VOL. 1 · ISSUE 2 MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2026

SANKALAN

The month's current affairs, compiled for the exam

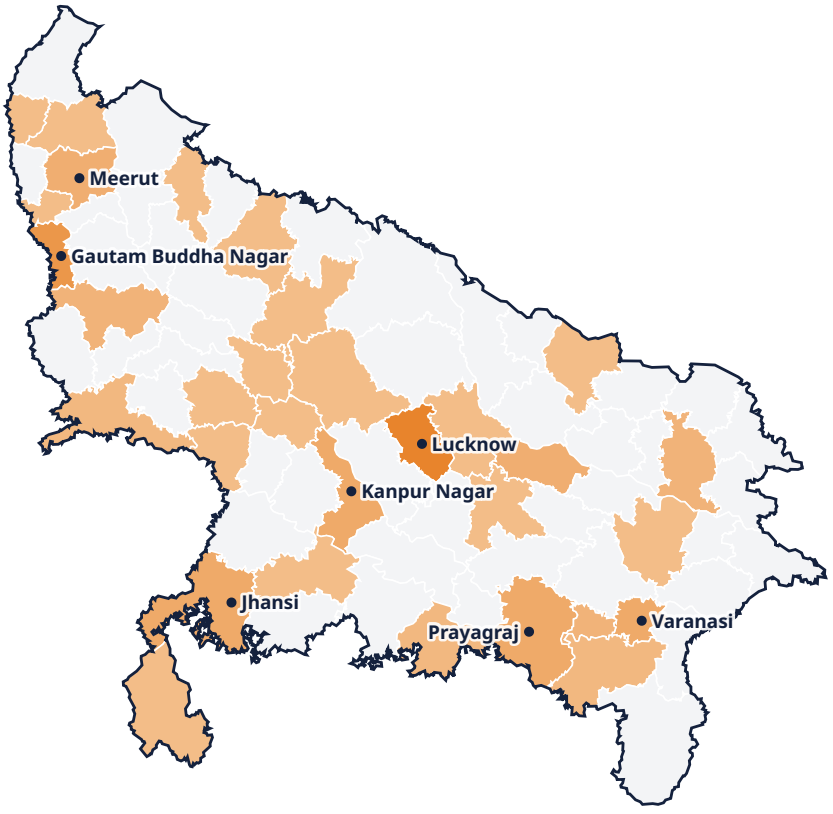
UPPSC EDITION

UP PCS (UPPSC COMBINED STATE/UPPER SUBORDINATE SERVICES) · ENGLISH

October 2026

LEADING THIS ISSUE

- Allahabad HC bans hookah service even in designated smoking areas; electricity part of Article 21
- UP International Trade Show 4.0 (25-29 Sep 2026) draws 4,400 MoUs worth about ₹6,500 crore
- Vindhyachal Navratri Mela in Mirzapur, 11-26 Oct 2026: 22 trains get extra halts



Uttar Pradesh: districts in the news this month

A Uttar Pradesh Special
99 news items in 5 sections · diagrams & district map · 15 Mains questions

B National & International
347 news items in 14 topics · States in the news map

C One-liners
413 quick-revision questions

D Practice MCQs
69 questions with answer key & explanations

Syllabus tags: Prelims · Mains | 15 Mains questions with key points | State & India maps

VOL. 1 · ISSUE 2 · OCTOBER 2026

In this issue

UPPSC (UP PCS) · Prelims & Mains

UTTAR PRADESH THIS MONTH 3

PART A — UTTAR PRADESH SPECIAL (99) 4

Governance & Schemes · GS-V (UP) 4

Infrastructure & Economy · GS-VI (UP) 17

Culture, Places & Heritage · GS-V (UP) 25

Environment & Wildlife · GS-VI (UP) 28

Sports, Awards & People · Prelims (UP GK) 29

Mains corner — Uttar Pradesh (15) 30

PART B — NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL (347) 33

Appointments & Who's Who · Prelims · GS-II 33

Awards & Honours · Prelims 34

Reports & Indices · GS-II · GS-III 36

Summits, Conferences & Meetings · GS-II 38

Schemes, Missions & Cabinet Decisions · GS-II · GS-III 41

Polity, Laws & Judiciary · GS-II 46

Economy, Banking & Finance · GS-III 51

International Relations & Agreements · GS-II 56

Defence & Security · GS-III 60

Science, Space & Technology · GS-III 64

Environment, Wildlife & Places in News · GS-I · GS-III 67

Sports · Prelims 70

Important Days & Themes · Prelims 72

Persons in News & Obituaries · Prelims 75

PART C — ONE-LINERS (413) 76

PART D — PRACTICE MCQS (69) 85

Answer key & explanations 92

Syllabus-tagged

Every section carries its paper tag, so you know where each fact will be used.

News you can read

Every news item has a clear headline saying what happened, then the exam-useful facts in full sentences.

Practise

A Mains corner with key points, one-liners and MCQs with an answer key.

OCTOBER 2026

Uttar Pradesh this month

1 **Allahabad HC bans hookah service even in designated smoking areas; electricity part of Article 21** — On 29 Sep 2026 the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court held that **hookah cannot be served** even in designated smoking areas, under the COTPA 2003 rules (2017 amendment to Rule 4(3)).

2 **UP International Trade Show 4.0 (25-29 Sep 2026) draws 4,400 MoUs worth about ₹6,500 crore** — UP International Trade Show 4.0 was held from 25 to 29 September 2026. **Union Home & Cooperation Minister Amit Shah** inaugurated it on 25 Sept, with the CM present.

3 **Vindhyachal Navratri Mela in Mirzapur, 11-26 Oct 2026: 22 trains get extra halts** — The Vindhyachal Navratri Mela is held in Mirzapur from **11 to 26 October 2026**.

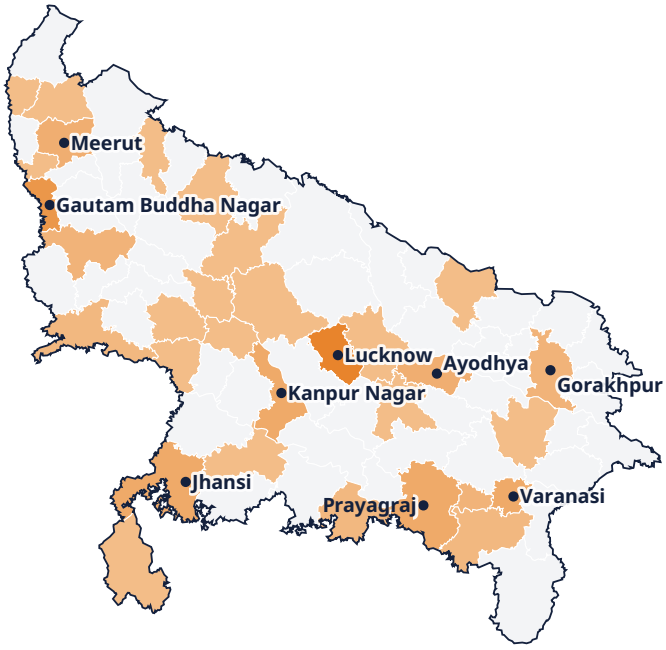
4 **Kufri Ruby, a CPRI baby-potato variety, notified for UP and 13 other states** — Kufri Ruby is a baby-potato variety from CPRI (October 2026), with a duration given as **90 days**.

5 **Meerut's Parul Chaudhary returns with two bronze medals from Asian Games 2026** — Athlete **Parul Chaudhary** of Iklota village (Meerut) received a grand welcome on 2 Oct 2026 after the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. She won two bronze medals, in the women's 5000 m and 3000 m steeplechase. She had won 5000 m gold at the 2022 Hangzhou Games (held 2023).

6 **All 10 UP Rajya Sabha seats filled unopposed (BJP 8, SP 2); MLC polls: BJP 6, SP 5** — Biennial elections were notified for UP's 10 Rajya Sabha seats (notification on 29 September) and 11 Legislative Council seats (Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies). The last date of nomination for Rajya Sabha was 6 Oct.

7 **UP gets PMAY-U awards: 1st in Beneficiary-Led Construction, 3rd in PMAY-U 2.0 grounding** — In the PMAY-U (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban) awards, Uttar Pradesh ranked **1st in Beneficiary-Led Construction**.

8 **Only about 28.4% of UP's ₹9.99 lakh crore 2026-27 budget spent — CM sets November targets** — At a review on Sunday, 27 September 2026, the CM directed departments to speed up release and use of funds from the 2026-27 state budget. The budget size is **₹9,99,056.48 crore**, with a development outlay of ₹5,01,957.09 crore.



Districts in the news this month (darker = more items). District boundaries shown for all 75 districts.

Lucknow 13 · Gautam Buddha Nagar 9 · Prayagraj 5 · Kanpur Nagar 5 · Jhansi 5 · Varanasi 5 · Meerut 4 · Ayodhya 4 · Gorakhpur 3 · Bhadohi 3 · Aligarh 3 · Mirzapur 2 · Chitrakoot 2 · Agra 2 · Muzaffarnagar 1 · Moradabad 1 · Bareilly 1 · Ghaziabad 1 · Kannauj 1 · Lalitpur 1

PART A

Uttar Pradesh Special

State-specific news of October 2026 for UPPSC — tagged to the state papers.

Governance & Schemes

GS-V (UP)

1 Allahabad HC bans hookah service even in designated smoking areas; electricity part of Article 21

29 Sep 2026

- On 29 Sep 2026 the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court held that **hookah cannot be served** even in designated smoking areas, under the COTPA 2003 rules (2017 amendment to Rule 4(3)).
- In a separate ruling, the Court held that electricity is an indispensable need and part of the right to life under **Article 21**. Both are among the key rulings of the week 28 Sep–4 Oct 2026.

See Fig. 1

> CONCEPT **Article 21**: no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty except by procedure established by law. Courts read health, clean environment and dignity into it. **COTPA** is the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003.

2 All 10 UP Rajya Sabha seats filled unopposed (BJP 8, SP 2); MLC polls: BJP 6, SP 5

Oct 2026

- Biennial elections were notified for UP's 10 Rajya Sabha seats (notification on 29 September) and 11 Legislative Council seats (Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies). The last date of nomination for Rajya Sabha was 6 Oct.
- All 10 Rajya Sabha candidates were declared elected **unopposed on 9 Oct 2026**, so no poll was needed (it had been scheduled for 16 Oct). **BJP got 8** seats (including Dharampal Singh) and **SP 2** (including Ram Gopal Yadav); BSP has no UP member. The outgoing terms end on 25 Nov 2026.
- For the MLC seats (5 Graduates' + 6 Teachers' constituencies), polling was held on 23 Oct and counting on 27 Oct. BJP won 6 and SP 5 seats.

> CONCEPT **Rajya Sabha** members are elected by MLAs through proportional representation by **single transferable vote**. The term is **6 years**, with one-third retiring every 2 years; Art. 80 governs its composition.

3 UP gets PMAY-U awards: 1st in Beneficiary-Led Construction, 3rd in PMAY-U 2.0 grounding

Oct 2026

- In the PMAY-U (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban) awards, Uttar Pradesh ranked **1st in Beneficiary-Led Construction**.
- UP was **3rd in PMAY-U 2.0 grounding** (5 Oct).

> CONCEPT **PMAY-U** was launched in **2015** by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under 'Housing for All'. It has four verticals: In-situ Slum Redevelopment, Credit-Linked Subsidy, Affordable Housing in Partnership, and Beneficiary-Led Construction.

4 Only about 28.4% of UP's ₹9.99 lakh crore 2026-27 budget spent — CM sets November targets

27 Sep 2026

- At a review on Sunday, 27 September 2026, the CM directed departments to speed up release and use of funds from the 2026-27 state budget. The budget size is **₹9,99,056.48 crore**, with a development outlay of ₹5,01,957.09 crore.
- Approvals issued so far are ₹5,15,918.44 crore (**51.6%**), while actual spending is ₹2,83,870.11 crore (about 28.4%).
- The target is **70% approvals and at least 60% expenditure by November**.

See Fig. 2

> CONCEPT **Art. 202** requires the Governor to lay the annual financial statement (state budget) before the Legislature. Spending from the Consolidated Fund of the State (**Art. 266**) needs an Appropriation Act under Art. 204.

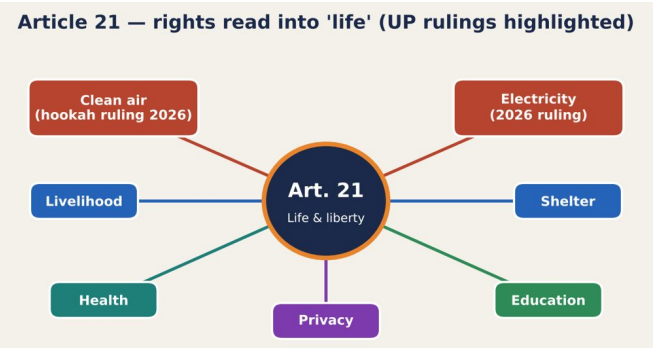


Fig. 1 · Allahabad HC bans hookah service even in designated smoking areas; electricity part of Article 21

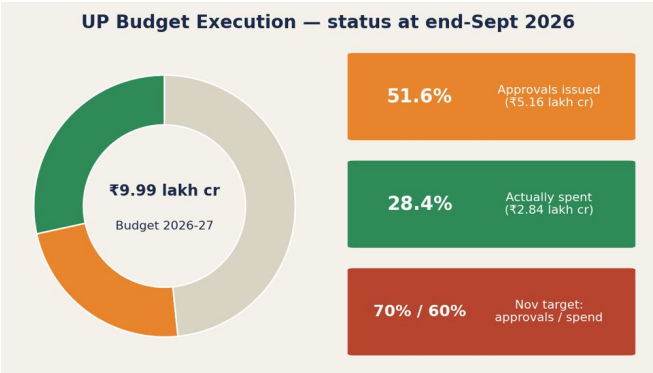


Fig. 2 · Only about 28.4% of UP's ₹9.99 lakh crore 2026-27 budget spent — CM sets November targets

5 CM flags off 87 interceptor vehicles, releases ex-DGP Prakash Singh's book 'Sangharsh'

1 Oct 2026

- At a Lucknow event on 1 October 2026, the CM flagged off new police vehicles (**87 interceptor vehicles**) and presented gallantry medals as part of police modernisation in UP.
- He also released 'Sangharsh', a book on police reform by former UP DGP **Prakash Singh**, the petitioner in the landmark 2006 Supreme Court case (Prakash Singh case) that gave 7 police-reform directives.

See Fig. 3

> **CONCEPT** **Prakash Singh v. Union of India (2006)**: the Supreme Court gave **7 directives** on police reform, including a State Security Commission, a minimum two-year tenure for the DGP, and separating investigation from law and order.

6 Special Gram Sabhas held across UP on 2 Oct under People's Plan Campaign 2026-27

2 Oct 2026

- On 2 Oct 2026, special Gram Sabhas were held in gram panchayats across UP and the country under the campaign 'Sabki Yojana, Sabka Vikas' (People's Plan Campaign 2026-27). The campaign prepares the **GPDP for 2027-28**.
- The day doubles as Swachh Bharat Diwas. The **Swachhata Hi Seva 2026** fortnight runs from 17 Sept to 17 Oct, with the theme 'Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat'.

See Fig. 4

> **CONCEPT** **Gram Sabha** is a body of all registered voters of a village panchayat area (Art. 243(b)); Art. 243A lets the State give it powers. The **Eleventh Schedule** lists 29 subjects for panchayats, from the 73rd Amendment (1992).



Fig. 3 · CM flags off 87 interceptor vehicles, releases ex-DGP Prakash Singh's book 'Sangharsh'



Fig. 4 · Special Gram Sabhas held across UP on 2 Oct under People's Plan Campaign 2026-27

7 UP offers 25% Khadi discount from 2 Oct 2026 to 30 Jan 2027

2 Oct 2026

- On 2 October the CM paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri in Lucknow and urged citizens to make Khadi part of daily life.
- The UP government offers a **25% discount on Khadi products** from 2 October 2026 to 30 January 2027 (Gandhi's death anniversary, Martyrs' Day).

See Fig. 5

> **CONCEPT** **KVIC** (Khadi and Village Industries Commission) is a statutory body set up under the KVIC Act, 1956, under the Ministry of MSME. It promotes khadi and village industries, the Gandhian symbol of swadeshi.

8 UPESSC begins 12,405-post primary assistant teacher drive; written exam on 3-4 Dec 2026

6 Oct 2026

- The UP Education Service Selection Commission (UPESSC), the state's unified education recruitment body, is running its largest primary-teacher drive of the year, with **12,405 posts**.
- The posts are 11,508 Assistant Teacher (Urban, Basic Education) and 897 attached-primary posts in aided schools.
- The written exam is on **3-4 Dec 2026**; the age limit is 21-40 years.

See Fig. 6

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 21A** (86th Amendment, 2002) makes free and compulsory education a fundamental right for children aged **6-14**. The **RTE Act, 2009** implements it and came into force on 1 April 2010.

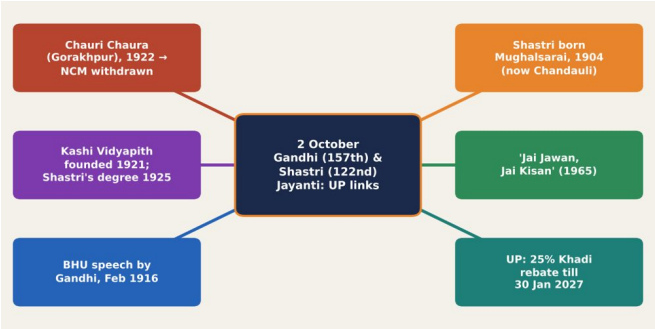


Fig. 5 · UP offers 25% Khadi discount from 2 Oct 2026 to 30 Jan 2027

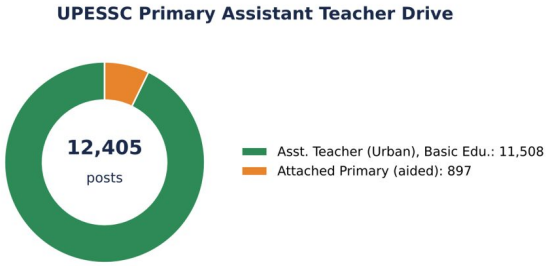


Fig. 6 · UPESSC begins 12,405-post primary assistant teacher drive; written exam on 3-4 Dec 2026

9 Gomti flood in Lucknow: CM approves embankments as permanent fix, survey from Faizullaganj to Naimish

5 Oct 2026

- On 5 Oct 2026, after floodwater entered Bakshi Ka Talab and Lucknow North, the CM reviewed relief and announced structural flood-control measures along the Gomti. He approved Gomti embankments as the permanent solution.
- Heavy rain fell in 50+ districts over 10 days, and upstream inflow from Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Sitapur and Nepal raised the Gomti after 5–6 days.
- The Irrigation Department will survey the Gomti bank from **Faizullaganj to Naimish** and prepare an embankment proposal; pumping sets are to drain the water.

See Fig. 7

> **CONCEPT** The **Gomti** is a left-bank tributary of the Ganga. It rises from Gomat Taal (Fulhar jheel) near Madhotanda, Pilibhit, flows through Lucknow and Jaunpur, and joins the Ganga near Kaithi in Ghazipur district.

10 UP raises Shiksha Mitras' honorarium from ₹10,000 to ₹18,000; ₹460.23 crore released

6 Oct 2026

- On 6 October 2026 the state released funds to pay the enhanced honorarium for the 2026-27 academic session. The total release is **₹460.23 crore**.
- The honorarium has been raised from ₹10,000 to **₹18,000 per month**, a rise of ₹8,000 (80%).
- **1,27,841 Shiksha Mitras** working in council (basic) schools benefit.

See Fig. 8

> **CONCEPT** **Samagra Shiksha** (2018) is the integrated centrally sponsored scheme for school education, pre-school to Class 12. It merged Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan and teacher education.

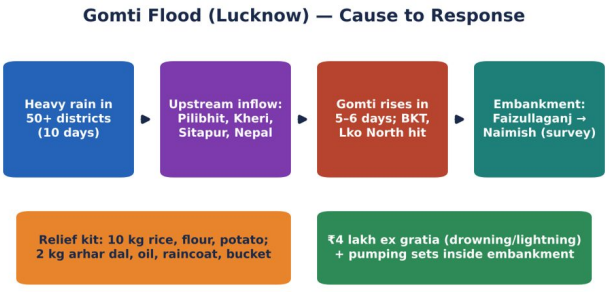


Fig. 7 · Gomti flood in Lucknow: CM approves embankments as permanent fix, survey from Faizullaganj to Naimish



Fig. 8 · UP raises Shiksha Mitras' honorarium from ₹10,000 to ₹18,000; ₹460.23 crore released

11 470 sportspersons get UP Police appointment letters: 48 Sub-Inspectors, 422 constables — 8 Oct 2026

- On 8 October 2026 the CM handed appointment letters in Lucknow to **470 sportspersons** selected under the skilled sportsperson quota of UP Police.
- They include 48 Sub-Inspectors and 422 constables (civil police/PAC). PAC means Provincial Armed Constabulary, UP's armed reserve police force.

12 UP Scholarship 2026-27: online applications open, last date 31 October — 8 Oct 2026

- Online applications for **UP Scholarship 2026-27** opened on 8 Oct 2026. The last date to apply is **31 October**.

13 UP Cabinet approves two free LPG refills for 1.86 crore PM Ujjwala families in 2026-27 — 9 Oct 2026

- On 9 Oct 2026, the Cabinet approved a welfare relief for PM Ujjwala households: one free LPG refill each on **Diwali and Holi** (two in FY 2026-27) for **1.86 crore families**.
- The cost is about ₹2,143 crore, paid through DBT.
- Anganwadi workers and helpers will get three sarees a year instead of two (about 3.8 lakh beneficiaries).

See Fig. 9

> CONCEPT **PM Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** was launched on **1 May 2016** at Ballia, UP, by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It gives LPG connections to women of poor households to replace firewood and cow dung.

14 UP final roll after SIR has 13.39 crore voters (earlier 15.44 crore); drive to add left-out voters — 9 Oct 2026

- After the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), UP's final electoral roll (dated 10 Apr 2026) has **13.39 crore voters**, against 15.44 crore earlier; about **2.04 crore names were deleted**.
- On 9 Oct 2026, UP's Chief Electoral Officer ordered a special drive to add voters left out after SIR, following an ECI letter of 29 Sep. The ECI drive covers 20 states/UTs where SIR is complete; new names come through the plain statutory Form 6.
- Officers will compare pre- and post-SIR rolls and visit homes of deleted voters, prioritising first-time electors.

> CONCEPT **Electoral rolls** are prepared under the Representation of the People Act, **1950**, with the Election Commission in charge (**Art. 324**). Art. 326 gives adult suffrage at **18** years (61st Amendment, 1988).

15 UP Cabinet approves ₹1,725 crore Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training & Employment Zones — 9 Oct 2026

- On 9 Oct 2026 the UP Cabinet approved the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training & Employment Zones, with **₹1,725 crore over 3 years**.
- There will be **9 zones** on a hub-and-spoke model. Phase-1 zones are Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Jhansi.

See Fig. 10

> CONCEPT **Hub-and-spoke model**: a central hub with full facilities is linked to smaller spoke centres that take its services closer to users. The national **Skill India Mission** was launched on 15 July 2015 (World Youth Skills Day).

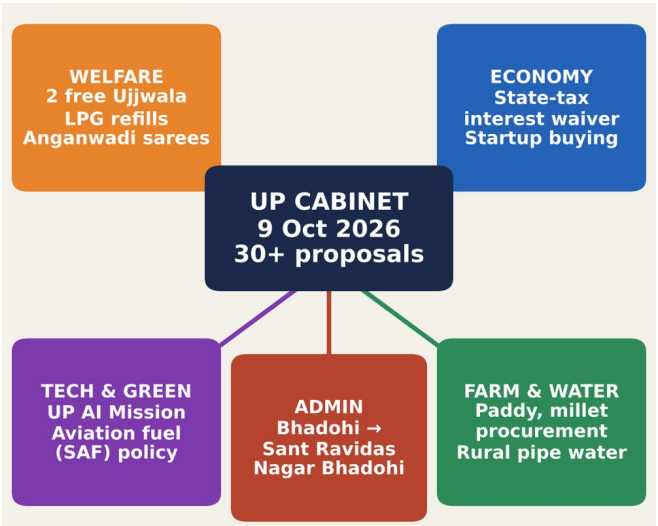


Fig. 9 · UP Cabinet approves two free LPG refills for 1.86 crore PM Ujjwala families in 2026-27

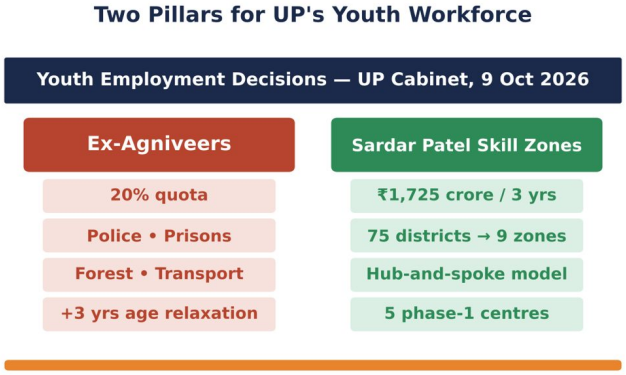


Fig. 10 · UP Cabinet approves ₹1,725 crore Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training & Employment Zones

16 **UP Artificial Intelligence Mission (UP-AIM) approved: AI centres in all 75 districts** Oct 2026

- The UP Artificial Intelligence Mission (**UP-AIM**) will run through a society under the IT & Electronics Department, with AI centres in **all 75 districts**.
- Targets are 5 lakh youth trained, 100 AI startups and 50,000 forward-deployed AI professionals.

See Fig. 11

> CONCEPT **Artificial Intelligence** means machines performing tasks that need human-like learning and reasoning. The Centre's **IndiaAI Mission** was approved in 2024 to build compute capacity, datasets and AI skills nationally.

17 **UP Sustainable Aviation Fuel Policy-2026 approved: 100% electricity-duty exemption up to 10 years** Oct 2026

- The UP Sustainable Aviation Fuel Policy-2026 is valid for **5 years**, and UPNEDA is the nodal agency.
- It offers a **100% electricity-duty exemption for up to 10 years**. Investment tiers are Large (₹200-500 crore), Mega (₹500-1,500 crore) and Ultra-mega (above ₹1,500 crore).

See Fig. 12

> CONCEPT **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** is jet fuel made from sources like used cooking oil, agricultural residue or biomass. It is blended with conventional aviation turbine fuel to cut lifecycle carbon emissions.

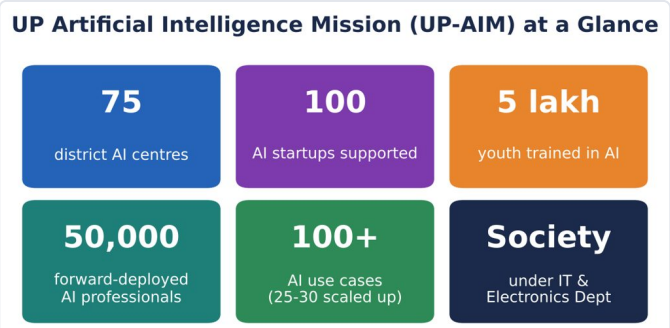


Fig. 11 · UP Artificial Intelligence Mission (UP-AIM) approved: AI centres in all 75 districts

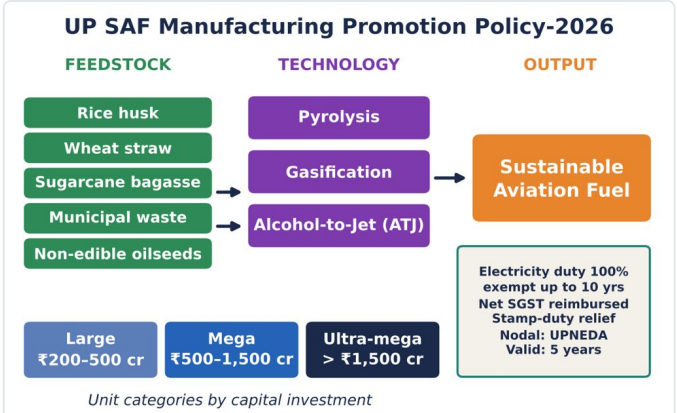


Fig. 12 · UP Sustainable Aviation Fuel Policy-2026 approved: 100% electricity-duty exemption up to 10 years

18 **UP proposes raising social-security pension from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 a month for about 1.21 crore pensioners** 12 Oct 2026

- On 12 Oct 2026 a proposal was moved to raise the social-security pension from **₹1,000 to ₹1,500 a month**, benefiting about **1.21 crore pensioners**.
- The pension was last revised in 2017 (₹500 to ₹1,000). The proposal still needs Cabinet approval.

See Fig. 13

> CONCEPT **Art. 41** (DPSP) directs the State to secure public assistance in old age, sickness and disablement within its means. The Centre's **NSAP** (National Social Assistance Programme) was launched on 15 August 1995.

19 **₹115 crore first instalment released under New City Promotion Scheme to Mirzapur-Vindhyachal and Muzaffarnagar** 9 Oct 2026

- On 9 Oct 2026, a first instalment of **₹115 crore** under the New City Promotion Scheme was released to the Mirzapur-Vindhyachal and Muzaffarnagar authorities.
- The FY27 provision for the scheme is ₹3,500 crore.

20 **UP Home Guard recruitment: medical and character verification starts 12 Oct 2026** 12 Oct 2026

- Verification of selected candidates for UP Home Guard recruitment began from **12 Oct 2026**; it covers medical and character verification.

21 UP Cabinet approves Startup Procurement Scheme-2026 with a dedicated Startup E-Marketplace

9 Oct 2026

- On 9 Oct 2026 the Cabinet approved the **UP Startup Procurement Scheme-2026** to help State-registered startups win government orders.
- Eligible are innovative enterprises registered under the UP Startup Policy. A dedicated **UP Startup E-Marketplace** will list their products and services; it will be set up and run by the UP Startup Mission.

See Fig. 14

> **CONCEPT** **Startup India** was launched on 16 January 2016; a startup is recognised by DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade). Public procurement from startups is meant to give young firms their first big customer.

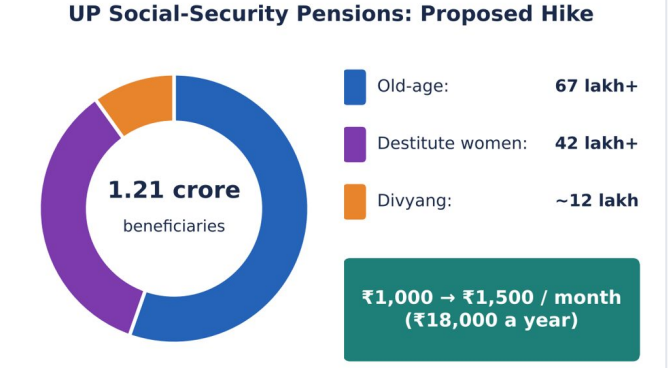


Fig. 13 · UP proposes raising social-security pension from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 a month for about 1.21 crore pensioners

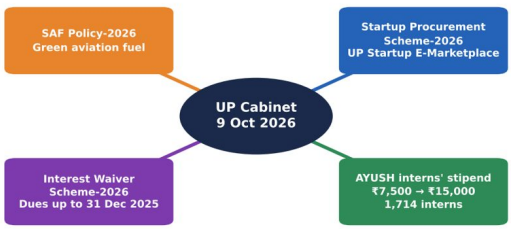


Fig. 14 · UP Cabinet approves Startup Procurement Scheme-2026 with a dedicated Startup E-Marketplace

22 UP Interest Waiver Scheme-2026: interest and penalty waived on pre-GST tax arrears up to 31 Dec 2025

9 Oct 2026

- On 9 Oct 2026 the Cabinet approved a one-time window to settle legacy tax dues without interest and penalty. It waives interest and penalty on arrears created up to **31 Dec 2025**, and the window is open for **3 months**.
- It covers pre-GST laws, including the UP Sales Tax Act 1948, CST Act 1956, UP Trade Tax Act 1995, UP Entry Tax Act 2007 and UP VAT Act 2008, plus entertainment tax.

> **CONCEPT** **GST** replaced VAT, entry tax and other indirect taxes from **1 July 2017** through the 101st Amendment (2016), which inserted Art. 246A and the GST Council (**Art. 279A**).

23 Stipend of AYUSH interns doubled from ₹7,500 to ₹15,000 a month; 1,714 benefit

9 Oct 2026

- By a Cabinet decision of 9 Oct 2026, the monthly stipend of BAMS, BUMS and BHMS interns in government AYUSH colleges was **doubled from ₹7,500 to ₹15,000**.
- **1,714 interns** benefit: 588 Ayurveda, 150 Unani and 976 Homeopathy.

> **CONCEPT** **AYUSH** stands for Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy. A separate Ministry of AYUSH was created in **November 2014**. BAMS, BUMS and BHMS are the Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy degrees.

24 UP among five leading states in National SC-ST Hub

13 Oct 2026

- Uttar Pradesh is among the **five leading states** in the National SC-ST Hub.
- The Hub is an MSME Ministry initiative launched in 2016.

25 Gram Prahari honorarium raised from ₹2,500 to ₹3,500 a month; ₹5 lakh cashless health cover

13 Oct 2026

- CM Yogi Adityanath announced the hike while felicitating about **60,000 village watchmen (gram praharis)** at Bareilly Police Lines on 13 Oct 2026. The honorarium rises from ₹2,500 to **₹3,500 a month**, a 40% hike, i.e. ₹12,000 more per year per prahari.
- A **₹5 lakh cashless health cover** was also announced. Gram praharis assist the police under the Home Department (village watch, reporting suspicious activity).

> **CONCEPT** **Police** and **Public Order** are State List subjects (Entries 2 and 1, List II, Seventh Schedule). So honorarium and service conditions of police-support staff like gram praharis are decided by the State.

26 Model Building Regulations-2026 for Noida, Greater Noida and YEIDA give deemed approval after 60 days

16 Oct 2026

- Under the Model Building Regulations-2026 (Noida, Greater Noida, YEIDA), a building plan is deemed sanctioned if the Authority neither grants nor refuses it within **60 days**.
- In approved layouts, instant online approval is available for residential plots up to **500 sq m** and commercial plots up to **200 sq m**. This was reported on 16 October 2026.

> **CONCEPT** **FAR (Floor Area Ratio)** = total built-up floor area divided by plot area. A higher FAR allows taller or denser construction on the same plot. **Deemed approval** means a plan is treated as sanctioned if the authority does not decide in time.

27 Allahabad HC: STF to verify documents of basic teachers; Class 1-8 teachers must submit papers in a week

Oct 2026

- While hearing a teacher's writ petition, the Allahabad High Court found that teaching jobs had been obtained on forged or borrowed certificates (October 2026).
- All teachers of Classes 1-8 must submit their appointment letters and educational documents to the Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) within **one week**. The matter is about STF verification of these documents.

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 226**: High Courts can issue writs for enforcement of fundamental rights and 'for any other purpose', wider than Supreme Court's Art. 32. The five writs are habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and **quo warranto**.

28 Allahabad HC: hold UP panchayat polls within 3 months on existing 27% OBC quota

15 Oct 2026

- In Dashrath Yadav vs State of UP (reported 15 Oct 2026), a Division Bench directed the State and the State Election Commission (SEC) to complete panchayat elections **within 3 months**, on the existing **27% OBC reservation**.
- The polls cannot wait for the Dedicated Backward Classes Commission (formed 18 May 2026). The challenge to Sections 12(3-A) and 12-BB(3) of the UP Panchayat Raj Act, 1947 under Article 243-E was rejected.

See Fig. 15

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 243D(6)** lets the State reserve panchayat seats for backward classes. The Supreme Court's **'triple test'** (K. Krishna Murthy 2010; Vikas Kishanrao Gawali 2021) needs a dedicated commission, local-body-wise data, and total reservation within **50%**.

29 CM Farmers' Scholarship: annual grant raised from ₹36,000 to ₹60,000, seats doubled

19 Oct 2026

- Announced on 18 Oct (reported 19 Oct 2026), the Mukhyamantri Krishak Chhatravritti Yojana is run by the State Agricultural Produce Market Board (Mandi Parishad) for farmers' children in agri courses.
- The annual grant per student is raised from ₹36,000 to **₹60,000**.
- Seats are **doubled**: 45 to 90 per university and 15 to 30 per college.

See Fig. 16

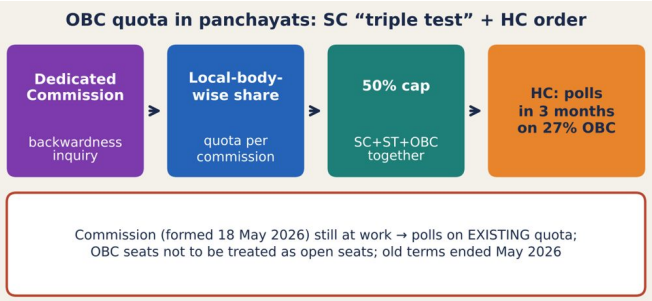


Fig. 15 · Allahabad HC: hold UP panchayat polls within 3 months on existing 27% OBC quota

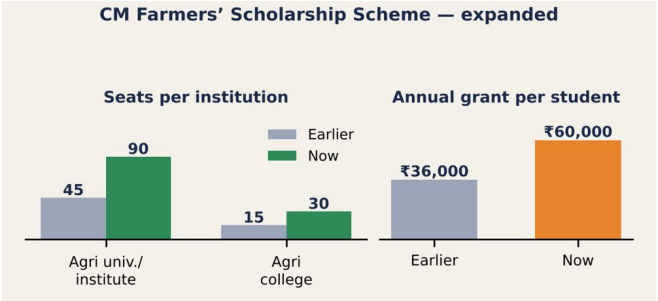


Fig. 16 · CM Farmers' Scholarship: annual grant raised from ₹36,000 to ₹60,000, seats doubled

30 Anganwadi workers' honorarium raised from ₹3,000 to ₹12,000 a month — four-fold

18 Oct 2026

- Under 'Sashakt Nari, Samridh Uttar Pradesh' (18 Oct 2026), the monthly honorarium of Anganwadi workers was raised from ₹3,000 to **₹12,000** (four-fold), with health insurance cover.
- More than **1.20 crore women** are linked to self-help groups (SHGs) in UP.

See Fig. 17

> **CONCEPT** **ICDS** (Integrated Child Development Services) began on **2 October 1975**; the Anganwadi is its village-level centre. Its six services are supplementary nutrition, pre-school education, health check-up, immunisation, referral and nutrition-health education.

31 CM restates Kanya Sumangala support: ₹25,000 in six stages, ₹1 lakh at marriage

20 Oct 2026

- On Maha Navami (19 Oct) after Kanya Pujan in Gorakhpur, the CM restated the state's support for a girl from birth to marriage, linked with Mission Shakti.
- Under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana, **₹25,000** is given in six stages: birth, immunisation, Class 1, Class 6, Class 9 and graduation/diploma.
- The CM also stated a **₹1 lakh at marriage**; the helpline is **1090**.

See Fig. 18

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 15(3)** allows the State to make special provisions for women and children despite the ban on discrimination in Art. 15(1). It is the constitutional basis for girl-child and women-centred schemes.

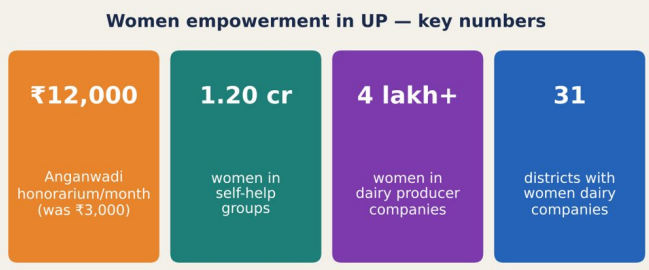


Fig. 17 · Anganwadi workers' honorarium raised from ₹3,000 to ₹12,000 a month — four-fold

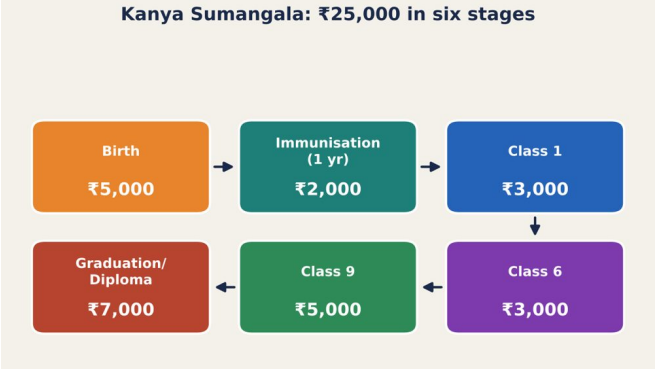


Fig. 18 · CM restates Kanya Sumangala support: ₹25,000 in six stages, ₹1 lakh at marriage

32 'Shri Krishna Puri' homes for the poor on mafia-freed land at Kasari-Masari, Prayagraj

20 Oct 2026

- In his Vijayadashami message (19 Oct 2026), the CM announced that land reclaimed from mafia control in Prayagraj (**Kasari-Masari**) will house underprivileged families under 'Shri Krishna Puri'. This continues the state model of building homes for the poor on land freed from mafia (seized-asset reuse).
- The CM urged people to 'burn' social evils with Ravan's effigy: drug addiction, dowry, caste discrimination and family discord.

33 CM announces higher motorcycle, PPS uniform and SIM allowances for UP Police

21 Oct 2026

- At the Police Commemoration Day parade in Lucknow on **21 October 2026**, the Chief Minister announced higher allowances for field-duty police personnel ahead of Diwali.
- The allowances raised are the motorcycle allowance, the PPS uniform allowance and the SIM allowance.

See Fig. 19

34 ECI schedule for UP's SSR-2027: draft roll postponed from 12 Nov to 17 Nov 2026

22 Oct 2026

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) set the Special Summary Revision (SSR-2027) for Uttar Pradesh (reported 22 October 2026) with qualifying date **1 January 2027**.
- The draft roll is now due on **17 November 2026**, postponed from 12 November. The final roll is due on **4 January 2027**.

> **CONCEPT** **Special Summary Revision (SSR)** is the Election Commission's routine roll update: draft roll, claims and objections, then final roll. The **qualifying date** decides who is eligible, i.e. anyone who turns 18 on that date. SIR is a deeper house-to-house exercise.

35 UP Legislative Council: polling for 11 graduate and teacher seats on 23 Oct, counting 27 Oct

23 Oct 2026

- Polling for **11 seats** (5 Graduates' + 6 Teachers' constituencies) was held on 23 October 2026, and counting on 27 October 2026.
- The seats include Varanasi, Meerut, Agra, Allahabad-Jhansi and Gorakhpur-Faizabad.
- Under Art. 171(3), 1/12 of the Council's members are elected by graduates of 3 years' standing and 1/12 by teachers (secondary level and above, 3 years).

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 171(3)**: of a Legislative Council, 1/3 elected by local authorities, 1/12 by graduates, 1/12 by teachers, 1/3 by MLAs; the rest are nominated. Art. 171(1) caps strength at **one-third** of the Assembly, minimum 40.

36 UP Gangsters Act property action reaches ₹15,233 crore, up from ₹1,800 crore in Aug 2021

23 Oct 2026

- Figures released on 22 October 2026 show that cumulative attachment, demolition and confiscation under the UP Gangsters Act has reached **₹15,233 crore**.
- The value rose from ₹1,800 crore in August 2021 to ₹15,233 crore in October 2026. The total includes attachment, not only final confiscation.
- **148 homes** for the poor have come up on the freed land.

See Fig. 20

> **CONCEPT** **UP Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986** targets organised gangs; its Sec. 14 allows attachment of property acquired through gang activity. It is a state law of the 'Police/Public Order' kind.

