CURRENT AFFAIRS — 14 October 2026

Wednesday, 14 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Uttarakhand + National • UKPSC Prelims & Mains digest

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UTTARAKHAND PCS

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Dhal Singh Bisen** appointed **Governor of Uttarakhand**; succeeds **Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd)**.
- Cabinet (Haridwar) approves **Uttarakhand Floodplain Zoning Rules, 2026** under the **2012 Act**.
- **697.60 km** of river stretches already carry **final floodplain notifications**.
- Assembly's **3rd session of 2026** at **Bhararisain, Gairsain** from **27 October**.
- Supplementary budget of about **₹5,000 crore** for **2026-27** expected.
- Rain & hail hit **8,372.3 ha** of kharif crops; **U.S. Nagar ~7,730 ha**.
- **Haridwar Kumbh 2027** logo, website and anthem unveiled by **CM Dhami**.
- **WPI inflation 11.39%** (Sep) - fuel & power at **25.85%**; **CPI 5.54%**.
- **IMF WEO**: India's **FY27 growth raised to 7%** (+60 bps); world **3.1%**.
- **INS Mangrol** - 3rd **Mahe-class ASW-SWC** - commissioned at **Mumbai**.

SECTION A | UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL

State polity, policy, disaster & ecology, economy, culture

Dhal Singh Bisen appointed new Governor of Uttarakhand

UTTARAKHAND | UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance — Uttarakhand)

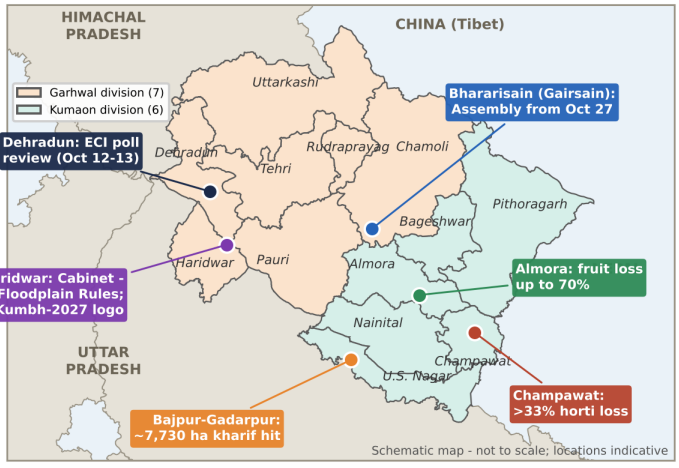
Syllabus Linkage	**Indian Polity** - State Executive (**Arts 153-162**); Uttarakhand polity & administration; Prelims: list of Governors of Uttarakhand.
Context	On **12 October 2026**, **President Droupadi Murmu** appointed **Dhal Singh Bisen**, a former **Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Minister** and ex-**BJP MP**, as **Governor of Uttarakhand** in a reshuffle covering **six States**.
Key Facts	• Succeeds **Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd)**, who took oath on **15 September 2021** and served **over five years**. • Same reshuffle: **Sudha Yadav** (Karnataka), **Braj Mohan Ram** (Odisha), **Dushyant Gautam** (Sikkim). • CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** welcomed him, citing his **long political experience**. • New Governor will summon/prorogue sessions and assent to Bills - first test: the **27 Oct Gairsain session**.
Way Fwd	Smooth **Raj Bhavan-Government** coordination on pending Bills (Fire Services, Jan Vishwas II) and the **2027 election** cycle.
Concept	**Art 155**: Governor appointed by **President** by warrant; **Art 156**: holds office during **President's pleasure**, normally **5 years**; **Art 159**: oath by **Chief Justice of the High Court** (Nainital). First Governor of Uttarakhand: **Surjit Singh Barnala (2000)**. Raj Bhavans at **Dehradun** and **Nainital**.

