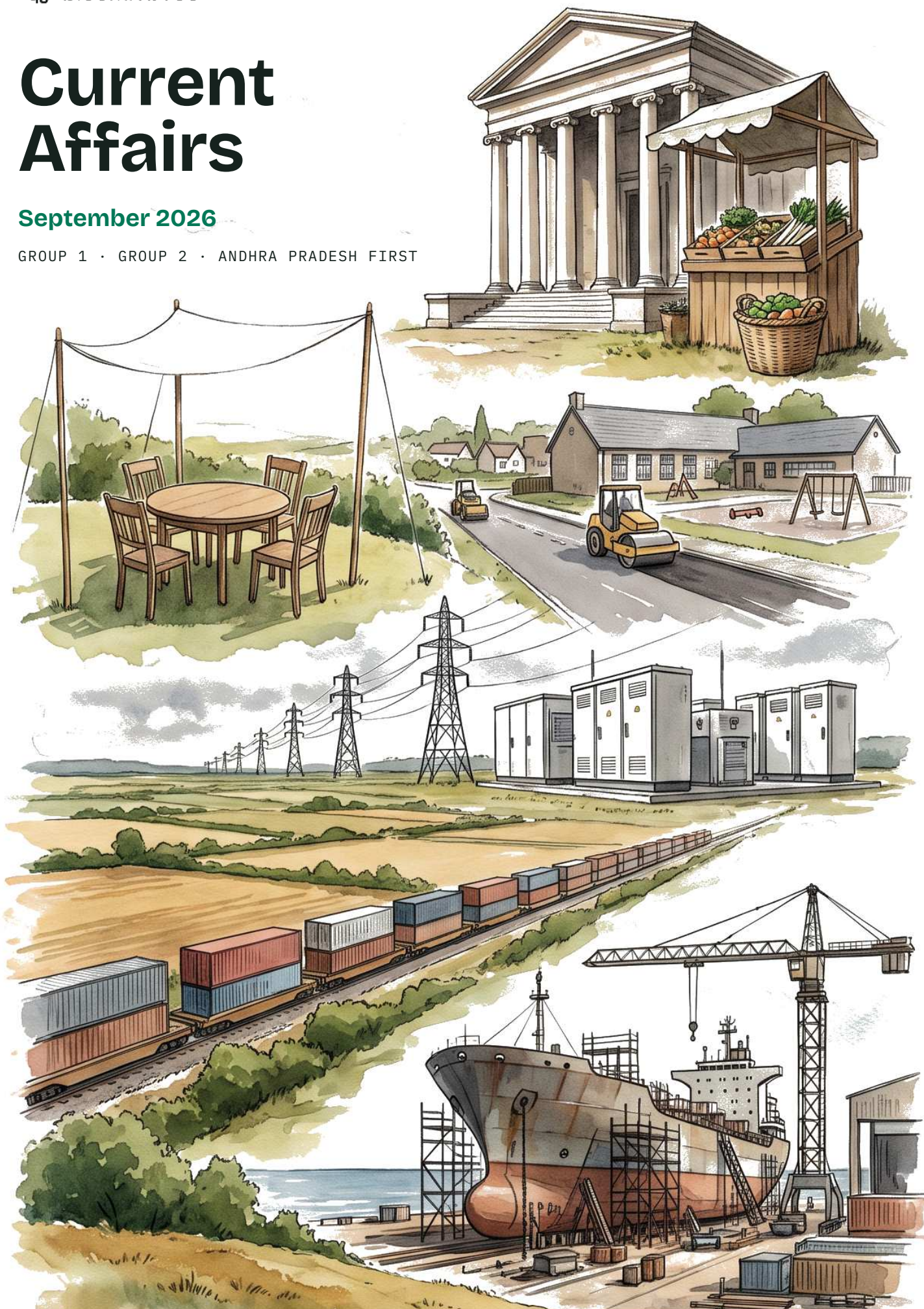


Current Affairs

September 2026

GROUP 1 • GROUP 2 • ANDHRA PRADESH FIRST



The month, as the paper asks it

One month of news, in the shapes the APPSC papers use: questions first, the mechanism where a paper tests one, the exact fact where it lifts one.

The book runs section by section: A Andhra Pradesh first, then B to F, and the tab on the page edge tells you which section you are in. Each topic opens with a picture and three questions in the paper's own form; try them before you read, because a guess made first makes the right answer stick. The answers, and why each tempting option is one step short, close the topic. The briefs give one exact thing each, and the one-question news at the end of each section carries its facts in the answer. Before them, two pages hold the whole month, one line per item, for the last revision before the paper. The 30 questions at the back close the month; each names its item, and the key gives the page to go back to. Do not make notes from this book; it is the notes.

THE MONTH AGAINST THE PAPER

The 2024 Group 2 current-affairs section, by category, beside what this month carries in each. A thin row is a research gap, not a quiet month.

CATEGORY	IN THE 2024 PAPER, OF 30	PIECES THIS MONTH
Andhra Pradesh	5	25
International	4	6
Awards and honours	3	4
Environment and species	3	5
Sports	2	4
Defence	2	4
Economy and infrastructure	2	12
Health	1	0
Schemes and governance	1	15
Days and themes	1	1
Reports and indices	1	3
Science and technology	0	6

CONTENTS, SECTION BY SECTION

Each letter is a section and marks the tab on the page edge: A Andhra Pradesh, B Polity and Governance, C Economy and Schemes, D Science, Technology, Environment and Health, E The World, F Culture, Awards and Sports. A topic is listed with its picture, then the briefs and the one-question news of its section.

A	Andhra Pradesh	4	C5	Eight rail projects include Arakkonam-Renigunta lines	50
A1	 Four new police commissionerates and a Machilipatnam shipyard	5	C6	Global Innovation Index 2026: India 38th	50
A2	 Palle Panduga 3.0 begins at Ramapuram, Nellore	9	C7	Global Gender Gap 2026: India 131st	52
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A4	AP Poultry Policy 2026-29: two figures explained	14	D	Science, Technology, Environment and Health	57
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A6	Andhra Pradesh seventh among states in exports	15	D2	CAFE-3 fuel norms for cars notified	58
A7	Coal India gets rare earth exploration licence	16	D3	Sixth tiger reserve evaluation covers all 58	59
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B	Polity and Governance	25		One-question news, D-L1 to D-L11	63
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A

A

SECTION A

Andhra Pradesh

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| A1 | Four new police commissionerates | A6 | Andhra Pradesh seventh among states in exports |
| A2 | Palle Panduga 3.0 begins at Ramapuram | A7 | Coal India gets rare earth exploration licence |
| A3 | APPSC notifies 892 posts | A8 | NTR district house sites get full ownership |
| A4 | AP Poultry Policy 2026-29 | | One-question news, A-L1 to A-L17 |
| A5 | Group-1 (2018) evaluation | | |

A1 · GOVERNANCE · ANDHRA PRADESH · 18 TO 25 SEPTEMBER 2026

Four new police commissionerates and a Machilipatnam shipyard

Did the Cabinet pick the Rs 22,177.84 crore of projects itself? And is Vijayawada one of the four new commissionerates?



Can you answer these yet?

Try them now. The answers, and why each tempting option is one step short, close this unit.

- Q1** The Commissioner of Police in each new commissionerate approved on 23 September 2026 will hold Executive Magistrate powers under:
- | | |
|---|---|
| a Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 | b Section 14(6) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 |
| c Section 20(5) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 | d Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 |
- Q2** The AP Cabinet on 23 September 2026 approved four new police commissionerates. Which of the following is NOT one of them?
- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| a Guntur | b Tirupati |
| c Kurnool | d Visakhapatnam |
- Q3** Consider these statements about the AP Cabinet meeting of 23 September 2026.
- I. Each new commissionerate is headed by a Commissioner of Police of IGP or DIGP rank.
 - II. Goa Shipyard Limited, a Ministry of Defence public sector undertaking, gets land at Machilipatnam Port for a brownfield facility.
 - III. The Rs 22,177.84 crore of investment proposals were first cleared by the Cabinet and then sent to the State Investment Promotion Board.
- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| a I and II only | b II and III only |
| c I and III only | d I, II and III |

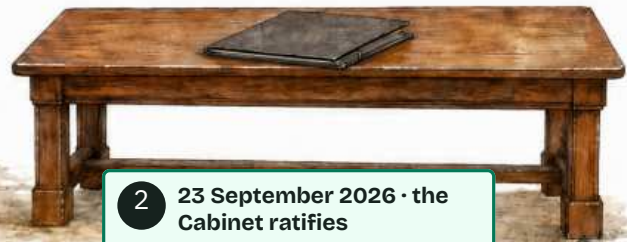
Four new police commissionerates and a Machilipatnam shipyard

Which four cities got new police commissionerates, which law gives their Commissioners magistrate powers, and what Goa Shipyard received at Machilipatnam.

A



1 18 September 2026 · the Board clears the projects
The State Investment Promotion Board cleared Rs 22,177.84 crore of proposals, expected to create 19,739 jobs.



2 23 September 2026 · the Cabinet ratifies
The Board recommends, and the Cabinet approves.



The Cabinet did not pick the projects first; it ratified the Board's list on 23 September.

3 Four new police commissionerates
Approved by the Cabinet on 23 September 2026.

Vijayawada
already existed

Rajamahendravaram

Kurnool

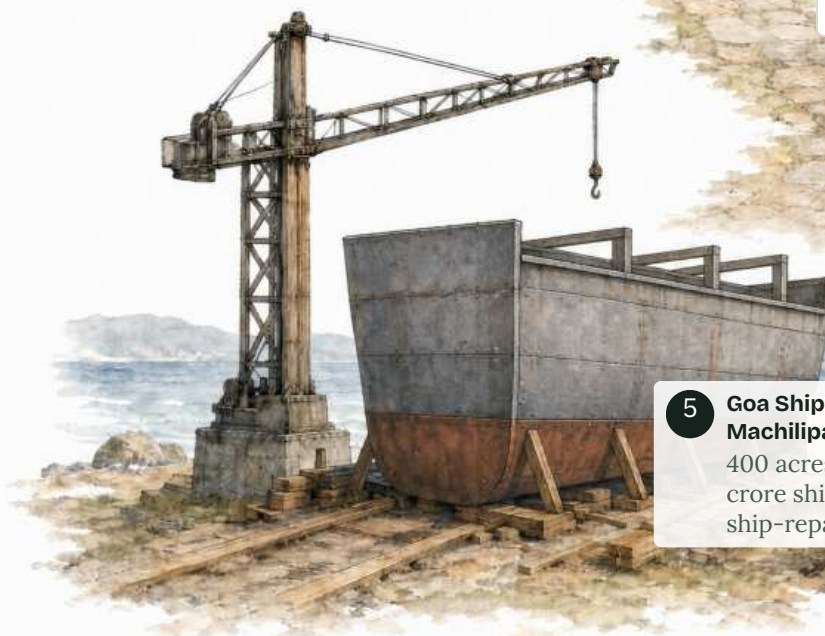
Visakhapatnam
already existed

Guntur

Tirupati



4 Magistrate powers under BNSS section 14(6)
CrPC section 20(5) was the older rule, and it worked only in a metropolitan area.



5 Goa Shipyard at Machilipatnam Port
400 acres for a Rs 8,000 crore shipbuilding and ship-repair facility.

Three words the story needs

Each new **police commissionerate** is headed by a Commissioner of Police of IGP or DIGP rank, meaning Inspector General or Deputy Inspector General of Police.

Executive Magistrate powers are the powers of an Executive Magistrate. Section 14(6) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) lets the State confer all or any of them on a Commissioner of Police.

Why can these four cities now have a Commissioner with magistrate powers?

Under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC), section 20(5) allowed a Commissioner to hold these powers only in a metropolitan area. A metropolitan area needed a population over ten lakh and a notice from the State.

The four commissionerates add no new posts. They are formed by re-designating police strength that was already sanctioned, and the existing strength is shared out among them.

Who heads each of the four new commissionerates?

A Commissioner of Police of IGP or DIGP rank heads each one, with Executive Magistrate powers.

Is the Goa Shipyard facility greenfield or brownfield?

It is brownfield; the note calls My Home's Dachepalli cement unit and Caterpillar's Sri City unit greenfield.

Which old provision did BNSS section 14(6) replace, and what limit did it drop?

It replaced CrPC section 20(5), which allowed these powers only in a metropolitan area.

Did the Cabinet create new police posts for the four commissionerates?

It did not; they re-designate police strength that was already sanctioned.

The numbers, and what each one means

THE FIGURE	WHAT IT IS	THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS
Rs 22,177.84 crore	The total of investment proposals the Cabinet ratified, expected to create 19,739 jobs, after the Board cleared them on 18 September.	Rs 22,171 crore or Rs 22,100.84 crore, which some news outlets printed by mistake.
Up to 400 acres	The land Goa Shipyard gets at Machilipatnam Port, on a 30-year lease, with about 1.7 km of waterfront.	19 acres, which is the waterfront part at a 50 per cent premium with a five-year moratorium.
About 8,000 jobs	The shipyard's expected jobs as the order counts them: 3,000 direct and 5,000 indirect.	3,000, which is the direct jobs alone.

