CURRENT AFFAIRS — 29 OCTOBER 2026

Thursday, 29 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

- **CMPS**: ₹10,000 crore to lift container output from ~70,000 to **7.5 lakh TEU/year** by FY 2039-40.
- **Khelo India SGMS**: ₹1,856.67 crore (2026-27 to 2033-34) for **Sports Goods Manufacturing Zones**.
- **Jio Platforms** listed at **₹1,358** (21.36% premium) — India's **2nd most valuable** firm.
- **NVS-03** to fly on **GSLV-F18** on 30 Oct; adds **L1 signal** to NavIC.
- **ESTIC 2026** opened at **Bharat Mandapam**; ₹1 lakh crore **RDI Fund** in focus.
- **Cyclone Arnab** (VSCS) crossed coast near **Yanam**; name given by **Bangladesh**.
- **PM-VGSY**: ₹7,395.55 crore CSS to strengthen **2.55 lakh** Panchayats till 2030-31.
- **NPPA** cut MRPs of **543** cancer-drug brands by up to **93%**; effective **9 Nov**.
- **SC** calls digital-arrest scams **'digital dacoity'**; refuses to club 35 FIRs.
- **India–Mexico** sign ToR for **PTA**; bilateral trade **USD 7.83 bn** in FY26.

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

Cabinet clears ₹10,000-crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

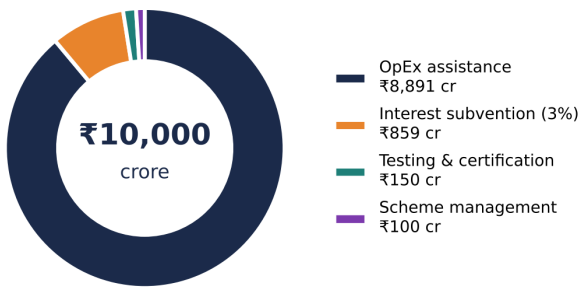
Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Infrastructure (ports, logistics), industrial policy, Make in India; Prelims – schemes, TEU
Context	The Union Cabinet on **28 October 2026** approved the **Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)**, announced in **Union Budget 2026-27**, to cut import dependence in a sector where **~95%** of global output comes from a single country.
Key Facts	■ Outlay **₹10,000 crore** over **FY 2027-28 to 2039-40** (3 years build + 10 years production support); ministry: **Ports, Shipping & Waterways**. ■ Capacity target: from **~70,000 TEU** to **7.5 lakh TEU/year** (~**10x**); ~**3,000 direct** + **50,000+ indirect** jobs. ■ Components: **OpEx assistance ₹8,891 crore**, **3% interest subvention ₹859 crore**, testing & certification **₹150 crore**. ■ **Domestic content** norm raised from **70% to 90%**; land at major ports leased at **25%** of notified rate.
Way Fwd	Pair CMPS with **specialised steel** (corner castings, CORTEN) supply, domestic **testing labs** and assured demand from Indian shipping lines to beat scale disadvantages.
Concept	**TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit)** = standard 20-ft container, the unit of port/ship capacity. Links: **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**, PM Gati Shakti, logistics cost reduction.

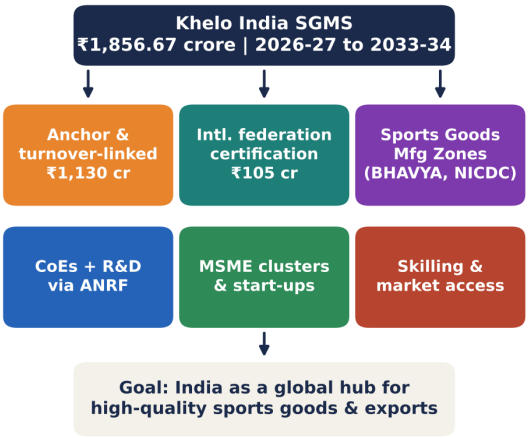
Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme approved

