# CURRENT AFFAIRS — 09 Oct 2026

Friday, 09 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Prelims + Mains GS-wise digest

**StudyForGS.com**
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UPSC CSE

## TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **57th GST Council**: arrest power (**Sec 69**) to be omitted; prosecution only above **₹5 crore**.
- Trade margin capped at **30% of MRP** for **110** non-scheduled cancer drugs; MRPs may fall up to **70%**.
- **CAPF Act, 2026** in force from **8 Oct**: **50%** IG and **100%** DG posts for IPS deputation.
- SC (CJI **Surya Kant** bench) finds Jharkhand DGP rule prima facie against **Prakash Singh (2006)**.
- PM at **IMC 2026** seeks global rules on **deepfakes** and cyber fraud.
- WMO: El Niño near-certain till **Feb 2027**; Niño-3.4 may hit a record **+3.7°C**.
- **SAREX-2026** (12th edition) held off **Paradip**, Odisha; **32** observers from **30** countries.
- **National SC-ST Hub** turns 10: SC/ST MSE procurement up **≈40×** to **₹4,013 crore**.
- EAM's Africa tour: **Ghana**, **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Ethiopia**.
- Nobel 2026: **Halzen** (Physics), **Kagan & Soai** (Chemistry), **Anne Carson** (Literature).

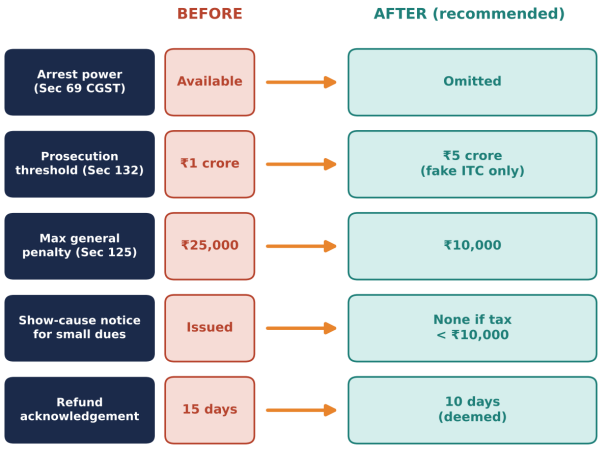
## SECTION A • GS-III: SCIENCE & TECH | ECONOMY | ENVIRONMENT | SECURITY

### A1. 57th GST Council: Arrest Powers Go, Refunds Get Automated

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (Economy)

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| **Syllabus Linkage** | GS3 – **Indirect taxation**, ease of doing business; GS2 – **Art. 279A** (GST Council). Prelims: CGST Act sections, ITC, reverse charge. |
| **Context** | The **57th GST Council** met in New Delhi on **8 Oct 2026** under the Union Finance Minister and shifted focus from rate cuts to **decriminalisation and process reform**. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Arrest powers removed by omitting **Section 69** of CGST Act; prosecution threshold (**Sec 132**) raised from **₹1 crore to ₹5 crore**, limited to **fraudulent ITC**.<br>■ No show-cause notice for tax below **₹10,000**; max general penalty (**Sec 125**) cut from **₹25,000 to ₹10,000**.<br>■ **90%** of export and inverted-duty refunds to be provisionally sanctioned by the system; acknowledgement time cut from **15 to 10 days**.<br>■ Optional **ARQP** (Annual Return Quarterly Payment) scheme for B2C firms with turnover up to **₹5 crore**; optional **5% GST** on EV passenger transport.<br>■ Plastic waste, e-waste and used cooking oil from unregistered sellers brought under **reverse charge**. |
| **Way Fwd** | Amend the **CGST/IGST Acts** quickly, pair trust-based compliance with **data analytics** against fake-ITC rings, and set up the **GST Appellate Tribunal** benches fully. |
| **Concept** | **GST Council (Art. 279A)**, inserted by the **101st Amendment, 2016**: chaired by the Union FM; decisions need a ¾ **weighted majority** (Centre ⅓, States ⅔). In **Mohit Minerals (2022)** the SC held its recommendations are **persuasive, not binding**. |