Which two AP cities had police commissionerates before 23 September 2026?

Vijayawada, as the NTR Police Commissionerate, and Visakhapatnam City had them already.

Which ministry does Goa Shipyard Limited belong to?

It is a public sector undertaking of the Ministry of Defence.

The law behind the Commissioner, and the port behind the shipyard

Before this decision, Andhra Pradesh had two police commissionerates: the NTR Police Commissionerate at Vijayawada and the Visakhapatnam City commissionerate. The four new ones spread that model to Rajamahendravaram, Guntur, Tirupati and Kurnool.

Machilipatnam Port is in Krishna district. Goa Shipyard Limited is a Ministry of Defence public sector undertaking, and it will build defence, Coast Guard, commercial and export vessels there and repair ships.

A

You can now answer these

✓ **Q1 · b, Section 14(6) of the BNSS, 2023.** If you said c, you had the older rule: CrPC section 20(5) allowed this only in a metropolitan area. The BNSS replaced it with section 14(6), which drops that limit.

✓ **Q2 · d, Visakhapatnam.** If you picked Guntur, Tirupati or Kurnool, you were one step short: all three are new. Visakhapatnam had a commissionerate before this decision, as Vijayawada did.

✓ **Q3 · a, I and II only.** If you kept statement III, you had the order backwards. The Board cleared the proposals on 18 September, and the Cabinet ratified them on 23 September.

ASKED BEFORE · APPSC GROUP 1 PRELIMS, NOTIFICATION 28/2022, HELD 2023, PAPER II, Q94

Which of the following statements are correct about the Sea Ports in the State of Andhra Pradesh ?

- I. GoAP has recently declared Krishnapatnam Port as a Major Port.
- II. Kakinada SEZ Port is being converted from captive port to commercial port through Swiss Challenge Approach.
- III. GoAP has declared Nakkapalli Port as a Minor Port.
- IV. Vodarevu Port is being developed on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis.

The paper printed no lettered options; its key is the statement set itself: only II, III and IV are correct. Statement I, on Krishnapatnam as a Major Port, is the false one.



CARRY THIS

On 23 September 2026 the AP Cabinet approved police commissionerates at Rajamahendravaram, Guntur, Tirupati and Kurnool, with magistrate powers under BNSS section 14(6).

Sources: G.O.Ms.No.24, Infrastructure and Investment (Ports), 25 September 2026; G.O.Rt.No.1197 and G.O.Rt.No.1198, MA&UD (CRDA), 24 September 2026; Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, Gazette of India, 25 December 2023; AP I&PR releases of 18 and 24 September 2026; Goa Shipyard Limited; Andhra Prabha, Eenadu, Deccan Chronicle, ETV Bharat, Andhra Jyothy; APPSC Group 1 Prelims 2023 paper.

A2 · SCHEMES · ANDHRA PRADESH · 29 SEPTEMBER 2026

Palle Panduga 3.0 begins at Ramapuram, Nellore

Is Palle Panduga one launch, with one place and one figure?

A



Can you answer these yet?

Try them now. The answers, and why each tempting option is one step short, close this unit.

- Q1** Palle Panduga 3.0 draws Rs 1,750 crore from VB-G RAM G, the Act that replaced MGNREGA. For Andhra Pradesh, that Act guarantees wage employment and shares its cost between the Centre and the State as:
- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a 100 days a year; 60:40 | b 125 days a year; 90:10 |
| c 125 days a year; 60:40 | d 150 days a year; 75:25 |
- Q2** Palle Panduga 2.0 was launched on 26 November 2025 at:
- | | |
|---|---|
| a Sivakodu in Razole constituency, Konaseema district | b Kankipadu mandal, Krishna district |
| c Ramapuram in Udayagiri constituency, Nellore district | d Varikuntapadu mandal, Nellore district, by the Chief Minister |
- Q3** Consider these statements about Palle Panduga.
- Palle Panduga 3.0 was launched at Ramapuram in Udayagiri constituency, Nellore district.
 - Palle Panduga 1.0 was launched by the Chief Minister at Sivakodu.
 - Palle Panduga 3.0 includes 1,000 km of magic drains.
- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| a I and II only | b II and III only |
| c I, II and III | d I and III only |

Palle Panduga 3.0 begins at Ramapuram, Nellore

Where and when each phase of Palle Panduga began, and what the third phase's Rs 11,085 crore builds.

A

Pawan Kalyan launched 1.0 and 2.0. 3.0 was launched by the Chief Minister and Pawan Kalyan together.

1 1.0 · 14 October 2024
Punadipadu, Kankipadu
mandal, Krishna · Rs 4,500
crore, 30,000 works

2 2.0 · 26 November 2025
Sivakodu, Razole
constituency, Konaseema ·
Rs 6,787 crore

3 3.0 · 29 September 2026
Ramapuram, Udayagiri
constituency, Nellore · Rs
11,085 crore

4 What 3.0 builds
15,500 km of roads: 6,000
km of CC roads and 9,500
km of BT roads

**5 VB-G RAM G replaced
MGNREGA from 1 July 2026**
125 days of work a year,
with the cost shared 60:40.

Three words the story needs

CC roads are cement roads, and BT roads are tar roads. Palle Panduga 3.0 plans 6,000 km of the first kind and 9,500 km of the second.

VB-G RAM G is the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025. It replaced MGNREGA, the 2005 rural jobs law, and came into force on 1 July 2026.

Where did Palle Panduga come from, and who runs it?

It began with the villages themselves. On 23 August 2024, 13,326 Gram Sabhas, the village meetings open to all voters, met on the same day and passed resolutions for 30,000 works.

The programme is run by the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department. Pawan Kalyan holds that department as Deputy Chief Minister. The Horticulture Department handles the plantation part of the works.

What is a mini Gokulam?

It is a cattle shed built for a dairy farmer; Palle Panduga 3.0 plans about 22,000.

Which law replaced MGNREGA, and from when?

The VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 replaced it, in force from 1 July 2026.

Where did the works of Palle Panduga 1.0 come from?

They came from resolutions of 13,326 Gram Sabhas held on 23 August 2024.

Which department runs Palle Panduga?

The Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department runs it, under Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan.

The numbers, and what each one means

THE FIGURE	WHAT IT IS	THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS
Rs 11,085 crore	The total works of Palle Panduga 3.0, launched on 29 September 2026.	Rs 6,787 crore, the 2.0 outlay, or Rs 4,500 crore, the 1.0 outlay.
15,500 km	The roads planned in 3.0: 6,000 km of CC roads at Rs 2,700 crore and 9,500 km of BT roads at Rs 7,550 crore, Rs 10,250 crore in all.	6,500 km, the CC roads the CM said were built in the past two years.
About 22,000	The mini Gokulams, or cattle sheds, planned in 3.0 at Rs 300 crore.	22,500, a figure from reports of a speech, not from the release.

The Constitution behind village plans, and the money behind them

Article 243G lets a State Legislature give Panchayats powers to prepare plans for economic development and social justice. It also lets them carry out schemes, including matters in the Eleventh Schedule, the Constitution's list of subjects for Panchayats.

Which Article lets Panchayats prepare plans for economic development and social justice?

Article 243G does, together with the Eleventh Schedule.

Is the 60:40 share a description of all of Palle Panduga 3.0?

It is not; 60:40 is the VB-G RAM G share, and 3.0 mixes several funds.

The money comes from several funds. Press reports of the release name three funds. They are Rs 1,750 crore under VB-G RAM G, Rs 3,800 crore under the Global Horticulture Hub, and Rs 2,000 crore through NABARD, SASKI and others.

A

You can now answer these

✓ **Q1 · c, 125 days a year; 60:40.** If you said 100 days, you had the old MGNREGA guarantee. If you said 90:10, that share is for North-eastern and Himalayan States, not Andhra Pradesh.

✓ **Q2 · a, Sivakodu in Razole constituency, Konaseema district.** If you said Ramapuram, you had 3.0, launched on 29 September 2026. Kankipadu mandal was 1.0.

✓ **Q3 · d, I and III only.** If you kept statement II, you were one step short: Pawan Kalyan launched 1.0 alone, at Punadipadu in Krishna district. Sivakodu was the venue of 2.0.

ASKED BEFORE · APPSC GROUP 1 PRELIMS, NOTIFICATION 12/2023, HELD 2024, PAPER I, Q56

Which of the following source/sources of revenue qualifies/qualify for being given to the Panchayats ? /

I. The tax proceeds that are assigned to the States from the Centre may be again re-distributed to the Panchayats as recommended by the Central Finance Commission. /

II. Loans from the State Government. /

III. Under Article 243-I of the Constitution of India, the State Government is empowered to devolve its own funds to the Panchayats even in the absence of the State Finance Commission's recommendations. /

IV. Internal Resource Generation is facilitated only in the case of Panchayats situated in Scheduled Areas as per the Fifth Schedule. /

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- a I, II and III
c Only II

- b II and IV
d None

The key is c. In this key only loans from the State Government qualify; statement I, the Finance Commission route, is left out.



CARRY THIS

Palle Panduga 3.0 was launched on 29 September 2026 at Ramapuram, Udayagiri constituency, Nellore district, with Rs 11,085 crore of rural works. Phase 1.0 began at Punadipadu in Krishna district on 14 October 2024, and 2.0 at Sivakodu in Konaseema on 26 November 2025.

Sources: AP I&PR releases of 29 September 2026 (6083 and 6084); VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 (Act No. 36 of 2025), PIB PRID 2207187, 2259703 and 2279995, Gazette S.O. 2382(E) of 11 May 2026; PRS Legislative Research; Article 243G; ANI, Eenadu, Deccan Chronicle, ETV Bharat, Swarajya; APPSC Group 1 Prelims 2024 paper.

BRIEFS · ANDHRA PRADESH

A3 · GOVERNANCE · ANDHRA PRADESH · 15 AND 29
SEPTEMBER 2026

APPSC notifies 892 posts, updates OTPR

Twenty brief notifications, 07/2026 to 26/2026, cover **892** provisional vacancies.

Group-I Services, notification 07/2026, has **163** posts, applications 6 to 27 October.

Candidates must update their One-Time Profile Registration (OTPR) from 30 September 2026 before applying.

The 2025 Order rests on clauses (1) and (2) of **Article 371D**.

Group-I level posts such as Deputy Collector sit in **Multi-Zone** cadres.

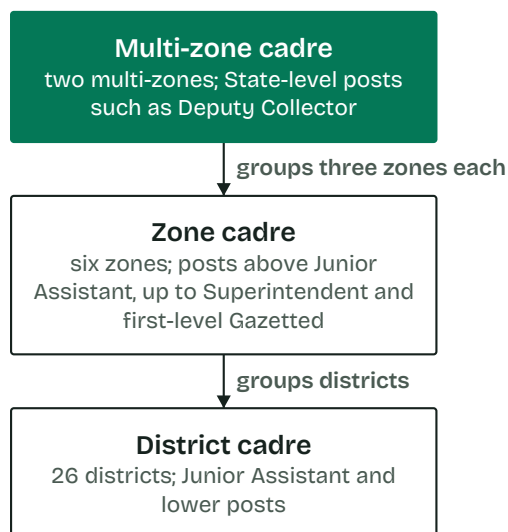


892 The total provisional vacancies across 20 notifications; 163 is the Group-I share, and 196 is the Assistant Statistical Officer line.

95 per cent The share of direct-recruitment posts in a local cadre kept for local candidates; 85 or 80 per cent is the figure offered instead.

Read down the three cadres: Group-I level posts sit at the top, in a multi-zone cadre.

Fig A3.1 **District, zone, multi-zone: where a post sits**



In each local cadre, 95 per cent of direct-recruitment posts go to local candidates.

Q1 APPSC's web note of 15 September 2026 listed brief notifications for how many provisional vacancies, and how many of them in Group-I Services?

- | | |
|--|--|
| a 167 in all, with 163 in Group-I Services | b 892 in all, with 167 in Group-I Services |
| c 892 in all, with 163 in Group-I Services | d 892 in all, with 196 in Group-I Services |

Q1 · c. The web note totals 892, with 163 in Group-I. The figure 167 tempts because press expected it on 12 September, but the note printed 163.

Sources: APPSC Web Note 15.09.2026 and OTPR Web Note 29.09.2026 (psc.ap.gov.in); G.O.Ms.No.45, GA (SPF&MC), 20.04.2026, republishing S.O. 5777(E) of 15 December 2025; G.O.Ms.No.172, GA (Services-D), 02.09.2026.

A4 · WATER AND FARMING · ANDHRA PRADESH · 3 SEPTEMBER 2026

AP Poultry Policy 2026-29: two figures explained

G.O.Ms.No.20 of 3 September 2026 runs up to 25 October 2029.

The total incentive in the GO's abstract is **Rs 657.18 crore**.

The Animal Husbandry Department's own part is **Rs 296 crore** of that total.

Only **Rs 120 crore** of the Rs 296 crore is State Budget money.

Commercial poultry farms get a flat **4 per cent** interest subvention for five years.