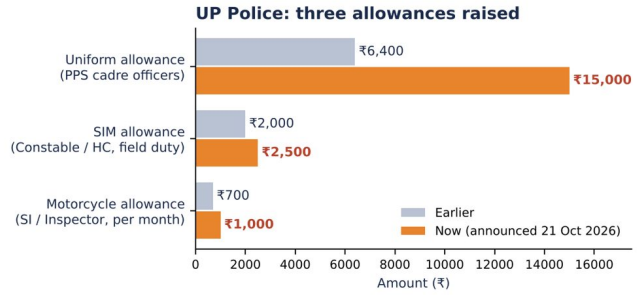


Fig. 19 · CM announces higher motorcycle, PPS uniform and SIM allowances for UP Police

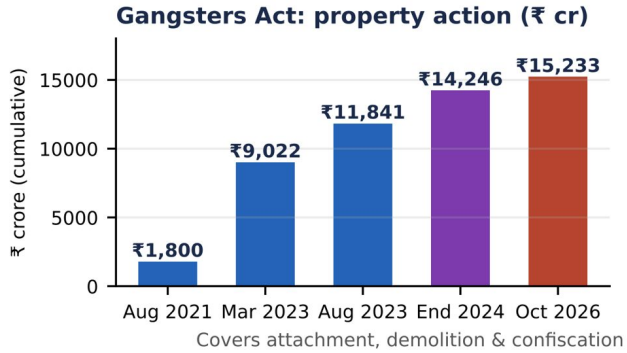


Fig. 20 · UP Gangsters Act property action reaches ₹15,233 crore, up from ₹1,800 crore in Aug 2021

37 Lucknow hosts Sadhana Shrinkhala-2026, third Mission Karmayogi regional workshop

23 Oct 2026

- The Mission Karmayogi workshop 'Sadhana Shrinkhala-2026' (Lucknow, 23 Oct 2026) is the **third regional workshop**, after Vijayawada and Guwahati.
- It covers 12 States/UTs: 8 states including UP plus Chandigarh, Delhi, J&K and Ladakh.
- The roadmap is to be linked with the **Unnati portal**, which connects 700+ government training institutions.

> **CONCEPT** **Mission Karmayogi** (National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building, 2020) trains civil servants in role-based competencies through the **iGOT Karmayogi** online platform, shifting from rule-based to role-based training.

38 'TechSangam' International Dialogue-26 opens at UPSIFS, Lucknow (23-25 Oct)

23 Oct 2026

- The three-day TechSangam International Dialogue-26 (23-25 Oct 2026) is held at the UP State Institute of Forensic Science (UPSIFS), Lucknow. It focuses on digital trust, data security, AI in forensics, deepfakes, AI-enabled cybercrime and digital sovereignty.
- The CM is chief guest on Day 2 (24 Oct).

> **CONCEPT** **Deepfake** is synthetic audio, image or video created with deep-learning (such as GANs) that convincingly imitates a real person. Cybercrime in India is dealt with mainly under the **Information Technology Act, 2000**.

39 One Time Settlement scheme covers all 762 urban bodies in UP, with relief on house, water and sewer tax

26 Oct 2026

- The One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme applies in **762 urban local bodies (ULBs)**: 17 municipal corporations, 200 councils and 545 nagar panchayats (26 October 2026).
- It gives relief on house tax, water tax and sewer tax.

See Fig. 21

> **CONCEPT** **74th Amendment (1992)** gave constitutional status to urban local bodies through **Part IXA** (Arts. 243P-243ZG) and the **12th Schedule** (18 subjects). ULBs: Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council, Nagar Panchayat.

40 Centre-UP 'Shram Samvad' in Lucknow on the 4 Labour Codes (26-27 Oct)

26 Oct 2026

- The Centre-UP programme Shram Samvad was held in Lucknow on **26-27 Oct 2026**, on the **4 Labour Codes**, which merge 29 central laws.

> **CONCEPT** The **four Labour Codes** are the Code on Wages (2019), Industrial Relations Code (2020), Code on Social Security (2020) and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (2020). Labour is on the **Concurrent List**.

41 UP MLC poll results: BJP 6, SP 5 — BJP wins Meerut seats, SP retains Varanasi Teachers

27 Oct 2026

- Counting for the 11 Vidhan Parishad seats (5 Graduates' + 6 Teachers'), polled on 23 Oct 2026, ran from 27 Oct. BJP won Meerut Graduates, Meerut Teachers and Bareilly-Moradabad Teachers.
- SP retained Varanasi Teachers (Lal Bihari Yadav). The final tally is **BJP 6, SP 5** of the 11 seats.
- Turnout was about 56% in graduate seats and 39% in teacher seats.

See Fig. 22

> **CONCEPT** The **Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad)** is a permanent house and is not dissolved. One-third of its members retire every **two years** (Art. 172(2)); the term of a member is **6 years**.

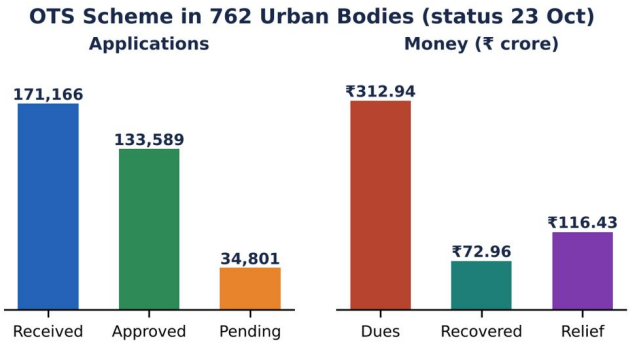


Fig. 21 · One Time Settlement scheme covers all 762 urban bodies in UP, with relief on house, water and sewer tax

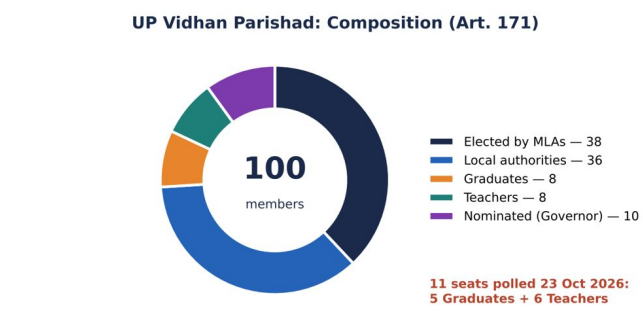


Fig. 22 · UP MLC poll results: BJP 6, SP 5 — BJP wins Meerut seats, SP retains Varanasi Teachers

42 Cyclone Arnab: UP on alert 28-31 Oct, yellow alert on 28 Oct and orange on 29 Oct

27 Oct 2026

- UP is on alert for Cyclone Arnab from **28 to 31 October 2026** (reported 27 October).
- A yellow alert is issued for 28 October and an orange alert for 29 October. Official alerts come through the **Sachet app**.

See Fig. 23

> **CONCEPT** **IMD colour-coded warnings**: green means no action, **yellow** means 'be aware', **orange** means 'be prepared', and **red** means 'take action'. A cyclone is a low-pressure system with strong winds rotating around a centre.

43 Cabinet: six months' residence in village needed to vote in Gram Panchayat polls

28 Oct 2026

- On 28 Oct 2026 the Cabinet approved rules defining 'ordinary residence' for Gram Panchayat electoral rolls under the UP Panchayat Raj Act, 1947: **six months' residence in the village**, standardising Section 9(3).
- Proof can be Aadhaar, an electricity or telephone bill, plus a declaration. The rule applies uniformly to all Gram Panchayats; rolls are prepared under Art. 243K (State Election Commission).

See Fig. 24

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 243B** provides the three-tier panchayat system and **Art. 243K** gives the State Election Commission superintendence over panchayat electoral rolls and elections. Both come from the 73rd Amendment (1992).

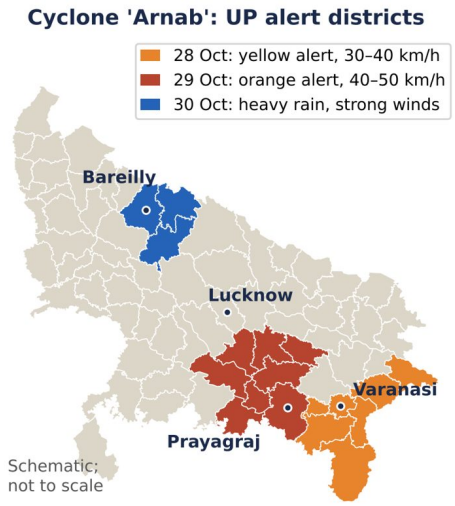


Fig. 23 · Cyclone Arnab: UP on alert 28-31 Oct, yellow alert on 28 Oct and orange on 29 Oct

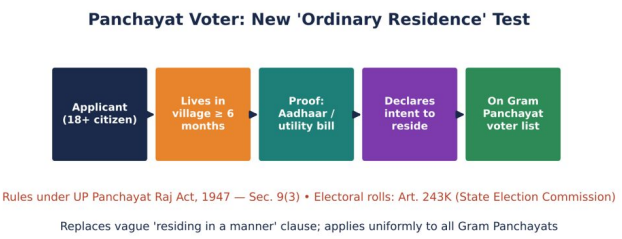


Fig. 24 · Cabinet: six months' residence in village needed to vote in Gram Panchayat polls

44 UP ranks 1st in Mission Karmayogi implementation, ahead of Rajasthan and J&K

28 Oct 2026

- In the Mission Karmayogi implementation ranking (28 Oct 2026), **UP is 1st**, Rajasthan 2nd and Jammu & Kashmir 3rd.
- There are 19.23 lakh registered users on iGOT Karmayogi and 350+ training institutions under Unnati.

See Fig. 25

45 UP Cabinet clears 22 proposals: UP-CSOC cyber centre, PRAGATI Robotics Park, cashless care

27 Oct 2026

- The UP Cabinet chaired by CM Yogi Adityanath met in Lucknow on 27 Oct 2026 and approved **22 proposals** spanning technology, health, land and urban services.
- The UP Cyber Security Operations Centre (**UP-CSOC**) will be set up through C3iHub, IIT Kanpur, and the **PRAGATI Robotics Park** is approved to promote robotics & AI.
- Other decisions: cashless treatment for non-teaching school staff and **0.5% stamp duty** on mergers/demergers.

See Fig. 26

> **CONCEPT** **C3iHub** at IIT Kanpur is the Technology Innovation Hub for cyber security under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)** of the Department of Science & Technology.

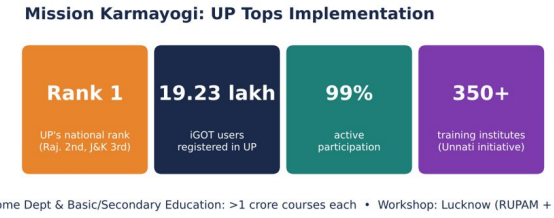


Fig. 25 · UP ranks 1st in Mission Karmayogi implementation, ahead of Rajasthan and J&K

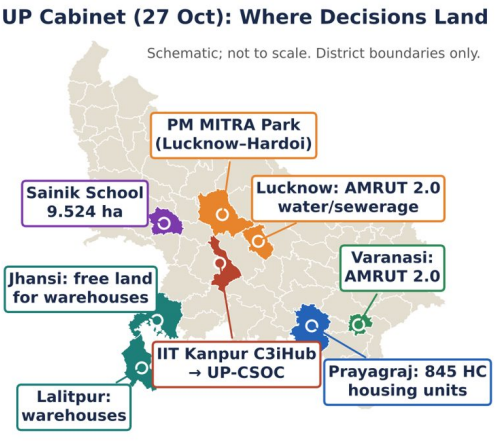


Fig. 26 · UP Cabinet clears 22 proposals: UP-CSOC cyber centre, PRAGATI Robotics Park, cashless care

46 VDA revised for 74 scheduled employments: monthly rise ₹174.25 to ₹238.39

28 Oct 2026

- The Labour Department revised the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) for workers in 74 scheduled employments (28 Oct 2026), effective **1 Oct 2026 to 31 Mar 2027**. The monthly rise is ₹174.25 to ₹238.39.
- The basis is the average All-India CPI of **431 points** (Jan–Jun 2026) against a base of 400.
- The highest slab is a skilled worker in Gautam Buddh Nagar and Ghaziabad at **₹17,106.39 a month**; unskilled in other districts get ₹12,530.25.

See Fig. 27

> CONCEPT **VDA (Variable Dearness Allowance)** is part of the minimum wage under wage law (the **Code on Wages, 2019**, which replaced the Minimum Wages Act, 1948). It is adjusted for price rise using the **CPI-IW** (Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers).

47 UP allows provisional joining before character verification in recruitment

29 Oct 2026

- Announced on 29 October 2026, the policy aims to shorten the selection-to-joining time in state government recruitment. Selected candidates for general posts get a **provisional appointment letter** before verification is complete, in direct recruitment in departments, corporations, councils, autonomous bodies, panchayats and local bodies.
- The Police/DM (DGP Intelligence and district magistrates) report is due within **30 days**. Serious offences (charges framed/conviction) bar candidates, but an FIR alone does not; false information cancels the appointment.
- Security-sensitive posts still need completed detailed verification (with CM's prior approval) before appointment.

See Fig. 28

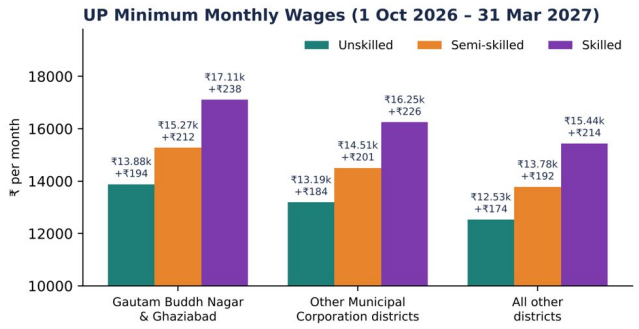


Fig. 27 · VDA revised for 74 scheduled employments: monthly rise ₹174.25 to ₹238.39

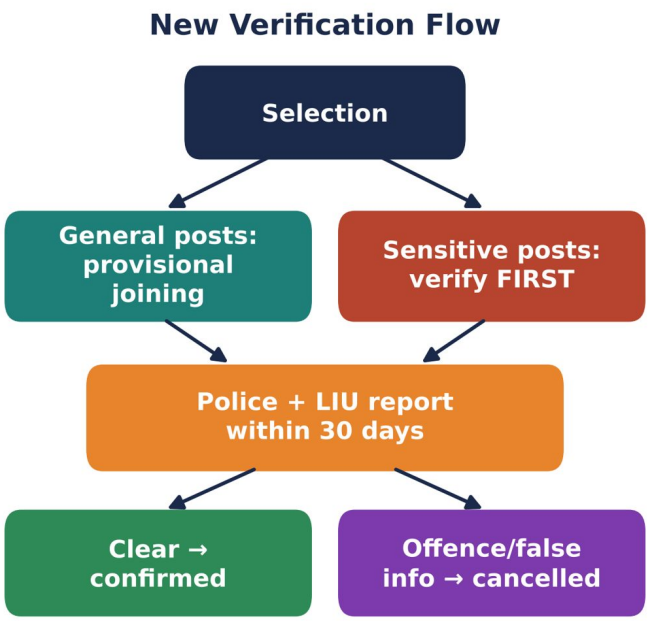


Fig. 28 · UP allows provisional joining before character verification in recruitment

48 PMAY-G regional workshop in Lucknow: target 4.95 crore rural houses by March 2029

29 Oct 2026

- The Union Ministry of Rural Development held a two-day regional workshop on PMAY-G in Lucknow on 27–28 Oct 2026 on next-phase reforms.
- The target is **4.95 crore rural houses by March 2029**: 2.95 crore in Phase I (2016-17 to 2023-24) plus 2 crore for 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- Unit assistance is **₹1.20 lakh (plains)** and ₹1.30 lakh (hilly and difficult areas); funding is 60:40 and the minimum house size is 25 sq m.

See Fig. 29

> CONCEPT **PMAY-G** (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin) was launched in **2016** by the Ministry of Rural Development. It replaced the older **Indira Awaas Yojana** for houses of rural poor.

49 Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana: ₹1 lakh per couple, 2026-27 target 72,448 couples

29 Oct 2026

- Under the Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana, each couple gets **₹1 lakh**: ₹64,000 for setting up the household, ₹21,000 gifts and ₹15,000 ceremony costs.
- The 2026-27 target is **72,448 couples**.

50 **28 new Bachpan Day Care Centres approved for children with disabilities aged 3-7** 29 Oct 2026

- **28 new Bachpan Day Care Centres** were approved (29 Oct 2026) for children aged 3-7 with disabilities.
- 25 centres are already running.

> CONCEPT **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016** replaced the PwD Act, 1995. It recognises **21 disabilities** and provides 4% reservation in government jobs for persons with benchmark disabilities.

51 **UP Cabinet approves State Livestock Mission with five sub-missions on 27 Oct 2026** 27 Oct 2026

- The UP Cabinet approved the **State Livestock Mission** on 27 Oct 2026. It is a state-funded mission that targets small and marginal livestock farmers.
- The mission has five sub-missions. It gives a grant of **₹40,000 for one improved cow** and ₹80,000 for two.
- The news also notes that UP is first in milk production.

See Fig. 30

> CONCEPT **Livestock** (preservation and improvement of stock, prevention of animal diseases) is **Entry 15, State List**. The Centre's **Rashtriya Gokul Mission** (launched December 2014) focuses on conserving indigenous cattle breeds.

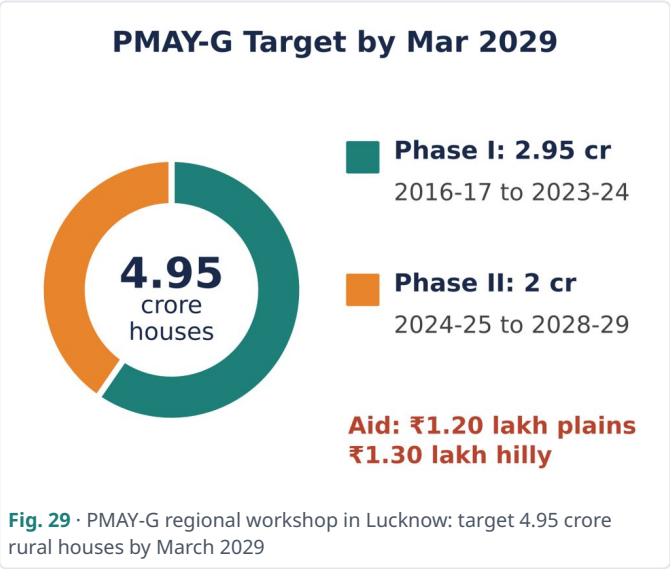


Fig. 29 · PMAY-G regional workshop in Lucknow: target 4.95 crore rural houses by March 2029

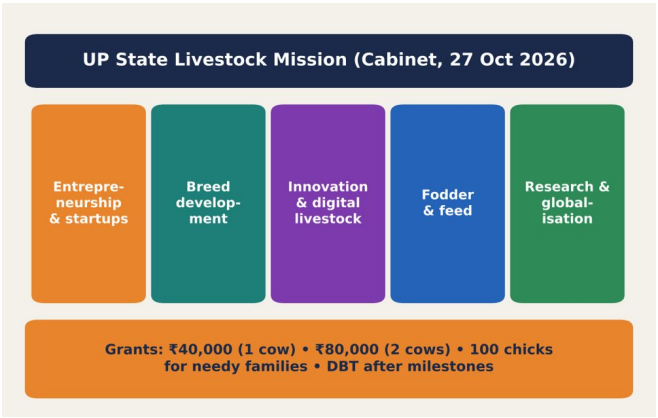


Fig. 30 · UP Cabinet approves State Livestock Mission with five sub-missions on 27 Oct 2026

52 **UPESSC announces Special TET on 3 November 2026 for serving UP teachers** 3 Nov 2026

- The UP Education Service Selection Commission (UPESSC), Prayagraj announced a **Special TET** for serving teachers after the Supreme Court made TET mandatory for them. The exam date is **3 November 2026** (Advt. No. 03/2026).
- It is for serving teachers of government, local-body and aided primary and upper-primary schools.
- A separate Special TET covers about 2,500 CWSN special educators who have RCI registration.

> CONCEPT **TET (Teacher Eligibility Test)** is a minimum eligibility condition for teachers of Classes 1-8, prescribed by **NCTE** under **Sec. 23 of the RTE Act, 2009**. Passing it is a qualification, not a guarantee of a job.

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Infrastructure & Economy

GS-VI (UP)

53 UP International Trade Show 4.0 (25-29 Sep 2026) draws 4,400 MoUs worth about ₹6,500 crore

25-29 Sep 2026

- UP International Trade Show 4.0 was held from 25 to 29 September 2026. **Union Home & Cooperation Minister Amit Shah** inaugurated it on 25 Sept, with the CM present.
- It had 2,400+ exhibitors and 600+ buyers from 90 countries, and 6 partner countries took part.
- **4,400 MoUs worth about ₹6,500 crore** were signed.

See Fig. 31

> CONCEPT **ODOP (One District One Product)** was launched by UP in **January 2018** to promote one signature product from each of its 75 districts; it was later taken up nationally.

54 UP's September GST rises 18% to ₹8,882 crore — fastest among top four states

2 Oct 2026

- GST data released on 1 October 2026 showed strong year-on-year growth in September, driven mainly by imports. Gross GST was **₹2.04 lakh crore (+14.7%)**, and net GST after refunds was ₹1.77 lakh crore (+18.1%).
- Import GST rose 25.9% to ₹65,525 crore, while domestic GST rose 10.1% to ₹1.38 lakh crore.
- Uttar Pradesh collected **₹8,882 crore (+18%)**, the highest growth among the top four states (Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, UP) in September.

See Fig. 32

> CONCEPT **IGST** (Integrated GST) is charged on inter-state supply and on **imports**, and is collected by the Centre and shared with states. CGST and SGST apply to supplies within a state.



Fig. 31 · UP International Trade Show 4.0 (25-29 Sep 2026) draws 4,400 MoUs worth about ₹6,500 crore

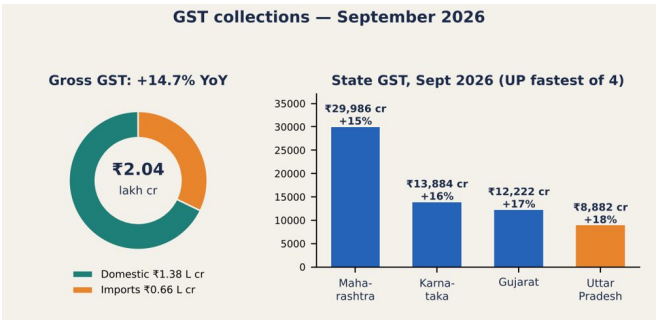


Fig. 32 · UP's September GST rises 18% to ₹8,882 crore — fastest among top four states

55 UP met peak power demand of 24,779 MW on 3 October despite storm damage

3 Oct 2026

- The state power utility met a peak demand of **24,779 MW on 3 October 2026**, despite storm damage to the network in late September. Demand was rising in early October.
- UP's record peak demand met is **32,673 MW, on 24 June 2026**.
- Supply hours are 24 hrs at district HQs, 21.5 hrs at tehsils and 18 hrs in rural areas.

See Fig. 33

> CONCEPT **Electricity** is a **Concurrent List** subject (Entry 38, List III), governed by the **Electricity Act, 2003**. **Peak demand** is the highest power demand in a period, measured in megawatts (MW).

56 CM inaugurates 50th India Carpet Expo at Bhadohi; UP is 5th-largest exporting state

4 Oct 2026

- On 4 Oct 2026 the CM inaugurated the golden-jubilee (50th) India Carpet Expo, Asia's largest handmade-carpet trade fair, at the Carpet Expo Mart, Bhadohi. It is organised by the Carpet Export Promotion Council.
- About **430 foreign buyers from 65 countries** and 223 Indian exporters attended. The USA sends the most buyers (~40), and 106 buyers come from BRICS nations.
- UP's exports are over **₹2 lakh crore**, making it the 5th-largest exporting state.

See Fig. 34

> CONCEPT **GI tag** is given under the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** (in force 2003) to products linked to a place of origin. Registration lasts 10 years and is renewable.

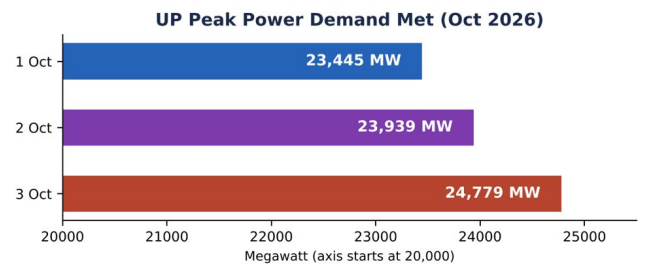


Fig. 33 · UP met peak power demand of 24,779 MW on 3 October despite storm damage



Fig. 34 · CM inaugurates 50th India Carpet Expo at Bhadohi; UP is 5th-largest exporting state

57 **CM inaugurates and lays foundation of 112 projects worth ₹1,340 crore in Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi** 4 Oct 2026

- On 4 October 2026 the CM inaugurated or laid foundation stones for **112 projects worth ₹1,340 crore**, along with the Expo, across the Bhadohi, Aurai and Gyanpur assembly segments.
- The district's renaming to 'Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi' was announced on Guru Purnima (29 July 2026) and approved by the UP Cabinet on 9 October 2026.

See Fig. 35

58 **UP hotel approvals rise to 421 in FY26; tourists jump from 64 crore to 156 crore** 6 Oct 2026

- State data released on 5 Oct 2026 shows hotel investment flowing into Varanasi, Ayodhya, Lucknow, Greater Noida and Mathura. Hotel approvals rose from 205 (FY24) to 299 (FY25) to **421 (FY26)**, nearly 1,000 in three years.
- Tourist inflow rose from **64 crore (2024) to 156 crore (2025)**, the Maha Kumbh year.
- UP is 1st in domestic and 4th in foreign tourist arrivals.

See Fig. 36

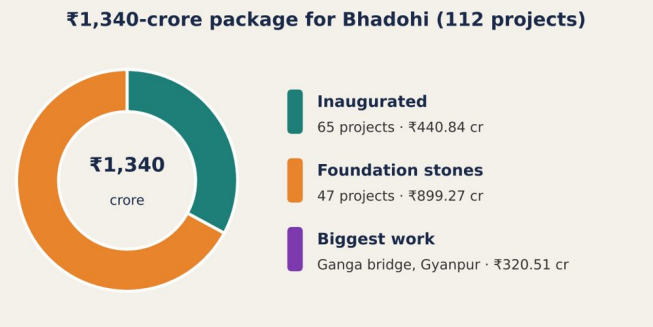


Fig. 35 · CM inaugurates and lays foundation of 112 projects worth ₹1,340 crore in Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi

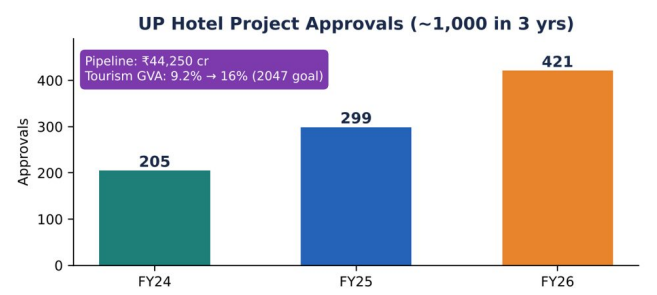


Fig. 36 · UP hotel approvals rise to 421 in FY26; tourists jump from 64 crore to 156 crore

59 **CM Yogi says UP is moving 'from Assembly to AI' as HCL-Foxconn chip unit near Jewar advances** 6 Oct 2026

- On 6 Oct 2026 the CM highlighted UP's technology push, including chips, data centres and AI skilling.
- The **HCL-Foxconn OSAT** (chip assembly & testing) unit near Jewar, Gautam Buddh Nagar, will cost ₹3,706 crore. It was approved by the Union Cabinet in May 2025 and will make display-driver chips.

See Fig. 37

> CONCEPT **OSAT** means Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test, the back-end of chipmaking where wafers are packaged and tested. The **India Semiconductor Mission** was approved in 2021 with an outlay of ₹76,000 crore.

60 **UP Data Centre Policy 2026 targets over ₹2 lakh crore investment and 2 GW capacity** 6 Oct 2026

- The UP Cabinet approved the **UP Data Centre Policy 2026** in early July 2026 (reported 6-7 July). It is the base for the technology push highlighted on 6 October.
- The state government targets investment above **₹2 lakh crore** and 2 GW of additional capacity, with extra incentives for Bundelkhand and Purvanchal.
- It is expected to create about 7,500 direct long-term jobs and 50,000 short-term construction-phase jobs.

See Fig. 38

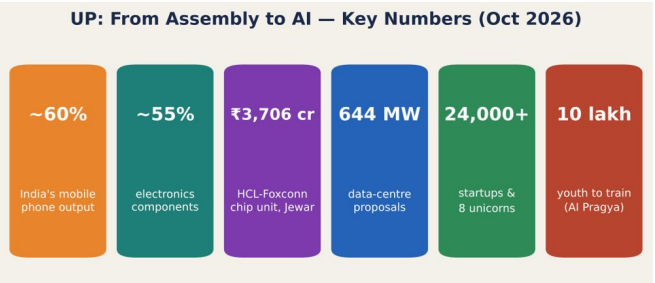


Fig. 37 · CM Yogi says UP is moving 'from Assembly to AI' as HCL-Foxconn chip unit near Jewar advances

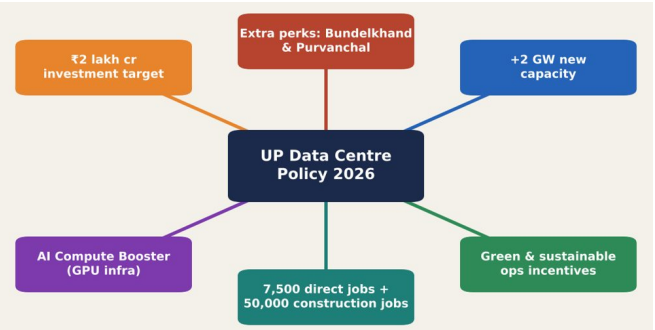


Fig. 38 · UP Data Centre Policy 2026 targets over ₹2 lakh crore investment and 2 GW capacity

61 Jhansi's Parichha Dam, built 1881-86, named a World Heritage Irrigation Structure

7 Oct 2026

- Parichha Dam on the Betwa river near Jhansi has been named a **World Heritage Irrigation Structure**. It was built in 1881-1886, about 140 years ago.
- It has 318 steel gates and a storage of about 2,400 million cubic feet.
- It supplies water to the **920 MW Parichha Thermal Power Station**.

See Fig. 39

> **CONCEPT** **WHIS (World Heritage Irrigation Structures)** is a list begun in **2014** by the **ICID** (International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage). The **Betwa** rises in the Vindhya range (MP) and joins the Yamuna near Hamirpur (UP).

62 Paddy purchase for KMS 2026-27 begins in western UP at MSP ₹2,441 per quintal

12 Oct 2026

- Government purchase of Kharif paddy (KMS 2026-27) began on **12 October 2026** in western UP (till 15 February 2027). Eastern UP follows from 1 November (till 28 February 2027).
- MSP is **₹2,441/quintal (Common)** and ₹2,461/quintal (Grade A), up ₹72 from last season's ₹2,369/₹2,389.
- The procurement target is **65 LMT** against 62 LMT, and payment is to be made within 48 hours.

See Fig. 40

> **CONCEPT** **MSP** is recommended by the **CACP** (Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices) and approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. It is announced for **22 mandated crops**; **KMS** is the Kharif Marketing Season.

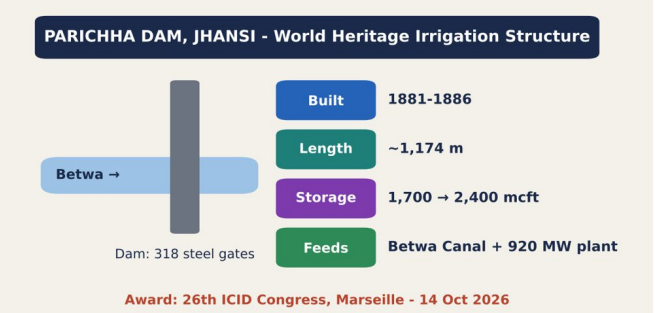


Fig. 39 · Jhansi's Parichha Dam, built 1881-86, named a World Heritage Irrigation Structure

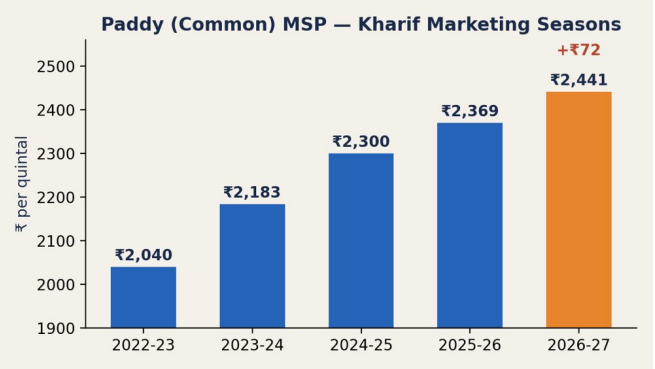


Fig. 40 · Paddy purchase for KMS 2026-27 begins in western UP at MSP ₹2,441 per quintal

63 UP Cabinet approves 1,725 AC electric buses for 18 cities on Gross Cost Contract model

9 Oct 2026

- On 9 October 2026 the Cabinet approved e-bus services on a Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model with private operators, who will run the buses for **12 years**. The state fixes the fares.
- **1,725 air-conditioned e-buses** will run across 18 cities, including Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Ayodhya, Gorakhpur and Noida (with Jewar).

See Fig. 41

> **CONCEPT** **Gross Cost Contract (GCC)**: the authority keeps fare revenue and pays the operator a fixed rate per km. In a **Net Cost Contract (NCC)** the operator keeps fares and bears the revenue risk.

64 Noida International Airport signs MoU with ePlane Company for electric air-taxi (eVTOL) infrastructure

8 Oct 2026

- On 8 October 2026 the Noida International Airport at Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, signed an MoU with the **ePlane Company** (an IIT Madras-incubated startup) to develop Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) infrastructure in Delhi-NCR.
- It covers vertiports, charging, operating procedures and safety, and trials of the **e200X** prototype are planned. The plan needs DGCA and BCAS clearances.

See Fig. 42

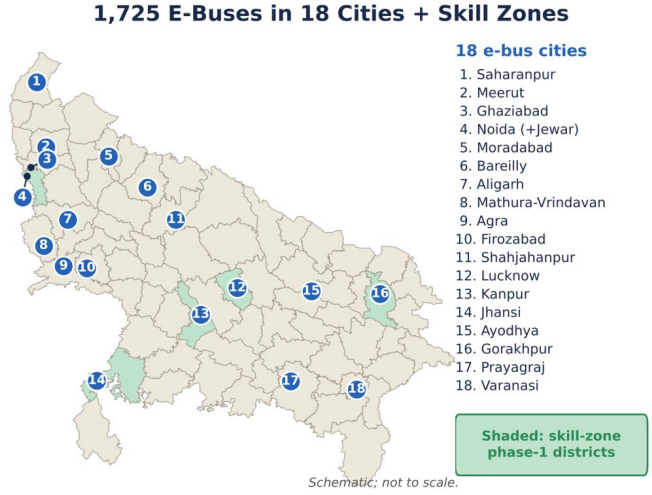


Fig. 41 · UP Cabinet approves 1,725 AC electric buses for 18 cities on Gross Cost Contract model

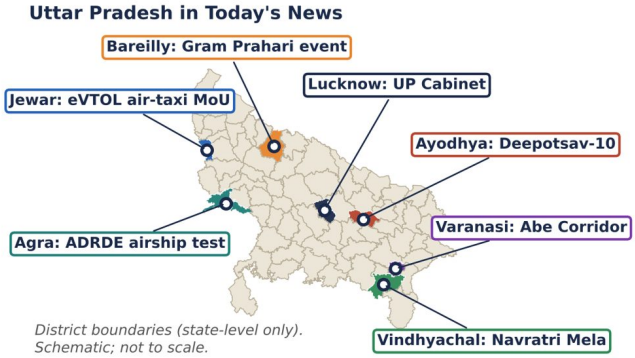


Fig. 42 · Noida International Airport signs MoU with ePlane Company for electric air-taxi (eVTOL) infrastructure

65 UPSIDA's 52nd board cuts minimum score for large plots from 60 to 50; Lalitpur pharma park on PPP

16 Oct 2026

- The UP State Industrial Development Authority's **52nd board meeting (16 Oct 2026)**, chaired by ACS (Infrastructure & Industrial Development) Alok Kumar, cleared a package to speed up land use for industry. The minimum score for plots above 500 sq m was cut from 60 to 50, easing allotment.
- A pharmaceutical park in Lalitpur (Bundelkhand) is to be developed on PPP mode.
- The layout plan of Kannauj Perfume Park was approved, and the revised layout of Trans Ganga City, Unnao was cleared.

See Fig. 43

66 UP Cabinet proposes renaming Noida airport 'Narendra Modi International Airport, Noida-Jewar'

9 Oct 2026

- On 9 Oct 2026 the UP Cabinet approved a proposal to rename Noida International Airport, Jewar (Gautam Buddha Nagar) as **'Narendra Modi International Airport, Noida-Jewar'**.
- The UP Cabinet only recommended the name. The Union Cabinet decides airport names, and a Gazette notification follows.
- Phase 1 of the airport was inaugurated on 28 March 2026, and it is the second international airport of Delhi-NCR.

See Fig. 44

> **CONCEPT** **AAI (Airports Authority of India)** was formed on 1 April 1995 by merging the National Airports Authority and the International Airports Authority of India. It manages airports under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

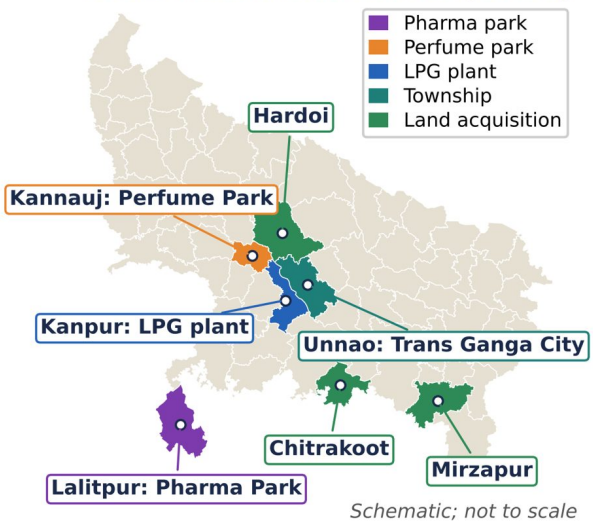


Fig. 43 · UPSIDA's 52nd board cuts minimum score for large plots from 60 to 50; Lalitpur pharma park on PPP

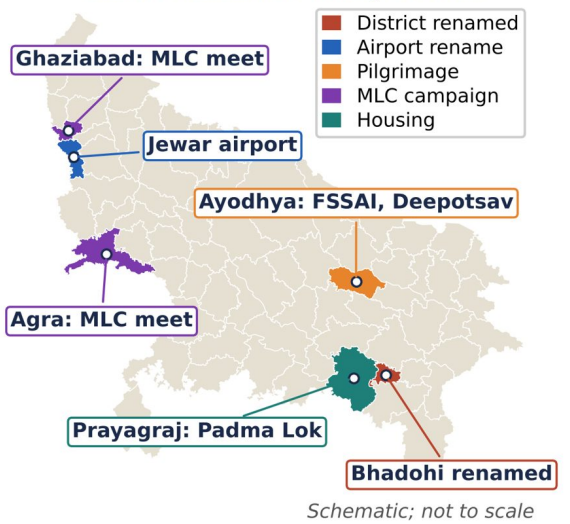


Fig. 44 · UP Cabinet proposes renaming Noida airport 'Narendra Modi International Airport, Noida-Jewar'

67 **New Noida (DNGIR) forms three administrative circles to develop 80 villages** — 14 Oct 2026

- On 14 Oct 2026 the Dadri–Noida–Ghaziabad Investment Region (**New Noida, DNGIR**) created administrative circles **11, 12 and 14** for land acquisition and development.
- It covers 209.11 sq km across 80 villages between Dadri (Gautam Buddha Nagar) and Khurja (Bulandshahr). It follows Master Plan 2041 and its planned population is about 6 lakh.
- For compensation, phases 1–2 follow the Greater Noida model (6% abadi plot) and phases 3–4 follow the YEIDA model (7%).

See Fig. 45

68 **UP is setting up five Doppler weather radars costing ₹22.45 crore** — 20 Oct 2026

- The state (Relief Commissioner's office) is setting up **five Doppler radars** for early warning of storms, heavy rain and lightning. The cities are Azamgarh, Lucknow, Jhansi, Aligarh and Varanasi.
- Two radars are installed and work is under way on the other three.
- The cost is **₹22.45 crore**: about ₹19.50 crore for radars and ₹2.95 crore for civil works.

See Fig. 46

> CONCEPT **Doppler radar** uses the Doppler shift in frequency of reflected microwaves to measure the speed and direction of rain-bearing systems, so it warns of storms and heavy rain. IMD runs the national weather radar network.

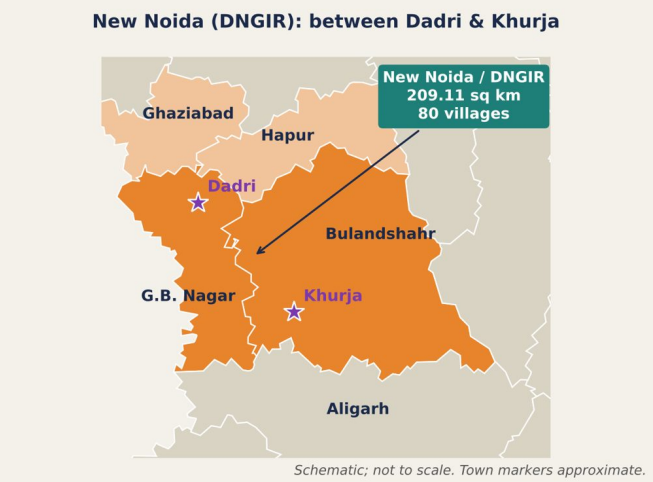


Fig. 45 · New Noida (DNGIR) forms three administrative circles to develop 80 villages

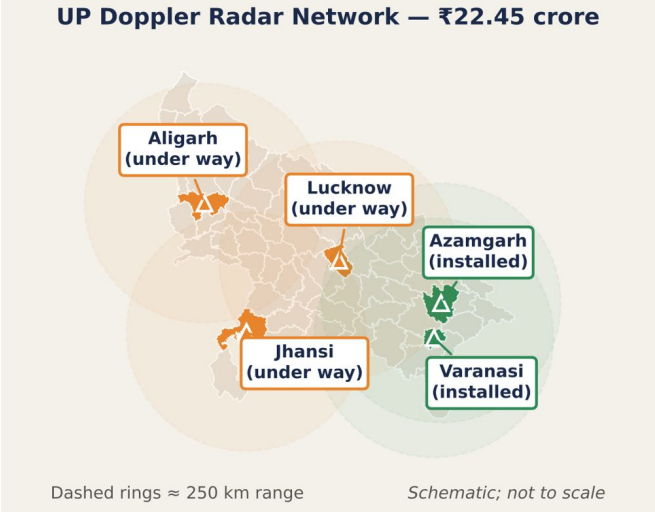


Fig. 46 · UP is setting up five Doppler weather radars costing ₹22.45 crore

69 **Gulf-based retail group announces another ₹10,000 crore investment plan for UP** — 22 Oct 2026

- After opening its first Delhi-NCR hypermarket in Greater Noida, the group announced on 21 October 2026 a further investment plan of **₹10,000 crore** for the state.
- The new **1 lakh sq ft** hypermarket in Greater Noida (Gautam Buddha Nagar) was inaugurated by state ministers. The group's earlier UP outlet is in Lucknow.

See Fig. 47

70 **UPERC approves 10 PM-KUSUM solar PPAs of 19.7 MW at ₹2.91-2.99 per unit** — Oct 2026

- In October 2026 UPERC approved **10 PPAs (19.7 MW)** under PM-KUSUM C-2 solar.
- The tariff is **₹2.91-2.99 per unit**, and the lowest bid came from Chitrakoot (Bhaskar Renewable, 1.7 MW).

> **CONCEPT** **PM-KUSUM** (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan, 2019) is a Ministry of New and Renewable Energy scheme for solar pumps and farm solar plants. A **PPA** is a long-term power purchase agreement.

