CURRENT AFFAIRS — 12 OCTOBER 2026

Monday, 12 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

- **Repo rate 5.5%** after first hike since Feb 2023; stance **'calibrated tightening'**.
- **September CPI** due today; poll expects **~5.6%**, a **23-month high**.
- **PMDDKY** completes 1 year: **100 districts**, **₹24,000 crore/yr**, **36 schemes**.
- NGOPV **'Shreyas' (Yard 3040)** – 4th & last GRSE-built OPV – launched in **Kolkata**.
- **Tarang Shakti 2026** ends at **Jodhpur**; **US F-35** debut with IAF; **7 foreign air forces**.
- **TRISHNA** (ISRO–CNES) thermal satellite to launch in **12-16 months**.
- SC **Sunday sitting**: no detention **except by procedure established by law**.
- **Mizoram** to count **38,213** refugees/IDPs separately in **Census 2027**.
- Only **1,446 of 2,303** public authorities filed **RTI transparency audits**.
- **Navi Pillay** (South African jurist of Indian Tamil origin) wins **Nobel Peace Prize 2026**.

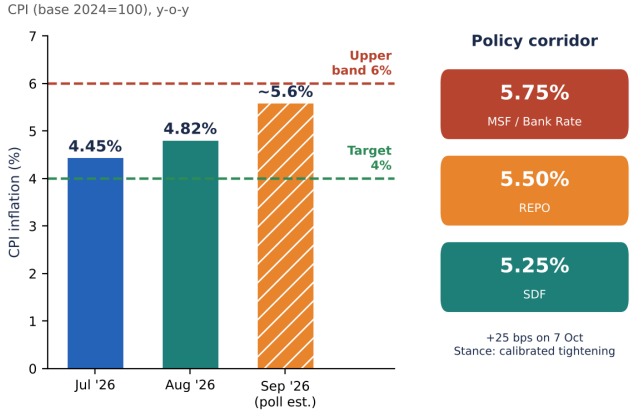
SECTION A | GS-III: SCIENCE & TECH • ECONOMY • SECURITY • ENVIRONMENT

RBI turns hawkish: first repo hike since 2023; September CPI print due today

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS3 – Monetary policy, inflation, growth. Prelims: **repo/SDF/MSF corridor**, **MPC**, **CPI base 2024=100**, **flexible inflation targeting**.
Context	After the MPC raised the **repo rate by 25 bps to 5.5%** on **7 October**, markets await the **September CPI** release today; a poll of economists expects about **5.6%** – a **23-month high** – driven by food and fuel prices.
Key Facts	● **First hike since February 2023**; **SDF 5.25%**, **MSF & Bank Rate 5.75%**; hike was **unanimous (6-0)**. ● Stance changed from **neutral** to **'calibrated tightening'** by a **4-2** vote; Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**. ● CPI: **July 4.45%** → **August 4.82%**; food inflation (CFPI) **5.95%** in August; **WPI 9.92%** in August. ● RBI raised **FY27 CPI forecast to 5.2%** (from 5.0%); **GDP growth projected at 7.1%** (Q1 FY27: **7.8%**). ● Crude basket averaged **$114-116/barrel** in September amid the **US-Iran conflict** re-escalation.
Way Fwd	Anchor expectations with **supply-side action** (buffer stocks, edible-oil duty, fuel tax calibration) so that rate hikes do not unduly hurt **7%+ growth**.
Concept	**Flexible Inflation Targeting** (since **2016**, **Sec 45ZA RBI Act**): CPI target **4% ± 2%**. **MPC** = 6 members (3 RBI + 3 external), Governor has **casting vote**. **SDF** is the floor and **MSF** the ceiling of the **LAF corridor**.

