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**For CENTRAL GOVT Exam**

**(SSC, RAILWAYS & BANKING)**

## OCTOBER 2026








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## 1.1. Awards & Honours




- **UPSC Centenary:** PM Narendra Modi attended the centenary celebrations in New Delhi; a commemorative stamp, a special coin and a compilation of 100 significant case laws were released.
- **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026:** Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel, for discoveries on light-gated ion channels and optogenetics (using light to control cell activity).
- **Nobel Prize in Physics 2026:** Francis Halzen, for decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the detection of high-energy cosmic neutrinos.
- **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026:** Henri B. Kagan (France) and Kenso Soai (Japan), for the discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis (the Soai reaction; explains how homochirality can arise spontaneously). Announced 7 October.
- **Nobel Prize in Literature 2026:** Canadian poet, essayist and classicist Anne Carson (announced 8 October).
- **Nobel Peace Prize 2026:** Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay (South African jurist, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights), 'for her efforts to promote peace and international law'. Announced 9 October in Oslo.
- **Sveriges Riksbank (Economics) Prize 2026:** Robert E. Hall (Stanford) and Michael Woodford (Columbia), 'for microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation'. Announced 12 October; each Nobel prize is worth SEK 12 million.
- **Ballon d'Or 2026 (70th edition):** Held 26 October at the London Palladium, the first ceremony outside Paris. Men's: Harry Kane (Bayern Munich; first Englishman since Michael Owen, 2001; fifth Englishman overall; 73 goals in 2025–26). Women's: Alexia Putellas (3rd award). Kopa Trophy: Lamine Yamal and Vicky López. Yashin Trophy: Unai Simón and Cata Coll. Gerd Müller Trophy: Harry Kane and Charlyn Corral.




- **Sakharov Prize 2026:** The European Parliament awarded the 2026 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to the International Criminal Court (announced 22 October; ceremony 16 December, Strasbourg). The 2024 laureates were Machado and González Urrutia, and 2025 went to Poczobut and Amaglobeli. Single-source; confirm on europarl.europa.eu.
- **PMDDKY Excellence Awards:** At the first-anniversary event of PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (New Delhi, 12 October): Gaya (Bihar) 1st, Nagaur (Rajasthan) 2nd, Umaria (Madhya Pradesh) 3rd among best-performing agricultural districts.
- **Israel's Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism:** Indian pilot Capt. Smit Machchhar, to be honoured by President Isaac Herzog for resisting a cockpit attack on a flydubai flight and protecting passengers.

- **Legion of Honour (France):** Sunil Bharti Mittal (Bharti Enterprises) conferred Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur for Indo-French telecom and digital partnerships.
- **Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026:** 3rd Battalion, Assam Regiment won Gold at the Cambrian Patrol (Brecon, Wales), known as the 'Olympics of military patrolling'.
- **Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Award (inaugural):** Assam government named Usha Mangeshkar; ₹10 lakh prize to be presented by PM Modi on 29 November at Bharat Mandapam; triennial award for music, arts and cinema.
- **Oskar Klein Medal 2026:** Ashoke Sen (string theory), reported as first Indian recipient.




- **Swavalamban Indigenisation Awards 2026:** Presented by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the 5th Swavalamban naval innovation seminar to defence MSMEs and start-ups (Atmanirbharta 2.0).
- **National IP Awards 2026:** DPIIT conferred awards on academic institutions, public R&D bodies and MSMEs for patent commercialisation and trademark management.
- **Swachhata Pakhwada Railway Awards 2026:** Eastern Railway and South Central Railway adjudged top zones for station sanitation and bio-toilet compliance.
- **Earthshot Prize 2026:** Finalists include Indian solar-refrigeration enterprise 'EcoFrost' (categories 'Fix Our Climate' and 'Build a Waste-Free World').
- **Princess of Asturias Award for Sports:** Lionel Messi, described as the first individual footballer to receive it (Oviedo, Spain).




- **Centres of Excellence for Classical Languages:** Ministry of Education approved five centres (Assamese, Bengali, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit) for research and documentation. (Draft elsewhere listed Pali, Prakrit and Sanskrit; the first list matches the five languages classified in 2024.)




## PRACTICE QUESTION

1. The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026 was awarded to Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel for their discoveries related to which of the following?
   (a) Gene editing (b) Stem cell therapy
   (c) Optogenetics (d) mRNA vaccines
   Answer: (c) Optogenetics
2. Who received the Nobel Prize in Physics 2026 for contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the detection of high-energy cosmic neutrinos?
   (a) Francis Halzen (b) Peter Hegemann
   (c) Robert E. Hall (d) Michael Woodford
   Answer: (a) Francis Halzen

3. Who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature 2026?
   (a) Margaret Atwood (b) Anne Carson
   (c) Salman Rushdie (d) Kazuo Ishiguro
   Answer: (b) Anne Carson
4. Who won the men's Ballon d'Or 2026?
   (a) Lionel Messi (b) Lamine Yamal
   (c) Harry Kane (d) Kylian Mbappé
   Answer: (c) Harry Kane
5. The 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry recognised discoveries related to non-linear effects and autocatalysis in which field?
   (a) Inorganic chemistry (b) Asymmetric organic synthesis
   (c) Nuclear chemistry (d) Electrochemistry
   Answer: (b) Asymmetric organic synthesis
6. Which Indian Army unit won Gold at Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026 in Wales?
   (a) 1st Battalion, Gorkha Rifles (b) 3rd Battalion, Assam Regiment
   (c) Rajput Regiment (d) Sikh Light Infantry
   Answer: (b) 3rd Battalion, Assam Regiment
7. Who was named the recipient of the inaugural Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Award?
   (a) Asha Bhosle (b) Usha Mangeshkar
   (c) Shreya Ghoshal (d) Alka Yagnik
   Answer: (b) Usha Mangeshkar
8. Which Indian industrialist was conferred the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur by France for contributions to Indo-French telecom and digital partnerships?
   (a) Mukesh Ambani (b) Gautam Adani
   (c) Sunil Bharti Mittal (d) N. Chandrasekaran
   Answer: (c) Sunil Bharti Mittal
9. Which district secured first place among the best-performing agricultural districts at the first-anniversary event of the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana?
   (a) Nagaur, Rajasthan (b) Umaria, Madhya Pradesh
   (c) Gaya, Bihar (d) Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
   Answer: (c) Gaya, Bihar
10. The Oskar Klein Medal 2026 was reportedly awarded to which Indian physicist known for his work in string theory?
    (a) Ashoke Sen (b) Abhay Ashtekar
    (c) Jayant Narlikar (d) Thanu Padmanabhan
    Answer: (a) Ashoke Sen

## 1.2. Appointments




- **Deputy Election Commissioner:** 2010-batch IAS officer Prakash Rajpurohit; ACC approval runs through 8 April 2030.
- **MD & CEO, HDFC Bank:** Anup Bagchi took charge on 27 October 2026 for three years, succeeding Shashidhar Jagdishan.
- **Chairperson, CBIC:** Sanjiv Kumar Sharma assumed charge, succeeding Sanjay Kumar Agarwal.

- **Chairperson, NFRA:** Dr. Ajay Bhushan Prasad re-appointed for a renewed term.
- **Director General, RPF:** Alok Kumar Verma appointed Director General of the Railway Protection Force.
- **MD, DFCCIL:** Praveen Kumar appointed Managing Director of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd.
- **Chief of the Air Staff (designate):** Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit named the 29th CAS, effective 31 October 2026.
- **Secretary, MoEFCC:** Narendra Bhooshan (1992-batch UP-cadre IAS) assumed charge.
- **Supreme Court judges: The** President appointed Sunita Agarwal, Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Aparesh Kumar Singh (Chief Justices of Gujarat, Delhi and Telangana High Courts).



- **Chief Justice, Delhi High Court:** Justice P. Sam Koshy recommended by the SC Collegium.
- **Chief Justice, J&K and Ladakh High Court:** Justice Tashi Rabstan sworn in as permanent Chief Justice.
- **Chief Secretary, J&K:** Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav (1995-batch AGMUT IAS).
- **Ambassador to Nepal:** Sudhakar Dalela (IFS 1993), Secretary in the MEA.
- **Indian UniSport Federation:** Dr. Achyuta Samanta (founder of KIIT and KISS) elected first President.



- **UNESCO-IOC Indian Ocean Panel:** Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair (Director, INCOIS) elected Chair of the IOC Indian Ocean Regional Panel.
- **INTERPOL:** IPS officer Praveen Sinha inducted into a standing committee on cyber-fraud containment.
- **Brand ambassador, Khelo India Rising Stars:** Neeraj Chopra named national brand ambassador for the grassroots talent portal.
- **Brazil:** Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva reported re-elected for a fourth term; Brazil's election runs 4 and 25 October, so confirm final result.

## PRACTICE QUESTION

**1.** Who was appointed as the Deputy Election Commissioner, with ACC approval extending until 8 April 2030?

(a) Narendra Bhooshan
(b) Prakash Rajpurohit
(c) Sajjan Singh Yadav
(d) Sudhakar Dalela

**Answer:** (b) Prakash Rajpurohi

**2.** Who took charge as the Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Bank as on 27 October 2026?

(a) Shashidhar Jagdishan
(b) Sanjiv Kumar Sharma
(c) Anup Bagchi
(d) Praveen Kumar

**Answer:** (c) Anup Bagchi

3. Who assumed charge as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)?

(a) Sanjay Kumar Agarwal
(b) Sanjiv Kumar Sharma
(c) Ajay Bhushan Prasad
(d) Alok Kumar Verma

**Answer**: (b) Sanjiv Kumar Sharma

4. Who was appointed as the Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF)?

(a) Praveen Sinha
(b) Praveen Kumar
(c) Alok Kumar Verma
(d) Ashutosh Dixit

**Answer**: (c) Alok Kumar Verma

5. Who was named the 29th Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), effective 31 October 2026?

(a) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
(b) Air Marshal Alok Kumar Verma
(c) Air Marshal Praveen Sinha
(d) Air Marshal Prakash Rajpurohit

**Answer:** (a) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

6. Consider the following pairs of appointments:

1. Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair — Chair of the UNESCO-IOC Indian Ocean Regional Panel
2. Praveen Sinha — INTERPOL standing committee on cyber-fraud containment
3. Neeraj Chopra — National brand ambassador of Khelo India Rising Stars

Which of the pairs are correctly matched?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer:** (d) 1, 2 and 3

7. Who was elected as the first President of the Indian UniSport Federation?

(a) Neeraj Chopra
(b) Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair
(c) Dr. Achyuta Samanta
(d) Praveen Sinha

**Answer:** (c) Dr. Achyuta Samanta

8. Who was appointed as the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir?

(a) Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav
(b) Narendra Bhooshan
(c) Sudhakar Dalela
(d) Praveen Kumar

**Answer:** (a) Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav

9. Who was appointed as India's Ambassador to Nepal?

(a) Praveen Sinha
(b) Sudhakar Dalela
(c) Prakash Rajpurohit
(d) Sanjiv Kumar Sharma

**Answer:** (b) Sudhakar Dalela

10. Who was sworn in as the permanent Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh?

(a) Justice Sunita Agarwal
(b) Justice Tashi Rabstan
(c) Justice P. Sam Koshy
(d) Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya

**Answer:** (b) Justice Tashi Rabstan

## 1.3. Persons in News



- **Lionel Messi:** Ended his 21-year international career after Argentina's 3–0 win over Benin (Buenos Aires); Argentina's top scorer (126) and most-capped player (208).
- **Harry Kane:** 2026 Ballon d'Or winner (see Awards & Honours).
- **Navi Pillay:** 2026 Nobel Peace laureate (see Awards & Honours).
- **Bodhana Sivanandan:** British-Indian chess prodigy. Draft gives two records: youngest woman International Master (aged 11) and Guinness record as youngest Woman Grandmaster; these conflict, so check the official FIDE/Guinness record before using.
- **Priteesmita Bhoi:** 15-year-old weightlifter; Youth World Record, clean and jerk 92 kg (total 158 kg), Asian Youth Games.
- **Arjun Erigaisi:** Reported above 2800 FIDE and world No. 3; described as second Indian after Viswanathan Anand to reach 2800.



- **Abhishek Sharma:** Record century in the 3rd T20I vs New Zealand (199 chased in 13.2 overs); 11 T20 centuries reported.
- **Punam Raut:** Women's cricketer; announced retirement from international cricket (4 Tests, 73 ODIs, 35 T20Is).
- **Mona Agarwal:** Gold, women's 10m air rifle standing SH1, Asian Para Games, Games-record 250.0.
- **Putul Sonowal:** Assam bowler; first Indian medallist (bronze, men's singles) at the World Bowls Champion of Champions, Barham, Australia.
- **S. Jaishankar:** Africa tour, 6–10 October: Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia (trade, pharma, defence, DPI, agriculture MoUs).
- **Guy Parmelin:** Swiss President on India visit, 5–7 October: talks with PM Modi, second India–EFTA Prosperity Summit, five agreements incl. a Migration and Mobility Partnership (300 young professionals annually).



- **President Droupadi Murmu:** National SARAS Mela, Vijayawada (Rural Development Ministry with Andhra Pradesh; SHG women artisans); tribute to Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on his 95th birth anniversary.
- **Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan:** Commissioned INS Samarthak (Karwar); inaugurated KAUMARACON-2026 (Ayurvedic paediatrics) at AIIA, New Delhi.
- **Ashwini Vaishnaw and Jitin Prasada:** Union Ministers addressed plenary sessions and interacted with global chief executive officers of Swiss and EFTA enterprises at Bharat Mandapam.

## PRACTICE QUESTION

**1.** What is Lionel Messi's international goal tally for Argentina?

(a) 108 (b) 118
(c) 126 (d) 208

**Answer:** (c) 126

**2.** Bodhana Sivanandan, mentioned in the news, is associated with which sport?

(a) Badminton (b) Chess
(c) Table tennis (d) Gymnastics

**Answer**: (b) Chess

**3.** Priteesmita Bhoi is associated with which sport?

(a) Wrestling
(b) Boxing
(c) Weightlifting
(d) Shooting

**Answer:** (c) Weightlifting

**4.** Abhishek Sharma made headlines for scoring a record century against which country in a T20 International?

(a) Australia
(b) England
(c) South Africa
(d) New Zealand

**Answer:** (d) New Zealand

**5**. Arjun Erigaisi is associated with which of the following sports?

(a) Chess
(b) Archery
(c) Shooting
(d) Athletics

**Answer:** (a) Chess

**6.** President Droupadi Murmu attended the National SARAS Mela in Vijayawada. The event was associated with which of the following?

(a) Rural Development Ministry and women self-help group artisans
(b) Ministry of Defence and military veterans
(c) Ministry of Tourism and foreign delegates
(d) Ministry of Education and university students

**Answer:** (a) Rural Development Ministry and women self-help group artisans

**7**. At the Gaupalak Sammelan in Bhopal, Amit Shah focused on which of the following themes?

(a) Fisheries development
(b) Dairy cooperatives and the White Revolution
(c) Digital banking
(d) Renewable energy

**Answer:** (b) Dairy cooperatives and the White Revolution

**8.** S. Jaishankar undertook an official tour of Africa covering which of the following groups of countries?

(a) Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia
(b) Kenya, Nigeria and Egypt
(c) Ghana, Kenya and South Africa
(d) Ethiopia, Egypt and Morocco

**Answer:** (a) Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia

**9.** Putul Sonowal made history at the World Bowls Champion of Champions held in which country?

(a) Canada
(b) Australia
(c) New Zealand
(d) South Africa

**Answer:** (b) Australia

**10.** Mona Agarwal won a gold medal in which event at the Asian Para Games?

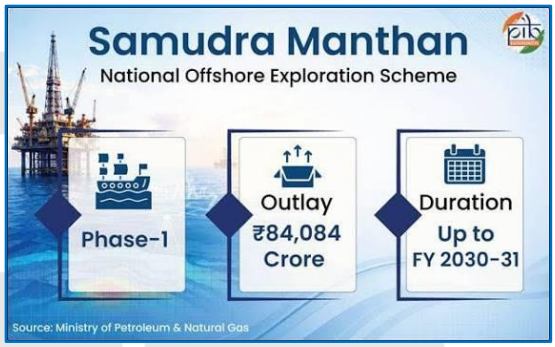
(a) Women's 10m air rifle standing SH1
(b) Women's 25m pistol
(c) Men's 10m air pistol
(d) Women's archery individual event

**Answer:** (a) Women's 10m air rifle standing SH1

## 1.4. Government Schemes, Policies & Welfare Initiatives




- **PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (1-year review):** Agriculture Ministry and NITI Aayog reviewed the six-year scheme operating in 100 Aspirational Agricultural Districts (seed replacement, micro-irrigation, FPOs).
- **NSAP restructured:** Cabinet approved continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme for FY 2026–27 to 2030–31 with ₹53,428 crore, renamed Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana. IGNDPS renamed PM Divyangjan Pension Yojana (disability threshold relaxed from 80% to 40%); National Family Benefit Scheme renamed PM Parivar Labh Yojana.
- **PM-SETU:** 6th National Steering Committee (chair: MSDE Secretary Debashree Mukherjee) approved ₹1,194.92 crore for five ITI clusters (Maharashtra, Odisha, J&K), taking total sanctions to ₹3,687 crore under the ₹60,000 crore scheme. One-year review: 850 ITIs, 14 clusters, 5 National Centres of Excellence.
- **Samudra Manthan Mission:** ₹84,084 crore offshore exploration mission to FY 2030–31; opens over 1 million sq km of deep-water EEZ acreage by lifting 99% of 'No-Go' areas.




- **GOBARdhan (revamped):** Central sector scheme, ₹23,731 crore over FY 2026–27 to 2035–36, to boost compressed biogas and organic manure.
- **Green Energy Corridor Phase-III:** Cabinet approved ₹1.86 lakh crore to evacuate 135+ GW of renewable capacity.
- **National Coastal Mission 2.0:** ₹767 crore till 2031; 9 coastal States and 4 UTs; mangroves, coral reefs, CRZ resilience.
- **Rabi MSP for 2027–28:** Wheat ₹2,610 per quintal; safflower the highest absolute hike (₹675). The draft's other entry (wheat ₹2,425, mustard ₹5,950, masur ₹6,700) is the 2025–26 rabi set and is removed.




- **RBI policy (7 October 2026):** MPC raised the repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50%, the first hike since 2023 (63rd MPC meeting, 5–7 Oct, Governor Sanjay Malhotra); reported stance 'calibrated tightening'; FY27 GDP 7.1%, CPI 5.2%. Next meeting 2–4 December.
- **RBI regulatory moves:** Barred AD Category-I banks from allowing rebooking of cancelled rupee forex derivatives; special dollar window for IOCL, BPCL, HPCL; limit on forex derivatives without underlying cut from $100 mn to $5 mn; Benchmark Issuance Strategy extended to total 26 States/UTs; daily minimum CRR maintenance raised from 90% to 99%.




- **GST Council (57th meeting, 8 October):** Recommended withdrawing arrest powers under Section 69, raising prosecution threshold from ₹1 crore to ₹5 crore, and limiting interception of goods in transit to intelligence-backed cases.

- **IDBI Bank disinvestment:** CCEA approved sale of a 60.72% stake (₹52,878.08 crore) to a Fairfax Financial subsidiary; GoI retains 15% and LIC 19%.
- **EPS notification:** G.S.R. 890(E) caps the pension wage benchmark at ₹15,000/month; government share ₹174 per member per month.
- **30% trade-margin cap:** Chemicals Ministry/NPPA capped trade margin at 30% on non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs.
- **Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026:** MHA widened the enumerator pool to include staff of private aided/unaided institutions, PSUs, public sector banks and registered trusts.
- **DIGIPIN:** India Post with IIT Hyderabad: 10-character geo-coded address (4 m × 4 m grid), nationwide rollout.
- **Tele-MANAS 2.0:** Upgraded multilingual app launched on World Mental Health Day (22 languages).
- **National Critical Minerals Mission:** Auction timelines and capex subsidy guidelines for 24 critical minerals.
- **SVAMITVA:** Drone mapping of 3.15 lakh+ villages; 1.65 crore+ property cards.
- **PM-eBus Sewa:** 3,000+ electric buses deployed in Tier-2/3 cities.
- **PM-JAY:** 'Ayushman Aapke Dwar 4.0' to saturate cards for citizens aged 70+.




- **PM GatiShakti (5 years):** Launched 13 October 2021; NPG appraised 240+ projects worth ₹15.8 lakh crore. NPG separately cleared six projects worth ₹18,600 crore.
- **Defence Acquisition Council:** AoN for capital acquisitions worth ₹2.12 lakh crore, 82% domestic.
- **E100 / E85 fuel:** MoRTH notified E100 and E85 as standard fuels for flex-fuel vehicles.
- **Ladakh:** PM inaugurated five projects (~₹3,350 crore); UT administration banned chemical fertilisers and pesticides (moving to 100% organic).
- **Lakshadweep:** 100% literacy under ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.
- **PLFS bulletin (September 2026):** LFPR 55.5% (rural 58.0, urban 50.7); urban female LFPR 25.9%; unemployment 5.0% (rural 4.2, urban 6.9).
- **State initiatives:** Delhi Institute for Transformation and Innovation (DITI) notified; Mizoram: MIWAS, e-Sanction, e-Budget, 100% DBT portal (CM Lalduhoma); Odisha: first MICE Incentive Portal and Boeing Sukanya STEM Lab; Kerala: first IUCN Red List of Ecosystems assessment; Andhra Pradesh: 3D-printed PMAY-G 2.0 pilot; Bihar Green Hydrogen Policy 2026 (1 lakh tonnes by 2031); Goa AI Policy 2026 (CoE with BITS Pilani, Konkani model with Bhashini); Gujarat: drought declared in Dwarka, Kutch, Jamnagar, Porbandar (₹8,500/ha SDRF); Tamil Nadu: Vettri Payanam Thittam; UP: Robotics & AI Park (Greater Noida), AMRUT 2.0 works ₹2,562.82 crore; Mission Karmayogi state ranking led by UP.
- **Bharat Rice for Defence Forces:** The Indian Army and Ministry of Defence launched the procurement and dedicated supply of fortified 'Bharat Rice' across military messes and logistical supply depots to enhance nutritional security and support domestic FCI grain offloading.




- **MHA Frequent Demographic Changes Portal:** The High-Level Demography Panel under the Ministry of Home Affairs launched a dedicated public portal allowing government bodies, academic

researchers, and NGOs to submit grassroots data and feedback regarding local demographic shifts occurring post-2011.

- **PMAY-Gramin Phase-II Geo-Tagging Drive:** The Ministry of Rural Development completed a nationwide digital geo-tagging review under PMAY-G Phase-II, achieving 100% spatial verification of sanctioned rural dwelling units via the 'AwaasSoft' mobile portal.
- **One Nation One Student ID (APAAR ID) Benchmark:** The Ministry of Education announced that over 28 crore Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) IDs have been generated nationwide under the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), integrating digital credit transfers through the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC).




