CURRENT AFFAIRS — 30 OCTOBER 2026

Friday, 30 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

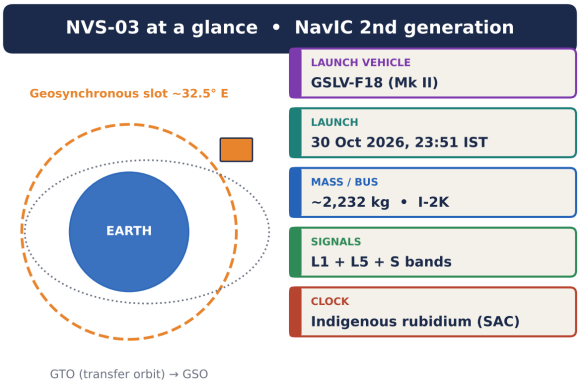
- SC: banks to compensate **digital arrest** victims if **due diligence** fails
- **NVS-03** on **GSLV-F18** at **23:51 IST** tonight from Sriharikota
- Green H2 offtake: **5,55,610 MTPA** = ~**11%** of **5 MMT** 2030 goal
- **24th PM-KISAN** instalment: **₹18,680 cr** to **9.34 crore** families
- Finance Ministry lifts **FY27 GDP** outlook to **7.3%** (RBI: **7.1%**)
- Textile **PLI Round 4** portal: **1 Nov–31 Dec 2026**; threshold **₹100 cr**
- **ADMM-Plus** (13th) at **Cebu**: India offers counter-terror expertise
- **Siang (11,200 MW)** dam protests turn violent in **Pasighat**
- Study: hanging-glacier avalanches threaten **398 buildings** in **Badrinath**
- **Kufri Jamunia** — CPRI's purple biofortified potato vs hidden hunger

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

NVS-03 on GSLV-F18 to Restore NavIC Services

SCI-TECH | COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** — Space technology, indigenisation. Prelims: **NavIC**, GSLV, orbits, atomic clocks.
Context	ISRO is set to launch **NVS-03** aboard **GSLV-F18** at **23:51 IST on 30 October 2026** from **Sriharikota**, to shore up India's regional navigation constellation hit by earlier **clock failures**.
Key Facts	■ **Third** of five **second-generation NVS** satellites; mass about **2,232 kg**; **I-2K** bus. ■ Carries an **indigenous rubidium atomic clock** from **SAC Ahmedabad** — replacing failed imported clocks. ■ Signals in **L1, L5 and S bands**; **L1** enables NavIC on **mass-market phones/wearables**. ■ Placed first in **GTO**, then a **geosynchronous** slot (~**32.5° E**).
Way Fwd	Speed up **NVS-04/05**, mandate **NavIC-enabled chipsets** and build **clock-redundancy** for strategic autonomy.
Concept	**NavIC (IRNSS)** — India's **regional** satellite navigation system covering India + ~**1,500 km** beyond; global peers: **GPS (US), GLONASS (Russia), Galileo (EU), BeiDou (China)**.

