CURRENT AFFAIRS — 16 NOVEMBER 2026

StudyForGS.com

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UTTARAKHAND PCS

Monday, 16 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Uttarakhand + National • UKPSC Prelims & Mains digest

Uttarakhand Special • Data Point • National & World • Prelims Rapid-Fire • Practice Corner

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Badrinath** portals close today at **9:37 PM**; Char Dham Yatra 2026 ends.
- **Kedarnath** set a record with **19.2 lakh+** pilgrims; winter seat **Ukhimath**.
- **Jauljibi Mela** (Kali–Gori confluence): **25 projects, ₹102.72 crore** for Pithoragarh.
- **74th Gauchar Mela** (Chamoli): 'House of Himalayas' turnover crosses **₹6 crore**.
- Uttarakhand has **6 govt medical colleges** with **675 MBBS seats**; Rudrapur next.
- Corbett's **Pakhro** and **Sonanadi** safari zones reopen; **3rd bird count** held.
- **WPI inflation** rises to **12.29%** in October; fuel & power at **32.84%**.
- WHO: India's **TB deaths fell 38%** (2015–2025) vs **35%** globally.
- Total exports up **16.66%** to **$568.84 bn** in Apr–Oct FY27.
- **COP31** (Antalya, 9–20 Nov): India seeks predictable, concessional **climate finance**.

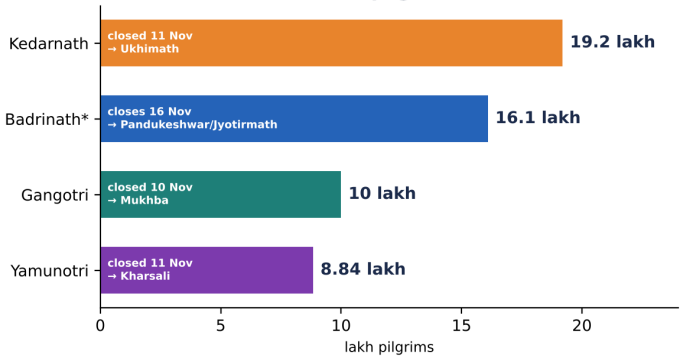
SECTION A | UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL

Badrinath portals close tonight at 9:37 PM — Char Dham Yatra 2026 concludes with record footfall

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

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand culture, pilgrimage tourism & crowd management. Prelims: **Char Dham** rivers, districts and **winter seats**.
Context	The portals of **Badrinath Dham** (Chamoli) close for winter at **9:37 PM on 16 Nov 2026**, formally ending the **Char Dham Yatra 2026**. The muhurat was fixed on **Vijayadashami (20 Oct)** as per the Panchang, and the **Panch Puja** rituals began on **12 Nov**.
Key Facts	■ **Kedarnath** (closed **11 Nov**, Bhai Dooj) drew a record **19.2 lakh+** devotees; winter seat **Omkareshwar Temple, Ukhimath** (Rudraprayag). ■ **Gangotri** closed **10 Nov** (~**10 lakh** pilgrims) → winter seat **Mukhba**; **Yamunotri** closed **11 Nov** (**8.84 lakh**) → **Kharsali**. ■ Uddhav and Kuber dolis move to **Pandukeshwar**; **Adi Shankaracharya's gaddi** goes to **Narsingh Temple, Jyotirmath**. ■ By **10 Aug** the yatra had crossed **47 lakh** (incl. Hemkund Sahib) vs **42.3 lakh** a year earlier; fresh **snowfall** hit Badrinath on **15 Nov**.
Way Fwd	Promote the **winter yatra** to the gaddi-sthals, enforce **carrying-capacity** based registration and build year-round hill livelihoods.
Concept	**Badrinath** lies on the **Alaknanda** between the **Nar–Narayan** ranges; one of the **4 Dhams** linked to **Adi Shankaracharya** and among the **108 Divya Desams**. **Kedarnath** (~**3,580 m**, on the **Mandakini**) is one of the **12 Jyotirlingas**.