71 **Chief Secretary-led committee clears ₹56.26 crore incentives for four UP industrial units** — 23 Oct 2026

- The Empowered Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary (12th meeting) approved incentives of **₹56.26 crore for four units** on 23 Oct 2026, under the COVID-19 Rapid Investment Promotion Policy, 2020.
- The incentives are quarter-wise reimbursements for 2025-26 and early 2026-27.
- The units include one in Gorakhpur (₹25.97 crore), a food unit in Barabanki (₹12.77 crore), and cement units in Hamirpur and Amethi.

See Fig. 48

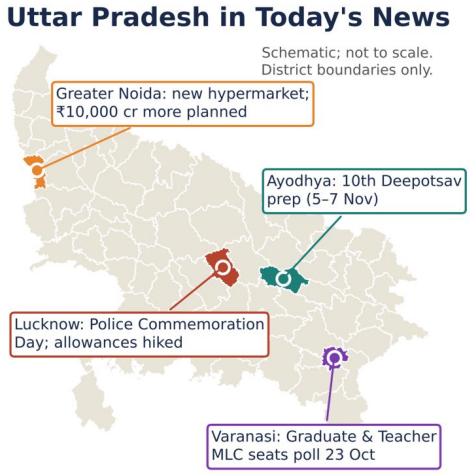


Fig. 47 · Gulf-based retail group announces another ₹10,000 crore investment plan for UP

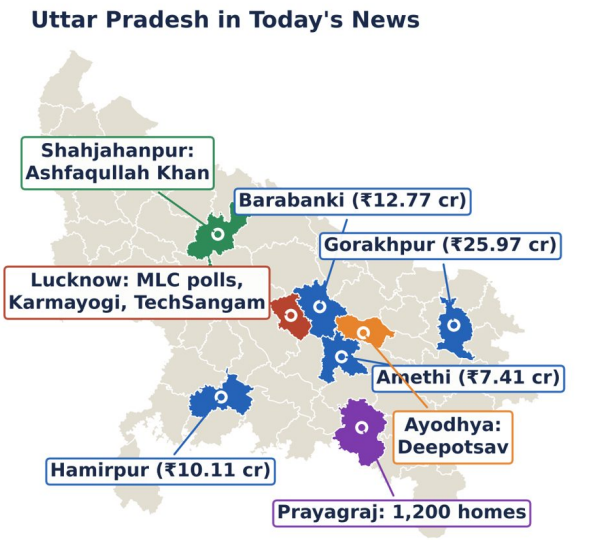


Fig. 48 · Chief Secretary-led committee clears ₹56.26 crore incentives for four UP industrial units

72 **Ganga Expressway, 594 km and 12 districts, is changing freight and passenger travel** — 23 Oct 2026

- The Meerut-Prayagraj Ganga Expressway has been operational since its inauguration by the PM at Hardoi on **29 April 2026**, and is changing freight and passenger travel.
- It is about **594 km** long, six-lane (expandable to 8) and access-controlled, passes through 12 districts, and costs about ₹36,230 crore.
- A 3.5 km airstrip is planned at Shahjahanpur.

See Fig. 49

> **CONCEPT** **UPEIDA** (UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority) is the state agency that builds expressways such as Purvanchal, Bundelkhand and Ganga Expressway, and develops industrial areas along them.

73 CM inaugurates UP GCC Innovation Summit 2026 in Lucknow to draw Global Capability Centres

26 Oct 2026

- The CM inaugurated the summit in Lucknow on 26 October 2026. It was organised by the IIT Kanpur Alumni Association with Invest UP and a leading IT company, to draw Global Capability Centres (GCCs) beyond NCR. UP already has 200+ GCCs.
- The **UP GCC Policy 2024** gives capital subsidy up to **25%**, land subsidy 30–50%, operational subsidy 20% and interest subsidy 5%, plus payroll and R&D support.

See Fig. 50

> CONCEPT **Global Capability Centre (GCC)** is an offshore unit of a multinational that runs technology, analytics, R&D or back-office work for its parent company. India hosts a large share of the world's GCCs.

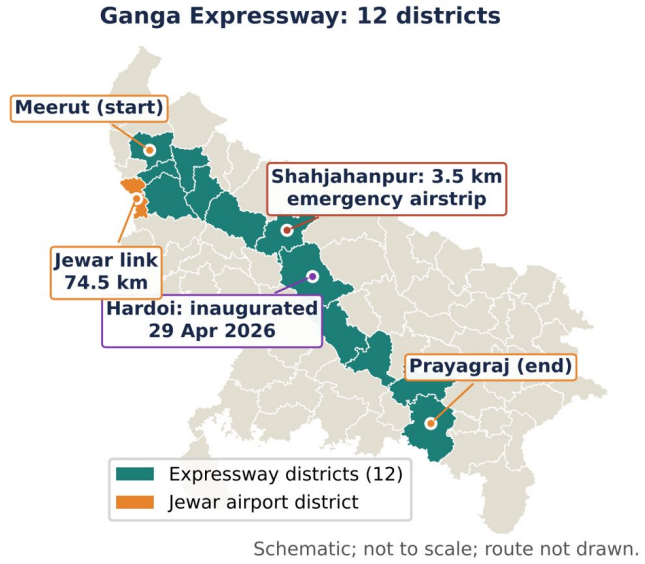


Fig. 49 · Ganga Expressway, 594 km and 12 districts, is changing freight and passenger travel



Fig. 50 · CM inaugurates UP GCC Innovation Summit 2026 in Lucknow to draw Global Capability Centres

74 UP Defence Industrial Corridor has six nodes; Jhansi link will serve Bundelkhand

26 Oct 2026

- The **UP Defence Industrial Corridor** has six nodes: Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur and Lucknow.
- The Jhansi Link serves Bundelkhand, covering the BIDA area and the UP Defence Industrial Corridor.

See Fig. 51

> CONCEPT **Defence Industrial Corridors** are two in India, one in **Uttar Pradesh** and one in **Tamil Nadu**, announced in the Union Budget 2018-19. They aim to build a domestic defence manufacturing base and cut import dependence.

75 GCC Innovation Summit 2026 in Lucknow: 15 MoUs signed, white paper on AI in GCCs released

27 Oct 2026

- CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the GCC Innovation Summit 2026 in Lucknow (26 Oct) and pitched UP as India's next hub for Global Capability Centres. The summit was organised with Invest UP, and **15 MoUs** were signed.
- The CM released the white paper **'The True Economics of AI Adoption in GCCs'**, drafted by HCLTech and IIT Kanpur under a deep-tech collaboration.
- Under the UP GCC Policy 2024 (capital subsidy up to 25%, plus opex, payroll and land incentives), the state aims for **500+ GCCs by 2031** in Noida, Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj and Gorakhpur.

See Fig. 52

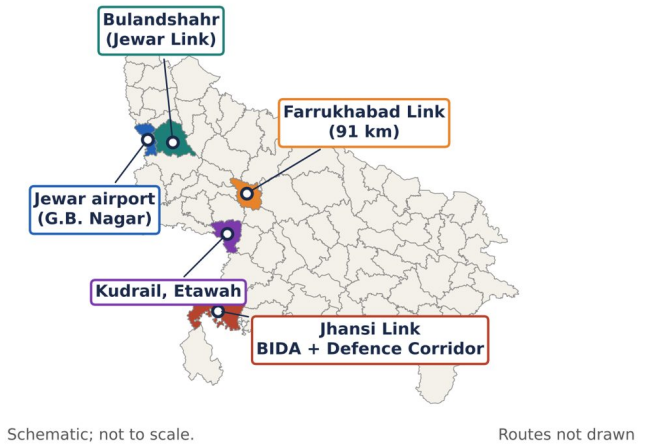


Fig. 51 · UP Defence Industrial Corridor has six nodes; Jhansi link will serve Bundelkhand

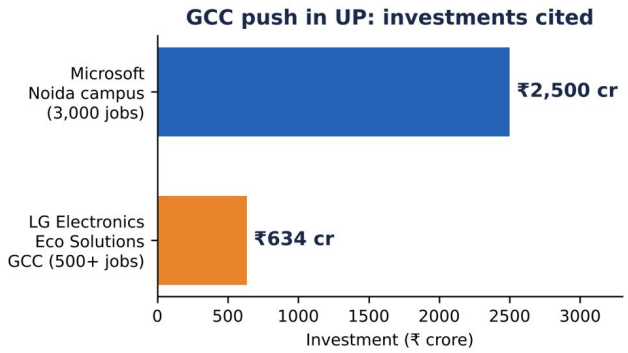


Fig. 52 · GCC Innovation Summit 2026 in Lucknow: 15 MoUs signed, white paper on AI in GCCs released

76 ## UP Cabinet clears four link expressways of about 322 km costing ₹17,542 crore

27 Oct 2026

- On 27 October 2026 the state Cabinet approved selection of EPC developers by **UPEIDA** for four greenfield link expressways, fully state-funded. They total about **322 km at ₹17,542 crore**.
- The links are Jewar, Jhansi, Farrukhabad and Agra-Lucknow-Purvanchal.
- The Jewar Link (~74 km) connects Noida International Airport (Jewar) to the Ganga Expressway.

See Fig. 53

> CONCEPT **EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction)**: the government funds the project and the contractor designs, buys materials and builds it for a fixed price. It differs from PPP/BOT, where the private party brings finance.

77 ## Cabinet approves master developer for Lucknow–Hardoi PM MITRA Park (₹1,947 crore)

27 Oct 2026

- The Cabinet (27 Oct 2026) approved the master developer for the **PM MITRA Mega Textile Park** on the Lucknow–Hardoi border, two days after the PM opened a garment unit in Varanasi (25 Oct). A preferred bidder for master developer has been selected.
- The park covers 1,000 acres with an estimated cost of **₹1,947 crore**.
- Central aid is 30%, up to ₹500 crore. SPV equity is UP 51% and Centre 49%.

See Fig. 54

> CONCEPT **PM MITRA** parks (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) were announced in Union Budget 2021-22; **7 parks** are planned under the Ministry of Textiles, following the **5F vision**: Farm, Fibre, Factory, Fashion, Foreign.

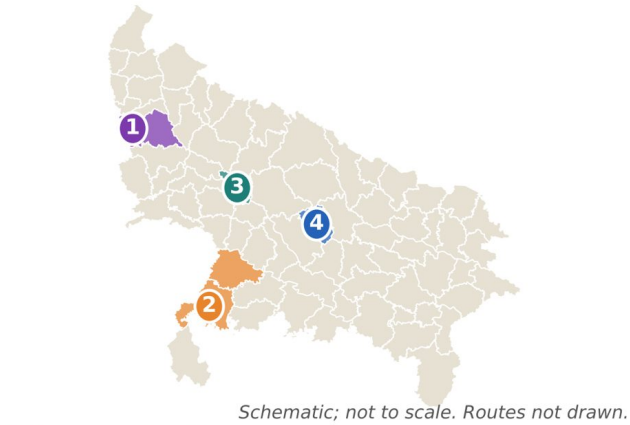


Fig. 53 · UP Cabinet clears four link expressways of about 322 km costing ₹17,542 crore

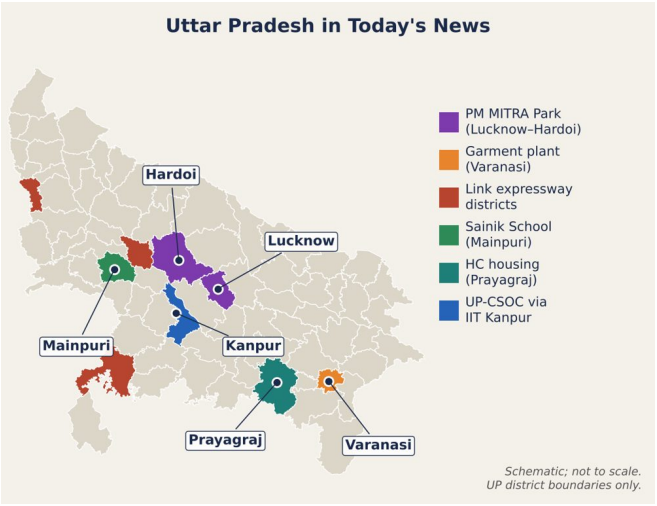


Fig. 54 · Cabinet approves master developer for Lucknow–Hardoi PM MITRA Park (₹1,947 crore)

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78 **Vindhyachal Navratri Mela in Mirzapur, 11-26 Oct 2026: 22 trains get extra halts** — Oct 2026

- The Vindhyachal Navratri Mela is held in Mirzapur from **11 to 26 October 2026**.
- Special rail arrangements were made, and **22 trains** were given extra halts.

79 **CM unveils statue of freedom fighter Masuriya Din at Teliarganj, Prayagraj** — 15 Oct 2026

- On 15 October 2026 the CM unveiled a statue of **Masuriya Din** at Teliarganj crossing in Prayagraj. He was a freedom fighter and leader of the Pasi community (a major Scheduled Caste group of UP), born on 2 October 1911 at Jondhwal, Prayagraj.
- He campaigned against the colonial **Criminal Tribes Act** and was jailed several times between 1932 and 1944.
- He was elected to the first four Lok Sabhas.

> **CONCEPT** The **Criminal Tribes Act, 1871** branded entire communities as 'hereditary criminals'. After Independence it was repealed and the communities were **denotified in 1952**, becoming **denotified tribes (DNTs)**; many states then passed Habitual Offenders Acts.

80 **Ayodhya starts preparations for November 2026 Deepotsav; ghats and Ram ki Paidi works first** — 2 Oct 2026

- The Ayodhya divisional administration has started coordination meetings for the November 2026 Deepotsav on the banks of the Saryu. The 14-Kosi and 5-Kosi Parikrama works were reviewed.
- The priorities are finishing works at the ghats and **Ram ki Paidi** first, city-wide cleanliness, and crowd and traffic management.
- Ayodhya Deepotsav (started in 2017) has set successive world records for the largest display of oil lamps.

81 UP Cabinet approves renaming Bhadohi as Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi

9 Oct 2026

- The CM first announced the new name on 29 July 2026 (Guru Purnima) and reaffirmed it at Bhadohi on 4 October 2026, honouring Bhakti saint Sant Ravidas. The UP Cabinet approved the renaming on **9 October 2026**, using power under Sec 6(2) of the UP Revenue Code 2006.
- The district was carved from Varanasi, renamed in 1997 and 1999, and reverted to Bhadohi in 2014.
- Bhadohi is India's 'Carpet City', and the Bhadohi hand-made carpet carries a GI tag.

See Fig. 55

> **CONCEPT** **Renaming a district** is a matter for the State government, whereas renaming a **State** needs Parliament under **Art. 3(e)**. **Sant Ravidas** was a nirguna Bhakti saint of Varanasi whose hymns appear in the Guru Granth Sahib.

82 CM launches 78 projects worth ₹803 crore at Devi Patan Shaktipeeth, Tulsipur (Balrampur)

11 Oct 2026

- On 11 Oct 2026 the CM launched **78 projects worth ₹803 crore** at Devi Patan, the Shaktipeeth at Tulsipur (Balrampur).

83 Shinzo Abe Memorial Corridor opened at Varanasi's Rudraksh Convention Centre

7 Oct 2026

- CM Yogi Adityanath opened the **Shinzo Abe Memorial Corridor**, honouring former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, at the Rudraksh Convention Centre, Varanasi, in the presence of Akie Abe, his wife. The Centre was built with Japanese assistance and inaugurated in 2021.
- Abe visited Varanasi in Dec 2015 with PM Modi (Ganga Aarti). He was conferred the Padma Vibhushan (2021).

84 NCRTC and IGNCA sign MoU for art showcases at Namo Bharat stations

Early Oct 2026

- The NCRTC-IGNCA MoU (early Oct 2026) provides for art, culture and heritage exhibitions and workshops at **Namo Bharat** stations on the Delhi-Meerut corridor.

85 Ayodhya Ram temple gets FSSAI's top 'Ati Vishisht' rating (103/114)

11 Oct 2026

- Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra received the highest grade, **Ati Vishisht**, under FSSAI's Eat Right Place of Worship (BHOG) initiative. The certificate was presented in Ayodhya on 11 Oct 2026, and the score was **103/114**.
- It is valid for 2 years (11 Oct 2026 – 10 Oct 2028), and the trust will hold fortnightly internal compliance reviews. Hanumangarhi and Kanak Bhawan are also certified.
- BHOG stands for Blissful Hygienic Offering to God, an FSSAI initiative under Eat Right India for safe prasad and langar.

See Fig. 56

> **CONCEPT** **FSSAI** is a statutory body under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006** (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare). **BHOG** (Blissful Hygienic Offering to God) certifies safe food at places of worship under its Eat Right India movement.

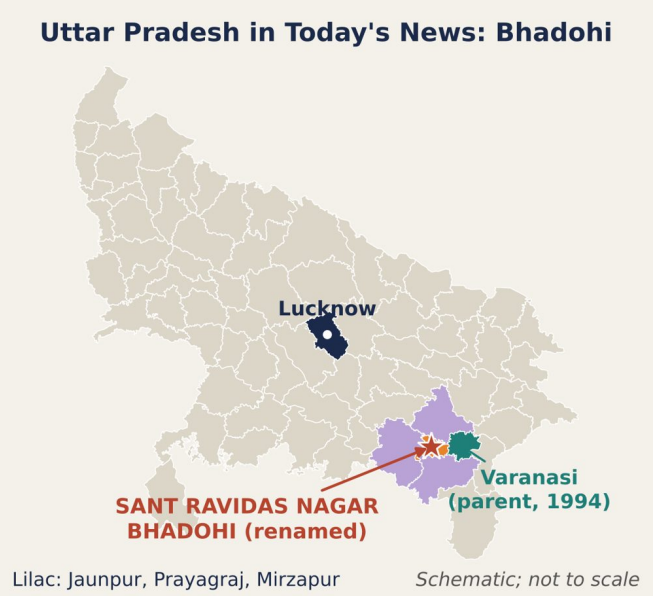


Fig. 55 · UP Cabinet approves renaming Bhadohi as Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi

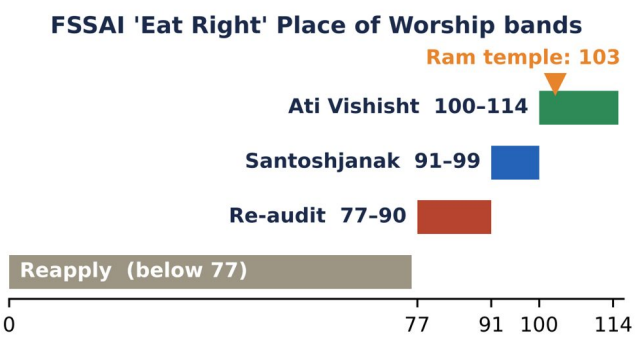


Fig. 56 · Ayodhya Ram temple gets FSSAI's top 'Ati Vishisht' rating (103/114)

86 **10th Ayodhya Deepotsav (6-7 Nov) to stage Ramlila in new languages with foreign artists** — 20 Oct 2026

- The state Culture Department is taking Deepotsav's Ramlila multilingual and international. The **10th edition** is on 6-7 November 2026, with Ramlila on 12 stages (six small, four medium, two large) across Ayodhya.
- Ramlila/Ramkatha troupes will come from Assam, Bengal, Uttarakhand, J&K and Kerala, and foreign artists from South Africa, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Laos and Thailand. Philippines and Russia are to be invited.

> **CONCEPT** **Ayodhya Deepotsav** is UP's flagship Diwali festival on the Saryu ghats, begun in 2017 under the Yogi Adityanath government. Ramlila and a mass lighting of earthen diyas are its core features.

87 **CM leads Vijayadashami rituals at Gorakhnath Temple, Gorakhpur, on 20 Oct 2026** — 20 Oct 2026

- On 20 Oct (Vijayadashami), CM Yogi Adityanath, as Gorakshpeethadhishwar, led the traditional rituals at Gorakhnath Temple, Gorakhpur. Morning worship of Guru Gorakhnath was followed by **Tilakotsav**, where devotees received blessings.
- In the afternoon the **Vijay procession** left the temple in Nath-sect attire and stopped at Mansarovar Temple.
- The CM performs the Rajyabhishek of Lord Ram at the Mansarovar Ramlila Ground.

> **CONCEPT** **Nath Panth** is a Shaiva yogic tradition associated with Matsyendranath and his disciple **Gorakhnath**, linked to Hatha Yoga. The Gorakhnath Math at Gorakhpur is its best-known seat in UP; its head is called Peethadhishwar.

88 **'Wings Over Ganges': IAF's first air show over the Ganga held at Namo Ghat, Varanasi** — 25 Oct 2026

- The Air Force Day Aerial Display-2026 marked the IAF's **94th anniversary** (founded 8 Oct 1932) and was held at Namo Ghat, Varanasi, as the IAF's first air show over the Ganga. The display was scheduled for 24-26 Oct 2026, with the main show on **25 Oct**.
- The Suryakiran team flies 9 Hawk Mk 132 jets (built by HAL under licence), and the Sarang helicopter display team also performs.

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 53(2)**: the supreme command of the armed forces vests in the President, exercised by law. The IAF is one of the three services, under the Ministry of Defence and headed by the Chief of the Air Staff.

89 **On Valmiki Jayanti CM unveils 48 projects worth ₹411 crore at Bithoor, Kanpur Nagar** — 26 Oct 2026

- On 26 October 2026 (Ashwin Purnima), the CM marked Valmiki Jayanti at Bithoor, Kanpur Nagar, with a development package for the area. He unveiled **48 projects worth over ₹411 crore** in the Bilhaur and Bithoor Assembly constituencies, a mix of inaugurations and foundation stones. Certificates were given to welfare-scheme beneficiaries.
- Bithoor (on the Ganga) is traditionally regarded as Maharishi Valmiki's ashram and tapobhumi, where Sita is believed to have lived and Luv-Kush were born.

See Fig. 57

> **CONCEPT** **Maharishi Valmiki** is called the **Adi Kavi** (first poet) and is credited with the Sanskrit Ramayana, traditionally of about **24,000 shlokas in 7 kandas**.

90 **11-day Mati Kala Mahotsav 2026 begins at Khadi Bhawan, Lucknow on 28 Oct** — 28 Oct 2026

- An 11-day state-level festival of pottery and terracotta began on 28 Oct 2026 at Khadi Bhawan, Dalibagh, Lucknow, and runs till 7 Nov 2026.
- It is organised by the Uttar Pradesh Mati Kala Board (Khadi & Village Industries Dept.), and its theme is **'Mitti se Sanskriti, Sanskriti se Samriddhi'**.

91 **10th Ayodhya Deepotsav (5-7 Nov 2026): over 36 lakh diyas lit on Saryu ghats** — 5 Nov 2026

- The 10th edition of the State's flagship Diwali festival was held in Ayodhya on 5-7 November 2026, at Ram ki Paidi and the Saryu ghats.
- Over **36 lakh earthen diyas** were lit on 7 November 2026 across the Saryu ghats including Ram ki Paidi (PTI), nearly 10 lakh more than the 2025 (9th) record of 26,17,215 diyas.
- Deepotsav began in 2017 and has set several Guinness World Records for lamps lit.

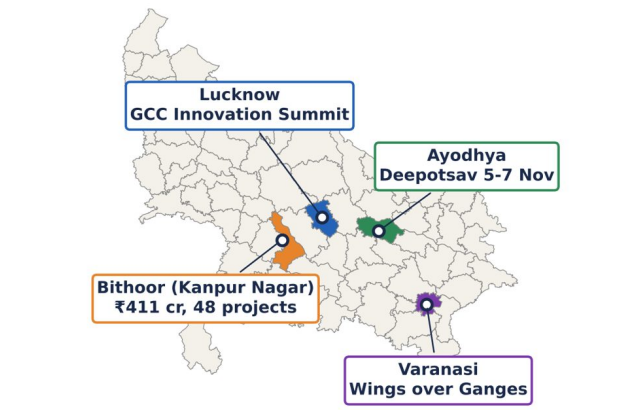


Fig. 57 · On Valmiki Jayanti CM unveils 48 projects worth ₹411 crore at Bithoor, Kanpur Nagar

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Environment & Wildlife

GS-VI (UP)

92 **Kufri Ruby, a CPRI baby-potato variety, notified for UP and 13 other states** — 5 Oct 2026

- Kufri Ruby is a baby-potato variety from CPRI (October 2026), with a duration given as **90 days**.
- It is notified for Uttar Pradesh and 13 other states.

> CONCEPT **CPRI** (Central Potato Research Institute) is an ICAR institute headquartered at **Shimla**; its varieties carry the prefix 'Kufri', after a hill town near Shimla. UP is India's leading potato-producing state.

93 **Sauj Jheel (Mainpuri) declared Ramsar site No. 2603 — India's 103rd, UP's 14th** — 16 Oct 2026

- Sauj Jheel, a shallow lake in the Ganga floodplain of Mainpuri district, is **Ramsar Site No. 2603** and India's 103rd Ramsar site.
- It is part of a wetland network with nearby Saman Bird Sanctuary, so Mainpuri is now the only UP district with two Ramsar sites.
- UP's tally rises to **14**, second only to Tamil Nadu (20).

See Fig. 58

> CONCEPT **Ramsar Convention** (1971, Ramsar, Iran) is the intergovernmental treaty for conservation and 'wise use' of wetlands; India joined in 1982. **World Wetlands Day** is 2 February, marking its adoption.

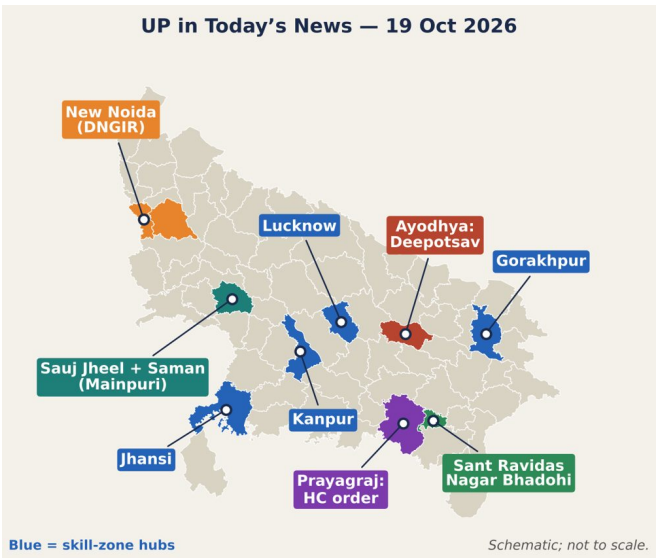


Fig. 58 · Sauj Jheel (Mainpuri) declared Ramsar site No. 2603 — India's 103rd, UP's 14th

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Sports, Awards & People

Prelims (UP GK)

94 Meerut's Parul Chaudhary returns with two bronze medals from Asian Games 2026

2 Oct 2026

- Athlete **Parul Chaudhary** of Iklota village (Meerut) received a grand welcome on 2 Oct 2026 after the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. She won two bronze medals, in the women's 5000 m and 3000 m steeplechase. She had won 5000 m gold at the 2022 Hangzhou Games (held 2023).
- India finished the Games on 3 October with 85 medals (21 gold), 4th in the table.
- Meerut is UP's leading athletics nursery, and it also hosts the Major Dhyan Chand Sports University project.

95 Aligarh's Gulveer Singh wins three medals at Asian Games 2026

29 Sep 2026

- Distance runner **Gulveer Singh** of Aligarh completed a medal hat-trick in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, with silver in 10,000 m and 1,500 m and bronze in 5,000 m. The CM congratulated him.
- He is the first Indian with 3 medals at one Games since P.T. Usha (1986).
- Earlier he won India's first-ever men's 10,000 m silver at the Commonwealth Games 2026.

96 Etawah's Ajeet Singh Yadav wins javelin F46 silver at Asian Para Games 2026

19 Oct 2026

- **Ajeet Singh Yadav** (Etawah) won silver in men's javelin F46 at the Asian Para Games with a throw of **65.02 m**. He is a Paris 2024 Paralympics silver medallist and the 2023 World Para Athletics champion.
- The 5th Asian Para Games are being held at Aichi–Nagoya, Japan (18–24 Oct 2026).

> CONCEPT **Para-athletics classes**: prefix F means field events, T means track. Classes 40-47 cover limb deficiency or similar impairment; **F46** is for athletes with upper-limb impairment, such as arm deficiency or reduced movement.

97 UP's sports-job policy 'Padak Lao, Pad Pao' gives direct government jobs to medal winners

20 Oct 2026

- Under UP's sports-job policy **'Padak Lao, Pad Pao'**, medal winners get direct government jobs (news dated 20 Oct 2026).
- The Major Dhyan Chand Sports University is at Meerut.

98 UP-cadre IAS officer Suhas L.Y. wins bronze in para-badminton SL4 at Asian Para Games

22 Oct 2026

- **Suhas L.Y.**, a UP-cadre IAS officer, won bronze in men's singles SL4 para-badminton at the 5th Asian Para Games, Aichi-Nagoya (news dated 22 Oct 2026).

99 **STF Inspector Sunil Kumar awarded Kirti Chakra (posthumous) 2026** Oct 2026

- STF Inspector **Sunil Kumar** was awarded the **Kirti Chakra (posthumous) 2026**. He was killed in the Jhinjhana, Shamli encounter, and his widow was honoured at a police event (news dated Oct 2026).

> **CONCEPT** **Kirti Chakra** is India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award, after the Ashoka Chakra and before the Shaurya Chakra. The order of wartime awards is Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra.

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✎ Mains corner — Uttar Pradesh

GS-V · GS-VI

MAINS Q1 · UPPSC GS-VI, 125 words

"Back-loaded public spending weakens outcomes." Examine this statement in the context of Uttar Pradesh's 2026-27 budget execution and suggest reforms.

Key points: Data (review of 27 Sept): ₹5,15,918.44 crore approvals (51.6% of the ₹9,99,056.48 crore budget); ₹2,83,870.11 crore spent (~28.4%); target 70% approvals and 60% spending by November -> issues: March rush, idle funds, capex delays -> reforms: quarterly release calendars, outcome budgeting, PFMS-based tracking, departmental accountability.

MAINS Q2 · UPPSC · 200 words

"Police reform in India remains a story of judicial directives awaiting full implementation." Examine this with reference to the Prakash Singh judgment and recent modernisation steps in Uttar Pradesh.

Key points: Intro: the 2006 Prakash Singh case and its 7 directives. Body: status of the State Security Commission, DGP tenure and Police Complaints Authority; UP steps such as new interceptor vehicles flagged off on 1 Oct 2026, UP-112, technology and higher field allowances announced on Police Commemoration Day; gaps such as vacancies, investigation-law-order split and political interference. Conclude: a Model Police Act approach and community policing.

MAINS Q3 · UPPSC · 200 words

"Handicraft clusters can be Uttar Pradesh's ticket to a trillion-dollar economy." Examine with reference to Bhadohi carpets, ODOP and GI tags.

Key points: Intro: UP exports > ₹2 lakh crore, 5th rank. Body: role of ODOP, GI, CEPC fairs, logistics (Ganga bridge, expressways), challenges — tariffs, child-labour perception, credit, design; solutions — branding, e-commerce, export credit. Conclude with artisan-centric growth.

MAINS Q4 · UPPSC GS-VI, 125 words

Uttar Pradesh is moving from being a consumer market to a manufacturing hub for electronics, semiconductors and data centres. Examine the drivers of this shift and the challenges it faces.

Key points: Drivers: UP's large mobile-phone manufacturing base (Noida cluster), Jewar OSAT unit (₹3,706 cr), Data Centre Policy 2026 (₹2 lakh cr, 2 GW), expressways and Jewar airport, UP-AIM skilling (AI centres in all 75 districts). Challenges: reliable power (peak demand 24,779 MW on 3 Oct), water, skills gap, regional imbalance (Bundelkhand/Purvanchal). Conclude with a way forward.

MAINS Q5 · GS-VI, 200 words

UP's industrial journey is described as moving 'from mobile phones to modules to microchips'. Examine the state's electronics and semiconductor strategy and the challenges in building a deep-tech ecosystem.

Key points: Intro: from mobile phones to modules to microchips - UP's large mobile-manufacturing base. Body: Jewar chip unit (₹3,706 cr), data centres, start-ups, UP-AIM skilling, expressway-airport logistics; challenges - power and water for fabs, skilled talent, R&D, import dependence, regional balance beyond NCR. Conclude with skilling + cluster approach.

MAINS Q6 · UPPSC · 125 words

The Legislative Council is often called a 'costly ornament'. In the context of Uttar Pradesh, evaluate the relevance of graduates' and teachers' constituencies.

Key points: Art. 169/171; UP's 100-member Council; expert voices, revising chamber; critique — delay, back-door entry; reforms such as electoral-roll updation.

MAINS Q7 · 125 words, GS-VI

"Textiles can be Uttar Pradesh's largest job engine after agriculture." Examine this statement in light of the state's recent textile-park and PM MITRA initiatives.

Key points: Intro: weaver base & ODOP/GI strength -> Body: PM MITRA Mega Textile Park on the Lucknow-Hardoi border (1,000 acres, ₹1,947 crore; central aid 30% up to ₹500 crore), textile-park push, export hubs (Noida, Bhadohi, Varanasi) -> Challenges: power cost, credit, design, logistics -> Way forward: cluster skilling, e-commerce, expressway logistics.

MAINS Q8 · UPPSC · 125 words

Social-security pensions and procurement at MSP are two key instruments of inclusive growth in Uttar Pradesh. Critically examine their welfare and fiscal implications in the light of recent decisions.

Key points: Intro: pension hike proposal (₹1,000 -> ₹1,500 for about 1.21 crore pensioners; needs Cabinet approval) and 65 LMT paddy target (KMS 2026-27, MSP ₹2,441/quintal common). Body: welfare gains (income floor for elderly, widows, divyang; no distress sales), fiscal cost (roughly ₹7,000 crore+ a year - our estimate: 1.21 crore x ₹500 x 12), delivery issues (DBT, registration, timely payment, leakages). Way forward: index pensions to inflation, strengthen decentralised procurement, social audits.

MAINS Q9 · GS-II/GS-VI, 200 words

Honorarium-based frontline workers (gram praharis, anganwadi workers, cooks) are the backbone of UP's service delivery. Discuss their issues and suggest a sustainable pay framework.

Key points: Intro: recent hikes - gram prahari ₹2,500 -> ₹3,500; anganwadi workers ₹3,000 -> ₹12,000; Shiksha Mitras ₹10,000 -> ₹18,000. Issues: low/irregular pay, no social security, fiscal load. Way forward: inflation indexation, timely DBT, insurance cover (₹5 lakh cashless cover announced for gram praharis), Centre-State cost sharing.

MAINS Q10 · UPPSC GS-VI, 125 words

Uttar Pradesh has India's largest youth population. Critically examine how the UP AI Mission and the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training & Employment Zones can convert this demographic dividend into productive employment.

Key points: Intro: youth bulge + low formal jobs. Body: UP-AIM AI skilling (5 lakh youth, AI centres in all 75 districts); Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training & Employment Zones (₹1,725 crore over 3 years, 9 zones, hub-and-spoke, phase-1 in Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Jhansi); challenges - quality of training, industry linkage, digital divide, women's participation. Conclude: outcome-based funding and placement tracking.

MAINS Q11 · UPPSC · 125 words, 8 marks

Uttar Pradesh is shifting from MoU-led investment promotion to execution-led industrialisation. Discuss with reference to recent policy measures such as UP-AIM, the SAF Policy-2026 and the Model Building Regulations, and the challenge of regional balance.

Key points: Intro: trillion-dollar goal and investment MoUs. Body: sector policies (UP-AIM, SAF Policy-2026), approval reforms (Model Building Regulations: deemed approval in 60 days), land supply (UPSIDA 52nd board: Lalitpur pharma park on PPP, easier plot allotment), skilling (₹1,725-cr zones). Challenges: western UP concentration, land acquisition. Conclude with district-level execution and regional equity.

MAINS Q12 · UPPSC · 125 words

"Women's collectives are becoming the backbone of rural transformation in Uttar Pradesh." Examine with reference to SHGs, women-led dairy companies and BC Sakhi.

Key points: Intro: 1.20 crore SHG women in UP; anganwadi honorarium raised ₹3,000 -> ₹12,000 -> Body: income (Lakhpati Didi), nutrition (THR by SHGs), finance (BC Sakhi), women-led dairy companies; all-India PLFS 2025 rural female LFPR rose from 33% to 45.9% -> Challenges: low-value work, market access, credit -> Way forward: FPO/market linkages, digital skilling, care infrastructure.

MAINS Q13 · UPPSC GS-V, 125 words

Uttar Pradesh's girl-child and women-safety schemes now follow a 'life-cycle' approach. Examine with reference to Kanya Sumangala Yojana and Mission Shakti.

Key points: Intro: UP's child sex ratio/dropout context. Body: MKSY's six stage-linked instalments totalling ₹25,000 (birth, immunisation, Class 1, Class 6, Class 9, graduation/diploma) -> enrolment and immunisation; marriage assistance; Mission Shakti - help desks, 1090 helpline, women beat police, self-esteem training. Gaps: awareness, DBT delays, conviction rates. Conclude: convergence with skilling and higher-education scholarships.

MAINS Q14 · 125 words, GS-V

Police modernisation in Uttar Pradesh has combined personnel welfare with capacity building. Examine the key measures taken and the challenges that remain.

Key points: Intro: Police Commemoration Day (21 Oct 2026) announcements - allowances raised (motorcycle ₹700 -> ₹1,000; SIM ₹2,000 -> ₹2,500; PPS uniform ₹6,400 -> ₹15,000). Body: welfare, capacity (recruitment incl. sports quota, training, women's share, commissionerate system, cyber police stations, UPSIFS forensic institute). Challenges: police-population ratio, investigation quality, custodial accountability, Prakash Singh reforms. Conclude with SMART policing.

MAINS Q15 · UPPSC GS-VI, 125 words

"Expressways are becoming the growth spine of Uttar Pradesh." Examine this statement with reference to the Ganga Expressway and the state's industrial-corridor strategy.

Key points: Intro: 594 km, 12 districts, about ₹36,230 cr, six-lane; opened 29 April 2026. Body: travel-time & logistics gains, industrial nodes/corridors, airport links (Jewar), balanced regional growth, a 3.5 km airstrip planned at Shahjahanpur; challenges - land acquisition, induced development, safety, ecological concerns along the Ganga. Conclude with integrated corridor planning for a $1-trillion UP economy.

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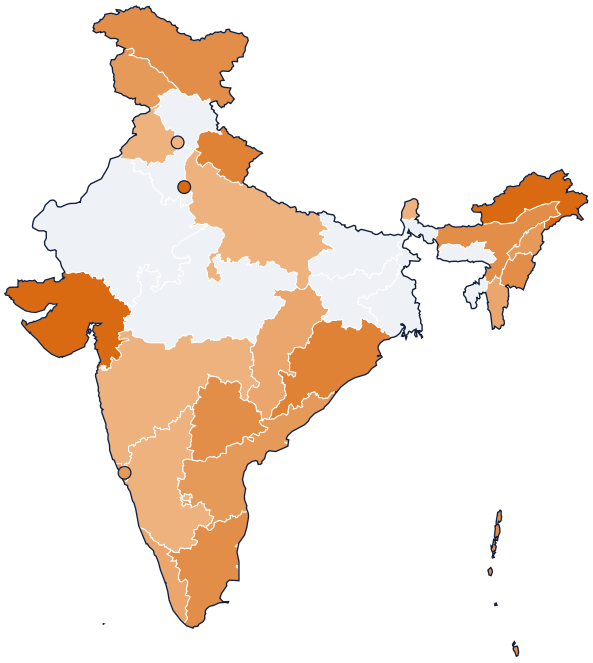
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PART B

National & International

347 news items in 14 topic sections, each tagged to its paper.



States and UTs named in this month's national news (darker = more items; circles mark small UTs). Map shows India's full official boundary.

States & UTs in the news

Delhi 24 · Gujarat 7 · Arunachal Pradesh 7 · Uttarakhand 5 · Odisha 5 · Andaman and Nicobar Islands 4 · Telangana 4 · Tamil Nadu 4 · Manipur 4 · Ladakh 4 · Assam 4 · Andhra Pradesh 3 · Nagaland 3 · Goa 3 · Jammu and Kashmir 3 · Kerala 2 · Lakshadweep 2 · Mizoram 2 · Chhattisgarh 2 · Sikkim 1 · Karnataka 1 · Punjab 1 · Maharashtra 1 · Chandigarh 1 · Uttar Pradesh 1

01 Appointments & Who's Who

12 **Prelims · GS-II**

1 Dinesh Sharma named 14th Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Oct 2026

- **Dinesh Sharma** became the **14th Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands** (Oct 2026).
- He is a former UP Deputy CM and ex-Lucknow Mayor; his move created one Rajya Sabha vacancy from UP.

2 Three High Court Chief Justices elevated to Supreme Court; women judges now 3

Oct 2026

- Justices **D.K. Upadhyaya, Sunita Agarwal and Aparesh Kumar Singh** were elevated to the Supreme Court in Oct 2026; they were Chief Justices of the Delhi, Gujarat and Telangana High Courts.
- Supreme Court strength is now **37 of 38 judges** (including the CJI), and the number of women judges is now **3**.

> **CONCEPT** The **Collegium** system comes from the **Judges Cases** (1981, 1993, 1998): the CJI and four senior-most judges recommend SC judges, whom the President appoints under **Art. 124(2)**. The **NJAC** (99th Amendment) was struck down in **2015**.

3 Lt Gen (retd) Nauman Mahmood is first Secretary-General of Mecca Alliance

Oct 2026

- **Lt Gen (retd) Nauman Mahmood** is the **first Secretary-General of the Mecca Alliance** (Oct 2026).
- He is Pakistan's nominee, and his term is 3 years.

4 Smriti Mandhana named full-time captain of India women's white-ball teams

Oct 2026

- **Smriti Mandhana** was named full-time captain of India's women's white-ball teams in Oct 2026.
- She is captain of both white-ball formats.

5 INCOIS Director T. M. Balakrishnan Nair elected Chair of IOCINDIO

Oct 2026

- **T. M. Balakrishnan Nair**, Director of INCOIS, was elected **Chair of IOCINDIO** (the UNESCO-IOC body for the Indian Ocean) in Oct 2026.

> **CONCEPT** The **IOC** (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) was set up within **UNESCO in 1960** to promote ocean science. **INCOIS**, Hyderabad, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, runs India's tsunami early-warning system and ocean advisories.

6 **Arlekar moved from Keralam to become Tamil Nadu Governor** — 13 Oct 2026

- On 13 Oct 2026 **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar** was appointed **Governor of Tamil Nadu**.
- He moves from Keralam; he had held Tamil Nadu as additional charge.

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 153**: every State shall have a Governor, but under the **7th Amendment (1956)** one person can be Governor of two or more States. This is why a Governor may hold a neighbouring State as **additional charge**.

7 **Om Prakash Mathur made Keralam Governor; Dushyant Gautam new Sikkim Governor** — 13 Oct 2026

- On 13 Oct 2026 **Om Prakash Mathur** was appointed **Governor of Keralam**, moving from Sikkim.
- **Dushyant Gautam** is the new Governor of Sikkim.

> **CONCEPT** The Governor is appointed by the **President** by warrant (**Art. 155**) and holds office during the **President's pleasure** (**Art. 156**). The normal term is **5 years**, but he continues until his successor takes over.

8 **New Governors for Karnataka, Odisha and Uttarakhand named on 13 Oct 2026** — 13 Oct 2026

- On 13 Oct 2026 **Sudha Yadav, Braj Mohan Ram and Dhal Singh Bisen** were appointed Governors of Karnataka, Odisha and Uttarakhand.
- They replace Thaawarchand Gehlot, Hari Babu Kambhampati and Gurmit Singh respectively.
- **Bisen is Uttarakhand's 9th Governor.**

9 **Lula re-elected Brazil's President for a fourth term, winning 25 Oct runoff** — 25 Oct 2026

- **Lula** was re-elected President of Brazil for a **fourth term**, winning the 25 Oct 2026 runoff with **51.77%** against 48.23%.
- He is the first to win after trailing in the first round.
- He will be sworn in on 5 January 2027.

> **CONCEPT** Brazil elects its President by a **two-round system**: if no candidate gets over **50% of valid votes** in the first round, the top two go to a **runoff**. Brazil is a federal presidential republic.

10 **SC Collegium recommends Justice P. Sam Koshy as Delhi High Court Chief Justice** — 27 Oct 2026

- The Supreme Court Collegium recommended **Justice P. Sam Koshy** as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court (27 Oct 2026); he is a proposed appointment.
- Earlier he was named acting Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court under **Article 223**.