Cabinet clears Uttarakhand Floodplain Zoning Rules, 2026

ENVIRONMENT | UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Environment — Uttarakhand Disaster Mgmt)

Syllabus Linkage	**Disaster management** in Uttarakhand (floods, flash floods); river systems of Uttarakhand; State Acts & Bills; Prelims: rivers & basins.
Context	The Cabinet chaired by **CM Dhami** at **Haridwar** on **12 October 2026** approved the **Floodplain Zoning Rules, 2026**, operationalising the **Uttarakhand Flood Plain Zoning Act, 2012** with procedures and standards for land use in flood-prone areas.
Key Facts	• **697.60 km** of river stretches notified finally; longest: **Alaknanda (197.35 km)**, **Ganga (142 km)**, **Bhagirathi (133.35 km)**. • Studies done for **1,175.54 km** across **18 river basins**; **Sharda/Kali (244 km)** and **Nayar (180 km)** under study. • Same Cabinet: **Uttarakhand Fire & Emergency Services Bill, 2026** (on Centre's **Model Fire Service Bill, 2019**) and **Second Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Bill, 2026**. • **Agniveer** recruitment rules for **Group 'C' uniformed posts**; **92%** of asset-monetisation proceeds to the respective agencies.
Way Fwd	Enforce zoning in the **108 urban local bodies** (over **30%** are riverside); align building bye-laws and **NGT** orders (e.g., Rispana, Dehradun).
Concept	**Floodplain zoning** = regulating land use by flood frequency (zones based on **25-100 year floods**). **CWC** circulated a **Model Bill (1975)**; **NDMA** flood guidelines (2008). Recent reminders: **Kedarnath 2013**, **Dharali (Uttarkashi) flash flood 2025**.

Uttarakhand: Today's News Locations (13 districts)



ECI reviews preparedness for 2027 Uttarakhand Assembly elections

POLITY | UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	**Election Commission of India** (**Art 324**); electoral reforms; EVMs/VVPAT; Uttarakhand electoral politics.
Context	A **two-day ECI review** in **Dehradun** concluded on **13 October 2026**, led by **Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Manish Garg**, ahead of the **2027 Assembly polls**.
Key Facts	• Day 1: workshop on **First Level Checking (FLC)** of **EVMs** for DEOs and EVM nodal officers. • Day 2: **DMs/District Election Officers** and police presented plans on **force deployment** and law & order. • **21 agencies** briefed the Commission - **paramilitary forces, Excise, GST, Transport, Forest, AAI, Customs**. • ECI expressed satisfaction; officials told to follow the **prescribed election plan**.
Way Fwd	Focus on **remote polling stations**, **migrant (palayan) voters**, snow-bound areas and **expenditure monitoring**.
Concept	**Art 324**: superintendence of elections; ECI = **CEC + 2 ECs**, appointed under the **CEC & Other ECs Act, 2023**. State **CEO** acts under ECI. Fifth Assembly elected in **2022**.

Uttarakhand Floodplain Zoning: From Law to Ground (Cabinet, Haridwar, 12 Oct 2026)



Goal: protect lives, property & critical infrastructure while keeping natural flood flows free | Gap: >30% of 108 urban local bodies lie along rivers

Assembly to meet at Bhararisain (Gairsain) from 27 October; ~₹5,000 crore supplementary budget likely

UTTARAKHAND | UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	**State Legislature** (**Arts 168-212**); budgetary process (**Art 205** supplementary grants); Gairsain - summer capital; Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha.
Context	The Governor summoned the **third session of 2026** of the **Fifth Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly** (notification **13 October**) at the **Vidhan Sabha Bhavan, Bhararisain, Gairsain (Chamoli)** from **27 October, 11 am**.
Key Facts	● Supplementary budget of about **₹5,000 crore** for **2026-27** (last year: **₹5,315 crore**). ● Speaker **Ritu Khanduri Bhushan**: Secretariat ready for the Gairsain sitting. ● Likely Bills: **Fire & Emergency Services Bill**, **Jan Vishwas II**, **Uttarakhand Irrigation & Drainage Bill, 2026** (to replace the **Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873**). ● Unspent departmental funds may be **redirected** to other development schemes.
Way Fwd	Regular sittings at Gairsain can make the **summer capital** meaningful for **hill-area governance** and checking **palayan**.
Concept	**Gairsain** declared **summer capital** in **2020** (notified **8 June 2020**). **Art 174**: gap between two sessions **< 6 months**. **Art 205**: supplementary, additional or excess grants. Assembly strength: **70** seats.