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Industrial policy, MSMEs, exports; **GS2** – sports policy; Prelims – scheme features
Context	The Cabinet approved the **Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme** with an outlay of **₹1,856.67 crore** (2026-27 to **2033-34**) to make India a **global hub** for high-quality sports goods.
Key Facts	■ **Anchor Investment Support** + **Turnover-Linked Support** together **₹1,130 crore**. ■ **₹105 crore** to help firms obtain **International Sports Federation** certifications. ■ Dedicated **Sports Goods Manufacturing Zones (SGMZs)** via convergence with **BHAVYA** scheme and **NICDC** industrial parks. ■ **Centres of Excellence** with R&D convergence through **ANRF**; aligned to **Khelo Bharat Niti 2025**.
Way Fwd	Upgrade traditional clusters (**Meerut, Jalandhar**) with synthetic-material know-how, and use the **Export Promotion Mission** to win global brand contracts.
Concept	**Khelo Bharat Niti 2025** (National Sports Policy, 2025) replaced the 2001 policy; pillars include sports for excellence, economic development and **sports manufacturing**.

CMPS outlay (₹ crore), FY28–FY40





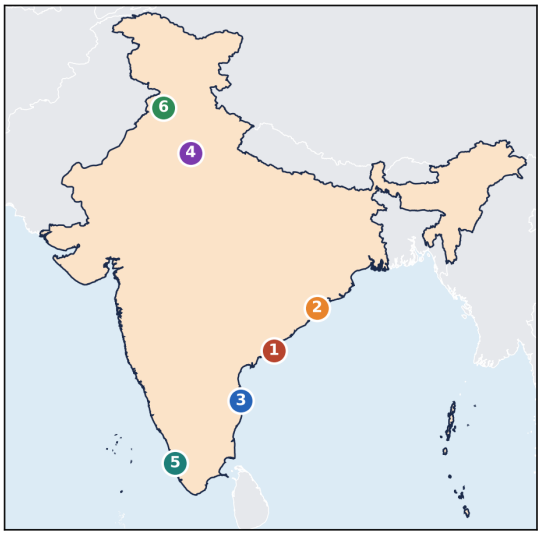
Capacity: ~70,000 → 7.5 lakh TEU/yr (~10x)

Cyclone Arnab crosses Andhra coast near Yanam

[ENVIRONMENT] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS1/GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS1** – Geophysical phenomena (cyclones); **GS3** – Disaster management; Prelims – cyclone naming, IMD scale
Context	**Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) Arnab** made landfall early on **28 October 2026** near **Yanam (Puducherry)**, ~60 km south-west of **Kakinada**, and weakened to a severe cyclonic storm over land.
Key Facts	■ Sustained winds **125-135 km/h**, gusting to **150 km/h** at landfall. ■ **1.8 lakh+** people evacuated across **Andhra Pradesh and Odisha**; at least **3 deaths**. ■ Formed over the **east-central Bay of Bengal**; stalled off **Narsapur-Kakinada** before crossing. ■ Name **'Arnab'** (meaning **'ocean'** in Bengali) was contributed by **Bangladesh**.
Way Fwd	Strengthen **impact-based forecasting**, multipurpose cyclone shelters and **mangrove** buffers along the Godavari delta; speed up crop-loss assessment.
Concept	**IMD scale**: VSCS = **118-165 km/h** (64-89 knots). North Indian Ocean names come from the **WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones** (13 members); the **2020 list** has 169 names. **Post-monsoon (Oct-Dec)** is a peak cyclone season in the Bay.

India in News — 29 Oct 2026



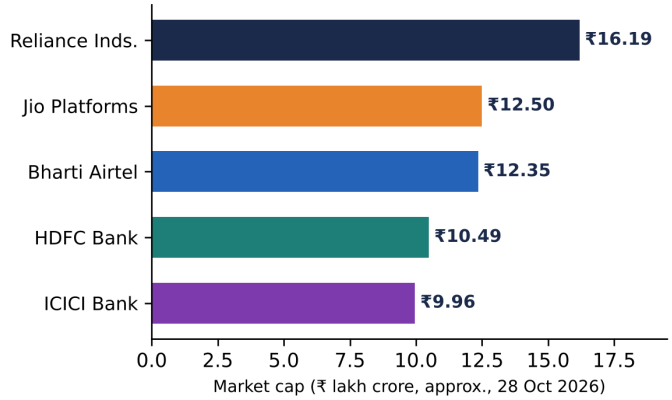
Map not to scale; boundaries as per India's official position