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 217** provides that the High Court Chief Justice is appointed by the President after consulting the CJI and the Governor. Under **Art. 223**, the President can appoint another judge as **acting Chief Justice** when the office is vacant or the CJ is absent.

11 **Anup Bagchi takes over as HDFC Bank MD & CEO — first external appointee** — 27 Oct 2026

- **Anup Bagchi** became MD & CEO of HDFC Bank from 27 Oct 2026.
- He is the bank's **first external appointee** to the post.

12 **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit becomes 29th Chief of the Air Staff** — 31 Oct 2026

- **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** became the **29th Chief of the Air Staff** on 31 Oct 2026, succeeding ACM Amar Preet Singh.
- He had been Vice Chief of the Air Staff since 1 Jul 2026; his tenure runs till 31 Dec 2028.
- He was commissioned in the fighter stream on 6 Dec 1986.

02 Awards & Honours

9 **Prelims**

1 **Nobel Physics 2026 to Francis Halzen for IceCube neutrino discovery** — Oct 2026

- The **Nobel Prize in Physics 2026** went to **Francis Halzen (USA)**.
- It is for the IceCube Neutrino Observatory (about 1 cubic km of Antarctic ice at the South Pole) and the discovery of high-energy astrophysical neutrinos.

> **CONCEPT** **Neutrinos** are neutral, nearly massless elementary particles that interact only weakly with matter, so they pass through almost everything. **Wolfgang Pauli** proposed them in **1930**. IceCube spots rare flashes of light made when they hit ice.

2 **Nobel Chemistry 2026 to Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai for asymmetric synthesis work** — Oct 2026

- The **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026** went to **Henri B. Kagan (France) and Kenso Soai (Japan)**.
- It is for non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric synthesis (mirror-image molecules): the Kagan non-linear effect (1986) and the Soai reaction (1995).

> **CONCEPT** **Chiral molecules** come as non-superimposable mirror images called **enantiomers**. **Asymmetric synthesis** makes mainly one enantiomer, which matters in drugs because the two forms can act differently in the body.

3 **Nobel Literature 2026 to Canadian poet-classicist Anne Carson** — Oct 2026

- The **Nobel Prize in Literature 2026** went to **Anne Carson (Canada)**, a poet-classicist born in 1950 in Toronto; her works include Autobiography of Red and Nox.
- She is the second Canadian laureate after Alice Munro (2013).

> **CONCEPT** The **Nobel Prizes** follow the will of **Alfred Nobel** and were first awarded in **1901**. The Literature prize is chosen by the **Swedish Academy** in Stockholm. Rabindranath Tagore (**1913**) was the first Asian laureate in Literature.

4 **Nobel Peace Prize 2026 to Navi Pillay of South Africa** — Oct 2026

- The **Nobel Peace Prize 2026** went to **Navi Pillay (South Africa)**, ex-UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2008-14) and ICTR President.
- This is the 125th Peace Prize; it will be presented in Oslo on 10 December.

> **CONCEPT** The **Peace Prize** is awarded in **Oslo** by the **Norwegian Nobel Committee** of five members appointed by the Norwegian Parliament (Storting); other prizes are given in Stockholm. Indian-linked Peace laureates include Mother Teresa (**1979**) and Kailash Satyarthi (**2014**).

5 **Nobel Economics 2026 to Robert Hall and Michael Woodford** — Oct 2026

- The **Nobel Prize in Economics 2026** went to **Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford**, shared equally (12 million SEK).
- Hall is cited for consumption as a random walk (1978); Woodford for Interest and Prices (2003) and forward guidance.

> **CONCEPT** The Economics prize is formally the **Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel**, funded by **Sveriges Riksbank** and first given in **1969**. **Forward guidance** means a central bank signalling its likely future interest-rate path to shape expectations.

6 **Nobel Medicine 2026 to Deisseroth, Hegemann and Nagel for optogenetics** — 5 Oct 2026

- The **Nobel Prize in Medicine 2026** (announced 5 Oct) went to **Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel** for optogenetics / light-gated ion channels.
- Hegemann and Nagel found channelrhodopsin, and Deisseroth put it into neurons. The ceremony is on 10 Dec in Stockholm.

> **CONCEPT** **Optogenetics** uses genetic engineering to make chosen neurons produce light-sensitive proteins such as **channelrhodopsin**, so their activity can be switched on or off with light. It is a tool to study brain circuits.

7 **Sunil Bharti Mittal named Knight of France's Legion of Honour** — 12 Oct 2026

- **Sunil Bharti Mittal** was named a **Knight of France's Legion of Honour** (announced 12 Oct 2026).

8 **106 young artists get Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2024 and 2025** — 20 Oct 2026

- On 20 Oct 2026, **106 young artists** were named for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (2024, 2025), including Manisha Srivastava (Rohtas), honoured for Bhojpuri folk.
- The award is given by the Sangeet Natak Akademi; it was instituted in 2006, is for artists up to age 40, and carries ₹25,000, a Tamrapatra and an Angavastram.

> **CONCEPT** **Ustad Bismillah Khan** was the shehnai maestro from **Dumraon, Bihar**, awarded the **Bharat Ratna in 2001**. The **Sangeet Natak Akademi**, set up in **1952**, is India's national academy for music, dance and drama.

9 **Ashoke Sen is first Indian to win Oskar Klein Medal** — 27 Oct 2026

- **Ashoke Sen** (ICTS Bengaluru) won the **Oskar Klein Medal** for string theory (27 Oct 2026).
- He is the **first Indian recipient**; the medal was instituted in 1988.

> **CONCEPT** **Oskar Klein** co-developed **Kaluza–Klein theory**, an early attempt to unify gravity and electromagnetism using a **fifth dimension**. **String theory** treats fundamental particles as tiny vibrating strings and needs extra dimensions.

03 Reports & Indices

24 GS-II · GS-III

1 CDSCO flags 330 'Not of Standard Quality' drug samples in September 2026

Sep 2026

- CDSCO's September 2026 drug quality alert listed **330 'Not of Standard Quality' (NSQ) samples**: 42 from central labs and 288 from state labs.
- One drug was found spurious. August had 220 NSQ samples.

> **CONCEPT** **CDSCO** is India's central drug regulator under the Ministry of Health, headed by the **Drugs Controller General of India**, under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**. **NSQ** drugs fail quality tests; **spurious** drugs are falsely labelled or imitations.

2 PLFS September 2026: unemployment 5.0%, female LFPR 34.6%

Sep 2026

- NSO (MoSPI)'s PLFS monthly bulletin for September 2026 shows **unemployment at 5.0%** and **LFPR at 55.5%**.
- Female LFPR is 34.6%.

> **CONCEPT** **LFPR** is the share of the population aged 15+ that is working or seeking work; **unemployment rate** is the share of unemployed within the labour force. **PLFS**, run by NSO, began in **2017**.

3 Cybercrime cases in India rose 17.9% from 2023 to 2024

Oct 2026

- Cybercrime cases in India **rose 17.9% (2023 to 2024)**, with over **1.01 lakh cases** recorded.
- The conviction rate is below 18%. Key bodies: I4C, CERT-In and NCIIPC.

> **CONCEPT** The **IT Act, 2000** is the main cybercrime law. **CERT-In** (MeitY, **2004**) is the national incident-response agency, **NCIIPC** protects critical information infrastructure under NTRO, and **I4C** is the MHA's cybercrime coordination centre.

4 THE World University Rankings 2027: IISc Bengaluru is best Indian at 254

Oct 2026

- In the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2027 (October 2026), **IISc Bengaluru** is the best Indian institution at rank **254**, and the only Indian in the top 300. Oxford is 1st.

> **CONCEPT** **NIRF** (National Institutional Ranking Framework) is India's own ranking system of the Ministry of Education, with first rankings in **2016**. THE is a UK-based global ranking using pillars such as teaching and research quality.

5 WHO-UNICEF report: 50 million Indian children lack school sanitation, the highest in the world

Oct 2026

- The WHO-UNICEF school WASH report (October 2026) says **50 million** Indian children lack school sanitation, the highest globally. The world total is 244 million.

> **CONCEPT** **SDG 6** is clean water and sanitation. The WHO-UNICEF **Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP)** tracks WASH data globally. India's **Swachh Vidyalaya** campaign (**2014**) aimed at separate toilets for girls and boys in every school.

6 Rabies deaths: IDSP-IHIP counts 50 (2023) vs 271 by MCCD

Oct 2026

- Rabies surveillance data differ: **IDSP-IHIP recorded 50 deaths (2023)** against **271 by MCCD** (Registrar-General).
- India bears about 35% of the world's roughly 59,000 yearly rabies deaths (WHO).

> **CONCEPT** **Rabies** is a viral **zoonosis**, almost always fatal after symptoms appear but fully vaccine-preventable. **MCCD** is the Medical Certification of Cause of Death scheme under the Registrar General; **NAPRE** (**2021**) targets dog-mediated rabies elimination by **2030**.

7 First all-India National Household Travel Survey: 4.92 lakh households covered

Oct 2026

- The **National Household Travel Survey**, the first all-India one, covered **4.92 lakh households**.
- It found 61.9% of male workers commute daily against 41.9% of female workers.

8 Ayush Services Sector Report: women are 43% of workforce

Oct 2026

- The Ayush Services Sector Report says **women are 43% of the workforce**.
- Ayurveda is USD 17.73 bn (~48%); the sector is projected at USD 216-318 billion by 2047.

> **CONCEPT** **Ayush** stands for **Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy**. A separate **Ministry of Ayush** was created in **2014** (earlier a department under the Health Ministry).

9 **FAO Food Price Index at 136, near a 4-year high** — Oct 2026

- The **FAO Food Price Index** stands at **136** (2014-16=100), near a 4-year high.
- The vegetable-oil sub-index is 198.6.

> **CONCEPT** The **FAO Food Price Index** tracks monthly changes in international prices of a basket of commodities: **cereals, vegetable oils, dairy, meat and sugar**. FAO was founded in **1945** and is headquartered in **Rome**.

10 **Only 1,446 of 2,303 public authorities filed RTI third-party audit reports** — Oct 2026

- Of 2,303 CIC-registered public authorities, only **1,446 (~62.8%)** submitted RTI third-party audit reports.
- About 23 lakh RTI requests were made in 2024-25.

> **CONCEPT** The **RTI Act, 2005** came into force on **12 October 2005**. The **Central Information Commission** is set up under **Section 12**, and a PIO must normally reply within **30 days**.

11 **World Bank raises India's FY27 growth forecast to 7.1% from 6.6%** — Oct 2026

- The World Bank's India Development Update raised the **FY27 GDP forecast to 7.1%** from 6.6%.
- FY28 is forecast at 7.2%; the FY26 current account deficit is 0.6% of GDP.

> **CONCEPT** The **World Bank** was set up at **Bretton Woods (1944)** and is headquartered in **Washington, DC**. India's **fiscal year** runs April to March, so **FY27** means April 2026 to March 2027.

12 **Living Planet Report 2026: monitored wildlife down 73% since 1970** — Oct 2026

- WWF with the Zoological Society of London reports a **73% average fall in monitored wildlife (1970-2022)**, across 35,803 populations and 5,790 species.
- Freshwater fell 85%. By region: Latin America & Caribbean 95%, Africa 80%, Asia-Pacific 49%.

> **CONCEPT** The **Living Planet Index** measures the average change in size of monitored **vertebrate populations**, not the number of species lost. So a 73% fall means average population decline, not that 73% of species are extinct. The report is by **WWF** and **ZSL**.

13 **India ranks 38th among 139 economies in Global Innovation Index 2026** — Oct 2026

- In the WIPO Global Innovation Index 2026 (139 economies), India is **38th**, with inputs at 49th and outputs at 25th.
- India is 1st among 36 lower-middle-income economies.

> **CONCEPT** The **Global Innovation Index** is published by **WIPO** (World Intellectual Property Organization), a UN specialised agency headquartered in **Geneva**. It scores economies on innovation inputs and outputs.

14 **PLFS 2025: rural female labour participation up from 33% to 45.9%** — Oct 2026

- NSO (MoSPI)'s PLFS 2025 shows **rural female LFPR rising from 33% to 45.9%**; urban rose from 23.3% to 27.7%.
- Arunachal Pradesh had the biggest gains, while Lakshadweep saw a rural decline.

15 **India ranks 100th of 122 countries in Global Hunger Index 2026, score 24.1 (serious)** — Oct 2026

- In the Global Hunger Index 2026 by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe (122 countries), India is **100th** with a score of **24.1**, in the 'serious' category.
- India's child wasting is 19.0%, the highest in South Asia, and stunting is 29.3%.

> **CONCEPT** The **Global Hunger Index** uses **4 indicators**: undernourishment (**1/3**), child stunting (**1/6**), child wasting (**1/6**) and under-5 mortality (**1/3**). Scores of **20–34.9** are 'serious'; **35–49.9** are 'alarming'.

16 **Annual Survey of Industries 2024-25: factory GVA up 9.59% to ₹26.94 lakh crore** — 30 Sep 2026

- The Annual Survey of Industries 2024-25 (30 Sep 2026) shows factory-sector **GVA up 9.59% to ₹26.94 lakh crore**.
- Employment is 2.10 crore and the number of factories is 2.67 lakh.

> **CONCEPT** **GVA (Gross Value Added)** is the value of output minus the cost of intermediate inputs. **ASI** is conducted by the **NSO (MoSPI)** and covers factories registered under the **Factories Act, 1948**.

17 **SPIR 2026 survey: about 13% faced cybercrime, over half were financial frauds** — 7 Oct 2026

- The SPIR 2026 cybercrime survey (Common Cause-Lokniti CSDS, 8,306 respondents; 7 Oct 2026) found about **13% faced cybercrime**.
- Over half of these cases were digital financial frauds.

18 **IMF raises India's FY27 growth forecast to 7.0% from 6.4% in October WEO** — 13 Oct 2026

- In its October 2026 World Economic Outlook (13 October 2026), the IMF projects India's FY27 growth at **7.0%**, up from 6.4% in July.

> **CONCEPT** The **IMF** was set up at **Bretton Woods (1944)** and is headquartered in **Washington, DC**. Its **World Economic Outlook** is released twice a year, in **April and October**, with updates in January and July.

19 **Lancet Commission: 17 threats to humanity by 2100, obesity the biggest health loss** — 12 Oct 2026

- The Lancet Commission on threats to humanity (12 Oct 2026) lists **17 threats by 2100**.
- **Obesity** causes the largest single health loss, about 23.1 billion DALYs by 2100.

> **CONCEPT** **DALY** (Disability-Adjusted Life Year) = years of life lost to early death + years lived with disability. One DALY equals one year of healthy life lost. It is a standard measure in the **Global Burden of Disease** studies.

20 **Study: Delhi children aged 9-14 spend about 4.5 hours a day online** — 19 Oct 2026

- An ICSSR-supported study of Delhi school children aged 9-14 (2025) found **97.6% access the internet from home**, mainly on smartphones.
- They spend about **4.5 hours a day** online, and 47% interacted with unknown people online.

21 **WTO raises 2026 merchandise trade growth forecast to 3.9% from 1.9%** — 8 Oct 2026

- The WTO (8 Oct 2026) raised its **2026 merchandise trade growth forecast to 3.9%** (from 1.9%).
- AI-related goods drove 47% of H1 2026 growth; the 2027 forecast is 4.1%.

> **CONCEPT** The **WTO** came into being in **1995**, replacing **GATT (1947)**, and is headquartered in **Geneva**. Merchandise trade means trade in physical goods; trade in services is counted separately.

22 **UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2026: global GHG at 58.4 GtCO2e in 2025** — 21 Oct 2026

- UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2026 (21 Oct) says global GHG emissions were **58.4 GtCO2e in 2025**.
- Warming by 2100 would be 2.8°C under current policies and 2.6°C if all NDCs are met; cuts needed are 18% by 2030 and 45% by 2035.

> **CONCEPT** The **emissions gap** is the difference between projected emissions and levels needed to meet temperature goals. The **Paris Agreement (2015)** aims to hold warming well below **2°C** and pursue **1.5°C**; countries set **NDCs**. UNEP was founded in **1972**.

23 **Time Use Survey: more women make trips in free-bus States** — 26 Oct 2026

- NSO (MoSPI)'s Time Use Survey (26 Oct 2026) shows women (15-59) making at least one trip in free-bus States **rose from 38.7% (2019) to 45.3% (2024)**.

> **CONCEPT** A **Time Use Survey** measures how people spend 24 hours, including unpaid domestic and care work, which is missed by employment surveys. India's first national TUS by NSO was conducted in **2019**.

24 **Just 3.2% of glaciers cause over half of global glacier ice loss** — 28 Oct 2026

- A study of 216,502 glaciers (28 Oct 2026) found **just 3.2% of glaciers cause over half of global glacier ice loss**.
- The loss is about 134 billion tonnes a year.

> **CONCEPT** **Glacier mass balance** is accumulation (snowfall) minus ablation (melting, calving). When ablation exceeds accumulation, the glacier shrinks and adds to **sea-level rise**.

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04 Summits, Conferences & Meetings

21 GS-II

1 **G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting held in Milwaukee, USA** — Oct 2026

- The **G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting** was held in **Milwaukee, USA** in Oct 2026, under the US G20 presidency.

2 **IWC-70 in Hobart adopts Hobart Declaration** Oct 2026

- The **70th International Whaling Commission meeting (IWC-70)** was held in **Hobart, Australia** (Oct 2026) and produced the Hobart Declaration.
- India has been an IWC member since 1981.

> **CONCEPT** The **International Whaling Commission** was set up under the **International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1946)**. A **moratorium on commercial whaling** has been in force since **1986**.

3 **IPCC-65 in Addis Ababa deadlocked over AR7 timeline** Oct 2026

- At **IPCC-65 in Addis Ababa** (Oct 2026) there was a deadlock over the AR7 timeline.
- The options were 2028 versus a longer timeline sought by India, China and Saudi Arabia.

> **CONCEPT** The **IPCC** was set up in **1988** by **WMO and UNEP**. It does not do its own research; it assesses published science in cycles of **Assessment Reports**. **AR6** was completed in **2023**.

4 **First BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi adopts Delhi Declaration** Oct 2026

- India hosted the **first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting** in New Delhi (Oct 2026), which adopted the **Delhi Declaration** condemning cross-border terrorism.
- BIMSTEC was founded on 6 June 1997, has 7 members, and its Secretariat is in Dhaka.

> **CONCEPT** **BIMSTEC** links South Asia and Southeast Asia: it began as BIST-EC in **1997**, **Myanmar** joined later in 1997 and **Nepal and Bhutan** in **2004**. Unlike SAARC, it excludes Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Maldives.

5 **7th Agrivoltaics World Conference held in New Delhi** Oct 2026

- The **7th Agrivoltaics World Conference** was held in New Delhi (Oct 2026) with the theme 'Powering the Global South' and the idea 'One Land, Two Harvests'.
- About 47.5 Mha of cropland (~30%) is suitable; agrivoltaics costs 25-30% more than ground-mounted solar.

> **CONCEPT** **Agrivoltaics** means growing crops and generating solar power on the same land, using raised panels. In India, **PM-KUSUM** (**2019**, MNRE) promotes solar pumps and solarisation of agricultural feeders.

6 **PM opens ESTIC 2026 at Bharat Mandapam with 5,000+ delegates** Oct 2026

- **ESTIC 2026** (CSIR) was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, and opened by the PM; it had 5,000+ delegates.
- Theme: 'Creative Minds, Catalyzing Science, Empowering Technologies'. A ₹1 lakh crore RDI Fund was flagged.

> **CONCEPT** **CSIR** (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) was founded in **1942** and is an autonomous body whose Society has the **Prime Minister as President**. It runs a network of national laboratories.

7 **13th ADMM-Plus held in Cebu; India and Malaysia co-chair counter-terrorism group** Oct 2026

- The **13th ADMM-Plus** of ASEAN defence ministers was held in Cebu (Oct 2026) under the theme 'Navigating Our Future Together'.
- India and Malaysia co-chair the EWG on Counter-Terrorism for 2024-27.

> **CONCEPT** **ADMM-Plus** began in **2010** (Hanoi), when ASEAN defence ministers started meeting **8 dialogue partners**: India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the US and Russia. It works through Expert Working Groups.

8 **5th Kautilya Economic Conclave held in New Delhi, 3-5 Oct** 3 Oct 2026

- The **5th Kautilya Economic Conclave** was held in New Delhi from 3 to 5 Oct 2026.
- Its theme was 'Resilience in an Age of Flux'.

9 **2nd India-EFTA Prosperity Summit held on 7 Oct during Swiss President's visit** 7 Oct 2026

- The **2nd India-EFTA Prosperity Summit** took place on 7 Oct 2026, during the Swiss President's visit.
- The TEPA (trade pact) completed one year on 1 Oct 2026.

> **CONCEPT** **EFTA** (est. **1960**) has four members: **Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein**, none in the EU. **TEPA** is a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, signed on **10 March 2024**.

10 **PM opens 10th India Mobile Congress at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi; theme 'Scale Without Boundaries'** — 7 Oct 2026

- The 10th India Mobile Congress, organised by DoT and COAI at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, runs from **7 to 10 October 2026**.
- The PM opened it on 8 October. Its theme is 'Scale Without Boundaries'.

> **CONCEPT** The **Telecommunications Act, 2023** replaced the **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885**, and allows administrative allocation of some spectrum. **COAI** is the Cellular Operators Association of India; 5G services in India were launched at IMC **2022**.

11 **IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings 2026 held in Bangkok, 12-18 Oct** — 12 Oct 2026

- The **IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings 2026** were held in **Bangkok** on 12-18 Oct.
- The Development Committee met on 15 Oct and the IMFC plenary on 17 Oct. Theme: 'Thailand's New Horizons: Empowering People, Building Resilience'.

12 **First ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum held at MP-IDSA, 14-15 Oct** — 14 Oct 2026

- The **first ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum** was held at MP-IDSA, New Delhi, on 14-15 Oct 2026.
- Rajnath Singh pitched co-development; 2026 is the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation.

> **CONCEPT** **ASEAN** was founded in **1967** by the **Bangkok Declaration**. India became a Sectoral Dialogue Partner in **1992**, a Full Dialogue Partner in **1996** and a Strategic Partner in **2012**. India's **Act East Policy** (2014) upgraded the earlier Look East Policy.

13 **Brihattar Bharat conference marks centenary of Greater India Society** — 14 Oct 2026

- The **Brihattar Bharat** conference, on India's global cultural links, was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi (14-16 Oct 2026), organised by IGNCA.
- It marks the centenary of the Greater India Society (founded 14 Oct 1926).

> **CONCEPT** The **Greater India Society** (1926, Calcutta) promoted study of Indian cultural influence in Southeast and Central Asia. **IGNCA**, set up in **1987** under the Ministry of Culture, is a national centre for arts research.

14 **India says 'no double standards' on terror at 25th SCO Heads of Government meeting** — 20 Oct 2026

- At the **25th SCO CHG meeting** in Dushanbe on 20 Oct 2026, India said there must be 'no double standards' on terror.
- India backed the 2026-2030 trade action plan and will host the SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum.

> **CONCEPT** The **SCO** has two key councils: the **Council of Heads of State** (top decision-making body) and the **Council of Heads of Government**, which mainly handles economic cooperation and the budget. The SCO was founded in **2001**; India became a full member in **2017**.

15 **CBD COP17 begins in Yerevan; India's updated NBSAP has 23 targets** — 19 Oct 2026

- **CBD COP17** is being held in Yerevan, Armenia, on 19-30 Oct 2026; it reviews the Kunming-Montreal GBF (23 targets for 2030).
- India's updated NBSAP has 23 targets and 142 indicators.

> **CONCEPT** The **CBD** was opened for signature at the **Rio Earth Summit (1992)** and came into force on **29 December 1993**. Under **Art. 6**, each party must prepare a national plan, the **NBSAP**. The **Kunming–Montreal GBF** was adopted in **2022**.

16 **India hosts 61st CIML meeting for the first time, 26-28 Oct** — 26 Oct 2026

- The **61st CIML meeting** was held in New Delhi on 26-28 Oct 2026 — **first time in India**.
- CIML is the governing body of OIML (established 1955, HQ Paris).

> **CONCEPT** **OIML** is the International Organization of Legal Metrology, which harmonises rules on weights and measures. In India, the **Legal Metrology Act, 2009** (Department of Consumer Affairs) replaced the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

17 **12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum adopts New Delhi Joint Declaration condemning Pahalgam attack** — 26 Oct 2026

- The **12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum** was held at Samvidhan Sadan, New Delhi (26-27 Oct 2026), on four pillars: resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability.
- It adopted the **New Delhi Joint Declaration**, condemning the Pahalgam attack.

18 **14th International Tourism Mart opens in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh** — 29 Oct 2026

- The **14th International Tourism Mart** is being held at Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, on 29-31 Oct 2026.
- About 27 countries are invited; it showcases the 'Ashta Lakshmi' North-East.

19 **COP31 scheduled in Antalya, Türkiye, 9-20 Nov 2026** — 9 Nov 2026

- **COP31** is scheduled in **Antalya, Türkiye**, on 9-20 Nov 2026.

> **CONCEPT** **COP** is the Conference of the Parties, the supreme body of the **UNFCCC**, adopted in **1992** and in force from **1994**. The first COP was held in **Berlin in 1995**.

20 **Earthshot Prize 2026 to be held in Mumbai, first time in India** — 16 Nov 2026

- The **Earthshot Prize 2026** will be held in Mumbai on 16-17 Nov — the **first time in India**.

21 **SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum to be held in New Delhi, 20-22 Nov** — 20 Nov 2026

- The **SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum** is scheduled in New Delhi on 20-22 Nov 2026.
- It was proposed by the PM at the Tianjin SCO Summit (Sept 2025) and announced at the Dushanbe SCO heads of government meeting.

> **CONCEPT** The **'Shanghai Spirit'** is the SCO's guiding idea: mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilisations and common development. A civilisational dialogue forum builds on its respect for cultural diversity.

05 Schemes, Missions & Cabinet Decisions

38 **GS-II · GS-III**

1 **Cabinet approves Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (PM-DHARA) with ₹1,86,405 crore outlay** — Oct 2026

- The Union Cabinet approved **Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (PM-DHARA)** with an outlay of **₹1,86,405 crore**, of which central assistance is ₹54,082 crore.
- It will be executed by State Transmission Utilities to evacuate **135 GW** of renewable energy by FY 2032-33, with ₹50,000 crore for 50 GWh BESS.

> **CONCEPT** The **Green Energy Corridor** builds transmission lines and grid capacity to carry renewable power from RE-rich areas to demand centres. **ISTS** means the inter-State transmission system.

2 **India's tourism is 5.22% of GDP and 8.46 crore jobs, as per World Tourism Day 2026 data** — Oct 2026

- India tourism data for World Tourism Day 2026 (October 2026) puts tourism at **5.22% of GDP**, with tourism jobs of **8.46 crore** (2023-24).
- Swadesh Darshan 2.0, PRASHAD and SASCI drive destination development.

> **CONCEPT** **World Tourism Day** is observed on **27 September**. **Swadesh Darshan** (theme-based circuits) and **PRASHAD** (pilgrimage and heritage sites) are schemes of the **Ministry of Tourism**.

3 **Biometric Aadhaar authentication mandatory for LPG subsidy from 1 Oct 2026** — 1 Oct 2026

- **Biometric Aadhaar authentication** is required from **1 October 2026** to receive the LPG subsidy.

> **CONCEPT** **DBT** pays subsidies straight into bank accounts; **PAHAL** (DBT for LPG) went nationwide in **2015**. The **Aadhaar Act, 2016** lets Aadhaar be used for subsidies, with **UIDAI** as the statutory authority.

4 **Union Cabinet item on Delhi's Intelligent Traffic Management System, ₹1,789.52 crore** — 30 Sep 2026

- The Union Cabinet's decision on 30 September 2026 concerns the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) for Delhi, with a cost of **₹1,789.52 crore**.

5 **First national PRAMAAN forest certificates issued** — 30 Sep 2026

- Under the PRAMAAN forest certification (IFWCS) of MoEFCC, operated through IIFM Bhopal, the **first national certificates** were issued on 30 Sep 2026.
- They went to the AP Forest Development Corporation (33,000 ha) and an Odisha bamboo farmer. IFWCS was launched in December 2023.

> **CONCEPT** **Forest certification** independently verifies that forest products come from sustainably managed forests. **Chain of custody** tracks certified material from forest to final product. **IIFM** is the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.

6 **People's Plan Campaign 2026-27 begins with special Gram Sabhas** 2 Oct 2026

- The **People's Plan Campaign 2026-27** began on 2 Oct 2026 with special Gram Sabhas in about 2.5 lakh+ Gram Panchayats.
- GPDP, Block and District plans are uploaded on eGramSwaraj, linked to Localisation of SDGs and the Panchayat Advancement Index.

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 243G** lets States empower Panchayats to prepare plans for economic development and social justice, covering **29 subjects** in the **11th Schedule**. Panchayati Raj in **Part IX** came through the **73rd Amendment (1992)**.

7 **NHAI brings first barrierless MLFF tolling to Tamil Nadu** Oct 2026

- NHAI introduced the first **Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) barrierless tolling** in **Tamil Nadu** (Oct 2026).

> **CONCEPT** **MLFF** tolling reads vehicles electronically, so they need not stop at a toll plaza. **NHAI** was created under the **NHAI Act, 1988**; tolls are charged under the National Highways Fee Rules, 2008.

8 **PM-SETU completes one year; 850 ITIs identified and 14 clusters approved** Oct 2026

- PM-SETU (MSDE) completed one year in Oct 2026; its outlay is **₹60,000 crore** (Centre ₹30,000 crore, States ₹20,000 crore, Industry ₹10,000 crore).
- The scheme plans 200 hub + 800 spoke ITIs; in year one it identified 850 (172 hubs, 678 spokes) and approved 14 clusters.

> **CONCEPT** **ITIs** (Industrial Training Institutes) give craftsmen training and are overseen by the **Directorate General of Training** under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**, created in **2014**.

9 **Cabinet creates Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA)** Oct 2026

- The Union Cabinet set up the **Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA)** as an apex planning SPV (Oct 2026).
- It prepares a 10+ year National Transport Master Plan and does technical appraisal of central projects of ₹500 crore or more; it covers 8 transport domains.

> **CONCEPT** **PM Gati Shakti** (launched **October 2021**) is a GIS-based National Master Plan with **seven engines**: roads, railways, airports, ports, mass transport, waterways and logistics infrastructure. An **SPV** is a special purpose vehicle created for one purpose.

10 **Cabinet approves ₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund** Oct 2026

- The Union Cabinet approved a **₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund** (Oct 2026), giving equity through an AIF under SEBI AIF Regulations 2012.
- It targets mostly manufacturing SMEs in Tier-II/III clusters; a medium enterprise has investment up to ₹125 crore.

> **CONCEPT** An **AIF (Alternative Investment Fund)** is a pooled private investment vehicle regulated by **SEBI** under the **2012** Regulations; **Category I** covers funds such as venture capital and SME funds. MSMEs are classified by **investment and turnover**.

11 **3D concrete printing pilot under PMAY-G: 177 houses in Andhra Pradesh** Oct 2026

- A 3D concrete printing pilot under PMAY-G is being done in Andhra Pradesh for **177 houses** (October 2026), taking about six months.
- The outlay is **₹13.93 crore**: Centre ₹9.44 crore and State ₹4.49 crore.

> **CONCEPT** **PMAY-G** was launched on **20 November 2016** by the Ministry of Rural Development, replacing the **Indira Awaas Yojana**. Beneficiaries are chosen using **SECC 2011** data, validated by the Gram Sabha.

12 **VB-G RAM G rural works notified: 375 works, 125 days of wage work** Oct 2026

- The Rural Development Ministry notified **375 permissible works** under four pillars (up from 266) under the VB-G RAM G Act, in force since 1 Jul 2026.
- It gives **125 days** of wage work per household (MGNREGA: 100); cost share is 60:40.

> **CONCEPT** **MGNREGA (2005)** gave every rural household a legal right to **100 days** of wage work. This links to **Art. 41** (a Directive Principle), which asks the State to secure the right to work within its economic capacity.

13 **National SC-ST Hub completes a decade; procurement up to ₹4,013.42 crore** — Oct 2026

- The MSME Ministry's National SC-ST Hub completed a decade; SC/ST MSE procurement rose from ₹99.37 crore (2015-16) to **₹4,013.42 crore (2025-26)**.
- SCLCSS gives a 25% capital subsidy up to ₹25 lakh.

> **CONCEPT** The **Public Procurement Policy for MSEs Order** (under the **MSMED Act, 2006**) requires Central bodies to buy **25%** of annual procurement from MSEs, with a **4%** sub-target for SC/ST-owned MSEs.

14 **PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana completes one year across 100 districts** — Oct 2026

- The **PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana** (Agriculture; 100 districts) completed one year; it provides **₹24,000 crore a year for 6 years**.
- It converges 36 schemes of 11 ministries/departments; approved 16 July 2025, launched 11 October 2025.

> **CONCEPT** **Cropping intensity** = gross cropped area ÷ net sown area × 100. The scheme follows the **Aspirational Districts Programme (2018)** model of convergence of existing schemes in backward districts.

15 **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses completes first year** — Oct 2026

- The Union Government's **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses** completed its first year; outlay is **₹11,440 crore (2025-26 to 2030-31)**.
- Focus is on Tur, Urad and Masur, with 100% MSP procurement by NAFED and NCCF for four years.

> **CONCEPT** **MSP** is recommended by the **CACP** (Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices) and approved by the Government. **NAFED** and **NCCF** are central nodal agencies for price-support procurement of pulses and oilseeds.

16 **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan completes five years on 13 Oct 2026** — 13 Oct 2026

- The **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan** completed **five years on 13 Oct 2026**.
- It has 7 engines; the Network Planning Group appraises big projects, and all States/UTs are on board.

17 **Health Ministry launches JOSH Teams to speed up TB Mukt Bharat** — Oct 2026

- JOSH Teams under TB Mukt Bharat (October 2026) are formed by the Health Ministry with MY Bharat volunteers and NCC cadets.
- Phase 1 covers **55 districts of 11 States/UTs**. TB incidence fell 21% during 2015-2024.

> **CONCEPT** **NTEP** (National TB Elimination Programme) is the renamed **RNTCP** (2020). The global target under **SDG 3.3** is to end the TB epidemic by **2030**; India set its own earlier goal of 2025. TB is caused by a bacterium, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

18 **BIS launches Silver Refinery Scheme on World Standards Day** — 14 Oct 2026

- BIS launched the **Silver Refinery Scheme** on **14 Oct** (World Standards Day).
- Hallmark purities are 999.9, 999.5 and 999.0.

19 **NSAP renamed PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana, continued to 2030-31 with ₹53,428 crore** — Oct 2026

- NSAP was renamed **PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana** (Rural Development Ministry; 100% central assistance) and continued to 2030-31 with **₹53,428 crore**.
- It has about 3.20 crore beneficiaries in 36 States/UTs; it was launched on 15 Aug 1995.

> **CONCEPT** **Article 41** (Directive Principles, Part IV) asks the State to make effective provision, within its economic capacity, for the right to work, education and **public assistance** in old age, unemployment, sickness and disablement. DPSPs are non-justiciable (Art. 37).

20 **Lakshadweep declared fully literate under ULLAS** — Oct 2026

- **Lakshadweep** was declared fully literate under ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram after all **1,113 non-literates passed FLNAT**.
- 95%+ literacy means fully literate; Mizoram was the first fully literate State (2025).

> **CONCEPT** **ULLAS** (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) is also called the **New India Literacy Programme (2022-27)**. It targets adults aged **15 and above** who missed schooling. **FLNAT** = Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test.

21 **WINDS plans 50,500 weather sensors for PMFBY, but few installed so far** — Oct 2026

- The WINDS weather-sensor network for PMFBY plans about **50,500 sensors**: 1,197 AWSs plus 49,313 rain gauges.
- So far only 9.4% of AWSs and 4% of rain gauges are installed.

> **CONCEPT** **PMFBY** (launched **2016**) charges farmers a maximum premium of **2% for kharif, 1.5% for rabi** and 5% for commercial/horticultural crops; the rest is shared by Centre and States. Claims are settled using yield data and weather-based triggers.

22 **NPPA caps trade margin on 137 anti-cancer drugs at 30%; new MRPs from 9 Nov 2026** — Oct 2026

- The NPPA has capped the trade margin at **30%** on 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs under Para 19, DPCO 2013 (October 2026).
- New MRPs are effective from **9 November 2026**. NPPA is under the Department of Pharmaceuticals.

> **CONCEPT** Under **DPCO 2013**, **scheduled drugs** (those in the National List of Essential Medicines) have ceiling prices fixed by NPPA, while **non-scheduled drugs** may raise MRP by at most **10% a year**. Trade margin is the retailer/distributor mark-up.

23 **NSAP sub-schemes renamed; disability threshold cut to 40%, pension raised to ₹375** — Oct 2026

- IGNOAPS, IGNWPS, IGNDPS and NFBS were renamed **PM Vridhavastha, Vidhawa, Divyangjan Pension and PM Parivar Labh Yojana**.
- The disability threshold falls from 80% to **40%**, and the pension rises from ₹300 to **₹375** (0-79 yrs).

> **CONCEPT** The **RPwD Act, 2016** recognises **21** disabilities and defines a 'person with benchmark disability' as one having at least **40%** of a specified disability. It replaced the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.

24 **PM-SETU: five more ITI clusters cleared with ₹1,194.92 crore** — 16 Oct 2026

- On 16 Oct 2026 **five more PM-SETU ITI clusters** were cleared, with **₹1,194.92 crore** sanctioned.
- Each cluster has 1 hub and 4 spoke ITIs (25 ITIs in all); the scheme upgrades 1,000 government ITIs.

25 **UDAN turns 10: 687 routes, 95 aerodromes, ~1.72 crore passengers** — 21 Oct 2026

- The Regional Connectivity Scheme **UDAN**, launched on 21 Oct 2016, turned 10 on 21 Oct 2026.
- It has **687 routes, 95 aerodromes** and ~1.72 crore passengers; the first flight was Shimla–Delhi on 27 Apr 2017.

> **CONCEPT** **UDAN** (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) was launched under the **National Civil Aviation Policy 2016** (Ministry of Civil Aviation). Fares on a share of seats are capped and airlines get **Viability Gap Funding** to fly unserved and underserved routes.

26 **Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign runs across 2.70 lakh local bodies till 31 Dec** — Oct 2026

- The **Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign** runs across 2.70 lakh local bodies till 31 December.
- It covers PMJJBY, PMSBY, Atal Pension enrolment, PMJDY accounts, re-KYC and KCC saturation.

> **CONCEPT** **PMJDY** was launched in **2014** (zero-balance accounts, RuPay card). **PMJJBY, PMSBY and Atal Pension Yojana** followed in **2015**. Saturation means covering every eligible person, not just opening a pilot.

27 **11 crore AgriStack Farmer IDs generated, ahead of March 2027 target** — 23 Oct 2026

- Under the Digital Agriculture Mission, **11 crore Farmer IDs** (AgriStack) were generated by 23 Oct 2026.
- This is ahead of the 31 Mar 2027 target.

> **CONCEPT** **AgriStack** is a digital public infrastructure for agriculture built on three registries: **Farmers Registry**, **Geo-referenced Village Maps** and **Crop Sown Registry**. The Farmer ID links a farmer's land and crop records.

28 **CCUS push for hard-to-abate sectors with ₹20,000 crore Budget outlay** — Oct 2026

- Budget 2026-27 provides **₹20,000 crore over 5 years** for CCUS; target sectors are power, steel, cement, refineries and chemicals.
- The push was raised at ESTIC-2026 (CSIR, 27-29 Oct).

> **CONCEPT** **CCUS** = Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage: CO2 from industrial flue gas is captured, then used (e.g., in chemicals) or stored underground. India's net-zero target is **2070**, announced at **COP26 (Glasgow, 2021)**.

29 **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari crosses 1.55 crore recharge structures** — Oct 2026

- Under Jal Shakti Ministry's Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari, **1.55 crore+ recharge structures** have been built.
- It was merged with Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain from 1 June 2026.

30 **NPPA cuts cancer-drug MRPs on 543 brands, maximum cut 93.3%** Oct 2026

- NPPA revised the MRPs of **543 brands** of cancer drugs, with a **maximum cut of 93.3%**.
- A palbociclib brand fell from ₹40,421 to ₹2,720 per unit; new prices are effective 9 November 2026.

> **CONCEPT** **NPPA** (National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority) was set up in **1997** as an independent regulator under the **Department of Pharmaceuticals**. It fixes ceiling prices and enforces DPCO under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**.

31 **Cabinet approves ₹10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme** Oct 2026

- The Union Cabinet approved the **Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme** (Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways) with **₹10,000 crore** for FY2027-28 to 2039-40.
- Capacity is to rise from 70,000 to 7.5 lakh TEU and domestic content from 70% to 90%; 3% interest subvention (₹859 crore).

32 **Cabinet approves ₹1,856.67 crore Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme** Oct 2026

- The Union Cabinet approved the **Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme** at **₹1,856.67 crore** (2026-27 to 2033-34), with Sports Goods Manufacturing Zones.
- Anchor + Turnover-Linked Support is ₹1,130 crore, and ₹105 crore is for certifications.

33 **Cabinet approves ₹7,395.55 crore PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana** Oct 2026

- The Union Cabinet approved the **PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana** (Panchayati Raj) at **₹7,395.55 crore** for 2026-27 to 2030-31 (Centre ₹4,869.48 crore).
- It covers 2.55 lakh panchayats, with an AI-enabled PANCHAM platform in 17 languages.

> **CONCEPT** The **73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992)** added **Part IX** (Arts. 243-243O) and the **11th Schedule** listing **29** subjects for Panchayats. It came into force in **April 1993**; Art. 243G gives Panchayats powers and responsibilities.

34 **PM-KISAN 24th instalment released from Banaskantha on 30 Oct 2026** 30 Oct 2026

- The **24th PM-KISAN instalment** was released by DBT from Banaskantha on 30 Oct 2026 to more than **9.34 crore farmer families**.
- Each instalment is ₹2,000 (₹6,000 a year in three instalments); the scheme is 100% Centre-funded.

> **CONCEPT** A **Central Sector Scheme** is fully funded and run by the Centre, whereas a Centrally Sponsored Scheme shares cost with States. **PM-KISAN** began in **February 2019** as income support to land-holding farmer families.

35 **Textile PLI Round 4 portal reopens with lower turnover threshold** Oct 2026

- The Textile PLI Round 4 portal reopened with a lower threshold: Part-2 minimum turnover cut from **₹200 crore to ₹100 crore**.
- Tenure is extended to FY2033-34 for Round-4 approvals only.

36 **Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 4.0 launched as 60-day drive** Oct 2026

- The Health Ministry's **Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 4.0** is a **60-day drive** in higher-education institutions.

> **CONCEPT** **COTPA, 2003** (Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act) bans smoking in public places and sale of tobacco products to persons **under 18** and within **100 yards** of educational institutions. India ratified the WHO FCTC in 2004.

37 **PRIP New Discovery Track: first call approves 41 projects worth about ₹1,600 crore** Oct 2026

- The PRIP New Discovery Track, a pharma research funding scheme, gives **up to ₹50 crore per project** with 25% co-funding.
- Its first call approved **41 projects worth about ₹1,600 crore**.

38 **Rare-earth permanent magnet scheme: ₹7,280 crore for 6,000 tonnes a year** Oct 2026

- The Government of India's rare-earth permanent magnet scheme (Nov 2025) has an outlay of **₹7,280 crore**, targeting **6,000 tonnes per year**.
- It complements the National Critical Mineral Mission (2025).

> **CONCEPT** **Rare earth elements** are **17** elements: **15 lanthanides plus scandium and yttrium**. **NdFeB** (neodymium-iron-boron) magnets are the strongest permanent magnets and are used in EV motors and wind turbines.

06 Polity, Laws & Judiciary

38 GS-II

1 Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 in force from 1 Oct, replacing 1891 Act

1 Oct 2026

- The **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026** came into force on **1 Oct 2026**, replacing the 1891 Act.
- It is technology-neutral: physical, electronic and digital records are admissible, and certified copies are admissible without originals.
- Officers testify only on court order for special cause.

> **CONCEPT** The **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891** let certified copies of bank entries be admitted as evidence. The wider Indian Evidence Act, **1872** was replaced by the **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023**, in force from **1 July 2024**.