- **Chief Minister Bal Poshahar Yojana Revamp (Rajasthan):** The Rajasthan State Government expanded the Bal Poshahar Yojana to include fortified millets (Bajra and Jowar khichdi) and milk powders 5 days a week across all government primary schools and Anganwadi centers.
- **EPFO Expansion of Automated Claim Settlement (Auto-Mode):** The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) expanded the threshold for auto-mode settlement of advance claims under Para 68K (education) and Para 68B (housing) up to ₹1,50,000, eliminating manual scrutiny for over 75% of formal sector subscribers.
- **PM-SVANidhi Milestone Crosses 85 Lakh Beneficiaries:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced that the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi) micro-credit scheme officially crossed 85 lakh verified urban street vendors, disbursing over ₹12,800 crore with digital cashback incentives promoting UPI transactions.
- **Bhashini AI Platform Integration across Common Services Centres (CSCs):** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) operationalized the integration of the AI-powered 'Digital India Bhashini' voice-to-voice translation stack across 5.5 lakh CSCs, enabling citizens to access government welfare schemes in 22 scheduled Indian languages.
- **Mukhyamantri Yuva Sambal Yojana Digitization (Madhya Pradesh):** The Madhya Pradesh State Government launched an automated direct-benefit disbursement module under the Yuva Sambal initiative, streamlining monthly unemployment allowances and apprenticeship stipends directly via Aadhaar-enabled bank accounts.
- **SEBI Directives on Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) Transparency:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) mandated granular beneficial ownership disclosures for all high-risk FPIs holding more than 50% of their Indian equity assets in a single corporate group, aimed at preventing round-tripping and stock price manipulation.

- **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) Review:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs reviewed mission achievements under the ₹24,104 crore PM-JANMAN, confirming 100% saturation of potable tap water connections (Jal Jeevan Mission) and solar micro-grids across 11 critical interventions for 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) spanning 18 states and UTs.
- **National Medical Commission (NMC) Digital Healthcare Registration:** NMC notified the mandatory integration of the National Medical Register (NMR) with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), allotting a unique digital Healthcare Professional ID (HPID) to over 14 lakh registered modern medicine doctors across India.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) Deep-Sea Trawling Push:** Department of Fisheries released an additional central subsidy allocation of ₹480 crore to upgrade traditional fishing crafts into deep-sea tuna longliners for traditional coastal cooperative societies in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh.




- **EPFO Mandates Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Face-Authentication:** The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) operationalized Aadhaar-based Face Authentication Technology (FAT) for EPS pensioners, allowing over 78 lakh pensioners to submit their annual Jeevan Pramaan Patra directly from home using smartphones.
- **Kisan Rin Portal (KRP) Ghar Ghar KCC Saturation Drive:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare reviewed the 'Ghar Ghar KCC Abhiyan' operationalized through the unified Kisan Rin Portal (KRP), confirming the issuance of over 1.2 crore newly sanctioned Kisan Credit Cards with subsidized interest subvention (ISS at 3% prompt repayment incentive) to reach non-loanee farmers.
- **Mission Karmayogi Phase-3 Digital Competencies:** The Capacity Building Commission (CBC) launched specialized training courses on the iGOT-Karmayogi platform dedicated to emerging cyber laws, AI governance, and public grievance analytics for all central secretariat civil servants.

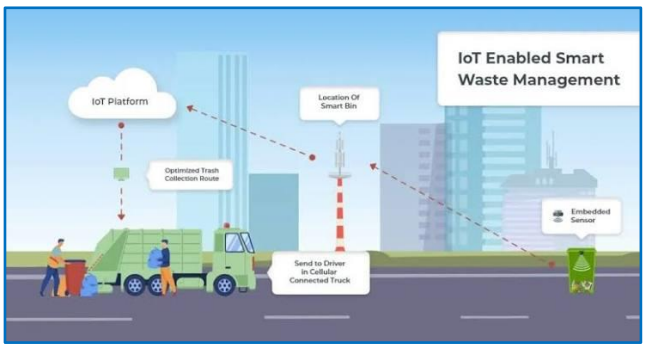



- **Cabinet Disinvestment Review on Shipping Corporation of India (SCI):** The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) advanced the demerger and strategic disinvestment roadmap for Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCI), approving bidding protocols for non-core maritime assets under SCILAL.
- **Kalaignar Dream House Scheme (Tamil Nadu):** The Tamil Nadu State Government released the administrative sanction of ₹3,500 crore for constructing 1 lakh disaster-resilient concrete houses to replace thatched roof huts across rural village panchayats.
- **RBI Revised Master Directions on Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs):** The Reserve Bank of India updated the regulatory framework for Middle and Upper Layer NBFCs, establishing stricter mandatory asset-liability management (ALM) liquidity coverage ratios and disclosure norms for commercial real estate exposure.
- **PM-ABHIM Health Infrastructure Saturation Milestone:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reviewed the nationwide progress of the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health

Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), confirming the establishment of 730 integrated public health laboratories and 50-bed critical care hospital blocks across all aspirational districts to build pandemic preparedness.

- **National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) Expansion:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) integrated 1,500 additional Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) onto the NUDM digital architecture, providing automated property tax assessment, online building permission systems (OBPS), and digital grievance redressal modules.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 4.0) Green Jobs Module:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched specialized green economy training modules under PMKVY 4.0, certifying over 1.5 lakh youth in solar rooftop installation, EV battery recycling, and precision agriculture drone mechanics.
- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Valuation Reforms:** IBBI notified amended Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) regulations, standardizing discounted cash-flow valuation methodologies and setting a mandatory 30-day timeline for registered valuers to submit liquidation estimates.
- **Unified Digital Identity for Farmers Milestone:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare created 11 crore unique digital farmer identity cards under the Digital Agriculture Mission, five months ahead of deadline.
- **Assam Cabinet Welspun Manufacturing Investment:** Assam Cabinet, chaired by CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, approved a ₹303.69 crore investment proposal by Welspun Group to set up an advanced manufacturing unit in Rangia, Kamrup district.
- **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) Q3 Review:** The Department of Food and Public Distribution initiated the third-quarter allocation review, ensuring seamless monthly supply of 5 kg free foodgrains to over 81.35 crore NFSA beneficiaries through 5.38 lakh Fair Price Shops nationwide.
- **Launch of People's Plan Campaign (PPC) 2026–27:** The Ministry of Panchayati Raj commenced the nationwide 'Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas' - People's Plan Campaign (PPC) 2026–27 on 2 October for systemic preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP).
- **National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) Project Grounding:** The Union Government advanced master planning and land allotment procedures across 12 newly sanctioned smart industrial city nodes to accelerate high-speed multi-modal logistics connectivity under PM GatiShakti.
- **PM-eBus Sewa Operational Deployment Milestone:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced the operational deployment of over 3,000 electric buses under the PM-eBus Sewa scheme across Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, transitioning municipal transit networks toward zero-emission public transport infrastructure.

- **Mukhyamantri VayoShri Yojana Direct Disbursements (Maharashtra):** The Maharashtra State Social Welfare Department initiated direct DBT transfers under the Mukhyamantri VayoShri Yojana, providing ₹3,000 one-time financial aid to senior citizens aged 65 and above suffering from physical disabilities or age-related infirmities.
- **IoT-Based Smart Municipal Waste Initiative (Haryana):** Haryana Department of Urban Local Bodies approved an advanced IoT-based real-time municipal waste tracking and digital source-segregation architecture deployed across primary urban commercial corridors and high-density clusters.




- **Mukhyamantri Yuva Sambal Yojana Digital Upgrade (Rajasthan):** The Rajasthan Department of Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship integrated direct Aadhaar-enabled biometric attendance verification for skill training allowances disbursed to educated unemployed youth.
- **Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana Expansion (Uttar Pradesh):** The Uttar Pradesh state government cleared revised grant allocations disbursing enhanced phased financial assistance up to ₹25,000 per eligible girl child across six distinct life milestones from birth to undergraduate entry.
- **Mukhyamantri Bal Poshan Yojana Phase-III (Madhya Pradesh):** Madhya Pradesh Women and Child Development Department expanded specialized nutritional supplementary egg and fortified milk allocations across 80,000 rural Anganwadi centres.
- **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Fisheries & Animal Husbandry Drive:** The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched a special nationwide saturation campaign to onboard dairy farmers and inland fishers onto the subsidized Kisan Credit Card lending framework.
- **PM-KUSUM Next-Phase Agrivoltaics Expansion:** Union Minister Pralhad Joshi announced the rollout of a dedicated large-scale agrivoltaics programme under the upcoming phase of PM-KUSUM, incentivizing farmers to integrate solar photovoltaic generation with farming crops on agricultural land.




- **DPIIT Regulatory Framework for Deep-Tech Startups:** The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) issued an operational framework under the National Deep Tech Startup Policy (NDTSP), establishing dedicated fast-track intellectual property patent examination and specialized regulatory sandboxes.
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) Tech Modernization:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare integrated automated drone-based crop-loss imaging and remote-sensing satellite analytics under the YES-TECH platform to expedite automated insurance claim settlement timelines down to 10 days.
- **Pratibha Setu Talent Utilization Portal:** Central Government launched 'Pratibha Setu' to connect high-scoring UPSC Civil Services non-recommended candidates with premier leadership roles across public sector enterprises and autonomous research councils.



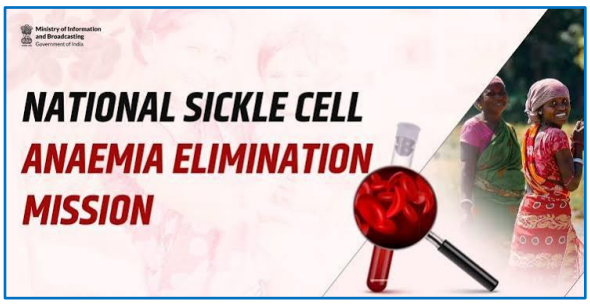
- **Financial Services Tokenization & Offline CBDC Frameworks:** Reserve Bank of India finalized regulatory sandboxes inviting tech-driven solutions for tokenized KYC and offline digital rupee transactions.
- **Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 & Swachh Bharat Diwas Culmination:** Swachh Bharat Diwas was observed nationwide on 2 October under the theme 'Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat', culminating the annual fortnight-long cleanliness drive with massive citizen 'Shramdaan' campaigns.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Special District Saturation Campaign:** On International Day of the Girl Child, the Ministry of Women and Child Development launched a nationwide saturation drive across 100 focus districts, emphasizing institutional birth registration, secondary school retention, and foundational STEM education for girls.




- **Expansion of National Disaster Management Information System (NDMIS):** The Ministry of Home Affairs and NDMA launched an expanded GIS-integrated tracking dashboard on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction to map real-time relief materials, cyclone shelters, and early-warning dissemination across all multi-hazard prone districts.
- **First Female Farmer Worker Conference:** India's inaugural Female Farmer Worker Conference convened in New Delhi on Gandhi Jayanti, focusing on rural landholding rights, financial credit accessibility, and regenerative organic farming in alignment with the UN International Year of the Woman Farmer.
- **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) Saturation Plan:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare approved the comprehensive roadmap for the National Mission on Natural Farming, earmarking dedicated inputs to convert 7.5 lakh hectares of chemical-free farmlands along the 5-km corridor of River Ganga under the Namami Gange mission.




- **Mukhyamantri Vriksh Sampada Yojana Incentives (Chhattisgarh):** The Chhattisgarh State Government released direct commercial timber subsidies to over 35,000 registered farmers under the Vriksh Sampada scheme to encourage agroforestry and private commercial tree plantations on barren lands.
- **Launch of National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission Phased Screening Drive:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare initiated an expanded indigenous diagnostic screening milestone targeting over 70 million individuals across tribal belts under the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission.




- **PM-UDAY Mapping Modernisation under DRISHTI:** The Central Government sanctioned a dedicated ₹65 crore spatial survey project under DRISHTI (Delhi Revenue and Imaging Survey, Spatial Technology Initiative) to accelerate automated GIS property boundary demarcation in unauthorized colonies under PM-UDAY.

## PRACTICE QUESTION

**1.** The PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana operates in how many Aspirational Agricultural Districts?

(a) 50 (b) 75
(c) 100 (d) 150

**Answer:** (c) 100

**2.** Which of the following areas is covered under the review of PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana?

(a) Seed replacement and micro-irrigation (b) Urban housing and metro rail
(c) Coastal tourism and shipbuilding (d) Defence exports and aviation

**Answer:** (a) Seed replacement and micro-irrigation

**3.** The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) was renamed as which scheme in the attachment?

(a) Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana
(b) Pradhan Mantri Parivar Labh Yojana
(c) Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Awas Yojana
(d) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

**Answer:** (a) Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana

**4.** Under the restructuring of NSAP, what is the approved financial allocation for FY 2026–27 to 2030–31?

(a) ₹23,731 crore (b) ₹53,428 crore
(c) ₹60,000 crore (d) ₹84,084 crore

**Answer:** (b) ₹53,428 crore

**5.** The disability threshold under PM Divyangjan Pension Yojana was relaxed from 80% to:

(a) 30% (b) 40%
(c) 50% (d) 60%

**Answer:** (b) 40%

**6.** PM-SETU is associated with the development of which institutions?

(a) Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)
(b) Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)
(c) All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)
(d) Kendriya Vidyalayas

**Answer:** (a) Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)

**7.** Who chaired the 6th National Steering Committee meeting of PM-SETU, according to the attachment?

(a) Debashree Mukherjee (b) Sanjay Malhotra
(c) J. P. Nadda (d) Pralhad Joshi

**Answer:** (a) Debashree Mukherjee

**8.** **What is the stated objective of Green Energy Corridor Phase-III?**

(a) To evacuate more than 135 GW of renewable energy capacity
(b) To construct 135 new airports

(c) To provide electricity to 135 million households through coal
(d) To establish 135 new industrial training institutes

**Answer:** (a) To evacuate more than 135 GW of renewable energy capacity

**9.** National Coastal Mission 2.0 focuses on which of the following?

(a) Mangroves, coral reefs and coastal resilience
(b) Himalayan glaciers and mountain roads
(c) Inland railway stations and freight corridors
(d) Desert agriculture and groundwater extraction

**Answer:** (a) Mangroves, coral reefs and coastal resilience

**10.** What is the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat for the 2027–28 rabi season?

(a) ₹2,425 per quintal
(b) ₹2,510 per quintal
(c) ₹2,610 per quintal
(d) ₹2,710 per quintal

**Answer:** (c) ₹2,610 per quintal

**11.** The GST Council's 57th meeting recommended raising the prosecution threshold from ₹1 crore to:

(a) ₹2 crore
(b) ₹3 crore
(c) ₹5 crore
(d) ₹10 crore

**Answer:** (c) ₹5 crore

**12.** DIGIPIN was developed by India Post in collaboration with which institution?

(a) IIT Delhi
(b) IIT Bombay
(c) IIT Hyderabad
(d) IIT Madras

**Answer:** (c) IIT Hyderabad

**13.** Tele-MANAS 2.0 was launched with multilingual support in how many languages?

(a) 12
(b) 18
(c) 22
(d) 28

**Answer:** (c) 22

**14.** PM-eBus Sewa focuses on the deployment of electric buses in which cities?

(a) Only metropolitan cities
(b) Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities
(c) Only state capitals
(d) Only rural villages

**Answer:** (b) Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities

**15.** Which Union Territory was reported to have achieved 100% literacy under ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram?

(a) Ladakh
(b) Lakshadweep
(c) Chandigarh
(d) Puducherry

**Answer:** (b) Lakshadweep

## 1.5. Indian Railways & Transport Infrastructure

- **Productivity-Linked Bonus 2025–26:** Cabinet approved 78 days' PLB: ₹2,028.57 crore for about 11.72 lakh non-gazetted staff; maximum payout ₹17,951. (A second draft entry gave ₹2,009.61 crore / 11,40,770 staff; this is the more detailed and repeated figure, so verify.)



- **Mokama Ganga bridge:** New ₹2,400 crore double-line rail bridge (1.9 km, 17 steel spans) beside Rajendra Setu; first train 15483 Mahananda Express.
- **Vande Bharat additions:** Udaipur–Surat (3 Oct; 690 km; 160 km/h); New Delhi–Patna festival special (from 16 Oct; 996 km); Bengaluru–Mumbai service; commercial clearance for 16-car chair-car set from RCF Kapurthala.
- **Tatanagar station:** Redevelopment master plan: platforms from five to nine, four new lines, Vande Bharat maintenance depot.




- **Kavach:** Kavach 4.0 on 1,500+ route km on Delhi–Mumbai and Delhi–Howrah routes; 10,000 route km sanction; CLW delivered 25 WAG-9HH locomotives fitted with Kavach.
- **Festival traffic:** Special trains for Durga Puja–Diwali–Chhath; Indian Railways earned ₹1,850 crore+ from scrap in April–September.
- **Chenab Bridge:** 359 m above riverbed, the world's highest railway arch bridge; part of the 272-km USBRL.
- **Supreme Court on offline rail passengers:** Bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and R. Mahadevan: insurance cover for counter-ticket passengers equal to e-ticket cover, from 27 October 2026.
- **Aurangabad station:** Renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.
- **PM GatiShakti Multi-Modal Logistics Node Notifications:** Network Planning Group (NPG) under PM GatiShakti National Master Plan evaluated and cleared six major railway and roadway connectivity projects worth over ₹18,600 crore, prioritizing port-connectivity links across Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal.

PM GatiShakti
National Master Plan for Multi-Modal connectivity

- **Institutional Framework for Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA):** The Union Government announced the operational blueprint for establishing the Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA) as the apex statutory institutional mechanism to unify multi-modal infrastructure planning, coordinate PM GatiShakti integrations, and evaluate long-term national logistics efficiency.
- **Largest Festive Train Mobilization in Indian Railways History:** Indian Railways set a new logistical benchmark by deploying over 7,000 special festival train trips nationwide to manage peak holiday passenger loads.
- **Railway Operations Review Post Cyclone 'Arnab' Landfall:** South Central Railway (SCR) and East Coast Railway (ECoR) deployed heavy track restoration units and tower wagons across Anakapalli, Kakinada, and Visakhapatnam after Cyclone 'Arnab' crossed the Andhra coast, ensuring zero derailments and swift re-opening of the Howrah–Chennai coastal rail route.

- **Tata Elxsi & Kavach 4.0/5.0 Manufacturing:** Tata Elxsi initiated mass assembly lines in Bengaluru for advanced IoT sensors, automated loco pilot consoles, and drone survey cameras to accelerate Kavach rollout.
- **Mega Track Maintenance & Operational Modernization Block:** The Ministry of Railways initiated coordinated infrastructure safety upgrades and mega safety blocks across Northern and North Western railway zones to accelerate automated track renewal and electronic interlocking implementations.
- **Solar-Powered Green Railway Stations Milestone:** Indian Railways announced that over 1,500 railway stations across 16 zones have achieved net-zero auxiliary daytime electrical consumption through rooftop solar PV arrays.



- **Overnight Inter-City Rail Travel Insights in NHTS Report:** The National Statistics Office (NSO) travel findings submitted to the Ministry of Railways documented that inter-city railways account for 17.7% of all household overnight journeys across India, and suburban rail/metro corridors account for over 20.7% of urban daily workforce commutes in industrial states like Maharashtra.
- **Ministry of Railways Issues Advisory on Fraudulent Bonus Circulars:** The Ministry of Railways and Railway Protection Force (RPF) initiated formal legal action under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against cyber syndicates circulating forged Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) circulars, directing all zonal general managers to communicate bonus sanctions solely via official gazetted platforms.
- **Mission Raftaar High-Speed Track Upgrades:** The Railway Board approved the formal deployment of 60 kg/m 90 UTS head-hardened rails and thick-web switches on key high-density golden quadrilateral routes to permanently certify freight and Vande Bharat semi-high speed operations at 130–160 km/h.



- **Northern Railway Festive Special Transit Corridors:** Northern Railway notified reserved festival special express services connecting New Delhi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to manage peak seasonal passenger influx across northern pilgrim circuits.
- **Digital Display Integration of Real-Time Train Status at 500 Amrit Stations:** Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) completed the integration of modernized large-format dual-display flight-style information display screens across 500 upgraded secondary railway stations.
- **RailTel Expands Station Wi-Fi Monetization Model:** RailTel Corporation of India signed strategic partnerships to integrate high-speed digital public infrastructure and edge computing nodes across 6,100+ railway stations under the PM-WANI framework.
- **Safety Audit Clearance for Kavach Installation in South Western Railway:** South Western Railway (SWR) received formal safety integrity clearance from the Commission of Railway Safety

(CRS) for deploying track-side Kavach RFID and tower telecommunication transceivers over 420 route kilometers along the Hubballi–Bengaluru main freight line.




- **Operationalization of Dynamic QR-Code Ticketing on UTS App:** The Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) rolled out updated server-side encryption for dynamic QR-code unreserved ticket generation across all zonal automatic ticket vending machines (ATVMs) and the mobile UTS app to mitigate ticketing counter congestion during the festival rush.
- **PM GatiShakti Multi-Modal Rail Connectivity Progress:** As part of the five-year review of PM GatiShakti, Indian Railways highlighted the clearance of 101 critical multi-modal rail projects spanning dedicated freight corridors, port connectivity links, and major coal-evacuation corridors designed to enhance freight throughput to 3,000 MT by 2030.
- **Central Railway Enhances AI-Based Crowd Management at Mumbai Terminals:** Central Railway (CR) deployed specialized computer-vision AI cameras across Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), Dadar, and Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) to monitor passenger density, manage foot-over-bridge bottlenecks, and ensure passenger safety during festive departures.

## PRACTICE QUESTION

**1.** The new Mokama Ganga railway bridge is being constructed alongside which existing bridge?

(a) Mahatma Gandhi Setu
(b) Rajendra Setu
(c) Vikramshila Setu
(d) Digha–Sonpur Bridge

**Answer:** (b) Rajendra Setu

**2.** The Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge, is located as part of which project?

(a) Dedicated Freight Corridor
(b) Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)
(c) Eastern Railway Corridor
(d) Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project

**Answer:** (b) Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)

**3.** Kavach 4.0 is a railway technology associated primarily with which of the following?

(a) Passenger reservation
(b) Automatic ticket vending
(c) Railway safety and train protection
(d) Station solar power generation

**Answer:** (c) Railway safety and train protection

**4.** The Network Planning Group (NPG) evaluated six major railway and roadway connectivity projects worth over:

(a) ₹8,600 crore
(b) ₹12,500 crore
(c) ₹18,600 crore
(d) ₹25,000 crore

**Answer:** (c) ₹18,600 crore

**5.** The proposed Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITL(a) is intended to serve as:

(a) An authority exclusively for railway recruitment
(b) An apex statutory mechanism for integrated multi-modal transport and logistics planning
(c) A body responsible only for railway ticket pricing
(d) An agency dedicated exclusively to station redevelopment

**Answer:** (b) An apex statutory mechanism for integrated multi-modal transport and logistics planning

**6.** The maiden export cargo movement from Bogibeel to Dhaka via National Waterway-2 involved which commodity?

(a) Coal
(b) Methanol
(c) Iron ore
(d) Petroleum crude

**Answer**: (b) Methanol

**7.** Which railway station is planned to have its platforms expanded from five to nine, along with four new lines and a Vande Bharat maintenance depot?

(a) Tatanagar
(b) Howrah
(c) New Jalpaiguri
(d) Santragachi

**Answer**: (a) Tatanagar

**8.** RailTel's station Wi-Fi expansion and monetisation model operates in connection with which framework?

(a) PM-WANI
(b) PM-KISAN
(c) Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme
(d) BharatNet Rural Roads Programme

**Answer:** (a) PM-WANI

## 1.6. Sports & Games



- **Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya, 19 Sep–4 Oct):** India finished 4th with 85 medals (21 gold, 27 silver, 37 bronze), its second-best haul after Hangzhou (106). China topped (169 gold, 341 total), then Japan and South Korea. Clean sweep of gold in men's and women's cricket, kabaddi and hockey.
- **Hockey:** Women beat China 1–0 for gold, ending a 44-year wait (first since 1982) and qualifying for LA 2028. Men beat Malaysia 5–1, first men's team to defend the title (semi-final: 4–3 vs Pakistan). First time both teams won gold at one Games.
- **Other Asian Games golds:** Lovlina Borgohain (boxing; second Indian woman boxer gold after Mary Kom, 2014); archery recurve women's team (Ankita, Kirti, Kumkum Mohod); women's 4×400 m relay; Pranavi Urs (golf); Sujeet Kalkal (wrestling 65 kg); Aman Sehrawat (57 kg). Mirabai Chanu silver (49 kg), first weightlifting medal since 1998; six wrestling medals, best since 1962; first sailing medal (silver, Manu Francis and Prince Noble Kurisinkal).

