CURRENT AFFAIRS — 5 October 2026

Monday, 5 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Prelims + Mains GS-wise digest

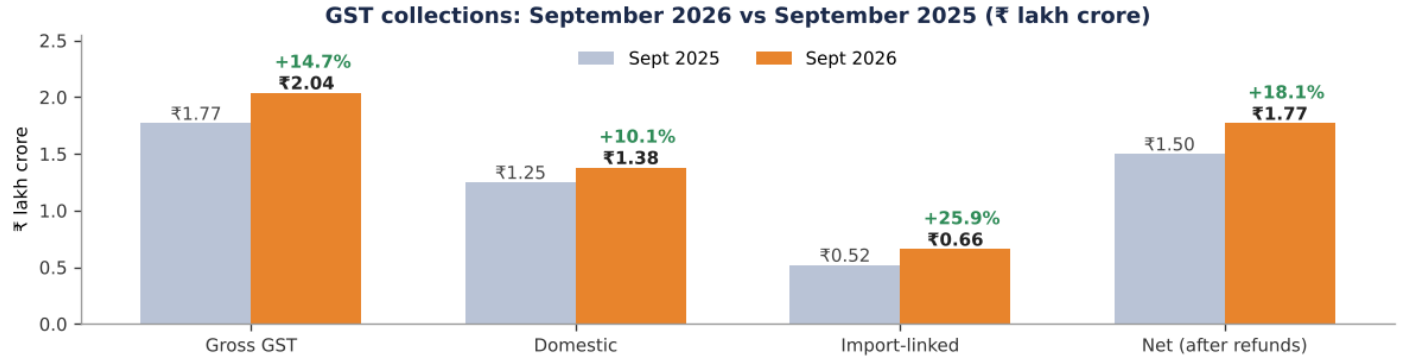
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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UPSC CSE

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **RBI MPC** meets **5-7 Oct**; decision on **7 Oct**; repo now **5.25%**
- **CPI inflation** rose to **4.82%** in August from **4.45%** in July
- Sept **gross GST** ₹**2.04 lakh crore**, up **14.7%**; net up **18.1%**
- Flash **composite PMI 56.5** — **62nd** straight month above **50**
- Forces seek **Agniveer retention** of **50%** (Army, IAF) and up to **75%** (Navy)
- Navy sailor arrested in a **honey-trap** espionage case (**Eastern Naval Command**)
- US '**Super Intelligence**' EO + voluntary **frontier-AI safety accord** signed **29 Sept**
- **Wildlife Week** (**2-8 Oct**) theme: '**Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife**'
- **Delhi HC**: a valid **visa** does not create a right of **entry** into India
- Rabies: **54** officially reported deaths vs **5,726** estimated annually

SECTION A | GS-III: Economy • Defence & Security • Sci-Tech • Environment

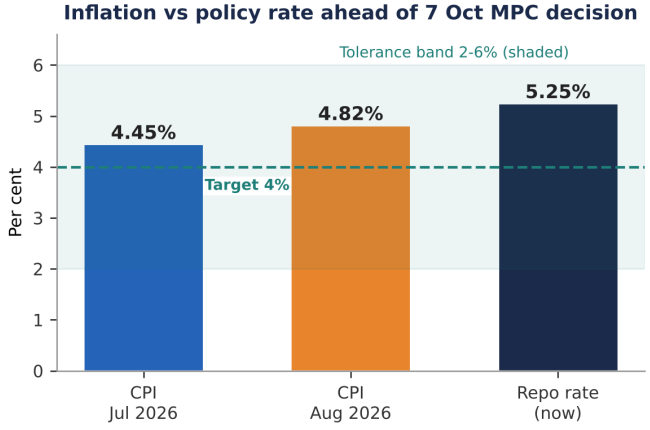


Visual for: September GST collections rise 14.7% to ₹2.04 lakh crore; Council meets on 7 October

RBI's Monetary Policy Committee begins three-day review as inflation edges up

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Monetary policy, inflation, growth. **Prelims** – MPC, repo rate, inflation targeting.
Context	The six-member **MPC** under Governor **Sanjay Malhotra** meets from **5 to 7 October**; the decision is due on **7 October**. Rising prices have made a **rate hike** a live possibility for the first time since **February 2023**.
Key Facts	■ **Repo rate** at **5.25%**, held in **August** with a **neutral** stance. ■ **CPI inflation**: **4.82%** in **August 2026** vs **4.45%** in **July**, led by **food**. ■ RBI projects **real GDP growth** of **6.7%** for **2026-27**. ■ Forex reserves fell **$18.3 bn** to **$747.6 bn** (week ended **25 Sept**).