Haridwar Kumbh Mela 2027: official logo, website and anthem unveiled

SOCIETY | UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (History & Culture — Uttarakhand)

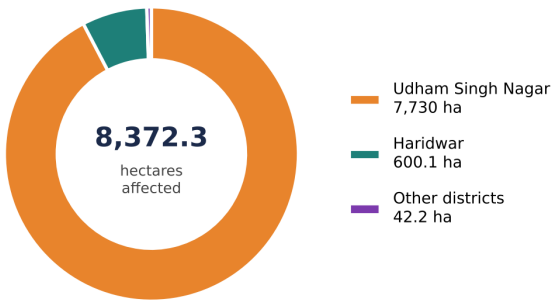
Syllabus Linkage	**Fairs & festivals** of Uttarakhand; religious tourism; crowd & pilgrimage management; Prelims: Kumbh sites and rivers.
Context	On **12 October 2026**, **CM Pushkar Singh Dhami** launched the **logo, website and theme song** of **Haridwar Kumbh Mela 2027** at the **Mela Control Building (CCR), Haridwar**; the Cabinet held the same day in Haridwar also focused on Kumbh preparations.
Key Facts	● Logo designed by **Madhu Sharma** of **Jagjeetpur, Haridwar** - picked from entries by **youth and students** of the State. ● Theme song written, sung and composed by Haridwar singer **Raghav Raja**. ● Logo motifs: **Maa Ganga, Har Ki Pauri, Dhanush Bridge**, Shiva statue, **trishul & damru**, **Mansa Devi & Chandi Devi** hills. ● Aim: global branding, **digital information** for pilgrims and safe, well-managed arrangements.
Way Fwd	Apply **crowd-safety SOPs**, **AI-based crowd monitoring** and **carrying-capacity** planning to prevent stampedes on bathing days.
Concept	Kumbh is held at **Haridwar (Ganga)**, **Prayagraj (Sangam)**, **Ujjain (Shipra)** and **Nashik (Godavari)**. Inscribed on **UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list (2017)**. Haridwar's last Kumbh: **2021**.

Unseasonal rain & hail damage 8,372 ha of kharif crops; hill orchards hit

UTTARAKHAND | UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Economy — Uttarakhand Agriculture)

Syllabus Linkage	**Agriculture & horticulture** of Uttarakhand; **Tarai-Bhabar** plains; disaster relief (**SDRF norms**); crop insurance; climate change and Western Disturbances.
Context	Per the **Agriculture Directorate** (data up to **9 October**), unseasonal rain and hailstorms affected **8,372.3 ha** of kharif crops, while preliminary estimates show heavy losses in **hill horticulture**; IMD warns of more **rain/snow in 9 districts**.
Key Facts	● **Udham Singh Nagar ~7,730 ha** (paddy, sugarcane - **Bajpur, Gadarpur**); **Haridwar ~600.1 ha** (paddy - **Bahadrabad**). ● Two plains districts = **~99.5%** of affected area; other districts **42.2 ha**. ● Horticulture: **Almora 15-70%** (Chaukhutia, Lamgara), **Champawat >33%**, **Tehri (Ghansali) ~30%**, **Pauri ~30%**. ● Agri Minister **Ganesh Joshi**: aid as per **central norms** (cited **₹17,000/ha**) plus State top-up; joint survey with **Revenue** dept.
Way Fwd	Fast-track **PMFBY** claims, expand **anti-hail nets** and **weather-based insurance** for apple/stone fruits; use **crop-loss mapping** via remote sensing.
Concept	**SDRF/NDRF** input subsidy is admissible when crop loss is **≥ 33%**. **PMFBY (2016)** farmer premium: **2% kharif, 1.5% rabi, 5% commercial/horticulture**. **Udham Singh Nagar** is the State's **'food bowl'** (Tarai).