Retail inflation climbing



PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana completes one year: 100 districts, 36 schemes converge

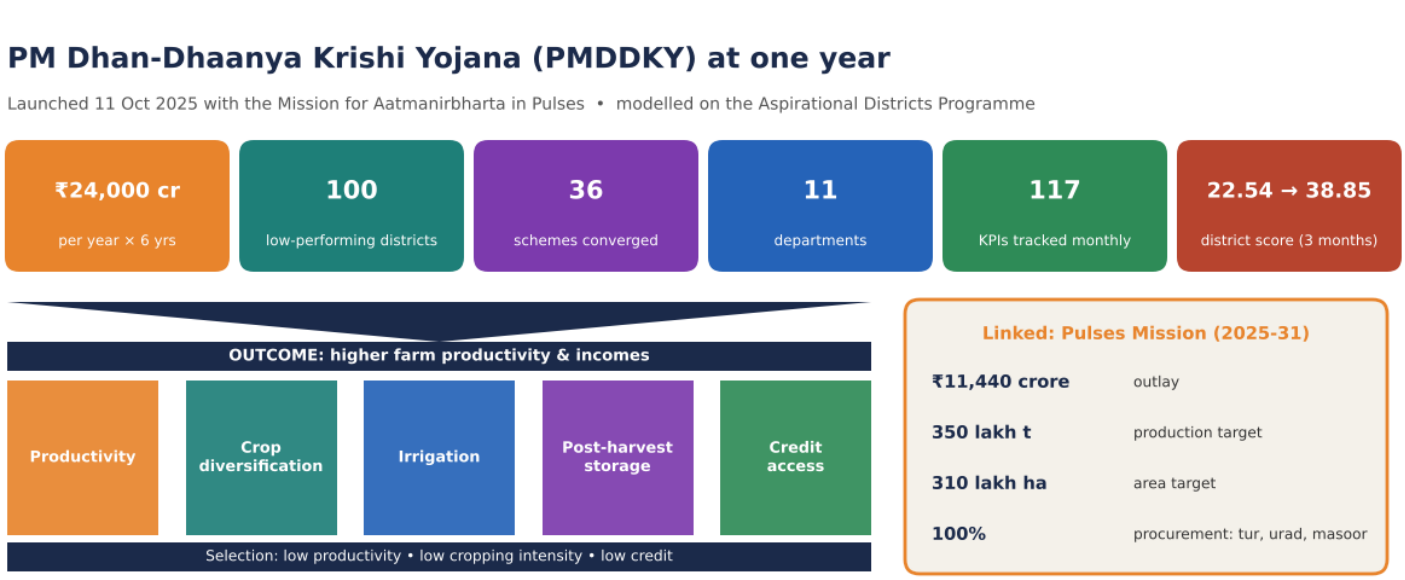
[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (Agriculture)

Syllabus Linkage	GS3 – Agricultural productivity, cropping pattern, farm credit; GS2 – Government schemes. Prelims: **PMDDKY**, **Pulses Mission**, **Aspirational Districts model**.
Context	Launched on **11 October 2025** along with the **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses**, the **PMDDKY** completed one year; government data shows the composite score of the **100 low-performing districts** rose from **22.54 to 38.85** within three months of the review cycle.
Key Facts	● Outlay **₹24,000 crore per year for 6 years** (from **2025-26**); covers **100 districts**, at least **one per State/UT**. ● Converges **36 schemes of 11 departments**; districts chosen on **low productivity, low cropping intensity, low credit**. ● Monitored through **117 KPIs** on a monthly dashboard; **District Dhan-Dhaanya Samiti** prepares district plans. ● **Pulses Mission**: **₹11,440 crore (2025-26 to 2030-31)**; target **350 lakh tonnes** output on **310 lakh ha**. ● **100% procurement** of **tur, urad and masoor** for four years; both schemes together: **₹35,440 crore**.
Way Fwd	Shift from input targets to **farm-income outcomes**; link district plans with **storage, FPOs and crop diversification** to cut **pulses imports**.
Concept	**Cropping intensity** = gross cropped area ÷ net sown area × 100. PMDDKY is modelled on the **Aspirational Districts Programme (2018)** – convergence, collaboration, competition. India is the **largest producer and consumer of pulses**.