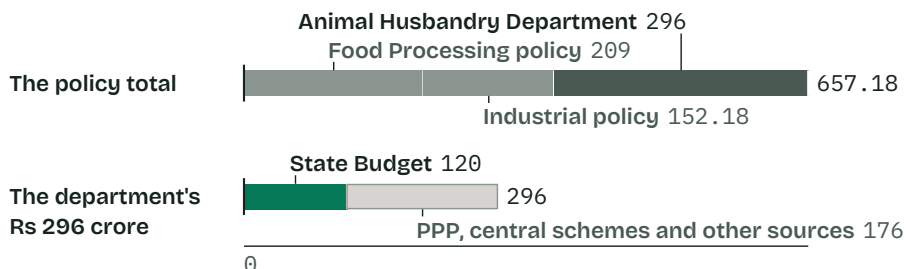


Rs 657.18 crore The policy total: Rs 209 crore under Food Processing, Rs 152.18 crore under Industrial policy, Rs 296 crore through Animal Husbandry.

2,720 The mother poultry units planned over the next five years; a press report said every year, which the GO does not say.

The top bar is the whole policy; the lower bar splits the Rs 296 crore.

Fig A4.1 **Rs 657.18 crore and Rs 296 crore are two layers of one policy**



Both figures are correct. Amounts are the GO's abstract of fiscal incentives, as proposed.

Trap Rs 657 crore is the total; the department's share is Rs 296 crore.

Q1 Of the Rs 657.18 crore incentives in AP's Poultry Development Policy 2026-29, the part provided through the Animal Husbandry Department is:

- a Rs 209 crore
- b Rs 120 crore
- c Rs 296 crore
- d Rs 152.18 crore

Q1 · c. The GO's abstract puts Rs 296 crore through the Animal Husbandry Department.

Sources: G.O.Ms.No.20, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries (AH-II) Department, 3 September 2026 (goir.ap.gov.in); Deccan Chronicle, 12 September 2026.

A5 · JUDGMENTS · ANDHRA PRADESH · 28 SEPTEMBER 2026

Group-1 (2018) evaluation: SIT report, final hearing

A single judge **cancelled** the 2018 Group-1 Mains on 13 March 2024.

A division bench ordered a **Special Investigation Team** on 11 February 2026.

The SIT, headed by the CID chief, gave a report dated 10 August 2026.

As reported, the SIT found **no tampering** of selected candidates' original scripts.

The final hearing began on **28 September 2026**, and no judgment has come yet.



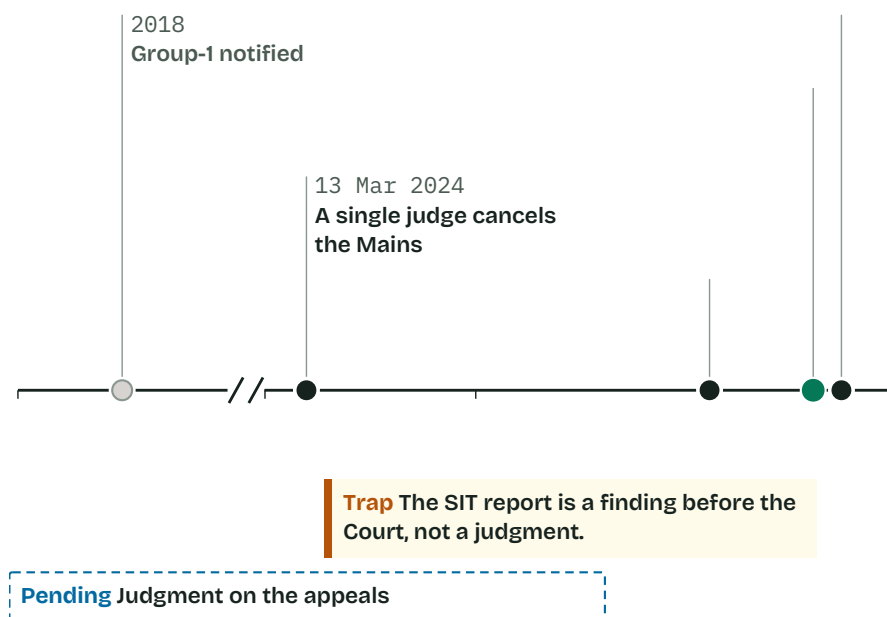
A

84 days As reported from the SIT report, the time the original scripts stayed in private custody.

160 of 165 As reported, the selected candidates whose marks slips showed corrections; these are marks slips, not the original scripts.

Follow the dates left to right: the last box, the judgment, is still open.

Fig A5.1 **From the 2018 exam to a pending judgment**



The SIT report is dated 10 August 2026, not 9 September.

Q1 In its order of 13 March 2024 on the APPSC Group-1 (2018 notification) Mains, the AP High Court's single judge directed that the examination be:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| a Re-evaluated by a retired judge | b Cancelled and held afresh |
| c Upheld as conducted, with the results unchanged | d Investigated by the CBI |

Q1 · b. The single judge cancelled the Mains and ordered a fresh exam.

Sources: The Hindu, 12 August 2026; The New Indian Express, 15 February, 21 September and 29 September 2026; Andhra Jyothy, 29 September 2026; ETV Bharat Telugu, 30 September 2026.

A6 · ECONOMY · ANDHRA PRADESH · 2025-26 DATA,
REPORTED 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Andhra Pradesh seventh among states in exports

Andhra Pradesh ranked **seventh** among states in merchandise exports in 2025-26.

Exports reached about **Rs 1.77 lakh crore**, up about 0.4 per cent in rupees.

DGCI&S, Kolkata, under the Commerce Ministry, compiles exports by state of origin.

Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu were the top three exporting states.

In US dollars, Andhra Pradesh's exports fell about **3.8 per cent** in 2025-26.



About 4.5 per cent AP's share of national exports from the four DGCI&S quarters, USD 19.97 billion of USD 442.55 billion; the 4.57 per cent seen in press is AP's quarter-on-quarter growth in January-March 2026.

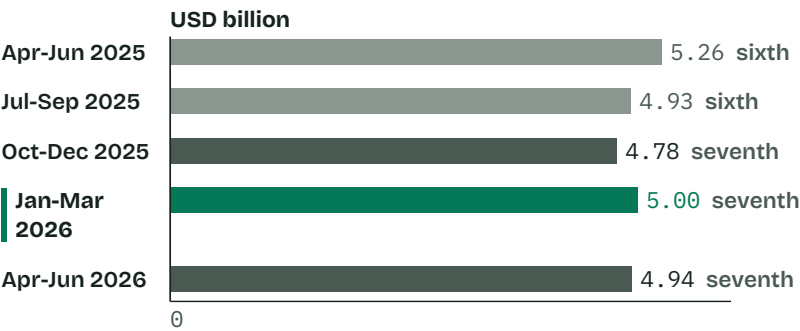
USD 5.00 billion AP's exports in January-March 2026, 4.46 per cent of the national total and seventh; USD 4.94 billion is April-June 2026, also seventh.

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS BY STATE, 2025-26

Top 3 1st Gujarat 2nd Maharashtra 3rd Tamil Nadu	Andhra Pradesh 7th Andhra Pradesh
--	---

Read the rank beside each bar: sixth in the first two quarters, seventh after that.

Fig A6.1 **Seventh for the year, not for every quarter**



The four quarters of 2025-26 add up to USD 19.97 billion of USD 442.55 billion; the fifth bar is the next quarter.

Trap Not seventh in every quarter: sixth in the first two.

- Q1** By state of origin, where did Andhra Pradesh rank among states in India's merchandise exports in 2025-26?
- a Fifth

b Sixth

c Eighth

d Seventh

Q1 · d. Summing the four DGCI&S quarters puts AP seventh, behind Haryana.

Sources: DGCI&S, Quarterly Review of Merchandise Foreign Trade, Q1 to Q4 FY 2025-26 and Q1 FY 2026-27 (dgciskol.gov.in); DGFT note on types of trade data; ETV Bharat, 23 September 2026, and Eenadu (full-year state and district figures).

A7 · ECONOMY · ANDHRA PRADESH · 11 AND 22-23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Coal India gets rare earth exploration licence

Coal India holds a three-year **exploration licence** for the Ontillu-Chandragiri rare earth block.

The block covers **209.62 sq km** across five mandals of Tirupati and Chittoor.

The State granted the licence by **G.O.Ms.No.235** of 11 September 2026.

It won the 2025 e-auction with a final price offer of **0.05 per cent**.

The first exploration-licence auction, of **13 blocks**, was launched on 13 March 2025.



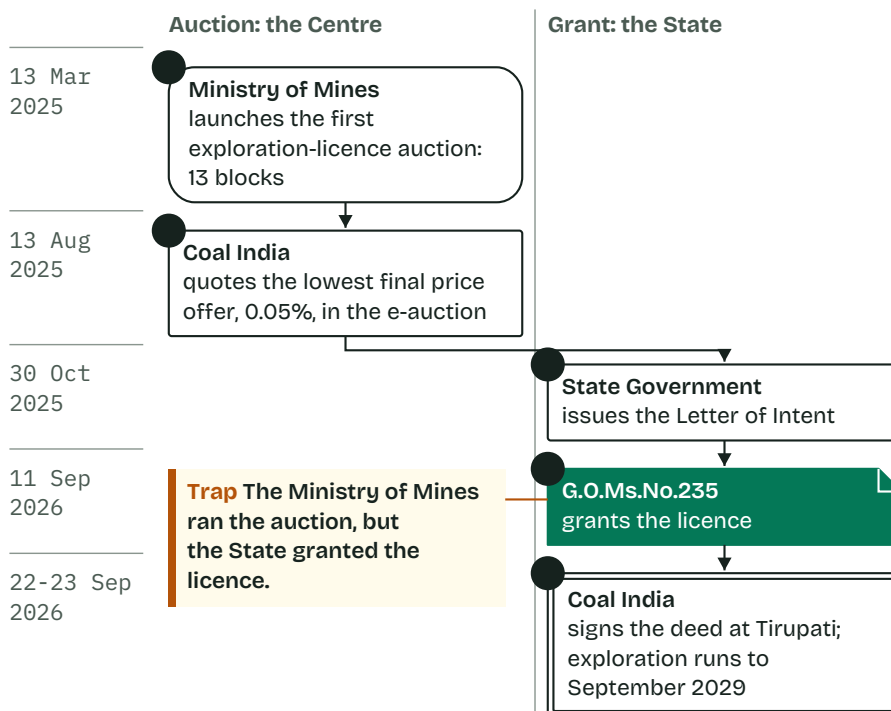
A

Three years The licence runs three years from the deed signed in Tirupati on 22-23 September 2026, with exploration to September 2029; five years is the figure offered instead.

Rs 1 crore The performance security Coal India gave as a bank guarantee; it is not the bid, which was a final price offer of 0.05 per cent.

Follow the two lanes: the Centre auctions, then the State grants.

Fig A7.1 **The Centre auctions, the State grants**



The licence runs three years; the deed was signed in the fourth week of September 2026.

Q1 The Ontillu-Chandragiri rare earth element block, for which Andhra Pradesh granted Coal India an exploration licence in September 2026, lies in which districts?

- a Tirupati and Chittoor
- b Anantapur and Kurnool
- c Srikakulam and Vizianagaram
- d SPSR Nellore and Prakasam

Q1 · a. G.O.Ms.No.235 places the block in three mandals of Tirupati district and two of Chittoor district.

Sources: AP Government G.O.Ms.No.235, Industries & Commerce (M.II) Department, 11.09.2026 (goir.ap.gov.in); PIB, Ministry of Mines, 27 February and 13 March 2025 (PRID 2106686 and 2111246); Andhra Jyothy and APAC on the licence deed.

A8 · SCHEMES · ANDHRA PRADESH · 28 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

NTR district house sites get full ownership

G.O.Ms.No.615 counted **24,042** occupants of Government poramboke land in NTR district.

It regularised **23,593** on unobjectionable land and left 449 to separate orders.

G.O.Ms.No.618 regularised **2,359** occupants on 91.14 acres of dried-up tank beds.

Eligible sites leave the prohibited list under **Section 22-A** of the Registration Act, 1908.

Every regularised beneficiary on these tank beds must build **rooftop rainwater harvesting**.



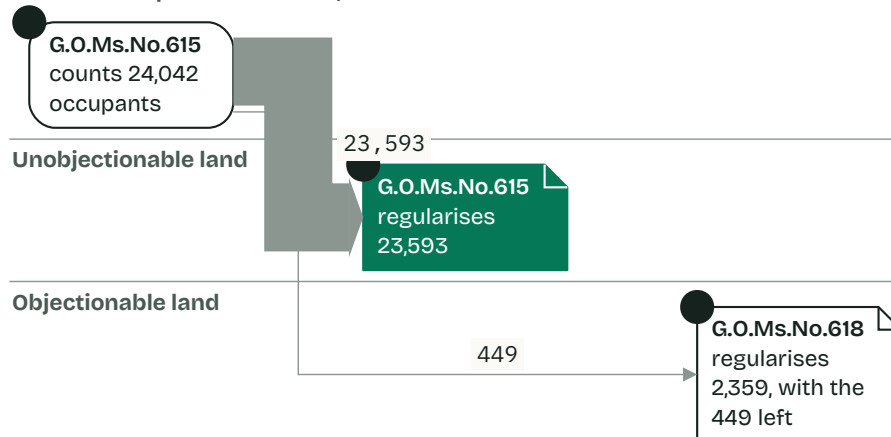
150 sq yd Up to this extent the 2025 scheme gives a D-patta free of cost to BPL and APL families; a question may offer 100 or 300 sq yd instead.