Kharif Crop Area Hit by Unseasonal Rain & Hail (data up to 9 Oct 2026; ~99.5% in two plains districts)



SECTION B | DATA POINT OF THE DAY

11.39%

WPI Inflation, September 2026

Up from **9.92%** in August; **fuel & power at 25.85%** drove the jump. April-September cumulative WPI inflation: **9.85%**.

SECTION C | NATIONAL & WORLD Polity, economy, IR, defence & awards relevant to UKPSC

IMF World Economic Outlook (Oct 2026) - India stays the fastest-growing major economy

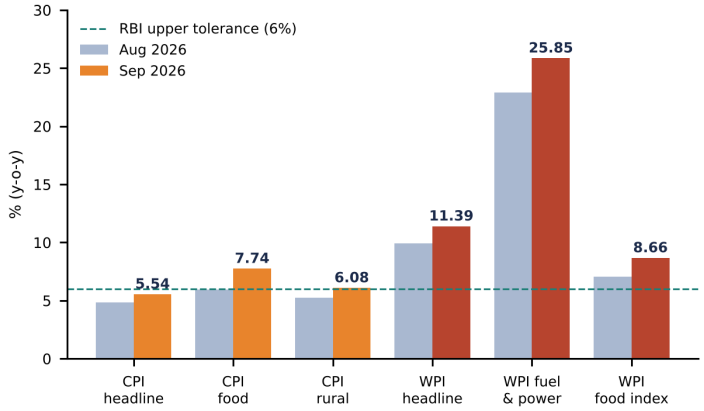
7.0%	7.8%	3.1%	3.4%	4.5%	7.3%
India FY27 growth (+60 bps vs July)	India FY26 growth estimate	World growth 2026	World growth 2027	China growth 2026	India 2026 (UNCTAD TDR)

Inflation spikes: WPI 11.39% and CPI 5.54% in September 2026

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Economy — India)

Syllabus Linkage	**Indian Economy** - inflation measurement (**WPI, CPI**), monetary policy, food price management.
Context	Official data released on **14 October** showed **WPI inflation at 11.39%** (Aug: **9.92%**), after **CPI (base 2024)** rose to a **23-month high of 5.54%** (Aug: **4.83%**) on **12 October**.
Key Facts	● WPI: **fuel & power 25.85%**, **manufactured products 9.76%**, **primary articles 8.67%**, **food index 8.66%**. ● CPI food (**CFPI**) **7.74%**; **rural 6.08%** vs **urban 4.88%**; **onion +108.09%**. ● Crude petroleum & natural gas WPI at **57.32%**; basic metals **16.96%**. ● Highest CPI States: **Tamil Nadu 6.81%**, **Odisha 6.70%**, **MP 6.68%**.
Way Fwd	Supply-side steps (**buffer stocks, onion releases, fuel taxes**) plus a cautious **MPC** stance to anchor expectations.
Concept	**WPI** - compiled by **Office of Economic Adviser, DPIIT** (base **2022-23**). **CPI** - by **NSO, MoSPI** (base **2024**). RBI's target: **4% ± 2%** under **Sec 45ZA, RBI Act** (flexible inflation targeting since **2016**).

Inflation Climbs: CPI (base 2024) & WPI (base 2022-23)



IMF WEO (Oct 2026) raises India's FY27 growth forecast to 7%

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Economy — India)

