Oct**, the PM asked researchers for **measurable, scalable outcomes within 3 years**.
Key Facts	■ **5,000+** delegates; Nobel laureates **Joachim Frank** and **Richard J. Roberts** spoke. ■ **12 priority areas** incl. quantum communication, generative AI, semiconductor fabrication. ■ Funding via **Rs 1 lakh crore RDI Fund** and **ANRF**. ■ Startups grew from **~400 (2014)** to **2.3 lakh+**; **50–60%** in Tier-2/3 cities.
Way Fwd	Bihar should tap ANRF calls via **IIT Patna, NIT Patna** and **AKU** to build state R&D capacity.
Concept	**ANRF** set up under the **ANRF Act, 2023**, replacing **SERB**; chaired by the **Prime Minister**. **RDI Fund** supports private-sector deep-tech R&D.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **Bihar State Games 2026**: **Rs 12 cr**, **~5,500** players, **24** disciplines; logistics by **Bihar Olympic Association**.
2. **143 posts** for regional **Economic Offences Unit**; new **City SP** posts at **Motihari, Purnia, Saran**.
3. Two **District Judge**-level posts for **commercial courts** in Patna (disputes **> Rs 1 crore**).
4. **INS Srishti** (Yard 1283) — **4th Next Generation OPV** — launched at **Goa Shipyard** on **27 Oct**.
5. **Earthshot Prize 2026** to be held in **Mumbai** (**16–17 Nov**) — first time in India.
6. **Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada**: **1–15 Nov 2026**, culminating on **Birsa Munda** Jayanti.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to Bihar's Cabinet decisions of 28 October 2026, consider the following statements:
1. A safety assessment of 24 dams will be carried out under the Dam Safety Act, 2021.
2. The flood-plain zoning study covers the Kosi, Gandak and Son rivers.
3. The study will be conducted with the Central Water Commission as the sole technical partner.
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) — The flood-plain zone delineation study is with the **National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee**, not the CWC; statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Q2. Under Article 171 of the Constitution, what fraction of the members of a State Legislative Council is elected by graduates of at least three years' standing residing in the State?

(A) One-third
(B) One-sixth
(C) One-twelfth
(D) One-fourth

Answer: (C) — **1/12** are elected by graduates and **1/12** by teachers; **1/3** by local bodies, **1/3** by MLAs and **1/6** nominated by the Governor.

Mains Practice: Bihar's peak power demand has grown more than five-fold since 2012. Examine the challenges in the state's power distribution sector and evaluate the significance of the Rs 11,096.55 crore LT network upgrade approved in October 2026. (BPSC Mains GS-II, ~38 marks)

Hint: Intro: **1,802 → 9,475 MW**. Body: overloaded LT lines, **AT&C losses**, discom finances, rural feeders, **RDSS** and smart meters. Significance: reliability for **MSME Policy 2026**, agriculture pumps. Conclude with solar + demand management.

ONE-LINE REVISION: **43** cabinet decisions • **Rs 11,096.55 cr** power • **24 dams** • Kosi–Gandak–Son zoning • MLC: **BJP 3/8** • **CMPS Rs 10,000 cr** • Arnab near **Yanam** • COP-17 **Yerevan**.

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