Char Dham Yatra 2026 — pilgrim footfall (lakh)



*Badrinath figure as on 10 Aug 2026 (final season total awaited). Official temple-committee data.

Jauljibi Mela: CM announces 25 projects worth ₹102.72 crore for border district Pithoragarh

UTTARAKHAND | UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (History, Culture & Geography — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	Fairs & festivals of **Kumaon**; Indo-Nepal border region; Prelims: **river confluences** and border trade.
Context	CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** inaugurated the historic **Jauljibi Mela** at the confluence of the **Kali and Gori** rivers (Pithoragarh) and announced **25 projects worth ₹102.72 crore** — **24 foundation stones (₹102.48 crore)** and **1 inauguration (₹24 lakh)**.
Key Facts	■ Big-ticket works: **flood protection at Khotila & Ghatdhar (₹36.10 cr)**, **circuit house, Pithoragarh (₹23.26 cr)**, **Ghat pumping drinking-water scheme (₹13.38 cr)**, **motor bridge in Ramganga valley (₹8.80 cr)**. ■ **₹10 lakh** grant for organising the fair; a **Himalayan Darshan** viewpoint in **Kanalichhina** block. ■ The fair is a centuries-old **India–Nepal–Tibet** trade and cultural link — wool, herbs and handicrafts of border communities. ■ Union MoS **Ajay Tamta** attended along with local MLAs and citizens from **Nepal**.
Way Fwd	Use the fair for **border tourism** and **Vibrant Villages** goals; climate-proof flood works in the Kali–Gori valley.
Concept	The **Kali (Sharda)** forms the **India–Nepal boundary** (Treaty of **Sugauli, 1816**); the **Gori Ganga** rises from the **Milam glacier**. Jauljibi Mela is traditionally traced to **1914**, started by **Gajendra Bahadur Pal** of **Askot**, and begins around **14 November**.

Uttarakhand — today's news locations



74th Gauchar Mela opens in Chamoli: push for local products, 'House of Himalayas' and checking palayan

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

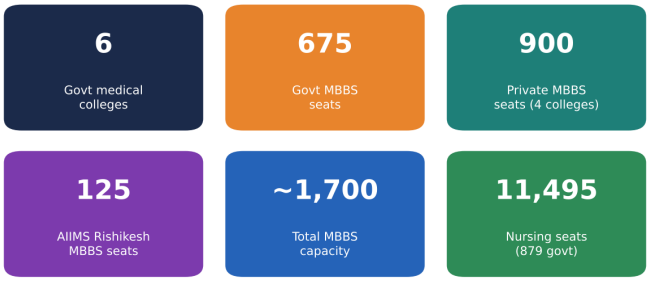
Syllabus Linkage	Hill economy, **migration (palayan)**, MSMEs & SHGs. Prelims: major **fairs of Garhwal**.
Context	The CM inaugurated the **74th State Industrial Development & Cultural Gauchar Mela** at **Gauchar (Chamoli)**, presenting it as a platform for **'Vocal for Local'**, village livelihoods and keeping youth from **out-migrating**.
Key Facts	■ State umbrella brand **'House of Himalayas'** (products of local communities & **women SHGs**) has crossed **₹6 crore** turnover. ■ Policies cited: **Tourism Policy, Homestay Policy, Film Policy** and the **Solar Self-Employment Scheme**. ■ Focus sectors: **agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, tourism** and **handicrafts**. ■ Connectivity: **Char Dham all-weather road** to Badrinath and the **Rishikesh–Karnaprayag rail line** (**~125 km**).
Way Fwd	Link fairs to **e-commerce, GI branding** and SHG credit so the 'mela economy' becomes year-round income.
Concept	**Gauchar** lies on the **Alaknanda** in Chamoli; the fair began as an **Indo-Tibet trade fair** and opens around **14 November**. **Palayan**: the state's **Migration Commission** (now Rural Development & Migration Prevention Commission) is based in **Pauri**.