10 years G.O.Ms.No.306 of 2026 lets a house on an assigned site be registered ten years after assignment; 5 or 15 years is the figure offered instead.

Follow the bands: the wide one is regularised, the thin one moves to the second order.

Fig A8.1 **24,042 counted, 23,593 regularised, 449 to a second order**

Government poramboke land, NTR district



Trap 24,042 is the number counted, not the number regularised.

Q1 Under the Andhra Pradesh Regularisation Scheme, 2025 (G.O.Ms.No.30), applied by the NTR district house-site orders of September 2026, occupation of unobjectionable Government land must date from on or before which day?

- a 2 June 2014
- b 31 March 2024
- c 15 October 2019
- d 15 August 2022

Q1 · c. G.O.Ms.No.30 fixes occupation on or before 15 October 2019.

Sources: AP Government G.O.Ms.No.615 (28.09.2026) and G.O.Ms.No.618 (30.09.2026), Revenue (Lands-IV) Department; G.O.Ms.No.30 (29.01.2025) and G.O.Ms.No.306 (25.05.2026), Revenue (Lands-I) Department (goir.ap.gov.in).

ONE-QUESTION NEWS · ANDHRA PRADESH

A-L1 to A-L17, each a question with its facts in the answer

Read down the dates: each one carries the number of its line.

Fig A-STRIP **The first six Andhra Pradesh lines, by date**

● 3 Sep	A-L6	Reservoir cage culture policy, draft cleared	
● 3 Sep	A-L9	Amaravati Sangamam sanctioned	
● 9 Sep	A-L7	Mango support order G.O.Ms.No.47	
● 11 Sep	A-L8	Dearness Allowance raised G.O.Ms.No.119	
25 Sep	A-L11	Tobacco barn loan ●	
28 Sep	A-L10	Machilipatnam to Kurnool train approval reported ●	

The Cabinet cleared the draft cage culture policy and sanctioned the Amaravati complex on 3 September.

Read down the dates: each one carries the number of its line.

Fig A-STRIP-2 **The last six Andhra Pradesh lines, by date**

29 Sep	A-L14	Fire provisions of the Omnibus Act in force ●	
30 Sep	A-L12	State Apprenticeship Council formed ●	
30 Sep	A-L13	Dogs for cadaver detection join the SDRF ●	
30 Sep	A-L15	Special Intensive Revision dates extended ●	
30 Sep	A-L16	Polavaram review ●	
30 Sep	A-L17	Annual Survey of Industries released ●	

All six fall on the last two days, 29 and 30 September.

A-L1 **The AP Excise Policy for Shops 2026-27 (G.O.Ms.No.579) keeps the number of retail liquor shops at:**

- 3,396, all in the open category
- 4,076, with 340 added for Geetha Kulalu
- 340, all reserved for Geetha Kulalu
- 3,736, of which 340 are reserved for Geetha Kulalu

d. G.O.Ms.No.579 keeps all 3,736 shops. The 3,396 option tempts because it is a real figure, but it is only the open category and leaves out the 340 for Geetha Kulalu.

Licences run for **one year**, from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027.

Existing licences renew on **38 per cent** of the annual Retail Excise Tax.

The shop count stays at **3,736**, the figure fixed for 2024-26.

A **permit room** is compulsory again; it was optional under 2024-26.

3,736 All retail shops, unchanged from 2024-26: 3,396 open category and 340 for Geetha Kulalu; 3,396 alone is the figure offered instead. · **Rs 3 lakh** The non-refundable fee per application in the draw for shops not renewed; Rs 2 lakh was the 2024-26 fee.

A-L2 India's first PRAMAAN certificates under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme, handed over on 29 September 2026, went to:

- a the Forest Survey of India and a Kerala rubber grower
- b the Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation and a bamboo farmer from Odisha
- c the Odisha Forest Development Corporation and a bamboo farmer from Andhra Pradesh
- d the Indian Institute of Forest Management and the Quality Council of India

b. PIB names APFDC and Govind Mohapatra of the Odisha Bamboo Development Agency. The option with the States reversed tempts because both States appear, but the corporation is from Andhra Pradesh.

The Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation was certified for plantations over 33,000 hectares.

NABCB, a board of the Quality Council of India, accredits the certifying bodies.

The scheme is operated by the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.

The scheme offers three certificates, one of them Chain of Custody.

December 2023 The month the Environment Ministry launched the scheme; 2001 and 2013 are the years of the earlier pilot tests. · 8, 69, 254 The criteria, indicators and verifiers in the Indian Forest Management Standard; the Trees outside Forests standard has 5, 22 and 76.

A-L3 The AP Government declared four H5N1 epicentres in Annamayya and Chittoor districts a free area under which provision of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009?

- a Sub-section (1) of section 6
- b Section 7(1)
- c Sub-section (5) of section 6
- d Section 14

c. G.O.Rt.No.318 cites sub-section (5) of section 6. Section 6(1) tempts because the same section is involved, but 6(1) only declares a controlled area.

The outbreak in desi poultry was confirmed in February 2026, not September.

Areas within 1 km were Infected Zones; 1 to 10 km were Surveillance Zones.

G.O.Rt.No.95 of 13 April 2026 notified the four epicentres and their zones.

G.O.Rt.No.318 of 17 September 2026 declared the epicentres a free area.

4 The epicentres declared free: three villages of Sodem mandal, Annamayya, and one colony in Karvetinagar mandal, Chittoor. · 1 to 10 km The Surveillance Zone around each epicentre; 0 to 1 km was the Infected Zone, and a question may offer the two radii the wrong way round.

A-L4 Under G.O.Rt.No.1843 of 22 September 2026, the Nandi TV awards for 2017 to 2024 and 2025 are to be held at:

- a Vijayawada
- b Amaravati
- c Visakhapatnam
- d Tirupati

d. The GO's schedule puts the Nandi TV awards at Tirupati. Vijayawada tempts because the 2012 to 2016 function is held there, but the TV awards for later years go to Tirupati.

The GO covers three blocks: 2012 to 2016, 2017 to 2024, and 2025.

The 2012 to 2016 awards, already announced, are presented at Vijayawada in November.

The AP State Film, Television and Theatre Development Corporation conducts the awards.

Awards for 2017 to 2024 and 2025 are presented in December 2026.

2 + 2 Each year of 2017 to 2024 gets first and second best film and two Special Jury awards; every regular category is offered instead. · 14 years The span from 2012 to 2025 that the GO clears in one order.

A-L5 NSHIP-AP, which signed the Dugarajapatnam anchor-shipyard MoU with Mazagon Dock in September 2026, is a 50:50 company of which two bodies?

- a APIIC and Krishnapatnam Port
 - b AP Maritime Board and Cochin Shipyard
 - c Mazagon Dock and Visakhapatnam Port Authority
 - d AP Maritime Board and Visakhapatnam Port Authority
- d. G.O.Ms.No.7 of 2 March 2026 gives the AP Maritime Board 50 per cent and the Visakhapatnam Port Authority 50 per cent. The Mazagon Dock option tempts because MDL signed the MoU, but it is one step short: MDL is the anchor yard, not a shareholder.

Mazagon Dock signed on 18 September as anchor shipyard of the Dugarajapatnam cluster. The cluster is in **Tirupati district**, with some land in Kota mandal, SPSR Nellore.

NSHIP-AP is a 50:50 company of AP Maritime Board and Visakhapatnam Port Authority. The cluster comes under the **Shipbuilding Development Scheme**, worth Rs 19,989 crore.

0.5 million GT The least the anchor yard must reach in a year within 10 years of commissioning, under G.O.Ms.No.2; the tempting 1.2 million GT is MDL's planned capacity. · **Rs 69,725 crore** The Centre's maritime package of 24 September 2025, of which the scheme is one part; Rs 19,989 crore is the scheme's own outlay.

A-L6 Which policy did the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approve in draft form on 3 September 2026 to promote the fisheries sector?

- a Coastal Aquaculture Policy-2026
 - b Blue Economy Policy-2026
 - c Reservoir Cage Culture Policy-2026
 - d Shrimp Hatchery Policy-2026
- c. The Cabinet approved the draft Reservoir Cage Culture Policy-2026 on 3 September 2026.
- The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved the draft policy on 3 September 2026. The Minister announced it at the briefing after the Cabinet meeting.
- Its aim is to promote the fisheries sector through fish farming in reservoirs. No Government Order has been found, so the policy is a draft, not yet notified.

3 September 2026 Cabinet approval of the draft policy

A-L7 Under the Totapuri mango Price Deficiency Payment cleared in September 2026, AP MARKFED was allowed to raise Rs 281 crore through working capital or short-term loans for support at what rate per kg?

- a Rs 4
 - b Rs 10
 - c Rs 2
 - d Rs 15
- a. The Totapuri mango Price Deficiency Payment is at Rs 4 per kg.
- G.O.Ms.No.47 of 9 September 2026 lets AP MARKFED raise Rs 281 crore through loans for mango support. It covers Chittoor, Annamayya, Tirupati and Kadapa districts, under the Market Intervention Scheme.
- The support is Rs 4 per kg for 7.03 lakh tonnes of Totapuri mango. The tempting Rs 10 per kg is the tobacco rate under G.O.Rt.No.864, not the mango rate.

Rs 4 per kg mango Price Deficiency Payment · **Rs 281 crore** MARKFED may raise through loans · **Rs 10 per kg** tobacco support rate, a separate order

A-L8 G.O.Ms.No.119 of 11 September 2026 raised Andhra Pradesh government employees' Dearness Allowance from 37.31 per cent of basic pay to what figure, with effect from 1 July 2024?

- a 41.86 per cent
 - b 38.50 per cent
 - c 42.50 per cent
 - d 40.04 per cent
- d. G.O.Ms.No.119 raised the Dearness Allowance to 40.04 per cent from 1 July 2024.

G.O.Ms.No.119 of 11 September 2026 raised Dearness Allowance from 37.31 to 40.04 per cent.

This increase of 2.73 per cent applies from 1 July 2024.

G.O.Ms.No.120 of the same date raised it again, from 40.04 to 41.86 per cent.

That second increase of 1.82 per cent applies from 1 January 2025.

40.04 per cent Dearness Allowance from 1 July 2024 · 41.86 per cent Dearness Allowance from 1 January 2025 · 2.73 per cent increase under G.O.Ms.No.119

A

A-L9 The Amaravati Sangamam, sanctioned by the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on 3 September 2026 at Rs 759.79 crore, is to house which set of facilities?

- a The Assembly, High Court and Secretariat
 - b A convention centre, metro depot and port
 - c A state public library, an auditorium and a global institute of good governance
 - d A medical college, stadium and airport
- c. Amaravati Sangamam will house a state public library, an auditorium and a global institute of good governance.

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet sanctioned Amaravati Sangamam on 3 September 2026.

Its estimated cost is Rs 759.79 crore.

The complex will stand at Sakhamuru in Amaravati.

It will house a state public library, an auditorium and a global institute of good governance.

Rs 759.79 crore estimated cost of Amaravati Sangamam · 3 September 2026 date of the Cabinet sanction

A-L10 The new Machilipatnam-Kurnool City Express approved by Railways in September 2026 covers how many kilometres?

- a 449
 - b 499
 - c 399
 - d 549
- b. The Machilipatnam-Kurnool City Express covers 499 km via Vijayawada.
- Railways approved the new tri-weekly train, as reported on 28 September 2026.
- It leaves Machilipatnam at 16:55 and reaches Kurnool City at 05:45 the next day.
- It runs 499 km from Machilipatnam to Kurnool City via Vijayawada.
- The close figures 449 and 549 tempt a reader who remembers only about 500 km.

499 km length of the new train route · Rs 108 crore cost of the Guntur-Nambur road over-bridge · 74 stations in Andhra Pradesh being upgraded

A-L11 The Centre's September 2026 relief for Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh is what per barn?

- a Rs 10,000 interest-free
 - b Rs 25,000 at 4 per cent
 - c Rs 1 lakh subsidy
 - d Rs 50,000 interest-free, one time
- d. The Centre approved a one-time, interest-free loan of Rs 50,000 per barn.

The Centre announced the relief for Andhra Pradesh FCV tobacco growers on 25 September 2026.

It comes under the Interest-Free Working Capital Assistance Scheme.

Each barn gets a one-time, interest-free loan of Rs 50,000.

About 44,000 growers will get about Rs 220 crore through direct benefit transfer.