**57th GST Council: Decriminalisation & Ease**




*Takes effect only after amendment of CGST/IGST Acts & rules*

### A2. IMC 2026: PM Calls for Global Rules on Deepfakes & Cyber Fraud

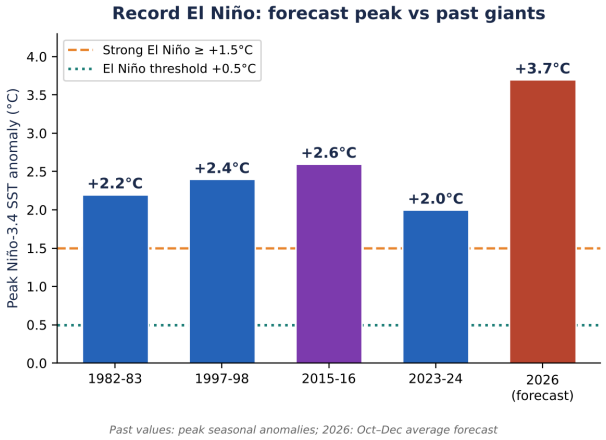
[SCI-TECH] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (Cyber Security)

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| **Syllabus Linkage** | GS3 – **Cyber security**, IT & communications, AI; GS2 – global governance. Prelims: IMC, FRI, Sanchar Saathi. |
| **Context** | Opening the **India Mobile Congress 2026** at **Yashobhoomi**, New Delhi, the PM said cyber crime crosses borders and needs **global cooperation now**, after meeting the **GSMA** board. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Sought **common global rules** for emerging tech and tools to trace the **origin of deepfake/AI content**.<br>■ DoT's **Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)** has reportedly helped stop over **₹5,000 crore** of suspected fraud.<br>■ IMC 2026 theme: **'Scale Without Boundaries'**; focus on **AI, 6G, semiconductors, satcom**.<br>■ PM called **Digital Public Infrastructure** a **'force multiplier'** for the **Global South**. |
| **Way Fwd** | Push **mandatory labelling/watermarking** of synthetic media, faster cross-border **MLAT** processes and wider adoption of **Sanchar Saathi**-type citizen tools. |
| **Concept** | **Deepfake** = AI-generated synthetic media (GANs/diffusion models). India is **not a party** to the **Budapest Convention (2001)**; the **UN Convention against Cybercrime** was adopted by the UNGA in **Dec 2024**. Domestic law: **IT Act, 2000** (Sec **66C/66D**) & **IT Rules, 2021**. |

### A3. WMO: Record El Niño to Peak Around December

[ENVIRONMENT] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS1 (Geography) & GS3

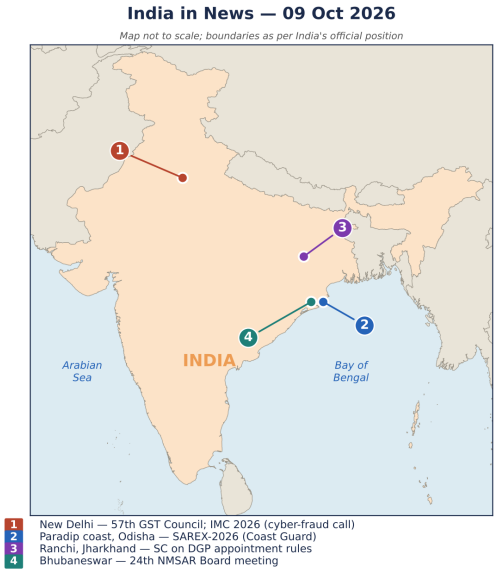
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| **Syllabus Linkage** | GS1 – **Climatology, ocean currents**, monsoon; GS3 – disaster management, food inflation. Prelims: ENSO, Niño-3.4, IOD. |
| **Context** | The **World Meteorological Organization** said El Niño is firmly established, strengthening rapidly and the **worst is yet to come**, with a peak likely in **December 2026**. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ **~100%** likelihood (consensus of **13** centres) that El Niño persists through **February 2027**.<br>■ Oct–Dec Niño-3.4 anomaly forecast at **~+3.7°C** vs previous record **+2.6°C (2015-16)**.<br>■ Could be **one of the strongest since 1950**; record SSTs expected in central-east tropical Pacific.<br>■ In India, a weak monsoon and El Niño were cited by the **RBI (7 Oct)** among food-inflation risks. |
| **Way Fwd** | Prepare **rabi contingency plans**, buffer-stock management, heat action plans and drought-proofing under **PMKSY**; track the **IOD** closely. |
| **Concept** | **El Niño** = anomalous warming of central-east Pacific (≥ **+0.5°C** in **Niño-3.4**) that weakens the **Walker circulation**; usually suppresses the Indian monsoon. A **positive IOD** can offset it. WMO: UN specialised agency, HQ **Geneva**. |