Syllabus Linkage	**Growth & development**; international economic institutions; Prelims: reports & their publishers.
Context	The **IMF's World Economic Outlook** (**13 October 2026**), titled **'Resilience Under Strain, Urgent Choices'**, upgraded India's **FY27 growth to 7%**, citing strong **domestic demand** and **services**.
Key Facts	● India FY27: **7%** (+**60 bps** from **6.4%** in July); FY28: **7%**; FY26 estimate **7.8%**. ● World growth: **3.1% (2026)**, **3.4% (2027)**; **China 4.5%** (2026). ● India retail inflation projected at **5% (FY27)**, easing to **4.4% (FY28)**. ● **UNCTAD Trade & Development Report 2026**: India **7.3%** in 2026 - fastest-growing large economy; world **2.6%**.
Way Fwd	Sustain momentum via **capex, manufacturing (PLI)** and **export diversification** amid global trade frictions.
Concept	**IMF** - created at **Bretton Woods (1944)**, HQ **Washington DC**; WEO published **April & October** (updates Jan & July). Other IMF reports: **GFSR, Fiscal Monitor**. **UNCTAD** (1964, Geneva) publishes **TDR & World Investment Report**.

INS Mangrol, third Mahe-class anti-submarine shallow water craft, commissioned

DEFENCE UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Science-Tech & Security)

Syllabus Linkage	**Defence technology**, indigenisation (**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**); maritime security; Prelims: naval ships & classes.
Context	The Indian Navy commissioned **INS Mangrol** at **Mumbai** on **12 October 2026** - the **third of eight Mahe-class ASW-SWCs** built by **Cochin Shipyard Ltd**.
Key Facts	● About **80% indigenous content**; built to **DNV** classification rules. ● Fit: **Abhay hull-mounted sonar**, **lightweight torpedoes**, indigenous **ASW rocket launcher**, **Maareech** torpedo decoy. ● **Three diesel engines + waterjet propulsion** for shallow-water manoeuvrability; also **mine-laying**. ● Named after **Mangrol (Junagadh, Gujarat)**; earlier **INS Mangrol (M85)** minesweeper retired in **2004**.
Way Fwd	Complete the **16-craft ASW-SWC** programme on time to secure India's **coastal waters** against submarine threats.
Concept	**16 ASW-SWCs**: **8 Mahe-class (CSL, Kochi)** + **8 Arnala-class (GRSE, Kolkata)**. Navy-Royal Navy exercise **KONKAN-26** (8-15 Oct, off **Plymouth**) also under way with **INS Trishul**.

India hosts first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi

IR UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity, Governance & IR)

Syllabus Linkage	**India & neighbourhood**; regional groupings; **internal security** - terrorism, narcotics; border-state link: Uttarakhand borders **Nepal & China**.
Context	On **13 October 2026**, **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** addressed the **1st BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting**, reaffirming India's commitment to the **BIMSTEC Convention** on combating **terrorism, organised crime and drug trafficking**.
Key Facts	● Members (**7**): **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka** (South Asia) + **Myanmar, Thailand** (South-East Asia). ● Agenda: **terrorism, transnational organised crime, narcotics, trafficking, illicit financial flows, cyber threats**. ● Grouping: ~**1.7 billion** people (**22%** of world) and GDP of ~**USD 5 trillion**.
Way Fwd	Operationalise the Convention via **intelligence sharing**, **joint training** and **extradition/MLAT** arrangements.
Concept	**BIMSTEC** - set up by **Bangkok Declaration, 6 June 1997**; Secretariat **Dhaka**. **6th Summit: Bangkok (4 April 2025)**. UK-Nepal border districts: **Pithoragarh, Champawat, U.S. Nagar**.

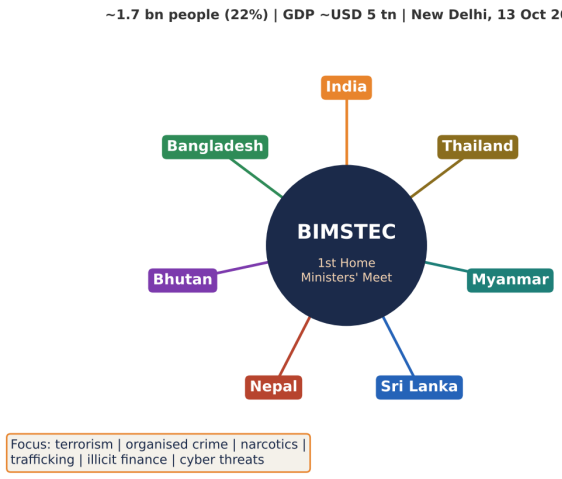
Nobel Economics 2026 to Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford

REPORT UKPSC: Prelims (Awards & Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	**Awards & honours**; macroeconomic stabilisation and **monetary policy** basics.
Context	On **12 October 2026**, the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** awarded the **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences** to US economists **Robert E. Hall** and **Michael Woodford** for work on the **microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation**.
Key Facts	● Prize money **SEK 12 million**, shared **equally**. ● **Hall** (b. **1943**): **Stanford** / Hoover Institution; **Woodford** (b. **1955**): **Columbia University**. ● Woodford's **'Interest and Prices' (2003)** shaped **New Keynesian** models and **inflation targeting / forward guidance**.
Way Fwd	Their ideas underpin how central banks like the **RBI** use expectations and policy rates to stabilise output and prices.
Concept	Economics prize instituted by **Sveriges Riksbank (1968)**; first awarded **1969** (**Frisch & Tinbergen**). Indian-origin laureates: **Amartya Sen (1998)**, **Abhijit Banerjee (2019)**.

SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE Uttarakhand + National quick facts

Topic	Quick Fact
Brihattar Bharat	IGNCA's international conference (**14-16 Oct**, New Delhi) on India's global cultural links; marks **centenary of Greater India Society (1926)**.
Skill Scheme (UK)	**CM Higher Education Skill Enhancement Scheme-2026** - ~**1.19 lakh** students, ~**₹200 crore** over **5 years** (Banbasa Cabinet, 4 Oct).
Irrigation Bill (UK)	**Uttarakhand Irrigation & Drainage Bill, 2026** to replace the **1873 Northern India Canal and Drainage Act**.
PMDDKY	**PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana** completes **1 year** (launched **11 Oct 2025**); **100 districts**, **₹24,000 crore/yr**.
KONKAN-26	India-UK naval exercise off **Plymouth (UK)**, **8-15 Oct 2026**, with **INS Trishul**.
Legion of Honour	**Sunil Bharti Mittal** named **Knight of France's Legion of Honour** (announced **12 Oct**).



SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER UKPSC-pattern Prelims MCQs & Mains question

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding floodplain zoning in Uttarakhand:
1. The State enacted a Flood Plain Zoning Act in 2012.
2. The Floodplain Zoning Rules, 2026 were approved by the State Cabinet at Haridwar.
3. Among notified stretches, the Alaknanda has the longest demarcated length.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d) — All correct: **Act of 2012**; Rules approved on **12 Oct 2026** at **Haridwar**; **Alaknanda 197.35 km** is the longest of the **697.60 km** notified.

Q2. With reference to the Governor of a State in India, consider the following statements:
1. The oath of office is administered by the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.
2. The Governor holds office during the pleasure of the President.
3. A person must be a resident of the State to be appointed its 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) — **Art 159** (oath by **CJ of HC**) and **Art 156** (pleasure of **President**) are correct; residency is **not** required - by convention, an outsider is usually appointed.

Mains Practice (GS - Uttarakhand Geography & Economy): Unseasonal rain and hailstorms in October 2026 damaged over 8,000 hectares of kharif crops and hill orchards in Uttarakhand. Examine the vulnerability of the State's agriculture and horticulture to climate extremes and suggest a resilience strategy. (200 words)

Hint: Intro with **8,372.3 ha** data + plains vs hills contrast -> causes (**Western Disturbances**, erratic rain, small holdings, rain-fed hills) -> gaps (insurance reach, **SDRF ≥33% norm**, cold-chain) -> strategy (**anti-hail nets, PMFBY/WBCIS**, crop diversification, **FPOs**, millets, IMD agro-advisories) -> link to **palayan** and conclusion.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Bisen = new Governor | Floodplain Rules 2026 (Act 2012, 697.60 km) | Gairsain session 27 Oct, ~₹5,000 cr supplementary | 8,372 ha crop loss | WPI 11.39%, CPI 5.54% | IMF: India 7%.

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