2 UPSC completes 100 years; PM releases coin, stamp and '100 Landmark Judgements'

1 Oct 2026

- On 1 Oct 2026, for the UPSC centenary (100 years), the PM released a coin, a stamp and '100 Landmark Judgements'.
- The PSC was set up on **1 Oct 1926** on Lee Commission advice; its first chairman was Sir Ross Barker.
- It became UPSC on 26 Jan 1950; the current Chairman is Dr Ajay Kumar.

> **CONCEPT** **UPSC** is a constitutional body (**Part XIV, Arts. 315-323**). Its members are appointed by the **President** and hold office for **6 years or till age 65**, whichever is earlier. They are removed by the President; for misbehaviour, only after a Supreme Court inquiry (Art. 317).

3 Centre steps into Odisha-Chhattisgarh Mahanadi water dispute

Oct 2026

- In the **Mahanadi water dispute**, Odisha objects to upstream barrages cutting flows to Hirakud; the Centre has stepped in.
- The Tribunal was constituted in March 2018, and officials met on 31 Aug 2026.

> **CONCEPT** **Article 262** lets Parliament adjudicate inter-state river water disputes and bar court jurisdiction. The **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956** provides for tribunals. The **Mahanadi** rises in Chhattisgarh and flows through Odisha; Hirakud Dam is on it.

4 Census 2027 will be India's 16th and first digital, with caste enumeration

Oct 2026

- MHA will conduct **Census 2027** under the Census Act, 1948: India's **16th Census**, the first digital one, and it includes caste enumeration.
- The reference date is **1 March 2027**; for snow-bound areas it is 1 October 2026.

> **CONCEPT** **Census** is a **Union List** subject (Entry 69, Seventh Schedule), conducted under the **Census Act, 1948**. The first synchronous census was in **1881**; the last complete caste enumeration was in **1931**.

5 Election Commission drops SIR declaration from online Form 6 where SIR has concluded

30 Sep 2026

- On 30 Sep 2026 the Election Commission removed the **SIR declaration from online Form 6** (ECINET and CEO portals) in states where SIR has concluded.
- It is still available where SIR is underway.

> **CONCEPT** **Article 324** vests superintendence of elections in the Election Commission. **Form 6** = new voter enrolment; **Form 7** = objection/deletion; **Form 8** = correction or shifting of residence. Do not mix up Forms 6, 7 and 8.

6 AFSPA extended six months in parts of Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh

Oct 2026

- **AFSPA** was extended for six months in parts of Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- In Manipur it covers the whole state except 13 police stations in 5 valley districts.
- Section 3 of AFSPA, 1958 lets the Centre or the Governor declare an area disturbed.

> **CONCEPT** **AFSPA, 1958**: Section 4 gives the armed forces special powers (use of force, arrest without warrant) in 'disturbed areas'. The Supreme Court upheld the Act in **Naga People's Movement of Human Rights v. Union of India (1997)**.

7 **SC issues notice on PIL against 0.4% MDR on UPI but refuses stay** — 28 Sep 2026

- On 28 Sep 2026 the Supreme Court issued notice to the Centre, RBI and NPCI on a PIL against **0.4% MDR on UPI merchant payments above ₹2,000** (from 15 Oct 2026), but refused a stay.
- UPI was earlier zero-MDR; UPI is run by NPCI.

> **CONCEPT** **MDR (Merchant Discount Rate)** is the fee a merchant pays its bank for accepting digital payments. A **PIL** can be filed in the Supreme Court under **Art. 32** or in a High Court under **Art. 226**. **NPCI** was set up in **2008** by RBI and IBA.

8 **CJI Surya Kant: AI cannot replace judges** — Oct 2026

- **CJI Surya Kant** said **AI cannot replace judges**.
- SUVAS has translated 83,000+ judgments into 18 languages, and the Su-Sahayak chatbot gives case status.

9 **Delhi HC: a valid visa is not an absolute right to enter India** — Oct 2026

- The Delhi High Court held that **a valid visa is not an absolute right to enter India**.
- The ruling relates to the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 (in force 1 Sep 2025).

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 19(1)(d) and (e)** (move freely, reside and settle in India) are for **citizens only**. Foreigners get Arts. 14 and 21 but no right to enter or stay. **Union List Entry 19** covers admission into India, passports and visas.

10 **SC seeks Election Commission's reply on Form 6 plea** — Oct 2026

- The Supreme Court sought the Election Commission's reply on a plea about **Form 6**, which is for new voter enrolment under the Registration of Electors Rules 1960.
- Petitioners allege new fields were added without amending the Rules, and that the CEC acted without the other ECs.

> **CONCEPT** The **Representation of the People Act, 1950** governs preparation of electoral rolls; the **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960** are framed under it. The **RP Act, 1951** governs the conduct of elections. **Art. 326**: adult suffrage at **18** (61st Amendment, 1988).

11 **SC directs 24x7 monitoring cells on sexual offences in Delhi** — Oct 2026

- The Supreme Court directed **24x7 monitoring cells** on sexual offences in Delhi, saying cameras alone are not enough.
- Progress is to be reviewed in November.

12 **Gujarat becomes second state with a UCC law assented** — Oct 2026

- **Gujarat** is the **second state with a Uniform Civil Code law assented**; Uttarakhand was first.
- Goa retains its Portuguese-era civil code. UCC is a Directive Principle under Article 44.

> **CONCEPT** **Article 44** (DPSP, Part IV) says the State shall endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code for all citizens. **Marriage, divorce and succession** are in the Concurrent List (Entry 5), so States can legislate. The **Shah Bano case (1985)** is linked with the UCC debate.

13 **Supreme Court sets aside 50 Punjab municipal wards (28 Patiala, 22 Moga) and orders fresh polls** — Oct 2026

- The Supreme Court, in Oct 2026, set aside the election to **50 wards** of Punjab municipal bodies and ordered fresh polls: 28 wards in Patiala and 22 in Moga.
- The bench was led by CJI Surya Kant, and a monitoring committee under a retired High Court judge was set up.

> **CONCEPT** The **74th Constitutional Amendment (1992)** added **Part IXA** (Arts. 243P-243ZG) on Municipalities. **Art. 243ZA** gives superintendence of municipal elections to the **State Election Commission**, not the Election Commission of India.

14 **Three new Supreme Court judges appointed from Gujarat, Delhi, Telangana HCs; strength 37 of 38** — Oct 2026

- The three new Supreme Court judges (Oct 2026) are Justices **D.K. Upadhyaya, Sunita Agarwal and Aparesh Kumar Singh**, who were the Chief Justices of the Gujarat, Delhi and Telangana High Courts.
- The Court's working strength rises from 34 to **37 of 38** sanctioned posts, and the SC now has 3 women judges.

> **CONCEPT** Supreme Court judges are appointed by the **President** (**Art. 124(2)**) and retire at **65**. The **collegium system** evolved through the **Three Judges Cases (1981, 1993, 1998)**: the CJI and four senior-most judges recommend appointments.

15 **CAPF (General Administration) Act, 2026 comes into force: IPS gets 50% of IG posts** — Oct 2026

- The CAPF (General Administration) Act, 2026 came into force in Oct 2026 for the CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB.
- Under it, **50% of IG posts** and at least **67% of ADG posts** go to IPS officers, while Special DG and DG posts are 100% IPS.

> **CONCEPT** The five **CAPFs** (CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB) work under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, not the Defence Ministry. **Union List Entry 2A** allows deployment of Union armed forces in a State in aid of civil power.

16 **SC examines state DGP-appointment rules that allowed officers with under 6 months′ service** — Oct 2026

- The Supreme Court (Oct 2026) widened its scrutiny of State rules for appointing Directors General of Police (DGP), with Raju Ramachandran as amicus.
- One rule allowed officers with under **6 months' residual service** to be considered; the court said it will ensure the **Prakash Singh** directions are not diluted.

> **CONCEPT** **Prakash Singh v. Union of India (2006)**: the DGP must be chosen from the **three senior-most officers** empanelled by **UPSC**, with a **minimum tenure of 2 years**. It also ordered a State Security Commission and separation of investigation from law and order.

17 **NHRC marks 33rd Foundation Day; CJI says right to water under Article 21 means safe, reliable supply** — 12 Oct 2026

- The NHRC observed its **33rd Foundation Day** on 12 Oct 2026; it was set up on 12 Oct 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights (PHR) Act 1993, and its Chairperson is Justice V. Ramasubramanian.
- CJI Surya Kant said the right to water under **Article 21** means a safe, reliable supply; the NHRC has handled 24 lakh+ cases.

> **CONCEPT** **NHRC** is a **statutory** (not constitutional) body under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**. Since the 2019 amendment its chairperson can be a former CJI or **any former Supreme Court judge**, appointed by the President on a committee's recommendation headed by the PM.

18 **SC special sitting: no detention except by procedure established by law during Delhi protests** — Oct 2026

- At a special sitting in Oct 2026, the Supreme Court held that there can be **no detention except by procedure established by law** in connection with Delhi protests.
- The Sec 163 BNSS notice near the Supreme Court is to be removed, and a compliance report was due on 13 October.

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 21**: no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty except according to **procedure established by law**. **Maneka Gandhi (1978)** held the procedure must be just, fair and reasonable. **Art. 22**: an arrested person must be produced before a magistrate within **24 hours**.

19 **Mizoram to count its 38,213 registered refugees separately in Census 2027** — Oct 2026

- Mizoram will count refugees separately in Census 2027 (Oct 2026).
- It has **38,213 registered refugees**: 29,575 from Myanmar, 6,959 Manipur internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 1,679 from Bangladesh.

> **CONCEPT** India is **not a party** to the **1951 Refugee Convention** or its **1967 Protocol** and has no separate refugee law. Foreigners, including refugees, are dealt with under general immigration law and executive orders.

20 **Jantar Mantar de-notified as Delhi′s designated protest site** — Oct 2026

- Jantar Mantar was de-notified (Oct 2026) as Delhi's designated protest site.
- Prohibitory orders are now issued under **Sec 163 BNSS 2023** (earlier Sec 144 CrPC); in MKSS v. UoI (2018) the Supreme Court held a blanket ban impermissible.

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 19(1)(b)** gives citizens the right to assemble **peaceably and without arms**; the State can impose reasonable restrictions under **Art. 19(3)** in the interest of public order and sovereignty. Do not confuse it with Art. 19(1)(c), the right to form associations.

21 **Legal aid raises undertrials′ bail success to 84% against 26% for all undertrials** — Oct 2026

- Legal aid, grounded in **Article 39A** and the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, sharply raised bail success (Oct 2026): 84% for programme participants against 26% for all undertrials.
- Under BNSS Sec 479, first-time offenders become eligible for bail after serving one-third of the maximum sentence.

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 39A** (added by the **42nd Amendment, 1976**) directs the State to ensure equal justice and **free legal aid**. **NALSA** was constituted under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, which came into force in 1995.

22 **ECI orders Special Summary Revision in 17 States/UTs including Uttarakhand; final rolls on 4 Jan 2027** Oct 2026

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) ordered a Special Summary Revision in **17 States/UTs**, including Uttarakhand (October 2026).
- Final rolls will be published on **4 January 2027**.

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 326** grants adult suffrage at **18** (**61st Amendment, 1988** lowered it from 21). The electoral roll now has **four qualifying dates** a year: 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October.

23 **Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026 let private-school teachers and bank/company staff be enumerators** Oct 2026

- The Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026 (Oct 2026) amend the Census Rules, 1990.
- Private-school teachers and bank or company staff can now be enumerators, which aims to ease the load on government teachers.

> **CONCEPT** Under the **Census Act, 1948**, census records are confidential: they are not open to public inspection and are not admissible as evidence in court. This is why individual census returns cannot be used against a person.

24 **SC: full-course fee for professional courses must be fixed before admission; mid-course hikes only in extraordinary cases** Oct 2026

- A Supreme Court bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe held (Oct 2026) that the **full-course fee must be fixed before admission**.
- Mid-course hikes are allowed only in extraordinary conditions; professional course fees are 711% higher than general programmes.

> **CONCEPT** **T.M.A. Pai Foundation v. State of Karnataka (2002)**, an **11-judge** bench, held that private unaided institutions can fix their own fees (Art. 19(1)(g), Art. 30) but **cannot charge capitation fees or profiteer**.

25 **SC: internet access is a fundamental right, including for children, under Articles 19(1)(a) and 21** Oct 2026

- The Supreme Court held (Oct 2026) that **internet access is a fundamental right**, including for children, under Articles 19(1)(a) and 21.
- A National Hash & URL List Database for CSEAM is to be set up and platforms must act within **2 hours**; curbs must pass the proportionality test, and the next hearing is on 10 Dec 2026.

> **CONCEPT** **Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020)** held that freedom of speech over the internet is protected by **Art. 19(1)(a)** and online trade by **Art. 19(1)(g)**; indefinite internet shutdowns are impermissible. **POCSO Act, 2012** covers child sexual abuse material.

26 **SC: religious converts cannot claim backward-class quota on pre-conversion backwardness alone** Oct 2026

- The Supreme Court held (Oct 2026) that converts cannot claim the **Article 16(4)** benefit on pre-conversion backwardness alone.
- It upheld the Madras High Court and struck down Tamil Nadu's 2024 Government Order (G.O.).

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 16(4)** lets the State reserve posts for backward classes not adequately represented in services. **Indra Sawhney (1992)** upheld the **27% OBC** quota, set a **50% ceiling** and excluded the **creamy layer**.

27 **Ladakh notifies 100 constituencies across eight hill councils; Leh 22, Kargil 21** Oct 2026

- Ladakh notified **100 constituencies** across eight hill councils (Cabinet nod on 14 Oct 2026).
- Seats: Leh 22, Kargil 21, Sankoo 13, Changthang 10, Nubra 9, Sham 9, Zanskar 9 and Drass 7.

> **CONCEPT** The **Sixth Schedule** (Arts. 244(2), 275(1)) provides autonomous councils in tribal areas of **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**. Ladakh's **LAHDC-Leh (1995)** and **LAHDC-Kargil (2003)** are not Sixth Schedule bodies. Ladakh became a UT on **31 October 2019**.

28 **ECI tells SC: CEC can be removed only like a Supreme Court judge (Article 324(5))** Oct 2026

- In an affidavit in the Supreme Court (Oct 2026), the ECI, headed by CEC Gyanesh Kumar with ECs Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, said the CEC is **removable only like an SC judge** (Article 324(5)).
- It said the three SIR orders were unanimous; the next hearing is on 17 Nov 2026.

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 324(5)**: the CEC can be removed only in the manner and on the grounds of a **Supreme Court judge** (Art. 124(4): proved misbehaviour or incapacity, special majority in both Houses). Other ECs can be removed only on the **CEC's recommendation**.

29 **NMC withdraws its 2023 medical-education standards regulations** Oct 2026

- The National Medical Commission (NMC) withdrew its 2023 standards regulations (Oct 2026).
- The withdrawn rules had penalties up to **₹1 crore** for institutions and ₹5 lakh for false declarations; the minimum standards remain.

> **CONCEPT** The **NMC Act, 2019** replaced the **Medical Council of India**; the NMC began functioning on **25 September 2020**. It has **four autonomous boards**: UGMEB, PGMEB, MARB (Medical Assessment and Rating Board) and EMRB (Ethics and Medical Registration Board).

30 **President assents to Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026 for six eastern districts** Oct 2026

- The President assented (Oct 2026) to the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026, covering **six eastern districts**.
- The Authority will have 62 members (40 elected, 20 ex-officio MLAs and 2 nominated) and 46 subjects, with an Executive Council of up to 9; Article 371A is unaffected.

> **CONCEPT** **Article 371A** gives Nagaland special protection: Acts of Parliament on **Naga religious or social practices, customary law and land ownership** apply only if the State Assembly resolves so. It was added by the **13th Amendment (1962)**; Nagaland became a State in **1963**.

31 **SC issues notice to Centre on news publishers' challenge to DPDP Act, 2023** Oct 2026

- The Supreme Court issued notice to the Centre (Oct 2026) on a challenge by news publishers to the DPDP Act, 2023; they allege there is no journalistic exemption.
- The petition challenges **Sec 44(3)**, which amends RTI Sec 8(1)(j); the next hearing is on 17 Nov 2026.

> **CONCEPT** **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)**: a **nine-judge** bench held **privacy** a fundamental right under **Art. 21**. The **DPDP Act** was enacted in **August 2023** and provides for a Data Protection Board of India.

32 **SC asks why most medicines escape price control; calls regulator 'defunct', reserves verdict** Oct 2026

- The Supreme Court (Oct 2026) questioned why most medicines escape price control: non-scheduled drugs are about **83% of the market by value** (petitioner's figure).
- The bench called the regulator 'defunct' and reserved its verdict; the Centre says it follows a 'calibrated' policy.

> **CONCEPT** **Article 47** (DPSP) makes raising the level of nutrition and **improving public health** a primary duty of the State. The Supreme Court has also read the **right to health** into **Art. 21**.

33 **SC issues notice to Centre on petitions against law mandating six stanzas of Vande Mataram** Oct 2026

- The Supreme Court (Oct 2026) issued notice to the Centre on petitions against the law that mandates **six stanzas** of Vande Mataram.

> **CONCEPT** **Vande Mataram** was written by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee** in his novel **Anandamath (1882)**. On **24 January 1950** the Constituent Assembly adopted it as the **National Song**, with equal honour to Jana Gana Mana, the National Anthem.

34 **SC: multiple life sentences in a single trial cannot run consecutively** Oct 2026

- The Supreme Court held (Oct 2026) that **multiple life sentences in a single trial cannot run consecutively**.
- It relied on the Constitution Bench ruling in Muthuramalingam v. State (2016).

> **CONCEPT** **Life imprisonment** means imprisonment for the convict's **natural life** unless remitted or commuted (**Gopal Vinayak Godse, 1961**). Executive clemency lies with the **President (Art. 72)** and the **Governor (Art. 161)**.

35 **SC Collegium recommends four HC Chief Justices and 9 advocates as J&K and Ladakh HC judges** Oct 2026

- The Supreme Court Collegium (Oct 2026) recommended four High Court Chief Justices: P. Sam Koshy (Delhi), Manash Ranjan Pathak (Gujarat), Tapabrata Chakraborty (Telangana) and Sudhir Singh (Uttarakhand).
- It also recommended **9 advocates** as judges of the J&K and Ladakh High Court.

> **CONCEPT** High Court judges are appointed by the **President** under **Art. 217** after consulting the CJI, the Governor and the HC Chief Justice. The **NJAC** (99th Amendment) was struck down by the Supreme Court in **2015**, keeping the **collegium** system.

36 **SC calls 'digital arrest' scams 'digital dacoity', refuses to club 35 FIRs** Oct 2026

- The Supreme Court (Oct 2026) called 'digital arrest' scams **'digital dacoity'** and refused to club 35 FIRs.
- An 81-year-old Ernakulam victim lost ₹1.90 crore; the cyber-fraud helpline is **1930**.

> **CONCEPT** Cheating by impersonation using a computer resource is punishable under **Sec. 66D of the IT Act, 2000**. The **I4C** (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre) under the **MHA** runs the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal and the **1930** helpline.

37 **SC: banks must compensate digital-arrest victims on due-diligence failure, not less than amount lost** Oct 2026

- The Supreme Court (Oct 2026) said banks must compensate digital-arrest victims where they failed in due diligence, with compensation **not less than the amount lost**.
- There were 21,928 complaints worth over ₹647 crore (Jan-Aug 2026); RBI KYC amendments are expected by 30 Nov.

> **CONCEPT** RBI's **2017 circular on limiting customer liability** in unauthorised electronic transactions: the customer has **zero liability** if the bank was negligent, or if the breach was by a third party and the customer reports it within **three working days**.

38 **SC seeks proof of enforcement as firecracker orders flouted; only 9 of 39 monitoring stations worked on Diwali 2025** 29 Oct 2026

- On 29 Oct 2026 the Supreme Court was told that only **9 of 39** air-quality monitoring stations gave continuous readings on Diwali 2025, and that prohibited crackers were allegedly sold.
- The Court seeks enforcement data and is not inclined to ban crackers totally.

> **CONCEPT** **Art. 48A** (DPSP, added by the **42nd Amendment, 1976**) directs the State to protect and improve the environment; **Art. 51A(g)** makes it a fundamental duty of citizens. The main law on air is the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.

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07 Economy, Banking & Finance

40 GS-III

1 **India's Services PMI at 3-month high of 55.2 and Manufacturing PMI at 7-month high of 55.1 in September 2026** Sep 2026

- In September 2026, the **Services PMI was 55.2**, a 3-month high.
- The **Manufacturing PMI was 55.1**, a 7-month high.

> **CONCEPT** **PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index)** above **50** shows expansion, below 50 contraction and 50 no change. The HSBC India PMI is compiled by **S&P Global** from surveys of purchasing managers.

2 **Net FDI inflow hits about $7.3 billion in July 2026, highest since May 2021** Oct 2026

- Net FDI inflow in July 2026 was about **$7.3 billion**, the highest since May 2021.
- Communication, financial and computer services together made up over 80% of equity inflows.

> **CONCEPT** **FDI** gives the investor lasting interest and control; in India, an equity stake of **10% or more** of a listed company is FDI, below 10% is portfolio (FPI) investment. FDI is governed by **FEMA, 1999**; policy is framed by **DPIIT**.

3 **Rabi MSP 2027-28: wheat up ₹25 to ₹2,610/quintal; safflower gets highest hike of ₹675** 30 Sep 2026

- On 30 Sep 2026, wheat MSP for Rabi 2027-28 was set at **₹2,610/quintal (+₹25)**, with a wheat margin of 106%.
- Safflower rose to ₹7,215 (+₹675, the highest hike); mustard ₹6,613, lentil ₹7,390, gram ₹5,958 and barley ₹2,286.

> **CONCEPT** **MSP** is recommended by the **CACP** (set up **1965** as the Agricultural Prices Commission, renamed **1985**) and approved by the **CCEA**. Since Budget 2018-19 the aim is MSP of at least **1.5 times the A2+FL cost**.

4 **First offshore polymetallic blocks auction launched in Andaman Sea: 2 blocks, 1,632 sq km** Oct 2026

- On 1 Oct 2026 the Government launched the first offshore polymetallic blocks auction in the Andaman Sea (off Great Nicobar): West Sewell Ridge-01 (1,000 sq km) and Sewell Rise-01 (632 sq km), **1,632 sq km** in total.
- It is held under the OAMDR Act 2002 and the Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Rules 2024, and is a second attempt after the 2024 round (13 blocks) was cancelled.

> **CONCEPT** **Polymetallic nodules** are seabed rocks rich in **manganese, nickel, cobalt and copper**. Offshore mining in India's waters is governed by the **Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002**, amended in **2023**.

5 **RoDTEP and RoSCTL export schemes extended to 31 December 2026** Oct 2026

- The export schemes RoDTEP and RoSCTL have been extended to **31 December 2026** (October 2026).
- RoDTEP refunds embedded duties, and RoSCTL supports apparel and made-ups.

> **CONCEPT** **RoDTEP** (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products) replaced **MEIS** from **1 January 2021** and refunds embedded taxes not otherwise rebated. **RoSCTL** = Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies, for apparel and made-ups.

6 **First overseas cargo from Upper Assam since 1947: methanol sails to Bangladesh via NW-2** Oct 2026

- A methanol cargo was shipped from Upper Assam to Bangladesh on **National Waterway-2** (Brahmaputra route) in Oct 2026.
- It is the first overseas cargo from Upper Assam since 1947.

> **CONCEPT** **NW-2** is the **Brahmaputra** from **Sadiya to Dhubri** in Assam; **NW-1** is the Ganga (Prayagraj-Haldia). Inland waterways are administered by **IWAI** (set up 1986); **Union List Entry 24** covers national waterways.

7 **57th GST Council recommends omitting Section 69 CGST arrest powers; prosecution limit raised to ₹5 crore** Oct 2026

- The 57th GST Council (October 2026) recommends omitting **Section 69 CGST** (arrest powers).
- The Section 132 prosecution threshold goes from ₹1 crore to **₹5 crore**, and no show-cause notice is to be issued below ₹10,000.

> **CONCEPT** The **GST Council** is a constitutional body under **Art. 279A** (**101st Amendment, 2016**), chaired by the **Union Finance Minister**. A decision needs **three-fourths** of weighted votes; the Centre has one-third weight and States two-thirds.

8 **57th GST Council: 90% provisional refunds, optional ARQP for small B2C firms, 5% GST on EV passenger transport** Oct 2026

- The 57th GST Council (Oct 2026) made **90% of export and inverted-duty refunds provisional**, and made ARQP optional for B2C firms up to ₹5 crore.
- It set 5% GST on EV passenger transport and a Rule 14B for warehouse registration; there was no rate change.

> **CONCEPT** An **inverted duty structure** arises when GST on **inputs is higher than GST on the output**, so input tax credit piles up unused. The law allows a **refund of such accumulated credit**; provisional refund means payment is made before full verification.

9 **MoSPI releases Environmental-Economic Accounts strategy 2026-2030** Oct 2026

- MoSPI released its Environmental-Economic Accounts strategy for 2026-2030 (Oct 2026), covering forests, water, soil, carbon and biodiversity.

10 **Retail inflation rises to 5.54% in September 2026, a 23-month high; food inflation 7.74%** Oct 2026

- Retail inflation (CPI) in September 2026 was **5.54%**, a 23-month high, with food (CFPI) at **7.74%** and onion up 108.09%; the base year is 2024=100.
- Rural inflation was 6.08% and urban 4.88%; the top States were Tamil Nadu 6.81%, Odisha 6.70% and Madhya Pradesh 6.68%.

> **CONCEPT** **CPI** is the measure used by RBI for **inflation targeting**: the target is **4%** with a band of **±2%**, under the RBI Act amended in **2016**. CPI is compiled by the **NSO (MoSPI)**; WPI is compiled by the Office of Economic Adviser, DPIIT.

11 **Merchandise exports jump 23% to US$ 44.40 bn in September 2026; trade deficit US$ 30.21 bn** — Oct 2026

- India's merchandise exports in September 2026 were **US$ 44.40 bn (+23%)**, led by electronics (+70.44%).
- Imports were US$ 74.61 bn, giving a trade deficit of US$ 30.21 bn; total exports were US$ 80.75 bn.

> **CONCEPT** **Balance of trade** covers only goods (merchandise); a **trade deficit** means imports exceed exports. The **current account** is wider: goods, services, primary income and transfers. Do not use the two terms as synonyms.

12 **India's carbon market (CCTS) moves toward trading: about 500 companies in 7 sectors filed compliance reports** — Oct 2026

- About **500 companies in 7 sectors** under India's carbon market (CCTS) filed compliance reports by 31 July (Oct 2026), as the market moves to trading.
- The EU CBAM definitive phase began on 1 Jan 2026.

> **CONCEPT** **CCTS** (Carbon Credit Trading Scheme) was notified in **2023** under the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001** (amended **2022**) and is administered by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency**. One carbon credit certificate = **one tonne of CO2 equivalent**. **CBAM** is the EU's carbon tax on imports.

13 **WPI inflation rises to 11.39% in September 2026 as Fuel & Power hits 25.85%** — Oct 2026

- WPI inflation in September 2026 was **11.39%**, driven by Fuel & Power at **25.85%** (August 22.93%).
- Primary articles were 8.67%, manufactured products 9.76% and the food index 8.66%.

> **CONCEPT** **WPI** tracks price changes at the **wholesale** (bulk sale) level and is published monthly by the **Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT**. It excludes services and is not the index used for RBI's inflation target (that is **CPI**).

14 **Core sector growth hits new-series high of 7.9% in September 2026** — Oct 2026

- Growth of the nine core industries was **7.9%** in September 2026, the highest in the new 2022-23 series; August was revised to 5.9% from 4.8%.
- Iron ore grew 18.4%, electricity 11.4% and coal 10.7%, while fertilisers fell 11.7%.

> **CONCEPT** The **Index of Core Industries** covers coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity (eight industries). It is compiled by the **Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT**, and gives an early signal for the **IIP**, compiled by NSO (MoSPI).

15 **India's fish production reaches 197.75 lakh tonnes in 2024-25** — Oct 2026

- India's fish production in 2024-25 was **197.75 lakh tonnes**, of which the inland share was 151.60 lakh tonnes.

16 **Jio Platforms lists after ₹30,213 crore IPO, becoming India's second most valuable company** — Oct 2026

- The Jio Platforms IPO of **₹30,213 crore** (all fresh equity; price band ₹1,065-1,119) closed on 23 Oct and was subscribed 22.19 times.
- It listed as India's second most valuable company, with a market cap of about ₹12.50 lakh crore.

> **CONCEPT** An **IPO** is a company's first sale of shares to the public. A **fresh issue** raises money for the company, whereas an **OFS** only transfers existing shares between holders. **SEBI** (statutory status by the **SEBI Act, 1992**) regulates IPOs.

17 **Cabinet raises DA/DR from 60% to 63% from 1 July 2026, costing ₹10,016.10 crore a year** — Oct 2026

- The Cabinet raised DA/DR from **60% to 63%** with effect from 1 July 2026 (Oct 2026).
- It benefits 48.54 lakh employees and 68.71 lakh pensioners, at a cost of ₹10,016.10 crore a year.

18 **Windfall levy on diesel and ATF exports cut from 1 October 2026** — 1 Oct 2026

- From 1 Oct 2026 the windfall levy on exports was cut to **₹16/litre for diesel and ₹10.50/litre for ATF** (earlier ₹20 and ₹15).
- The petrol levy is unchanged at ₹0.50/litre; the levy is reviewed every two weeks.

19 **GST collection crosses ₹2 lakh crore in September 2026: gross ₹2.04 lakh crore, up 14.7%** — 1 Oct 2026

- Gross GST collection for September 2026 (reported 1 Oct) was **₹2.04 lakh crore (+14.7%)**; net was ₹1.77 lakh crore (+18.1%), and import GST rose 25.9%.
- Maharashtra was top at ₹29,986 crore; Assam grew 88% (sharpest among larger states) and Manipur 145% from a small base; Apr-Sep gross was ₹12.46 lakh crore.

> **CONCEPT** **GST** started on **1 July 2017** after the **101st Amendment**; **Art. 246A** gives the Centre and States concurrent power to levy it. It has **CGST, SGST/UTGST and IGST** (on inter-state supply, Art. 269A).

20 **Cabinet approves ₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund for direct equity in SMEs** — 6 Oct 2026

- On 6 Oct 2026 the Cabinet approved a **₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund**, structured as a SEBI-registered AIF.
- It provides direct equity to SMEs, mostly manufacturing, in Tier-II/III clusters and targets the 'missing middle'.

21 **India's first WASH social bond (NABKISAN): ₹180 crore at 8.10% listed on NSE** — 1 Oct 2026

- On 1 Oct 2026 India's first WASH social bond was listed on NSE by NABKISAN, an NABARD arm: **₹180 crore at 8.10%**, with a five-year tenure and AAA rating.
- The funds will finance WASH lending through rural institutions.

> **CONCEPT** A **social bond** raises debt for projects with social benefits; **WASH** = Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (linked to **SDG 6**). **NABARD** was set up on **12 July 1982** on the Shivaraman Committee's advice as the apex rural development bank.

22 **RBI hikes repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50%, shifts to 'calibrated tightening'** — 7 Oct 2026

- On 7 Oct 2026 the RBI raised the repo rate by **25 bps to 5.50%**, its first hike since Feb 2023; the vote was 6-0, while the stance 'calibrated tightening' passed 4-2.
- SDF is 5.25% and MSF/Bank Rate 5.75%; the RBI projects FY27 GDP at 7.1% and CPI at 5.2%.

> **CONCEPT** The **repo rate** is the rate at which RBI lends to banks against government securities. **SDF** = repo minus 0.25 point; **MSF** = repo plus 0.25 point. The **MPC** has **six members** (three from RBI, three external); the Governor has a casting vote.

23 **Hyundai Motor Group commits $15.5 billion investment in India till 2032** — 13 Oct 2026

- On 13 October 2026, Hyundai Motor Group committed **$15.5 bn** investment in India till 2032.
- It covers the expansion of Hyundai Motor India and Kia India.

24 **UPI merchant discount rate (MDR) of 0.4% above ₹2,000 deferred till after Diwali** — 13 Oct 2026

- The UPI merchant discount rate (MDR) of **0.4%** on payments above ₹2,000 was to start on 15 October but has been deferred till after Diwali (13 October 2026). It is deferred, not cancelled.
- P2P payments and payments up to **₹2,000** remain free.

> **CONCEPT** **UPI** was launched by **NPCI in 2016** as a real-time interbank payment system. Payment systems in India are regulated by **RBI** under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.

25 **CCEA clears IDBI Bank sale: Fairfax unit to buy 60.72% stake for ₹52,878 crore** — 14 Oct 2026

- On 14 Oct 2026 the CCEA cleared the strategic sale of IDBI Bank: a Fairfax unit will buy a **60.72% stake for ₹52,878 crore**, at ₹81 per share (Govt 30.48%, LIC 30.24%).
- The Government retains 15% and LIC 19%.

> **CONCEPT** **IDBI** was set up in **1964** as an apex development finance institution and became **IDBI Bank in 2004**. After **LIC** took a controlling stake, RBI categorised it as a **private sector bank** in **2019**. A **strategic sale** transfers management control with the stake.

26 **Railways announces bonus of 78 days' wages for about 11.4 lakh employees** — 14 Oct 2026

- On 14 Oct 2026 the Railways bonus was set at **78 days' wages** for about 11.4 lakh non-gazetted employees.

27 **Principal Purpose Test now in force in India-Mauritius tax treaty from 10 Aug 2026** — 19 Oct 2026

- The protocol to the India-Mauritius DTAA, signed in March 2024, came into force on **10 Aug 2026** (reported 19 Oct 2026).
- New Article 27B denies treaty benefits if obtaining them was a principal purpose of an arrangement; investments before 1 April 2017 are grandfathered.

> **CONCEPT** A **DTAA** prevents the same income being taxed in two countries. The **Principal Purpose Test** (OECD **BEPS Action 6**) denies treaty benefit if getting it was a principal purpose, stopping **treaty shopping**. The India-Mauritius DTAA dates from **1982**.

28 **National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC) at Vanijya Bhawan with DGFT is a real-time trade-data hub** — 15 Oct 2026

- The National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC), a real-time trade-data hub, is at Vanijya Bhawan with the DGFT (15 Oct 2026).

29 **2026-27 ethanol blending tender keeps out sugar-based ethanol; about 11 billion litres for E20** — 19 Oct 2026

- The 2026-27 ethanol blending tender (19 Oct 2026) is for about **11 billion litres** for E20 from November, with no cane juice, sugar syrup or B-heavy molasses.
- The maize price was cut from ₹71.86 to ₹68.86/litre.

> **CONCEPT** **E20** means petrol blended with **20% ethanol**. The **National Policy on Biofuels, 2018** (amended **2022**) advanced the 20% blending target from 2030 to **2025-26**. Ethanol can come from sugarcane juice, molasses and grains like maize.

30 **NPPA caps trade margin at 30% on 137 anti-cancer drugs; MRPs of 543 brands cut from 9 Nov** — 19 Oct 2026

- The NPPA capped trade margin at **30% on 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs** (19 Oct 2026), using Para 19 of DPCO 2013.
- MRPs of 543 brands were revised, with new prices from 9 Nov 2026; a 2019 pilot covered 42 drugs.

> **CONCEPT** **NPPA** (1997), under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, fixes and revises drug prices under the **Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013**. NLEM drugs are 'scheduled' with ceiling prices; 'non-scheduled' drugs may rise by at most **10% a year**.

31 **RBI tightens scrutiny of overseas investment as rupee slides to 94.91 per dollar** — 20 Oct 2026

- The RBI increased scrutiny of overseas investment (20 Oct 2026); the rupee was at **94.91/$** on 19 Oct, against a record low of 96.96 (20 May 2026).
- ODI was $26.7 bn in FY26; reserves were $726.0 bn (week to 9 Oct) against a record $785.7 bn (4 Sep).

> **CONCEPT** **Overseas Direct Investment (ODI)** is an Indian entity's investment in a foreign entity, governed by the **FEMA (Overseas Investment) Rules, 2022**. The **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (2004)** lets resident individuals remit money abroad.

32 **₹8,447 crore of drug overcharging dues remain unrecovered** — 22 Oct 2026

- As of 22 Oct 2026, **₹8,447 crore** of drug overcharging dues remains unrecovered.
- Of this, ₹5,872.6 crore is in litigation, ₹2,369.3 crore is under process and ₹200 crore has been referred to collectors.

> **CONCEPT** The **DPCO, 2013** is issued under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**. Ceiling prices apply to **scheduled (NLEM)** drugs; a firm charging above the ceiling must deposit the overcharged amount with interest.

33 **US becomes India's top LPG supplier with 67% share of imports** — 22 Oct 2026

- As of 22 Oct 2026 the US supplies **67% of India's LPG imports**, up from under 10%.
- India's goods exports to the US rose 21.8% in August to $8.4 billion.

> **CONCEPT** **LPG** is a mixture mainly of propane and butane, obtained from refining crude oil and processing natural gas. **PM Ujjwala Yojana (2016)** gave LPG connections to poor households.

34 **RBI MPC minutes: repo hike to 5.50% unanimous, stance split 4:2** — 22 Oct 2026

- The minutes of the RBI MPC's 63rd meeting (22 Oct 2026) show the hike to **5.50% repo was unanimous**.
- External members Nagesh Kumar and Ram Singh dissented on the stance (4:2 for calibrated tightening); the next MPC is on 2-4 Dec 2026.

> **CONCEPT** The **Monetary Policy Committee** is a six-member body (3 RBI, 3 external members appointed by the Centre) set up under **Section 45ZB of the RBI Act, 1934** (inserted 2016); the Governor has a casting vote. The **repo rate** is the rate at which RBI lends to banks.

35 **Khadi and village industries turnover crosses ₹1.87 lakh crore in 2025-26, says Mann Ki Baat** — 25 Oct 2026

- The 139th Mann Ki Baat (25 Oct 2026) reported khadi and village industries turnover above **₹1.87 lakh crore** in 2025-26, with employment above 2.04 crore.
- The KVIC target is ₹2.51 lakh crore.

> **CONCEPT** **KVIC** is a statutory body under the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956**, functioning under the Ministry of **MSME**. It promotes khadi and village industries and rural employment.

36 **PM opens RBI's ₹169-crore Greenfield Data Centre at Khordha, Odisha, plus Cybersecurity Training Institute** — 25 Oct 2026

- The PM inaugurated (25 Oct 2026) the RBI Greenfield Data Centre at Info Valley-II, Khordha, Odisha, built on 18.55 acres at a cost of **₹169 crore**.
- It is a backup to the primary centre at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai; a Cybersecurity Training Institute was also inaugurated.

> **CONCEPT** The **Reserve Bank of India** began on **1 April 1935** under the **RBI Act, 1934** and was nationalised in **1949**. A backup (disaster-recovery) data centre keeps critical systems running if the primary site fails.

37 **Centre targets public debt of 50 ± 1% of GDP by 31 March 2031** — 27 Oct 2026

- The Centre's target (27 Oct 2026) is to bring central public debt to **50 ± 1% of GDP by 31 March 2031**.
- Debt-to-GDP replaced the fiscal deficit as the primary fiscal anchor from Budget 2025-26.

> **CONCEPT** The **FRBM Act, 2003** sets the framework for fiscal discipline. **Fiscal deficit** = total expenditure minus total receipts excluding borrowings; **public debt** is the accumulated stock of such borrowing.

38 **E100 notified as auto fuel for flex-fuel vehicles; weight threshold raised to 3,500 kg** — 23 Oct 2026

- E100 was notified as an auto fuel (23 Oct 2026) through an amendment to Rule 115, only for vehicles designed for E85/E100 (flex-fuel vehicles).
- The weight threshold was raised from 3,000 kg to 3,500 kg; E20 was reached in 2025.

> **CONCEPT** A **flex-fuel vehicle** can run on petrol or on ethanol blends up to E85/E100. **E20** means 20% ethanol blended with petrol. **1G ethanol** comes from sugarcane juice, molasses and grains; **2G ethanol** from agricultural residue.

39 **RELIEF export risk-cover scheme extended till March 2027** — 27 Oct 2026

- The RELIEF export risk-cover scheme, under the Export Promotion Mission with ECGC as nodal agency, was **extended till March 2027** (27 Oct 2026).
- It was launched on 19 March 2026; Component II gives 95% risk cover on fresh ECGC insurance.

> **CONCEPT** **ECGC Ltd** (est. **1957**, Ministry of Commerce) provides **export credit insurance** to protect exporters against buyer default and political risks.

40 **Japan becomes top FDI source in Q1 FY27 with record $5.71 bn; delegation pitches ₹8-10 lakh crore** — 28 Oct 2026

- Japan was the top FDI source in Q1 FY27 with a record **$5.71 bn**, about 29% of $19.81 bn equity inflows (28 Oct 2026).
- A Japanese delegation pitched an investment of ₹8-10 lakh crore.

> **CONCEPT** **FDI** is investment that gives a lasting interest and control in a firm in another country, unlike portfolio investment. In India it enters through the **automatic route** (no prior approval) or the **government route**.

08 International Relations & Agreements

31 **GS-II**

1 **Modi and Trump reaffirm Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership in phone call** — 30 Sep 2026

- In a phone call on 30 Sep 2026, Modi and Trump reaffirmed the India-US **Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership**.
- The call reviewed trade, defence and energy ties amid trade deal talks.

> **CONCEPT** The India-US ties were upgraded to a **Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership** in **February 2020** (Trump's visit to India).

2 **Putin says Modi has 'very good ideas' to end Ukraine conflict** — Oct 2026

- In early Oct 2026, Russia's Putin said Modi has **'very good ideas'** to end the Ukraine conflict.
- Modi's invitation to Russia for the 24th India-Russia Annual Summit was first extended in Dec 2025.

> **CONCEPT** India-Russia ties were raised to a **Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership** in **2010**; the Strategic Partnership began in **2000**. The Annual Summit alternates between the two capitals.

3 **Iran–US Hormuz talks reach impasse; Iran's oil minister Mohsen Paknejad resigns** Oct 2026

- Talks between Iran and the USA over Hormuz are at an impasse (October 2026).
- Iran's oil minister **Mohsen Paknejad** resigned.

> **CONCEPT** The **Strait of Hormuz** links the **Persian Gulf** with the **Gulf of Oman**; roughly one-fifth of global oil trade passes through it. **UNCLOS** guarantees ships the right of **transit passage** through such straits.

4 **India–US trade talks at a 'plateau'; US opens Section 301 probe on India's industrial capacity** Oct 2026

- In Oct 2026 FM Sitharaman said India-US trade talks are at a **'plateau'**, and the USTR said a deal is not imminent.
- The US opened a Section 301 probe on India's industrial capacity, and the Russia-sanctions law allows tariffs up to 100%.

> **CONCEPT** **Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974** empowers the **USTR** to investigate foreign trade practices judged unfair and to impose tariffs or other retaliation.

5 **India is among 15 economies calling out global 'structural excess capacity'** Oct 2026

- India is among **15 signatories** of a 15-economy call on structural excess capacity (October 2026).
- The sectors named are autos and EVs, batteries, semiconductors and solar panels.

> **CONCEPT** **Structural excess capacity** means production far above demand, pushing cheap exports abroad. **Anti-dumping duty** counters dumping and is allowed under **Article VI of GATT**; in India **DGTR** recommends it.

6 **India–Canada CEPA: 5th round in Ottawa, aim to conclude by end-2026** Oct 2026

- The 5th round of India-Canada CEPA talks was held in Ottawa (Oct 2026), with the aim to conclude by **end-2026**.
- Trade was USD 30.4 bn in 2025, with a target of USD 70 bn by 2030.

> **CONCEPT** A **CEPA** is wider than an **FTA**: besides tariff cuts on goods it covers services, investment and **IPR**. A **PTA** cuts duties only on a limited list of goods.

7 **US $100,000 H-1B fee set to hit Indian tech talent** Oct 2026

- The US $100,000 H-1B fee (Oct 2026) hits Indian tech talent, as Indians get about **70% of H-1B approvals**.
- India's remittances were about $129 billion (2024).

> **CONCEPT** The **H-1B** is a US non-immigrant visa for skilled workers in specialty occupations, under the **Immigration and Nationality Act**. **Remittances** are money sent home by citizens working abroad; India is the largest recipient.