Jio Platforms debuts as India's second most valuable company

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Capital markets, mobilisation of resources; Prelims – IPO, fresh issue vs OFS, SEBI
Context	**Jio Platforms** listed on **NSE and BSE** on **28 October 2026** at **₹1,358**, a **21.36% premium** over the issue price of **₹1,119**, overtaking Bharti Airtel and HDFC Bank by market value.
Key Facts	■ IPO size **₹30,213 crore** — entirely a **fresh issue** (no OFS); price band **₹1,065-1,119**. ■ Subscribed **22.19 times** overall; **QIB 70.66x**, retail **2.27x**; ~**1.4 crore** applications. ■ Market cap at listing ≈ **₹12.50 lakh crore** — 2nd only to parent **Reliance Industries**. ■ Initial **free float ~3%** — a test of SEBI's relaxed norms for **mega IPOs**.
Way Fwd	Deepen retail participation and ensure a credible path to **minimum public shareholding**, while watching **market concentration** in telecom and digital services.
Concept	**Fresh issue** = new shares, money goes to the company; **Offer for Sale (OFS)** = existing holders sell, money goes to them. **Minimum Public Shareholding** norm: **25%** (SCRR, 1957).

India's most valuable listed firms



ISRO readies GSLV-F18 to launch NavIC satellite NVS-03

[SCI-TECH] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Space technology, indigenisation; Prelims – NavIC, GSLV, orbits, signal bands
Context	ISRO has scheduled **GSLV-F18** to launch **NVS-03**, the third second-generation navigation satellite, on the night of **30 October 2026** from the **Second Launch Pad, Sriharikota**, to restore NavIC's standalone service.
Key Facts	■ **20th** flight of GSLV; satellite mass ~**2,250 kg**; GTO of **170 × 37,023 km**. ■ Carries an **indigenous atomic clock** along with procured clocks. ■ Adds **L1 signal** to existing **L5 and S** bands; coverage India + **1,500 km** beyond its boundary. ■ **NVS-02** (Jan 2025) could not reach its slot after an **orbit-raising valve** failed to get its ignition signal.
Way Fwd	Build a **replacement pipeline** of satellites, fully indigenise **atomic clocks**, and push **L1-enabled NavIC chips** into smartphones and vehicle trackers.
Concept	**NavIC (IRNSS)** – India's regional navigation system: **7-satellite** constellation (**3 GEO + 4 GSO**); offers Standard Positioning and Restricted Service. **L1** band = interoperable with **GPS** for consumer devices.

PM opens ESTIC 2026: '3-year outcomes' push for deep tech

[SCI-TECH] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – S&T developments, R&D funding, startups; Prelims – ANRF, RDI Fund, BioE3
Context	PM inaugurated the **Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** (27-28 Oct), urging researchers to deliver **measurable, scalable outcomes within three years**.

Key Facts	■ **5,000+** delegates; **12** thematic priority domains incl. AI, quantum, semiconductors, **Deep Ocean Mission**. ■ **₹1 lakh crore RDI Fund** and **ANRF** mechanisms flagged for deep-tech commercialisation. ■ Startups grew from ~**400 (2014)** to **2.3 lakh+**; ~**50-60%** in Tier-2/3 cities. ■ Sessions on **BioE3** strategy, homegrown **LLMs** and **IndiaAI** compute access.
Way Fwd	Raise **GERD** (still well below 1% of GDP), fast-track **IP commercialisation** and link labs with industry through mission-mode funding.
Concept	**ANRF** – Anusandhan National Research Foundation (**ANRF Act, 2023**); **RDI Scheme** (₹1 lakh crore) gives long-tenor, low-cost finance to private R&D. **BioE3** = Biotechnology for Economy, Environment & Employment (2024).