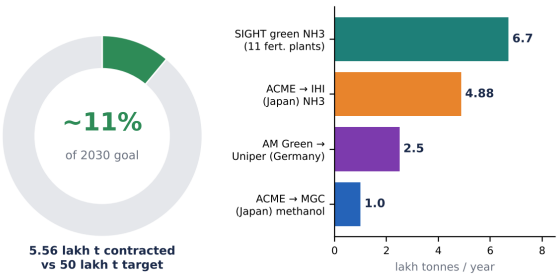


India Leads Global Green Hydrogen Offtake: 5.55 Lakh MTPA

ENVIRONMENT | COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** — Energy, climate change, investment. Prelims: **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, **SIGHT**, green ammonia.
Context	MNRE reported that India's **green hydrogen offtake commitments** reached **5,55,610 tonnes per annum** till **October 2026** — the highest globally — with **18 new agreements** signed in 2026 alone.
Key Facts	■ Equals ~**11%** of the **5 MMT/year by 2030** mission target; **23 agreements** since 2023. ■ **>70%** volumes earmarked for **export** (Japan, Korea, Germany); investment **>₹90,000 crore**. ■ **SIGHT**: **6.7 lakh t/yr** green ammonia for **11 fertiliser plants**; **30,000 t/yr** green H2 for refineries. ■ Mission outlay **₹19,744 crore**; targets **125 GW** RE addition, **~50 MMT CO2** avoided yearly.
Way Fwd	Convert MoUs into **financial closures**, build **domestic demand mandates** and **port-side export hubs**; certify via a **Green Hydrogen Certification** scheme.
Concept	**Green hydrogen** — H2 from **electrolysis** of water using **renewable power**; **grey** (natural gas, no capture), **blue** (with **CCS**). Offtake = a buyer's long-term **purchase commitment**.

Green Hydrogen: Offtake Momentum (Oct 2026)

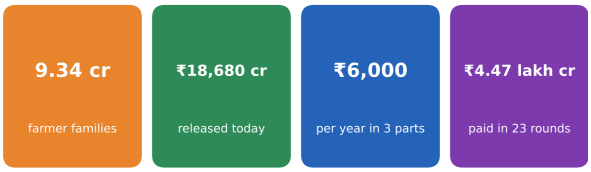


24th PM-KISAN Instalment: ₹18,680 Crore Released Today

ECONOMY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** — Agriculture, direct farm subsidies, DBT. Prelims: **PM-KISAN** features.
Context	The **24th instalment** of **PM-KISAN** is being released on **30 October 2026** from **Bhildi (Banaskantha, Gujarat)**, transferring **₹2,000** each to eligible farmer families ahead of the festive season.
Key Facts	■ **>9.34 crore** farmer families; **>₹18,680 crore** via **DBT**. ■ Cumulative **>₹4.47 lakh crore** paid in **23 earlier instalments**. ■ Benefit **₹6,000/year** in **3 equal instalments**; **100% central** funding; launched **2019**. ■ Gujarat: **52.33 lakh** families get **>₹1,051 crore** this round; **e-KYC** mandatory.
Way Fwd	Include **tenant farmers/sharecroppers**, link with **Agri Stack farmer IDs**, and index support to **input-cost inflation**.
Concept	**PM-KISAN** — a **Central Sector Scheme** (not centrally sponsored) of **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**; income support is **decoupled** from output, unlike **MSP**; WTO **Green Box**-compatible.

PM-KISAN 24th Instalment — 30 Oct 2026



Textile PLI Round 4: Portal Reopens with Lower Threshold

ECONOMY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** — Industrial policy, manufacturing, MSMEs. Prelims: **PLI**, **MMF**, technical textiles.
Context	The Ministry of Textiles will reopen the **PLI scheme** application portal from **1 November** to **31 December 2026** (**Round 4**), relaxing norms to draw in **MSMEs** and mid-sized firms.
Key Facts	■ Covers **MMF apparel, MMF fabrics** and **technical textiles**. ■ **Part-2** minimum turnover cut from **₹200 crore** to **₹100 crore**. ■ Tenure extended to **FY2033-34** for Round-4 approvals only. ■ Textile exports grew **17.51%** in **Sept 2026** but only **2.38%** in **Apr–Sept**.
Way Fwd	Pair PLI with **PM MITRA parks**, fibre-neutral **GST** and FTA access to reach the **$350 billion by 2030** sector goal.
Concept	**PLI** — incentive as a % of **incremental sales** over a base year; launched **2020** across **14 sectors**. **MMF** = man-made fibres like **polyester, viscose, nylon**.