Way Fwd	Calibrate policy to anchor **inflation expectations** without choking the recovery; improve **transmission** and coordinate with **fiscal** supply-side measures on food.
Concept	**MPC**: statutory body under **Sec 45ZB, RBI Act 1934** (amended **2016**); **3 RBI + 3 Centre-appointed** members; Governor has a **casting vote**. Target: **CPI 4% ±2%** (**flexible inflation targeting**).

September GST collections rise 14.7% to ₹2.04 lakh crore; Council meets on 7 October

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Indirect taxes, fiscal federalism, mobilisation of resources. **Prelims** – GST Council, Art 279A.
Context	Official data show **gross GST** of **₹2.04 lakh crore** in **September 2026**, a **14.7%** rise, a year after the '**Next-Gen GST**' rate rationalisation of **22 September 2025**. The **GST Council** meets on **7 October** on **process reforms**.
Key Facts	■ **Domestic GST ₹1.38 lakh crore** (+**10.1%**); **import GST ₹65,525 crore** (+**25.9%**). ■ **Net GST** after refunds: **₹1.77 lakh crore**, up **18.1%**. ■ **Apr-Sep 2026** gross: **₹12.46 lakh crore** (+**11.6%**); net **₹10.66 lakh crore** (+**10.4%**). ■ Council agenda: easier **registration**, simpler **returns**, less **litigation**; platform warehouses for small **e-commerce sellers**.
Way Fwd	Lock in buoyancy through **compliance simplification**, faster **refunds** for exporters and a functional **GST Appellate Tribunal**; protect **State revenues** post compensation.

Concept	**GST**: introduced by the **101st Amendment (2016)**, rolled out **1 July 2017**. **GST Council** under **Art 279A** — Union FM chairs; Centre **1/3** vote, States **2/3**; decisions need **3/4** majority.

Agnipath scheme at a glance — first batch completes 4 years in 2026



Visual for: Army, Navy and IAF propose higher Agniveer retention as first batch nears exit

Army, Navy and IAF propose higher Agniveer retention as first batch nears exit

[DEFENCE] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Security forces and their mandate; defence reforms. **Prelims** – Agnipath, Seva Nidhi.
Context	With the **first Agniveer batch** completing its **4-year** tenure, the three services have sent recommendations to the **Department of Military Affairs** in the first structured review of the **Agnipath scheme** (launched **June 2022**).
Key Facts	■ Current rule: **25%** absorbed into the **regular cadre**; **75%** exit after **4 years**. ■ Proposals: **Army** and **IAF** seek **50%** retention; **Navy** up to **75%**. ■ Exit package: tax-free **Seva Nidhi** (about **₹11.71 lakh**), **skill certificate**; no **pension/gratuity**. ■ Entry age **17.5-21 years**; **₹48 lakh** non-contributory **life insurance** in service.
Way Fwd	Raise retention in **technical trades**, build **skill-certification** and lateral entry into **CAPFs/State police**, and track combat-readiness data before scaling changes.
Concept	**Agnipath** (**14 June 2022**): short-service entry for personnel below officer rank. Aims: **younger profile** (avg age down by ~**4-5 yrs**), lower **pension bill**, **tech-savvy** force. **DMA** created **2019-20** under the **CDS**.

Navy sailor held for leaking information to Pakistani operative in honey-trap

[DEFENCE] **MAINS: GS3 Internal Security**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Challenges to internal security through communication networks; role of social media. **Prelims** – Official Secrets Act.
Context	A sailor posted with the **Eastern Naval Command** (**Visakhapatnam**) was arrested on **3 October** after the **Counter-Intelligence Cell** flagged suspicious digital contact with a **Pakistani intelligence operative** posing as a woman on social media.
Key Facts	■ Sailor joined the Navy in **2014**; contact developed over **a few months**. ■ Produced in court at **Vijayawada** on **5 October** after transfer on a **prisoner-transit warrant**. ■ Part of a recurring pattern of **honey-trap** operations via **fake profiles** targeting defence staff.
Way Fwd	Mandatory **cyber-hygiene** training, monitored **social-media SOPs** for sensitive postings, and periodic **counter-intelligence vetting**.
Concept	**Official Secrets Act, 1923** penalises **spying** and sharing classified information. **Eastern Naval Command** HQ: **Visakhapatnam**; the Navy's other commands — **Western** (Mumbai) and **Southern** (Kochi).