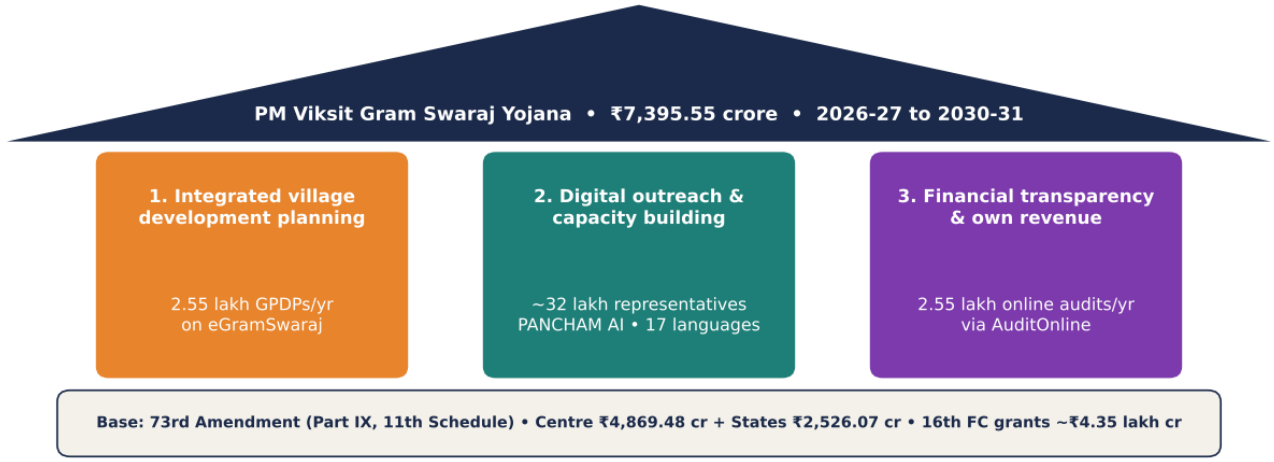
SECTION B | ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

60% → 63%

Dearness Allowance / Dearness Relief for central employees & pensioners (w.e.f. 1 July 2026)

+3 percentage points approved by the Cabinet on **28 Oct 2026**; benefits ~**48 lakh employees** and ~**68 lakh pensioners**; cost ~**₹10,016 crore**. DA is revised twice a year using the **AICPI-IW** (Labour Bureau).

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



PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana: ₹7,395 crore to power Panchayats

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

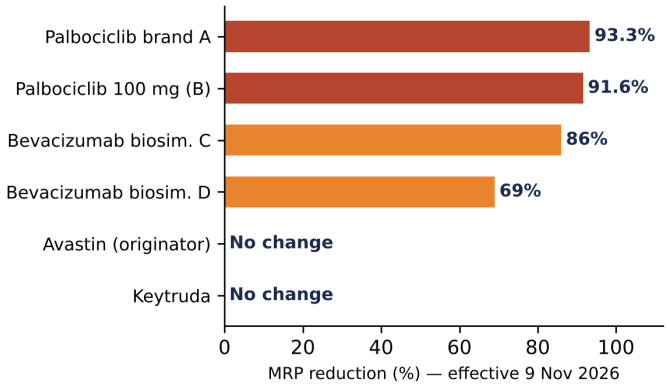
Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Devolution to local bodies, 73rd Amendment, government schemes; Prelims – Part IX, CSS
Context	The Cabinet approved the **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY)**, a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of **₹7,395.55 crore** for **2026-27 to 2030-31**, aligned with the **16th Finance Commission** period.
Key Facts	■ Centre **₹4,869.48 crore** + States **₹2,526.07 crore**; covers all States/UTs incl. bodies **outside Part IX**. ■ **2.55 lakh** Gram Panchayat Development Plans a year on **eGramSwaraj**; **2.55 lakh** online audits via **AuditOnline**. ■ Training & digital handholding for ~**32 lakh** elected representatives and functionaries annually. ■ AI-enabled **PANCHAM** platform in **17 languages**; helps plan use of ~**₹4.35 lakh crore** 16th FC grants to rural local bodies.
Way Fwd	Pair capacity-building with genuine devolution of **funds, functions and functionaries (3Fs)** and stronger **own-source revenue** of Panchayats.
Concept	**73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 → Part IX** (Art. **243-243O**); **Art. 243G** powers; **11th Schedule** lists **29 subjects**. Fifth/Sixth Schedule areas have traditional bodies outside Part IX (PESA, 1996).