Navy's Next-Generation OPV 'Shreyas' launched at GRSE, Kolkata

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS3 – Security challenges in border/maritime areas, indigenisation of defence. Prelims: **NGOPV**, **GRSE**, **EEZ**.
Context	**Yard 3040**, named **Shreyas**, the **fourth and last** Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, was launched in **Kolkata** on **10 October 2026**.
Key Facts	● **11 NGOPVs** contracted on **30 March 2023** for **₹9,781 crore** – **7 at Goa Shipyard**, **4 at GRSE**. ● Earlier launches: **Shachi** (GSL, Mar 2026), **Sanghmitra** (May 2026), **Shruti** (Aug 2026). ● Approx. **113 m long**, about **3,000 t** displacement; deliveries scheduled from **September 2026**. ● Roles: **EEZ surveillance**, **anti-piracy**, coastal defence, **search & rescue** and **HADR**.
Way Fwd	Timely delivery and **higher indigenous content** will free frontline warships and strengthen India's role as **first responder in the IOR**.
Concept	**EEZ** extends up to **200 nautical miles** under **UNCLOS (1982)**; India's EEZ is about **2.37 million sq km**. **GRSE** is a **Defence PSU (Miniratna)** under the Ministry of Defence.



Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 concludes at Jodhpur with 7 foreign air forces

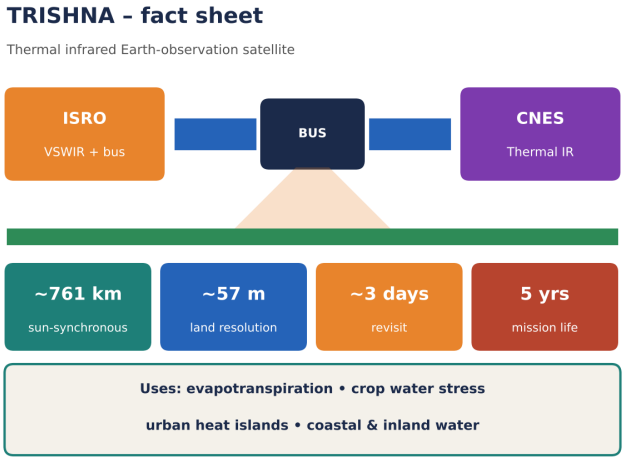
[DEFENCE] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (Security) / GS2 (IR)

Syllabus Linkage	GS3 – Defence preparedness; GS2 – Defence diplomacy. Prelims: **military exercises**, **F-35**, **Rafale**.
Context	The **second edition** of the IAF-hosted multinational air exercise **Tarang Shakti** ends today (**26 Sep – 12 Oct 2026**) at **Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan**; Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** attended key events.
Key Facts	● **7 foreign air forces**: **USA, France, Germany, Australia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, UAE**; **32 observer** countries. ● **US F-35 Lightning II** flew in an IAF-hosted exercise for the **first time**. ● France: **Rafale, A400M, MRTT** (PEGASE 26 deployment); UAE: **F-16**; Bangladesh: **C-130J**. ● **1st edition (2024)** was held in two phases – **Sulur (Tamil Nadu)** and **Jodhpur**.
Way Fwd	Institutionalise Tarang Shakti as a **biennial flagship**, deepen **interoperability** and showcase **indigenous platforms** (LCA Tejas, Prachand) for exports.
Concept	Other IAF exercises: **Garuda** (France), **Cope India** & **Red Flag** (USA), **Pitch Black** (Australia), **Desert Knight**, **Eastern Bridge** (Oman). **Exercise Indra** is with **Russia**.