## A4. SAREX-2026: Coast Guard's Mass-Rescue Drill off Paradip

**[DEFENCE]** **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (Security)**

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| **Syllabus Linkage** | GS3 – **Security forces & their mandate**, coastal security, disaster management. Prelims: ICG, NMSAR Board, SAR Convention. |
| **Context** | The **Indian Coast Guard** conducted the **12th National Maritime Search & Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026)** off **Paradip, Odisha** on **7–8 Oct**, inaugurated by MoS Defence **Sanjay Seth**. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Scenario: a passenger aircraft with **228 people** ditches at sea and hits container vessel **MV Zumba**.<br>■ Assets: **15 ICG ships**, Dornier aircraft, ALH and Chetak helicopters, IAF **C-130J & Mi-17**, **2 Navy ships**.<br>■ **32 observers from 30 countries** attended.<br>■ **24th NMSAR Board** meeting held in **Bhubaneswar**, chaired by DG ICG **Paramesh Sivamani**. |
| **Way Fwd** | Integrate fishing-boat **transponders**, state disaster agencies and ports into SAR drills; expand **IOR** SAR partnerships under **SAGAR/MAHASAGAR**. |
| **Concept** | **Indian Coast Guard**: set up **1977**, statutory under **Coast Guard Act, 1978**, under **MoD**; national coordinating authority for maritime SAR in India's **~4.6 million sq km** search & rescue region. India is party to the IMO **SAR Convention, 1979**. |




## A5. Nobel 2026: Neutrino Astronomy, Asymmetric Synthesis & Anne Carson

**[SCI-TECH]** **PRELIMS: Awards + Mains GS3 (S&T)**

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| **Syllabus Linkage** | GS3 – **Developments in S&T**, space science; Prelims – awards, persons in news. |
| **Context** | The Swedish Academy awarded the **2026 Literature Nobel** (8 Oct) to Canadian poet **Anne Carson**, capping a week of science prizes. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ **Physics**: **Francis Halzen** – for the **IceCube Neutrino Observatory** and discovery of **high-energy astrophysical neutrinos**.<br>■ **Chemistry**: **Henri Kagan & Kenso Soai** – **non-linear effects and autocatalysis** in **asymmetric** organic synthesis.<br>■ **Literature**: **Anne Carson** (b. **1950**, Toronto) – 'bold and inventive oeuvre'; works: **Autobiography of Red**, **Nox**; first Canadian since **Alice Munro (2013)**.<br>■ **Medicine** honoured work on **optogenetics**; each prize carries **12 million SEK**. |
| **Way Fwd** | Boost India's role in **mega-science** projects (IceCube-Gen2, **INO**, LIGO-India) and chiral-drug chemistry for **pharma self-reliance**. |
| **Concept** | **Neutrinos**: nearly massless, chargeless particles; IceCube uses **1 cubic km of Antarctic ice** at the South Pole. **Chirality**: mirror-image molecules (enantiomers) can act very differently as drugs. Only Indian Literature laureate: **Rabindranath Tagore (1913)**. |

## SECTION B • ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

**₹4,013.42 crore**

### Procurement from SC/ST-owned MSEs (2025-26)

About **40×** the **₹99.37 crore** of 2015-16, from **12,524 MSEs** — evidence that the **4% sub-target** under the Public Procurement Policy is finally biting. Recall: on **7 Oct** the RBI hiked the **repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50%**.