NPPA cuts MRPs of 543 cancer-drug brands by up to 93%

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Health, access to medicines, regulatory bodies; Prelims – NPPA, DPCO, trade margin
Context	The **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** revised MRPs of **543 brands and pack sizes** of cancer drugs after capping **trade margins at 30%** of MRP for **137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs**; new prices apply from **9 November 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Maximum cut **93.3%** — a **palbociclib** brand fell from **₹40,421** to **₹2,720** per unit. ■ Bevacizumab biosimilars cut **69-86%**; originator **Avastin** unchanged. ■ **Keytruda (pembrolizumab)** unchanged at **₹2.16 lakh**; **nivolumab** prices also unchanged. ■ 30% margin (excl. GST) = **42.86% mark-up** over the price to stockist.
Way Fwd	Extend **trade margin rationalisation** to costly patented biologics, monitor **compliance** at pharmacies and expand **Jan Aushadhi** oncology lists.
Concept	**NPPA** (est. **1997**) under the **Department of Pharmaceuticals**; enforces **DPCO 2013** issued under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**. Trade margin cap of 30% was first applied to **42 anti-cancer drugs in 2019**.

NPPA: cancer-drug MRP cuts (543 brands)



SC terms 'digital arrest' scams 'digital dacoity', refuses to club 35 FIRs

[POLITY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2/GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Judiciary, rights of victims; **GS3** – Cyber security, internal security; Prelims – I4C, 1930 helpline
Context	A Bench headed by **CJI Surya Kant** on **28 October 2026** refused to consolidate **35 cybercrime cases across 12 States** against two accused whose firm's bank account allegedly received fraud proceeds, calling such scams **'digital dacoity'**.
Key Facts	■ Court: accused's right to seek transfer **cannot override the rights of victims** and investigators. ■ Example cited: an **81-year-old** victim from **Ernakulam** lost **₹1.90 crore** routed through a **mule account**. ■ Proceeds often moved abroad (e.g., **Hong Kong, Bangkok**), complicating victims' remedy. ■ Plea **withdrawn**; consolidation may be considered if the **investigating agency** seeks it.
Way Fwd	Crack down on **mule accounts** with AI tools, create a **central investigation** mechanism for inter-State frauds and expand awareness that **'digital arrest' has no legal basis**.
Concept	**'Police' and 'public order'** are **State List** subjects (Seventh Schedule); **I4C** (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, MHA) runs helpline **1930** and the national cybercrime reporting portal. **IT Act, 2000** + **BNS, 2023** cover cheating by impersonation.

India and Mexico launch Preferential Trade Agreement talks

[IR] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2/GS3

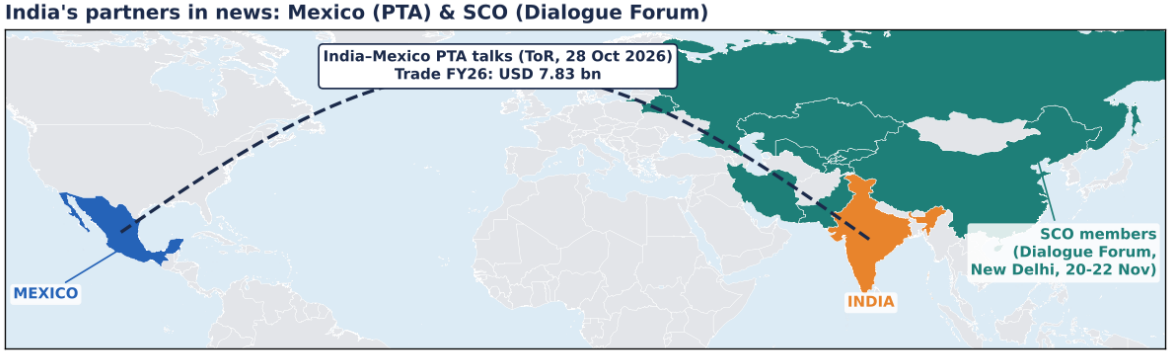
Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Bilateral relations, India–Latin America; **GS3** – External trade; Prelims – PTA vs FTA vs CEPA
Context	India and Mexico signed the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** on **28 October 2026** to launch negotiations on a **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)**, led by India's **Commerce Secretary** and Mexico's **Undersecretary of Foreign Trade**.
Key Facts	■ Bilateral trade FY 2025-26: **USD 7.83 bn** (down **9.11%**); exports **USD 5.73 bn**, imports **USD 2.11 bn**. ■ ToR covers **market access for goods**, rules of origin, customs, **SPS/TBT**, trade remedies and dispute settlement. ■ Focus sectors: **autos, pharma, electronics**, chemicals, agri-food, energy and **critical minerals**. ■ Mexican **business mission** to India proposed for **Q1 2027**.
Way Fwd	Use the PTA as a gateway to the **North American (USMCA) market**, secure tariff relief for Indian autos and pharma, and build **critical-mineral** linkages.
Concept	**PTA** = tariff cuts on a **limited list** of goods; **FTA** = duties eliminated on 'substantially all trade'; **CEPA** adds services, investment and IPR. Mexico is a member of **USMCA** and **CPTPP**.