Indo-French TRISHNA thermal satellite in advanced stage; launch in 12-16 months

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS3 – Space technology and applications; GS2 – India–France ties. Prelims: **TRISHNA**, **sun-synchronous orbit**, **thermal infrared**.
Context	An ISRO official said at the **'TRISHNA – Water for Tomorrow'** workshop that the joint **ISRO-CNES** satellite is in an **advanced stage of realisation**, with launch expected in **12 to 16 months**.
Key Facts	● **TRISHNA** = **Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural resource Assessment**. ● **3rd joint Indo-French** Earth-observation mission after **Megha-Tropiques (2011)** and **SARAL (2013)**. ● **CNES** builds the **thermal infrared (TIR)** payload; **ISRO** builds the **VSWIR** payload and the bus. ● **Sun-synchronous orbit ~761 km**; **~57 m** resolution over land; revisit about **3 days**; life **5 years**.
Way Fwd	Integrate TRISHNA data with **PMKSY irrigation planning**, **urban heat action plans** and drought monitoring for **water security**.
Concept	**Thermal infrared** sensors measure **Land Surface Temperature (LST)**, used to estimate **evapotranspiration** and **crop water stress**. A **sun-synchronous orbit** passes a place at the **same local solar time** daily.

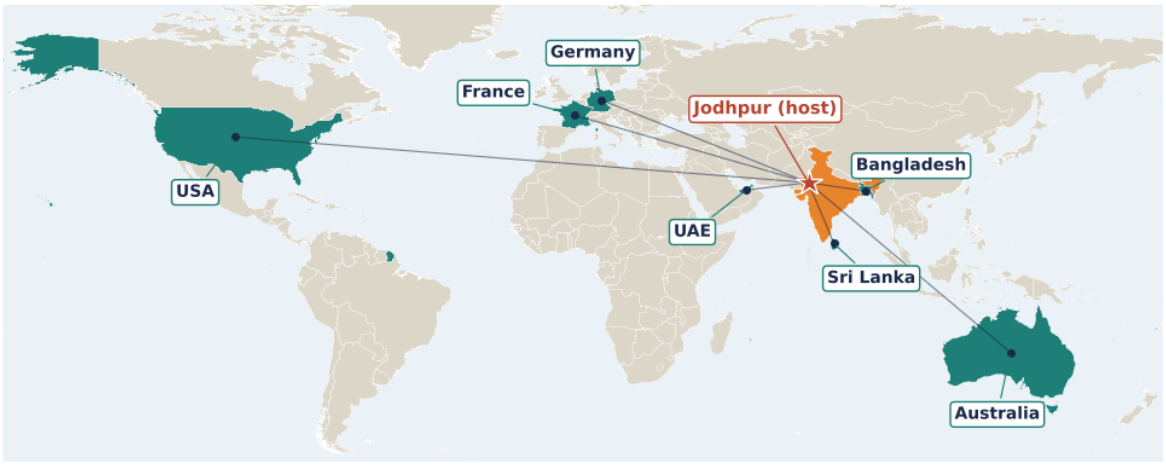


Heat-driven sex reversal pushing frogs towards earlier extinction: new study

[ENVIRONMENT] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (Environment)

Syllabus Linkage	GS3 – Climate change impacts, biodiversity loss. Prelims: **temperature-dependent sex determination**, **amphibians**, **ranavirus**.
Context	A new peer-reviewed study finds that warming is making **heat-induced sex reversal** more common in the European **agile frog**, with genetic females developing as **phenotypic males**.
Key Facts	● **Sex-reversed males** sired **fewer offspring** and were more vulnerable to **heat** and **ranavirus**. ● Models: decline may begin **~10 years earlier** and **extinction ~9.5 years sooner** in affected populations. ● About **40% of amphibian species** already face **extinction risk** – the most threatened vertebrate class.
Way Fwd	Protect **shaded wetlands and breeding ponds**, monitor sex ratios and include amphibians in **climate-adaptation** plans.
Concept	**TSD (temperature-dependent sex determination)** is normal in **turtles and crocodiles** – warmer nests of **Olive Ridley** turtles yield more **females**. In frogs sex is genetic, but **heat can override** it.

Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 – participating air forces



SECTION B | ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

$734.6 billion

Forex reserves

India's foreign exchange reserves (week ended 2 October 2026)

Down **$12.95 bn** in a week – the **4th straight weekly fall** – and **$51.1 bn** below the record **$785.7 bn** (week ended 4 Sep) as RBI defends the rupee. **Foreign currency assets $604.7 bn**, **gold $106.4 bn**, **SDRs $18.7 bn**; reserves cover about **11 months of imports**.

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

SC special sitting: no detention except by procedure established by law during Delhi protests

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS2 – Fundamental Rights, judiciary. Prelims: **Art 19(1)(b)**, **Art 21-22**, **Art 358**, **Sec 163 BNSS**, **habeas corpus**.
Context	At a rare **Sunday sitting (11 October)**, a bench of Justices **Joymalya Bagchi** and **V. Mohana** issued interim directions on protests in Delhi against the **Chief Election Commissioner**, after counsel alleged mass detentions and invoked the **Emergency-era ADM Jabalpur** case.
Key Facts	• No one to be detained **except through procedure established by law**, esp. **peaceful, unarmed** assemblies. • **Metro and rail** to run normally; **internet** to stay undisturbed; free movement subject to traffic rules. • **Sec 163 BNSS** notice near the Supreme Court to be removed to ensure **access to courts**; advocates not to be hindered. • Compliance report due **13 October**; Court to examine whether the **Police Act** is consistent with **Article 19**.
Way Fwd	Codify **protest-management SOPs** with **proportionality**, disclosure of detention data, and **name badges** for police to ensure accountability.
Concept	**Art 19(1)(b)**: assemble **peaceably and without arms**, restrictable under **19(3)** (public order, sovereignty). **Art 22**: produce arrestee before magistrate within **24 hours**. **ADM Jabalpur (1976)** was overruled in **Puttaswamy (2017)**; **Anuradha Bhasin (2020)** – internet curbs must be **proportionate**.

Pakistan imposes emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, suspends provincial government

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

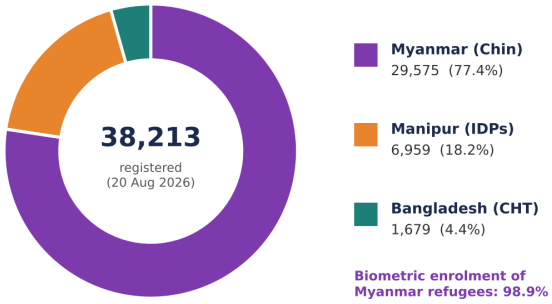
Syllabus Linkage	GS2 – Developments in neighbourhood, comparison of constitutions. Prelims: **Art 356**, **Art 352**, **S.R. Bommai**.
Context	President **Asif Ali Zardari** issued a proclamation under **Articles 232(1) and 234(1)** of Pakistan's Constitution, suspending the **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** government led by **Imran Khan's party**, whose CM **Sohail Afridi** had led a march for Khan's release.
Key Facts	• **Art 232** (Pakistan): emergency on war or **internal disturbance**; **Art 234**: failure of constitutional machinery in a province. • KP borders **Afghanistan (Durand Line)**; instability affects **terrorism** and **CPEC** security. • Move follows weeks of talk of **Governor's Rule** in the PTI-governed province.
Way Fwd	India should monitor **cross-border terror** spillover along the **western front** and Pakistan's internal stability vis-à-vis **Afghanistan**.
Concept	India's **Art 356 (President's Rule)**: parliamentary approval within **2 months**, max **3 years**; **S.R. Bommai (1994)** made it **judicially reviewable** with **floor test**. The **44th Amendment (1978)** replaced 'internal disturbance' with **'armed rebellion'** in **Art 352**.