8 **Liechtenstein's Hereditary Prince makes first-ever state visit to India** Oct 2026

- The Hereditary Prince of Liechtenstein made a state visit to India (Oct 2026), the **first-ever Liechtenstein state visit to India**; ties date from 1993.
- The leaders hailed the India-EFTA TEPA.

> **CONCEPT** **EFTA** (European Free Trade Association, founded **1960**) has four members: **Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein**. It is separate from the EU.

9 **India invites Pakistan and all SCO members to Civilisational Dialogue Forum** Oct 2026

- India announced (20 Oct 2026) at the SCO Heads of Government meeting in Dushanbe that it invites all SCO members, including Pakistan, to the **SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum**.
- Pakistan chairs the SCO Council of Heads of State for 2026-27.

> **CONCEPT** The **SCO** was founded in **2001** at Shanghai; **India and Pakistan** became full members in **2017**. Its Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (**RATS**) is at **Tashkent**.

10 **India–EFTA TEPA turns one: first FTA with binding investment pledge** 1 Oct 2026

- The India-EFTA TEPA (India with Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) completed one year on 1 Oct 2026; it was signed on 10 Mar 2024 and came into force on **1 Oct 2025**.
- It carries a $100 bn investment pledge and 1 million direct jobs over 15 years, and is the first FTA with a binding investment pledge.

> **CONCEPT** A **TEPA** (Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement) goes beyond tariffs to cover services, investment and IPR. **EFTA** was founded in **1960** and is not part of the EU.

11 India and Switzerland sign pacts during Swiss President's visit of 5-7 October

5 Oct 2026

- India and Switzerland signed agreements during the Swiss President's visit on **5-7 October 2026**.
- These include a Migration & Mobility Partnership (multi-entry visas up to 5 years), a Young Professionals scheme of **300 a year each way**, a transport, mobility and infrastructure pact, and a DST-SNSF science LoI.

12 EAM's Africa outreach: Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia

6 Oct 2026

- The EAM's Africa outreach covered Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia (final leg), with outreach to the AU and ECOWAS.
- He met Ghana President John Dramani Mahama on 6 Oct and FM Nialé Kaba in Côte d'Ivoire on 7 Oct.

> **CONCEPT** The **African Union** (launched **2002**, HQ **Addis Ababa**, Ethiopia) succeeded the OAU (1963). **ECOWAS** (1975) is the West African regional bloc.

13 India-Japan Joint Crediting Mechanism Operational Manual launched

30 Sep 2026

- The Operational Manual of the India-Japan **Joint Crediting Mechanism** was launched on 30 Sep 2026.
- It works under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement; the Indian authority is NDAIAPA.

> **CONCEPT** **Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement** lets countries trade emission reductions bilaterally as **ITMOs** (internationally transferred mitigation outcomes). Japan's **JCM** is one such scheme. The Paris Agreement was adopted in **2015**.

14 India tells SC it will not reopen 1974/1976 Katchatheevu maritime pacts

6 Oct 2026

- India told the Supreme Court (6 Oct 2026) that it will **not reopen the 1974/1976 pacts** on Katchatheevu.
- The island (~285 acres, Palk Strait) is on Sri Lanka's side; the hearing is in Feb 2027.

> **CONCEPT** **Katchatheevu** lies in the **Palk Strait**, between India and Sri Lanka. The **1974** India-Sri Lanka maritime boundary agreement placed it on Sri Lanka's side; the **1976** pact covered the Gulf of Mannar and Bay of Bengal boundaries.

15 Pakistan imposes emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, suspends provincial government

11 Oct 2026

- Pakistan imposed an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (11 Oct 2026) and suspended the provincial government, under Articles 232 and 234 of Pakistan's Constitution.
- KP is governed by the PTI.

> **CONCEPT** In India, **Article 356** allows President's Rule if a state government cannot run per the Constitution; it needs parliamentary approval within **2 months**. **S.R. Bommai (1994)** made it judicially reviewable.

16 Trump announces Russia-Ukraine 'energy ceasefire'; Ukraine says it was unaware

11 Oct 2026

- On 11 Oct 2026 US President Trump announced a Russia-Ukraine **'energy ceasefire'**, saying both sides agreed to stop striking energy infrastructure.
- Ukraine said it was unaware and strikes continued.

17 India rejects China's objection to naming of 28 features in Ladakh

13 Oct 2026

- On 13 October 2026 India rejected China's objection over the naming of Ladakh features.
- India named **28 features** in Ladakh, including Gogra, Zorawar Peak, Kanishka Peak and Skamri Glacier.

> **CONCEPT** **Ladakh** became a Union Territory (without legislature) on **31 October 2019** under the **J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019**. The **LAC** has three sectors: Western (Ladakh), Middle (HP-Uttarakhand) and Eastern (Sikkim-Arunachal).

18 India bids for UNSC non-permanent seat for 2028-29; rival Tajikistan; vote June 2027

16 Oct 2026

- India is bidding for a UNSC non-permanent seat for **2028-29** in the Asia-Pacific race (16 Oct 2026), with Tajikistan as rival; the vote is in June 2027.
- It needs two-thirds (about 129 of 193); India won 187/191 in 2010 and 184/192 in 2020.

> **CONCEPT** The **UNSC** has **15 members**: 5 permanent (P5, with veto) and **10 non-permanent** elected by the UNGA for **two-year** terms, by regional group, needing a two-thirds majority.

19 India approves accession to Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

19 Oct 2026

- India approved accession (19 Oct 2026) to the **Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)**, signed in 2006 and in force since 2012, with 10 parties.
- Indian vessels may fish squid, toothfish and alfonsino.

> **CONCEPT** A **Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO)** manages fish stocks on the **high seas**, beyond the **200-nautical-mile EEZ** set by **UNCLOS 1982**.

20 **India–New Zealand FTA comes into force on 20 October 2026** — 20 Oct 2026

- The India-New Zealand FTA came into force on **20 October 2026**.
- Indian exports get duty-free access.

21 **Rubio in India on 17–22 Oct says trade deal 'very close'; calls India a 'refining superpower'** — 20 Oct 2026

- Rubio of the USA, during his **17-22 October 2026** visit, met Jaishankar in Mumbai (20 October) and said a trade deal is 'very close'.
- He called India a **'refining superpower'**.

22 **Polish PM Donald Tusk visits India: first Polish PM visit since 2010** — 21 Oct 2026

- Polish PM Donald Tusk visited India (from 21 Oct 2026), the **first Polish PM visit since 2010**.
- India and Poland have had a Strategic Partnership since Aug 2024 and a Joint Action Plan 2024-28; business forums were held in Delhi (22 Oct) and Bengaluru (23 Oct).

23 **Badr MoU: Türkiye, Qatar, Pakistan and Indonesia pool defence industries** — 21 Oct 2026

- Türkiye, Qatar, Pakistan and Indonesia signed the **Badr MoU** (21 Oct 2026), a defence-industry pact for joint production and technology transfer.
- It is not a mutual-defence treaty.

> **CONCEPT** **Collective defence** is a binding pledge that an attack on one member is an attack on all (e.g. **NATO Article 5**). A defence-industry MoU only covers joint production and technology sharing.

24 **Modi-Tusk talks: India and Poland aim to double trade by 2030** — 22 Oct 2026

- After Modi-Tusk talks (22 Oct 2026), India and Poland set a goal to **double trade by 2030** and launched a Defence Industry Dialogue.
- Poland will join CDRI and backs India's UNSC bid; a mining MoU is under negotiation.

> **CONCEPT** **CDRI** (Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure) was launched by India in **2019** at the UN Climate Action Summit, with its secretariat in **New Delhi**.

25 **India pushes SAARC revival at UN and rebuts Pakistan** — 26 Oct 2026

- At the UN (26 Oct 2026), India rebutted Pakistan and pushed for SAARC revival.
- SAARC has 8 members, HQ in Kathmandu and was founded in 1985; its 19th Summit (Islamabad, 2016) was called off after the Uri attack.

> **CONCEPT** **SAARC** was founded at **Dhaka in December 1985**; **Afghanistan** joined as eighth member in **2007**. **BIMSTEC** (1997) links Bay of Bengal states and is India's alternative regional platform.

26 **China says it 'strictly abides' by border pacts while ITBP chief says LAC face-offs continue** — 27 Oct 2026

- On LAC friction in Arunachal (27 Oct 2026), China said it **'strictly abides'** by border agreements.
- ITBP DG Shatrujeet Kapur said face-offs continue at several points.

> **CONCEPT** The **McMahon Line** (**1914 Simla Convention**) is the boundary in the eastern sector (Arunachal); China rejects it. The **LAC** is an un-demarcated line of actual control, not an agreed border.

27 **India and Mexico launch Preferential Trade Agreement talks** — 28 Oct 2026

- India and Mexico signed Terms of Reference (28 Oct 2026) to launch **PTA talks**.
- Trade in FY26 was USD 7.83 bn (exports USD 5.73 bn), with autos the largest export at about USD 1.92 bn.

> **CONCEPT** A **PTA** cuts tariffs on a limited list of goods; an **FTA** removes duties on substantially all trade; a **CEPA** adds services, investment and IPR. Mexico is a member of **USMCA**.

28 **Rajnath Singh and Hegseth review 10-year defence framework on its first anniversary at Cebu** — 28 Oct 2026

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and US counterpart Hegseth met at Cebu (28 Oct 2026) and reviewed the **10-year defence framework** signed in Oct 2025, on its first anniversary.
- The foundational pacts are LEMOA (2016), COMCASA (2018) and BECA (2020).

> **CONCEPT** **LEMOA** = Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement; **COMCASA** = Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement; **BECA** = Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (geospatial data).

29 **US midterm elections on 3 November 2026: all 435 House seats and 35 Senate seats** — 3 Nov 2026

- US midterm elections are on **3 November 2026** for all 435 House seats and 35 of 100 Senate seats.
- The Senate stands 53-47 Republican; a House majority needs 218.

> **CONCEPT** In the **US Congress**, the **House** (435 members) has **2-year** terms; the **Senate** (100) has **6-year** terms, with one-third elected every two years. Midterms fall midway through the President's 4-year term.

30 **Mecca Alliance activated in Oct 2026: Pakistan and Türkiye to deploy forces in Saudi Arabia** — Oct 2026

- The Mecca Alliance of Pakistan, Türkiye and Saudi Arabia, signed on 7 Aug 2026 with a **collective-defence clause**, was activated in Oct 2026.
- Lt Gen (retd) Nauman Mahmood is its first Secretary-General.

> **CONCEPT** **Collective defence** (alliance against outsiders, like **NATO Article 5**) differs from **collective security** (UN-style system covering all members of a body).

31 **Mecca pact states hold first de-escalation talks in Tehran** — 27 Oct 2026

- On 27 Oct 2026 the Mecca pact states held their first de-escalation talks in **Tehran**.
- They were attended by Saudi Defence Minister Khalid bin Salman, Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir and Türkiye's Ibrahim Kalin.

09 Defence & Security

34 **GS-III**

1 **HQ Integrated Defence Staff completes 25 years since 1 October 2001** — 1 Oct 2026

- HQ Integrated Defence Staff completed **25 years** on 1 Oct 2026; it was raised on 1 Oct 2001.
- It was set up on the Group of Ministers' advice after the Kargil Review Committee.

> **CONCEPT** The **Integrated Defence Staff** supports the Chiefs of Staff Committee. It followed the **Kargil Review Committee** (chair **K. Subrahmanyam**). The post of **CDS** was created in **2019**, with the Department of Military Affairs.

2 **PRAHAAR counter-terror strategy: 7 pillars and new Extradition Portal; 288 fugitives extradited** — 28 Sep 2026

- The **PRAHAAR** counter-terror strategy (28 Sep 2026) has 7 pillars and a new Extradition Portal involving MHA, MEA, CBI and state police.
- 288 fugitives were extradited from 36 countries during 2019-2026.

> **CONCEPT** **UAPA, 1967** is India's main anti-terror law (individuals can be designated terrorists since the **2019** amendment); the **NIA Act, 2008** created the NIA; the **Extradition Act, 1962** governs extradition.

3 **2nd ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) concludes with INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish** — Oct 2026

- The 2nd ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) concluded (Oct 2026) with the Indian Navy's INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish.
- Partners were BRP Jose Rizal, BRP Tarlac and RSS Justice; drills covered HADR and boarding.

> **CONCEPT** **HADR** = Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. **ASEAN** was founded in **1967** (Bangkok) and India's **Act East Policy** (2014) upgraded the earlier Look East Policy (1991).

4 **BCAS rolls out digital Aerodrome Entry Permit across 169 airports** — Oct 2026

- BCAS (Oct 2026) introduced a **Digital Aerodrome Entry Permit** as a common platform across 169 airports.
- Security clearance will be valid across 9 entity categories, with a proposed validity of 5 years.

> **CONCEPT** **BCAS** (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security) is the regulator for civil aviation security in India, under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**; it prescribes security standards for airports and airlines.

5 **VARUNA 2026: India-France 24th edition off Toulon, 22-28 Sep 2026** — 22-28 Sep 2026

- The 24th edition of India-France exercise **VARUNA** was held off Toulon on 22-28 Sep 2026, with INS Trishul, French frigates Forbin and La Fayette and SSN Suffren.
- The Indian crew visited carrier Charles de Gaulle; drills were anti-submarine, anti-surface and live firing.

> **CONCEPT** **VARUNA** is the India-France naval exercise (began **1993**, named Varuna in **2001**). The other India-France drills are **Shakti** (Army) and **Garuda** (Air Force).

6 **Army, Navy and IAF propose higher Agniveer retention than the current 25%** — Oct 2026

- Now **25% of Agniveers are retained**; the Army and IAF seek 50% and the Navy up to 75% (Oct 2026).
- The Seva Nidhi is about ₹11.71 lakh.

> **CONCEPT** The **Agnipath scheme** (June **2022**) recruits soldiers below officer rank as **Agniveers** for four years; the **Seva Nidhi** is the contributory package paid on exit.

7 **India-UAE Exercise Mountain Guardian 2026 under way at Chaubatia, 5-18 Oct** — 5 Oct 2026

- Exercise **Mountain Guardian 2026**, between the India and UAE armies, is held at Chaubatia (Uttarakhand) on 5-18 Oct with 92 personnel of equal strength.
- India's Bhairav Battalion trains with the UAE Mountain Infantry Battalion on mountain warfare and drones.

8 **Navy launches FSS-1 'Surya', first indigenous Fleet Support Ship, at Hindustan Shipyard** — 6 Oct 2026

- On 6 Oct 2026 the Navy launched **FSS-1 'Surya'**, its first indigenous Fleet Support Ship, at Hindustan Shipyard, Visakhapatnam; it is about 43,500 tonnes.
- It is part of a 5-ship contract of about ₹19,000 crore and is about 82% indigenous.

> **CONCEPT** A **Fleet Support Ship** replenishes warships at sea with fuel, water, ammunition and stores, extending their endurance and supporting **blue-water** operations.

9 **HAL Koraput delivers its 2,000th aero-engine** — Oct 2026

- HAL's Koraput unit delivered its **2,000th aero-engine** (Oct 2026).

10 **MoD signs ₹661.50 crore contract with BrahMos Aerospace for ship-borne fire-control systems** — Oct 2026

- The Ministry of Defence signed a **₹661.50 crore** contract with BrahMos Aerospace (Oct 2026) for ship-borne fire-control systems and launchers, under the Buy (Indian-IDDM) category.

> **CONCEPT** **IDDM** = **Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured**, the top-priority Buy category in the Defence Acquisition Procedure. **BrahMos** is an India-Russia joint venture (DRDO and NPO Mashinostroyeniya) making supersonic cruise missiles.

11 **12th National Maritime SAR Exercise SAREX-2026 held off Paradip** — 8 Oct 2026

- SAREX-2026, the 12th National Maritime SAR Exercise, was held by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) off Paradip (8 October 2026).
- **15 ICG ships** took part, and there were 32 observers from 30 countries.

> **CONCEPT** The **Indian Coast Guard** came into being on **1 February 1977** and was constituted under the **Coast Guard Act, 1978**. It works under the Ministry of Defence and is the nodal agency for **maritime search and rescue** in India's search-and-rescue region.

12 **Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 ends at Jodhpur with 7 foreign air forces; US F-35 joins** — 12 Oct 2026

- The 2nd edition of **Exercise Tarang Shakti** was held by the IAF at Jodhpur on 26 Sep-12 Oct 2026, with 7 foreign air forces: US, France, Germany, Australia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and UAE.
- A US F-35 took part in an IAF-hosted exercise for the first time.

13 **Navy's Next-Generation OPV 'Shreyas' launched at GRSE, Kolkata** — 10 Oct 2026

- The Navy's NGOPV **'Shreyas'** was launched at GRSE, Kolkata, on 10 Oct 2026.
- 11 NGOPVs were contracted on 30 March 2023 for ₹9,781 crore: 7 at Goa Shipyard and 4 at GRSE.

14 **9 killed in fresh Kuki-Naga clashes in Manipur on 9-10 October** — Oct 2026

- Fresh Kuki-Naga violence in Kamjong, Kangpokpi and Ukhrul on 9-10 Oct 2026 left **9 dead**.
- Over a dozen houses were set ablaze.

15 **Navy commissions INS Mangrol, third Mahe-class anti-submarine shallow water craft** — Oct 2026

- The Navy commissioned **INS Mangrol** (Oct 2026), the third Mahe-class anti-submarine shallow water craft, built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd; it is over 80% indigenous with Abhay sonar.
- It is named after Mangrol harbour, Junagadh.

16 **IBSAMAR IX: India, Brazil and South Africa navies drill at Simon's Town, 8-20 Oct** — Oct 2026

- **IBSAMAR IX** was held at Simon's Town, with South Africa as host and lead nation, from 8 Oct to 20 Oct 2026; India's INS Tarkash and Brazil's BNS Barroso took part.
- The IBSAMAR series began in 2008.

> CONCEPT **IBSA** (India, Brazil, South Africa) was formed in **2003** by the **Brasilia Declaration**; IBSAMAR is its naval exercise.

17 **Army gets 450 Nagastra-1R loitering munitions through emergency procurement** — Oct 2026

- The Indian Army received **450 Nagastra-1R loitering munitions** via emergency procurement (Oct 2026).
- They are over 80% indigenous.

18 **Navy commissions INS Samarthak, first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel, at Karwar** — 16 Oct 2026

- The Navy commissioned **INS Samarthak** at Karwar on 16 Oct 2026; it is the first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel and first of four, built by L&T at Kattupalli.
- It is over 75% indigenous and about 107 m long.

19 **INS Sahyadri joins India–Russia exercise INDRA-2026; naval phase in Sea of Japan** — Oct 2026

- Exercise **INDRA-2026** is held between India and Russia (October 2026).
- INS Sahyadri took part along with the Russian corvette Aldar Tsydenzhapov; the naval phase was in the Sea of Japan.
- The land phase runs till 23 Oct.

> CONCEPT **INDRA** is the India-Russia joint military exercise, held since **2003**; its first tri-service edition was in **2017**.

20 **India–UK naval exercise KONKAN-26 held off Plymouth, 8–15 October** — Oct 2026

- Exercise **KONKAN-26** between India and the UK was held off Plymouth on 8-15 Oct.
- INS Trishul took part with HMS Sutherland; the drills were anti-submarine and anti-surface.

21 **CISF moves to sector-based structure from 1 November 2026** — Oct 2026

- From **1 Nov 2026** CISF is reorganised into sectors: Power, Coal, Steel and Ports (Steel-Bhilai, Coal-Ranchi, Power-Kolkata).
- CISF is the nodal agency for aerial security of critical infrastructure.

> CONCEPT **CISF** was raised in **1969** under the **CISF Act, 1968**; it is a Central Armed Police Force under the **MHA**, guarding PSUs, airports, the Delhi Metro and nuclear sites.

22 **India–Australia army exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 held at Thiruvananthapuram** — Oct 2026

- The **5th edition** of Exercise AUSTRAHIND between the armies of India and Australia was held at Thiruvananthapuram on 19 Oct-1 Nov.
- About 120 troops from each side took part; New Zealand attended as an observer for the first time.

23 **₹2,563-crore GSAT-7C satellite deal signed with NSIL for the IAF** — Oct 2026

- NSIL signed a **₹2,563 crore** contract for the GSAT-7C communication satellite, dedicated to the IAF alone.
- Together with the Navy's Varunastra torpedoes (₹1,543 crore), the deals are worth ₹4,106 crore.

> CONCEPT **NSIL** (NewSpace India Ltd, est. **2019**) is the commercial arm of ISRO under the Department of Space. **GSAT-7** (2013) serves the Navy; **GSAT-7A** (2018) the IAF.

24 **33rd India–Singapore naval exercise SIMBEX-2026 opens at Visakhapatnam** — 21 Oct 2026

- **SIMBEX-2026**, the 33rd edition of the India-Singapore exercise, began at Visakhapatnam on 21 Oct 2026; RSS Supreme took part.
- The harbour phase was 21-23 Oct and the sea phase 24-26 Oct.
- SIMBEX began in 1994 as Exercise Lion King.

25 **MoD signs ₹770 crore LLLR-I radar deal with BEL** — Oct 2026

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has a **₹770 crore** deal with BEL for LLLR-I radars (October 2026).
- The radars detect fighter-sized aircraft and mini/micro drones.

26 **Indigenous 20 mm aviation gun: partners shortlisted for ALH Rudra and LCH Prachand** — Oct 2026

- DRDO's ARDE, Pune is developing an indigenous **20 mm aviation gun**.
- Partners have been shortlisted for it; it is meant for the ALH Rudra and LCH Prachand helicopters.

27 **NCB's Operation Trident hits drug-hawala network in North-East; 18 arrested** — 25 Oct 2026

- Under **Operation Trident** (NCB, North-East), about ₹100 crore of hawala money has been traced and 1,424 bank accounts frozen.
- 18 people were arrested and assets worth ₹17.82 crore attached.
- The drug-network target date is 31 Dec 2029.

> **CONCEPT** The **Narcotics Control Bureau** (est. **1986**, under the MHA) enforces the **NDPS Act, 1985**. **Hawala** is an informal money-transfer system that moves value without banks.

28 **Navy's Swavlamban 2026 (5th edition): Swavlamban 5.0 and NAUSETU standards released** — 26 Oct 2026

- At Swavlamban 2026, the Indian Navy's 5th edition, Swavlamban 5.0, a technology compendium and NAUSETU standards were released.
- iDEX has received **4,000+ proposals**, and the Navy has 42 platforms on order.

> **CONCEPT** **iDEX** (Innovations for Defence Excellence, launched **2018**) links start-ups and MSMEs with the armed forces for defence innovation, supporting **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.

29 **Rajnath Singh releases revised Land Warfare Doctrine 2026 at Army Commanders' Conference** — 23 Oct 2026

- The Indian Army's **Land Warfare Doctrine 2026**, released by Rajnath Singh, replaces the 2018 doctrine.
- It adds drones, AI, precision warfare and multi-domain operations, and was unveiled at the Army Commanders' Conference.

30 **DAC clears ₹2.12 lakh crore of defence purchases, 82% from Indian industry** — 26 Oct 2026

- The Defence Acquisition Council cleared buys worth **₹2.12 lakh crore**, about 82% from Indian industry.
- They include Light Multi-Role helicopters, VSHORADS and counter-drone systems.

> **CONCEPT** The **Defence Acquisition Council** is the highest decision body for defence procurement, headed by the **Defence Minister**; it was set up in **2001**. Its first step is **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)**.

31 **Goa Shipyard launches NGOPV 'Srishti' on 27 October 2026** — 27 Oct 2026

- NGOPV 'Srishti' (Yard 1283) was launched by Goa Shipyard on **27 Oct 2026**.

32 **India–Indonesia special forces exercise Garuda Shakti begins at Banyuwangi** — 27 Oct 2026

- Exercise **Garuda Shakti** between India and Indonesia special forces is held at Banyuwangi on 27 Oct-6 Nov.
- The Indian side is the Parachute Regiment (SF); the focus is counter-terrorism and jungle operations.

33 **BRO's Project ARUNANK marks 19th Raising Day at Naharlagun** — 24 Oct 2026

- Project **ARUNANK** (BRO, Arunachal Pradesh) marked its 19th Raising Day on 24 Oct at Naharlagun.
- It was raised in 2008 and its HQ is at Naharlagun.

> **CONCEPT** The **Border Roads Organisation** (set up **1960**, now under the Ministry of Defence) builds roads, bridges and tunnels in border areas; its task forces are called **Projects**.

34 **Defence Ministry clears 300+ more K9 Vajra-T howitzers worth over ₹20,000 crore** — Oct 2026

- The Defence Ministry cleared **300+ K9 Vajra-T** howitzers worth over ₹20,000 crore.
- The gun is 155 mm/52-cal with a range of about 40 km, built by L&T with Hanwha Aerospace.

> **CONCEPT** In '**155 mm/52-cal**', 155 mm is the bore diameter and **52-calibre** means barrel length is 52 times the bore; a longer barrel generally gives more range.

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10 Science, Space & Technology

26 GS-III

1 Pathfinder: India's first orbital data-centre satellite (Pixxel, Sarvam)

Oct 2026

- **Pathfinder** is India's first orbital data-centre satellite, built by Pixxel with Sarvam.
- It weighs about 200 kg and carries GPUs and a Pixxel hyperspectral camera.
- It runs Sarvam AI models.

> CONCEPT **Hyperspectral imaging** records many narrow, contiguous spectral bands, letting satellites identify crops, minerals and pollution by their spectral signature.

2 US accord on frontier-AI safety signed 29 Sep; order bans term other than 'Super Intelligence'

29 Sep 2026

- The USA's voluntary accord (White House Accord / Joint Commitment on Frontier Responsibilities, **29 Sep 2026**) has four safety steps: internal controls, a safety team, external audits and independent board oversight.
- A related order directs the use of the term 'Super Intelligence' in official communications.

> CONCEPT **Superintelligence** is a hypothetical AI far surpassing human intelligence in almost all fields; **AGI** is AI matching human-level general ability.

3 India shows first 5.56-km free-space quantum key distribution link in Gujarat

Oct 2026

- BISAG-N, Gujarat, set up India's first **5.56-km** free-space quantum key distribution link.
- The key rate was 230-260 bits/s with QBER below 5%.
- It is integrated with the 'Vedic Kavach' post-quantum platform.

> CONCEPT **Quantum key distribution** shares encryption keys using quantum states of photons; any eavesdropping disturbs them and is detected. **QBER** is the quantum bit error rate. The **National Quantum Mission** was approved in **2023**.

4 National Supercomputing Mission crosses 40 systems and 68 petaflops

5 Oct 2026

- The National Supercomputing Mission (DST and MeitY; implemented by C-DAC and IISc) crossed **40 systems and 68 petaflops** (5 Oct 2026).
- It was launched in April 2015 with an outlay of ₹4,500 crore; the target is 50 systems and 123+ petaflops.

> CONCEPT A **petaflop** is 10^15 floating-point operations per second. The **National Supercomputing Mission** is implemented by **C-DAC** and **IISc**; many of its systems are in the **PARAM** series.

5 PM calls for global rules on AI and deepfakes; India has no standalone AI law

Oct 2026

- The PM called for global rules on AI and deepfake origin-tracing.
- Feb 2026 IT Rules amendments require **permanent metadata** in synthetic content; India has no standalone AI law.

> CONCEPT A **deepfake** is AI-generated synthetic media imitating a real person. India regulates online content through the **IT Act, 2000** and the **IT Rules, 2021**; personal data falls under the **DPDP Act, 2023**.

6 DoT's Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI) reportedly helped stop over ₹5,000 crore of suspected fraud

Oct 2026

- The Department of Telecommunications' Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI) reportedly helped stop over **₹5,000 crore** of suspected fraud (October 2026).

7 Indo-French TRISHNA thermal satellite is 3rd joint ISRO–CNES Earth-observation mission

12 Oct 2026

- **TRISHNA** is the 3rd joint Indo-French (ISRO and CNES) Earth-observation mission; CNES builds the thermal infrared payload.
- Resolution is about 57 m, in a sun-synchronous orbit of about 761 km (12 Oct 2026).

> CONCEPT A **sun-synchronous orbit** is a near-polar orbit in which the satellite passes over a place at the same local solar time each day, giving consistent lighting for Earth observation. **CNES** is France's space agency.

8 DRDO's HAPS airship flies to about 21 km, holds 20 km for 30+ minutes

Oct 2026

- DRDO ADRDE, Agra's **HAPS high-altitude airship** flew to about 21 km.
- It held about 20 km for over 30 minutes.

> CONCEPT **HAPS** (High Altitude Platform Systems) operate in the **stratosphere**, above the weather layer, for long-duration surveillance and communication at lower cost than satellites. **ADRDE**, Agra, is a DRDO lab.

9 **DRDO tests Quantum Key Distribution on a live defence network at Chandipur** — Oct 2026

- DRDO tested Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) on a live defence network at **Chandipur** (October 2026).

10 **Calling Name Presentation: caller's registered name to show from 1 November 2026** — Oct 2026

- Telecom's **Calling Name Presentation** shows the caller's registered name from **1 November 2026**, on 4G+ networks.

11 **India's space economy targeted at USD 40–45 billion in 7–8 years** — 17 Oct 2026

- India's space economy is targeted to reach **USD 40-45 billion in 7-8 years** (17 October 2026).
- India has 400+ space start-ups, and IN-SPACe is the single-window authoriser.

> CONCEPT **IN-SPACe** (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre) was set up in **2020** as an autonomous agency under the Department of Space to authorise private space activity. The **Indian Space Policy** came in **2023**.

12 **CERT-In warns AI agents breached Indian firms; logs to be kept 180 days** — 16 Oct 2026

- CERT-In (MeitY) alerted that AI agents breached Indian firms through exposed credentials, public repos and over-permissive cloud roles (16 Oct 2026).
- Logs are to be kept for **180 days**.

> CONCEPT **CERT-In** (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) is the national cyber-incident agency under **MeitY**, designated under **Section 70B of the IT Act, 2000**.

13 **Aditya-L1 and Proba-3 jointly measure mass, density and energy of CMEs** — Oct 2026

- ISRO and ESA's joint observations by Aditya-L1 (VELC) and Proba-3 (ASPIICS) measured the **mass, density and energy** of coronal mass ejections.

> CONCEPT A **coronal mass ejection (CME)** is a huge eruption of plasma and magnetic field from the Sun's corona. **Aditya-L1** sits at the **L1 Lagrange point**, about 1.5 million km from Earth, and was launched in **2023**.

14 **Gaganyaan Crew Module–Service Module separation tests completed; G1 targeted in 2026** — 17 Oct 2026

- ISRO and VSSC Thiruvananthapuram completed the **Crew Module-Service Module separation tests** (17 Oct 2026).
- The first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission (G1) is targeted within 2026.

> CONCEPT In **Gaganyaan**, the **Crew Module** carries astronauts and the **Service Module** provides propulsion and power. The mission plans a crew of **3** in a **400 km** low-Earth orbit for up to 3 days.

15 **NASA's Perseverance becomes the farthest-travelling vehicle on another world** — 21 Oct 2026

- On 21 October 2026, NASA's Perseverance rover (Mars 2020 mission) became the farthest-travelling vehicle on another world, beating Opportunity's record.
- It explores **Jezero crater**.

> CONCEPT **Jezero crater** on Mars is a dried-up ancient lake bed with a river delta, chosen to search for signs of past life. **Perseverance** (Mars 2020) landed there in **February 2021**.

16 **Kufri Jamunia, biofortified purple potato from CPRI Shimla, recommended for 12 states** — 21 Oct 2026

- **Kufri Jamunia** is a biofortified purple potato from CPRI Shimla, released in 2024 after Kufri Neelkanth (2018) and Manik (2021).
- Yield is 32-35 t/ha and it is recommended for 12 states.

> CONCEPT **Biofortification** breeds crops to raise nutrient content (e.g. iron, zinc, vitamins). The purple colour comes from **anthocyanin** pigments. **CPRI** is an ICAR institute headquartered at **Shimla**.

17 **ISRO's 1,100 kN methane-fuelled LME-1100 engine in news** — 21 Oct 2026

- ISRO's **LME-1100** is a 1,100 kN methane-fuelled engine.

> CONCEPT **Methalox engines** burn liquid methane with liquid oxygen. Methane is cleaner-burning than kerosene and is considered well suited to reusable rockets. Do not confuse with **cryogenic** engines, which burn liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen.

18 **eMudhra key leak: 8 intermediate CA certificates blocked by major browsers** — 22 Oct 2026

- Private keys of **8 eMudhra certificates** (6 TLS, 2 code-signing) were compromised (22 Oct 2026).
- Chrome, Mozilla, Apple and Microsoft blocked them; eMudhra says root CA keys are not affected.

> **CONCEPT** The **Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA)** licenses Certifying Authorities under the **IT Act, 2000**. Web trust works as a chain: **Root CA, Intermediate CA, end-entity (website) certificate**; leaking an intermediate key lets attackers forge certificates, so browsers block it.

19 **Data of about 3,900 SBI customers surfaces on dark web** — Oct 2026

- Data of about **3,900 SBI customers** surfaced on the dark web.
- SBI was alerted by a threat-intel provider, the Defence Cyber Agency and CERT-In.
- The DPDP Act, 2023 notification duty is effective 2027.

> **CONCEPT** The **DPDP Act, 2023** (Digital Personal Data Protection Act) calls organisations 'data fiduciaries' and individuals 'data principals', and creates a **Data Protection Board of India**. **CERT-In** is the national agency for cyber-incident response under the IT Act, 2000.

20 **BHASHINI Sourashtra text-to-speech models released on AIKosh** — 16 Oct 2026

- MeitY and IISc released **BHASHINI Sourashtra TTS** (Text-to-Speech) models on AIKosh (16 Oct 2026).

> **CONCEPT** **BHASHINI** is the National Language Translation Mission under MeitY, giving AI-based translation and speech tools in Indian languages. **AIKosh** is the IndiaAI Mission's platform for sharing datasets and AI models.

21 **RRI finds evidence of accretion stream around pulsar Centaurus X-3** — 23 Oct 2026

- The Raman Research Institute (RRI) found evidence of an **accretion stream** around Centaurus X-3, about 24,000 light years away.
- Centaurus X-3 was the first X-ray pulsar, discovered in 1971 (Uhuru).

> **CONCEPT** A **pulsar** is a fast-spinning, highly magnetised **neutron star** that emits beams of radiation. In an **X-ray binary**, it pulls gas from a companion star; this gas spirals in as an accretion stream or disc, heats up and emits X-rays. RRI, Bengaluru, was founded by **C.V. Raman**.

22 **IITM's AATAL lab under Mission Mausam traces Delhi-NCR pollution** — Oct 2026

- IITM's **AATAL** atmospheric chemistry lab (Mission Mausam) is billed as the world's first atmospheric chemistry and aerosol toxicity lab; it traces Delhi-NCR pollution.
- AIRWISE gives 72-hour forecasts at 400 m.

> **CONCEPT** **Mission Mausam** is a Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) mission, approved in 2024, to improve weather observation and forecasting; **IITM** is a Pune-based MoES institute. **Aerosols** are tiny solid or liquid particles suspended in air; **PM2.5** means particles up to 2.5 micrometres.

23 **India's first two genome-edited rice varieties came in 2025; Bt cotton the only GM crop** — 28 Oct 2026

- ICAR released India's first two **genome-edited rice varieties** in 2025 (28 Oct 2026 news).
- Bt cotton (2002) is the only approved GM crop.

> **CONCEPT** A **GM crop** carries a foreign gene (transgenic, e.g. Bt cotton); **genome editing** (CRISPR-Cas9) makes precise changes to the plant's own genes. In 2022 the MoEFCC exempted **SDN-1/SDN-2** genome-edited plants from GM rules. **GEAC** regulates GM crops under the 1989 Rules.

24 **NVS-03 on GSLV-F18: third of five second-generation NavIC satellites** — 30 Oct 2026

- **NVS-03** is the third of five second-generation NavIC satellites, launched by ISRO on the 20th GSLV flight (GSLV-F18).
- It has an indigenous rubidium atomic clock and adds the L1 signal to L5 and S bands.

> **CONCEPT** **NavIC** (Navigation with Indian Constellation, earlier IRNSS) is India's **regional** navigation system covering India and about **1,500 km** beyond. Global systems: **GPS** (USA), **GLONASS** (Russia), **Galileo** (EU), **BeiDou** (China).

25 **India leads global green hydrogen offtake with over 5.5 lakh MTPA** — 30 Oct 2026

- India leads in green hydrogen offtake with over **5.5 lakh MTPA**, about 11% of the 5 MMT/year 2030 target.
- Mission outlay is ₹19,744 crore; over 70% is earmarked for export.

> **CONCEPT** **Green hydrogen** is made by **electrolysis** of water using renewable electricity. **Grey** hydrogen comes from natural gas without carbon capture; **blue** hydrogen uses natural gas with carbon capture (**CCS**). 'Offtake' means a buyer's long-term purchase commitment.

26 **'Punah Bharan' app launched to map groundwater recharge zones** — 28 Oct 2026

- BISAG-N with the National Water Mission launched the **'Punah Bharan'** app, which maps groundwater recharge zones.
- It supports Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain.

> **CONCEPT** The **National Water Mission (2011)** is one of **8 missions** under the **NAPCC (2008)**; it aims to raise **water-use efficiency by 20%**. **Groundwater recharge** means water percolating down to aquifers, helped by check dams and recharge pits.

11 Environment, Wildlife & Places in News

26 **GS-I · GS-III**

1 **Five new sites added to India's UNESCO Tentative List; total now 78** — 29 Sep 2026

- India's UNESCO Tentative List total is now **78** (45 World Heritage Sites), after additions on 29 Sep 2026.
- Four are in MP: Bagh Cave Paintings, Udayagiri Caves, Chambal Valley Temples and Ginnorgarh Fort; the fifth is Rangpur-Sivasagar Ensemble (Assam).
- Sites of Satyagraha was added as a serial transnational proposal with South Africa.

> **CONCEPT** The **Tentative List** is a country's inventory of sites it intends to nominate for the **World Heritage List**; a site must be on it before nomination. The **World Heritage Convention** is of **1972**; sites are judged on **Outstanding Universal Value** using **10 criteria** (6 cultural, 4 natural).

2 **FAO COFO-28: India's forest and tree cover at 82.74 million hectares (25.17%)** — Oct 2026

- India's forest and tree cover is **82.74 million hectares** (25.17% of land), as spotlighted at FAO COFO-28.
- India is 9th in forest area and 3rd in net annual gain; MP has the largest forest cover.

> **CONCEPT** **Forest cover** (FSI definition) is land over 1 hectare with tree canopy density above **10%**; **tree cover** is tree patches outside recorded forest area, smaller than 1 hectare. The **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**, Dehradun, publishes the India State of Forest Report every two years.

3 **National Wildlife Week 2–8 October: Nagaland has most community reserves** — Oct 2026

- National Wildlife Week 2026 was held on **2-8 October**.
- Nagaland has the most community reserves in India: 148 notified, over half the national total.
- India's counts of 107 National Parks / 573 sanctuaries were not re-verified.

> **CONCEPT** **Community reserves** and **Conservation reserves** were added to the Wild Life (Protection) Act by the **2002 amendment**. Community reserves are on community or private land; conservation reserves are on government-owned land, both with local participation.

4 **Buxa Tiger Reserve begins tiger reintroduction with a tigress from Valmiki** — 2 Oct 2026

- Tiger reintroduction began at **Buxa Tiger Reserve** (India-Bhutan border) on 2 Oct 2026 with a tigress from Valmiki; Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav was present.
- Tigress T-138 later strayed into Assam.

> **CONCEPT** **Reintroduction** means releasing a species into part of its former range where it had become locally extinct. **Tiger reserves** are notified under **Section 38V** of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, on the advice of the NTCA; **Project Tiger** began in **1973**.

5 **Great Nicobar project: SC refuses Centre's challenge; Calcutta HC to hear PILs** — 6 Oct 2026

- On 6 Oct 2026 the SC refused to entertain the Centre's challenge on the **₹81,000 crore** Great Nicobar project (Galathea Bay port, airport, township); Calcutta HC will hear the PILs.
- Concerns include Shompen, leatherback nesting, coral reefs and FRA 2006.

> **CONCEPT** The **Shompen** of Great Nicobar are a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**. The **Forest Rights Act, 2006** recognises forest dwellers' rights and gives the Gram Sabha a role in forest diversion (**Niyamgiri case, 2013**).

6 **CAFE-III fuel-efficiency norms for cars notified, in force from 1 April 2027** — Oct 2026

- **CAFE-III** norms for cars are in force from 1 Apr 2027 to 31 Mar 2032.
- The benchmark goes from 3.996 to 3.327 litres/100 km; EVs get 3x super credits.

> **CONCEPT** **CAFE** (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) norms set a fleet-wide average fuel-consumption target for each manufacturer, not for each car model. They are issued under the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001** and administered by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**.

7 **IIT-Madras study: treated water had 5–103% more PFAS than raw water** — 14 Oct 2026

- An IIT-Madras study (14 Oct 2026) found treated water had **5-103% higher PFAS** than raw water.
- IS 10500:2012 is under revision.

> **CONCEPT** **PFAS** (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are 'forever chemicals' because of very strong **C-F bonds**; they persist and bio-accumulate. **PFOS** (2009) and **PFOA** (2019) are listed under the **Stockholm Convention** on POPs. **IS 10500** is BIS's drinking-water standard.

8 **Barda in Gujarat becomes second home of Asiatic lions after about 144 years** — Oct 2026

- **Barda** (Porbandar and Devbhumi Dwarka, Saurashtra) is the second home of Asiatic lions after about 144 years; it has 17 lions over 192.31 sq km.
- 441 chital were translocated from Gir in 2025-26.

> **CONCEPT** The **Asiatic lion** (*Panthera leo persica*) lives in the wild only in Gujarat's Gir landscape and is in **Schedule I** of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. A second home reduces the risk of one epidemic (e.g. **canine distemper, 2018**) wiping out the single population. **Project Lion** was announced in **2020**.

9 **India's Ramsar tally rises to 103 with Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel** — Oct 2026

- Sukhna Wetland (Chandigarh) and Sauj Jheel (Uttar Pradesh) were added as Ramsar sites (October 2026).
- India's Ramsar tally rises to **103**.

> **CONCEPT** **Ramsar Convention** was signed on **2 Feb 1971** at Ramsar, **Iran**; India joined in **1982**. The **Montreux Record** lists Ramsar sites where ecological character has changed or is under threat.

10 **India's carbon market CCTS vs OCCCM, launched May 2026 in Florence** — 19 Oct 2026

- OCCCM was launched in May 2026 in Florence by the EU, China and Brazil (19 Oct 2026 news).
- India's CCTS covers aluminium, cement, steel and refineries.

> **CONCEPT** The **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)** was framed under the **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022**; the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** administers it. One carbon credit equals **1 tonne of CO2-equivalent** reduced or removed.

11 **India's reservoirs at 68.58% of live capacity, 24.53% lower than last year** — 15 Oct 2026

- Reservoir storage is **68.58%** of live capacity, 24.53% lower than last year (15 Oct 2026).
- Deficit vs normal: Pennar 72.32%, Cauvery 60.50%; Idukki is at 10.62%.

12 **Baratang, Andaman volcanoes and Sirpur added to UNESCO Tentative List** — 20 Oct 2026

- On 20 Oct 2026 the additions to the UNESCO Tentative List were the Baratang karst-mud-volcano complex, Andaman Subduction Volcanoes (Barren and Narcondam) and Sirpur (Chhattisgarh).

> **CONCEPT** **Barren Island** in the Andaman Sea is India's only confirmed **active volcano**; **Narcondam** is dormant and home to the endemic Narcondam hornbill. The Andaman volcanic arc lies where the Indian Plate subducts beneath the Burma Plate.

13 **Baltic Sea is the world's largest brackish water body** — Oct 2026

- The **Baltic Sea** is the world's largest brackish water body, with 9 bordering countries.

> **CONCEPT** **Brackish water** has salinity between fresh water and sea water. The Baltic Sea is brackish because many rivers pour in while its exchange with the North Sea through the narrow Danish straits is limited.

14 **India to mandate 1% Sustainable Aviation Fuel on international flights from 2027** — 22 Oct 2026

- India will mandate **1% SAF** on international flights from 2027 (22 Oct 2026).
- Indicative roadmap: 1% (2027), 2% (2028), 5% (2030); CORSIA mandatory compliance begins 1 January 2027.