## SECTION C • GS-II: GOVERNANCE | POLITY | SOCIAL JUSTICE | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS




*Visual for item C1: 30% trade-margin cap on non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs*

## C1. 30% Trade-Margin Cap on 110 Non-Scheduled Cancer Drugs

[HEALTH] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 (Health)

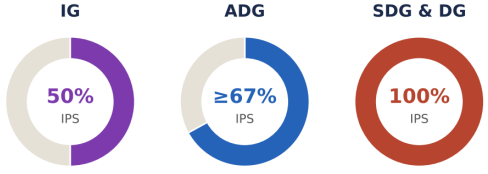
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| Syllabus Linkage | GS2 – **Health, government policies**; GS3 – pharma sector. Prelims: NPPA, DPCO 2013, NLEM, trade margin. |
| Context | The Centre decided to cap trade margins at **30% of MRP** for **110 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs** — branded and generic, domestic and imported, patented and off-patent — ahead of a Supreme Court hearing on **12 Oct**. |
| Key Facts | ■ Covers **110 drugs**, including **35 patented** medicines; notification via **NPPA**.<br>■ MRPs expected to fall **20–70%**; estimated patient savings of **₹2,500 crore a year**.<br>■ Precedent: **2019** cap on **42** cancer drugs cut MRPs of **526 brands** (~**50%** on average), saving **₹984 crore/yr**.<br>■ On **29 Sept** the SC had questioned the Centre on cancer-drug pricing. |
| Way Fwd | Write **trade-margin rationalisation** into the DPCO, monitor shortages and brand-switching, and expand **Jan Aushadhi** and **PM-JAY** oncology cover. |
| Concept | **Scheduled drugs** = those in the **NLEM**, price-capped under **DPCO 2013** (issued under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**). **NPPA** (1997) fixes/monitors prices; **Para 19** of DPCO gives extraordinary powers used for the 2019 cap. **Trade margin** = gap between price to stockist and MRP. |

## C2. CAPF (General Administration) Act, 2026 Comes into Force

[POLITY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 & GS3

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| Syllabus Linkage | GS2 – **Statutory bodies, civil services**, judiciary; GS3 – **security forces & mandate**. Prelims: CAPFs, MHA, OGAS. |
| Context | The **MHA** notified the **CAPF (General Administration) Act, 2026** with effect from **8 Oct 2026**, even as petitions by cadre officers challenging it are pending before the **Supreme Court**. |
| Key Facts | ■ Covers **CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB**; senior posts earlier governed by **executive orders** now by **statute**.<br>■ **50%** of **IG** posts and at least **67%** of **ADG** posts reserved for **IPS deputationists**.<br>■ **Special DG and DG** posts: **100%** IPS.<br>■ SC's **May 2025** verdict had asked for IPS deputation up to IG to be **progressively reduced within two years**; contempt plea filed by cadre officers. |
| Way Fwd | Balance **Centre-State coordination** (IPS role) with **career progression and morale** of cadre officers through time-bound cadre reviews. |
| Concept | **CAPFs** are armed forces of the Union under the **MHA** (Union List **Entry 2 & 2A**). Their Group A officers were granted **Organised Group A Service (OGAS)** status, upheld by the SC in **2019**. **Doctrine**: Parliament can legislate to cure the basis of a judgment, but cannot simply overrule it. |

**CAPF Act 2026: posts reserved for IPS deputation**




*Grey = posts for CAPF cadre officers • Forces: CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB*

## C3. SC Widens Scrutiny of State DGP-Appointment Rules

[POLITY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 (Governance)