- **Asian Para Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya, 18–24 Oct):** India finished 4th with a record 114 medals (30 gold, 35 silver, 49 bronze) from 168 athletes; China topped with 435. Flag-bearers at the opening: Simran Sharma and Pramod Bhagat. Nitesh Kumar beat Pramod Bhagat in the all-Indian para-badminton final.
- **Sultan of Johor Cup 2026:** Indian junior men's hockey team (captain Amir Ali) reached the semi-final against Australia; results in group: beat Japan 4–2, Malaysia 4–2, NZ 3–1, drew 3–3 with Australia.




- **Asian Champions Trophy hockey:** Jalandhar hosted its first international hockey tournament (Olympian Surjit Singh Stadium); India defending champions.
- **Cricket:** Women's T20 World Cup 2026 (played earlier in the year, not an October event): New Zealand reported champions over South Africa, Amelia Kerr Player of the Tournament. Men: India won 3rd T20I vs New Zealand (199 chased in 13.2 overs, Abhishek Sharma century); West Indies beat India by 24 runs in 4th T20I (series 2–2, Shai Hope unbeaten century); Bumrah reported No. 1 Test bowler.
- **Badminton:** Denmark Open: An Se-young beat PV Sindhu in the women's final; Christo Popov men's winner. BWF World Junior Championships (Nanchang): India won mixed doubles bronze. Arctic Open Super 500 (Vantaa): India silver (men's doubles) and bronze (women's singles).
- **Motorsport and others:** Team MRF Tyres won a fourth FIA ERC Teams' title in five years; US Grand Prix (Austin) front rows Ferrari/McLaren; ISSF World Cup Final at Dr. Karni Singh Ranges, New Delhi; U-19 World Boxing: gold for Aditya.
- **Shaurya Veer Run:** Army Chief Gen. Upendra Dwivedi flagged off at India Gate on Shaurya Diwas.
- **NSDF–SAI–IOCL:** ₹40 crore MoU for boxing development.
- **Kalaignar Sports Kit Scheme Expansion (Tamil Nadu):** The Government of Tamil Nadu launched the second phase of the Kalaignar Sports Kit Scheme across 12,525 village panchayats, distributing 33 types of sports equipment to promote grassroots sports culture and rural youth fitness.



- **Hockey India League (HIL) Revival Committee:** The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports constituted a high-powered seven-member expert committee to oversee structural governance, franchise bidding transparency, and grassroots player pathways for the revived Hockey India League.
- **9th Hero Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2026 Kickoff:** The 9th edition of the Men's Asian Champions Trophy commenced with high-scoring clashes as Malaysia defeated China 5-4, and Japan edged past Korea 3-2 in preliminary group stage fixtures.




- **Global South & Multi-Sport Hosting Under Revised NSF Guidelines:** The newly issued sports guidelines earmarked special grants for bilateral and multi-sport tournaments for Global South, BRICS, and BIMSTEC nations hosted in India, directly aligning with India's long-term roadmap for hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games and bidding for the 2036 Olympic Games.

- **Asian Games Archery Compound Team Sweep:** The Indian archery contingent dominated the compound team events at the Asian Games, clinching gold in both men's and mixed team categories with near-perfect final round arrow sets.
- **India vs West Indies 4th T20I (Series Leveled 2-2):** West Indies defeated India by 24 runs in the 4th T20I fixture behind Shai Hope's unbeaten century, drawing the five-match bilateral series level at 2-2.
- **Emerging Teams Asia Cup T20 2026 (Muscat, Oman):** India 'A' continued their dominant run in the ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup in Oman, registering a convincing victory with aggressive top-order batting and disciplined spin bowling to secure a semi-final qualification.



- **India Wins Asian Games Men's Cricket Gold:** The Indian men's cricket team defended its Asian Games gold medal, defeating rivals Pakistan by 19 runs in the final behind top performances from Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma.

## PRACTICE QUESTION

**1.** India secured which position in the Asian Games 2026 medal tally?

(a) Second
(b) Third
(c) Fourth
(d) Fifth

**Answer:** (c) Fourth

**2.** How many total medals did India win at the Asian Games 2026,?

(a) 85
(b) 106
(c) 114
(d) 120

**Answer:** (a) 85

**3.** Which Indian women's hockey team achievement was reported at the Asian Games 2026?

(a) Won silver after losing to Japan
(b) Won gold by defeating China 1–0
(c) Won gold by defeating Malaysia 5–1
(d) Qualified for the semi-final only

**Answer:** (b) Won gold by defeating China 1–0

**4.** Who among the following won gold in boxing at the Asian Games 2026 ?

(a) PV Sindhu
(b) Lovlina Borgohain
(c) Mirabai Chanu
(d) Pranavi Urs

**Answer:** (b) Lovlina Borgohain

**5.** Which Indian athlete won silver in the 49 kg weightlifting category at the Asian Games 2026?

(a) Lovlina Borgohain
(b) Aman Sehrawat
(c) Mirabai Chanu
(d) Ankita

**Answer:** (c) Mirabai Chanu

**6.** Who were the Indian flag-bearers at the opening ceremony of the Asian Para Games 2026?

(a) Simran Sharma and Pramod Bhagat
(b) Aman Sehrawat and Mirabai Chanu
(c) Lovlina Borgohain and Pranavi Urs
(d) Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma

**Answer:** (a) Simran Sharma and Pramod Bhagat

**7.** Who captained the Indian junior men's hockey team at the Sultan of Johor Cup 2026?

(a) Harmanpreet Singh
(b) Amir Ali
(c) Surjit Singh
(d) Pramod Bhagat

**Answer:** (b) Amir Ali

**8.** Which organisation won its fourth FIA ERC Teams' title in five years,?

(a) Ferrari
(b) McLaren
(c) Team MRF Tyres
(d) Tata Elxsi

**Answer:** (c) Team MRF Tyres

**9.** The second phase of the Kalaignar Sports Kit Scheme was launched across how many village panchayats in Tamil Nadu?

(a) 6,100
(b) 10,000
(c) 12,525
(d) 15,000

**Answer:** (c) 12,525

**10.** The ₹40 crore MoU between NSDF, SAI and IOCL was signed for the development of which sport?

(a) Hockey
(b) Boxing
(c) Badminton
(d) Wrestling

**Answer:** (b) Boxing

## 1.7. Science & Technology



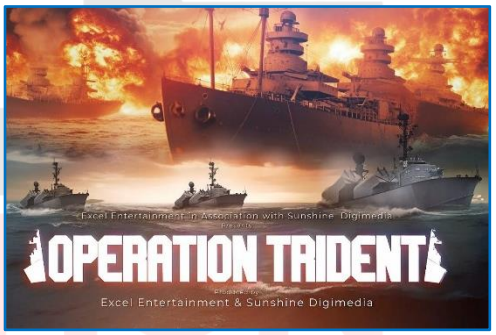
- **India Mobile Congress 2026 (10th):** Inaugurated by PM Modi at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi; theme 'Scale Without Boundaries'; 5G footprint past 5.5 lakh BTS; call for an international framework on deepfakes. 'Viksit Tech 47' incubation/certification platform unveiled.
- **Gaganyaan:** Crew Module–Service Module separation tests at VSSC (pyro separation, umbilical severance) and water-survival trials with the Navy at Kochi; CE-20 cryogenic engine acceptance hot test at IPRC Mahendragiri; paves the way for uncrewed flight G1.
- **ISRO other:** GSAT-7C military satellite contract ₹4,106 crore with NSIL; joint Aditya-L1 (VELC)–ESA Proba-3 CME observation; NGLV 'Soorya' (30 t to LEO) semi-cryogenic test stand at SDSC-SHAR; Chandrayaan-4 engine firing at LPSC; Venus Orbiter payloads finalised; four launch pads by 2029 (SSLV spaceport at Kulasekarapattinam).




- **AATAL:** Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory at IITM, New Delhi.
- **Quantum & AI:** 3rd Bharat 6G Symposium (Scindia); QNu Labs 5.56 km free-space QKD link with BISAG-N and IIT Gandhinagar; IndiaAI: first 10,000 sovereign GPUs; Bharat-Gen multimodal LLM (DST, IIT Bombay); C-DAC 'Vega' RISC-V processor; PARAM Ananta (IIT Gandhinagar);

National Quantum Mission T-Hubs; MeitY Startup Hub–IBM MoU; NITI Aayog advisory on AI data centres; CAG–Bhashini 'Anuvaad'; IIIT-Bangalore–AGH University (Polan(d) MoU, 27 Oct.

- **Navy:** INS Mangrol (P82) commissioned at Mumbai, third of eight ASW shallow-water craft (CSL, 80%+ indigenous); INS Samarthak commissioned at Karwar, first Multi-Purpose Vessel (L&T); 'Surya' (FSS-1) launched at Hindustan Shipyard (44,000 t, first of five Fleet Support Ships); INS Sanshodhak sea trials (GRSE); SIMBEX-2026 (33r(d) off Visakhapatnam; Exercise KONKAN-26 with the UK Royal Navy; IBSAMAR 2026; INS Sutlej survey with Mauritius.
- **Army / DRDO:** Land Warfare Doctrine 2026 released by Rajnath Singh; Nagastra-1R loitering munitions (450 delivered); Zorawar light tank trials in Ladakh; Akash-Prime user trials (Chandipur); Vajra Prahar 2026 (15th) with US Special Forces at Bakloh; Poorvi Prahar tri-services exercise; IDD&IS Mk-II counter-drone systems; RudraM-II trials; Prachand rocket firing in Ladakh; India–Mongolia 14th Defence JWG.
- **Health / biotech:** BRIC–CDFD Oxford Nanopore Genomics Centre of Excellence; IIT Bombay microfluidic screening device for sickle cell disease; Nafithromycin (indigenous antibiotic for pneumonia).
- **Operation Trident (NCB):** Raids at 38 locations in Assam, Mizoram, Manipur; 1,424 bank accounts frozen; ₹100 crore narco-hawala detected.
- **Viksit Bharat G RAM G:** Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched an enhanced NMMS app (AI face verification, built with IIT Madras).




- **Port Visit of Sail-Training Ship INS Sudarshini (Lokayan-2026):** The Indian Navy's sail-training ship INS Sudarshini docked at Salalah Port, Oman, as part of the operational voyage 'Lokayan-2026', conducting seamanship training and cultural exchanges with the Indian diaspora.
- **ISRO Aditya-L1 Remote Solar Wind Speed Mapping:** Scientists from ISRO and Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, published significant solar physics findings derived from Aditya-L1's ASPEX (Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment) payload, successfully tracking supersonic solar wind acceleration mechanisms directly at the Sun-Earth L1 Lagrange point.



- **Model Rocketry and CANSAT India Finals:** National student rocketry and payload competition commenced along the Narayani River in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, testing student payloads reaching 1.5 km altitudes.
- **NASA-ISRO NISAR Satellite Tracking Operations:** Space agencies monitored Earth observation data feeds tracking seasonal ground displacement, tectonic faults, and glaciological ice movements.
- **Multilingual DST Digital Information Portals:** Union Minister of State (I(c) Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the upgraded multilingual portals of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Science & Technology to democratize research access across Indian scheduled languages.

- **IMD Cyclone Warning & Marine Weather Services DSS Launch:** India Meteorological Department (IM(d) launched the 'Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Services Decision Support System (DSS)', an integrated GIS platform providing high-resolution coastal threat models and automated alerts for fishermen, maritime ports, and disaster managers.
- **Centre of Excellence in Cyber-Physical Systems (IIT Roorkee):** The Department of Science and Technology (DST) inaugurated the state-of-the-art Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) for Cyber-Physical Systems at IIT Roorkee to accelerate research into industrial IoT safety, resilient smart grid controls, and edge computing.
- **Centre of Excellence in Generative AI for Health (IIT Madras):** IIT Madras and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) launched a national Centre of Excellence in Generative AI to automate diagnostic radiology workflows, molecular biomarker screening, and regional language medical query bots.
- **Centre for Quantum Security Standards (IIT Delhi):** The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and IIT Delhi inaugurated the Centre for Quantum Security Standards to formulate indigenous post-quantum cryptography (PQ(c) standards for national banking, defence telemetry, and 5G/6G cellular cores.
- **Induction of Indigenous ASW Ship 'Mahe':** Indian Navy inducted the indigenously designed Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SW(c) 'Mahe' to boost shallow-water coastal security.




- **BrahMos Supersonic Missile Procurement:** Indian Navy progressed deployment of extended-range BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles under the ₹20,506 crore procurement programme to enhance sea-strike capabilities.
- **PARAM Ananta Supercomputing Infrastructure Scaled for Genomic Research:** C-DAC and IIT Gandhinagar deployed specialized computational biology pipelines on the PARAM Ananta supercomputer to accelerate disease vector mapping and indigenous drug discovery.
- **Breakthrough Gene Therapy for Hemophilia:** Indian clinical researchers completed evaluation trials of indigenously developed lentiviral gene therapy for hemophilia patients.
- **Induction of Indigenously Upgraded Dhanush Artillery Guns:** The Indian Army inducted an additional regiment of 155mm/45-calibre Dhanush indigenous artillery guns, equipped with inertial navigation-based sighting systems and automated gun laying systems manufactured by Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL).
- **Indian Army Inducts Indigenous 'Vajra-9' Anti-Drone Systems:** The Indian Army operationalized indigenous 'Vajra-9' integrated soft-kill and hard-kill counter-unmanned aerial

vehicle (C-UAV) tactical platforms developed under 'Make in India' defense corridors to neutralize swarm drone incursions across forward high-altitude frontiers.

- **Indian Navy's 2nd Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SW(c) Trials:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, commenced sea acceptance trials of INS 'Androth', the second vessel of the indigenous Arnala-class ASW-SWC, designed to conduct coastal sub-surface reconnaissance.

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

**1.** What was the theme of the 10th India Mobile Congress 2026,?
(a) Digital India for All
(b) Scale Without Boundaries
(c) Connecting the Future
(d) Technology for Viksit Bharat
**Answer:** (b) Scale Without Boundaries

**2.** The Gaganyaan programme's Crew Module–Service Module separation tests were conducted at which ISRO centre?
(a) SDSC-SHAR
(b) VSSC
(c) LPSC
(d) IPRC Mahendragiri
**Answer:** (b) VSSC

**3.** the CE-20 cryogenic engine acceptance hot test for the Gaganyaan programme was conducted at:
(a) IPRC Mahendragiri
(b) IIT Madras
(c) VSSC
(d) SDSC-SHAR
**Answer:** (a) IPRC Mahendragiri

**4.** Which organisation signed a ₹4,106 crore contract for the GSAT-7C military satellite?
(a) DRDO
(b) NSIL
(c) C-DAC
(d) Bharat Electronics Limited
**Answer:** (b) NSIL

**5.** QNu Labs achieved a 5.56 km free-space quantum key distribution (QK(d) link in collaboration with which institutions?
(a) BISAG-N and IIT Gandhinagar
(b) IIT Delhi and C-DAC
(c) IIT Bombay and DRDO
(d) IIT Madras and ISRO
**Answer:** (a) BISAG-N and IIT Gandhinagar

**6.** Which indigenous RISC-V processor was developed by C-DAC,?
(a) PARAM
(b) Vega
(c) Anuvaad
(d) Soorya
**Answer:** (b) Vega

**7.** QNu Labs achieved a 5.56 km free-space quantum key distribution (QK(d) link in collaboration with which institutions?
(a) BISAG-N and IIT Gandhinagar
(b) IIT Delhi and C-DAC
(c) IIT Bombay and DRDO
(d) IIT Madras and ISRO
**Answer:** (a) BISAG-N and IIT Gandhinagar

**9.** Which organisation built INS Samarthak, India's first Multi-Purpose Vessel?
(a) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)
(b) Larsen & Toubro (L&T)
(c) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
(d) Cochin Shipyard Limited
**Answer:** (b) Larsen & Toubro (L&T)

**10.** The enhanced NMMS app under the Viksit Bharat G RAM G initiative includes which feature?

(a) Satellite-based crop insurance (b) AI-based face verification

(c) Quantum encryption for payments (d) Automated railway ticket booking

**Answer:** (b) AI-based face verification

## 1.8. Summits, Bills & International Affairs

- **1st BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting:** New Delhi, chaired by Amit Shah; 'Delhi Declaration' on narcotics, cybercrime and terror financing; BIMSTEC Disaster Management Centre at Jamnagar.
- **12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum:** Central Hall, New Delhi, chaired by Om Birla.
- **8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council:** Co-chaired by Dr. Jitendra Singh and UK Science Minister Lord Patrick Vallance; additional £3 million for ISIS Neutron and Muon Source Phase-2; joint investment over £450 million across 290+ projects.
- **Other conferences:** Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (Bharat Mandapam); 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave (theme 'Resilience in an Age of Flux'); 7th Agrivoltaics World Conference; 19th Urban Mobility India (Bhubaneswar); 14th India Chem Conclave; World Green Economy Summit (Dubai); World Health Summit (Berlin); 153rd IPU Assembly (Arusha, Tanzania; Harivansh led delegation); KAUMARACON-2026.
- **UN Day 2026:** 81st anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force.
- **Court / legal developments:** Karnataka HC (CJ Vibhu Bakhru) struck down Sections 3–4 of the 2022 Act raising SC/ST quota to 17%/7% (total 56%), upholding the 50% Indra Sawhney ceiling; SC upheld quashing of Yes Bank's ₹8,415 crore AT-1 write-off; SC asked Centre to consider extending the 30% margin cap to all life-saving drugs; SC hears petitions on ECI internal deliberations; Karnataka HC guidelines on THOTA 1994 s.9(3).
- **Election Commission:** Review with parties on deepfakes, AI-generated campaigns and surrogate online ads under the Model Code.
- **Bill:** Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill 2026 reported to have received Presidential assent (Parliament is not in session in October; verify).
- **IMF World Economic Outlook (October 2026):** Draft gives two conflicting India figures (7.0% FY27 vs 6.8%, global 3.2%); check the IMF release before use.
- **Bilateral / economic agreements:** ADB–Japan co-financing for AM Green's Kakinada ammonia plant; HAL–NCF–ASI heritage MoA; India joins SIOFA (Cabinet); NSE IX–LSE MoU; NTPC–Africa50; India–Mauritius DTAA protocol (Principal Purpose Test); India–Sri Lanka Nagapattinam–Trincomalee pipeline and SAMHiTA manuscript project; India–Mexico PTA talks; Jamaica PM Andrew Holness state visit (4 MoUs); Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool; SAARC

currency swap rollover for Maldives; World Bank $280 mn Kerala health programme; ADB–World Bank $3 bn exposure exchange.

- **International Solar Alliance (IS(a) 9th Assembly Preparations:** The International Solar Alliance Secretariat in New Delhi finalized the agenda for the 9th ISA Assembly, focusing on mobilizing private institutional capital for mini-grids across Sub-Saharan Africa and island developing states under the 'SolarX Startup Challenge'.
- **India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEP(a) Negotiations:** Senior trade delegations from India and the Sultanate of Oman concluded advanced rounds of negotiations on the India–Oman CEPA in Muscat, focusing on tariff eliminations across petroleum derivatives, green hydrogen, and engineering exports.




- **India–Italy Strategic Action Plan 2025–2029:** India and Italy finalized bilateral action roadmaps covering defence co-production, maritime corridor connectivity under IMEC, and green hydrogen technology exchange following high-level diplomatic dialogues.
- **India-Mauritius Hydrographic and EEZ Cooperation:** Joint maritime teams concluded EEZ surveillance and oceanographic charting missions supporting the sustainable blue economy in the Western Indian Ocean.




- **India-Oman Joint Commission Session on Maritime Security:** Delegates from India and the Sultanate of Oman concluded high-level talks on maritime domain awareness, anti-piracy patrolling in the Western Indian Ocean, and bilateral RuPay / local currency settlement integration.

## PRACTICE QUESTION

**1.** The Delhi Declaration adopted at the first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting focused on which of the following issues?

(a) Climate finance and renewable energy
(b) Narcotics, cybercrime and terror financing
(c) Agricultural exports and food security
(d) Maritime tourism and cultural exchange

**Answer:** (b) Narcotics, cybercrime and terror financing

**2.** Where is the BIMSTEC Disaster Management Centre to be established?

(a) New Delhi
(b) Guwahati
(c) Jamnagar
(d) Bhubaneswar

**Answer:** (c) Jamnagar

**3.** The 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave was held under which theme?

(a) Resilience in an Age of Flux
(b) Scale Without Boundaries
(c) One Earth, One Future
(d) Sustainable Growth for All

**Answer:** (a) Resilience in an Age of Flux

**4.** The 153rd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly was held in which country?

(a) Germany
(b) Tanzania
(c) United Arab Emirates
(d) United Kingdom

**Answer:** (b) Tanzania

**5.** Which High Court struck down Sections 3–4 of the 2022 Act concerning an increase in SC/ST reservation?

(a) Madras High Court
(b) Karnataka High Court
(c) Bombay High Court
(d) Allahabad High Court

**Answer:** (b) Karnataka High Court

**6.** The Supreme Court upheld the quashing of Yes Bank's write-off involving which amount of Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) bonds?

(a) ₹4,106 crore
(b) ₹5,500 crore
(c) ₹8,415 crore
(d) ₹10,000 crore

**Answer:** (c) ₹8,415 crore

**7.** The India–UK Science and Innovation Council announced an additional £3 million for which facility's Phase-2 development?

(a) CERN Large Hadron Collider
(b) ISIS Neutron and Muon Source
(c) International Solar Alliance
(d) IndiaAI Mission

**Answer:** (b) ISIS Neutron and Muon Source

**8.** Which international financial institution was mentioned as providing $280 million for a Kerala health programme?

(a) Asian Development Bank
(b) International Monetary Fund
(c) World Bank
(d) New Development Bank

**Answer:** (c) World Bank

**9.** The International Solar Alliance's 9th Assembly preparations focused on mobilising private institutional capital for mini-grids under which initiative?

(a) SolarX Startup Challenge
(b) Green Hydrogen Mission
(c) One Sun, One World, One Grid
(d) PM-KUSUM

**Answer:** (a) SolarX Startup Challenge

**10.** India and Oman held advanced negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEP(a) in which city?

(a) New Delhi
(b) Muscat
(c) Dubai
(d) Salalah

**Answer:** (b) Muscat

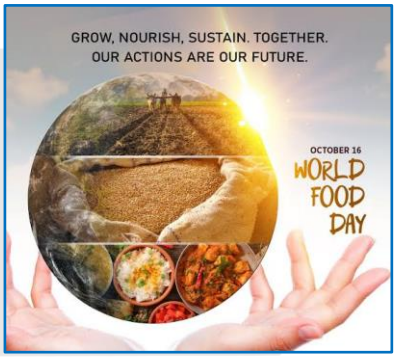
## 1.9. Important Days

- **1 Oct:** International Day of Older Persons; National Voluntary Blood Donation Day (Dr. J. G. Jolly); World Vegetarian Day; International Coffee Day.