> **CONCEPT** **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** is jet fuel made from non-fossil feedstock such as used cooking oil. **CORSIA** is the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation, adopted by **ICAO** in **2016**, aiming at carbon-neutral growth of international aviation.

15 **Agrivoltaics: about 47.5 million ha of Indian cropland suitable** — 22 Oct 2026

- A July study found about **47.5 million ha** (~30% of cropland) suitable for agrivoltaics.
- Elevated agri-PV can cost 25-30% more than ground-mounted solar.

> **CONCEPT** **Agrivoltaics** means co-locating solar PV and crops on the same land (dual land use). **PM-KUSUM (2019)** has three components: **A** decentralised solar plants, **B** standalone solar pumps, **C** solarisation of grid-connected pumps.

16 **NHPC seeks approval to fell 23 lakh+ trees for 1,720 MW Kamala HEP** — 22 Oct 2026

- NHPC seeks approval to fell **23 lakh+ trees** for the 1,720 MW Kamala HEP in Arunachal Pradesh (Kamala river, Subansiri basin).

> **CONCEPT** The **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980** requires prior Central Government approval to divert forest land for non-forest use, with **compensatory afforestation**. It was amended in 2023 and renamed the **Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam**.

17 **GRAP Stage-I enforced in Delhi-NCR as AQI enters 'Poor' band** — 21 Oct 2026

- CAQM enforced **GRAP Stage-I** in Delhi-NCR on 21 Oct 2026 as AQI entered the 'Poor' (201-300) band.

> **CONCEPT** **GRAP** (Graded Response Action Plan) is a staged emergency plan for Delhi-NCR, enforced by the **CAQM**, constituted under the **CAQM Act, 2021**. AQI bands (CPCB): Good 0-50, Satisfactory 51-100, Moderate 101-200, **Poor 201-300**, Very Poor 301-400, Severe 401-500.

18 **UN loss and damage fund earmarks $20 million for Nepal, its first country allocation** — 22 Oct 2026

- The board earmarked **$20 million** for Nepal, the first ever allocation to a country, against needs of about $4.7 billion (22 Oct 2026).
- Funding proposal and final approval are still pending.

> **CONCEPT** **Loss and damage** means climate impacts that go beyond what adaptation can handle. The fund was agreed at **COP27** (Sharm el-Sheikh, 2022) and operationalised at **COP28** (Dubai, 2023); the **World Bank** hosts it as an interim arrangement.

19 **India's non-fossil capacity reaches 308.03 GW, over 55% of total** — 23 Oct 2026

- India's non-fossil capacity is **308.03 GW**, over 55% of total.
- The 50%-by-2030 NDC goal is already met.

> **CONCEPT** At **COP26 (Glasgow, 2021)** India announced the **Panchamrit**: **500 GW** non-fossil capacity by 2030 and **net zero by 2070**. India's updated NDC (2022) targets **50%** of cumulative electric capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030.

20 **India has 103 Ramsar sites over 13.87 lakh ha; Tamil Nadu has most** — 16 Oct 2026

- India's Ramsar network has **103 sites** covering 13.87 lakh ha across 28 States/UTs (16 Oct 2026).
- Tamil Nadu has the most (20), then UP (14); the largest is Sundarban Wetland (about 4.23 lakh ha).
- Surha Tal was the 100th site (June 2026).

> **CONCEPT** Ramsar listing is a commitment to the **'wise use'** of wetlands, not a legal protection by itself. In India, wetlands are governed by the **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017**. **World Wetlands Day** is on **2 February**.

21 **Siang Upper project protests: bandh, about 40 personnel hurt, RAF deployed at Pasighat** — 26 Oct 2026

- The Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (Arunachal Pradesh, NHPC) is at pre-feasibility stage with about 9.2 bcm live storage.
- Adi protests led to a 23 Oct bandh; about 40 personnel were hurt in Pasighat and RAF was deployed.

> **CONCEPT** One river, many names: **Yarlung Tsangpo** (Tibet), **Siang** (Arunachal Pradesh), **Brahmaputra** (Assam), **Jamuna** (Bangladesh). A **multipurpose project** serves several aims at once, such as hydropower, flood moderation and water storage.

22 **WMO: 'super' El Niño anomaly rose from +1.6°C in June to +2.5°C in August** — 9 Oct 2026

- On 9 October 2026 the WMO spoke on a 'super' El Niño: the Niño 3.4 anomaly rose from **+1.6°C** (June) to **+2.5°C** (August).
- The previous record is +2.6°C (2015-16).

> **CONCEPT** **El Nino** is the warm phase of **ENSO**; it weakens the Walker circulation and usually weakens the Indian monsoon. It is declared when the **Nino 3.4** index (5N-5S, 170W-120W) stays above **+0.5 C**; the opposite phase is **La Nina**.

23 **Great Indian Bustard rewilding: releases paused after fox kills one bird** — Oct 2026

- The WII breeding centre at Sam, Jaisalmer selected 11 captive-bred birds and released 4; one was killed by a fox on **18 Oct**.
- Releases of the remaining 7 are paused; the species is Critically Endangered.

> **CONCEPT** The **Great Indian Bustard** (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) is **Critically Endangered**, in **Schedule I** of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and the **state bird of Rajasthan**. Overhead **power lines** are a major threat; captive breeding is done at Sam, Jaisalmer.

24 **Very Severe Cyclonic Storm 'Arnab' crosses Andhra coast; 1.8 lakh+ evacuated** — Oct 2026

- Cyclone **'Arnab'** (Very Severe Cyclonic Storm) made landfall around 28-29 Oct on the Andhra Pradesh coast, with winds of 125-135 km/h.
- The name was contributed by Bangladesh (meaning 'ocean'); 1.8 lakh+ people were evacuated and at least 3 died.

> **CONCEPT** **IMD scale:** Cyclonic Storm 62-88 km/h, Severe 89-117, **Very Severe 118-165**, Extremely Severe 166-220. North Indian Ocean cyclones are named from a list of the **WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones**, which has **13 members**.

25 **Two new plant species found in Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh** — Oct 2026

- **Ophiorrhiza shidiensis** and O. pemae (family Rubiaceae) are new plant species from Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh.

26 **Kolamarka in Gadchiroli to be a wildlife sanctuary** — Oct 2026

- **Kolamarka** in Gadchiroli is to become a wildlife sanctuary.
- It is home of the Asiatic wild water buffalo.

> **CONCEPT** A **Wildlife Sanctuary** is declared by the State Government under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** and allows regulated human activity, while a **National Park** (Sec 35) gets stricter protection. The **wild water buffalo** (*Bubalus arnee*) is in Schedule I.

12 Sports

16 **Prelims**

1 **Asian Games 2026 held at Aichi-Nagoya; India's first gold came in women's cricket** — Sep 2026

- The Asian Games 2026 were hosted at **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan** on 19 Sept-4 Oct.
- India's first gold came in women's cricket.
- Next hosts are Doha 2030 and Riyadh 2034.

> **CONCEPT** The Asian Games are run by the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)**, headquartered at **Kuwait City**, every four years. The **first** Asian Games were held at **New Delhi in 1951**; India hosted again in **1982**.

2 **India's women's compound archery team beats China 238–234 for Asian Games gold** — Oct 2026

- India won gold in the women's compound archery team event at the 2026 Asian Games, beating China **238-234**.
- The event was held at Aichi-Nagoya.

3 **India's women's recurve team wins maiden Asian Games gold, beats South Korea 5–3** Oct 2026

- India won its **maiden** women's recurve team gold at the 2026 Asian Games, beating South Korea 5-3.
- India beat China 5-1 in the semi-final; a set-four score correction (8 to 9) sealed 54 points.

> **CONCEPT** **Recurve** is the only bow style in the Olympics (compound is not). Recurve matches use the **set system**: a set win earns **2 points**, a tie **1**; team matches run to 4 sets, first to **5** set points wins.

4 **India wins cricket, hockey and kabaddi team golds at Asian Games 2026** Oct 2026

- India won men's and women's cricket, hockey and kabaddi golds.
- Women's hockey beat China 1-0 in the final.

5 **Kumkum Mohod and Pranavi Sharath Urs win historic individual golds at Asian Games 2026** Oct 2026

- **Kumkum Mohod** won India's first individual women's recurve gold.
- **Pranavi Sharath Urs** is the first Indian woman to win individual golf gold.

6 **Rinku Hooda wins F46 javelin gold at Asian Para Games; Ajeet Singh Yadav silver** Oct 2026

- In the men's javelin F46, Rinku Hooda won gold with **65.11 m**.
- Ajeet Singh Yadav (Etawah) took silver with 65.02 m, making it an India 1-2 finish.

> **CONCEPT** **Para-athletics classes: T** = track, **F** = field; the number shows the impairment type. 11-13 visual, 20 intellectual, 31-38 coordination, 40s short stature/limb impairment (**F46** = upper limb, standing), 50s wheelchair, 60s lower-limb prosthesis.

7 **Sheetal Devi–Toman Kumar win compound archery gold at Asian Para Games** Oct 2026

- Sheetal Devi and Toman Kumar won compound gold at Aichi-Nagoya.
- Sheetal Devi won two compound archery golds in all.

8 **Sachin Khilari wins F46 shot put gold in India podium sweep at Asian Para Games** Oct 2026

- **Sachin Khilari** won gold in the men's shot put F46.
- He led an Indian podium sweep.

9 **Mona Agarwal sets 357.5 world record; Sumit Antil wins javelin gold at Asian Para Games** Oct 2026

- **Mona Agarwal** set a world record of 357.5 in the women's 50m rifle 3P SH1.
- Sumit Antil won javelin with 72.46 m, India sweeping the podium.

10 **Sandeep sets Para Games world record in 400m T64; athletics gives India 65 medals** Oct 2026

- **Sandeep** set a world record in the men's 400m T64, running 52.28 s.
- Athletics gave India 65 medals, with 9 golds on the final day.

> **CONCEPT** The **RPwD Act, 2016** recognises **21 disabilities** and gives **4%** reservation in government jobs to persons with benchmark disabilities. **Article 41** (DPSP) directs the State to provide public assistance in cases of disablement.

11 **Bodhana Sivanandan, 11, becomes youngest female International Master, breaking Polgar's record** Oct 2026

- **Bodhana Sivanandan** (age 11) became the youngest female International Master in chess.
- She broke Judit Polgar's 1988 record.

> **CONCEPT** **FIDE** (the world chess body, founded **1924**, HQ Lausanne) awards titles such as **Grandmaster (GM)**, the highest, then **International Master (IM)** and FIDE Master. Titles need norms plus a minimum rating; women have parallel WGM/WIM titles.

12 **Ahmedabad to host 2029 Senior World Weightlifting Championships, a first for India** Oct 2026

- **Ahmedabad** will host the 2029 Senior World Weightlifting Championships.
- It is India's first.

13 **India finish 4th at Asian Games 2026 with 85 medals (21 gold)** 4 Oct 2026

- At the 20th Asian Games, Aichi-Nagoya, India finished **4th with 85 medals**: 21 gold, 27 silver, 37 bronze.
- India edged Uzbekistan on silver count (27 vs 25); China topped with 169 gold.
- India's record is 107 at Hangzhou.

14 **BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Sports Demonstration Games open in Ahmedabad** — 12 Oct 2026

- The **BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Sports Demonstration Games** opened in Ahmedabad on 12 Oct 2026 under India's BRICS chairship.
- The games are non-competitive.

> **CONCEPT** **BRICS** began as BRIC in **2006**; South Africa joined in **2010**. Its **New Development Bank**, HQ **Shanghai**, funds infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging economies.

15 **Asian Para Games 2026 begin in Aichi-Nagoya with 168 Indian para-athletes** — 18 Oct 2026

- The Asian Para Games 2026 are in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan on 18-24 October.
- **168 Indian para-athletes** compete in 11 disciplines, with targets in athletics, badminton and swimming.

> **CONCEPT** The **Asian Para Games** are run by the **Asian Paralympic Committee**; the first edition was held at **Guangzhou in 2010**. They are held every four years after the Asian Games, unlike the Paralympics, which follow the Olympics.

16 **India win record 114 medals, 4th place, at Asian Para Games 2026** — 24 Oct 2026

- India's record **114 medals** (30 gold, 35 silver, 49 bronze) placed it 4th at the Asian Para Games 2026.
- China topped with 435 medals (207 gold); the next edition is Doha 2030.

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13 Important Days & Themes

29 **Prelims**

1 **Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 observed with theme 'Probity for Prosperity'** — Oct 2026

- Vigilance Awareness Week is observed around 31 Oct, around Sardar Patel's birth anniversary.
- The 2026 theme is **'Probity for Prosperity'** (Satyanishtha se Samriddhi).
- CVC was set up in 1964 on Santhanam Committee advice.

> **CONCEPT** The **CVC Act, 2003** made the Central Vigilance Commission statutory. It has a Central Vigilance Commissioner and up to **2 Vigilance Commissioners**, chosen by a committee of the **PM, Home Minister and Leader of Opposition**; it supervises CBI's corruption cases.

2 **International Day of Older Persons observed on 1 October** — 1 Oct 2026

- The day (1 Oct) follows UNGA resolution **45/106** (1990) and was first observed in 1991.
- The 2026 theme is 'The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives'.

> **CONCEPT** The **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007** makes children and heirs legally bound to maintain senior citizens (60+ years). **Article 41** (DPSP) covers public assistance in old age.

3 **National Voluntary Blood Donation Day observed on 1 October** — 1 Oct 2026

- National Voluntary Blood Donation Day (1 Oct) has been observed in India since **1975**.

4 **Gandhi Jayanti: 157th anniversary; UN's International Day of Non-Violence** — 2 Oct 2026

- 2 Oct 2026 marked the **157th** anniversary of Gandhi (born 1869, Porbandar).
- The UN declared the Day of Non-Violence in 2007 by UNGA resolution.

> **CONCEPT** **Gandhian principles in the DPSP: Art. 40** village panchayats, **Art. 43** cottage industries, **Art. 46** educational and economic interests of weaker sections, **Art. 47** prohibition, **Art. 48** organising agriculture and animal husbandry (cattle protection).

5 **Shastri Jayanti: Lal Bahadur Shastri born 1904 at Mughalsarai** — 2 Oct 2026

- Lal Bahadur Shastri was born in **1904** at Mughalsarai.
- He gave the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'; Shastri Jayanti is on 2 Oct.

> **CONCEPT** **Lal Bahadur Shastri** was India's second PM (1964-66). The **Tashkent Declaration** (Jan 1966, USSR-mediated, signed with Pakistan's Ayub Khan) ended the 1965 war; he died at Tashkent soon after. Trap: Gandhi and Shastri share 2 October.

6 **Swachh Bharat Mission turns 12; Special Campaign 6.0 runs 2–31 October** — 2 Oct 2026

- Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on **2 Oct 2014** and turns 12 on 2 Oct 2026 (Swachh Bharat Diwas).
- DARPG Special Campaign 6.0 runs 2-31 October.

> **CONCEPT** **Swachh Bharat Mission** has two parts: **Gramin** (Ministry of Jal Shakti) and **Urban** (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs). India declared itself rural **Open-Defecation-Free (ODF)** on **2 Oct 2019**, Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.

7 **Wildlife Week 2–8 October has theme 'Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife'** — 2 Oct 2026

- Wildlife Week in India is observed every year on 2-8 October, week-long since 1957.
- The 2026 theme is **'Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife'**.

8 **World Teachers' Day on 5 October marks 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation** — 5 Oct 2026

- World Teachers' Day (5 Oct) marks the **1966** ILO/UNESCO Recommendation.
- It has been observed since 1994.

9 **World Habitat Day falls on first Monday of October** — 5 Oct 2026

- World Habitat Day is observed on the **first Monday of October** (5 Oct 2026) by UN-Habitat.

10 **National Dolphin Day observed on 5 October; first observed in 2022** — 5 Oct 2026

- National Dolphin Day (5 Oct) was first observed in **2022**.

> **CONCEPT** The **Gangetic river dolphin** is India's **National Aquatic Animal** (declared **2009**); **Project Dolphin** was launched in **2020**. **Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary** (Bhagalpur, Bihar) was notified in **1991** to protect it.

11 **Indian Air Force turns 94 on Air Force Day, 8 October** — 8 Oct 2026

- The IAF was established on **8 Oct 1932**; 8 Oct 2026 is the 94th Air Force Day.
- Motto 'Nabha Sparsham Deeptam' is from the Bhagavad Gita; the theme is 'Infallible, Impervious and Precise'.
- Central Air Command HQ is Prayagraj.

> **CONCEPT** The **President** is Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces (**Art. 53(2)**); the IAF is governed by the **Air Force Act, 1950**, and headed by the Chief of the Air Staff.

12 **World Post Day on 9 October opens National Postal Week** — 9 Oct 2026

- World Post Day (9 Oct) marks the **UPU** founding in Bern, 1874; National Postal Week begins.
- India joined UPU on 1 July 1876; the PIN code was introduced on 15 Aug 1972.

13 **International Day of the Girl Child observed on 11 October** — 11 Oct 2026

- The day (11 Oct) was declared by UNGA in **2011** and first observed in 2012.

> **CONCEPT** Trap: **International Day of the Girl Child** is 11 Oct (UN), but India's **National Girl Child Day** is **24 January**, observed since **2008**. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** was launched in **2015** at Panipat, Haryana.

14 **NHRC marks 33rd Foundation Day on 12 October** — 12 Oct 2026

- NHRC was set up on **12 Oct 1993** under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- 12 Oct 2026 was its 33rd Foundation Day.

> **CONCEPT** **NHRC** is a statutory (not constitutional) body under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**. Its chairperson, a former CJI or former Supreme Court judge, is appointed by the President on the advice of a six-member committee headed by the PM; its recommendations are not binding.

15 **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13 October** — 13 Oct 2026

- The day (13 Oct) was set by the UN in **1989**.
- It is linked to the Sendai Framework 2015-30.

> **CONCEPT** The **Disaster Management Act, 2005** created the **NDMA** (chaired by the PM), **SDMAs** (chaired by the CM) and **DDMAs** (chaired by the District Collector/Magistrate). The **Sendai Framework** (2015-30) succeeded the Hyogo Framework.

16 **World Standards Day on 14 October; India's body is BIS** — 14 Oct 2026

- World Standards Day is observed on 14 Oct.
- Standards bodies are ISO, IEC and ITU; India's body is **BIS**.

> **CONCEPT** **BIS** is India's national standards body, statutory under the **BIS Act, 2016** (replacing the 1986 Act), under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Its marks: **ISI** for products and **Hallmark** for gold.

17 **Dhammachakra Pravartan Din marks Ambedkar's 1956 conversion at Deekshabhoomi** — 14 Oct 2026

- On **14 Oct 1956** Dr B.R. Ambedkar embraced Buddhism at Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur; 14 Oct is Dhammachakra Pravartan Din.

> **CONCEPT** Ambedkar's Buddhism is called **Navayana**; he gave **22 vows** at the conversion. His book *The Buddha and His Dhamma* was published posthumously in **1957**; he died on **6 December 1956**.

18 **Mahila Kisan Diwas on 15 October: women farmers honoured at ICAR-RCER, Patna** — 15 Oct 2026

- Mahila Kisan Diwas (15 Oct) saw women farmers honoured at **ICAR-RCER, Patna**.

19 **World Food Day on 16 October marks FAO's 1945 founding** — 16 Oct 2026

- World Food Day (16 Oct) marks the founding of **FAO** in 1945.
- FAO's HQ is in Rome.

20 **Police Commemoration Day on 21 October marks 1959 Hot Springs ambush** — 21 Oct 2026

- Police Commemoration Day (21 Oct) marks the **1959 Hot Springs (Ladakh)** ambush in which 10 CRPF personnel were killed.
- The memorial was dedicated by the PM in 2018; events run 22-30 Oct.

21 **83rd anniversary of Azad Hind Government proclaimed by Netaji in Singapore** — 21 Oct 2026

- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose proclaimed the **Azad Hind Government** in Singapore on 21 Oct 1943.
- 21 Oct 2026 was its 83rd anniversary.

> **CONCEPT** The **Azad Hind Government** (Provisional Government of Free India) was recognised by Japan and other Axis powers. Bose took over the Indian Independence League and the INA from **Rash Behari Bose** in **July 1943**. Trap: the INA was first raised in 1942 under **Mohan Singh**.

22 **Global IDD Prevention Day: iodised salt standard 30 ppm at manufacture** — 21 Oct 2026

- Iodised salt standard: at least **30 ppm** at manufacture and 15 ppm at consumer level (Global IDD Prevention Day, 21 Oct).
- NIDDCP was renamed in 1992.

> **CONCEPT** Iodine is needed to make thyroid hormones; deficiency causes **goitre**, cretinism and impaired mental development, and is a leading preventable cause of intellectual disability. Iodised salt is the standard public-health fix.

23 **UN Day and World Polio Day on 24 October; India polio-free since 27 March 2014** — 24 Oct 2026

- The UN Charter came into force on **24 Oct 1945**, observed as UN Day; 24 Oct is also World Polio Day.
- India was certified polio-free by WHO on 27 March 2014.

> **CONCEPT** **World Polio Day (24 Oct)**, begun by Rotary International, honours **Jonas Salk**, who developed the first polio vaccine. India's **Pulse Polio** programme began in **1995**; the last wild polio case was in **West Bengal (Howrah) in 2011**.

24 **Valmiki Jayanti falls on Ashwin Purnima, 26 October** — 26 Oct 2026

- Valmiki Jayanti (26 Oct 2026) falls on **Ashwin Purnima**.

> **CONCEPT** **Valmiki** is called the **Adi Kavi**; his Sanskrit *Ramayana* has **7 kandas** and about **24,000 shlokas**. Trap: Tulsidas's *Ramcharitmanas* is a later work in Awadhi (16th century).

25 **J&K Accession Day: 79th anniversary of 26 October 1947 Instrument of Accession** — 26 Oct 2026

- On **26 Oct 1947** Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession.
- 26 Oct 2026 was the 79th J&K Accession Day.

> **CONCEPT** Under the **Instrument of Accession**, princely states ceded only three subjects to India: **Defence, External Affairs and Communications**. Mountbatten accepted J&K's accession on **27 Oct 1947**.

26 **Infantry Day (Shaurya Diwas) on 27 October marks 1947 Srinagar air-landing** — 27 Oct 2026

- Infantry Day (Shaurya Diwas, 27 Oct) marks the 1947 air-landing of **1 SIKH** at Srinagar to defend J&K.

> **CONCEPT** The **1947-48 Indo-Pak war** over J&K ended with a UN-mediated ceasefire on **1 Jan 1949**; the ceasefire line became the **Line of Control** after the **Simla Agreement, 1972**.

27 **Homi J. Bhabha birth anniversary on 30 October** — 30 Oct 2026

- Homi J. Bhabha was born on **30 Oct 1909**.
- He is the father of India's nuclear programme.

> **CONCEPT** Bhabha conceived India's **three-stage nuclear programme**: PHWRs on natural uranium, then fast breeder reactors using plutonium, then thorium-based reactors, to use India's large thorium reserves. He founded **TIFR** in **1945**.

28 **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on 31 October marks Sardar Patel's 151st birth anniversary** — 31 Oct 2026

- Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day, 31 Oct 2026) marks the **151st** birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

> **CONCEPT** **Sardar Patel** was India's first Deputy PM and Home Minister and led the integration of princely states. He got the title **'Sardar'** after the **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928)**. The **Statue of Unity** (182 m) at Kevadia was inaugurated in **2018**.

29 **Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada observed 1–15 November** — 1 Nov 2026

- Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada runs 1-15 November (from 1 Nov 2026).
- It culminates on **Birsa Munda Jayanti**.

> **CONCEPT** **Birsa Munda** (b. 1875) led the **Ulgulan** (Great Tumult) of **1899-1900** in the Chota Nagpur region. **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas** on 15 Nov was declared in **2021**; Jharkhand was formed on 15 Nov **2000**.

14 Persons in News & Obituaries

3 **Prelims**

1 **Acharya Ramchandra Shukla, Hindi literary historian, birth anniversary on 4 October** — 4 Oct 2026

- Acharya Ramchandra Shukla, Hindi literary historian, was born in **1884** at Agona, Basti; his birth anniversary is 4 Oct.
- He wrote *Hindi Sahitya Ka Itihas* (1929).

> **CONCEPT** Shukla divided Hindi literary history into four periods: **Adikal (Veergathakal)**, **Bhaktikal**, **Ritikal** and **Adhunik kal**. This periodisation is still the standard exam framework.

2 **PM Narendra Modi completes 25 years in public office on 7 October 2026** — 7 Oct 2026

- Narendra Modi took oath as Gujarat CM on **7 Oct 2001**, completing 25 years in public office on 7 Oct 2026.
- He is the Varanasi MP.

3 **Ashfaqullah Khan, HRA member in Kakori action, remembered; born 22 Oct 1900** — 22 Oct 2026

- Ashfaqullah Khan, an HRA member in the Kakori train action, was born on **22 Oct 1900** at Shahjahanpur.
- The Kakori action was on 9 Aug 1925; he was hanged at Faizabad Jail on 19 Dec 1927.

> **CONCEPT** The **HRA** (Hindustan Republican Association) was formed in **1924** by Sachindranath Sanyal and Ram Prasad Bismil. In **1928**, at Feroz Shah Kotla, Delhi, it was renamed **HSRA** with 'Socialist' added.

PART C

One-liners

Cover the answers and test yourself.

Uttar Pradesh

1. How many UP Rajya Sabha seats were filled in the October 2026 biennial elections? — **10 (all elected unopposed on 9 Oct; no poll held)**
2. How many Rajya Sabha seats does UP have, the highest of any state? — **31**
3. Which voting system is used for Rajya Sabha elections, under Article 80(4)? — **Single transferable vote**
4. How many seats were in the UP MLC graduates' and teachers' polls of October 2026? — **11 (5 graduates, 6 teachers)**
5. How many members does the UP Vidhan Parishad have? — **100**
6. Which party retained the Varanasi Teachers seat in the October 2026 MLC polls? — **Samajwadi Party**
7. What is the size of UP Budget 2026-27? — **₹9,99,056.48 crore**
8. What is the outlay of UP's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Zones scheme? — **₹1,725 crore over 3 years**
9. Which agency is nodal for UP's SAF Manufacturing Promotion Policy-2026? — **UPNEDA**
10. Arrears up to which date are covered by UP Interest Waiver Scheme-2026? — **31 December 2025**
11. To what amount was the stipend of UP AYUSH interns raised? — **₹15,000 per month**
12. On which date is the UP Special TET for in-service teachers? — **3 November 2026**
13. How many posts are in the UPESSC primary assistant teacher drive? — **12,405**
14. What is the value of property action under UP Gangsters Act by October 2026? — **₹15,233 crore**
15. How many voters are in UP's final roll after SIR? — **13.39 crore**
16. What is the qualifying date for SSR-2027? — **1 January 2027**
17. Within how many months did Allahabad HC order UP panchayat polls? — **Three months**
18. Which state tops Mission Karmayogi implementation ranking? — **Uttar Pradesh**
19. Till which date is the 25% Khadi rebate valid in UP? — **30 January 2027**
20. What is the paddy MSP for Common grade in KMS 2026-27? — **₹2,441 per quintal**
21. What was UP's GST collection in September 2026? — **₹8,882 crore**
22. What is the investment in the HCL-Foxconn OSAT unit near Jewar? — **₹3,706 crore**
23. Where is the PM MITRA Park coming up in UP? — **Lucknow-Hardoi**
24. What is the SPV equity split of the PM MITRA park in UP? — **UP 51%, Centre 49%**
25. How long is the Ganga Expressway? — **About 594 km**
26. What is the total cost of the four UP link expressways cleared in October 2026? — **About ₹17,542 crore**
27. How many AC electric buses will run in 18 UP cities? — **1,725**
28. What name is proposed for Noida International Airport, Jewar? — **Narendra Modi International Airport**
29. What was UP's CPI inflation in September 2026? — **6.08%**
30. Under which law does the UP government rename a district? — **UP Revenue Code, 2006**
31. From which district was Bhadohi carved out in 1994? — **Varanasi**
32. How many diyas did Deepotsav 2025 light? — **26,17,215**
33. What food-safety rating did Ayodhya Ram temple get from FSSAI? — **Ati Vishisht**
34. How many Ramsar sites does UP have after Sauj Jheel? — **14**
35. Which UP district has two Ramsar sites, Sauj Jheel and Saman? — **Mainpuri**
36. How many medals did Parul Chaudhary win at Asian Games 2026? — **Two bronze**
37. Which Aligarh athlete won three medals at Asian Games 2026? — **Gulveer Singh**
38. Which IAS officer won SL4 para-badminton bronze at Asian Para Games 2026? — **Suhas L.Y.**

Appointments & Who's Who

39. Who became the 14th Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands in October 2026? — **Dinesh Sharma**
40. What is the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court including the CJI, per October 2026 news? — **38**
41. Who is the first Secretary-General of the Mecca Alliance? — **Lt Gen (retd) Nauman Mahmood**
42. Who becomes the 29th Chief of the Air Staff from 31 October 2026? — **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit**
43. Whom will Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit succeed as Chief of the Air Staff? — **ACM Amar Preet Singh**
44. Who was appointed Governor of Tamil Nadu in October 2026? — **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**

45. Who was named Governor of Keralam in the October 2026 reshuffle? — **Om Prakash Mathur**

46. Who is the new Governor of Karnataka (October 2026)? — **Sudha Yadav**

47. Who is the new Governor of Uttarakhand (October 2026)? — **Dhal Singh Bisen**

48. Who won a fourth term as Brazil's President in October 2026? — **Lula**

49. When will Lula be sworn in for his fourth term? — **5 January 2027**

50. Who became MD & CEO of HDFC Bank from 27 October 2026? — **Anup Bagchi**

51. Who was named full-time captain of India's women's white-ball teams in October 2026? — **Smriti Mandhana**

52. Who was elected Chair of IOCINDIO (UNESCO-IOC, Indian Ocean) in October 2026? — **T. M. Balakrishnan Nair (INCOIS)**

53. Whom did the SC Collegium recommend as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court in October 2026? — **Justice P. Sam Koshy**

Awards & Honours

54. Who shared the Nobel Prize in Medicine 2026 for optogenetics? — **Deisseroth, Hegemann and Nagel**

55. For what was the 2026 Nobel Prize in Medicine awarded? — **Optogenetics**

56. Who found channelrhodopsin, the protein behind the 2026 Medicine Nobel work, per October 2026 news? — **Hegemann and Nagel**

57. Who won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics for IceCube neutrino work? — **Francis Halzen**

58. For what was the 2026 Physics Nobel awarded? — **High-energy cosmic neutrinos (IceCube)**

59. Who won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry? — **Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai**

60. Who shared the 2026 Nobel Chemistry Prize with Kenso Soai? — **Henri Kagan**

61. Which Canadian poet won the Nobel Prize in Literature 2026? — **Anne Carson**

62. Which Canadian won the Literature Nobel in 2013, before Anne Carson (2026)? — **Alice Munro**

63. Who won the Nobel Peace Prize 2026? — **Navi Pillay**

64. Where is the Nobel Peace Prize presented, in contrast to the other prizes at Stockholm? — **Oslo**

65. Who won the Economics Nobel 2026? — **Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford**

66. Which 2003 book of Michael Woodford shaped New Keynesian models and forward guidance? — **Interest and Prices**

67. In which year was the Economics Nobel first given? — **1969**

68. Which Nobel laureate in Economics 2026 wrote on consumption as a random walk in 1978? — **Robert E. Hall**

69. Who was named Knight of France's Legion of Honour in October 2026? — **Sunil Bharti Mittal**

70. How many artists got the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar in October 2026? — **106**

71. Which body gives the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar? — **Sangeet Natak Akademi**

72. What is the cash amount of the Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar? — **₹25,000**

73. What is the age limit for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar? — **Up to 40 years**

74. In which year was the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar instituted? — **2006**

75. Which Bihar artist was among the 106 Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar awardees? — **Manisha Srivastava**

76. Who is the first Indian to get the Oskar Klein Medal? — **Ashoke Sen**

Reports & Indices

77. What was India's rank in the Global Innovation Index 2026, released in October 2026? — **38th of 139**

78. India is first in which export category in the Global Innovation Index 2026? — **ICT services exports**

79. What was India's rank in Global Hunger Index 2026? — **100th of 122**

80. What was India's GHI 2026 score, in the 'serious' category? — **24.1**

81. What is India's child wasting rate in GHI 2026, highest in South Asia? — **19.0%**

82. What is the rural female labour-force participation rate in PLFS 2025? — **45.9%**

83. Which body releases the PLFS? — **NSO under MoSPI**

84. What was India's unemployment rate in the PLFS bulletin for September 2026? — **5.0%**

85. By what percent did factory-sector GVA grow in ASI 2024-25? — **9.59%**

86. How many Indian children lack sanitation at school per the WHO-UNICEF report of October 2026? — **50 million**

87. What share of Indian schools had basic drinking water in 2025 per WHO-UNICEF? — **97%**

88. By what percent did cybercrime cases rise from 2023 to 2024? — **17.9%**

89. By what percent did monitored wildlife fall since 1970 in Living Planet Report 2026? — **73%**

90. Which region saw the steepest wildlife decline in Living Planet 2026? — **Latin America and Caribbean (-95%)**

91. Which two bodies produce the Living Planet Report? — **WWF and Zoological Society of London**

92. What share of Ayush services workforce is women? — **43%**

93. What FY27 growth does IMF project for India in the October 2026 WEO? — **7.0%**

94. What did the World Bank raise India's FY27 GDP forecast to, in October 2026? — **7.1%**

95. What is WTO's raised 2026 merchandise trade growth forecast? — **3.9%**

96. From what figure did WTO raise its 2026 goods-trade growth forecast to 3.9%? — **1.9%**

97. What warming by 2100 does UNEP project under current policies? — **2.8°C**

98. What were global GHG emissions in 2025 per UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2026? — **58.4 GtCO2e**

99. What was the FAO Food Price Index value reported in October 2026? — **136**

100. What is the base period of the FAO Food Price Index? — **2014-16 = 100**

101. What is the single largest health loss per the Lancet Commission on threats to humanity? — **Obesity**

102. How many NSQ drug samples did CDSCO flag for September 2026? — **330**

103. Which is the best Indian institution in THE World University Rankings 2027? — **IISc Bengaluru (254)**

104. What share of glaciers cause over half of global glacier ice loss? — **3.2%**

105. How many households did the first all-India National Household Travel Survey cover? — **4.92 lakh**

Summits, Conferences & Meetings

106. Which declaration was adopted at the first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in October 2026? — **Delhi Declaration**

107. Where is BIMSTEC headquartered? — **Dhaka**

108. When was BIMSTEC established? — **6 June 1997**

109. How many members does BIMSTEC have? — **7**

110. Where is COP31 being held? — **Antalya, Türkiye**

111. What is the theme of the 10th India Mobile Congress? — **Scale Without Boundaries**

112. What is the venue of India Mobile Congress 2026? — **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi**

113. Which edition of India Mobile Congress was held in October 2026? — **10th**

114. Which two organisations organise the India Mobile Congress? — **DoT and COAI**

115. Where is CBD COP17 being held in October 2026? — **Yerevan, Armenia**

116. What is the theme of the 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave? — **Resilience in an Age of Flux**

117. What is the venue of ESTIC 2026? — **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**

118. What is the size of the RDI Fund discussed at ESTIC 2026? — **₹1 lakh crore**

119. Which organisation organises ESTIC 2026? — **CSIR**

120. On what dates is the SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum in New Delhi? — **20-22 November 2026**

121. Which forum will India host by end-2026 under SCO? — **SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum**

122. Where was the 25th SCO Heads of Government meeting held in October 2026? — **Dushanbe**

123. Where are the 2026 IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings held? — **Bangkok**

124. Which country holds the BRICS chair in 2026? — **India**

125. Where was the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum held in October 2026? — **Samvidhan Sadan, New Delhi**

126. Which attack did the New Delhi Joint Declaration of 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum condemn? — **Pahalgam attack**

127. Which edition of the Agrivoltaics World Conference did India host in 2026? — **7th**

128. What share of India's cropland is technically suitable for agrivoltaics (47.5 Mha)? — **About 30%**

129. Where was the 13th ADMM-Plus held in October 2026? — **Cebu**

130. Which two countries co-chair the ADMM-Plus EWG on Counter-Terrorism for 2024-27? — **India and Malaysia**

131. Where was IWC-70 held in October 2026? — **Hobart, Australia**

132. Where was the first ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum held? — **MP-IDSA, New Delhi**

133. Which year has been declared the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation? — **2026**

134. Where will Earthshot Prize 2026 be held in November 2026? — **Mumbai**

135. Where did the 14th International Tourism Mart open in October 2026? — **Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh**

136. Where was the 61st CIML meeting held, for the first time in India? — **New Delhi**

137. The 61st CIML is the governing body of which organisation? — **International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)**

138. Where was the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting held in October 2026? — **Milwaukee, USA**

139. Which institution hosted Brihattar Bharat conference marking Greater India Society's centenary? — **IGNCA, New Delhi**

Schemes, Missions & Cabinet Decisions

140. Which authority approved by Cabinet in October 2026 will prepare the National Transport Master Plan? — **Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority**

141. ITLA does technical appraisal of central projects costing at least how much? — **₹500 crore or more**

142. What is the total outlay of Green Energy Corridor Phase-III approved in October 2026? — **₹1,86,405 crore**

143. How much battery storage is planned under Green Energy Corridor Phase-III? — **50 GWh**

144. What is the size of the SME Growth Fund approved by Cabinet in October 2026? — **₹10,000 crore**

145. How many houses are in the 3D-printed PMAY-G pilot in Andhra Pradesh? — **177**

146. How many days of wage work per household does VB-G RAM G guarantee? — **125 days**

147. How many permissible rural works were notified under VB-G RAM G in October 2026? — **375**

148. To what level did NPPA cap trade margins on 137 anti-cancer drugs in October 2026? — **30%**

149. From which date do the revised anti-cancer drug MRPs apply? — **9 November 2026**

150. Under which paragraph of DPCO 2013 was trade margin rationalisation invoked for cancer drugs? — **Para 19**

151. Which three pulses are the focus of the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses? — **Tur, Urad and Masur**

152. How many districts does PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana cover? — **100**

153. By what percentage did India's TB incidence fall during 2015-2024? — **21%**

154. What is the outlay of PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana (ex-NSAP) till 2030-31? — **₹53,428 crore**

155. On what date was NSAP launched? — **15 August 1995**

156. To what percentage was the disability threshold for NSAP pension cut from 80%? — **40%**

157. What is NFBS renamed as under the revamped NSAP? — **PM Parivar Labh Yojana**

158. What is the outlay of the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme? — **₹10,000 crore**

159. To how many TEU will container capacity rise under the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme? — **7.5 lakh TEU**

160. What is the outlay of the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme? — **₹1,856.67 crore**

161. What is the outlay of PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana? — **₹7,395.55 crore**

162. How many farmer families got the PM-KISAN 24th instalment in October 2026? — **More than 9.34 crore**

163. Textile PLI Round 4 cut Part-2 minimum turnover from ₹200 crore to what? — **₹100 crore**

164. Under which programme was Lakshadweep declared fully literate in October 2026? — **ULLAS**

165. How many AgriStack Farmer IDs were generated by 23 October 2026? — **11 crore**

166. What share of India's GDP does tourism contribute, as per World Tourism Day 2026 data? — **About 5.22%**

167. How many sensors does the WINDS network plan for PMFBY? — **About 50,500**

168. On which day was the BIS Silver Refinery Scheme launched? — **World Standards Day (14 October)**

169. What is the total outlay of PM-SETU? — **₹60,000 crore**

170. On what date was UDAN launched? — **21 October 2016**

171. What does the LPG subsidy need from 1 October 2026? — **Biometric Aadhaar authentication**

172. What is the outlay of the National Green Hydrogen Mission (2023)? — **₹19,744 crore**

Polity, Laws & Judiciary

173. Which 1891 Act did the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 replace? — **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891**

174. For how long was AFSPA extended in parts of the North-East in October 2026? — **Six months**

175. Which state became the second to get a UCC law assented, in October 2026? — **Gujarat**

176. Who is the NHRC chairperson as per October 2026 news? — **Justice V. Ramasubramanian**

177. On what date was the NHRC set up? — **12 October 1993**

178. Which Articles underpin the Supreme Court's October 2026 ruling on internet access as a fundamental right? — **Articles 19(1)(a) and 21**

179. Within how many hours must intermediaries report unknown-origin CSEAM under the Supreme Court's October 2026 order? — **2 hours**

180. Which database did the Supreme Court order the Centre to create against child abuse material? — **National Hash & URL List Database**

181. How many districts does the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority cover? — **Six**

182. How many members does the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority have? — **62**

183. Who was the first chairman of the Public Service Commission set up in 1926? — **Sir Ross Barker**

184. On what date did the Federal PSC become UPSC? — **26 January 1950**

185. Which book was released on UPSC's 100th anniversary in October 2026? — **'100 Landmark Judgements'**

186. Which tribunal handles the Mahanadi dispute, constituted in March 2018? — **Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal**

187. What did the Delhi High Court say about a valid visa in October 2026? — **Not an absolute right to enter India**

188. Under which Rules is Form 6 for new voter enrolment prescribed? — **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**

189. In what manner can the CEC be removed, as the ECI told the Supreme Court? — **Like a Supreme Court judge**

190. What share of ADG posts in CAPFs is reserved for IPS under the 2026 Act? — **At least 67%**

191. What is the reference date of Census 2027? — **1 March 2027**

192. What is the Census 2027 reference date for snow-bound areas? — **1 October 2026**

193. How many registered refugees will Mizoram count separately in Census 2027? — **38,213**

194. Under which Order can only Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists be SC members? — **Constitution (SC) Order, 1950**

195. When must full professional-course fees be fixed, as per the Supreme Court in October 2026? — **Before admission**

196. How many constituencies were notified across Ladakh's eight hill councils? — **100**

197. On what date is the DPDP Act challenge by news publishers next heard? — **17 November 2026**

198. What term did the Supreme Court use for 'digital arrest' scams in October 2026? — **'Digital dacoity'**

199. How many digital-arrest complaints did the SC cite for January-August 2026? — **21,928**

200. The Supreme Court set aside municipal polls in how many Punjab wards in October 2026? — **50 (Patiala 28, Moga 22)**

201. On what date did NMC replace MCI? — **25 September 2020**

202. Which 2016 Constitution Bench ruling did the SC rely on for concurrent life terms? — **Muthuramalingam v. State**

203. On what date will final rolls of ECI's Special Summary Revision be published? — **4 January 2027**

204. Which AI tool translated 83,000+ Supreme Court judgments, per CJI Surya Kant? — **SUVAS**

205. How many Supreme Court judges are working after three oaths in October 2026? — **37 of 38**

206. Which Article mandates free legal aid? — **Article 39A**

Economy, Banking & Finance

207. What was gross GST collection in September 2026? — **₹2.04 lakh crore (+14.7%)**

208. Which Rabi crop got the highest MSP hike for 2027-28? — **Safflower (+₹675 to ₹7,215)**

209. What is the Rabi MSP for wheat for 2027-28? — **₹2,610 per quintal**

210. Which two Andaman Sea blocks were offered in the offshore polymetallic auction? — **Sewell Rise-01, West Sewell Ridge-01**