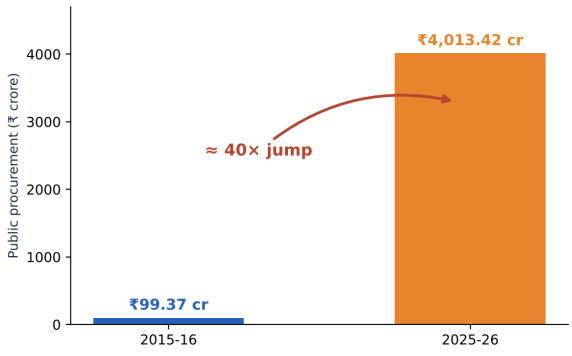
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| Syllabus Linkage | GS2 – **Police reforms**, judiciary, federalism; Prelims – Prakash Singh directions, Seventh Schedule. |
| Context | A bench led by **CJI Surya Kant** said Jharkhand's **2025 DGP-selection rules** prima facie conflict with the **Prakash Singh (2006)** judgment and asked the amicus to examine **other States' laws** too. |
| Key Facts | ■ Rule allowed officers with **under 6 months' residual service** to be considered; DGP **Tadasha Mishra** issued notice.<br>■ Amicus **Raju Ramachandran**, assisted by **UPSC**, to review DGP laws of all States.<br>■ Court: its duty is to ensure Prakash Singh directions are **not diluted**, whichever party rules a State.<br>■ Matter listed after **one week**; Jharkhand may revisit its rules. |
| Way Fwd | States should enact **Model Police Act**-compliant laws, send panels to UPSC **three months** before vacancy and avoid **acting DGPs**. |
| Concept | **Prakash Singh v. Union of India (2006)**: DGP chosen from **3 senior-most officers empanelled by UPSC**, **minimum 2-year tenure**; **State Security Commission**, **Police Establishment Board**, **Police Complaints Authority**, separation of investigation from law & order. **Police** is a **State List** subject. |

## C4. National SC-ST Hub Completes a Decade

[SOCIETY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 (Social Justice)

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| Syllabus Linkage | GS2 – **Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections**; GS3 – MSMEs, inclusive growth. Prelims: NSIC, procurement policy. |
| Context | The **National SC-ST Hub (NSSH)**, launched on **18 Oct 2016** and run by **NSIC** under the **Ministry of MSME**, completes ten years of using public procurement to build SC/ST entrepreneurship. |
| Key Facts | ■ Procurement from SC/ST MSEs rose from **₹99.37 crore (2015-16)** to **₹4,013.42 crore (2025-26)** from **12,524 MSEs**.<br>■ **1,90,414** beneficiaries assisted and **54,499** candidates trained (till 31 July 2026); **55%** of 2025-26 trainees were women.<br>■ **SCLCSS**: **25%** capital subsidy up to **₹25 lakh**; **3,160** MSEs got **₹356.10 crore**.<br>■ Top States: **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Assam**. |
| Way Fwd | Ensure every CPSE meets the **4% sub-target**, link the Hub with **GeM** analytics and **Stand-Up India** credit, and focus on Aspirational Districts. |
| Concept | **Public Procurement Policy for MSEs Order, 2012** (under **MSMED Act, 2006**): **25%** of annual Central procurement from MSEs, of which **4%** from **SC/ST-owned** and **3%** from **women-owned** MSEs. Constitutional anchor: **Art. 46** (DPSP). |

**Procurement from SC/ST-owned MSEs**




*National SC-ST Hub (launched 18 Oct 2016) • 12,524 MSEs supplied in 2025-26*

## C5. EAM's Africa Outreach: Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia

[IR] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 (IR)

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|---|---|
| Syllabus Linkage | GS2 – **India and its neighbourhood/Africa**, bilateral groupings; Prelims – map, AU, BRICS. |
| Context | External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** is on a **five-day, three-nation tour** of **Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia** to deepen trade, investment and development ties. |

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| **Key Facts** | ■ **Ghana (6 Oct)**: met President **John Dramani Mahama**; follows PM's **July 2025** visit, first by an Indian PM in **three decades**.<br>■ **Côte d'Ivoire (7 Oct)**: talks with FM **Nialé Kaba** on trade, agriculture, healthcare, **defence & counter-terrorism**.<br>■ **Ethiopia**: final leg; Addis Ababa hosts the **African Union** HQ.<br>■ Focus: **people-centric** development partnership, infrastructure and investment. |
| **Way Fwd** | Convene the long-pending **India-Africa Forum Summit-IV**, scale **lines of credit**, ITEC capacity-building and **DPI** exports to Africa. |
| **Concept** | **African Union** became a **permanent G20 member** at the **New Delhi Summit (Sept 2023)**; **Ethiopia** joined **BRICS** in **Jan 2024**. **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Ghana** are the world's top two **cocoa** producers; **IAFS-III** was held in New Delhi in **2015**. |