Medical education push: 6 govt medical colleges, 675 MBBS seats; Rudrapur college awaits nod

HEALTH UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Social Justice & Governance — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	Health infrastructure & human resources in Uttarakhand; state health schemes. Prelims: **Atal Ayushman**, **Golden Card**.
Context	State government data (15 Nov) show **6 government medical colleges — Dehradun, Haldwani, Srinagar, Almora, Pithoragarh, Haridwar** — with **675 MBBS seats**; the completed **Rudrapur** college awaits permission for **100 seats**.
Key Facts	■ MBBS capacity ~**1,700**: **675 govt + 900 private (4 colleges) + 125 AIIMS Rishikesh**; with Rudrapur, govt seats → **775**. ■ **3 new govt nursing colleges** since July 2021 added **321** seats; total nursing seats **11,495** (**879 govt + 10,616 private**). ■ Supplementary budget: **₹225 crore** extra — **₹100 cr** for **Atal Ayushman Yojana** (cashless up to **₹5 lakh**) and **₹125 cr** for the **Golden Card** scheme. ■ Nurses placed abroad: **60 in Japan (2023)** and **13 in Germany (2025)** after language training.
Way Fwd	Fill faculty posts, bond doctors for **hill postings** and scale **telemedicine** to remote blocks.
Concept	**Public health** is a **State List** subject (**Entry 6, List II**); **medical education** is in the **Concurrent List (Entry 25)**. The **National Medical Commission Act, 2019** replaced the MCI.

Uttarakhand medical education — at a glance

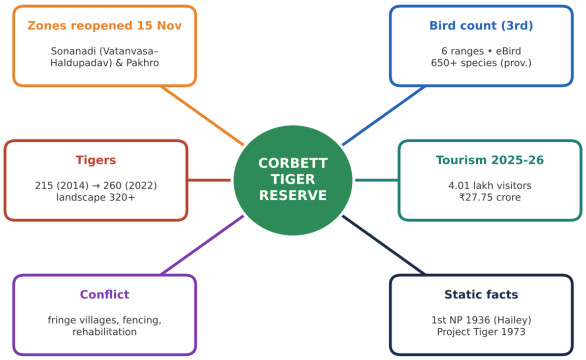


Corbett: Sonanadi and Pakhro safari zones reopen; 3rd annual bird count completed

ENVIRONMENT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment & Ecology — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	Protected areas of Uttarakhand, **human–wildlife conflict**, eco-tourism. Prelims: **Corbett** zones, rivers, firsts.
Context	The **Vatanvasa–Haldupadav (Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary)** and **Pakhro** zones of **Corbett Tiger Reserve** reopened on **15 Nov** after the monsoon closure (from **15 June**); the reserve also completed its **3rd annual bird count**.
Key Facts	■ Bird count across **6 ranges** — **Kalagarh, Jhirna, Bijrani, Dhela, Dhikala, Sarpduli** — logged on **eBird**; **650+ species** reported (provisional). ■ Tigers in CTR: **215 (2014) → 260 (2022)** as per All India Tiger Estimation; state forest dept puts the landscape figure at **320+**. ■ CTR area **1,288.32 sq km**, incl. **Corbett NP 521 sq km**; **4.01 lakh** tourists in **2025-26** earned **₹27.75 crore**. ■ Rising **human–tiger conflict** in fringe villages (e.g. **Sundarkhal**) — demands for fencing and rehabilitation.
Way Fwd	Empower **Eco-Development Committees**, enforce silent zones and cap resort growth by **carrying capacity**.
Concept	**Corbett NP** — India's **first national park (1936, as Hailey NP)** and launch site of **Project Tiger (1973)**; the **Ramganga** flows through it. Tiger is listed in **Schedule I, WPA 1972**; **NTCA** is a statutory body (2006 amendment).