US frontier-AI safety accord (29 Sept 2026): four control layers



Visual for: US 'Super Intelligence' order and voluntary frontier-AI safety accord: what it means

US 'Super Intelligence' order and voluntary frontier-AI safety accord: what it means

[SCI-TECH] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Awareness in IT, AI and emerging technologies; **GS2** – effect of developed countries' policies. **Prelims** – AI governance terms.
Context	On **29 September**, the US President signed an executive order replacing **'artificial intelligence'** with **'super intelligence' (SI)** in federal usage, alongside a **voluntary accord** signed by heads of **Google, Anthropic, Meta, OpenAI, xAI** and **Nvidia**.

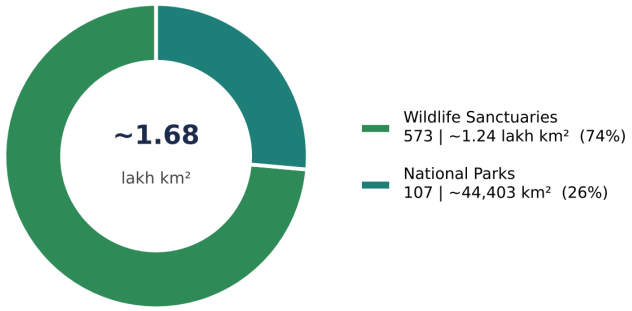
Key Facts	■ Accord sets **four control layers**: internal monitoring, **safety team**, **independent external auditor**, independent **board committee**. ■ **Non-binding** — no penalty clauses; the US favours **industry self-regulation**. ■ Science adviser has **60 days** to propose a legal definition of **SI**. ■ **EU** and **Australia** are pressing for **binding** guardrails instead.
Way Fwd	India should pair its **light-touch** approach with **independent audits** of high-risk models, **incident reporting** and global **interoperable standards**.
Concept	**Frontier models**: most capable general-purpose AI systems. India: **IndiaAI Mission** (**2024**, ~**₹10,372 crore**); **India AI Governance Guidelines** (**2025**). **EU AI Act** (**2024**) is the first **risk-based** AI law.

Wildlife Week 2026 spotlights corridors beyond protected-area boundaries

[ENVIRONMENT] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Conservation, biodiversity. **Prelims** – Protected areas, WPA 1972, Community Reserves.
Context	**Wildlife Week** is being observed from **2 to 8 October** with the theme **'Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife'**, stressing **wildlife corridors** that link fragmented habitats.
Key Facts	■ India has **107 National Parks** (~**44,403 sq km**) and **573 Wildlife Sanctuaries** (~**1.24 lakh sq km**). ■ **Nagaland**: **222 Community Reserves** (~**1,160 sq km**). ■ Idea from the **Indian Board of Wildlife** (**1952**); first week-long celebration in **1957**. ■ India hosts **1,04,000+** animal and **47,000+** plant species.

Area under NPs & WLS (Wildlife Week 2026)



Way Fwd	Notify and protect **corridors**, mandate **wildlife passages** on linear infrastructure, and scale **community-led** conservation models.
Concept	**WPA 1972** (amended **2022**: schedules cut from **6 to 4**) defines **NP, WLS, Conservation & Community Reserves**. **Art 48A** (DPSP) and **Art 51A(g)** (duty) — added by the **42nd Amendment, 1976**.

SECTION B | Data Point of the Day

56.5

HSBC Flash Composite PMI — September 2026

Up from **54.3** in August; the **62nd consecutive month** above **50**. Final **manufacturing PMI** hit a **7-month high** of **55.1**, flash **services PMI** rose to **55.8** (from **54.1**). Final composite data due **6 October**.

SECTION C | GS-II: Polity • Governance • Health • International Relations

SIR debate: is the Election Commission's mandate under strain?

[POLITY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Constitutional bodies; Representation of People's Act; electoral reforms. **Prelims** – Art 324, 326.
Context	A former **Lok Sabha Secretary-General** has questioned the legal footing of the ECI's **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of rolls, claiming about **13 crore** names have been removed nationwide and calling for procedural transparency.
Key Facts	■ Concern: SIR lacks an explicit basis in the **RP Act, 1950**, which provides for **intensive** and **summary** revisions. ■ Risk to **universal adult suffrage** under **Art 326** if eligible voters are excluded **en masse**. ■ **CEC and Other ECs Act, 2023** shields officials from proceedings for **official acts**. ■ In **West Bengal**, the Supreme Court has heard pleas on large-scale **deletions**.
Way Fwd	Publish **deletion-wise data**, give **notice and hearing** before removal, enable easy **re-inclusion**, and codify SIR procedure in law.
Concept	**Art 324**: superintendence, direction and control of elections in the **ECI**. **Art 326**: elections on **adult suffrage** (**18 yrs**, via **61st Amendment, 1988**). **RP Act 1950** – rolls; **RP Act 1951** – conduct of elections.