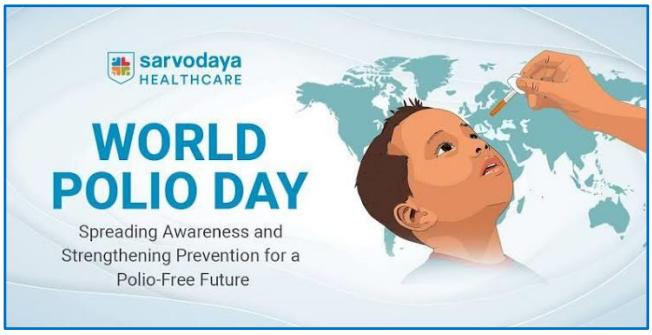
- **2 Oct:** Gandhi Jayanti (157th birth anniversary), International Day of Non-Violence, Swachh Bharat Diwas; Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti (122nd). Wildlife Week 2–8 Oct.
- **4–10 Oct:** World Animal Day (4 Oct); World Space Week (Sputnik, 4 Oct 1957; Outer Space Treaty, 10 Oct 1967).
- **5 Oct:** World Teachers' Day (60 years of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation); World Habitat Day (first Monday of October).
- **7–10 Oct:** World Cotton Day (7); 94th Indian Air Force Day (8, founded 1932); World Post Day (9, UPU 1874); World Mental Health Day, National Postal Day, World Day Against the Death Penalty (10).
- **World Sight Day:** Second Thursday of October = 8 October 2026 (the draft's 9 October is wrong).




- **11–15 Oct:** International Day of the Girl Child; Jayaprakash Narayan and Nanaji Deshmukh jayanti (11); World Arthritis Day (12); IDDRR (13, Sendai Framework 2015–30); World Standards Day (14); World Students' Day (15, Kalam's 95th birth anniversary), Global Handwashing Day, Intl Day of Rural Women (15).




- **16–19 Oct:** World Food Day (16, FAO founded 1945; theme per draft: 'Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow.'); Intl Day for Eradication of Poverty (17); World Menopause Day (18); World Bioethics Day (19).
- **20 Oct:** National Solidarity Day (start of the 1962 war); World Osteoporosis Day. World Statistics Day is observed every five years (2010, 2015, 2020, 2025), so it was not observed in 2026; the draft entry is removed.
- **21–24 Oct:** Police Commemoration Day (21; 10 CRPF men killed at Hot Springs, Ladakh, 1959; Amit Shah laid wreath); Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day (21); Intl Stuttering Awareness Day (22); Intl Snow Leopard Day (23; Bishkek Declaration 2013) and Mole Day (23); UN Day, World Polio Day, World Development Information Day (24); ITBP 65th Raising Day (24; raised 1962); UN Disarmament Week 24–30 Oct.




- **World Polio Day theme:** 'One day, one focus, Ending polio for good' (draft).
- **26–31 Oct:** Vigilance Awareness Week 26 Oct–1 Nov (theme per draft 'Probity for Prosperity'); J&K Accession Day (26); Infantry Day/Shaurya Diwas (27; 1947 airlift to Srinagar; 79th anniversary, not 80th); World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (27); International Animation Day (28).

## PRACTICE QUESTION

**1.** The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on which date?

(a) 1 October
(b) 2 October
(c) 4 October
(d) 5 October

**Answer:** (b) 2 October

**2.** World Space Week is observed from 4 to 10 October to commemorate milestones associated with which of the following?

(a) Launch of Sputnik and the Outer Space Treaty
(b) Establishment of NASA and ISRO
(c) First human landing on Mars
(d) Launch of the Hubble Space Telescope only

**Answer:** (a) Launch of Sputnik and the Outer Space Treaty

**3.** World Teachers' Day commemorates the 1966 recommendation adopted by which organisations?

(a) WHO and UNICEF
(b) ILO and UNESCO
(c) FAO and UNESCO
(d) UNDP and WHO

**Answer:** (b) ILO and UNESCO

**4.** World Post Day is observed on 9 October in connection with the establishment of which organisation in 1874?

(a) International Telecommunication Union
(b) Universal Postal Union
(c) International Labour Organization
(d) World Meteorological Organization

**Answer:** (b) Universal Postal Union

**5.** The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR), observed on 13 October, is associated with which framework?

(a) Kyoto Protocol
(b) Sendai Framework 2015–2030
(c) Paris Agreement
(d) Montreal Protocol

**Answer:** (b) Sendai Framework 2015–20

**6.** World Food Day is observed on 16 October. Which organisation was founded on this date in 1945?

(a) World Health Organization
(b) Food and Agriculture Organization
(c) United Nations Development Programme
(d) International Monetary Fund

**Answer:** (b) Food and Agriculture Organization

**7.** Police Commemoration Day, observed on 21 October, remembers the 10 CRPF personnel killed at which location in 1959?

(a) Galwan Valley
(b) Hot Springs, Ladakh
(c) Tawang
(d) Dras

**Answer:** (b) Hot Springs, Ladakh

**8.** International Snow Leopard Day, observed on 23 October, is associated with which declaration adopted in 2013?

(a) Bishkek Declaration
(b) Delhi Declaration
(c) Nairobi Declaration
(d) Stockholm Declaration

**Answer:** (a) Bishkek Declaration

**9.** Infantry Day, also known as Shaurya Diwas, is observed on 27 October to commemorate which event?

(a) The liberation of Goa
(b) The 1947 airlift of Indian troops to Srinagar

(c) The signing of the Shimla Agreement
(d) The beginning of the Kargil conflict

**Answer:** (b) The 1947 airlift of Indian troops to Srinagar

**10.** World Habitat Day is observed on which day,?

(a) First Monday of October
(b) Second Thursday of October
(c) 5 October every year
(d) Last Monday of October

Answer: (a) First Monday of October

## 1.10. Books & Authors

- **Booker Prize 2026 shortlist:** Announced 22 September; judges chaired by Mary Beard. Winner announced 9 November at Old Billingsgate, London (£50,000; each shortlisted author £2,500). Shortlist: The End of Everything (M. John Harrison); The Disappearers (Marlon James); Black Bag (Luke Kennard); May We Feed the King (Rebecca Perry); The Things We Never Say (Elizabeth Strout); John of John (Douglas Stuart). James (2015) and Stuart (2020) are past winners; Harrison, at 81, would be the oldest winner.




- **The Story of Vande Mataram:** English translation unveiled in New Delhi by Arif Mohammed Khan (draft calls him 'former Governor'; check his current office).
- **Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World:** Released by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan.
- **'Atmanirbharta in Defence:** The Maritime Dimension': Authored by senior defense analyst examining the naval indigenisation roadmap from INS Vikrant to the ASW shallow water craft.
- **'The Green Fuel Frontier:** Biofuels and India's Energy Transition': Authored by energy economist analyzing the deployment of E100 flex fuels and compressed biogas infrastructure.

## 1.11. GI Tags

- **No new GI registrations in the draft:** The draft's 'GI' entries are promotion items only; add fresh October registrations from the GI Registry.
- **Kashmir saffron and Pashmina:** Directorate of Handicrafts introduced QR authentication labels against counterfeits.
- **Bastar wrought iron and bell metal:** Tribal cooperatives expanded e-commerce exports.
- **Himroo shawls and Paithani sarees:** GI-certified crafts promoted at Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.



## PRACTICE QUESTION

**1.** Who authored The End of Everything?

(a) Luke Kennard
(b) M. John Harrison
(c) Marlon James
(d) Douglas Stuart

**Answer:** (b) M. John Harrison

**2.** Which book was released by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan?

(a) The Green Fuel Frontier: Biofuels and India's Energy Transition
(b) Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World
(c) Atmanirbharta in Defence: The Maritime Dimension
(d) The Story of Vande Mataram

**Answer:** (b) Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World

**3.** The book Atmanirbharta in Defence: The Maritime Dimension focuses on which subject?

(a) India's agricultural reforms
(b) India's naval indigenisation roadmap
(c) India's digital education policy
(d) India's international trade agreements

**Answer:** (b) India's naval indigenisation roadmap

**4.** The Green Fuel Frontier: Biofuels and India's Energy Transition discusses which of the following?

(a) E100 flex fuels and compressed biogas infrastructure
(b) Nuclear submarines and naval aviation
(c) Digital payments and banking reforms
(d) Space exploration and satellite launches

**Answer:** (a) E100 flex fuels and compressed biogas infrastructure

**5.** Which two products from Kashmir are in connection with QR authentication labels against counterfeiting?

(a) Saffron and Pashmina
(b) Himroo shawls and Paithani sarees
(c) Bell metal and wrought iron
(d) Tea and silk

**Answer:** (a) Saffron and Pashmina

**6.** Bastar is associated with which GI-tagged crafts ?

(a) Blue pottery and marble carving
(b) Wrought iron and bell metal
(c) Pashmina and saffron
(d) Himroo shawls and Paithani sarees

**Answer:** (b) Wrought iron and bell metal

**7.** Himroo shawls and Paithani sarees were promoted at which location ?

(a) Srinagar
(b) Bastar
(c) Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar
(d) Jaipur

**Answer:** (c) Chhatrapati Sambhajinaga

**8.** Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

(a) Kashmir — Wrought iron and bell metal
(b) Bastar — Saffron and Pashmina
(c) Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar — Himroo shawls and Paithani sarees
(d) Kashmir — Paithani sarees and Himroo shawls

**Answer:** (c) Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar — Himroo shawls and Paithani sarees

**9.** What was the purpose of expanding e-commerce exports by tribal cooperatives associated with Bastar crafts?

(a) To promote exports of wrought iron and bell metal crafts
(b) To export Kashmir saffron

(c) To promote petroleum derivatives
(d) To expand space technology exports

**Answer:** (a) To promote exports of wrought iron and bell metal crafts

## 1.12. Superlatives

- **Asian Games hockey:** First time both Indian hockey teams won gold at one Asian Games; first men's team to defend the title.
- **Asian Para Games:** India's best-ever medal haul (114).
- **Ballon d'Or:** Kane: first Englishman winner in 25 years; London hosts the ceremony for the first time.
- **World Bowls:** Putul Sonowal: India's first medal at the Champion of Champions.
- **Kerala:** First State to start an IUCN Red List of Ecosystems assessment.
- **INS Samarthak:** Navy's first Multi-Purpose Vessel.
- **Chennai:** First Indian city with automated radar/gate-sensor flood forecasting.
- **Jawahar Dweep (Mumbai):** Declared India's first plastic-free oil terminal.
- **Nobel 2026:** Kenso Soai (95) is among the oldest laureates; Navi Pillay is 85.
- **Lothal NMHC:** Billed as the world's tallest maritime museum complex (₹4,500 crore).
- **Chenab Bridge:** World's highest railway arch bridge (359 m).



- **India's First Standard-Gauge Vande Bharat Export Line:** Modern Coach Factory (MCF), Raebareli, commenced specialized production setups for India's first 1,435 mm Standard Gauge Vande Bharat export rakes.
- **NABKISAN Lists India's First WASH Social Bond:** NABKISAN Finance Limited, a subsidiary of NABARD, listed India's first Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)-dedicated social bond on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), raising ₹180 crore across a 5-year tenure with an 8.10% coupon rate and CRISIL/CARE AAA ratings.
- **India's First Hydrogen-Powered Heritage Rail Route:** The Jind–Sonipat section in Haryana officially hosted the track integration tests of India's first indigenous hydrogen fuel cell passenger train.




- **India's First Underwater Metro Rail Corridor Milestone:** Kolkata Metro's Green Line, passing 13 metres beneath the bed of the Hooghly River, officially recorded its 10 millionth passenger journey since commercial operations began.
- **World's Fastest Commercial High-Speed Train Test (China CR450):** Clocked 453 km/h during pre-service high-speed trials on the Shanghai-Chengdu corridor, accelerating to 350 km/h in 4 minutes 40 seconds.

## 1.13. UNESCO Heritage




- **World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (27 Oct):** UNESCO Memory of the World programme.
- **Ramappa (Rudreshwar(a) Temple:** Telangana; inscribed 2021 as India's 39th World Heritage Site; heritage bodies object to opencast mining leases near its buffer.
- **Khangchendzonga National Park:** Rated 'Good' in the IUCN World Heritage Outlook (India's only natural site in that category per draft).
- **Ajanta–Ellora, CSMT:** New heritage shuttles linking Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar station to the caves; conservation and illumination review at CSMT.



## 1.14. Dance Personality

- **Pavani Pasumarthi:** Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (Sangeet Natak Akademi) for Kuchipudi (the draft says 'Kuchipudi music').
- **Sangeet Natak Akademi:** Honours for folk instrumentalists, puppeteers and stage performers; Odissi and Kuchipudi performances at heritage temples.

## PRACTICE QUESTION

**1.** what was a historic achievement of the Indian hockey teams at the Asian Games?

(a) Both teams won silver medals for the first time
(b) Both men's and women's teams won gold medals at the same Asian Games
(c) India won gold only in men's hockey
(d) India won its first-ever Asian Games hockey medal

**Answer:** (b) Both men's and women's teams won gold medals at the same Asian Games

**2.** Which Indian achieved the country's first medal at the World Bowls Champion of Champions?

(a) Pavani Pasumarthi
(b) Putul Sonowal
(c) Neeraj Chopra
(d) None of the above

Answer: (b) Putul Sonowal

**3.** Which state became the first to initiate an IUCN Red List of Ecosystems assessment ?

(a) Tamil Nadu
(b) Kerala
(c) Karnataka
(d) Odisha

**Answer:** (b) Kerala

**4.** The Ramappa (Rudreshwar(a) Temple is located in which state and was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in which year?

(a) Karnataka, 2019
(b) Telangana, 2021
(c) Odisha, 2022
(d) Andhra Pradesh, 2020

**Answer:** (b) Telangana, 2021

**5.** Pavani Pasumarthi received the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for which classical dance form?

(a) Bharatanatyam
(b) Kathak
(c) Kuchipudi
(d) Odissi

**Answer**: (c) Kuchipudi

**6.** Which Indian city was identified as the first to introduce automated radar and gate-sensor flood forecasting?

(a) Mumbai
(b) Kolkata
(c) Chennai
(d) Hyderabad

**Answer:** (c) Chennai

**7.** Which railway facility commenced specialised production setups for India's first 1,435 mm standard-gauge Vande Bharat export rakes?

(a) Integral Coach Factory, Chennai
(b) Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli
(c) Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala
(d) Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi

**Answer:** (b) Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli

**8.** The Jind–Sonipat section in Haryana is associated with which railway development?

(a) India's first bullet train service
(b) India's first hydrogen-powered heritage rail route
(c) India's first indigenous hydrogen fuel-cell passenger train testing
(d) India's first underwater metro corridor

**Answer:** (c) India's first indigenous hydrogen fuel-cell passenger train testing

**9.** Which of the following locations is associated with the heritage shuttles linking a railway station to the Ajanta–Ellora caves?

(a) Raebareli
(b) Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar
(c) Sonipat
(d) Lothal

**Answer:** (b) Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

## 1.15. Environment

- **Kigali Amendment (10 years):** Adopted 15 October 2016 in Kigali; phases down HFCs, aiming to avert up to 0.5°C warming by 2100.
- **Ramsar sites:** Sukhna Wetland (Chandigarh) and Sauj Jheel (Mainpuri, UP) added, reportedly taking India's total to 103; UP tally 14, Tamil Nadu 18. Check the Ramsar list, as the total conflicts with other counts.
- **New species:** Three new centipedes of genus Rhysida from the Western Ghats: R. quadrispinosa, R. coorgensis (Kodagu), R. neyyarensis (Neyyar WLS); ZSI and Malabar Christian College.
- **Wildlife:** Smooth-coated otter recorded in Indravati Tiger Reserve after 25 years; first translocated tigress from Valmiki to Buxa Tiger Reserve; two captive-bred Great Indian Bustards released at Sam (Desert National Park); new vulture breeding aviaries (MP, Assam); Kolamarka (Gadchiroli) upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary for the Asiatic wild buffalo.

- **Air quality:** CAQM Direction No. 98: PTZ cameras in all NCR industries by 30 November 2026; Stage-I GRAP invoked in Delhi-NCR; NCAP review of 131 cities; 150 more CAAQMS; Pusa Bio-Decomposer over 5 lakh acres; CREAMS satellite monitoring of stubble burning.
- **Cyclone:** Severe Cyclonic Storm 'Arnab' reportedly crossed the Andhra coast near Kakinada–Yanam on 28 October 2026; verify with IMD before use. (Cyclone Dana and COP16 Cali were October 2024 events and are removed.)
- **Reports:** UNEP: methane must fall rapidly to meet 2030 goals; IEA Renewables 2026 (renewable additions to double 2025–30, India third-largest driver); IUCN Global Tree Assessment (38% of tree species threatened); WMO State of Global Water Resources; MNRE: non-fossil capacity above 210 GW (target 500 GW by 2030); UN Human Rights Office report on Marshall Islands nuclear legacy.
- **Industry / energy:** NLCIL–IPICOL MoUs worth ₹37,000 crore in Odisha (3,200 MW ultra-supercritical plant at Jharsuguda, ₹35,000 crore, plus 400 MW solar); Coal India–IIT Madras sustainable energy centre; Ola Shakti home battery storage; RBI data centre and cybersecurity institute near Bhubaneswar (₹169 crore, inaugurated by PM).
- **Green shipping:** MoPSW framework for Harit Nauka / green shipping corridors (methanol and ammonia bunkering at Kandla, Tuticorin).
- **National Green Corridor Project Phase-II Grid Integration:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) commissioned the inter-state transmission lines connecting 13 GW of solar and wind generation in Leh, Ladakh to Kaithal, Haryana under the Green Energy Corridor Phase-II.
- **FAO State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2026:** The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released its flagship SOFO 2026 report, highlighting that global economies must restore 470 million hectares by 2030, while commending India among the select Asian nations demonstrating sustained net positive decadal forest cover expansion (1990–2025).
- **Contamination Assessment of 'Forever Chemicals' (PFAS):** Environmental scientific assessments released across Indian metropolitan water basins flagged rising concentrations of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in municipal sewage and surface runoff, prompting calls for statutory drinking water maximum contaminant limits (MCLs).
- **FSSAI Sustainable Food Safety Framework on World Food Day:** Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) rolled out new technical compliance guidelines targeting pesticide residue limits, microplastics reduction in food processing, and food wastage mitigation aligned with FAO standards.
- **Pollution Monitoring Along Yamuna Floodplains:** The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) deployed specialized automated water-quality monitoring stations along the Okhla and Wazirabad barrages to monitor dissolved oxygen (DO) and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) during the post-monsoon period.

- **UNEP Global Biofuel Alliance Sustainability Framework:** UNEP, in coordination with the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA, founded under India's G20 presidency), released environmental lifecycle guidelines ensuring 2G ethanol production from agricultural crop residue (paddy straw) without compromising global food security.
- **Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) High-Alert Protocol:** Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and IMD activated the automated Air Quality Early Warning System across the National Capital Region (NCR), predicting post-harvest meteorological stagnation and triggering anti-dust mechanized sweeping mandates.
- **Automated Green Cess in Eco-Sensitive Himalayan Corridors:** Uttarakhand implemented an automated RFID-based green tax collection system at state borders to curb vehicular pollution in alpine zones.
- **Groundwater Extraction Monitoring via Bhu-Neer:** Ministry of Jal Shakti reviewed digital compliance of groundwater extraction permits across industrial and infrastructure project developers.



- **National Wildlife Week (October 2–8) Concludes with Rhino Census Report:** Assam Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India released summary findings confirming sustained population growth of the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros (Rhinoceros unicornis) across Kaziranga and Orang National Parks due to zero-poaching corridors.
- **MoEFCC Directives on Plastic Waste Management Rules (EPR Compliance):** The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and MoEFCC mandated 100% digital geo-tagging of registered plastic recycling units on the centralized Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) portal, penalizing non-compliant brand owners and packaging recyclers.

## PRACTICE QUESTION

1. The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol aims to phase down which of the following substances?

   (a) Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) (b) Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
   (c) Sulphur dioxide ($SO_2$) (d) Nitrogen oxides (NOx)

   Answer: (b) Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)

2. Which two wetlands were reportedly added to India's list of Ramsar sites?

   (a) Chilika Lake and Wular Lake (b) Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel
   (c) Loktak Lake and Deepor Beel (d) Sambhar Lake and Bhoj Wetland

   Answer: (b) Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel

3. Three new centipede species belonging to which genus were discovered in the Western Ghats?

   (a) Rhysida (b) Panthera
   (c) Elephas (d) Bos

Answer: (a) Rhysida

4. Which wildlife species was recorded in Indravati Tiger Reserve after a gap of 25 years?

(a) Indian wolf
(b) Smooth-coated otter
(c) Red panda
(d) Fishing cat

Answer: (b) Smooth-coated otter

5. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), under Direction No. 98, reportedly directed NCR industries to install which equipment by 30 November 2026?

(a) Solar panels
(b) Rainwater harvesting systems
(c) Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) cameras
(d) Carbon capture systems

Answer: (c) Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) cameras

6. According to the IUCN Global Tree Assessment , approximately what percentage of tree species are threatened with extinction?

(a) 18%
(b) 28%
(c) 38%
(d) 48%

Answer: (c) 38%

7. The Green Energy Corridor Phase-II transmission project connects renewable energy generation in Leh, Ladakh, to which location in Haryana?

(a) Gurugram
(b) Kaithal
(c) Faridabad
(d) Hisar

Answer: (b) Kaithal

8. Which organisation released the State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2026 report?

(a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
(b) World Bank
(c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
(d) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Answer: (c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

9. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), often called “forever chemicals,” are primarily a concern because of their:

(a) Rapid decomposition in water
(b) Persistence in the environment
(c) Role in increasing soil fertility
(d) Ability to generate renewable energy

Answer: (b) Persistence in the environment

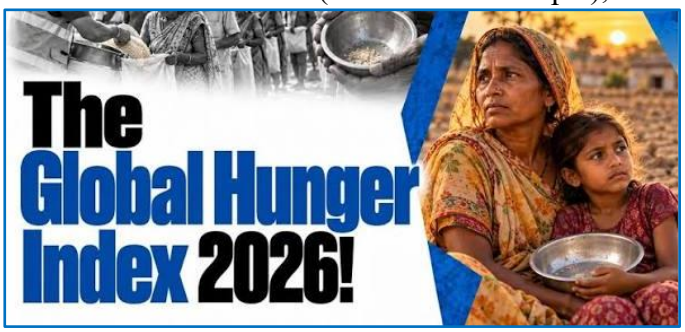
10. Which organisation is responsible for monitoring water pollution and water quality in India at the central level?

(a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
(b) National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)
(c) Geological Survey of India (GSI)
(d) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

Answer: (a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

## 1.16. Reports, Rankings & Indices

- **Global Hunger Index 2026:** Released 14 October; theme 'No Security Without Food Security'; Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide. India 100th of 122 countries (shared with Ethiopia), score 24.1 ('serious'); global score 18.1, South Asia 23.5; Pakistan 106th (25.5). India: child wasting 19.0% (highest in the region), stunting 29.3%, undernourishment 9.8%.




- **Global Innovation Index 2026:** WIPO, 19th edition, 139 economies. Switzerland 1st (16th year), Sweden 2nd, USA 3rd. India 38th (score 40.1; 49th in inputs, 25th in outputs); 1st among lower-middle-income economies and in Central and Southern Asia; 1st in ICT services exports.
- **RBI Financial Inclusion Index:** Draft gives 64.2 (from 60.1); check the latest RBI release (weights: Usage 45%, Access 35%, Quality 20%).
- **IMF Global Financial Stability Report (Oct 2026):** Flagged risks from the $2.1 trillion private credit market.
- **Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2026:** DFI and Oxfam, 164 countries; Norway 1st; India 121st.
- **World Bank remittances:** India top recipient, above $130 billion annually.
- **UNCTAD:** World Investment Report: India among top 5 developing host economies for greenfield FDI announcements. Trade and Development Report 2026: India GDP growth 7.3% in 2026.
- **LEADS 2026:** Commerce Ministry's logistics ease index across States; results not given in the draft.
- **NSO NHTS:** India's first National Household Travel Survey (see Government Schemes).

UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

### PRACTICE QUESTION

1. Which two organisations jointly publish the Global Hunger Index?

   (a) World Bank and IMF
   (b) Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide
   (c) UNDP and UNICEF
   (d) FAO and WHO

   Answer: (b) Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide

2. What was India's rank in the Global Hunger Index 2026?

   (a) 95th
   (b) 100th
   (c) 106th
   (d) 121st

   Answer: (b) 100th

3. Which country ranked first in the Global Innovation Index 2026?

   (a) Sweden
   (b) United States
   (c) Switzerland
   (d) Singapore

   Answer: (c) Switzerland

4. Which organisation publishes the Global Innovation Index?

(a) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
(b) World Trade Organization (WTO)
(c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
(d) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Answer: (a) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

5. What was India's rank in the Global Innovation Index 2026?

(a) 25th
(b) 38th
(c) 49th
(d) 58th

Answer: (b) 38th

6. Which organisation publishes the Global Financial Stability Report?

(a) World Bank
(b) Reserve Bank of India
(c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
(d) Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

Answer: (c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

7. Which country ranked first in the Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2026?

(a) Norway
(b) Switzerland
(c) Denmark
(d) Sweden

Answer: (a) Norway

8. India is the world's leading recipient of remittances, receiving more than what amount annually?

(a) US$50 billion
(b) US$80 billion
(c) US$100 billion
(d) US$130 billion

Answer: (d) US$130 billion

9. Which organisation publishes the World Investment Report and the Trade and Development Report?

(a) UNCTAD
(b) UNESCO
(c) UNEP
(d) UNIDO

Answer: (a) UNCTAD

10. What is the full form of LEADS, an index used to assess logistics performance across Indian States?

(a) Logistics Efficiency and Development Survey
(b) Logistics Ease Across Different States
(c) Logistics Evaluation and Assessment of Domestic States
(d) Logistics Enhancement and Distribution System

Answer: (b) Logistics Ease Across Different States

## 1.17. Bilateral Military & Naval Exercises

**SCO Joint Security Cooperation Communiqué (25th SCO CHG)**

- **Participating Alliances:** Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO Member States)
- **Location / Venue:** Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- **Key Details:** During the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting in October, a Joint Communiqué and security cooperation plan (PMTEC Action Plan 2026–2030) were formally adopted to enhance counter-terrorism and multilateral defense exercises.

**Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026**




- **Participating Nations:** India & Australia
- **Edition:** 5th Edition
- **Forces Involved:** Indian Army & Australian Army
- **Location / Venue:** Foreign Training Node, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
- **Key Objective:** Enhancing military-to-military cooperation, joint tactics, and operational interoperability in semi-urban and multi-domain environments.

**SIMBEX-2026 (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise)**




- **Participating Nations:** India & Singapore
- **Edition:** 33rd Edition
- **Forces Involved:** Indian Navy & Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)
- **Location / Venue:** Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (Sea & Harbour phases)
- **Key Ships/Units:** RSN Stealth Frigate *RSS Supreme*, alongside Indian Naval Ships and maritime patrol aircraft.
- **Key Objective:** Strengthening maritime security cooperation and inter-service interoperability in the Indo-Pacific region.

**Exercise MALABAR 2026 (Announcement)**




- **Participating Nations:** Quad Nations — India, USA, Japan, and Australia
- **Edition:** 30th Edition
- **Forces Involved:** Navies of Quad nations (Indian Navy, US Navy, JMSDF, Royal Australian Navy)
- **Key Announcement Date:** Announced in late October 2026 (to take place in November 2026).
- **Location / Venue:** Off the coast of Japan (South of Kanto region)
- **Indian Navy Participation: INS Sahyadri**

## PRACTICE QUESTION

1. Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 is conducted between India and which country?

   (a) Japan (b) Australia
   (c) Singapore (d) France

   Answer: (b) Australia

2. Which two military forces participate in Exercise AUSTRAHIND?

(a) Indian Army and Australian Army
(b) Indian Navy and Australian Navy
(c) Indian Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force
(d) Indian Army and Australian Air Force

Answer: (a) Indian Army and Australian Army

3. Where was Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 held?

(a) Pune, Maharashtra
(b) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
(c) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
(d) Jaipur, Rajasthan

Answer: (c) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

4. SIMBEX is a bilateral maritime exercise between India and which country?

(a) Indonesia
(b) Singapore
(c) Sri Lanka
(d) Thailand

Answer: (b) Singapore

5. Which edition of SIMBEX was mentioned?

(a) 25th
(b) 30th
(c) 33rd
(d) 35th

Answer: (c) 33rd

6. Which Singapore Navy vessel was mentioned among the key participants in SIMBEX 2026?

(a) RSS Supreme
(b) RSS Formidable
(c) RSS Intrepid
(d) RSS Tenacious

Answer: (a) RSS Supreme

7. Exercise MALABAR is conducted among the navies of which four countries?

(a) India, Russia, China and Japan
(b) India, USA, Japan and Australia
(c) India, France, Australia and Singapore
(d) India, UK, USA and South Korea

Answer: (b) India, USA, Japan and Australia

8. Which Indian Navy ship was named for participation in Exercise MALABAR 2026?

(a) INS Vikrant
(b) INS Arihant
(c) INS Sahyadri
(d) INS Kolkata

Answer: (c) INS Sahyadri

9. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting was held in which city?

(a) Astana
(b) Beijing
(c) Dushanbe
(d) Tashkent

Answer: (c) Dushanbe

10. What is the stated period of the PMTEC Action Plan adopted at the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting?

(a) 2024–2029
(b) 2025–2030
(c) 2026–2030
(d) 2026–2032

Answer: (c) 2026–2030

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## 2.1. Government Schemes, Policies & Initiatives

- **PLI Scheme Disbursement**: The Central Government successfully disbursed ₹36,754 crore under various Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes up to 30 June 2026. The disbursements have significantly boosted domestic manufacturing, attracted massive capital investment, and enhanced export competitiveness across sectors like electronics, pharmaceuticals, and auto components.

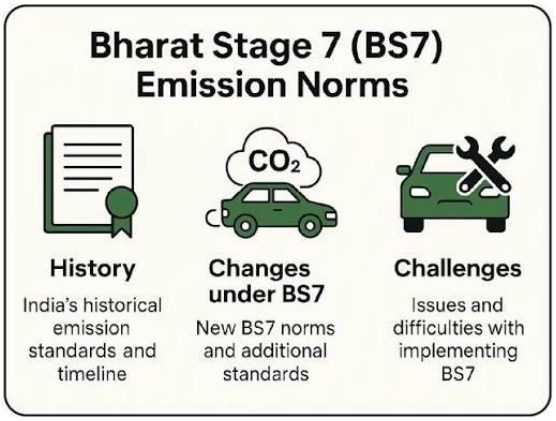



- **Make in India**: The flagship 'Make in India' initiative completed 12 successful years on 25 September 2026. Over the past decade, the campaign has transformed India into a global manufacturing hub, driving FDI inflows, fostering industrial innovation, and building resilient domestic supply chains.
- **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)**: DDU-GKY completed 12 years of implementation in 2026. The rural placement-linked skill training initiative has trained millions of rural youth, facilitating formal employment and socio-economic mobility across backward districts.
- **PM GatiShakti**: The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan completed 5 successful years on 13 October 2026. The multi-modal connectivity portal has revolutionized infrastructure planning, enabling multi-ministerial coordination, cutting project delays, and optimizing logistics costs across India.
- **Mann Ki Baat**: The Prime Minister's monthly radio address, Mann Ki Baat, completed 12 years of continuous broadcast. The platform has served as a powerful medium for civic engagement, highlighting social causes, local innovations, and community-led developmental initiatives.

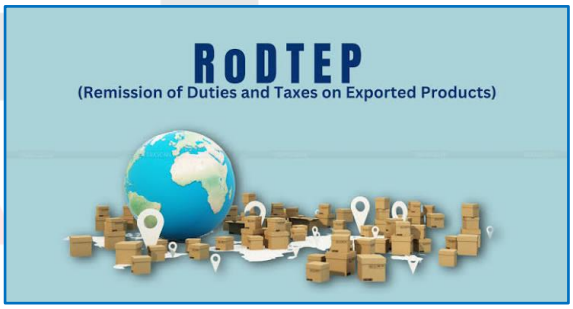



- **PM-SETU (1st Anniversary)**: PM-SETU completed 1 year of modernizing Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). The Cabinet also approved ₹440 crore under PM-SETU to upgrade 9 Government ITIs in the Surat and Visakhapatnam clusters, aligning vocational training with high-tech industry demands.
- **PMDDKY (1st Anniversary)**: Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana completed its first year, with 100 designated districts actively formulating localized District Action Plans. The initiative aims to enhance crop productivity, boost farmers' incomes, and integrate sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses**: The national Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses completed its 1st year, targeting complete self-sufficiency in pulse production by 2030-31. The scheme promotes high-yielding seed distribution, procurement guarantees, and improved irrigation support.

- **PM-eDrive Progress**: Under the PM-eDrive scheme, electric vehicle (EV) sales reached 26.59 lakh units as of June 2026. The figure moves close to the national target of 28.30 lakh EVs, accelerating clean mobility adoption and EV charging infrastructure rollout.
- **NSAP Extension**: The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) from 2026-27 to 2030-31 with a financial outlay of ₹53,428 crore. The scheme provides vital financial pensions to elderly, widowed, and disabled citizens living below the poverty line.
- **BS-VII Emission Norms Draft**: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued a draft proposal to introduce BS-VII vehicular emission standards for new passenger cars and SUVs starting 1 April 2029, aiming to curb urban air pollution and enforce stricter tailpipe limits.




- **CAFE Norms Notification**: The Ministry of Power notified new Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Norms for passenger vehicles, effective from 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2032. The norms mandate auto manufacturers to lower fleet carbon emissions and improve overall fuel efficiency.
- **Rabi MSP Increase**: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCE(a) approved an increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all six mandated Rabi crops for the Rabi Marketing Season 2027-28, ensuring remunerative prices and financial security for farmers.
- **RoDTEP Scheme**: The Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme was extended up to 31 December 2026, with an increased budget outlay proposal of ₹23,000 crore for FY 2026-27 to support Indian exporters.




- **Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III)**: Approved by the Union Cabinet, GEC-III aims to integrate and evacuate up to 135 GW of renewable energy across multiple States and UTs, strengthening grid stability and clean energy transmission.
- **National Coastal Mission 2.0 (NCM 2.0)**: Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched operational guidelines for NCM 2.0 in New Delhi. The mission focuses on coastal zone protection, marine ecosystem restoration, and sustainable livelihood creation for coastal communities.
- **VB-G RAM G Act Schedule**: The Ministry of Rural Development notified 375 permissible rural works under the new VB-G RAM G framework, streamlining rural employment activities, community infrastructure creation, and climate-resilient asset development.
- **Data Centre Evaluation Framework**: Released by NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub, the framework provides standardized guidelines for sustainable data center planning, focusing on energy efficiency, green building standards, and water recycling.




- **Delhi Udyog Mitra Portal**: Launched by Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, the single-window portal simplifies business operations by providing streamlined online

approvals, commercial licenses, and No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to boost Ease of Doing Business.

- **Unified Agentic AI Platform**: MeitY selected CoRover.ai to deploy a unified Agentic AI platform for public services, integrating DigiLocker as its initial operational implementation to automate government service delivery.
- **PRAMAAN Certificates**: Union Minister Bhupender Yadav handed over India's first PRAMAAN certificates under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS), promoting sustainable forest management and certified timber trade.
- **Aadhaar Samvaad & Name Update SOP**: UIDAI launched 5 new citizen-centric initiatives during the 17th Aadhaar Day in Kolkata and issued a revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for updating names in Aadhaar records.
- **Vetri Payanam Thittam (Tamil Nadu)**: Tamil Nadu launched the expanded Vetri Payanam Thittam in Chennai, providing zero-fare public transit access to empower women and marginalized commuter groups.
- **WOMN Project (Kerala)**: Kerala launched the Women On the Move & Menstrual Needs (WOMN) project to improve public accessibility to hygiene facilities and sanitary napkins across public transit hubs.
- **DRISHTI Project**: The Central Government approved a ₹65 crore project under PM-UDAY to modernize land records and property mapping across Delhi's unauthorized colonies using advanced drone mapping.
- **PRAGATI 50**: Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal launched initiatives under PRAGATI 50 to develop a comprehensive Model City Framework aimed at transforming urban governance across 50 selected cities.
- **JOSH Teams Launch**: The Ministries of Health, Youth Affairs & Sports, and Defence jointly launched Joint Squad for Health (JOSH) Teams at Bharat Mandapam to accelerate grassroots Tuberculosis eradication drives.
- **Shram Samvad Campaign**: The Ministry of Labour and Employment launched a 90-day campaign to raise public awareness around the four simplified Labour Codes and worker welfare rights.




- **Steel Industry Safety Council (SISC)**: The Ministry of Steel announced the creation of the SISC as an apex safety body to mandate industrial health standards and minimize workplace hazards in steel plants.
- **3D Concrete Printing Rural Housing**: India's first national-level pilot project using 3D concrete printing technology for affordable rural housing was launched in Andhra Pradesh under PMAY-G.
- **NAVYA 2.0**: MSDE and MoWCD organized an orientation for Nurturing Aspirations Through Vocational Training for Young Women and Adolescent Girls (NAVYA 2.0) to boost skill development.

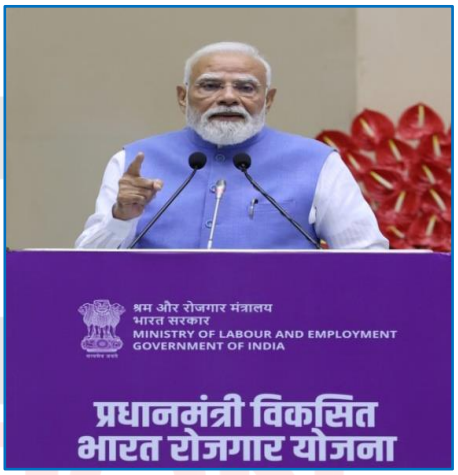
- **FTA Utilisation Cell**: Established by the Department of Commerce, the specialized cell assists Indian businesses in navigating complex trade rules and maximizing benefits from Free Trade Agreements.
- **New Discovery Track in Pharma**: The Department of Pharmaceuticals introduced a New Discovery Track under the PRIP Scheme to fund early-stage drug research and MedTech innovations among startups and MSMEs.
- **Classical Languages CoE**: The Ministry of Education approved 5 new Centres of Excellence dedicated to advanced research, digitization, and literary studies in officially recognized Classical Languages.




- **Battery Solar Project in Spiti**: Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu inaugurated the state's first battery-powered solar project in Spiti Valley to supply reliable green power to remote high-altitude communities.
- **Railway Productivity-Linked Bonus (PLB)**: The Union Cabinet approved a 78-day Productivity-Linked Bonus amounting to ₹2,009.61 crore for 11.40 lakh non-gazetted railway employees ahead of the festive season.
- **ASHA Worker Incentive Doubling**: The Delhi Government doubled the fixed monthly incentives for 6,690 frontline ASHA workers from ₹3,000 to ₹6,000 to support their community healthcare contributions.
- **Drone Training for Agniveers**: Zuppa Geo Navigation partnered with TNUAVC to launch a commercial drone pilot training program tailored for retiring defense personnel and Agniveers.
- **DBIM 3.0 Website**: The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAH(d) launched its newly upgraded website fully compliant with Digital Brand Identity Manual 3.0 guidelines.
- **ABS Fund Disbursement**: The National Biodiversity Authority (NB(a) disbursed ₹2.02 crore to 27 States and 3 UTs under Access and Benefit Sharing mechanisms for localized biodiversity conservation.
- **BIS Initiatives**: The Bureau of Indian Standards launched the Silver Refinery Scheme alongside 7 new Indian Standards to regulate precious metal purity and industrial manufacturing quality.
- **Sugarcane Farmers Committee**: The Central Government formed an expert committee chaired by NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand to address systemic challenges faced by sugarcane farmers and sugar mills.
- **National PNG Drive 3.0**: Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the nationwide PNG drive to accelerate domestic Piped Natural Gas connections and expand city gas distribution networks.
- **SAY-SOBLOK Launch**: Nagaland launched the Samaveshi Aajeevika Yojana through a 3-year agreement between NSRLM and BRAC International to tackle extreme rural poverty.
- **CA|TS Approval**: Nameri Tiger Reserve in Assam officially earned international Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) accreditation for excellence in tiger management.




- **PM-SETU Scheme Strategic Investment Approvals**: The National Steering Committee of PM-SETU approved five Strategic Investment Plans worth ₹1,194.92 crore to modernize ITI clusters in Maharashtra, Odisha, and Jammu & Kashmir.
- **PM-AJAY Adarsh Gram Component Expansion**: Implemented by MoSJE, PM-AJAY covered over 47,200 villages, benefiting over 47.79 lakh citizens through integrated development in Scheduled Caste-majority areas.
- **Extension of RELIEF Scheme Component II**: The Department of Commerce extended Component II of the RELIEF scheme to March 31, 2027, offering 95% risk coverage for exporters facing supply chain disruptions.
- **Launch of NMMS 2.0 Mobile App**: Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the NMMS 2.0 app to transparently track NREGA worker attendance under the VB-G RAM G initiative.




- **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)**: Launched in August 2025, PM-VBRY incentivizes formal employment creation across various sectors through strategic employer-employee wage subsidies.
- **Telecommunications (Regulatory Sandbox) Rules, 2026**: India introduced regulatory sandbox rules providing telecom companies a controlled environment to live-test emerging communication technologies.
- **Mandatory Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS)**: MoRTH proposed mandating ADAS features in commercial passenger vehicles to improve road fleet safety and reduce highway accidents.
- **Mandatory Advanced Emergency Braking Systems (AEBS)**: MoRTH proposed making AEBS mandatory for all new private car models starting October 2030 to mitigate collision risks.
- **Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign**: The Department of Financial Services launched a nationwide campaign running from October 21 to December 31, 2026, to ensure complete banking access in rural regions.
- **Digital Agriculture Mission – 11 Crore Farmer IDs**: India created 11 crore unique Farmer IDs under the Digital Agriculture Mission, reaching its target five months ahead of the March 2027 deadline.

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. As of June 30, 2026, what amount was successfully disbursed by the Central Government under various Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes?

   (a) ₹25,400 crore
   (b) ₹36,754 crore
   (c) ₹42,100 crore
   (d) ₹53,428 crore

   Answer: (b) ₹36,754 crore

2. The flagship 'Make in India' initiative completed 12 successful years on which date?

   (a) 15 August 2026 (b) 25 September 2026

   (c) 13 October 2026 (d) 2 October 2026

   Answer: (b) 25 September 2026

3. The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) from 2026-27 to 2030-31 with what total financial outlay?

   (a) ₹1,789.52 crore (b) ₹23,000 crore

   (c) ₹36,754 crore (d) ₹53,428 crore

   Answer: (d) ₹53,428 crore

4. From which date has the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) proposed to introduce BS-VII vehicular emission standards for new passenger cars and SUVs?

   (a) 1 April 2027 (b) 1 April 2028

   (c) 1 April 2029 (d) 1 October 2030

   Answer: (c) 1 April 2029

5. Up to what date has the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme been extended with a proposed budget outlay of ₹23,000 crore for FY 2026-27?

   (a) 31 December 2026 (b) 31 March 2027

   (c) 30 June 2026 (d) 31 October 2027

   Answer: (a) 31 December 2026

## 2.2. Banking, Finance and Business

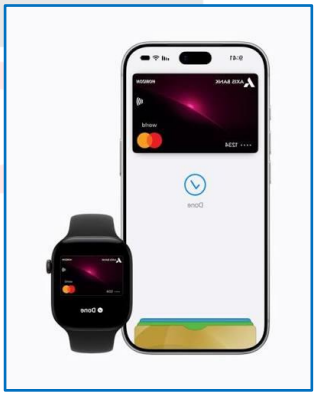



- **WMA Report**: RBI released the Advisory Committee Report on Ways and Means Advances to State Governments, chaired by I. S. N. Prasad, recommending revised borrowing frameworks for states.
- **SEBI Regulatory Reforms**: SEBI approved sweeping regulatory reforms across Portfolio Management Services, trade settlements, Foreign Portfolio Investors, commodity derivatives, and intermediary advertisements.
- **IIP Growth (August 2026)**: India's Index of Industrial Production grew by 8.0% YoY in August 2026, accelerating from 6.7% in July, driven by strong manufacturing and mining output.
- **SME Growth Fund**: The Cabinet approved a ₹10,000 crore commitment to set up the SME Growth Fund, facilitating equity capital access for high-growth small and medium enterprises.
- **Indiabulls CIC Registration**: RBI granted Indiabulls Limited a official Certificate of Registration to operate as a Core Investment Company, streamlining its corporate holding structure.
- **IRDAI Distribution Consultation Paper**: IRDAI published a consultation paper titled "Recalibrating Economics of Insurance Distribution" aimed at reforming commission structures and agent payouts.

- **PRIM Framework Approval**: SEBI approved the Portfolio Managers Route for Investing in Mutual Fund Units (MF-PMS), allowing portfolio managers enhanced flexibility in mutual fund allocations.
- **NSE World Ranking**: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) became the world's 6th largest stock exchange by market capitalization following the public listing of BSE.
- **Net FDI High**: Net Foreign Direct Investment into India reached a 5-year high of $7.35 billion in July 2026, indicating strong global investor confidence.
- **JICA Loan to IIFL**: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JIC(a) signed a $150 million loan agreement with IIFL Home Finance to expand affordable housing loans for low-income women.




- **Rayalaseema Horticulture Hub**: FM Nirmala Sitharaman laid the foundation stone for a ₹1 trillion mega horticulture hub in Madanapalle, Andhra Pradesh to boost agri-processing exports.
- **BoI Programmable e₹**: Bank of India launched programmable Digital Rupee features, enabling automated recurring payments and conditional usage functionality for retail e₹ users.
- **ICICI Lombard VIBE**: ICICI Lombard launched 'VIBE', a custom mobile-first health insurance product designed specifically for Gen Z and young working professionals.



- **Apple Pay India**: Apple Inc. officially rolled out its digital wallet service, Apple Pay, in India following integrations with major domestic banks and NPCI.
- **Fiscal Deficit Data**: Central government fiscal deficit reached 41.9% of the full-year Budget Estimates by the end of August 2026, remaining within target trajectories.
- **Cold-Chain Rating**: DPIIT and the Asian Development Bank (AD(b) initiated joint efforts to establish standardized quality grading for industrial warehouses and cold-chain infrastructure.
- **HDFC Capital & Shalimar**: HDFC Capital partnered with Shalimar Group to launch a ₹750-crore investment platform targeting middle-income residential housing projects.
- **Jio Allianz Capital**: Jio Finance and Allianz Europe each injected ₹320.05 crore into Jio Allianz General Insurance through a rights issue to meet solvency capital requirements.
- **First WASH Social Bond**: NABKISAN Finance listed India's first Social Bond dedicated to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure on the National Stock Exchange.
- **Small Savings Rates Unchanged**: The Department of Economic Affairs maintained interest rates on various Small Savings Schemes unchanged for the third quarter of FY 2026-27.
- **Poorna Rakshak Launch**: Pramerica Life Insurance launched 'Poorna Rakshak', a non-linked, non-participating life insurance savings plan offering comprehensive financial protection.