Corbett Tiger Reserve — mind-map



Uttarakhand@26 follow-up: 13 announcements at Bharadisain; economy at ~₹3.82 lakh crore

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

Syllabus Linkage	State formation, **statehood movement**, welfare schemes & state economy. Prelims: **Gairsain**, state awards.
Context	On the **26th Foundation Day (9 Nov)** the CM announced **13 measures** at the Assembly complex, **Bharadisain (Gairsain)**, the summer capital — now feeding into pre-election budgeting and cabinet follow-up.
Key Facts	■ Economy: **~₹2.55 lakh cr (2022) → ~₹3.82 lakh cr**; state budget above **₹1.11 lakh crore**; **Rank 1** in **NITI Aayog SDG Index 2023-24**. ■ Higher honorarium for **Anganwadi workers, ASHAs & Bhojan Matas** from **1 Dec 2026**; incentive for **'Lakhpati Didis'** in **2 instalments**. ■ **Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman** (posthumous) to folk singer **Gopal Babu Goswami** and folklorist **Chandra Singh Rahi**. ■ Cabinet committee on **statehood activists'** demands; easier land purchase for **pravasi** Uttarakhandis; **2 digital libraries per district**.
Way Fwd	Tie growth to **Gross Environment Product (GEP)** accounting and target **reverse migration** through village-level jobs.

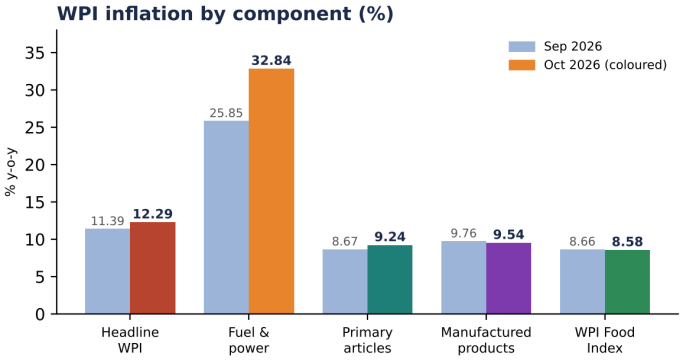
Concept	Uttarakhand was formed on **9 Nov 2000** as the **27th state** under the **UP Reorganisation Act, 2000**; **Gairsain** became the **summer capital in 2020**; **13 districts** in **2 divisions** (Garhwal, Kumaon).

SECTION B | DATA POINT OF THE DAY

12.29%

WPI inflation, October 2026 (released 16 Nov)

Up from **11.39%** in September; **fuel & power 32.84%** (crude petroleum & natural gas **70.80%**), primary articles **9.24%**, manufactured products **9.54%**; Apr–Oct FY27 average **10.14%** vs **−0.30%** a year ago.



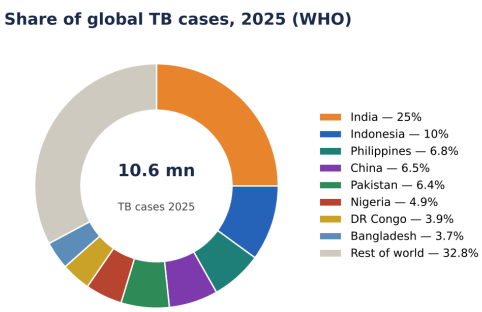
Provisional official data, released 16 Nov 2026.

SECTION C | NATIONAL & WORLD

WHO Global TB Report 2026: India's TB deaths down 38% in a decade, beating global 35% fall

HEALTH UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Social Justice — Health)

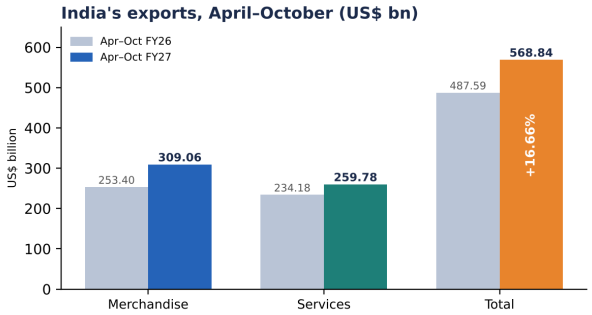
Syllabus Linkage	Communicable diseases, health programmes, global reports. Prelims: **NTEP**, **SDG 3.3**, report facts.
Context	The **WHO Global TB Report 2026** (covering **187 countries/areas**) shows India's **TB mortality fell 38%** between **2015 and 2025**, faster than the global decline of **35%**.
Key Facts	■ Treatment success rate for **drug-susceptible TB** in India: **94%**. ■ World 2025: **10.6 million** fell ill, **1.13 million** died; **8 countries ≈ 67%** of cases. ■ Shares: **India 25%**, Indonesia **10%**, Philippines **6.8%**, China **6.5%**, Pakistan **6.4%**. ■ **WHO SEARO** credited India's contribution to the regional mortality drop.
Way Fwd	Universal **molecular testing**, nutrition support and active case-finding in high-burden pockets.
Concept	**TB** is caused by ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis***; **SDG 3.3** aims to end TB by **2030**. India's **NTEP** and **Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana** (**₹1,000/month** DBT) support patients.