Mizoram to count refugees separately in Census 2027

[SOCIETY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 (Governance) / GS1

Syllabus Linkage	GS2 – Refugee policy, Centre–State issues; GS3 – Border management. Prelims: **Census 2027**, **Free Movement Regime**, **1951 Refugee Convention**.
Context	Mizoram will **enumerate refugees and displaced persons separately** in the **2027 Census**; as of **20 August**, **38,213** people were registered with the State.
Key Facts	● **29,575 from Myanmar** (mostly **Chin**), **6,959 IDPs from Manipur**, **1,679 from Bangladesh** (Chittagong Hill Tracts). ● **Biometric enrolment** of Myanmar refugees at **98.9%**; refugees **need not disclose Aadhaar**. ● **Census 2027** is India's **first digital Census** and will also **enumerate caste**; reference date **1 March 2027**.
Way Fwd	Separate data can guide **humanitarian aid** and border policy; India needs a **national refugee framework** balancing **security and non-refoulement**.
Concept	India is **not a party** to the **1951 Refugee Convention** or its **1967 Protocol** and has **no refugee law**; foreigners are governed by the **Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025**. **FMR** along the **1,643 km India–Myanmar border** allowed visa-free movement (cut from 16 km to **10 km**).

Who is sheltering in Mizoram?



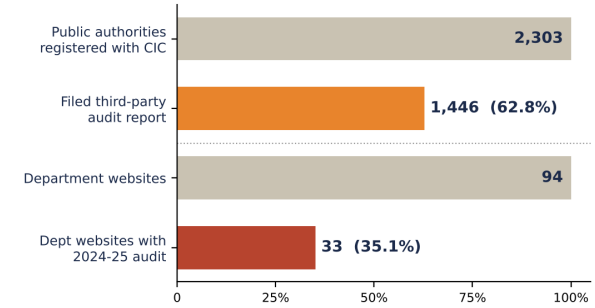
RTI transparency audit: only 63% of public authorities file third-party audit reports

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS2 – Transparency and accountability, statutory bodies. Prelims: **RTI Act 2005**, **Sec 4 suo motu disclosure**, **CIC**.
Context	An analysis of **Central Information Commission (CIC)** records flags weak compliance with **proactive disclosure** under **Section 4** of the RTI Act, measured through **third-party transparency audits**.
Key Facts	● Of **2,303 public authorities** registered with CIC, only **1,446 (~62.8%)** submitted **third-party audit reports**. ● **More than half** of submitted reports scored **Grade C or below**. ● Only **33 of 94** department websites carried **2024-25 audit reports**. ● About **23 lakh RTI requests** handled in **2024-25**; **5.1 lakh pending**.
Way Fwd	Make **Sec 4 audits mandatory and public**, fill **Information Commission vacancies** and link disclosure scores to departmental performance.
Concept	**Sec 4(1)(b)** lists items to be **proactively disclosed**. **CIC** is a **statutory body** (Sec 12). The **RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019** let the Centre fix **tenure and salaries** of Information Commissioners; **DPDP Act 2023** amended **Sec 8(1)(j)** (personal information).

RTI proactive-disclosure audit gaps

Compliance with Sec 4 transparency audits



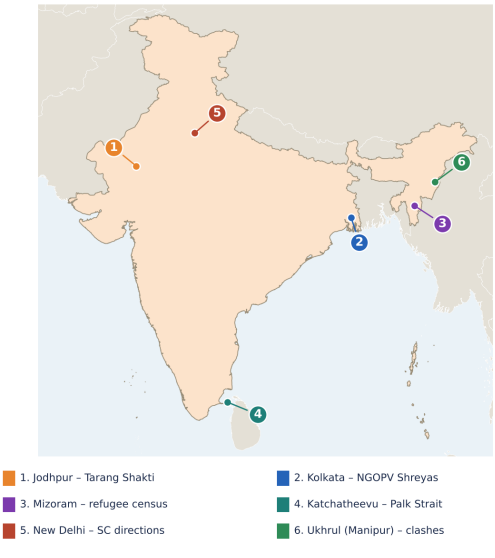
Pending RTI requests (2024-25): 5.1 lakh of ~23 lakh handled

Katchatheevu: Sri Lanka's President says India has acknowledged island belongs to Sri Lanka