Rs 50,000 interest-free loan per barn · 44,000 growers covered · Rs 220 crore total relief

A-L12 Under which provision did Andhra Pradesh constitute its State Apprenticeship Council in September 2026?

- a Section 9 of the Apprentices Act, 1961
- b Section 24(4) of the Apprentices Act, 1961
- c Section 21 of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946
- d Section 12 of the Skill India Mission guidelines

b. The Council was constituted under Section 24(4) of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

G.O.Rt.No.46 of 30 September 2026 constitutes the State Apprenticeship Council. The Skills Development and Training Secretary chairs the Council.

The order cites Section 24(4) of the Apprentices Act, 1961. G.O.Rt.No.47 of the same date sets up a separate committee for NAPS-2.0.

Section 24(4) provision for the State Apprenticeship Council · G.O.Rt.No.46 order constituting the Council · G.O.Rt.No.47 order for the NAPS-2.0 review committee

A-L13 In September 2026 Andhra Pradesh announced the induction of dogs trained in cadaver detection and search and rescue into which force?

- a Greyhounds
- b Octopus
- c AP Special Protection Force
- d AP State Disaster Response Force

d. The dogs were inducted into the AP State Disaster Response Force.

The 23rd canine batch passed out at Mangalagiri on 30 September 2026. The Home Minister called it a first in the country, the State's own claim.

The DGP said cadaver-detection and rescue dogs were joining the AP SDRF for the first time. The batch had 36 dogs after 10 months of training.

36 dogs the 23rd batch, 10 months of training · 2 dogs trained in cadaver detection with search and rescue · 218 police dogs in service in Andhra Pradesh

A-L14 G.O.Ms.No.193 of 29 September 2026 brought into force the provisions of the AP Omnibus (Speed of Doing Business) Act, 2026 relating to which law?

- a AP Fire Services Act, 1999
- b AP Public Services Delivery Guarantee Act, 2017
- c AP Industrial Single Window Clearance Act, 2002
- d AP Building Rules, 2017

a. G.O.Ms.No.193 brought in the provisions relating to the AP Fire Services Act, 1999.

G.O.Ms.No.193 is dated 29 September 2026, from the Home (Prisons & Fire) Department. The Omnibus Act is Act No.24 of 2026, gazetted on 7 September 2026.

It brings the Omnibus Act's fire provisions into force from 29 September 2026. As reported, the Bill provided for third-party fire audit agencies.

29.09.2026 fire provisions in force · Act No.24 of 2026 the AP Omnibus (Speed of Doing Business) Act · 07.09.2026 Act published in the AP Gazette

A-L15 Under the revised schedule announced on 30 September 2026, on what date is the final electoral roll of Andhra Pradesh's Special Intensive Revision to be published?

- a 5 October 2026
- b 9 October 2026
- c 16 October 2026
- d 26 October 2026

c. The final roll is to be published on 16 October 2026.

The Election Commission extended the revision dates on 30 September 2026. The final electoral roll is due on 16 October 2026.

Disposal of claims and objections in Andhra Pradesh now ends on 10 October. The tempting 9 October was the earlier date for the final roll.

16.10.2026 final roll, Andhra Pradesh · 10.10.2026 end of disposal of claims and objections · 09.10.2026 the earlier final-roll date

A-L16 In a review on 30 September 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister set which month for completing the Polavaram project?

- a December 2026 b March 2027
c July 2027 d March 2028

b. The Chief Minister set March 2027 for completing Polavaram.

The review was held at the Undavalli camp office on 30 September 2026.

He said Rs 35,000 crore is being spent on irrigation-calendar projects.

The Chief Minister fixed March 2027 for completing Polavaram.

Left Main Canal water is to reach the Kanithi balancing reservoir for Visakhapatnam.

March 2027 Polavaram completion target · Rs 35,000 crore spending on irrigation-calendar projects · Rs 100 crore additional funds for Polavaram that week

A-L17 According to the Annual Survey of Industries 2024-25, where does Andhra Pradesh rank among major States by number of factories?

- a Fourth b Fifth
c Sixth d Seventh

c. Andhra Pradesh is sixth among major States, with 15,602 factories.

MoSPI released the ASI 2024-25 results on 30 September 2026.

The tempting fifth place is Karnataka, with 15,629 factories.

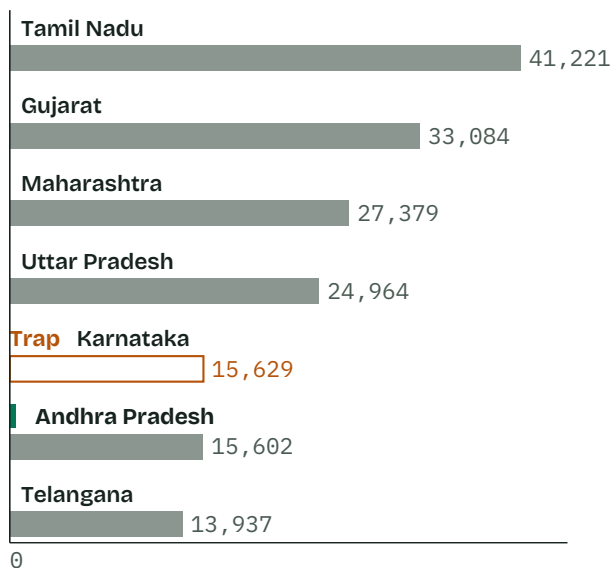
Andhra Pradesh has 15,602 factories, sixth among major States.

Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra are the top three by factories.

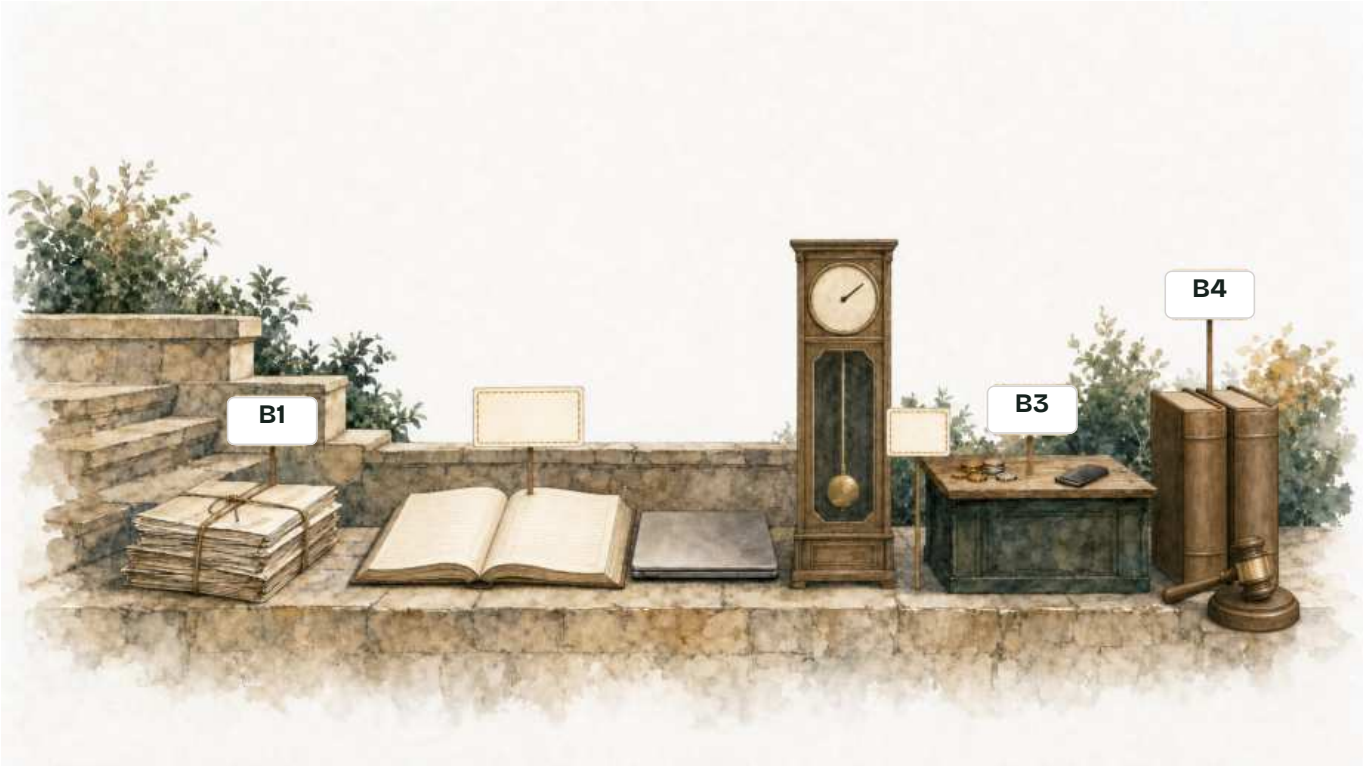
15,602 factories in Andhra Pradesh, sixth · 15,629 Karnataka, fifth · 41,221 Tamil Nadu, first

Count down to the sixth bar: Andhra Pradesh sits just under Karnataka.

Fig A-L17.1 Andhra Pradesh is sixth among major States in factories



Fifth place is Karnataka, 27 factories ahead. Annual Survey of Industries 2024-25, released on 30 September 2026.



B

SECTION B

Polity and Governance

- B1

Judges split on referring the CEC Act case
- B2

EPFO wage ceiling raised to Rs 25
- B3

No stay on the UPI merchant charge
- B4

Two rulings: Article 311(1) and victims' appeals

One-question news, B-L1 to B-L7

Read down the dates: each one carries the number of its line.

Fig B-STRIP The five polity lines, by date

● 1 Sep	B-L6	First non-medical woman Air Vice Marshal takes her post		
● 6 Sep	B-L5	Safai Karamcharis chairperson named		
● 10 Sep	B-L3	E-commerce rules amended		
30 Sep	B-L4	Petroleum Bill draft put up for comment	●	
30 Sep	B-L7	CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad launched	●	

The petroleum draft was put up on 30 September; comments are due by 30 October.

B1 · JUDGMENTS · NATIONAL · 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Judges split on referring the CEC Act case

Did the Supreme Court split over whether the 2023 Act is valid?



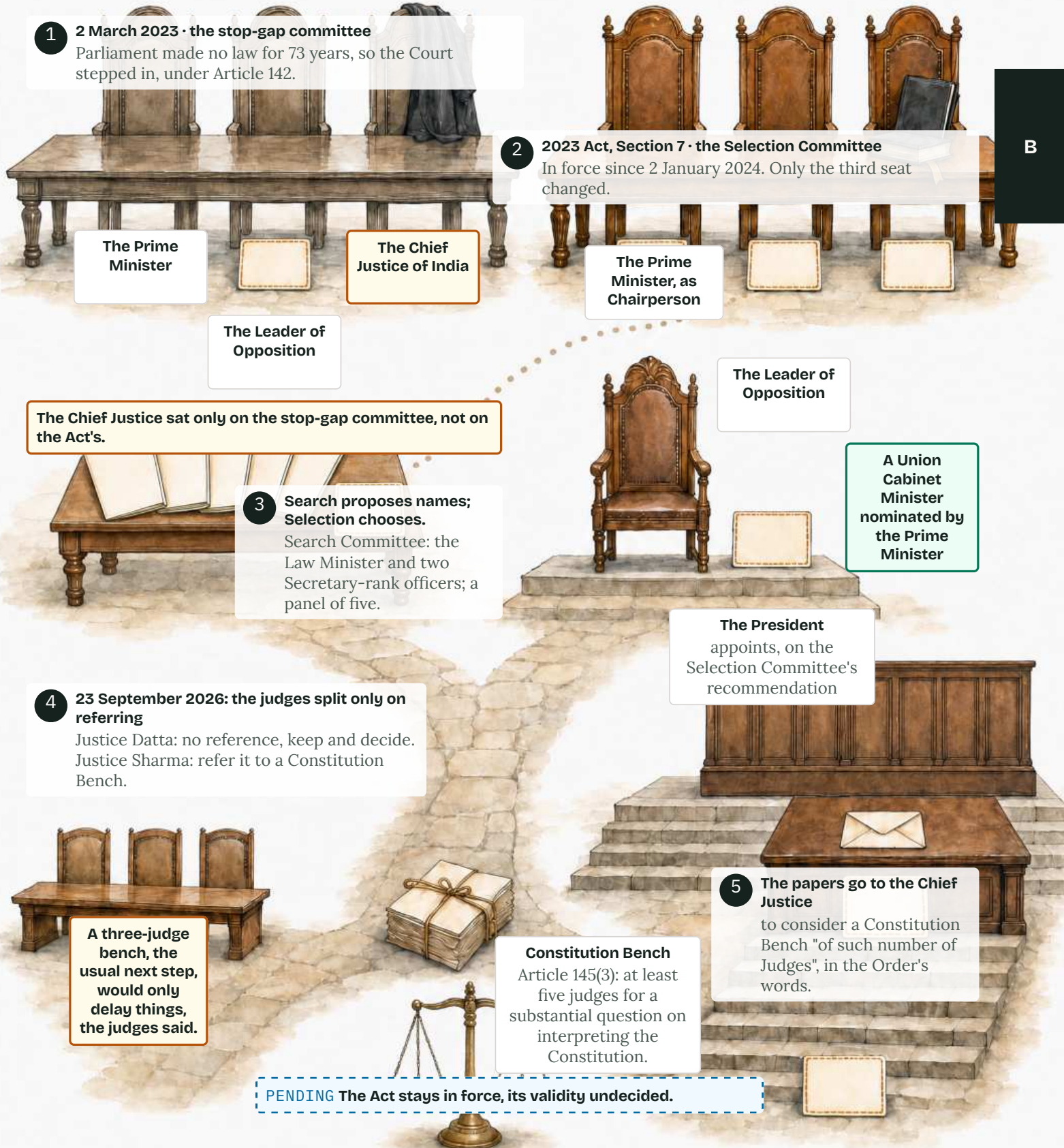
Can you answer these yet?