- **Windfall Tax Revision**: The Ministry of Finance revised windfall tax levies and export duties on crude petroleum, diesel, and aviation turbine fuel effective 1 October 2026.
- **BoB Pension Fund Sponsor**: Bank of Baroda became the second public sector bank to enter the pension management space after receiving regulatory approval from PFRDA.
- **Q2 FY27 GDP Projection**: The Ministry of Finance projected real GDP growth for the second quarter of FY27 at 7.3%, supported by robust domestic consumption and investment.
- **CGTMSE Cover for TReDS**: Operationalised credit guarantee coverage for eligible receivables financed through Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platforms for Micro and Small Enterprises.
- **Note Sorting Guidelines**: RBI issued updated, mandatory note sorting and cash handling guidelines under the Banking Regulation Act to maintain currency quality standards.
- **Cassette Swaps in ATMs**: RBI issued modified directives regarding mandatory lockable cassette swaps in automated teller machines to enhance cash transportation security.
- **5th Kautilya Economic Conclave**: Organized by IEG and MoF, the 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave took place in New Delhi from 3-5 October 2026, addressing global economic fragmentation.




- **SEBI Settlement Regulations 2026**: SEBI officially notified revised settlement regulations to streamline proceedings, promote transparency, and expedite dispute resolutions.
- **Federal Bank 'Verto'**: Federal Bank introduced 'Verto', a premium feature-rich savings account tailored specifically for young entrepreneurs, corporate executives, and freelancers.
- **Carbon Credit Cell in Kerala**: The World Bank agreed to assist Kerala's Agriculture Department in establishing a dedicated Carbon Credit Cell to monetize eco-friendly agricultural practices.
- **RBI OMO Sale**: RBI conducted Open Market Operation (OMO) sales worth ₹50,000 crore in Government Securities to absorb excess banking system liquidity and stabilize short-term yields.




- **SBI Research on FCNR(B)**: SBI Research reported that commercial banks raised ~$127 billion through FCNR((b) deposits, projecting potential notional gains of ~₹5 trillion over five years.
- **CRIF MSME Credit Report**: CRIF High Mark reported that India's MSME total credit portfolio expanded by 12.5% YoY to reach ₹47.4 trillion as of June 2026.
- **5-Day Banking Committee**: The Indian Banks' Association (IB(a) set up a 12-member committee to evaluate administrative frameworks for implementing a 5-day workweek for bank employees.
- **RBI Repo Rate Hike**: The Reserve Bank of India increased the benchmark policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.5% to curb persistent core inflation pressures.
- **Floating Rate Bond 2028**: RBI fixed the coupon rate for Floating Rate Savings Bonds 2028 at 6.45% per annum for the period running Oct 2026 to Apr 2027.

- **"Samajh Se Investing Simple"**: SEBI launched an investor awareness campaign titled "Samajh Se Investing Simple" under Project Jagrook at Panjab University to promote financial literacy.
- **World Bank GDP Upgrade**: The World Bank revised India's FY27 real GDP growth forecast upward to 7.1% (from 6.6%), citing strong public infrastructure spend and service exports.




- **Paytm Payments Bank Removal**: RBI officially excluded Paytm Payments Bank Limited from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 following the regulatory cancellation of its operational license.
- **SEBI Merchant Banker Relaxation**: SEBI relaxed mandatory merchant banker appointment rules for eligible listed debt issuers conducting private placements of corporate bonds.
- **UNDP-Generali Innovation Challenge**: UNDP and Generali launched an innovation challenge aimed at scaling insurance and risk-mitigation products for vulnerable MSMEs.
- **57th GST Council Meeting**: The 57th GST Council meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi, deliberated on rate rationalizations and compliance simplifies.




- **Forex Reporting Framework**: RBI introduced a simplified, automated online reporting framework for non-software services exports to streamline cross-border trade transactions.
- **NBFC-AA Interoperability**: RBI announced technical interoperability standards among Account Aggregators (NBFC-AAs) to allow seamless financial data sharing across customer accounts.
- **Merchandise Trade Deficit**: India's monthly merchandise trade deficit narrowed to a 5-month low of $26.86 billion in August 2026, supported by falling non-oil import costs.
- **Direct Tax Collections**: CBDT reported a 13% growth in net direct tax collections exceeding ₹12.12 lakh crore between April 1 and September 17, 2026.
- **Current Account Deficit (July 2026)**: RBI recorded a Current Account Deficit of $7 billion in July 2026, compared to $3.2 billion recorded in July 2025.
- **Airtel Money LSE Listing**: Airtel Money successfully debuted trading on the London Stock Exchange through an Initial Public Offering, expanding its international investor base.
- **FiMi Banking Model**: NPCI unveiled the Finance Model for India (FiMi) sovereign compact banking model at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF 2026).
- **Special Forex Window for OMCs**: RBI opened a dedicated foreign exchange window to meet the daily US dollar requirements of three public sector Oil Marketing Companies.
- **Benchmark Issuance Strategy Expansion**: RBI expanded its Benchmark Issuance Strategy framework across 7 additional states and J&K, bringing the total coverage to 26 states and UTs.




- **Aurum Advantage Plan**: Ageas Federal Life launched the 'Aurum Advantage Plan', a multi-currency Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) operating out of GIFT City.
- **RBI Net Forex Purchases**: RBI reported net foreign exchange purchases of $18.65 billion in July 2026 to manage exchange rate volatility and build reserves.
- **Private Capex Projections**: The RBI Bulletin projected private capital expenditure to rise significantly to ₹3.2 trillion in FY27, up from ₹2.6 trillion recorded in FY26.
- **NSE IX & LSE Partnership**: NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) and London Stock Exchange signed an MoU to enhance capital market connectivity between India and the UK.
- **Shipbuilding Credit Insurance**: Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the SbPCP and BCSPS credit insurance frameworks to boost domestic shipbuilding financing.
- **ReNew Debt Facility**: ReNew Energy Global secured a $100 million (₹955 crore) long-term debt facility from Dutch entrepreneurial development bank FMO for renewable expansion.
- **New GST Standing Committee**: The Central Government constituted a new GST Standing Committee tasked with broadening the tax base and addressing administrative bottlenecks.
- **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) Expansion**: BSE Limited partnered with MMTC-PAMP to expand the Electronic Gold Receipts ecosystem, improving liquidity and spot price discovery in physical gold trading.
- **SEBI Closing Auction Session (CAS) Framework Revision**: SEBI revised its Closing Auction Session rules to improve closing price discovery and minimize artificial end-of-day market volatility.
- **Canara HSBC Life Global Wealth Plan**: Canara HSBC Life Insurance launched a USD-denominated unit-linked life insurance product operating directly from GIFT City, Gujarat.




- **Japan as Top FDI Source**: Japan emerged as India's largest source of Foreign Direct Investment during Q1 FY 2026–27, contributing total inflows of $5.71 billion.
- **1 Finance AMC Approval**: Advisory firm 1 Finance received in-principle approval from SEBI to set up an Asset Management Company under the new MF Lite framework.
- **Withdrawal of Proposed 'No UPI Day' Protest**: Retail merchant associations canceled their planned 'No UPI Day' protest following productive discussions with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- **RBI Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve (FERR) Mandate**: RBI directed banks to maintain a Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve equal to 20% of foreign exchange derivative contract values within CRR accounts.
- **Bank of Baroda 'bob Cyber Veeru' Mascot**: Bank of Baroda unveiled its official cybersecurity awareness mascot, 'bob Cyber Veeru', to educate retail customers on safe digital banking.

- **Bank of Baroda Festive Campaign**: Bank of Baroda launched the "bob Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang" campaign, offering discounted interest rates and fee waivers on retail and MSME loans.
- **NCDEX Equity Indices Launch**: NCDEX entered equity derivatives markets by launching two rule-based stock indices, NDEX and FINNDEX, on October 22, 2026.
- **Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) Corporate Office**: Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal opened SMFCL's new corporate office at ISID, New Delhi to accelerate maritime infrastructure financing.

## Practice Questions

1. Who chaired the RBI's Advisory Committee on Ways and Means Advances (WMA) to State Governments, which recommended revised borrowing frameworks for states?

   (a) Ramesh Chand
   (b) I. S. N. Prasad
   (c) Hardeep Singh Puri
   (d) Bhupender Yadav

   Answer: (b) I. S. N. Prasad

2. India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew by what percentage Year-on-Year (YoY) in August 2026?

   (a) 6.7%
   (b) 7.1%
   (c) 8.0%
   (d) 12.5%

   Answer: (c) 8.0%

3. What total corpus did the Cabinet approve to set up the SME Growth Fund to facilitate equity capital access for high-growth small and medium enterprises?

   (a) ₹750 crore
   (b) ₹2,009.61 crore
   (c) ₹10,000 crore
   (d) ₹53,428 crore

   Answer: (c) ₹10,000 crore

4. Following the public listing of BSE, where did the National Stock Exchange (NSE) rank among the world's largest stock exchanges by market capitalization?

   (a) 3rd
   (b) 5th
   (c) 6th
   (d) 8th

   Answer: (c) 6th

5. Bank of Baroda became the second public sector bank to enter which financial space after receiving regulatory approval from PFRDA?

   (a) Foreign Portfolio Investment
   (b) Pension Management
   (c) Core Investment Company
   (d) Microfinance Lending

   Answer: (b) Pension Management

## 2.3. International News

- **UNICORN Radar**: Japan requested India to expedite its internal clearance processes regarding the co-development and deployment agreement for the UNICORN naval radar antenna system.

- **WASH in Schools Report**: WHO and UNICEF published "Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools 2015-2025," emphasizing global infrastructure gaps in educational institutions.
- **Project Meridian**: The US Department of Defense initiated 'Project Meridian', a 120-day strategic initiative evaluating emerging dual-use technologies for future defense applications.
- **APEDA Export to Canada**: APEDA facilitated a major export shipment containing 24 metric tonnes of premium frozen food products from Sonipat, Haryana to Canadian markets.
- **HSBC Wealth Report 2026**: HSBC published its global wealth survey assessing 3,000+ high-net-worth entrepreneurs, highlighting high artificial intelligence adoption among Indian business leaders.
- **Multilateralism Platform Launch**: India, the EU, Australia, Brazil, and Canada established a joint platform dedicated to upholding multilateralism and reforming United Nations governance structures.
- **IWC-70**: At the 70th International Whaling Commission meeting in Hobart, Australia, India reiterated its firm global commitment to cetacean conservation and marine habitat protection.
- **EAM African Visit**: External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar conducted high-level official visits to Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ethiopia to reinforce strategic and trade partnerships.
- **Swiss President Visit**: Swiss President Guy Parmelin undertook a 3-day state visit to India, holding bilateral discussions focused on trade agreements, clean tech, and innovation.
- **India-Japan JCM Manual**: India and Japan released the official Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) Implementation Manual in New Delhi to encourage carbon offset projects.




- **ASEAN Power Grid Project**: India and Singapore progressed feasibility studies for a 2,000 MW subsea electricity interconnection to facilitate cross-border renewable power trading.
- **FAO COFO 28**: At the 28th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry in Rome, India highlighted its national achievements in forest restoration and agroforestry initiatives.
- **UNCTAD Greenfield Investment Report**: UNCTAD reported that India secured 5.7% of total global greenfield foreign investment between 2020 and 2025, more than double China's 2.8% share.
- **Living Planet Report 2026**: WWF and the Zoological Society of London published the Living Planet Report 2026 titled "The Science of Hope," documenting global wildlife population trends.
- **Currency Swap for Maldives**: India approved the extension and rollover of a ₹30 billion (₹3,000 crore) bilateral currency swap facility to support economic stability in the Maldives.
- **World Health Summit (WHS) 2026**: WHS 2026 took place in Berlin under the theme "From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health," addressing future pandemic preparedness.

- **69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference**: Delegations gathered at Cape Town, South Africa for the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference to strengthen democratic governance.
- **Loss and Damage Fund Earmarking for Nepal**: The UN Loss and Damage Fund allocated emergency relief funds to Nepal following devastating flash floods—marking the fund's first direct disaster allocation.
- **Re-election of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**: Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva won the 2026 Brazilian Presidential Election, securing his fourth non-consecutive term as President of Brazil.

## Practice Questions

1. Japan requested India to expedite internal clearance processes for the co-development and deployment of which naval radar antenna system?

   (a) MERIDIAN
   (b) UNICORN
   (c) SAMYUKTA
   (d) TRISHUL

   Answer: (b) UNICORN

2. What is 'Project Meridian', recently initiated by the US Department of Defense?

   (a) A deep-sea exploration project in the Pacific
   (b) A 120-day strategic initiative evaluating emerging dual-use technologies
   (c) A space satellite navigation framework
   (d) A cyber-security awareness program for schools

   Answer: (b) A 120-day strategic initiative evaluating emerging dual-use technologies

3. APEDA facilitated the export of 1 metric tonne of popped Makhana (fox nuts) sourced from Purnea, Bihar to which country?

   (a) Canada
   (b) Japan
   (c) Greece
   (d) Australia

   Answer: (c) Greece

4. According to UNCTAD, what percentage of total global greenfield foreign investment did India secure between 2020 and 2025?

   (a) 2.8%
   (b) 4.1%
   (c) 5.7%
   (d) 7.2%

   Answer: (c) 5.7%

5. What is the title of the 'Living Planet Report 2026' published jointly by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Zoological Society of London?

   (a) Building a Resilient Future
   (b) The Science of Hope
   (c) Restoring Earth's Biodiversity
   (d) Sustaining Marine Ecosystems

   Answer: (b) The Science of Hope

## 2.4. Awards and Honours

- **Cool Leaders Award**: The UNEP-led Cool Coalition introduced the Cool Leaders Award during the Global Cooling Pledge Assembly 2026 in Singapore to honor sustainable cooling innovations.
- **Visisht Gujarat Garima Award**: The Gujarat Government announced the Visisht Gujarat Garima Award for Captain Smit Machchhar for extraordinary courage during the Flydubai flight FZ1073 emergency.
- **World Airline Awards 2026**: Skytrax hosted the World Airline Awards 2026 in London, recognizing global excellence across commercial aviation and passenger services.
- **Nobel Prize in Physics 2026**: Awarded to Francis Halzen for pioneering work on the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the groundbreaking discovery of high-energy cosmic neutrinos.
- **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026**: Jointly awarded to Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel for developing optogenetics, enabling optical control of specific neuronal activity.
- **Ramanujan Prize 2026**: Awarded to Prof. Mahesh Kakde from IISc Bengaluru for outstanding contributions to algebraic number theory and non-commutative main conjectures.



- **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026**: Awarded to Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai for discovering non-linear effects and asymmetric autocatalysis in organic synthesis.
- **Israel Civilian Heroism Award**: Captain Smit Machchhar was conferred Israel's Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism for remarkable bravery during a critical aviation incident.
- **Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026**: 14-year-old Oscar Whitfield won the international award for his striking photograph titled "Labour of Love".
- **US National Medal of Science**: US President Donald Trump presented the National Medal of Science to Elon Musk during the "Science: A New Golden Age" summit in Washington.
- **G-Mark Award for Shabari Naturals Packaging**: Maharashtra's Shabari Naturals initiative won Japan's Good Design Award for packaging showcasing traditional Warli, Gond, and Chitrakathi indigenous artwork.
- **Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026 (Category Win)**: Sitaram Raul won the 'Behaviour: Invertebrates' category for capturing a desert scorpion in Rajasthan's Thar Desert.
- **Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026 (Grand Title)**: Italian photographer Federico Veronesi won the grand adult title for his poignant wildlife image titled "The Aftermath".

## Practice Questions

1. Who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2026 for pioneering work on the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the discovery of high-energy cosmic neutrinos?

   (a) Francis Halzen
   (b) Karl Deisseroth
   (c) Robert E. Hall
   (d) Michael Woodford

   Answer: (a) Francis Halzen

2. The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026 was jointly awarded to Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel for developing which technique?

   (a) CRISPR gene editing
   (b) Optogenetics
   (c) Asymmetric autocatalysis
   (d) Cryo-electron microscopy

   Answer: (b) Optogenetics

3. Who was awarded the Ramanujan Prize 2026 for outstanding contributions to algebraic number theory?

   (a) Prof. Mahesh Kakde
   (b) Sitaram Raul
   (c) Ghanshyam Dass Jain
   (d) Sunil Bharti Mittal

   Answer: (a) Prof. Mahesh Kakde

4. Celebrated poet and essayist Anne Carson was awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in which category?

   (a) Peace
   (b) Chemistry
   (c) Literature
   (d) Economic Sciences

   Answer: (c) Literature

5. South African human rights jurist Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay was awarded which prestigious honor in 2026?

   (a) Nobel Peace Prize
   (b) Legion of Honour
   (c) National Medal of Science
   (d) Ramanujan Prize

   Answer: (a) Nobel Peace Prize

## 2.5. Appointments and Resignations

- **CRIF Credit Information Services**: Appointed Suresh Venkatesan as its Whole-time Director & Chief Executive Officer to manage domestic credit bureau operations.
- **Tooro Kingdom Uganda**: Prince Edward Rukidi Kijanangoma was formally crowned as the 13th King (Omukam(a) of the Tooro Kingdom in Uganda.
- **South Indian Bank**: Mahesh Muralidhar Pai assumed charge as Managing Director & CEO of South Indian Bank effective October 1, 2026.
- **Geojit Financial Services**: Jones George was elevated to Managing Director, while founder C J George transitioned to Executive Chairman.
- **1 Corps Indian Army**: Lt. Gen. Akhilesh Kumar assumed command as General Officer Commanding (GO(c) of the elite 1 Corps of the Indian Army.
- **ITLOS Judge**: Bimal N. Patel was sworn in as a Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in Hamburg, Germany.
- **RBI Executive Director**: Sudhakar Malli was appointed as Executive Director at the Reserve Bank of India, overseeing key financial supervision departments.
- **ICICI Prudential Life**: Appointed Sidharatha Mishra as Additional Director and incoming Managing Director & CEO.



- **PIB Principal Director General**: Dhirendra Ojha was re-employed as Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau for a 1-year contractual tenure.
- **Press Council of India**: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting reconstituted the Press Council of India, nominating 13 veteran journalist members.
- **SWIFT Board**: Dilip Asbe, MD & CEO of NPCI, was appointed as an independent director on the SWIFT Supervisory Board.
- **Union Council Resignation**: President Droupadi Murmu accepted the official resignation of Union Minister of State L. Murugan from the Council of Ministers.




- **UNESCO IOCINDIO Chair**: Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director of INCOIS, was elected Chair of UNESCO's IOCINDIO regional oceanographic commission.
- **FSIB Chairperson**: Subhas Chandra Lal Das was appointed part-time Chairperson of the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB).
- **IMF/WB Board of Governors Chair**: Pakistan was named incoming Chair of the Board of Governors of the IMF and World Bank Group for 2027.
- **Tenure Extension of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh**: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet extended Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh's tenure by one year through October 31, 2027.
- **Hinduja Tech CEO Appointment**: Hinduja Tech appointed Faiz Ahmad as Chief Executive Officer effective November 1, 2026, to expand its international automotive R&D.
- **IL&FS Chairman and Managing Director**: Nagaraju Maddirala was appointed CMD of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services for a 2-year tenure.
- **NIACL Chairman-cum-Managing Director**: Lavanya R. Mundayur was appointed Chairman-cum-Managing Director of New India Assurance Company Limited.
- **IndusInd General Insurance MD & CEO**: Sharad Mathur was formally named Managing Director and CEO of following regulatory clearances on October 20, 2026.
- **Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir:** The Ministry of Home Affairs appointed Sajjan Singh Yadav (1995-batch AGMUT cadre IAS officer) as the new Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir.

## Practice Questions

1. Who was appointed as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force, taking charge on October 31, 2026?

   (a) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
   (b) Lt. Gen. Akhilesh Kumar
   (c) Air Marshal VR Chaudhari
   (d) Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria

   Answer: (a) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

2. Who assumed charge as Managing Director & CEO of HDFC Bank following official approval from the Reserve Bank of India?

   (a) Anup Kumar Saha
   (b) Anup Bagchi
   (c) Mahesh Muralidhar Pai
   (d) Sharad Mathur

Answer: (b) Anup Bagchi

3. Who was sworn in as a Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, Germany?

(a) Bimal N. Patel
(b) Dhirendra Ojha
(c) Dilip Asbe
(d) Sajjan Singh Yadav

Answer: (a) Bimal N. Patel

4. Who was appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir by the Ministry of Home Affairs?

(a) Narendra Bhooshan
(b) Prakash Rajpurohit
(c) Sajjan Singh Yadav
(d) Subhas Chandra Lal Das

Answer: (c) Sajjan Singh Yadav

5. Dilip Asbe, MD & CEO of NPCI, was appointed as an independent director on the supervisory board of which global organization?

(a) SWIFT
(b) IMF
(c) World Bank
(d) UNESCO

Answer: (a) SWIFT

## 2.6. Summits and Conference

- **18th BRICS Summit (Belém, Brazil):** Centered on "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just and Sustainable Global Governance," it pilot-launched BRICS Pay for cross-border local currency trade and operationalized a 13-member 'Partner Country' status framework.
- **2026 IMF–World Bank Group Annual Meetings (Washington, D.C., USA):** Multilateral finance leaders reached $100 Billion in SDRs rechanneled via the Resilience and Sustainability Trust while reviewing systemic leverage and liquidity mismatch risks in global private credit markets.
- **28th Financial Stability and Development Council Meeting (New Delhi):** Chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the council mandated universal CKYCR adoption by Q4 FY27 and instructed banks to expedite clearing unclaimed deposits via RBI's UDGAM portal.
- **7th Global Fintech Fest / GFF 2026 (Mumbai):** Focused on "AI-Driven Inclusive Finance," the event saw RBI unveil technical blueprints for offline CBDC functionality and establish real-time cross-border payment linkages with Southeast Asian nations.
- **Emerging Science, Tech & Innovation Conclave / ESTIC 2026 (New Delhi):** Inaugurated by the Prime Minister at Bharat Mandapam, where MeitY and SIDBI announced a ₹5,000 Crore DeepTech Venture Fund-of-Funds for domestic hardware, robotics, and advanced tech startups.
- **Preparatory Ministerial Meeting for COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye):** Finalized negotiation tracks ahead of COP31 with a focus on mobilizing the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) and urging multilateral banks to triple concessional climate lending.

## Practice Questions

1. What was the central theme of the 18th BRICS Summit held in Belém, Brazil?

   (a) Fostering Parliaments for People-Centric Development

   (b) Strengthening Multilateralism for Just and Sustainable Global Governance

   (c) AI-Driven Inclusive Finance: The Next Frontier

   (d) Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Emerging Markets

   Answer: (b) Strengthening Multilateralism for Just and Sustainable Global Governance

2. Which payment initiative was pilot-launched during the 18th BRICS Summit to facilitate cross-border settlements in local currencies?

   (a) BRICS Clearinghouse (b) Universal Remittance Network

   (c) BRICS Pay (d) Global Inter-Bank Express

   Answer: (c) BRICS Pay

3. At the 2026 IMF–World Bank Group Annual Meetings in Washington, D.C., multilateral finance leaders announced rechanneling $100 Billion in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) through which mechanism?

   (a) Global Infrastructure Facility

   (b) Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST)

   (c) International Development Association (IDA)

   (d) Emerging Market Liquidity Fund

   Answer: (b) Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST)

4. What deadline was set during the 28th Financial Stability and Development Council (FSD(c) meeting for the universal adoption of the Central KYC Registry (CKYCR) across all financial sectors?

   (a) Q1 FY26 (b) Q4 FY26

   (c) Q2 FY27 (d) Q4 FY27

   Answer: (d) Q4 FY27

5. Which RBI initiative was unveiled at the 7th Global Fintech Fest (GFF 2026) to enable internet-free digital currency transactions?