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS2 – India and its neighbourhood; GS1 – Geography. Prelims: **Palk Strait**, **1974 & 1976 agreements**, **Berubari case**.
Context	President **Anura Kumara Dissanayake** said India had acknowledged in its Supreme Court that **Katchatheevu** belongs to Sri Lanka, after **Attorney General R. Venkataramani** told the Court that India **will not reopen** the **1974 and 1976 agreements**.
Key Facts	● Uninhabited islet of about **285 acres** in the **Palk Strait**, north-east of **Rameswaram**. ● **1974 agreement** (Indira Gandhi – Sirimavo Bandaranaike) placed it on Sri Lanka's side; **1976** pact ended fishing rights. ● AG: fishermen's issues to be handled **diplomatically**; matter listed for hearing in **February 2027**. ● Annual **St. Anthony's Church festival** on the island draws pilgrims from **both countries**.
Way Fwd	Resolve the **fishermen issue** via the **Joint Working Group**, phase out **bottom trawling** and promote **deep-sea fishing** off Tamil Nadu.
Concept	**Berubari Union case (1960)**: ceding Indian territory needs a **constitutional amendment under Art 368**. The government's stand is that Katchatheevu was **never demarcated Indian territory**, so no amendment was required.

India in News – 12 Oct 2026



SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **Nobel Peace Prize 2026**: **Navi Pillay**, ex-**UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** and ICTR judge; 125th Peace Prize, to be presented in **Oslo on 10 December**.	2. **Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport** hit by **Houthi-claimed** missile strikes; India condemned the attacks and issued an **advisory** for nationals in Saudi Arabia.
3. **Russia–Ukraine 'energy ceasefire'** announced by the US President – both sides to stop striking **refineries and power systems**.	4. **Manipur**: **Kuki–Naga clashes** in Kamjong, Kangpokpi and Ukhrul left **9 dead**; **ITBP and SSB** companies deployed.
5. **Kerala Assembly** set to move a resolution seeking removal of **CEC Gyanesh Kumar** – CEC is removable only like a **SC judge** (**Art 324(5)**).	6. **Norway** proposes **temporary curbs on smart glasses** in schools, hospitals and museums over **covert recording** and privacy concerns.

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the TRISHNA mission, consider the following statements: 1. It is a joint mission of ISRO and the French space agency CNES. 2. It will be placed in a geostationary orbit. 3. Its thermal infrared payload is designed to estimate land surface temperature and evapotranspiration. How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) — Statements 1 and 3 are correct. TRISHNA will fly in a **sun-synchronous polar orbit (~761 km)**, not a geostationary orbit.

Q2. After the RBI's October 2026 policy, the repo rate stands at 5.5%. Which of the following correctly gives the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rates respectively?

(a) 5.00% and 6.00% (b) 5.25% and 5.75% (c) 5.75% and 5.25% (d) 5.50% and 6.00%

Answer: (b) — The LAF corridor is **repo ± 25 bps**: **SDF (floor) 5.25%** and **MSF (ceiling) 5.75%**; the **Bank Rate** is aligned with MSF.

MAINS PRACTICE (GS-II)

The right to protest is an essential facet of democracy, but it must be balanced with public order. In the light of recent judicial directions, examine the constitutional safeguards against arbitrary preventive detention and restrictions on movement and internet during protests. (250 words, 15 marks)

Hint: Intro: **Art 19(1)(a),(b)** and **19(3)**. Body: **Art 21, 22** safeguards; **habeas corpus**; **Anita Thakur (2016)**, **Amit Sahni (2020)** on public spaces; **Anuradha Bhasin (2020)** proportionality; ADM Jabalpur overruled. Way forward: SOPs, data disclosure, police accountability.

ONE-LINE REVISION: **Repo 5.5%** (SDF 5.25 / MSF 5.75) • **PMDDKY**: 100 districts, 36 schemes • **Shreyas** = Yard 3040 • **Tarang Shakti-2** at Jodhpur • **TRISHNA** = ISRO + CNES • **Katchatheevu**: 1974/1976 pacts.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team
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