Total exports rise 16.66% to $568.84 bn in April–October FY 2026-27

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

Syllabus Linkage	External sector, **balance of payments**, trade policy. Prelims: merchandise vs services exports.
Context	Commerce Ministry estimates show India's **total exports (goods + services)** at **$568.84 bn** in **Apr–Oct FY27**, up **16.66%** from **$487.59 bn**; **October 2026** alone hit **$89.99 bn** (+**29.90%**).
Key Facts	■ **Merchandise exports: $309.06 bn** (vs $253.40 bn). ■ **Services exports: $259.78 bn** (vs $234.18 bn). ■ **Non-petroleum, non-gems & jewellery** exports: **$240.73 bn** (vs $203.17 bn) — a sign of broad-based growth. ■ Higher fuel prices also lift **petroleum export values** — note the link with today's **WPI** surge.
Way Fwd	Diversify markets via **FTAs**, push **district export hubs** and support MSMEs with export credit.
Concept	**Trade balance** = exports − imports; services trade is part of the **current account** (invisibles). **Foreign Trade Policy 2023** targets **$2 trillion** exports by **2030**.



COP31 in Antalya (9–20 Nov): India presses for climate finance and voluntary adaptation indicators

IR UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment & International Relations)

Syllabus Linkage	Climate negotiations, **UNFCCC**, India's climate diplomacy. Prelims: COP venues, Paris articles.
Context	**COP31** is under way in **Antalya, Türkiye** (**9–20 Nov 2026**), with **Türkiye** holding the presidency and **Australia** steering negotiations under a shared arrangement; delegates from **197 countries + EU** attend.
Key Facts	■ India seeks launch of a **Climate Finance Work Programme**; cites **Article 9.1, Paris Agreement** — finance must be predictable, public and **concessional**. ■ Wants **Global Goal on Adaptation** indicators to stay **voluntary**; opposes top-down mitigation obligations. ■ UNEP: developing countries' adaptation bill **$305 bn/yr by 2035**; public adaptation finance only **$28.2–31.7 bn** (2024). ■ India works with **G77+China, LMDC, BASIC**; side events incl. **LeadIT 3.0** with Sweden.
Way Fwd	Bridge-building on finance while scaling domestic **adaptation** — vital for Himalayan states like Uttarakhand.
Concept	**CBDR-RC** principle underpins the **UNFCCC (1992)**; **Paris Agreement (2015)** Art. **9** = finance, Art. **7** = adaptation. **COP30** was held at **Belém, Brazil** (2025).

Exercise Mitra Shakti 2026: 12th India–Sri Lanka army drill under way at Maduru Oya

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

Syllabus Linkage	India's neighbourhood policy & defence cooperation. Prelims: **exercise names & partners**.
Context	The **12th edition of Mitra Shakti** began on **13 Nov 2026** at the **Army Training School, Maduru Oya (Sri Lanka)** and runs for **14 days** till **26 Nov**.
Key Facts	■ Indian contingent: **170 personnel**, mainly from the **Rajputana Rifles**, plus **IAF** elements; led by **Lt Col Anirudh Mangotra**. ■ Sri Lankan side: **170 personnel** from the **1st Bn, Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment**. ■ Drills: **counter-terrorism**, urban patrols, convoy protection, ambushes and combined-arms operations under a **UN mandate** setting.
Way Fwd	Deepen interoperability under **SAGAR/MAHASAGAR** vision and counter extra-regional influence in the IOR.
Concept	Other India–Sri Lanka exercises: **SLINEX** (navy). **Mitra Shakti** = army; India's **Neighbourhood First** policy guides ties.