   (a) Central KYC Off-grid Sync

   (b) CBDC (Digital Rupee) Offline Programmable Functionality

   (c) Universal Offline UPI Linkage

   (d) UDGAM Real-Time Wallet

   Answer: (b) CBDC (Digital Rupee) Offline Programmable Functionality

## 2.7. Acquisitions and Mergers

- **Reliance Bond Demand:** State Bank of India (SBI) anchored strong market demand for Reliance Industries' major ₹13,000 crore, 10-year corporate bond issue, highlighting robust investor confidence in blue-chip corporate debt offerings.

- **CCI Approval for IndiaFirst:** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) formally approved BNP Paribas Cardif's acquisition of a 26% equity stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited, strengthening foreign investment presence in India's insurance landscape.
- **Lenskart Stake Sale:** Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), operating through its investment vehicle Platinum Jasmine, successfully offloaded a 2.01% equity stake in Lenskart Solutions through secondary market transactions.




- **HATSOFF Acquisition:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) executed a definitive Share Transfer Agreement to acquire the remaining equity stake in HATSOFF Helicopter Training Private Limited, turning it into a wholly-owned HAL subsidiary.
- **Swiggy Stake Increase:** SBI Mutual Fund purchased additional secondary market equity shares worth approximately ₹300 crore in Swiggy, scaling its total institutional ownership stake in the food delivery and quick-commerce major to 5.1%.
- **Emirates NBD & RBL Merger:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted formal regulatory approval for the amalgamation of Emirates NBD Bank's Indian branch operations into RBL Bank Limited, effective from December 1, 2026.
- **CARE Ratings Stake Sale in CGIL:** CareEdge Ratings signed agreements with SBI and NSE IFSC to divest an 8% equity stake in its subsidiary, CareEdge Global International Financial Services Centre Ltd (CGIL), expanding its institutional shareholder base.
- **Mahindra Defence & Embraer Novavayu:** Brazilian aerospace giant Embraer executed a binding agreement with Mahindra Defence to acquire a 51% controlling stake in Novavayu Aerospace, focusing on localized defense and transport aircraft production.




- **CCI Approval for Sahrudaya Health Care:** The Competition Commission of India approved the 100% equity acquisition of Sahrudaya Health Care Private Limited by Singapore-based Maybach Asia Holdings II Pte. Ltd.

## Practice Questions

1. Which bank anchored strong market demand for Reliance Industries' ₹13,000 crore, 10-year corporate bond issue?

   (a) HDFC Bank
   (b) State Bank of India
   (c) ICICI Bank
   (d) Axis Bank

   Answer: (b) State Bank of India

2. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved BNP Paribas Cardif's acquisition of what percentage stake in India First Life Insurance Company Limited?

   (a) 15%
   (b) 26%
   (c) 51%
   (d) 100%

Answer: (b) 26%

3. Which investment vehicle of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADI(a) offloaded a 2.01% equity stake in Lenskart Solutions?

   (a) Platinum Jasmine
   (b) Maybach Asia Holdings
   (c) Fairfax Financial Holdings
   (d) JICA Group

   Answer: (a) Platinum Jasmine

4. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) executed an agreement to acquire the remaining stake in which company to turn it into a wholly-owned subsidiary?

   (a) Novavayu Aerospace
   (b) CareEdge Global
   (c) HATSOFF Helicopter Training Private Limited
   (d) Sahrudaya Health Care Private Limited

   Answer: (c) HATSOFF Helicopter Training Private Limited

5. SBI Mutual Fund increased its total institutional ownership stake in Swiggy to 5.1% after purchasing additional secondary market shares worth how much?

   (a) ₹150 crore
   (b) ₹300 crore
   (c) ₹750 crore
   (d) ₹1,000 crore

   Answer: (b) ₹300 crore

## 2.8. Science and Technology

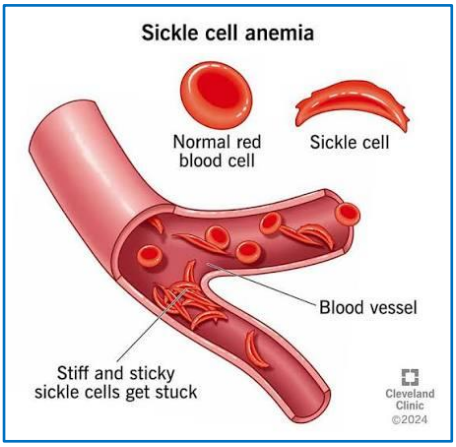


- **Orbital Data Centre:** Hyderabad-based space tech startup TakeMe2Space unveiled detailed plans to launch India's first networked orbital data centre satellite mission in 2028, processing satellite data directly in low Earth orbit.
- **Cybersecurity CoE:** Tech giant Tata Communications inaugurated a dedicated Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (CoE) at SASTRA University, Thanjavur, offering advanced training, threat research, and skill development for engineering students.
- **SFIC South Zone:** Union Minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the South Zone leg of the Seva First Innovation Challenge (SFI(c) at IISc Bengaluru to promote student-led technological solutions addressing social and civic challenges.
- **Dhamra Port Green Power:** Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)-operated Dhamra Port in Odisha successfully transitioned 100% of its operational power supply to certified renewable energy sources, slashing carbon emissions.
- **Space Telescope Patent:** Space tech firm EON Space Labs received a formal patent for 'MIRA', its proprietary miniaturized space telescope imaging system designed for earth observation and small-satellite constellations.

- **Air Ayodhya NOC:** Regional aviation firm Megamax Aviation received a formal No Objection Certificate (NO(c) from the Ministry of Civil Aviation to launch regional airline operations under the government's RCS-UDAN scheme.
- **TAPAS-1 Payload:** SatLeo Labs developed TAPAS-1, marking India's first commercially produced CubeSat thermal imaging payload built for precise environmental tracking and space-based thermal mapping.
- **5G SA Roaming:** T-Mobile US and Reliance Jio, enabled by Syniverse infrastructure, successfully launched the world's first commercial 5G Standalone (S(a) international roaming service, delivering ultra-low latency and higher data speeds.
- **Green Steel Project:** Tata Steel extended its Joint Letter of Intent (JLoI) with the Netherlands Government and the Province of North Holland to transition its IJmuiden steelworks facility to green hydrogen-based steel production.
- **Hydrogen/Gas Sensor Grant:** Technology Development Board (TD(b) sanctioned a ₹37.51 crore financial grant to Multi Nano Sense Technologies to scale commercial manufacturing of indigenous hydrogen and gas sensor systems.
- **Centre for AI in Keralam (CAIK):** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and IndiaAI inaugurated the specialized 'Centre for AI in Keralam' (CAIK) CoE in Thiruvananthapuram to accelerate regional AI development.
- **Special Campaign 6:** The Department of Biotechnology initiated 'Special Campaign 6', focusing on institutional cleanliness, clearing pending public grievances, digitizing records, and disposing of electronic waste across all national bio-labs.
- **Metal-Free Catalyst:** Researchers from SNBNCBS Kolkata, INST Mohali, and SRM University Amaravati engineered an efficient, low-cost metal-free catalyst to streamline green hydrogen production and clean energy conversion.




- **Offshore Wind Farm Prototype:** India unveiled plans to deploy its maiden prototype offshore wind farm off the coast of Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, harnessing marine wind potential to expand renewable energy generation.
- **CU Denver Campus in Hyderabad:** The University Grants Commission (UG(c) issued a formal Letter of Intent (LOI) allowing the University of Colorado Denver to set up a degree-granting foreign university campus in Hyderabad.
- **Exoplanet Radio Signals:** Astrophysics researchers successfully detected direct, low-frequency radio emissions from a distant exoplanet, offering crucial scientific clues regarding the planet's magnetic field and atmospheric structure.
- **Aerospace Engine Supply:** Engineering major Bharat Forge signed a long-term supply contract with Pratt & Whitney Canada to manufacture and deliver high-precision structural components for aerospace turbine engines.



- **Sickle Cell Anaemia Score:** CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCM(b) developed an India-specific disease severity scoring matrix, enabling clinicians to personalize treatments for sickle cell anaemia patients.
- **Chamkharchhu Hydroelectric Project:** Adani Power signed a definitive Shareholders Agreement (SH(a) with Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation (DGP(c) to construct the 770 MW Chamkharchhu-I run-of-the-river hydroelectric plant.
- **AVNI Launch:** IIT Ropar launched 'AVNI - Grow with Nature', an AI-driven agricultural platform developed via the ANNAM.AI initiative to provide smart crop advisory and soil health insights to local farmers.
- **CERVAVAC WHO Approval:** 'CERVAVAC', India's first indigenously manufactured quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus (qHPV) vaccine developed by the Serum Institute of India, earned official World Health Organization (WHO) prequalification.
- **Agri-Drone Training:** Kerala Agricultural University signed an MoU with Fuselage Flying Club to deliver certified agricultural drone pilot training and promote precision farming techniques across southern India.
- **EyeROV TROUT Delivery:** Marine robotics startup EyeROV delivered two units of 'TROUT', its military-grade underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), to the Indian Navy for deep-sea reconnaissance and hull inspection tasks.
- **Project Unmesha Anti-Littering:** Philip Morris India teamed up with crowdsourced data platform Litterati to launch 'Project Unmesha', a 12-month anti-littering and urban cleanup campaign targeting key districts across Delhi.




- **Gemtek & Dixon JV:** Taiwanese networking giant Gemtek entered into a joint venture agreement with Dixon Technologies to manufacture advanced broadband, telecommunications, and optical connectivity equipment in India.
- **Plan Bee AI Expansion:** Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) expanded its AI-powered audio warning system, 'Plan Bee', successfully preventing 255 wild elephant collisions along rail tracks through realistic bee-buzzing acoustic deterrence.
- **DST Websites Redeveloped:** Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh officially launched the newly modernized, accessible, and redeveloped official web portals for the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Science & Technology.
- **Floating Solar Technology:** Tata Power Renewable Energy partnered with Norway's Ocean Sun to introduce membrane-based floating solar photovoltaic technology across deep-water reservoirs and offshore maritime sites in India.
- **8th India-UK SIC Meeting:** The 8th India-UK Science and Innovation Council (SI(c) meeting took place in New Delhi, co-chaired by Dr. Jitendra Singh and UK Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds to advance research cooperation.
- **RDI Fund SLFMs:** The Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund announced its first cohort of 19 Second-Level Fund Managers (SLFMs) to manage allocations under the government's ₹1 lakh crore innovation fund scheme.

- **AI Short Films:** Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) partnered with YouTube to release 4 innovative short films produced under the "Create with AI" banner, showcasing generative tools in cinematic storytelling.
- **Sun Microwave Brightening Study:** A joint research team from ARIES, USO/PRL, IIT Delhi, and IIT Roorkee published a breakthrough solar physics study investigating radio and microwave polar brightening mechanisms on the Sun.
- **INSPIRE-MANAK Scheme:** The Department of Science & Technology (DST) alongside the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) executed the flagship INSPIRE-MANAK scheme to foster grassroots scientific creativity among millions of school students.
- **AI Hardware JV:** Adani Enterprises formed a 50:50 manufacturing joint venture with global EMS giant Jabil Inc. to construct advanced artificial intelligence hardware and data centre infrastructure equipment in India.
- **DRDO QKD Test:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully validated a secure Quantum Key Distribution (QK(d) link operating over a live, fielded PXE fiber-optic network in Chandipur, Odisha.
- **Cyclone DSS Launch:** India Meteorological Department (IM(d) launched an advanced Decision Support System (DSS) for Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather to deliver real-time risk predictions and emergency advisories.
- **Multilingual NCGG Event:** Digital India's BHASHINI division deployed its voice AI engines to provide real-time multilingual translation during a National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) capacity-building event in Mussoorie.
- **Indigenous CT Scanner:** Technology Development Board (TD(b) executed an agreement with Panacea Medical Technologies to financially support the commercial development of India's first indigenous 32-slice CT scanner system.



- **Nagastra-1R Delivery:** Precision defense manufacturer Solar Defence delivered a batch of 450 'Nagastra-1R' loitering munitions to the Indian Army, significantly enhancing frontline precision-strike capabilities.
- **Gaganyaan Separation Tests:** ISRO achieved a major human spaceflight milestone by completing a series of Crew Module and Service Module separation tests at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSS(c) in Thiruvananthapuram.
- **CCRAS SPARK 5.0 & Ayurshodh 2026:** NCISM Chairperson Prof. Maneesha Kothekar launched the CCRAS SPARK 5.0 initiative and Ayurshodh 2026 research portal to encourage scientific evidence-based research among Ayurveda students.
- **Quantum Research Lab:** Samsung Semiconductor India Research (SSIR) collaborated with IISc Bengaluru to inaugurate a state-of-the-art Quantum Research Lab hosted on the IISc campus to drive advanced hardware R&D.
- **Skyroot Satellite Launch Contract:** Space startup Skyroot Aerospace signed a launch services agreement with US-based Reflect Orbital to deploy two commercial orbital payloads aboard Vikram series rockets.

- **NSTCC Launch:** Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal launched the National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTC(c) in New Delhi to oversee strategic export controls and monitor dual-use technology trade.
- **DRC Ebola Vaccine Trial:** The Democratic Republic of Congo initiated the landmark 'Tumaini' clinical trial in Bunia, Ituri province, evaluating experimental candidate Ebola vaccines under real-world outbreak conditions.
- **ISRO Space Infrastructure Expansion Plans:** ISRO announced strategic roadmaps to expand India's orbital launch infrastructure to four distinct launch complexes by 2029, headlined by a dedicated 2,000-acre SSLV spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- **JAXA MMX Launch:** Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAX(a) launched its Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission aboard an H3 rocket, tasked with collecting and returning soil samples from Mars' moon Phobos.
- **Hack the Fork 2026 Tech Hackathon:** NIFTEM-Kundli hosted "Hack the Fork 2026", India's inaugural AI and Food Tech Hackathon, gathering researchers to design scalable, sustainable alternative protein sources.
- **Goa AI Technology Conclave 2026:** Digital India BHASHINI Division presented its cutting-edge AI-driven real-time translation tools at the Goa AI Technology Conclave in Panaji, highlighting seamless voice-to-voice cross-language communication.




- **C-DOT Telecommunications R&D:** Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) accelerated indigenous R&D across sovereign 4G/5G stacks and optical routers under the Department of Telecommunications to deepen digital self-reliance.
- **CSIR-CCMB Antiviral Discovery:** CSIR-CCMB researchers identified 'DZIP3', a vital human cellular protein that detects invading viral RNA structures and immediately triggers the host body's primary antiviral immune defenses.
- **France Shamonda Virus Fatal Case:** France reported its first confirmed human case of the Shamonda virus on October 22, 2026; an immunocompromised patient succumbed to the viral infection, prompting heightened public health surveillance.

## Practice Questions

1. Which space-tech startup unveiled detailed plans to launch India's first networked orbital data centre satellite mission in 2028?

   (a) Agnikul Cosmos
   (b) Skyroot Aerospace
   (c) TakeMe2Space
   (d) Pixxel

   Answer: (c) TakeMe2Space

2. Tech giant Tata Communications inaugurated a dedicated Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (CoE) at which university?

   (a) SASTRA University, Thanjavur
   (b) SRM University, Amaravati
   (c) IISc, Bengaluru
   (d) IIT Gandhinagar

   Answer: (a) SASTRA University, Thanjavur

3. Which deep-tech startup, alongside BISAG-N and IIT Gandhinagar, successfully demonstrated a 5.56 km free-space Quantum Key Distribution (QK(d) optical communications link?

(a) SatLeo Labs (b) QNu Labs

(c) Multi Nano Sense Technologies (d) EyeROV

Answer: (b) QNu Labs

4. Which regional aviation firm received a No Objection Certificate (NO(c) from the Ministry of Civil Aviation to launch operations under the RCS-UDAN scheme?

(a) SpiceJet (b) Star Air

(c) Megamax Aviation (d) FlyBig

Answer: (c) Megamax Aviation

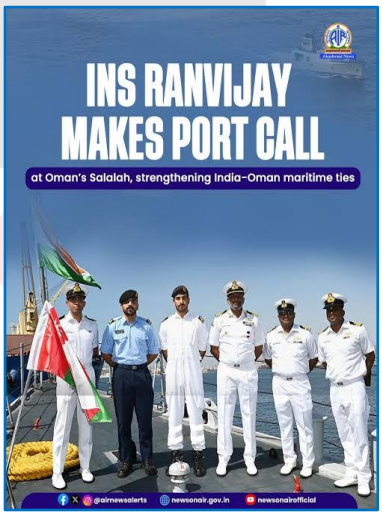
5. T-Mobile US and Reliance Jio, enabled by Syniverse infrastructure, launched the world's first commercial international roaming service based on which technology?

(a) 4G VoLTE (b) Satellite Direct-to-Cell

(c) 5G Standalone (SA) (d) 6G Terrestrial

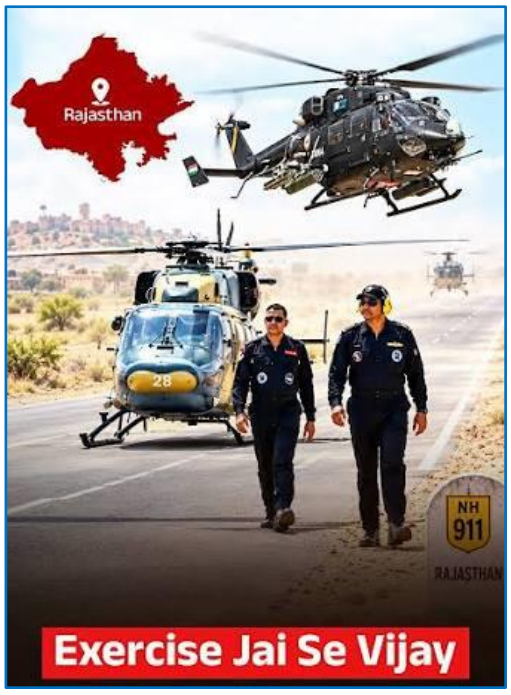
Answer: (c) 5G Standalone (SA)

## 2.9. Defence News




- **INS Ranvijay Port Call:** Guided-missile destroyer INS Ranvijay completed a scheduled operational port call at Salalah, Oman, during its long-range deployment to strengthen bilateral maritime security in the Indian Ocean.
- **Logistics UAV Supply:** Odisha-based defense startup BonV Aero delivered 45 heavy-lift logistics Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to the Indian Army's Eastern Command for high-altitude transport duties.
- **AIME-2026 Exercise:** The 2nd edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) commenced off Subic Bay, Philippines, featuring active tactical participation from Indian Naval Ships INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish.
- **DAD 279th Annual Day:** The Defence Accounts Department (DAD) celebrated its 279th Annual Day on October 1, 2026, highlighting digital financial reforms, automated pension disbursement, and defense budget efficiency.
- **Operation Drishti:** The 11th Mega Eye Surgical Camp under 'Operation Drishti' successfully concluded at 92 Base Hospital in Srinagar, offering specialized ophthalmic surgeries and care to local civilians and veterans.
- **Exercise Jai Se Vijay:** The Indian Army executed 'Exercise Jai Se Vijay' across the desert terrains of Rajasthan near the India-Pakistan border to validate combined-arms battle readiness and network-centric warfare tactics.
- **MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN 2026:** The joint military exercise 'MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN 2026' between the Indian Army and the UAE Army commenced in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand, focusing on high-altitude counter-terrorism operations.

- **Indo-Argentine Mountaineering Expedition:** Chief of Army Staff Gen. Dhiraj Seth flagged in the joint Indo-Argentine mountaineering team following their successful summit of two challenging Himalayan peaks.
- **2,000th Aero-Engine Delivery:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attended the delivery of the 2,000th aero-engine at HAL Koraput Division and formally announced the establishment of a second production line for Shakti engines.
- **Hindustan Shipyard Additions:** Rajnath Singh launched Fleet Support Ship FSS-1, laid the keel for FSS-5, and inaugurated Slipway-4 and a 300-tonne Goliath Crane at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam.
- **Kaveri Dry Engine:** Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) Bengaluru, operating under DRDO, completed critical testing benchmarks for the indigenous Kaveri Dry Engine designed for unmanned combat aerial vehicles.




- **BrahMos Contract:** Ministry of Defence signed a ₹661.50 crore contract with BrahMos Aerospace to acquire advanced Fire Control Systems and frontline launchers for Indian Navy warships.
- **HAPS Flight Trial:** DRDO successfully conducted flight trials for its High-Altitude Platform Station (HAPS) stratospheric airship technology, achieving autonomous long-endurance flight capability for persistent surveillance.
- **C-390 Millennium FAL:** Brazilian planemaker Embraer and Mahindra Defence designated Nagpur, Maharashtra, as the site for establishing a final assembly line (FAL) for the C-390 Millennium medium military transport aircraft.
- **Advanced High-Altitude Parachute Jump:** DRDO executed the maiden live high-altitude jump of the Advanced High-Altitude Parachute (AHAP) system at Nyoma drop zone in Ladakh, setting high-altitude aerial insertion milestones.
- **SAREX-2026:** The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted the 12th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026) off Paradip, Odisha, exercising mass rescue operations and inter-agency coordination.



- **Range Usage SOP:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved a revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) granting private defense manufacturers streamlined access to Ministry of Defence Proof and Field Firing Ranges.
- **Safran & Hical JV:** Hical Technologies executed an MoU with Safran Aerosystems to explore forming an aerospace manufacturing joint venture in India focused on electrical interconnect components.
- **NGOPV Launch:** 'Shreyas' (Yard 3040), an indigenously designed Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV), was launched at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata.

- **IBSAMAR IX Deployment:** Stealth frigate INS Tarkash deployed to South Africa to represent India in Exercise IBSAMAR IX alongside the navies of Brazil and South Africa.
- **CTF 154 Command Completion:** The Indian Navy successfully concluded its maiden rotation commanding Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154) in Bahrain, leading multinational maritime security training operations across the region.
- **ALH MK-III Induction:** The Indian Coast Guard inducted its indigenously built Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK-III (CG 875) into Coast Guard Region (West) operations based at Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.
- **Cleanliness Campaign:** The Defence Accounts Department organized widespread 'Shramdaan' volunteer drives across offices nationwide as part of the Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 national cleanliness movement.
- **ICG-KCG 14th HLM:** The Indian Coast Guard and Korean Coast Guard conducted their 14th High-Level Meeting (HLM) in Incheon, South Korea, agreeing to enhance anti-piracy and search-and-rescue cooperation.




- **INS Samarthak Commissioned:** The Indian Navy commissioned INS Samarthak, its first indigenously designed Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV), built to execute target towing, maritime trial support, and oceanographic research.
- **India-Mongolia 14th JWG:** The 14th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between the Defence Ministries of India and Mongolia took place in Ulaanbaatar to review bilateral defense exercises and military training programs.
- **'Greater Than Us' Campaign:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the 'Greater Than Us' youth recruitment and national service campaign during an address at IIT Kanpur.
- **INS Sudarshini Deployment:** Sail training ship INS Sudarshini arrived at Salalah, Oman, as part of its 'Lokayan-2026' international deployment, training naval cadets in traditional seamanship.
- **Exercise INDRA-2026:** Navies of India and Russia conducted the 15th edition of bilateral naval Exercise INDRA-2026 off Vladivostok and the Sea of Japan, practicing joint maneuvers and artillery firing drills.