Hanging Glaciers Put Badrinath Township at Avalanche Risk

ENVIRONMENT COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS1/GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS1** — Himalayan geomorphology; **GS3** — Disaster management. Prelims: **Alaknanda basin**, hanging glaciers.
Context	A vulnerability assessment involving **DRDO** scientists finds that avalanches from **hanging glaciers** above **Badrinath** could damage **398 buildings**, a **helipad** and **two bridges**.
Key Facts	■ Earlier inventory mapped **219 hanging glaciers** in the **Alaknanda basin** (~**71.7 sq km**). ■ Modelled flow heights up to ~**51 m** at Badrinath; **Mana** and **Hanuman Chatti** also exposed. ■ **NGT** had taken **suo motu** cognisance of the risk in **2026**. ■ Drivers: **glacier retreat**, **seismicity**, unplanned **pilgrim infrastructure**.
Way Fwd	**Hazard zoning** in master plans, **early-warning sensors**, carrying-capacity limits for **Char Dham** traffic.
Concept	**Hanging glacier** — ice mass on a **steep slope** ending at a cliff, prone to **ice avalanches**; cf. **Chamoli 2021** rock-ice avalanche, **GLOFs** (Sikkim 2023).

Kufri Jamunia: Biofortified Purple Potato Against Hidden Hunger

HEALTH COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** — Food security, biotechnology in agriculture; **GS2** — Nutrition. Prelims: **biofortification**, crop varieties.
Context	The Centre is promoting **Kufri Jamunia**, a purple-fleshed **biofortified potato** from **ICAR-CPRI (Shimla)**, as a low-cost tool against **micronutrient deficiency**.
Key Facts	■ Released **2024**; rich in **anthocyanins, carotenoids, vitamin C**, plus higher **iron and zinc**. ■ Yield **32–35 t/ha**; ~**90%** marketable; **medium-maturing**. ■ Recommended for **North Indian plains**; **6–8 weeks** dormancy. ■ Potato = a staple reaching poor households cheaply — ideal **biofortification** carrier.
Way Fwd	Seed multiplication, inclusion in **PDS/PM-POSHAN** menus and consumer awareness on coloured potatoes.
Concept	**Hidden hunger** — deficiency of **micronutrients** (iron, zinc, vitamin A, iodine) despite adequate calories. **Biofortification** raises nutrients via **breeding**, unlike **food fortification** during processing.

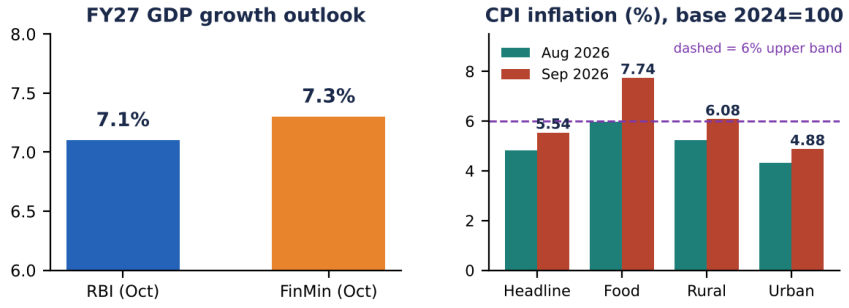
SECTION B | ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

FY27 GDP growth outlook (Finance Ministry, October review)

7.3%

Raised from **7.1%**; risks flagged: **crude oil**, rupee, **El Niño**. **CPI Sept 2026: 5.54%** (Aug: 4.83%); **WPI 11.39%**; forex **~$721 bn** (~**10.3 months** import cover); RBI repo **5.50%**.

Growth up, prices up: the October macro picture



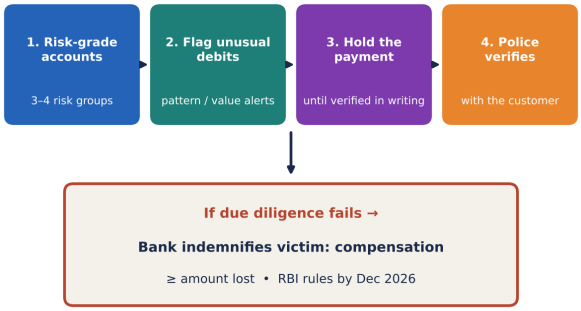
SECTION C | GS-II: GOVERNANCE • POLITY • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SC: Banks Must Compensate Digital-Arrest Victims on Due-Diligence Failure