Delhi High Court: a valid visa is not an absolute right to enter India

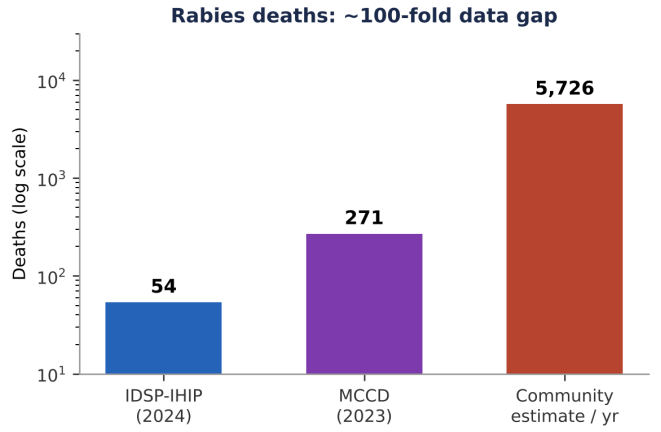
[POLITY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Fundamental Rights; judiciary; statutory bodies. **Prelims** – Rights of foreigners, Immigration and Foreigners Act 2025.
Context	On **1 October**, **Justice Amit Mahajan** dismissed a plea by a **Turkmenistan** national refused entry despite a valid **business visa**, holding that admission is a **sovereign function** rooted in **national security**.
Key Facts	■ Visa possession and **permission to enter** are legally distinct. ■ **Immigration Officers** may examine documents under the **Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025**. ■ No enforceable right means no writ under **Art 226**. ■ Relied on **Hans Muller of Nurenburg (1955)** and **Louis De Raedt (1991)**.
Way Fwd	Pair sovereign discretion with **reasoned refusals** where security permits and a quick **internal review** to uphold **Art 14** fairness.
Concept	Rights to **all persons**: **Art 14, 20, 21, 22** (and **25-28**). **Citizens only**: **Art 15, 16, 19, 29, 30**. The **2025 Act** replaced the **Passport (Entry into India) Act 1920**, **Registration of Foreigners Act 1939**, **Foreigners Act 1946** and **Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act 2000**.

Rabies deaths: official surveillance captures barely 1% of the estimated toll

[HEALTH] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Health, disease surveillance; **GS3** – One Health. **Prelims** – Rabies, NAPRE, zoonoses.
Context	A data gap has emerged between India's rabies counts: the **IDSP-IHIP** platform logged **54 deaths** in **2024**, while a community-based **ICMR-National Institute of Epidemiology** study estimates about **5,726 deaths a year**.
Key Facts	■ **IDSP-IHIP**: **50** deaths (**2023**), **54** (**2024**); **MCCD** (Registrar-General): **271** (**2023**). ■ Gap of nearly **100-fold**; under **1%** of deaths captured. ■ About **9.1 million** animal bites a year — roughly **3 in 4** by **dogs**. ■ WHO: India bears about **35%** of the world's ~**59,000** annual rabies deaths.

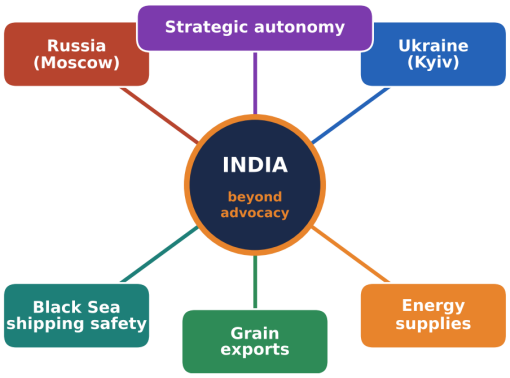


Way Fwd	Make rabies **notifiable** in all States, link **verbal autopsy** to surveillance, ensure **anti-rabies vaccine** stock and scale **dog vaccination** under **One Health**.
Concept	**Rabies**: viral **zoonosis** (genus **Lyssavirus**), ~**100% fatal** once symptomatic but **vaccine-preventable**. **NAPRE** (**2021**) targets elimination of dog-mediated rabies by **2030** ('**Zero by 30**').