211. To what level did the RBI raise the repo rate on 7 October 2026? — **5.50% (+25 bps)**

212. The RBI's October 2026 hike was the first since which month? — **February 2023**

213. What is the RBI's policy stance after the October 2026 review? — **Calibrated tightening**

214. What was the vote on the shift to a calibrated tightening stance? — **4:2**

215. When is the next MPC meeting after the October 2026 review? — **2-4 December 2026**

216. What is the size of the SME Growth Fund approved by Cabinet? — **₹10,000 crore**

217. What coupon did India's first WASH social bond carry? — **8.10%**

218. From what to what was the Sec 132 GST prosecution threshold raised? — **₹1 crore to ₹5 crore**

219. Which section of the CGST Act was omitted to remove arrest powers? — **Section 69**

220. What was India's CPI inflation in September 2026? — **5.54%**

221. What was food inflation (CFPI) in September 2026? — **7.74%**

222. Which state had the highest CPI inflation in September 2026? — **Tamil Nadu (6.81%)**

223. What is the base year of the new CPI series? — **2024 = 100**

224. How much will Hyundai Motor Group invest in India till 2032? — **$15.5 billion**

225. What were India's merchandise exports in September 2026? — **US$ 44.40 billion**

226. What stake in IDBI Bank is being sold to Fairfax? — **60.72%**

227. What share of India's LPG imports now comes from the US? — **67%**

228. Which new Article of the India-Mauritius treaty carries the Principal Purpose Test? — **Article 27B**

229. At what level are trade margins on 137 anti-cancer medicines capped? — **30%**

230. How many anti-cancer brands saw MRP cut by NPPA, from 9 November 2026? — **543**

231. What was WPI inflation in September 2026? — **11.39%**

232. What was core sector growth in September 2026? — **7.9%**

233. What was the cost of RBI's Odisha data centre? — **₹169 crore**

234. What was khadi and village industries turnover in FY 2025-26? — **Over ₹1.87 lakh crore**

235. What is the Centre's debt-to-GDP target by 31 March 2031? — **50 ± 1%**

236. What was Jio Platforms' IPO size? — **₹30,213 crore**

237. To what percent was DA/DR raised from 1 July 2026? — **63%**

International Relations & Agreements

238. How much investment did EFTA commit to India under TEPA over 15 years? — **USD 100 billion**

239. How many direct jobs does TEPA target in India? — **1 million**

240. Which four countries form EFTA? — **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland**

241. When did the India-EFTA TEPA come into force? — **1 October 2025**

242. How many Young Professionals per year does the India-Switzerland scheme allow? — **300 each way**

243. From which date did the India-NZ FTA come into force? — **20 October 2026**

244. How much investment will NZ facilitate in India under the FTA? — **USD 20 billion over 15 years**

245. Which Iranian oil minister resigned in October 2026? — **Mohsen Paknejad**

246. Which fish can Indian vessels catch under SIOFA? — **Squid, toothfish and alfonsino**

247. For which years is India bidding for a UNSC non-permanent seat? — **2028-29**

248. When is the UNGA vote for India's 2028-29 UNSC seat bid? — **June 2027**

249. Which country is India's rival for the 2028-29 UNSC seat? — **Tajikistan**

250. In which strait does Katchatheevu lie? — **Palk Strait**

251. In which year did India-Poland ties become a Strategic Partnership? — **2024 (August)**

252. Which Polish PM visited India from 21 October 2026? — **Donald Tusk**

253. Which countries form the Badr MoU defence-industry pact? — **Türkiye, Qatar, Pakistan, Indonesia**

254. Where is SAARC headquartered? — **Kathmandu**

255. What H-1B fee did the US impose in October 2026 reporting? — **$100,000**

256. Which country began PTA negotiations with India in October 2026? — **Mexico**

257. How many economies signed the call against structural excess capacity? — **15**

258. Under which Articles did Pakistan declare emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa? — **Articles 232 and 234**

259. Which partnership did Modi and Trump reaffirm in October 2026? — **Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership**

260. Where did the 5th round of India-Canada CEPA talks take place? — **Ottawa**

261. What is the India-Canada trade target by 2030? — **USD 70 billion**

262. In which year was COMCASA signed between India and the US? — **2018**

263. Under which Paris Agreement Article does the India-Japan Joint Crediting Mechanism operate? — **Article 6.2**

264. What date are the US midterm elections in 2026? — **3 November 2026**

Defence & Security

265. Which is the third Mahe-class anti-submarine shallow water craft commissioned in October 2026? — **INS Mangrol**

266. Which shipyard built INS Mangrol? — **Cochin Shipyard Ltd**

267. What value of capital acquisitions did the DAC clear in October 2026? — **₹2.12 lakh crore**

268. How many pillars does the PRAHAAR counter-terror strategy have? — **7 pillars**

269. How many fugitives were extradited from 36 countries during 2019-2026? — **288**

270. Off which French port was VARUNA 2026 held? — **Toulon**

271. What share of Agniveers is currently absorbed into the regular cadre? — **25%**

272. Which is India's first indigenous Fleet Support Ship, launched in October 2026? — **FSS-1 Surya**

273. What is the displacement of the Navy's FSS-1 Surya? — **About 43,500 tonnes**

274. Which shipyard built FSS-1 Surya at Visakhapatnam? — **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL)**

275. Where was Exercise Mountain Guardian 2026 held? — **Chaubatia (Uttarakhand)**

276. How many personnel took part in Mountain Guardian 2026 from each side? — **46 each (92 total)**

277. Chaubatia, venue of Mountain Guardian, is near which town? — **Ranikhet (Almora)**

278. Which edition of the National Maritime SAR Exercise was SAREX-2026? — **12th**

279. Which two Indian ships took part in AIME-2026? — **INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish**

280. Which US aircraft flew in an IAF-hosted exercise for the first time at Tarang Shakti 2026? — **F-35 Lightning II**

281. Where was Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 held? — **Jodhpur**

282. How many ships are in the NGOPV class? — **11 ships**

283. Where was INS Samarthak commissioned in October 2026? — **Karwar**

284. Which company built INS Samarthak? — **Larsen & Toubro (Kattupalli)**

285. How many MPVs are planned in the Samarthak class? — **4**

286. Where was Exercise KONKAN-26 held? — **Off Plymouth, UK**

287. In which sea was the naval phase of INDRA 2026 held? — **Sea of Japan**

288. Which country joined AUSTRAHIND 2026 as observer for the first time? — **New Zealand**

289. Where is Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 held? — **Thiruvananthapuram**

290. What is the value of the BEL LLLR-I radar deal? — **₹770 crore**

291. Which edition of SIMBEX was held in 2026? — **33rd**

292. Under what name did SIMBEX begin in 1994? — **Exercise Lion King**

293. Which Singapore ship joined SIMBEX-2026? — **RSS Supreme**

294. How many bank accounts were frozen in Operation Trident? — **1,424**

295. Which edition of Swavlamban was held in October 2026? — **5th**

296. Who released the Army's Land Warfare Doctrine 2026? — **Rajnath Singh**

297. Which Army unit joined Exercise Garuda Shakti in Indonesia? — **Parachute Regiment (SF)**

298. Which firms make the K9 Vajra-T howitzer? — **L&T with Hanwha Aerospace**

Science, Space & Technology

299. Which new signal band does NVS-03 add to NavIC's L5 and S bands? — **L1**

300. What is the outlay of the National Supercomputing Mission? — **₹4,500 crore**

301. How many petaflops are deployed under the National Supercomputing Mission (October 2026)? — **68 petaflops**

302. TRISHNA is a joint mission of which two agencies? — **ISRO and CNES**

303. Which agency builds the thermal infrared payload of TRISHNA? — **CNES**

304. To what altitude did DRDO's HAPS fly? — **About 21 km**

305. What is India's space economy target? — **USD 40-45 billion**

306. What is India's space economy worth now? — **About USD 9 billion**

307. Which mission's first uncrewed flight G1 is targeted in 2026? — **Gaganyaan**

308. Which agency flagged AI agents breaching Indian firms in October 2026? — **CERT-In**

309. Which ministry's agency is CERT-In? — **MeitY**

310. Which rover became the farthest-travelling vehicle on another world in October 2026? — **Perseverance**

311. Which institute developed Kufri Jamunia? — **CPRI, Shimla**

312. How many SBI customers' data surfaced on the dark web in October 2026? — **About 3,900**

313. What is the length of India's first free-space QKD link demonstrated in Gujarat? — **5.56 km**

314. Which institute's AATAL lab is linked to the AIRWISE forecast system? — **IITM**

315. What resolution do AIRWISE air-quality forecasts have? — **400 m (72-hour forecasts)**

316. What is the outlay of the National Green Hydrogen Mission? — **₹19,744 crore**

317. Which institute developed the 'Punah Bharan' app? — **BISAG-N**

318. Which satellite is India's first orbital data-centre satellite (October 2026)? — **Pathfinder**

319. In which year was Cen X-3 discovered as the first X-ray pulsar? — **1971**

320. From which date does Calling Name Presentation show the caller's registered name? — **1 November 2026**

Environment, Wildlife & Places in News

321. Which country named Cyclone Arnab? — **Bangladesh**

322. How many people were evacuated before Cyclone Arnab's landfall? — **1.8 lakh+**

323. How many sites are now on India's UNESCO Tentative List? — **78**

324. How many UNESCO World Heritage Sites does India have (October 2026)? — **45**

325. From which reserve was the tigress brought to Buxa Tiger Reserve? — **Valmiki**

326. Into which state did tigress T-138 stray after being moved to Buxa? — **Assam**

327. What was the previous record Niño-3.4 anomaly (2015-16)? — **+2.6°C**

328. What is the estimated cost of the Great Nicobar project? — **₹81,000 crore**

329. What is India's Ramsar site tally after the October 2026 additions? — **103**

330. Which two sites took India's Ramsar count to 103? — **Sukhna and Sauj Jheel**

331. Which state has the most Ramsar sites (20)? — **Tamil Nadu**

332. Which was India's 100th Ramsar site (June 2026)? — **Surha Tal (UP)**

333. Which is the largest Ramsar site in India? — **Sundarban Wetland**

334. Which Chandigarh wetland became its first Ramsar site in October 2026? — **Sukhna Wetland**

335. How many Asiatic lions does Barda now support? — **17**

336. What is India's forest and tree cover share per FAO COFO-28 digest? — **25.17%**

337. What share of live capacity do India's reservoirs hold (October 2026)? — **68.58%**

338. What is the Siang called in Tibet? — **Yarlung Tsangpo**

339. Which agency is the developer of the Siang Upper project? — **NHPC**

340. What is the IUCN status of the Great Indian Bustard? — **Critically Endangered**

341. Where is the Great Indian Bustard breeding centre? — **Sam, Jaisalmer**

342. CAMPA stands for what? — **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority**

343. When do CAFE-III norms come into force? — **1 April 2027**

344. What is India's non-fossil capacity as of October 2026? — **308.03 GW**

345. What SAF blending is planned for international flights in 2027? — **1%**

346. What SAF blending is planned for international flights in 2030? — **5%**

347. How many hectares are suitable for agrivoltaics in India per the July study? — **About 47.5 million ha**

348. How much did the UN loss and damage fund board earmark for Nepal, the first country allocation? — **$20 million (funding proposal and final approval still pending)**

349. Which country received the first-ever country allocation (earmark) from the UN loss and damage fund board in October 2026? — **Nepal**

350. How many trees does NHPC seek to fell for the Kamala HEP? — **23 lakh+**

351. Which AQI band triggers GRAP Stage-I in Delhi-NCR? — **Poor (201-300)**

352. Which animal is found in Kolamarka, Gadchiroli? — **Asiatic wild water buffalo**

353. Which is the world's largest brackish water body? — **Baltic Sea**

Sports

354. Where did India rank at Asian Games 2026, and with how many medals? — **4th, 85 medals**

355. How many gold medals did India win at Asian Games 2026 (85 medals in all)? — **21**

356. Where were the Asian Games 2026 held? — **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**

357. India's first gold at Asian Games 2026 came in which sport? — **Women's cricket**

358. Which country topped the Asian Games 2026 medal table with 169 golds? — **China**

359. Whom did India beat for its first women's recurve team gold at Asian Games 2026? — **South Korea (5-3)**

360. Whom did India beat in the women's compound archery team final at Asian Games 2026? — **China (238-234)**

361. Who won India's first individual women's recurve gold at Asian Games 2026? — **Kumkum Mohod**

362. Who became the first Indian woman to win individual golf gold at Asian Games 2026? — **Pranavi Sharath Urs**

363. Where will the 2030 and 2034 Asian Games be held? — **Doha (2030), Riyadh (2034)**

364. Where and in which year was the first Asian Games held? — **New Delhi, 1951**

365. Where were the Asian Para Games 2026 held? — **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**

366. How many Indian para-athletes competed at Asian Para Games 2026? — **168**

367. How many medals did India win at the Asian Para Games 2026? — **114**

368. How many gold medals did India win at the Asian Para Games 2026? — **30**

369. What was India's rank at Asian Para Games 2026? — **Fourth**

370. Which country topped the Asian Para Games 2026? — **China (435 medals)**

371. Where will the next Asian Para Games be held? — **Doha, Qatar (2030)**

372. Who won gold in men's shot put F46 at Asian Para Games 2026? — **Sachin Khilari**

373. Who won gold in men's javelin F46 at Asian Para Games 2026? — **Rinku Hooda**

374. What was Sumit Antil's winning javelin throw at the Asian Para Games 2026? — **72.46 m**

375. Which para-shooter set a world record of 357.5 in women's 50m rifle 3P SH1 in October 2026? — **Mona Agarwal**

376. Who won archery compound gold at Asian Para Games 2026 with Toman Kumar? — **Sheetal Devi**

377. Who is the youngest female International Master in chess? — **Bodhana Sivanandan**

378. Which city hosts the 2029 Senior World Weightlifting Championships? — **Ahmedabad**

379. Which city hosted the BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Sports Demonstration Games in October 2026? — **Ahmedabad**

Important Days & Themes

380. Which campaign by DARPG runs from 2 to 31 October 2026? — **Special Campaign 6.0**

381. Which birth anniversary of Gandhi was marked on 2 October 2026? — **157th**

382. 2 October is observed as which UN international day? — **International Day of Non-Violence**

383. Who was born on 2 October 1904 at Mughalsarai? — **Lal Bahadur Shastri**

384. Which slogan was given by Lal Bahadur Shastri? — **Jai Jawan Jai Kisan**

385. Which scheme was launched on 2 October 2014? — **Swachh Bharat Mission**

386. Which day is observed on 1 October (UNGA resolution 45/106)? — **International Day of Older Persons**

387. Since when is National Voluntary Blood Donation Day observed in India? — **1975**

388. On which date is World Teachers' Day observed? — **5 October**

389. Since which year is World Teachers' Day observed on 5 October? — **1994**

390. On which date is National Dolphin Day observed? — **5 October**

391. Which anniversary of the IAF was marked on 8 October 2026? — **94th**

392. In which year was the IAF established? — **1932**

393. When was the PIN code introduced in India? — **15 August 1972**

394. The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed on which date? — **13 October**

395. When is World Standards Day observed? — **14 October**

396. When did Ambedkar embrace Buddhism at Deekshabhoomi? — **14 October 1956**

397. What is 14 October known as in memory of Ambedkar? — **Dhammachakra Pravartan Din**

398. On which date is Mahila Kisan Diwas observed? — **15 October**

399. Which 1959 incident does Police Commemoration Day mark? — **Hot Springs (Ladakh) ambush**

400. How many CRPF men were killed at Hot Springs in 1959? — **10**

401. On which date did Netaji proclaim Azad Hind Government in Singapore? — **21 October 1943**

402. What is the minimum iodine level in salt at consumer level? — **15 ppm**

403. When was India certified polio-free by WHO? — **27 March 2014**

404. On which Hindu lunar date does Valmiki Jayanti fall? — **Ashwin Purnima**

405. Which day is observed on 26 October for Jammu and Kashmir? — **Accession Day**

406. What does Infantry Day on 27 October mark? — **1947 landing at Srinagar**

407. Which observance is Shaurya Diwas, on 27 October? — **Infantry Day**

408. Which anniversary of Sardar Patel is marked on Rashtriya Ekta Diwas 2026? — **151st**

409. What is the theme of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026? — **Probity for Prosperity**

410. Which body was set up in 1964 on the Santhanam Committee's advice? — **CVC**

Persons in News & Obituaries

411. Where was Ashfaqullah Khan born? — **Shahjahanpur**

412. Which book of Acharya Ramchandra Shukla was published in 1929? — **Hindi Sahitya Ka Itihas**

413. On which date in 2001 did Narendra Modi take oath as Gujarat Chief Minister? — **7 October 2001**

PAID COURSE

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PART D

Practice MCQs

69 questions in the Prelims pattern. Answers and explanations follow.

Q1. In a biennial Rajya Sabha election in Uttar Pradesh for 10 seats, if the effective strength of the Assembly is 397, how many first-preference votes does a candidate need to win (ignoring fractions)?

A. 36
B. 41
C. 40
D. 37

Q2. Consider the following statements about Masuriya Din:
1. He was elected to the first four Lok Sabhas.
2. He belonged to the Pasi community.
3. He campaigned against the Criminal Tribes Act.
Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q3. Consider the following statements about events linked to Uttar Pradesh:
1. The Chauri Chaura incident took place in Gorakhpur district in 1922.
2. Lal Bahadur Shastri was born in Mughalsarai, now in Chandauli district.
3. Kashi Vidyapith was founded after the Non-Cooperation Movement was withdrawn.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q4. With reference to the India Carpet Expo held recently at Bhadohi, consider the following statements:
1. It is organised by the Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC).
2. The 2026 edition was the 50th (golden jubilee) edition.
3. Bhadohi handmade carpet has a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
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

Q5. For the rabi marketing season 2027-28, which crop received the highest absolute increase in MSP?

A. Wheat
B. Rapeseed & mustard
C. Safflower
D. Masur (lentil)

Q6. With reference to the Gomti river, consider the following statements:
1. It originates in Pilibhit district.
2. Naimisharanya lies on its bank in Sitapur district.
3. It joins the Ghaghara near Ayodhya.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q7. The HCL-Foxconn unit coming up near Jewar in Uttar Pradesh is an 'OSAT' facility. OSAT refers to:

A. Manufacture of solar photovoltaic modules
B. Fabrication of silicon wafers from raw silicon
C. Satellite-based optical communication terminals
D. Assembly, packaging and testing of semiconductor chips

Q8. Parichha Dam, recently named a World Heritage Irrigation Structure, is built on which river?

A. Ken
B. Chambal
C. Dhasan
D. Betwa

Q9. Consider the following about Rajya Sabha elections:
1. Members are elected by elected MLAs by proportional representation through single transferable vote.
2. Voting is by open ballot.
3. Nominated MLAs also vote. Which are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q10. With reference to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, consider:
1. It has 100 members.
2. About one-twelfth of members are elected by graduates.
3. About one-third are elected by members of local authorities. Which are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q11. UP Police recently appointed 470 sportspersons (48 Sub-Inspectors and 422 constables in civil police/PAC). PAC stands for:

A. Provincial Armed Constabulary
B. Police Action Corps
C. Public Assistance Cell
D. Prayagraj Armed Cadre

Q12. Consider the following statements about Bhadohi district:
1. It was carved out of Varanasi district in 1994.
2. Renaming a district in UP requires a law passed by Parliament.
3. Bhadohi hand-made carpet is a GI-tagged product.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q13. Consider the following statements about the Uttar Pradesh Sustainable Aviation Fuel Manufacturing Promotion Policy-2026:
1. UPNEDA is the nodal agency for the policy.
2. Units with capital investment above ₹1,500 crore are classified as 'Ultra-mega'.
3. It offers 100% electricity-duty exemption for up to 20 years.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 2 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q14. With reference to the Gomti river, consider the following statements:
1. It originates from Gomat Taal near Pilibhit.
2. It is a tributary of the Ghaghara.
3. Lucknow and Jaunpur are located on its banks.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q15. The recently opened Shinzo Abe Memorial Corridor is located at:
A. Rudraksh Convention Centre, Varanasi
B. Gorakhpur
C. Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar
D. Ram ki Paidi, Ayodhya

Q16. With reference to Bhadohi district, consider the following statements:
1. It was carved out of Varanasi district in 1994.
2. It was renamed 'Sant Ravidas Nagar' in 1997.
3. It is famous for its brassware industry.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q17. Which agency is the nodal agency for the Uttar Pradesh Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Manufacturing Promotion Policy-2026?
A. UPNEDA
B. UPSIDA
C. Invest UP
D. UPEIDA

Q18. Consider the following statements about the State Legislative Council:
1. One-twelfth of its members are elected by graduates of at least three years' standing residing in the State.
2. One-twelfth are elected by teachers of at least three years' standing in institutions not lower than secondary school.
3. A law of Parliament abolishing a Council is a constitutional amendment under Article 368.
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

Q19. Sauj Jheel, which took India's Ramsar tally to 103 in October 2026, is located in which district of Uttar Pradesh?
A. Mainpuri
B. Etawah
C. Unnao
D. Hardoi

Q20. Which of the following is NOT a part of the Supreme Court's 'triple test' for OBC reservation in local bodies?
A. A dedicated commission to inquire into backwardness
B. Specifying quota proportion local-body-wise
C. Approval of the quota by the State Legislature by two-thirds majority
D. Total SC/ST/OBC reservation not exceeding 50%

Q21. With reference to the Mukhyamantri Krishak Chhatravritti Yojana of Uttar Pradesh, consider the following statements:
1. It is implemented by the State Agricultural Produce Market Board (Mandi Parishad).
2. The annual grant has been raised to ₹60,000.
3. Seats per agricultural college have been raised from 15 to 30.
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

Q22. Under Uttar Pradesh's ₹22.45 crore project to set up Doppler weather radars at five cities (Azamgarh, Lucknow, Jhansi, Aligarh and Varanasi), how many radars had been installed by October 2026?
A. 1
B. 2
C. 3
D. 5

Q23. With reference to the recent renaming in Uttar Pradesh, consider the following statements:
1. Bhadohi was created as a separate district out of Varanasi in 1994.
2. Bhadohi's hand-knotted carpet holds a Geographical Indication tag.
3. Sant Ravidas, after whom the district is named, was a disciple of Guru Nanak.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q24. Under Article 171 of the Constitution, what fraction of the members of a State Legislative Council is elected by electorates consisting of teachers?
A. One-twelfth
B. One-sixth
C. One-third
D. One-fifth

Q25. The National Social Assistance Programme, continued till 2030-31, has been renamed as which of the following, and to what level has the benchmark disability criterion for disability pension been lowered?
A. Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana; 40%
B. Pradhan Mantri Jan Suraksha Yojana; 40%
C. Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana; 60%
D. Pradhan Mantri Kalyan Pension Yojana; 80%

Q26. With reference to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, consider the following statements:
1. It has 100 members.
2. One-twelfth of its members are elected by teachers who have taught for at least three years in institutions not lower than secondary school.
3. One-sixth of its members are nominated by the Governor.
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

Q27. The Ganga Expressway connects Meerut with Prayagraj. Which one of the following districts does it NOT pass through?
A. Kanpur Nagar
B. Unnao
C. Hardoi
D. Sambhal

Q28. With reference to Bithoor, recently in news, consider the following statements:
1. It lies on the bank of the Ganga in Kanpur Nagar district.
2. It is traditionally associated with the ashram of Maharishi Valmiki.
3. It was a centre of Nana Saheb during the Revolt of 1857.
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

Q29. Consider the following statements about urban local bodies in Uttar Pradesh:
1. The state has 17 municipal corporations.
2. Nagar panchayats are the most numerous category of urban local bodies.
3. Urban local bodies derive constitutional status from the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q30. Sauj Jheel, recently designated as India's 103rd Ramsar site, is located in which district of Uttar Pradesh?
A. Mainpuri
B. Etawah
C. Agra
D. Unnao

Q31. The 'Jhansi Link Expressway' recently approved by the UP Cabinet is meant to connect the BIDA industrial area with which expressway?
A. Yamuna Expressway
B. Ganga Expressway
C. Bundelkhand Expressway
D. Purvanchal Expressway

Q32. The Jewar Link Expressway approved by the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet in October 2026 will connect Noida International Airport with which expressway?
A. Bundelkhand Expressway
B. Gorakhpur Link Expressway
C. Purvanchal Expressway
D. Ganga Expressway

Q33. Consider the following statements about the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana:
1. Its period is co-terminus with the Sixteenth Finance Commission.
2. It is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Centre.
3. Its outlay for 2026-27 to 2030-31 is ₹7,395.55 crore, of which the Centre's share is ₹4,869.48 crore.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q34. With reference to the UP Cabinet decisions of 27 October 2026, consider the following:
1. Four link expressways will be built on the EPC model by UPEIDA.
2. The PM MITRA Park is on the Lucknow–Kanpur border.
3. UP-CSOC will be set up through IIT Kanpur's C3iHub.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q35. Under the PM MITRA Park scheme, the shareholding of the Special Purpose Vehicle for the Uttar Pradesh park is:
A. Centre 51% : State 49%
B. Centre 100%
C. State 51% : Centre 49%
D. State 74% : Private 26%

Q36. Which one of the following pairs of a Char Dham shrine and its district is NOT correctly matched?
A. Kedarnath – Rudraprayag
B. Badrinath – Chamoli
C. Gangotri – Tehri Garhwal
D. Yamunotri – Uttarkashi

Q37. Consider the following statements about the Gandak river:
1. It is known as the Narayani in Nepal.
2. The Valmikinagar barrage on it was built under an Indo-Nepal agreement of 1959.
3. It joins the Ganga near Hajipur.
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

Q38. Under which Article of the Constitution can the Governor of a state remit the sentence of a person convicted of an offence against a state law?
A. Article 161
B. Article 72
C. Article 163
D. Article 213

Q39. Consider the following statements about Minimum Support Price (MSP):
1. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is a statutory body.
2. MSP is announced for 22 mandated crops.
3. For RMS 2027-28, wheat received the highest absolute MSP increase.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q40. With reference to Rajendra Setu in Bihar, consider the following statements:
1. It connects Mokama with Simaria in Begusarai district.
2. It was opened in 1959 by Jawaharlal Nehru.
3. It is built across the Gandak river.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q41. The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded for discoveries concerning:
A. mRNA vaccine technology
B. MicroRNA and gene regulation
C. Light-gated ion channels and optogenetics
D. Peripheral immune tolerance

Q42. The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) targets an investment of ____ in India over 15 years.
A. $100 billion
B. $50 billion
C. $150 billion
D. $200 billion

Q43. With reference to Exercise 'Mountain Guardian 2026', consider the following statements:
1. It is a bilateral exercise between India and the UAE.
2. It is being held at Chaubatia in Pithoragarh district.
3. The Indian contingent is drawn from a Bhairav Battalion.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q44. Consider the following statements:
1. Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under Article 124(2).
2. An acting Chief Justice of a High Court is appointed under Article 223.
3. The sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court, including the CJI, is 34.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q45. With reference to the RBI's monetary policy of 7 October 2026, consider the following statements:
1. The repo rate was raised to 5.50%.
2. The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate is now the ceiling of the policy corridor.
3. The MPC is constituted under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act, 1934.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q46. Which of the following about the RBI Monetary Policy decision of October 2026 is/are correct? (1) The repo rate was raised to 5.50%. (2) The policy stance was changed to 'calibrated tightening'. (3) The Monetary Policy Committee has six members.
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q47. Which one of the following is NOT a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), with which India's TEPA came into force in 2025?
A. Iceland
B. Liechtenstein
C. Austria
D. Norway

Q48. Which one of the following pairs (barrage/gauge site — river) is correctly matched?
A. Valmikinagar — Kosi
B. Birpur — Gandak
C. Indrapuri — Sone
D. Sultanganj — Bagmati

Q49. After the RBI's October 2026 policy raised the repo rate to 5.50%, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rates stand respectively at:
A. 5.25% and 6.00%
B. 5.00% and 6.00%
C. 5.25% and 5.75%
D. 5.50% and 5.75%

Q50. With reference to the GST Council, consider the following:
1. It is established under Article 279A.
2. It is chaired by the RBI Governor.
3. Its recommendations are binding on states. Which is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1 and 3 only

Q51. Katchatheevu, recently in the news, is located in which of the following water bodies, and under which agreement was it recognised as part of Sri Lanka?
A. Gulf of Mannar — 1964 agreement
B. Lakshadweep Sea — 1986 agreement
C. Gulf of Kutch — 1976 agreement
D. Palk Strait — 1974 agreement

Q52. Consider the following about India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):
1. It is a statutory body under the RBI Act, 1934.
2. It has six members, with the RBI Governor having a casting vote.
3. Its flexible inflation target is 4% within a band of +/- 2%.
Which of the statements are correct?
A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q53. Consider the following about India's retail inflation framework:
1. Headline retail inflation is measured using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) compiled by MoSPI.
2. Under flexible inflation targeting, the RBI aims for 4% CPI within a 2–6% tolerance band.
Which of the statements is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q54. With reference to the Governor of a State in India, consider the following statements:
1. The oath of office is administered by the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.
2. The Governor holds office during the pleasure of the President.
3. A person must be a resident of the State to be appointed its Governor.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q55. With reference to the office of the Governor, consider the following statements:
1. The Governor is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
2. A person must have completed 30 years of age to be appointed Governor.
3. The Supreme Court has held that the Governor's office is not an employment under the Government of India.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q56. Consider the following pairs (Dham — Winter seat):
1. Kedarnath — Ukhimath
2. Badrinath — Narsingh Temple, Jyotirmath (Joshimath)
3. Gangotri — Kharsali
Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q57. With reference to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), consider:
1. It was signed in Rome in 2006.
2. It manages highly migratory species such as tuna.
3. Its secretariat is on Réunion Island.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q58. Gopinath Temple at Gopeshwar serves as the winter seat of which of the following Panch Kedar shrines?
A. Tungnath
B. Kalpeshwar
C. Madhyamaheshwar
D. Rudranath

Q59. Under the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement that entered into force on 20 October 2026, which one of the following sectors has been kept out of India's tariff concessions?
A. Dairy products
B. Wood and timber
C. Wool
D. Sheep meat

Q60. The Soybean Bhavantar scheme follows the Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) under which umbrella scheme?
A. PM-AASHA
B. PM-KISAN
C. PM-FME
D. PM-KUSUM

Q61. Which one of the following pairs of a Himalayan shrine and its winter seat is NOT correctly matched?
A. Kedarnath — Ukhimath
B. Gangotri — Mukhba
C. Badrinath — Makku Math
D. Yamunotri — Kharsali

Q62. With reference to the State Legislative Council, consider the following statements:
1. One-twelfth of its members are elected by graduates of at least three years' standing residing in the state.
2. One-sixth of its members are nominated by the Governor.
3. Its total strength cannot exceed one-half of the strength of the State Legislative Assembly.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q63. With reference to the Soybean Bhavantar scheme, which one of the following is NOT correct?
A. It operates under PM-AASHA's Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS).
B. The price gap is paid to registered farmers through DBT.
C. The government procures and stores the farmer's entire soybean crop.
D. Unlike the Price Support Scheme, it does not involve physical procurement of the crop.

Q64. Which one of the following correctly matches a Char Dham shrine with its winter seat?
A. Kedarnath — Narsingh Temple, Joshimath
B. Badrinath — Omkareshwar Temple, Ukhimath
C. Yamunotri — Pandukeshwar
D. Gangotri — Mukhba

Q65. The 'Index of Eight Core Industries', which grew 7.9% in September 2026, is compiled and released by:
A. National Statistics Office, MoSPI
B. NITI Aayog
C. Reserve Bank of India
D. Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT

Q66. With reference to the Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana, consider the following statements:
1. It compensates farmers for the difference between the MSP and the market/model rate.
2. Under it, the government agency physically procures the crop at MSP.
3. It is implemented under the Price Deficiency Payment Scheme of PM-AASHA.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q67. Consider the following statements about the Tenth Schedule:
1. It was added by the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985.
2. The Speaker's decision on disqualification is final and immune from judicial review.
3. A member expelled by his party continues to belong to that party for the purposes of the Tenth Schedule.
Which of the above is/are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q68. With reference to Cyclone 'Arnab', consider the following statements:
1. The name was contributed by Bangladesh.
2. Names for North Indian Ocean cyclones are drawn from a list of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.
3. IMD New Delhi is the Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre for the region.
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

Q69. Cyclone 'Arnab', which made landfall on the Andhra Pradesh coast around 28-29 October 2026, was named by which country?

A. Bangladesh
B. India
C. Myanmar
D. Sri Lanka

PART D

Answer key & explanations

1-**D**	2-**D**	3-**B**	4-**D**	5-**C**	6-**B**	7-**D**	8-**D**	9-**B**	10-**D**	11-**A**	12-**B**
13-**C**	14-**B**	15-**A**	16-**B**	17-**A**	18-**A**	19-**A**	20-**C**	21-**D**	22-**B**	23-**B**	24-**A**
25-**A**	26-**D**	27-**A**	28-**D**	29-**B**	30-**A**	31-**C**	32-**D**	33-**B**	34-**B**	35-**C**	36-**C**
37-**D**	38-**A**	39-**B**	40-**B**	41-**C**	42-**A**	43-**B**	44-**A**	45-**B**	46-**D**	47-**C**	48-**C**
49-**C**	50-**A**	51-**D**	52-**D**	53-**C**	54-**B**	55-**B**	56-**B**	57-**B**	58-**D**	59-**A**	60-**A**
61-**C**	62-**B**	63-**C**	64-**D**	65-**D**	66-**B**	67-**B**	68-**D**	69-**A**			

Q1 — D. Quota = [397 ÷ (10 + 1)] + 1 = 36.09 + 1 = 37.09; ignoring the fraction, 37 votes are required. (In the actual 2026 biennial election all 10 UP seats were filled unopposed, so no voting took place.)

Q2 — D. All three are correct: born on 2 October 1911 at Jondhwal, Prayagraj, he was a Pasi leader, fought the Criminal Tribes Act and was elected to the first four Lok Sabhas.

Q3 — B. Chauri Chaura (Gorakhpur) took place on 4 Feb 1922 and Shastri was born at Mughalsarai (Chandauli) on 2 Oct 1904. Kashi Vidyapith was founded on 10 Feb 1921, during the movement, a year before it was withdrawn, so statement 3 is wrong.

Q4 — D. All three are correct: CEPC organises the Expo, the 2026 edition (inaugurated 4 Oct 2026) was its golden-jubilee 50th edition, and Bhadohi handmade carpet is a GI-tagged product.

Q5 — C. Safflower MSP rose by ₹675 to ₹7,215/quintal — the highest; wheat got the smallest hike (₹25, to ₹2,610).

Q6 — B. The Gomti rises near Madhotanda (Pilibhit) and flows past Naimisharanya (Sitapur) and Lucknow; it joins the Ganga near Kaithi (Varanasi–Ghazipur border), not the Ghaghara. Hence 1 and 2 are correct.

Q7 — D. OSAT = Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly & Test, the back-end of chipmaking. The Jewar unit (₹3,706 crore) will make display-driver chips.

Q8 — D. Parichha Dam (1881-86) is on the Betwa in Jhansi and feeds the Betwa Canal System and the 920 MW Parichha thermal plant.

Q9 — B. Art. 80(4) provides election by elected MLAs via STV; open ballot was introduced in 2003. Nominated members do not vote.

Q10 — D. UP Council has 100 members; under Art. 171, ~1/3 by local bodies, 1/3 by MLAs, 1/12 graduates, 1/12 teachers and the rest nominated.

Q11 — A. PAC is the Provincial Armed Constabulary, UP's armed reserve police force.

Q12 — B. Bhadohi was carved out of Varanasi on 30 June 1994 and its carpet is GI-tagged. A district is renamed by state notification under Sec. 6(2) of the UP Revenue Code, 2006 — Parliament's role (Art. 3) is for renaming States.

Q13 — C. UPNEDA is the nodal agency and ultra-mega units are those above ₹1,500 crore. The electricity-duty exemption is for up to 10 years, not 20.

Q14 — B. The Gomti rises at Gomat Taal near Pilibhit and flows past Lucknow, Sultanpur and Jaunpur to join the Ganga (not the Ghaghara) near Kaithi, on the Varanasi-Ghazipur border.

Q15 — A. It is at the Japan-assisted Rudraksh Convention Centre, Varanasi.

Q16 — B. Bhadohi became a separate district on 30 June 1994 (carved out of Varanasi) and was renamed Sant Ravidas Nagar in 1997 (it reverted to Bhadohi in 2014; the name Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi was approved by the Cabinet on 9 Oct 2026). It is famous for hand-made carpets (GI-tagged), not brassware - that is Moradabad.

Q17 — A. UP New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) approves and disburses incentives; an evaluation committee under its Director assesses applications.

Q18 — A. Art. 171(3) provides the graduate and teacher quotas. Under Art. 169(3), a law creating or abolishing a Council is not deemed an amendment under Art. 368. UP's graduate–teacher seats go to the polls on 23 Oct.

Q19 — A. Sauj Jheel lies in Mainpuri district, which already had the Saman Bird Sanctuary Ramsar site; UP now has 14 Ramsar sites.

Q20 — C. The triple test (Vikas Kishanrao Gawali, 2021) = dedicated commission + local-body-wise proportion + 50% cap; no legislative two-thirds approval is required.

Q21 — D. All three are correct: the Mandi Parishad runs the scheme, the grant rose from ₹36,000 to ₹60,000, and seats rose 15 → 30 in colleges (45 → 90 in universities/institutes).

Q22 — B. As of 20 October 2026, two radars had been installed and work was under way on the other three; the project costs ₹22.45 crore (about ₹19.50 crore for radars and ₹2.95 crore for civil works).

Q23 — B. Bhadohi became a separate district on 30 June 1994, carved out of Varanasi, and its hand-knotted carpet is GI-tagged. Statement 3 is wrong: Sant Ravidas is traditionally linked with Ramananda's Bhakti tradition, not as a disciple of Guru Nanak, though his verses are in the Guru Granth Sahib.

Q24 — A. Article 171: one-third by local bodies, one-third by MLAs, one-twelfth by graduates, one-twelfth by teachers (secondary level and above) and about one-sixth nominated by the Governor. UP's Council has 100 members.

Q25 — A. NSAP is now the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana (₹53,428 crore, 2026-27 to 2030-31). The benchmark disability criterion was cut from 80% to 40%, in line with the RPwD Act 2016.

Q26 — D. UP Council has 100 members; Art. 171(3)(c) gives 1/12 to teachers (3+ years, secondary level and above) and Art. 171(3)(e) 1/6 nominated by the Governor. Today 11 graduate & teacher seats go to polls.

Q27 — A. Its 12 districts are Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareli, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj - Kanpur Nagar is not on the route.

Q28 — D. All three are correct: Bithoor (Kanpur Nagar, on the Ganga) is revered as Valmiki's tapobhumi and was the seat of Nana Saheb Peshwa in 1857.

Q29 — B. UP has 17 municipal corporations, 200 municipal councils and 545 nagar panchayats (762 in all). ULBs got constitutional status from the 74th, not the 73rd, Amendment.

Q30 — A. Sauj Jheel is in Mainpuri district, which also has the Saman Bird Sanctuary Ramsar site.

Q31 — C. The Jhansi Link connects BIDA (Jhansi) with the Bundelkhand Expressway; it is one of four greenfield link expressways (about 322 km, ₹17,542 crore) cleared by the Cabinet on 27 Oct 2026 for EPC execution by UPEIDA.

Q32 — D. The ~74 km Jewar Link connects Noida International Airport (Jewar) to the Ganga Expressway; it is one of four link expressways cleared on 27 Oct 2026.

Q33 — B. It runs 2026-27 to 2030-31 (the 16th Finance Commission period) with a total outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore (Centre ₹4,869.48 crore + States ₹2,526.07 crore), so it is centrally sponsored, not fully Centre-funded; statement 2 is wrong.

Q34 — B. The PM MITRA Park is on the Lucknow–Hardoi border (1,000 acres), so statement 2 is wrong.

Q35 — C. SPV PM MITRA Park Uttar Pradesh Ltd: UP 51%, Centre 49%.

Q36 — C. Gangotri lies in Uttarkashi district, like Yamunotri. Kedarnath is in Rudraprayag and Badrinath in Chamoli.

Q37 — D. All three are correct: Narayani is its Nepali name, Valmikinagar barrage came under the Gandak Agreement (1959), and it meets the Ganga at Hajipur–Sonepur.

Q38 — A. Art. 161 gives the Governor pardoning powers for state-law offences; Art. 72 is the President's power, Art. 163 concerns the Council of Ministers and Art. 213 ordinances.

Q39 — B. CACP is an attached office (not statutory). Wheat got the smallest hike (₹25); safflower got the highest (₹675).

Q40 — B. Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Rajendra Setu is built across the Ganga (not the Gandak), linking Mokama in Patna district with Simaria in Begusarai.

Q41 — C. Deisseroth, Hegemann and Nagel were honoured for channelrhodopsin and optogenetics — controlling neurons with light.

Q42 — A. TEPA commits EFTA to about $100 billion of investment over 15 years, with a target of around 1 million jobs. EFTA members are Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

Q43 — B. Chaubatia is near Ranikhet in Almora district, not Pithoragarh; the exercise is India–UAE with a Bhairav Battalion.

Q44 — A. The sanctioned strength is 38 (working strength rose from 34 to 37 after three new judges were elevated in October 2026); Articles 124(2) and 223 are correctly matched.

Q45 — B. Repo is now 5.50% and the MPC is under Sec 45ZB. The SDF (5.25%) is the floor; the MSF (5.75%) is the ceiling.

Q46 — D. All three are correct. The repo rate was raised 25 bps to 5.50%, the stance moved to 'calibrated tightening', and the MPC has six members (three from the RBI and three appointed by the Government).

Q47 — C. EFTA has four members: Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Austria left EFTA when it joined the EU in 1995.

Q48 — C. Indrapuri barrage is on the Sone (Rohtas). Valmikinagar = Gandak; Birpur = Kosi; Sultanganj = Ganga.

Q49 — C. The LAF corridor is repo ± 25 bps: SDF 5.25% (floor) and MSF/Bank Rate 5.75% (ceiling).

Q50 — A. It is a constitutional body under Art. 279A (correct). It is chaired by the Union Finance Minister, not the RBI Governor, and its recommendations are persuasive, not binding (Mohit Minerals, 2022).

Q51 — D. The 1974 India–Sri Lanka agreement demarcated the boundary in the Palk Strait, placing Katchatheevu on Sri Lanka's side; the 1976 pact covered the Gulf of Mannar and Bay of Bengal.

Q52 — D. All correct. The MPC is statutory (RBI Act, 1934), has six members (3 RBI + 3 government-nominated), the Governor has a second/casting vote on a tie, and the CPI target is 4% +/- 2%.

Q53 — C. MoSPI compiles the CPI; the RBI's flexible inflation targeting (since 2016) sets a 4% target within a 2–6% band. September 2026 CPI of 5.54% is within the band but above target. Both correct.

Q54 — B. Art 159 (oath by CJ of HC) and Art 156 (pleasure of President) are correct; residency is not required - by convention, an outsider is usually appointed.

Q55 — B. Art. 155 – appointment by warrant; Art. 157 requires 35 years, so statement 2 is wrong; Hargovind Pant (1979) held it is an independent constitutional office.

Q56 — B. Gangotri's winter seat is Mukhba; Kharsali is the winter seat of Yamunotri.

Q57 — B. SIOFA was signed in Rome in 2006 (in force 2012) and its secretariat is in Réunion. Highly migratory species like tuna are excluded and are managed by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

Q58 — D. Rudranath (4th Kedar, face of Shiva) is worshipped at Gopinath Temple, Gopeshwar in winter. Tungnath — Makkumath; Madhyamaheshwar — Ukhimath; Kalpeshwar stays open all year.

Q59 — A. Dairy, sugar and edible oils are excluded from the tariff concessions under the FTA.

Q60 — A. PDPS is a component of PM-AASHA (Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan), which pays farmers the gap when prices fall below MSP.

Q61 — C. Makku Math is the winter seat of Tungnath. Badrinath's winter worship is at Pandukeshwar/Jyotirmath.

Q62 — B. Under Art. 171, 1/12 are elected by graduates and 1/6 are nominated by the Governor. The Council's strength cannot exceed one-third (not one-half) of the Assembly, with a minimum of 40.

Q63 — C. Bhavantar (PDPS) pays farmers the difference between the MSP and the sale/model rate via DBT; it does NOT physically procure or store the crop. The other three are correct.

Q64 — D. Gangotri — Mukhba; Kedarnath — Omkareshwar, Ukhimath; Badrinath — Narsingh Temple, Joshimath; Yamunotri — Kharsali.

Q65 — D. ICI is released monthly by the Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT (Ministry of Commerce & Industry); the IIP is released by NSO, MoSPI. The new ICI series uses base year 2022-23.

Q66 — B. Bhavantar pays the price difference and the farmer keeps selling in the mandi, so statement 2 (physical procurement) is wrong — that describes the Price Support Scheme (PSS). It runs under PDPS of PM-AASHA, so 1 and 3 are correct.

Q67 — B. Statement 2 is wrong: Kihoto Hollohan (1992) held the Speaker acts as a tribunal and is subject to judicial review. Statement 3 follows G. Viswanathan (1996).

Q68 — D. All three are correct: 'Arnab' (ocean) is Bangladesh's name; the list (169 names, 2020) is kept by the WMO/ESCAP PTC; IMD New Delhi is the RSMC.

Q69 — A. Bangladesh contributed 'Arnab' (meaning 'ocean') to the list of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (13 member countries).

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