ASI declares Raniwas Mound at Kesariya (Bihar) a site of national importance

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

Syllabus Linkage	Buddhist heritage, monument protection laws. Prelims: **AMASR Act**, Buddhist sites.
Context	The Ministry of Culture, through the **ASI**, has declared **Raniwas Mound** in **Kesariya, East Champaran (Bihar)** a protected site under the **AMASR Act, 1958**.
Key Facts	■ Remains of a **Buddhist monastery** — cells, pillared veranda, courtyard and a **terracotta seal** showing a tiered stupa. ■ First explored by **Alexander Cunningham** (ASI's first DG) in **1861**. ■ ASI **Patna Circle** recommended central protection in **2021**.
Way Fwd	Integrate with the **Buddhist Circuit** and regulate construction in prohibited/regulated zones.
Concept	**AMASR (Amendment) Act, 2010**: **100 m prohibited** and **200 m regulated** area around protected monuments. **Kesariya Stupa** is among the tallest Buddhist stupas in the world.

SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1	**National Press Day** — **16 Nov**; the **Press Council of India** began functioning on **16 Nov 1966**.
2	Char Dham winter seats: **Kedarnath → Ukhimath**, **Gangotri → Mukhba**, **Yamunotri → Kharsali**.
3	**Swachh Survekshan 2025-26** (10th edition): Super Swachh League **1st Navi Mumbai**; new category **'Clean Himalayan Cities'**.
4	**PPV&FR Act, 2001** enters its **25th year**; **Koraput** (Odisha) is a FAO **GIAHS** site (**2012**).
5	**Youth Olympic Games 2026, Dakar** — first Olympic event in **Africa**; India won **10 medals (2G, 3S, 5B)**.
6	**Gairsain (Bharadisain)** — Uttarakhand's **summer capital** since **2020**; state formed **9 Nov 2000** (**27th state**).

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. Consider the following pairs (Shrine — Winter seat): 1. Kedarnath — Ukhimath 2. Gangotri — Mukhba 3. Yamunotri — Kharsali. How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c) — Kedarnath's deity winters at **Omkareshwar Temple, Ukhimath**; Goddess Ganga at **Mukhba**; Goddess Yamuna at **Kharsali (Khushimath)**. All three pairs are correct.

Q2. The Jauljibi Mela, an Indo-Nepal trade fair held every November in Pithoragarh district, takes place at the confluence of:

(a) Alaknanda and Pindar **(b)** Kali and Gori **(c)** Kali and Dhauliganga **(d)** Saryu and Ramganga

Answer: (b) — Jauljibi lies at the **Kali–Gori** confluence. **Alaknanda–Pindar** meet at **Karnaprayag**; **Kali–Dhauliganga** meet near **Tawaghat**; **Saryu–Ramganga** meet at **Rameshwar** (near Ghat).

MAINS PRACTICE: Record pilgrim footfall in the Char Dham Yatra is a boon for Uttarakhand's economy but a stress on its fragile Himalayan ecology. Discuss the challenges and suggest a carrying-capacity-based management framework. (125 words, 8 marks)

Hint: Intro: **19.2 lakh+** at Kedarnath in 2026. Body: economic gains (homestays, transport, GST) vs. waste, traffic, slope instability, **GLOF/landslide** exposure, crowd crushes. Framework: **registration caps**, staggered slots, **winter yatra** to gaddi-sthals, EIA for roads, ropeways with safeguards, early-warning systems. Conclude with sustainable tourism and **GEP**.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Badrinath closes **16 Nov, 9:37 PM** → Char Dham 2026 ends | Kedarnath record **19.2 lakh+** | Jauljibi (**Kali–Gori**) **₹102.72 cr** | WPI Oct **12.29%** | India TB deaths **−38%** (2015–25).

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