- **Swavlamban 2026 Seminar:** The Indian Navy hosted its 5th Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Seminar, 'Swavlamban 2026', at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, exhibiting indigenous defense prototypes from startups and MSMEs.
- **MoD Contract with BEL (₹770 Crore):** The Ministry of Defence signed a ₹770 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for supplying state-of-the-art Improved Low Level Light Weight Radars (LLLWR) to the Indian Army.
- **IAF Industry Outreach Programme:** The Indian Air Force conducted an interactive MSME and startup outreach program in New Delhi, urging domestic manufacturers to develop indigenous autonomous aerial vehicles and swarm drones.

- **DRDO Man-Portable ELINT Systems:** DRDO initiated indigenous development of lightweight, man-portable Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) systems designed for infantry units to track enemy radars and incoming drone signals.
- **ARDE 20 mm Aviation Gun Project:** Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) shortlisted SSS Defence and Kalyani Group to co-develop India's first indigenous 20 mm aircraft cannon turret system for light combat helicopters.
- **SIMBEX-2026 Naval Exercise:** The 33rd edition of the Singapore–India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-2026) commenced off Visakhapatnam, featuring complex surface, anti-submarine, and live-firing warfighting evolutions.
- **Indian Navy First Training Squadron Visit:** Ships of the Indian Navy's 1st Training Squadron—INS Tir, INS Sujata, and ICGS Sarathi—arrived in Malé, Maldives, for an overseas training deployment and goodwill visit.




- **Defence Acquisition Council AoN (₹2.12 Lakh Crore):** The DAC, chaired by Rajnath Singh, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital defense acquisition proposals totaling ₹2,12,000 crore, heavily emphasizing domestic defense procurement.

## Practice Questions

1. Guided-missile destroyer INS Ranvijay completed a scheduled operational port call at which location in Oman?

   (a) Muscat (b) Salalah

   (c) Sohar (d) Sur

   Answer: (b) Salalah

2. Which defense startup delivered 45 heavy-lift logistics Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to the Indian Army's Eastern Command?

   (a) BonV Aero (b) Zuppa Geo

   (c) Flying Wedge Defence (d) Skyroot Aerospace

   Answer: (a) BonV Aero

3. The 2nd edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) commenced off Subic Bay in which country?

   (a) Singapore (b) Philippines

   (c) Indonesia (d) Vietnam

   Answer: (b) Philippines

4. Which edition of its Annual Day did the Defence Accounts Department (DA(d) celebrate on October 1, 2026?

   (a) 150th (b) $200^{th}$

   (c) $279^{th}$ (d) 300th

   Answer: (c) 279th

5. High-altitude counter-terrorism joint military exercise 'MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN 2026' was conducted between the Indian Army and the army of which nation?

(a) UAE (b) USA

(c) Australia (d) Russia

Answer: (a) UAE

## 2.10. Reports, Rankings & Indices

- **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026:** Released by WIPO, Switzerland ranked 1st globally while India ranked 38th out of 133 economies (retaining 1st place in Central and Southern Asia and securing top rank globally in ICT services exports).




- **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026:** Jointly published by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide, evaluating four key metrics (Undernourishment, Child Stunting, Child Wasting, Child Mortality), with India ranking 102nd out of 127 countries.
- **RBI Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) Update:** Published annually by the RBI without a base year, the index rose to 64.2 (up from 60.1), driven primarily by high scores in the Usage metric (45% weight).
- **World Economic Outlook (WEO) – October 2026 Edition:** Published by the IMF, it projected global GDP growth at 3.2% and retained India as the fastest-growing major economy at 6.8%.
- **Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) – October 2026:** Released semi-annually by the IMF, it flagged systemic risks, valuation opacity, and liquidity mismatches in the $2.1 Trillion global non-bank private credit sector.
- **Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index 2026:** Jointly produced by Development Finance International and Oxfam across 164 countries, Norway ranked 1st while India placed 121st globally.
- **Global Remittance Trends & Migration Brief:** Published by the World Bank, India retained 1st position globally by crossing $130 Billion in annual cross-border remittance inflows.
- **World Investment Report (WIR) – Regional Trends Review:** Released by UNCTAD, it positioned India among the top 5 developing host economies for greenfield foreign direct investment (FDI).




- **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2026:** Released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, coastal states like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra led the 'Achievers' category for supply-chain logistics.
- **THE World University Rankings 2027:** IISc Bengaluru ranked 254th globally, retaining its status as India's top-ranked higher education institution.

- **World Bank AI Readiness Report:** Titled "India and Artificial Intelligence: Seizing the Development Opportunity", it placed India among the top 10 emerging-market performers for AI adoption and digital skills.
- **Henley Passport Index:** India ranked 84th globally (tied with Algeria and Mauritania), granting passport holders visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 55 destinations.
- **Global Hunger Index 2026 (Publisher Update):** Jointly published by Welthungerhilfe (WHH) in collaboration with IFHV and Helvetas, tracking hunger across four core metrics (undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality).




## Practice Questions

1. Which organization released the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026, in which India secured the 38th rank globally?

   (a) IMF (b) World Bank

   (c) WIPO (d) UNCTAD

   Answer: (c) WIPO

2. According to the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026, what rank did India secure out of 127 countries evaluated?

   (a) 38$^{th}$ (b) 84$^{th}$

   (c) 102nd (d) 121st

   Answer: (c) 102nd

3. What value did the RBI Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) rise to in its 2026 update, up from 60.1 in the previous cycle?

   (a) 64.2 (b) 68.0

   (c) 71.5 (d) 84.0

   Answer: (a) 64.2

4. In the October 2026 edition of the World Economic Outlook (WEO), the IMF retained India as the fastest-growing major economy with what projected GDP growth rate?

   (a) 3.2% (b) 6.4%

   (c) 6.8% (d) 7.1%

   Answer: (c) 6.8%

5. Which country ranked 1st globally in the Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index 2026?

   (a) Switzerland (b) Norway

   (c) Sweden (d) Denmark

   Answer: (b) Norway

## 2.11. Environmental News

- India designated 3 new Ramsar sites—Udhayamarthandapuram Extension (TN), Kasarkod Mangrove (Karnataka), and Thandai Wetland (Maharashtra)—expanding its total count to 88 and solidifying its standing as the largest protected wetland network in South Asia.




- **RBI Climate Disclosure Mandate for Regulated Entities:** The RBI issued prudential climate risk guidelines requiring Commercial and Tier-3/4 Urban Cooperative Banks to achieve phased alignment with ISSB/IFRS S2 standards by FY28 across governance, strategy, and stress testing.
- **Sovereign Green Bonds (SGBs) Foreign Investment Access:** Non-resident investors were permitted to invest in Sovereign Green Bonds via the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) to exclusively fund public sustainability projects like metro networks, clean grids, and afforestation.
- **Formalization of Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS):** The Bureau of Energy Efficiency operationalized the compliance carbon market framework for heavy industries, while scheduled commercial banks established settlement, custody, and escrow mechanisms for Carbon Credit Certificates.
- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for Grid-Scale Battery Storage (BESS):** The Union Cabinet approved a revised VGF layout targeting 4,000 MWh battery storage systems to lower levelized storage costs to ₹5.50–₹6.50 per kWh and spur project debt financing.
- **Green Credit Programme (GCP) Tree Plantation Framework:** MoEFCC registered over 15,000 hectares of degraded forest land for corporate restoration, enabling PSUs and private entities to earn non-tradable Green Credits for verified afforestation.




- **Upper Siang Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project Review:** CEA and MoEFCC approved updated ecological flow protocols for the 11,000 MW project in Arunachal Pradesh, designed to moderate floods in the Brahmaputra basin and feed clean hydro power into the national grid.
- **IUCN Red List Update (Great Indian Bustard Conservation):** IUCN commended Supreme Court-mandated power-line undergrounding in Desert National Park to protect the Critically Endangered Great Indian Bustard and preserve grassland avifauna habitats.

## Practice Questions

1. With the designation of 3 new Ramsar sites—Udhayamarthandapuram Extension (Tamil Nadu), Kasarkod Mangrove (Karnataka), and Thandai Wetland (Maharashtra)—what is the total count of India's Ramsar wetlands network?

   (a) 75 (b) 80

   (c) 88 (d) 95

   Answer: (c) 88

2. Under the RBI's prudential climate risk disclosure guidelines, by which financial year are Commercial and Tier-3/4 Urban Cooperative Banks required to achieve phased alignment with ISSB/IFRS S2 standards?

   (a) FY25 (b) FY26

   (c) FY27 (d) FY28

   Answer: (d) FY28

3. Non-resident investors were allowed to invest in Sovereign Green Bonds (SGBs) through which specific investment route?

   (a) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (b) Fully Accessible Route (FAR)

   (c) Automatic Route (d) Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS)

   Answer: (b) Fully Accessible Route (FAR)

4. Which regulatory organization operationalized the compliance carbon market framework for heavy industries under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)?

   (a) NITI Aayog (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

   (c) Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) (d) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

   Answer: (c) Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

5. What is the target levelized storage cost per kWh aimed under the Union Cabinet's revised Viability Gap Funding (VGF) layout for 4,000 MWh Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)?

   (a) ₹2.50–₹3.50 per kWh (b) ₹4.00–₹5.00 per kWh

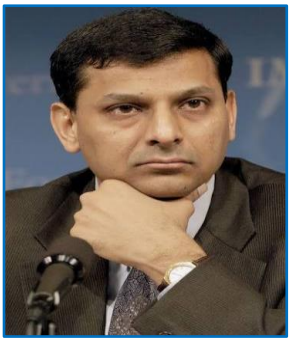
   (c) ₹5.50–₹6.50 per kWh (d) ₹7.00–₹8.50 per kWh

   Answer: (c) ₹5.50–₹6.50 per kWh

## 2.12. Books & Authors

- **"The Central Banker's Dilemma" (Dr. Duvvuri Subbarao):** Examines adapting central bank monetary policy to AI and CBDCs.
- **"Unshackling Capital" (K.V. Kamath):** Traces the historical modernization and capital growth of Indian banking.
- **"Eco-Nomics" (Gita Gopinath):** Details green finance frameworks and capital investments needed for net-zero goals.
- **"Bridging the Banking Divide" (Arundhati Bhattacharya):** Analyzes how fintech and digital infrastructure expand last-mile financial inclusion.

- **"Diplomacy in Divided Times" (S. Jaishankar):** Outlines India's multi-alignment strategy and strategic autonomy in global affairs.
- **"Roots to Canopy":** Focuses on actionable strategies to conserve India's ecosystems and wildlife habitats.
- **"The Currency of Power" (Raghuram Rajan & Eswar Prasad):** Assesses global geo-economics, payment channels, and the US Dollar's future.
- **"Shadows of the Ledger":** Highlights systemic risks from the shift of corporate debt into non-bank private credit.



## Practice Questions

1. Who authored the book titled "The Central Banker's Dilemma: Navigating AI and Digital Currencies"?

   (a) Raghuram Rajan
   (b) Dr. Duvvuri Subbarao
   (c) K.V. Kamath
   (d) Urjit Patel

   Answer: (b) Dr. Duvvuri Subbarao

2. Which financial veteran authored "Unshackling Capital: The Evolution of Indian Banking & Finance"?

   (a) K.V. Kamath
   (b) Arundhati Bhattacharya
   (c) N. Vaghul
   (d) Chanda Kochhar

   Answer: (a) K.V. Kamath

3. What is the central focus of the book "Eco-Nomics: Green Finance and the Path to Net-Zero" authored by Gita Gopinath?

   (a) Digital public infrastructure and last-mile inclusion
   (b) Non-bank private credit markets and systemic risk
   (c) Financial mechanisms, policy frameworks, and green capital investments for net-zero transitions
   (d) Multi-alignment and strategic autonomy in international diplomacy

   Answer: (c) Financial mechanisms, policy frameworks, and green capital investments for net-zero transitions

4. The book "Bridging the Banking Divide: Financial Technology for the Last Mile" was written by which former banking leader?

   (a) Arundhati Bhattacharya
   (b) Gita Gopinath
   (c) Shikha Sharma
   (d) Usha Ananthasubramanian

   Answer: (a) Arundhati Bhattacharya

5. Which diplomat/minister authored "Diplomacy in Divided Times: India's Strategic Multilateralism"?

   (a) Hardeep Singh Puri
   (b) S. Jaishankar
   (c) Vijay Gokhale
   (d) Harsh Vardhan Shringla

   Answer: (b) S. Jaishankar

## 2.13. SPORTS NEWS

- **Rohit Sharma Milestones:** Achieved two major milestones during 2nd ODI against West Indies in Guwahati.
- **TIME100 Next 2026:** 15-year-old Bihar cricketer Vaibhav Sooryavanshi featured as the youngest person selected across the 2026 TIME100 franchise.
- **Asian Games 2026 Campaign:** India concluded campaign at Aichi-Nagoya, Japan with **85 medals** (21 Gold, 27 Silver, 37 Bronze).
- **China Open 2026:** Novak Djokovic won men's singles title in Beijing.
- **Japan Open 2026:** Carlos Alcaraz won title for 2nd consecutive year defeating Jiri Lehecka.
- **Indian Women's Cricket Captain:** Smriti Mandhana appointed captain, succeeding Harmanpreet Kaur.
- **Bahrain Grand Prix 2026:** Max Verstappen (Red Bull) won F1 race held at Sepang Circuit, Malaysia.



- **5th Asian Para Games Flag Bearers:** Pramod Bhagat (para badminton) and Bhavina Patel (para table tennis) named flag bearers for India in Nagoya, Japan.
- **UNICEF Celebrity Advocate:** Smriti Mandhana appointed Celebrity Advocate by UNICEF India on Day of the Girl Child.
- **ICC Player of the Month:** Shafali Verma named ICC Women's Player of the Month for September 2026.
- **Punam Raut Retirement:** Indian batter announced retirement from all international cricket formats.
- **Asian Para Games Gold:** Mona Agarwal won Gold medal with Games-record (250.0 pts) in 10m Air Rifle SH1 in Nagoya.
- **2026 United States Grand Prix Winner:** Mercedes driver Kimi Antonelli won the United States Grand Prix held at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas.



- **Asian Para Games Archery Gold:** Sheetal Devi and Toman Kumar won the compound mixed team gold medal at the Asian Para Games, defeating Indonesia 151–148 in the final.
- **Asian Para Games Badminton Gold:** Indian para-badminton stars Nitesh Kumar (SL3) and Naveen Sivakumar (SL4) secured individual gold medals in Nagoya, Japan.
- **Asian Table Tennis Championships Medal:** Yashaswini Ghorpade and Harmeet Desai won a mixed doubles medal at the 29th ITTF-ATTU Asian Championships in Tashkent.
- **Harry Brook ODI Double Century Record:** England captain Harry Brook scored the fastest double century in ODI history, hitting 200 off just 114 balls against Sri Lanka in Rawalpindi.



- **World Weightlifting Championships 2029 Host:** Ahmedabad, Gujarat, won the rights to host the 2029 World Weightlifting Championships—the first time India will host the event.

## Practice Questions

1. Who won the men's singles title at the China Open 2026 held in Beijing?
   (a) Carlos Alcaraz (b) Novak Djokovic
   (c) Jiri Lehecka (d) Max Verstappen
   Answer: (b) Novak Djokovic
2. How many total medals did India win at the Asian Games 2026 held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan?
   (a) 75 medals (b) 85 medals
   (c) 95 medals (d) 107 medals
   Answer: (b) 85 medals
3. Who succeeded Harmanpreet Kaur as the captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team?
   (a) Smriti Mandhana (b) Shafali Verma
   (c) Punam Raut (d) Bhavina Patel
   Answer: (a) Smriti Mandhana
4. Who featured in TIME100 Next 2026 as the youngest person selected across the entire 2026 TIME100 franchise?
   (a) Sheetal Devi (b) Mona Agarwal
   (c) Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (d) Kimi Antonelli
   Answer: (c) Vaibhav Sooryavanshi
5. Which Mercedes driver won the 2026 United States Grand Prix held at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas?
   (a) Max Verstappen (b) Carlos Alcaraz
   (c) Kimi Antonelli (d) Harmeet Desai
   Answer: (c) Kimi Antonelli

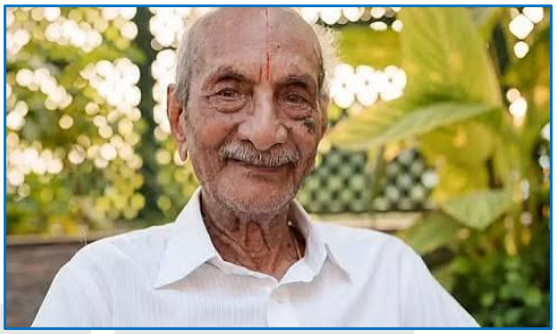
## 2.14. OBITUARIES

- **Mike Burton (79):** 3-time US Olympic swimming champion.
- **Singeetham Srinivasa Rao (94):** Veteran Indian filmmaker, passed away in Chennai.
- **Prof. Palle Rama Rao (89):** Padma Vibhushan metallurgist and science administrator, passed away in Hyderabad.
- **Eva Marie Saint (102):** Oscar-winning Hollywood Golden Age actress.
- **Nana Patekar (75):** Veteran Indian actor and filmmaker, passed away in Goa.
- **P. Vasu 'Socio Vasu' (103):** Freedom fighter, passed away in Kozhikode, Kerala.
- **Roshan Kumari (82):** Padma Shri Kathak dancer and choreographer, passed away in Mumbai.



- **Jeffrey Archer (86):** Bestselling British author and politician, passed away in London.

- **Guruvayur Dorai (91):** Renowned Mridangam maestro, passed away in Chennai.
- **Dr. AVS Raju (89):** Founder and Chairman Emeritus of NCC Limited, passed away in Hyderabad.
- **Annie Dillard (81):** Pulitzer Prize-winning American author.
- **Margaret Hamilton (90):** NASA Apollo software pioneer.
- **Cheruvayal Raman (74):** 'Nellachan', Kerala's native paddy conservationist and Padma Shri awardee.
- **Deva (Devanesan Chokkalingam) (75):** 'Thenisai Thendral', veteran Tamil music composer, passed away in
- **B. Madhusoodana Kurup:** Eminent fisheries scientist and founding Vice-Chancellor of KUFOS, Dr. B. Madhusoodana Kurup, passed away at age 71 in Kochi.
- **Vummidi Ethiraj:** Master craftsman and veteran jeweler Vummidi Ethiraj passed away at age 99 in Chennai, leaving behind a rich legacy in Indian jewelry design.
- **Chef Damu (K. Damodaran):** Legendary Tamil chef, author, and Padma Shri awardee Chef Damu passed away at the age of 72 in Chennai following a brief illness.



## Practice Questions

1. Singeetham Srinivasa Rao, who passed away at the age of 94 in Chennai, was a veteran personality in which field?
   (a) Space Science
   (b) Film Direction and Filmmaking
   (c) Classical Music
   (d) Metallurgical Engineering
   Answer: (b) Film Direction and Filmmaking
2. Which 3-time US Olympic swimming champion passed away at the age of 79?
   (a) Mike Burton
   (b) Jeffrey Archer
   (c) P. Vasu
   (d) Cheruvayal Raman
   Answer: (a) Mike Burton
3. Prof. Palle Rama Rao, who passed away at the age of 89 in Hyderabad, was a Padma Vibhushan recipient renowned for his contributions to which field?
   (a) Economics
   (b) Metallurgy and Science Administration
   (c) Classical Dance
   (d) Fisheries Science
   Answer: (b) Metallurgy and Science Administration
4. Oscar-winning Golden Age actress Eva Marie Saint passed away at which age?
   (a) 82
   (b) 94
   (c) 102
   (d) 105
   Answer: (c) 102

5. Veteran Indian actor and filmmaker Nana Patekar passed away at the age of 75 in which state?

(a) Maharashtra (b) Kerala

(c) Goa (d) Tamil Nadu

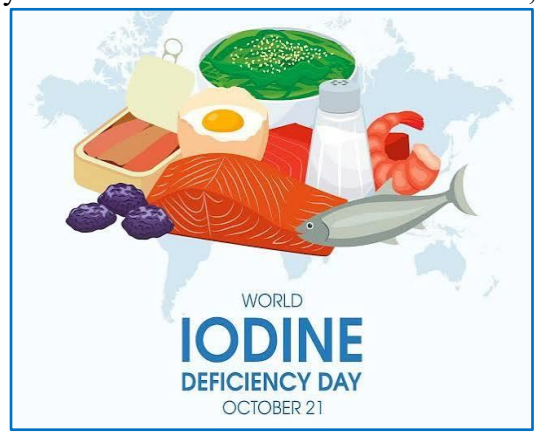
Answer: (c) Goa

## 2.15. Important Days

- 1 October 2026 – World Vegetarian Day: Promotes awareness of vegetarian diets and lifestyles.
- International Day of Non-Violence(October 2): Promotes peace and non-violence, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's principles.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti(October 2): Marks the birth anniversary of former Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- World Animal Day (October 4): Promotes animal welfare and awareness of animal rights.
- World Cotton Day (October 7): Highlights the global economic, social, and trade significance of cotton for agrarian economies under the 2026 theme "Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership".
- World Post Day (October 9): Commemorates the 1874 founding of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in Bern, Switzerland, highlighting postal logistics and financial inclusion initiatives.




- National Post Day (October 10): Marks the historical expansion and operational role of India Post in delivering mail, Postal Life Insurance (PLI), and India Post Payments Bank (IPP(b) financial services.
- World Food Day (October 16): Commemorates the 1945 establishment of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, focusing on agricultural economics and food security.
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17): Emphasizes global poverty reduction, financial inclusion, microfinance, and socio-economic safety net policies.
- World Statistics Day (October 20): Highlights the critical role of reliable and accurate data in formulating economic policies, financial planning, and banking analytics.
- World Osteoporosis Day (October 20): Observed globally to drive awareness around bone health, early diagnostic screening, and treatment options for metabolic bone disorders.




- National Solidarity Day (October 20): Observed across India to commemorate the 1962 Sino-Indian War and honor the sacrifices of the Indian Armed Forces.
- Police Commemoration Day (October 21): Observed nationwide to pay tribute to police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

- World Iodine Deficiency Day (October 21): Highlights the vital role of iodine in human nutrition and strategies to prevent iodine deficiency disorders.
- World Development Information Day (October 24): Draws global attention to development challenges and the necessity to strengthen international trade and economic cooperation.
- ITBP 65th Raising Day (October 24): The Indo-Tibetan Border Police celebrated its 65th Raising Day, marking its establishment in 1962 to guard India's Himalayan frontiers.
- United Nations Day (October 24): Observed globally to mark the official entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945.
- Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 (Oct 26 – Nov 1): Observed by the Central Vigilance Commission (CV(c) under the core theme "Probity for Prosperity".
- World Thrift Day / World Savings Day (October 30): Promotes the habit of personal savings, institutional bank deposits, and global financial literacy.




## Practice Questions

1. What was the theme for World Cotton Day 2026?

   (a) Cotton for Growth: Innovation and Sustainability

   (b) Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership

   (c) Sustainable Cotton for Global Markets

   (d) Empowering Farmers Through Cotton Trade

   Answer: (b) Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership

2. World Post Day is observed on October 9 to commemorate the founding of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in which city?

   (a) Geneva, Switzerland

   (b) Bern, Switzerland

   (c) Vienna, Austria

   (d) Paris, France

   Answer: (b) Bern, Switzerland

3. National Post Day is observed in India on which date to mark the historic role and expansion of India Post?

   (a) October 7 (b) October 9

   (c) October 10 (d) October 16

   Answer: (c) October 10

4. World Food Day, observed on October 16, commemorates the establishment of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945 in which city?

   (a) New York

(b) Rome

(c) Washington D.C.

(d) London

Answer: (b) Rome

5. On which date is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty observed globally?

(a) October 12 (b) October 17

(c) October 20 (d) October 24

Answer: (b) October 17

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