India invites all SCO members, incl. Pakistan, to Civilisational Dialogue Forum

[IR] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Regional groupings, India–Pakistan, cultural diplomacy; Prelims – SCO members, RATS
Context	India has invited all **10 SCO member states**, including **Pakistan**, to the **inaugural SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum** in **New Delhi** on **20-22 November 2026**, focused on shared heritage and people-to-people ties.
Key Facts	■ Proposed by the PM at the **Tianjin SCO Summit (Sept 2025)**; announced by **Rajnath Singh** at the **SCO Heads of Government** meeting, **Dushanbe (20 Oct 2026)**. ■ First invite to a senior Pakistani minister since the **May 2025** conflict; last such visit was the **Goa SCO FMs' meet (May 2023)**. ■ **Pakistan** chairs the SCO Council of Heads of State for **2026-27**; next summit in **Islamabad (2027)**. ■ India reiterated **'no double standards'** on terrorism and accountability for its sponsors.
Way Fwd	Use **civilisational and cultural diplomacy** to keep SCO channels open while insisting on **zero tolerance for cross-border terrorism**.
Concept	**SCO** – founded **2001** (Shanghai); Secretariat **Beijing**, **RATS** in **Tashkent**; India & Pakistan full members **2017**, **Iran 2023**, **Belarus 2024**; official languages **Russian and Chinese**.

India's partners in news: Mexico (PTA) & SCO (Dialogue Forum)



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

SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. Arnab cyclone name contributed by **Bangladesh**; means '**ocean**'.	**4. ESTIC 2026** venue: **Bharat Mandapam**, New Delhi; **12** thematic domains.
2. Jio IPO (₹30,213 crore) was **entirely a fresh issue** with **22.19x** subscription.	**5. SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum**: **20-22 Nov 2026**, New Delhi.
3. NVS-03 adds the **L1** band to NavIC's **L5 and S** bands.	**6.** New cancer-drug MRPs effective **9 November 2026**; **137** non-scheduled molecules under 30% margin cap.

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER

PRELIMS MCQs

Q1. With reference to the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS) approved in October 2026, consider the following statements: 1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. 2. It aims to raise India's container manufacturing capacity to 7.5 lakh TEU per year. 3. It provides a 3% annual interest subvention on eligible term loans. How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c) — All three are correct: CMPS (₹10,000 crore, till FY 2039-40) is run by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**, targets **7.5 lakh TEU/year** and offers **3% interest subvention** (₹859 crore component).

Q2. Consider the following statements about the NVS-03 satellite: 1. It is to be launched by the PSLV. 2. It adds an L1 navigation signal to NavIC. 3. NavIC's service area extends up to 1,500 km beyond India's boundary. 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: (b) — NVS-03 flies on **GSLV-F18**, not PSLV, so statement 1 is wrong. It adds the **L1** band and NavIC covers India plus **1,500 km** around it.

MAINS PRACTICE

Q. "Panchayats receive more money than ever, yet plan and spend it poorly." In the light of the PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana, examine how capacity building and digital tools can deepen democratic decentralisation. (GS2, 15 marks, 250 words)

Hint: Intro: **73rd Amendment** + 16th FC grants (~₹4.35 lakh crore). Body: PM-VGSY's 3 pillars (GPDP on eGramSwaraj, PANCHAM training for 32 lakh representatives, AuditOnline); gaps — 3Fs, own-source revenue, proxy representation, State Finance Commissions. Conclude with **Gram Sabha**-centred planning for **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

ONE-LINE REVISION: CMPS ₹10,000 cr → 7.5 lakh TEU | Khelo SGMS ₹1,856.67 cr | PM-VGSY ₹7,395.55 cr | DA 63% | Arnab = Bangladesh | NVS-03 on GSLV-F18 | NPPA 543 brands, up to 93% | India–Mexico PTA ToR | SCO Dialogue Forum 20-22 Nov.

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