**EAM's Africa outreach: Ghana → Côte d'Ivoire → Ethiopia**




Route 1 Accra (6 Oct) • 2 Abidjan (7 Oct) • 3 Addis Ababa (AU HQ)

*Map not to scale; boundaries as per India's official position*

## C6. Ayush Services Sector Report: Women Are 43% of Workforce

**[REPORT]** **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 (Health)**

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| **Syllabus Linkage** | GS2 – **Health, human resources**; GS3 – services sector, employment. Prelims: RIS, Ayush, medical value travel. |
| **Context** | The **Ayush Service Sector Report** by **RIS**, released around Ayurveda Day, values the sector at **USD 36.92 billion (FY25)** and highlights a large female workforce. |
| **Key Facts** | ■ Supports **~1.76 million** livelihoods; **women = 43%** of workforce (over **60%** in spas/wellness resorts).<br>■ **Ayurveda** = **USD 17.73 bn** (~**48%**); standalone clinics are the largest segment (**43.9%** of revenue).<br>■ Wellness segment CAGR **21.29%**; **Medical Value Travel** ~**USD 1.77 bn**.<br>■ Projected to reach **USD 216–318 billion by 2047**. |
| **Way Fwd** | Standardise quality via **NABH** accreditation, build **evidence-based research**, and promote the **Ayush Visa** and Heal-in-India brand. |
| **Concept** | **RIS** (Research and Information System for Developing Countries) is an autonomous think-tank under the **MEA**. **Ministry of Ayush** formed in **2014**; **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine** is in **Jamnagar**, Gujarat. |

## SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

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|---|---|
| **RBI MPC (7 Oct)** | Repo hiked **25 bps to 5.50%**; SDF **5.25%**, MSF **5.75%**; stance **'calibrated tightening'**; FY27 GDP **7.1%**, CPI **5.2%**. |
| **Nobel Physics 2026** | **Francis Halzen** for the **IceCube** observatory at the **South Pole**. |
| **Nobel Chemistry 2026** | **Henri Kagan & Kenso Soai**: non-linear effects & autocatalysis in **asymmetric synthesis**. |
| **IMC 2026** | Theme **'Scale Without Boundaries'**, venue **Yashobhoomi**, New Delhi. |
| **GST e-commerce** | New **rule 14B** lets small online sellers register in another State using the operator's **warehouse**. |
| **SAREX-2026** | **12th** edition; scenario of aircraft ditching with **228** people off **Paradip**. |

## SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

**Q1.** With reference to the GST Council, consider the following statements:
1. It is a constitutional body under Article 279A.
2. It is chaired by the Union Finance Minister.
3. Every decision of the Council requires the unanimous support of all States.
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: (a)** — Decisions need a **three-fourths weighted majority** of members present and voting (Centre ⅓, States ⅔), not unanimity. Statements 1 and 2 are correct.

**Q2.** Which of the following were among the directions issued by the Supreme Court in Prakash Singh v. Union of India (2006)?
1. Selection of the State DGP from among the three senior-most officers empanelled by the UPSC.
2. A minimum tenure of two years for the DGP.
3. Setting up of a Police Complaints Authority.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (d)** — All three are part of the **seven directions** of 2006, along with a State Security Commission, Police Establishment Board, separation of investigation from law & order, and a National Security Commission.

**MAINS PRACTICE:** Trade-margin rationalisation is a more effective tool than direct price control for making cancer treatment affordable in India. Critically examine. (GS-II, 150 words)

**Hint:** Intro: **30% cap on 110 drugs**, 2019 precedent (**₹984 crore** saved). Body: merits – targets distribution mark-ups, keeps innovation incentive, covers patented drugs; limits – shortages, brand-switching, weak NPPA monitoring, OOPE beyond drugs. Conclude with DPCO amendment + **PM-JAY/Jan Aushadhi** synergy.

**ONE-LINE REVISION:** GST arrest power out (**Sec 69**), prosecution only above **₹5 cr** • **30%** margin cap on **110** cancer drugs • **CAPF Act 2026** in force • SC tests DGP rules vs **Prakash Singh** • El Niño may hit **+3.7°C** • Nobel: **Halzen**, **Kagan–Soai**, **Carson**.

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