Jaishankar: India has moved 'beyond advocacy' in Russia-Ukraine peace efforts

[IR] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – India and its neighbourhood/global groupings; effect of policies of other countries on India's interests. **Prelims** – Black Sea geography.
Context	Speaking at a **Munich Security Conference** leaders' meeting in **New Delhi** on **4 October**, EAM **S. Jaishankar** said India is now conveying messages between **Moscow** and **Kyiv** on immediate humanitarian-economic issues.
Key Facts	■ Focus areas: **Black Sea** shipping safety, **grain exports**, **energy** supplies. ■ Ukraine said it received separate ceasefire ideas from India and **three other** nations. ■ Jaishankar framed the world as shaped by **US repositioning** and **China's rise**. ■ Emerging powers must **diversify** and **de-risk** amid shifting interdependencies.



Way Fwd	Use **strategic autonomy** to build trust on both sides, prioritise **seafarer safety**, and coordinate with **Global South** partners for a durable settlement.
Concept	**Strategic autonomy**: freedom to pursue national interest without bloc alignment. **Black Sea Grain Initiative** (**July 2022**, brokered by **UN + Türkiye**) lapsed in **July 2023**. Black Sea links to the Mediterranean via the **Bosphorus** and **Dardanelles**.

Iran tells US there is 'no military solution' as Hormuz talks hit impasse

[IR] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Effect of policies of other countries on India's interests; Indian diaspora. **Prelims** – Strait of Hormuz, Gulf geography.
Context	Iran's Foreign Minister **Abbas Araghchi** said there is **no military solution** to the conflict with the US after indirect talks on reopening the **Strait of Hormuz** stalled; another tanker was hit by an unknown projectile in the strait.
Key Facts	■ Iran set **seven conditions** for reopening, incl. **sanctions relief** and **unfreezing assets**; the US rejected them. ■ Both sides run blockades — Iran strikes vessels; the US **counter-blockades** Iranian ports. ■ A **June 2026** interim **MoU** had outlined a framework for de-escalation. ■ Iran's oil minister **Mohsen Paknejad** has resigned.
Way Fwd	India should diversify **crude sourcing**, build **strategic reserves**, keep **naval escort** missions active and back **UN-led** dialogue for freedom of navigation.
Concept	**Strait of Hormuz** links the **Persian Gulf** with the **Gulf of Oman**; roughly **one-fifth** of global oil passes through it. **UNCLOS** guarantees **transit passage** through straits. India's **Operation Sankalp** (**2019**) escorts Indian-flagged ships.

SECTION D | Prelims Rapid-Fire

World Habitat Day	First **Monday of October** (**5 Oct 2026**); UN-Habitat; observed since **1986**.
World Teachers' Day	**5 October**; marks the **1966 ILO/UNESCO** Recommendation on teachers' status.
GST Council meet	**7 October** — **GST 2.0** process reforms on registration and returns.
Forex reserves	**$747.6 bn** (week to **25 Sept**); **FCA** at **$615.4 bn**.
Immigration & Foreigners Act	**2025** law; in force from **1 Sept 2025**; replaced **four** older Acts.
Agnipath first batch	Joined training in **early 2023**; **4-year** tenure ends in **2026**.

SECTION E | Practice Corner

Q1. With reference to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of India, consider the following statements:
1. It is a statutory body constituted under the RBI Act, 1934.
2. Three of its six members are appointed by the Central Government.
3. In case of a tie, the RBI Governor has a casting vote.
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) — The **MPC** is set up under **Sec 45ZB** of the **RBI Act, 1934** (amended **2016**). It has **six** members — **three** from RBI and **three** appointed by the **Centre** — and the **Governor** has a **casting vote** in case of a tie.

Q2. The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 repealed which of the following laws?
1. Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920
2. Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939
3. Foreigners Act, 1946
4. Citizenship Act, 1955.
Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b) — The **2025 Act** replaced **four** laws — the **1920**, **1939** and **1946** Acts and the **Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000**. The **Citizenship Act, 1955** remains in force.

MAINS PRACTICE (GS3)

As the first batch of Agniveers completes its tenure, the armed forces have sought higher retention. Critically examine whether the Agnipath scheme balances a youthful force profile with operational experience. (150 words, 10 marks)

Hint: Intro: **Agnipath (2022)**, **25%** retention. Body: gains (**younger profile**, lower **pension bill**, tech skills) vs concerns (experience loss, **unit cohesion**, post-exit jobs); proposals for **50-75%** retention. Conclude: **trade-wise** retention, **skill certification**, lateral entry into **CAPFs**.

ONE-LINE REVISION: MPC **5-7 Oct** (repo **5.25%**, CPI **4.82%**) • GST Sept **₹2.04 lakh cr** (+**14.7%**) • Agniveer retention **25%** → **50-75%** proposed • **Visa ≠ right of entry** (Delhi HC) • Rabies: **54** reported vs **5,726** estimated

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team
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