POLITY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2/GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** — Judiciary, regulatory bodies; **GS3** — Cyber security, banking. Prelims: **RBI**, **I4C**, suo motu.
Context	On **29 October 2026**, a bench led by **CJI Surya Kant** in a **suo motu** case recorded that **RBI**'s proposed rules must make banks **indemnify digital arrest/cyber fraud** victims where the institution failed in **due diligence**.
Key Facts	■ Compensation **not less than the amount lost**; Court favoured **strict liability**. ■ **AG R. Venkataramani**: RBI rules likely operational by **December 2026**. ■ Bench mulled **risk-grading accounts**, **stalling unusual transactions** and alerting police. ■ **MeitY** and **DoT** also framing measures; intermediaries like messaging apps under scrutiny.
Way Fwd	Time-bound **zero-liability** refunds, **AI-based fraud flags**, a unified **cyber-fraud registry** and mass awareness via **1930** helpline.
Concept	**Digital arrest** — fraudsters impersonate police/CBI/ED over video calls to extort money; **no law permits arrest via video call**. Links: **Art. 21** (dignity), **RBI 2017 limited-liability circular**, **IT Act 2000**.

Digital-Arrest Safeguards Mooted by SC (29 Oct)



SC: Firecracker Orders Flouted, Seeks Proof of Enforcement

POLITY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2/GS3

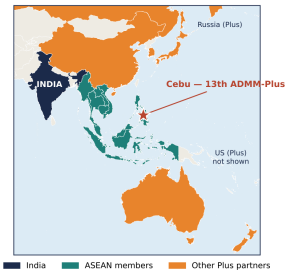
Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** — Judicial activism, governance; **GS3** — Air pollution. Prelims: **CAQM**, **green crackers**.
Context	On **29 October 2026**, a bench of **Justices M.M. Sundresh and P.B. Varale** pulled up the **Delhi government** and **CAQM**, saying its Deepavali firecracker orders were breached **"left and right"**.
Key Facts	■ Only **green crackers** were permitted, yet **banned crackers** were widely used. ■ Only **9 of 29 CAQM** units were found functioning. ■ Court: an **absolute ban** is not the answer; wants **on-ground enforcement data**. ■ Delhi cited **608 anti-smog guns** and a **winter action plan**.
Way Fwd	Officer presence on permitted days, **construction halt**, ward-level **AQI audits** and celebrity-led awareness.
Concept	**CAQM** — statutory body under the **CAQM Act, 2021** for **NCR & adjoining areas**, replaced **EPCA**. **Green crackers** (CSIR-**NEERI**) cut emissions by ~**30%**.

ADMM-Plus at Cebu: India Offers Battle-Tested Counter-Terror Expertise

IR COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2/GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** — India & regional groupings (**ASEAN**), **Act East**; **GS3** — Terrorism. Prelims: **ADMM-Plus**, EWGs.
Context	Addressing the **13th ADMM-Plus** in **Cebu (Philippines)** on **29 October 2026**, **Rajnath Singh** offered India's counter-terrorism experience via **joint exercises, capacity building** and **intelligence sharing**.
Key Facts	■ Theme: **"Navigating Our Future Together"**; cited **Operation Sindoor**. ■ India & **Malaysia** co-chair the **EWG on Counter-Terrorism** for **2024–27**. ■ **2026** declared **ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation**; **2nd AIME** held. ■ Indian Navy in **Gulf of Aden** anti-piracy since **2008**.
Way Fwd	Operationalise the **ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2026–30**, expand **HADR** and maritime domain awareness via **IFC-IOR**.
Concept	**ADMM-Plus** — began **2010 (Hanoi)**; ASEAN defence ministers + **8 dialogue partners**: **India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, US, Russia**; works via **7 Experts' Working Groups**.