Try them now. The answers, and why each tempting option is one step short, close this unit.

- Q1** Under Section 7 of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023, the Selection Committee consists of:
- a The Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition and the Chief Justice of India
 - b The President, the Vice-President and the Chief Justice of India
 - c The Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister
 - d The Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Law Minister
- Q2** The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023 has been in force since:
- a 2 March 2023
 - b 28 December 2023
 - c 23 September 2026
 - d 2 January 2024
- Q3** Consider these statements about the Supreme Court's decision of 23 September 2026 in *Dr Jaya Thakur v Union of India*.
- I. It left the validity of the 2023 Act undecided.
 - II. Because the two judges differed, the case was sent to a three-judge bench.
 - III. The Order placed the papers before the Chief Justice of India to consider constituting a Constitution Bench.
- a I and III only
 - b II only
 - c I and II only
 - d I, II and III

How an Election Commissioner is chosen, and where the case stands

Who sits on the committee under each regime, and where the case went on 23 September.



Three words the story needs

Article 324(2) says the President appoints the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners. It adds a condition: this is subject to any law Parliament makes. For 73 years Parliament made no such law, and the Government's advice decided the names.

A **reference** sends a case to a larger bench. Under **Article 145(3)**, at least five judges must decide a substantial question on interpreting the Constitution. A **split verdict** means the judges on a bench differ.

How did a committee become a court case?

Because Parliament had made no law, a five-judge bench stepped in on 2 March 2023, in Anoop Baranwal. It ordered a stop-gap committee of the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition and the Chief Justice.

Parliament then passed the 2023 Act, which came into force on 2 January 2024. Its Section 7 kept the first two seats and put a Cabinet Minister in the Chief Justice's place.

The numbers, and what each one means

THE FIGURE	WHAT IT IS	THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS
Three	The Selection Committee under Section 7 has three members, chaired by the Prime Minister.	Five, which is the size of the panel the Search Committee prepares under Section 6.
2 January 2024	The day the 2023 Act came into force.	28 December 2023, the day of the President's assent.
Five	Article 145(3) needs at least five judges for a substantial question on interpreting the Constitution.	Three, the bench a split two-judge bench would usually send a case to.

Where it sits: Article 324, and what APPSC has asked

Article 324(1) gives the Election Commission control of elections to Parliament, the State Legislatures, and the offices of President and Vice-President. Under Article 324(5), the Chief Election Commissioner can be removed only like a Supreme Court judge.

Who appoints the Chief Election Commissioner under Article 324(2)?

The President appoints, subject to any law made by Parliament.

How many judges does Article 145(3) require for a substantial constitutional question?

It requires at least five judges.

Why did the Court create a selection committee in 2023?

Parliament had made no law under Article 324(2), so the Court filled the gap until it did.

Which section of the 2023 Act is the main target of the petitions?

Section 7, which sets up the Selection Committee.

How can the Chief Election Commissioner be removed?

Only in the same way, and on the same grounds, as a Supreme Court judge.

Since when has the Commission had three members without a break?

It has had three members since 1 October 1993.

Under the 2023 Act, the term is six years or up to age 65, whichever is earlier. There is no re-appointment, and the salary equals a Supreme Court judge's. Gyanesh Kumar became the 26th Chief Election Commissioner on 19 February 2025.

Read upward: names are prepared first, then three people choose.

The Search Committee prepares five names; the Selection Committee of three chooses.

Fig B1.4 **Search Committee against Selection Committee**



B

You can now answer these

✓ **Q1 · c, the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition and a Cabinet Minister.** If you chose the committee with the Chief Justice, you were one step short. That was the 2023 stop-gap committee, which the Act replaced.

✓ **Q2 · d, 2 January 2024.** If you chose 28 December 2023, you had the day of assent. The Act came into force a few days later, on 2 January 2024.

✓ **Q3 · a, I and III only.** If you chose all three, statement II held you back. The judges skipped the usual three-judge bench and sent the papers to the Chief Justice.

ASKED BEFORE · APPSC GROUP 2 MAINS, NOTIFICATION 11/2023, HELD 2025, PAPER I, Q96

Which of the following statement(s) is/are true relating to Election Commission of India ? A. The Election Commission of India is a three member Body. B. The Chief Election Commissioner is appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India. C. Election Commission of India is a Constitutional Body.

- a A and B
c B and C

- b A and C
d A, B and C

The key is b, A and C. The President appoints the Chief Election Commissioner, on the Selection Committee's recommendation under the 2023 Act.



CARRY THIS

Under the 2023 Act, the Election Commissioners are selected by the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition and a Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister. On 23 September 2026, two judges split only on whether a larger bench should hear the challenge.

Sources: Supreme Court of India, Dr Jaya Thakur and Ors v Union of India, W.P.(C) No. 14 of 2024, judgment of 23 September 2026 (2026 INSC 1040); the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023 (Act No. 49 of 2023), India Code; Anoop Baranwal v Union of India, (2023) 6 SCC 161; Articles 145(3) and 324; PRS Legislative Research bill track; Bar and Bench, 23 September 2026; APPSC Group 2 Mains 2025 Paper I. Drawings: BLOOM, made for this issue.

BRIEFS · POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

B2 · GOVERNANCE · NATIONAL · 16 AND 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

EPFO wage ceiling raised to Rs 25,000

The Cabinet approved the new Employees' Provident Fund Organisation ceiling on **16 September 2026**.

It took effect in law on **17 September 2026**, by Gazette notification.

The ceiling is notified under the **Code on Social Security, 2020**.

More than **51 lakh** additional employees come under mandatory coverage.

The three schemes are EPF, EPS and **EDLI**, the insurance scheme.



Rs 25,000 The new monthly wage ceiling for mandatory coverage; the old ceiling it replaces is Rs 15,000.

Rs 11,339 crore The estimated annual Government outgo, against existing support of about Rs 10,250 crore; Rs 56,696 crore is the five-year figure.

Find the emerald band: pay between Rs 15,000 and Rs 25,000 a month.

Fig B2.1 **Pay from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 a month is now inside**

Monthly wage, rupees



The old ceiling had stood since September 2014; the new one took effect in law on 17 September 2026.

Q1 The wage ceiling for mandatory EPFO coverage, approved by the Union Cabinet on 16 September 2026, is now:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| a Rs 20,000 a month | b Rs 30,000 a month |
| c Rs 15,000 a month | d Rs 25,000 a month |

Q1 · d. The Cabinet raised the ceiling to Rs 25,000 a month. Rs 15,000 tempts because it appears in the same sentence, but it is the old ceiling.

Sources: PIB, Cabinet, 16 September 2026 (PRID 2310811); PIB, Ministry of Labour and Employment (PRID 2310973); Gazette of India, S.O. 5109(E), 17 September 2026.

B3 · JUDGMENTS · NATIONAL · 28 SEPTEMBER 2026

No stay on the UPI merchant charge

On 28 September the Supreme Court **refused** to stay the UPI merchant charge.

A refused stay is not a ruling; the charge's **validity** is still open.

The merchant discount rate is **0.4 per cent** on merchant payments above Rs 2,000.

All **person-to-person** transfers stay free, whatever the amount.

The framework comes under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.



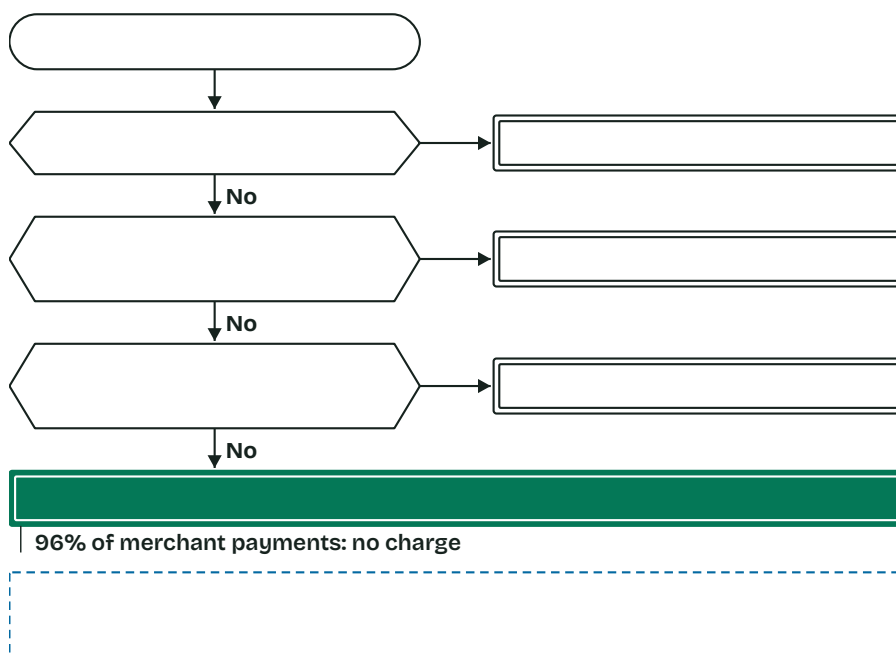
Rs 300 The cap on the charge for payments of Rs 75,000 and above; a tempting wrong figure is Rs 5, the flat charge for sectors such as railways, fuel and insurance.

96 per cent The share of merchant transactions that will not face the charge, says the Finance Ministry; a tempting wrong figure is 4 per cent, the share that will.

B

Start at the payment and answer each question; the first yes sets the charge.

Fig B3.1 **Does this UPI payment pay a charge?**



The Rs 300 cap applies to payments of Rs 75,000 and above. The 96% is as reported.

Trap Rs 5 is the flat charge for a few sectors, not the cap; the cap is Rs 300.

Q1 Under the Finance Ministry framework, from 15 October 2026 the merchant discount rate on specified person-to-merchant UPI payments above Rs 2,000 is:

- a 0.4 per cent, capped at Rs 300 for payments of Rs 75,000 and above
- b 0.02 per cent on every UPI payment
- c a flat Rs 5 on every person-to-person transfer
- d 0.4 per cent on person-to-person transfers above Rs 2,000

Q1 • a. The rate is 0.4 per cent on specified merchant payments above Rs 2,000, capped at Rs 300 for payments of Rs 75,000 and above.

Sources: LiveLaw, 28 September 2026 (Anjan Datta v Union of India); Upstox News, 28 September 2026; PIB, Ministry of Finance, 15 September 2026 (PRID 2310586).

B4 · JUDGMENTS · NATIONAL · 22 AND 24 SEPTEMBER 2026

Two rulings: Article 311(1) and victims' appeals

Article 311(1) bars removal by an authority **subordinate** in rank to the appointing authority.

In **Ramdhani Prasad**, the Adjutant was not lower than the appointing Assistant Commandant.

So the Court restored the Adjutant's removal order of **18 March 1983**.

A victim appeals against a Magistrate's acquittal before the **Sessions Court**.

That right is in the proviso to **Section 413**, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

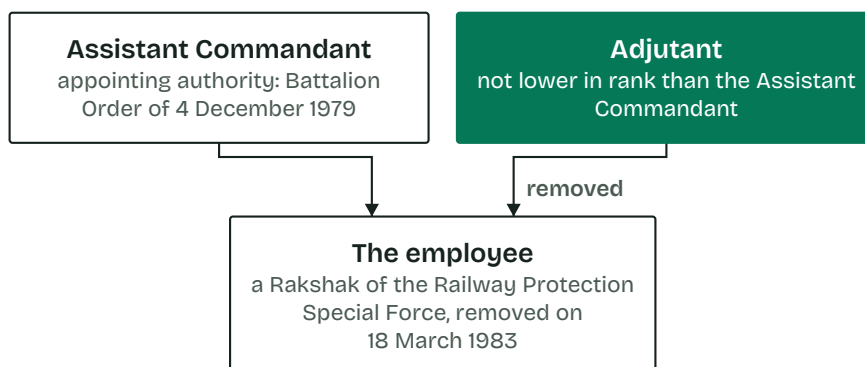


4 December 1979 The date of the Battalion Order the Court treated as the real appointment; a tempting wrong date is 3 May 1979, the Commandant's call letter, which depended on training.

Section 413 The BNSS section whose proviso gives the victim a right of appeal.

Read down from each officer to the employee: one appointed, the other removed.

Fig B4.1 **The remover was not lower than the appointer**



Article 311(1) bars removal only by an authority subordinate in rank to the appointing authority.

Q1 In *Subhas Chandra Sarkar v State of West Bengal* (22 September 2026), the Supreme Court held that a victim's appeal against an order of acquittal passed by a Magistrate has to be filed before the:

- a High Court
- b Supreme Court
- c Sessions Court
- d Court of the same Magistrate

Q1 · c. The appeal lies before the Sessions Court under the proviso to Section 413 of the BNSS. The High Court tempts because the victim went there, but the Supreme Court held that the Sessions Court is where it lies.

Sources: Supreme Court of India, *Union of India v Ramdhani Prasad*, 2026 INSC 1047, 24 September 2026, and *Subhas Chandra Sarkar v State of West Bengal*, 2026 INSC 1052, order of 22 September 2026 (court copies via Verdictum); Indian Kanoon.

ONE-QUESTION NEWS · POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

B-L1 to B-L7, each a question with its facts in the answer

B-L1 The Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026, in force from 1 October 2026, replaces the:

- a Indian Evidence Act, 1872 b Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023
c Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 d Information Technology Act, 2000

c. Section 16 repeals the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891. The 1872 Evidence Act tempts because it is the older general law of evidence, but the new Act does not replace it.

The President gave **assent** to the Act on 13 August 2026.

The Act is **technology-neutral**: paper, electronic and cloud records all count.

S.O. 5041(E) of 10 September 2026 brings it into force on **1 October 2026**.

Records can be certified by manual, digital or **electronic signature**.

1891 The year of the Act now repealed by section 16; the new Act is a Finance Ministry statute, not a new general law of evidence. · **15 of 2026** The Act's number; the Bill passed the Lok Sabha on 5 August and the Rajya Sabha on 10 August.

B-L2 Which institution is India's National Metrology Institute, providing the scientific traceability for Indian Standard Time under the 2026 Legal Metrology Rules?

- a Indian Space Research Organisation b Survey of India
c CSIR-National Physical Laboratory d Bureau of Indian Standards

c. PIB names CSIR-NPL as India's National Metrology Institute. ISRO tempts because NavIC carries IST, but ISRO receives its traceability from NPL.

The **Department of Consumer Affairs** notified the Rules on 27 August 2026.

The **CSIR-National Physical Laboratory** (CSIR-NPL) generates IST using an ensemble of atomic clocks.

The Rules come into force **180 days** after Gazette publication, in late February 2027.

IST is kept traceable to **Coordinated Universal Time** (UTC) within a few nanoseconds.

5 hours 30 minutes The offset Rule 2(f) adds to UTC(NPLI) to give IST. · **5** The Regional Reference Standard Laboratories keeping secondary timescales: Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Faridabad and Guwahati.

B-L3 Under the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Amendment Rules, 2026, when a price reduction is announced, the prior price displayed is the lowest price in how many preceding days?

- a 7 b 15
c 30 d 90

c. The prior price is the lowest price in the 30 days before the price-reduction announcement.

The Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Amendment Rules, 2026 were released on 10 September 2026.

The prior price shown with a discount must be the lowest price of the previous 30 days.

They come into force from 1 January 2027.

The shorter periods, 7 and 15 days, are not the look-back the Rules set.

30 days look-back for the prior price · **1 January 2027** when the amended Rules come into force · **5, 11, 196** e-commerce grievances to the Helpline in 2025

B-L4 Until what date did the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas invite comments on the draft Petroleum (Amendment) Bill, 2026?

- a 30 September 2026 b 30 October 2026
c 30 November 2026 d 31 December 2026

b. Comments on the draft Petroleum (Amendment) Bill, 2026 were invited until 30 October 2026.

The Petroleum Ministry put the draft bill on its website on 30 September 2026.

An explanatory note was hosted along with it.

This is pre-legislative consultation, where views are sought before a bill reaches Parliament.

Comments are due on or before 30 October 2026, to the Under Secretary (Distribution).

30 October 2026 last date for comments · 30 September 2026 date the draft was hosted

B-L5 Who was appointed Chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis in September 2026?

- a Bhagwat Prasad Makwana b Kaishab Bihari
c Manoj Kumar Balmiki d Vijay Sampla

- a. Bhagwat Prasad Makwana was appointed Chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis.

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment made the appointments, released on 6 September 2026.

Bhagwat Prasad Makwana became Chairperson of the Commission.

The tempting Kaishab Bihari was named in the same order, as Vice-Chairperson.

Manoj Kumar Balmiki, Sushma Gaudiyal and Ravi Ramu Kalose became Members.

31 March 2028 end of the appointments' tenure · 6 September 2026 date the appointments were released

Fig B-L5.1 The Commission for Safai Karamcharis has a new Chairperson

Bhagwat Prasad Makwana
Chairperson, National Commission for Safai Karamcharis
Appointed in September 2026

Trap Kaishab Bihari was named Vice-Chairperson in the same order.

B-L6 AVM Shakti Sharma, who assumed office on 1 September 2026 as the first non-medical woman Air Vice Marshal, belongs to which IAF branch?

- a Flying b Logistics
c Administration d Education

- d. AVM Shakti Sharma belongs to the Education Branch of the Indian Air Force.

Shakti Sharma is the first non-medical woman officer in the Defence Forces to reach Air Vice Marshal.

On 1 September 2026 she became Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education).

She was commissioned into the Education Branch on 18 June 1994.

The tempting option, Flying, fits the Air Force but not her branch.

1 September 2026 she became Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education) · 18 June 1994 her commission into the Education Branch

Fig B-L6.1 The first non-medical woman Air Vice Marshal



AVM Shakti Sharma
Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education)
First non-medical woman Air Vice Marshal

Drawn from: Press Information Bureau, Government of India release photo

Trap Education, not Flying.

B-L7 'CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad', launched in September 2026, is an AI tool built by BHASHINI under which ministry?

- a Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
b Ministry of Education
c Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Official Language)
d Ministry of Culture

- a. BHASHINI works under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad was launched on 30 September 2026.

It translates official CAG documents and audit reports with AI.

BHASHINI is a division of the Digital India Corporation under MeitY.

It was launched at the close of Hindi Pakhwada 2026 at the CAG Office.

36 Indian text languages on BHASHINI · 23 Indian voice languages on BHASHINI · 800 and more government websites powered



C

C

SECTION C

Economy and Schemes

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|---|
| C1 | GDP, CPI and WPI on their new base years | C5 | Eight rail projects include Arakkonam-Renigunta lines |
| C2 | Green Energy Corridor Phase-III approved | C6 | Global Innovation Index 2026 |
| C3 | The Dedicated Freight Corridor network is complete | C7 | Global Gender Gap 2026 |
| C4 | Rabi MSP 2027-28 | | One-question news, C-L1 to C-L11 |

C1 · ECONOMY · NATIONAL · 31 AUGUST TO 14 SEPTEMBER 2026

GDP, CPI and WPI on their new base years

Did September bring the first figures on the new base years?



Can you answer these yet?

Try them now. The answers, and why each tempting option is one step short, close this unit.

- Q1** Under double deflation, which the 2022-23 GDP series uses for manufacturing:
- a a single price index deflates both output and inputs
 - b household consumption is deflated twice, once for goods and once for services
 - c output and intermediate consumption are deflated separately, using Producer Price Indices
 - d every sector's value added is deflated by both the CPI and the WPI
- Q2** The Wholesale Price Index, now on base 2022-23, is compiled and released by the:
- a National Statistical Office, MoSPI
 - b Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
 - c Reserve Bank of India
 - d Labour Bureau
- Q3** Consider these statements.
- I. The new CPI uses the calendar year 2024 as its base.
 - II. The new WPI and the new GDP series both use the financial year 2022-23 as their base.
 - III. The August 2026 CPI figure was the first monthly print on the new CPI base.
- a I and III only
 - b II and III only
 - c I, II and III
 - d I and II only

GDP, CPI and WPI on their new base years

Which base year each index now uses, who compiles it, and what the September figures said.



1 CPI · base 2024=100

Compiled by the NSO in MoSPI. It follows households.

2 WPI · base 2022-23

Compiled by the Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT. It follows bulk goods, without services.

3 GDP · base 2022-23

Compiled by the NSO in MoSPI. Real GDP grew 7.8 per cent in April to June 2026.

The CPI base is the calendar year 2024; the GDP and WPI bases are the financial year 2022-23.

4 14 September 2026 · the August readings

CPI inflation 4.82 per cent;
WPI inflation 9.92 per cent.

5 Andhra Pradesh: CPI inflation 5.53 per cent

Above the all-India 4.82.
Rural 5.88, urban 4.98.

Three words the story needs

A **base year** is the reference year for an index. In a price index, the base year is set at 100. For GDP, the prices of that year are used to measure real growth.

Nominal GDP counts output at this year's prices. **Real** GDP strips out the price change, using price indices, called deflators, for each item. **Double deflation** removes prices from output and from inputs separately, using Producer Price Indices.

What is the index level in a price index's base year?
The index is set at 100 in the base year, and later months are compared with it.

Which sector does double deflation apply to in the new GDP series?
It applies to manufacturing; the other sectors use single deflation or volume extrapolation.

Why were the bases changed, and why now?

An economy's shape changes over a decade. New goods arrive, old ones fade, and spending shifts. A base revision captures that change and brings in the latest data and methods.

The new CPI takes its weights from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24. Its basket grew from 299 items to 358, sorted into 12 divisions.

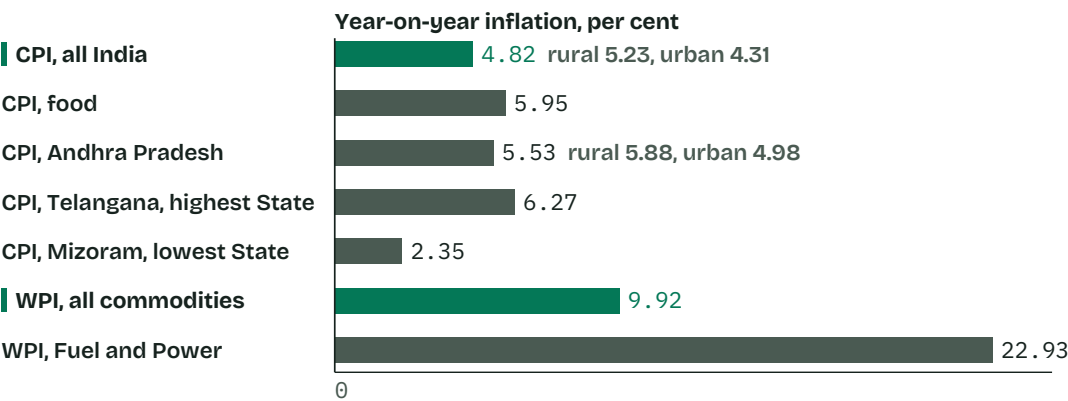
Why was 2022-23 chosen as the new GDP base?
It was a recent normal year after COVID, with good data across sectors.

Which survey supplies the weights of the new CPI?
The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24 supplies them.

The numbers, and what each one means

Compare the CPI bars with the two WPI bars: the wholesale basket reads higher.

Fig C1.3 August 2026 on one ruler: consumer prices against wholesale prices



Trap 6.27 per cent is Telangana's figure, not Andhra Pradesh's.

The WPI follows bulk goods and leaves out services, so its basket differs from the CPI's.

THE FIGURE	WHAT IT IS	THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS
5.53 per cent	Andhra Pradesh's CPI inflation in August 2026, with rural at 5.88 and urban at 4.98.	6.27 per cent, which was Telangana's figure, the highest among the States.

THE FIGURE	WHAT IT IS	THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS
7.8 per cent	Real GDP growth in April to June 2026, the first quarter of 2026-27.	6.9 per cent, the same quarter a year earlier, or 10.3 per cent, the nominal growth.
4.82 per cent	All-India CPI inflation in August 2026, the eighth print on the new base.	4.45 per cent, which was July's figure.

Where it sits: who counts what, and your own State

Two offices share this work. The National Statistical Office (NSO) in MoSPI compiles the CPI and the GDP estimates.

Andhra Pradesh's August CPI inflation was 5.53 per cent, above the all-India 4.82. Rural prices rose faster, at 5.88 per cent, than urban prices, at 4.98. Among the States, Telangana was highest at 6.27 per cent and Mizoram lowest at 2.35.

Why can WPI inflation run far above CPI inflation?

The WPI covers bulk goods at the wholesale level and leaves out services, so it measures a different basket.

In Andhra Pradesh, which rose faster in August, rural or urban prices?

Rural prices rose faster, at 5.88 per cent against 4.98 per cent in towns.

You can now answer these

✓ **Q1 · c, output and inputs deflated separately.** If you chose a single index for both, you were one step short. That is single deflation, the method of the old series.

✓ **Q2 · b, the Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT.** If you chose the NSO, you were one step short. It compiles the CPI and the GDP estimates, not the WPI.

✓ **Q3 · d, I and II only.** If you chose all three, statement III held you back. August was the eighth print; the first came on 12 February with January data.