ADMM-Plus: ASEAN + 8 Dialogue Partners



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

Siang Upper Multipurpose Project: Protests Turn Violent in Arunachal

ENVIRONMENT COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2/GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** — Infrastructure, environment, displacement; **GS2** — India–China, tribal rights. Prelims: **Siang/Brahmaputra**, Adi tribe.
Context	The proposed **11,200 MW Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP)** — seen as India's counter to China's mega-dam on the **Yarlung Tsangpo** — faces stiff opposition from the **Adi** community.
Key Facts	■ **NHPC** tasked in **April 2022** to prepare the **pre-feasibility report**. ■ **23 Oct** bandh across **Siang, Upper Siang, East Siang**; violence in **Pasighat**, ~**40** personnel injured. ■ Fears: submergence of villages, **ancestral land**, forests; high **seismic** risk. ■ Aim: **flood moderation** and **water security** against upstream diversion.
Way Fwd	Genuine **Free, Prior & Informed Consent**, transparent **EIA**, fair **R&R** and India–China **hydrological data-sharing**.
Concept	**Brahmaputra** = **Yarlung Tsangpo** (Tibet) → **Siang** (Arunachal) → joins **Dibang & Lohit** in Assam. India–China have only **expert-level mechanism (2006)** & flood-season data MoUs; **no water treaty**.

INDIA IN NEWS
30 October 2026



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

SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Tourism	**14th International Tourism Mart** at **Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)**, **29–31 Oct**; ~**27 countries** invited — showcases '**Ashta Lakshmi**' North-East.	**RBI Policy**	**RBI** (7 Oct 2026) hiked repo **25 bps to 5.50%**; SDF **5.25%**, MSF **5.75%**; stance '**calibrated tightening**'.
Inflation	**CPI (base 2024=100)** Sept 2026: **5.54%**; food inflation **7.74%**; RBI target **4% ± 2%**.	**Trade**	**Piyush Goyal**: India's **9 FTAs/trade deals** cover **38 developed countries**; India-US deal to protect **farmers' interests**.
Judiciary	**SC Collegium** recommended **9 advocates** as judges of the **J&K and Ladakh High Court**.	**Person**	**Homi J. Bhabha** born **30 Oct 1909** — father of India's nuclear programme; **three-stage** programme (thorium focus).

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER

PRELIMS MCQs

Q1. With reference to the NVS-03 satellite, consider the following statements: 1. It is being launched by the PSLV. 2. It carries an indigenous rubidium atomic clock. 3. It transmits navigation signals in the L1, L5 and S bands. 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. It carries an **indigenous rubidium clock** (SAC Ahmedabad) and transmits in **L1, L5 and S bands**.

Q2. Consider the following statements about the ADMM-Plus: 1. Its 13th meeting was held at Cebu in the Philippines. 2. India and Malaysia co-chair its Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism for 2024-27. 3. All members of the Quad are participants in the ADMM-Plus. 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 **13th ADMM-Plus** met at **Cebu**; India–Malaysia co-chair the **EWG on CT (2024–27)**; **India, US, Japan and Australia** (Quad) are all among the **8 Plus partners**.

MAINS PRACTICE (GS3)

"Digital arrest frauds expose a regulatory gap between banking, telecom and platform governance." Examine the case for fixing strict liability on banks for such frauds. (GS3, 15 marks, 250 words)

Hint: Define digital arrest → scale of losses → SC's **29 Oct 2026** observations & RBI rules → pros (incentive for due diligence, consumer trust) vs cons (moral hazard, cost) → multi-agency way forward (**I4C, 1930, DoT, MeitY**).

ONE-LINE REVISION: Banks liable for **digital-arrest** losses on due-diligence lapse | **NVS-03** (GSLV-F18, rubidium clock) | Green H2 offtake **5.55 lakh MTPA** | **PM-KISAN 24th: ₹18,680 cr** | FY27 growth **7.3%** | **ADMM-Plus Cebu** | **Siang 11,200 MW**.

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