ASKED BEFORE · APPSC GROUP 2 MAINS, NOTIFICATION 18/2016, HELD 2017, PAPER III, Q24

The CSO has changed the base year from 2004-05 to

- a 2011-12
- b 2012-13
- c 2014-15
- d 2013-14

The key is a. That was the earlier revision; the 2011-12 base it set up is the one replaced by 2022-23 on 27 February 2026.



CARRY THIS

GDP and the WPI now use the base 2022-23, and the CPI uses 2024=100.

Sources: MoSPI, Press Note on GDP Estimates for Q1 2026-27, 31 August 2026; PIB PRIDs 2233518, 2305422, 2305896 and 2306117 (GDP series); MoSPI, first CPI release on base 2024=100, 12 February 2026, and CPI FAQ (Annexure V); PIB PRID 2310058 (CPI, August 2026); PIB PRIDs 2272872 and 2309977 and the Office of the Economic Adviser press release for August 2026 (WPI); APPSC Group 2 Mains 2017 Paper III. Drawings: BLOOM, made for this issue.

C2 · SCHEMES · NATIONAL · 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

Green Energy Corridor Phase-III approved

Is PM-DHARA a new scheme? And do its lines run between States?



Can you answer these yet?

Try them now. The answers, and why each tempting option is one step short, close this unit.

- Q1** Green Energy Corridor Phase-III strengthens which part of the power network, and who is its overall implementing agency?
- | | |
|---|---|
| a Inter-State transmission, implemented by POWERGRID | b Intra-State transmission, implemented by the State Transmission Utilities |
| c Local distribution lines, implemented by the power distribution companies | d Inter-State transmission, implemented by the State Transmission Utilities |
- Q2** The Green Energy Corridor Phase-III scheme approved by the Union Cabinet on 30 September 2026 provides for evacuation of up to:
- | | |
|---|--|
| a 24 GW of renewable energy, with 50 GWh of battery storage | b 20 GW of renewable energy, with 50 GWh of battery storage |
| c 900 GW of renewable energy, with 135 GWh of battery storage | d 135 GW of renewable energy, with 50 GWh of battery storage |
- Q3** Consider these statements about Andhra Pradesh and the Green Energy Corridor.
- I. Andhra Pradesh was one of the eight States in Phase-I.
 - II. Andhra Pradesh was one of the seven States in Phase-II.
 - III. The Phase-III release of 30 September 2026 names Andhra Pradesh among the States that will receive funds.
- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| a I only | b I and II only |
| c I and III only | d I, II and III |

C2.1 · THE WHOLE STORY ON ONE PAGE

How Phase-III moves power from the farm to the grid and the battery

Where 135 GW and 50 GWh sit, who builds each part, and why Ladakh is a different scheme.

1 30 September 2026 · Phase-III approved
Green Energy Corridor Phase-III, announced at the Cabinet briefing as PM-DHARA.

2 Lines for up to 135 GW of renewable energy
Built inside States: State Transmission Utilities implement it, and bid-winning Transmission Service Providers build the new lines.

5 Not this scheme: the Ladakh line
It crosses State borders, and POWERGRID implements it.

3 Batteries for 50 GWh
Stored energy, at the generator end or wherever the grid needs flexibility.

4 Rs 1,86,405 crore in all
Rs 54,082 crore is the Centre's support. To be set up by 2032-33.

Three words the story needs

Evacuation of power means carrying it away from where it is made to where it is used. Transmission lines do this. **Intra-State** lines run inside one State. Inter-State lines cross State borders. Phase-III builds intra-State lines.

A **Battery Energy Storage System** stores electricity and releases it later. Its size is given in GWh, the amount of energy it holds. The 135 GW is the renewable capacity the lines can evacuate.

Does Phase-III build lines inside States or between them?

It builds lines inside States, the Intra-State Transmission System.

Why does the scheme add batteries to the lines?

To handle the rise and fall of solar and wind power and meet demand in the non-solar hours.

Why does renewable power need its own corridor?

Wind and solar farms stand where the wind and sun are. If the lines are not ready, the power made there cannot reach the grid. So the government wants the lines built ahead of new renewable projects.

The Centre's support offsets the intra-State transmission charges, which keeps power costs down. The release says the scheme will help reach 900 GW of installed non-fossil capacity by 2035.

What does the Centre's financial support in Phase-III pay for?

It offsets intra-State transmission charges, so power costs stay down.

Which national target does the Phase-III release name?

It names 900 GW of installed non-fossil capacity by 2035.

The numbers, and what each one means

THE FIGURE	WHAT IT IS	THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS
814 of 1,073	Circuit km of Phase-I lines built in Andhra Pradesh against its target, as on 31 July 2023.	7,872, which is the length Andhra Pradesh proposed for Phase-III.
135 GW	The renewable energy that Phase-III lines will be able to evacuate.	24 GW, which was Phase-I, or 900 GW, which is the national target for 2035.
50 GWh	The battery storage the scheme provides for, costed at Rs 50,000 crore.	135, the renewable energy in GW the lines will evacuate, not the storage.

Where it sits: the earlier phases, and your own State

The corridor began as Phase-I for eight renewable-rich States. Its funding was 40 per cent from MNRE, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, 40 per cent as a loan from KfW of Germany, and 20 per cent from the State utilities.

Which foreign lender funded part of Phase-I?

KfW of Germany gave 40 per cent of Phase-I as a loan.

How much green power did Andhra Pradesh propose to connect under Phase-III?

About 18 GW, of which 11 GW is solar and about 7 GW pumped storage.

Andhra Pradesh was in Phase-I and not in Phase-II. For Phase-III, it proposed lines and substations to connect about 18 GW, of which 11 GW is solar and about 7 GW pumped storage.

You can now answer these

✓ **Q1 · b, intra-State lines, through the State Transmission Utilities.** If you chose POWERGRID, you were one step short. POWERGRID runs the inter-State Ladakh line, a separate scheme.

✓ **Q2 · d, 135 GW, with 50 GWh of storage.** If you chose 900 GW, you had the national target for 2035. The scheme helps reach it, but its own lines will evacuate up to 135 GW.

✓ **Q3 · a, I only.** If you chose I and III, you were one step short. The release names no State, so Andhra Pradesh's share, if any, is not yet known.

ASKED BEFORE · APPSC GROUP 1 MAINS, NOTIFICATION 28/2022, HELD 2023, PAPER V, Q4(B), 10 MARKS

What is Green Energy ? Discuss about the Green Energy corridors and their need in India.

A descriptive question, so there is no key. A full answer defines green energy, explains the corridor as the lines that carry renewable power into the grid, and says why India needs it.

C



CARRY THIS

Green Energy Corridor Phase-III, approved on 30 September 2026, builds intra-State lines for up to 135 GW of renewable energy and 50 GWh of batteries. Its outlay is Rs 1,86,405 crore, with Rs 54,082 crore of central support, and the State Transmission Utilities implement it.

Sources: PIB, Cabinet release of 30 September 2026 (PRID 2316948; MNRE copy PRID 2316950); PIB PRID 1968732, 18 October 2023 (Ladakh inter-State scheme); MNRE pages on GEC Phase-I and Phase-II; Business Today and Business Standard, 30 September 2026; Power Peak Digest, 3 August 2026, reporting a Lok Sabha reply; APPSC Group 1 Mains 2023 Paper V. Drawings: BLOOM, made for this issue.

C3 · INFRASTRUCTURE · NATIONAL · 8 SEPTEMBER 2026

The Dedicated Freight Corridor network is complete

Does the finished network reach Andhra Pradesh's ports? And was the last track laid on 8 September?



Can you answer these yet?

Try them now. The answers, and why each tempting option is one step short, close this unit.

- Q1** The Eastern corridor's Ludhiana to DDU section and the whole Western Dedicated Freight Corridor are funded, respectively, by:
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| a the Asian Development Bank and JICA | b the World Bank and JICA |
| c JICA and the World Bank | d the World Bank and the New Development Bank |
- Q2** The Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor runs from Ludhiana to ____, and the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor from Dadri to ____.
- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| a Dankuni; JNPT | b Sonnagar; Mundra |
| c Sonnagar; JNPT | d Dankuni; Dadri |
- Q3** Consider these statements about the Dedicated Freight Corridors.
- They are designed for 25-tonne axle loads and 1,500-metre trains.
 - They are designed for up to 480 trains a day.
 - The 1,337 km Eastern corridor runs on to Dankuni in West Bengal.
- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| a I and II only | b I, II and III |
| c II and III only | d I and III only |

C3.1 · THE WHOLE STORY ON ONE PAGE

The freight corridor network, end to end

Where the two corridors run, who lent the money, when each was finished, and which proposals would reach Andhra Pradesh.

1 Eastern corridor · 1,337 km

Ludhiana to Sonnagar. The World Bank funds Ludhiana to DDU. Finished with the trial run of 11 October 2023.

2 Western corridor · 1,506 km

Dadri to JNPT. JICA funds all of it.

4 8 September 2026 · declared complete

Dedicated at Vadodara: three Western sections of 326 route km.

3 31 March 2026 · the last stretch is finished

JNPT to Vaitarna, the last 102 km.

5 PENDING Andhra Pradesh: still proposals

East Coast, Kharagpur to Vijayawada, and North-South, Vijayawada through Nagpur to Itarsi: DPR prepared, approval awaited.

Three words the story needs

A **dedicated freight corridor** is a railway line built only for goods trains. The Prime Minister's point was that separating passenger and freight traffic lets over 430 goods trains run every day.

The corridors are designed for 25-tonne **axle loads** and trains 1,500 metres long. A **double-stack** train carries containers stacked two high, and the Western corridor supports such trains.

Who builds the Dedicated Freight Corridors?
The DFCCIL builds them, a Ministry of Railways enterprise set up in 2006.

What axle load are the corridors designed for?
They are designed for 25-tonne axle loads and trains 1,500 metres long.

Why did India need separate tracks for goods?

Rail's share of freight fell from about 88 per cent in 1950 to about 26 per cent in 2021-22, according to DFCCIL. Roads now carry nearly 40 per cent of freight on about 0.5 per cent of the network.

The reason is crowding. The Golden Quadrilateral and its two diagonals are Indian Railways' main trunk routes. Together they are 16 per cent of the rail network.

What was rail's share of freight in 2021-22, according to DFCCIL?
It was about 26 per cent, down from about 88 per cent in 1950.

Why could goods trains not simply use the old lines?
The busiest lines already carried more than their capacity, shared with passenger trains.

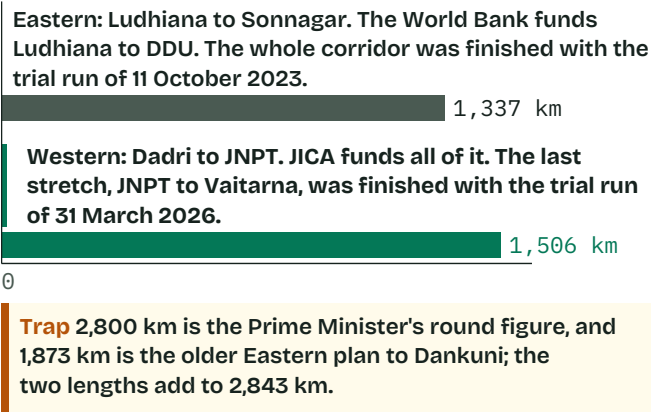


The numbers, and what each one means

Compare the two bars, then read the lender and the finishing date in each name.

JICA's loan for the Western corridor is about 645 billion yen.

Fig C3.4 **The Western corridor is longer, JICA-funded and finished last**



THE FIGURE	WHAT IT IS	THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS
2,843 km	The two corridors together: 1,337 km Eastern plus 1,506 km Western.	2,800 km, the Prime Minister's round figure, or 1,873 km, the older Eastern plan to Dankuni.
1,337 km	The Eastern corridor from Ludhiana in Punjab to Sonnagar in Bihar.	1,506 km, which is the Western corridor from Dadri to JNPT.

THE FIGURE	WHAT IT IS	THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS
326 route km	The three Western sections dedicated on 8 September 2026, built at more than Rs 20,700 crore.	More than Rs 35,000 crore, the value of all the projects launched that day.

Your own State, and where the corridors run

No Dedicated Freight Corridor line runs in Andhra Pradesh today. Two proposed corridors would enter the State. The East Coast corridor would run from Kharagpur to Vijayawada, mostly parallel to the existing coastal railway line.

The Eastern corridor starts in Punjab and ends in Bihar, and the Western starts in Uttar Pradesh and ends at JNPT in Mumbai.

Which proposed freight corridor would run mostly parallel to the Kharagpur-Vijayawada coastal line?

The East Coast corridor from Kharagpur to Vijayawada would; it is still awaiting approval.

Does the East-West corridor from Dankuni to Surat pass through Andhra Pradesh?

It does not; the corridors that would enter Andhra Pradesh are the East Coast and North-South.

You can now answer these

✓ **Q1 · b, the World Bank and JICA.** If you said c, you had both lenders but in the wrong order. JICA funds the Western corridor, and the World Bank funds the Eastern section from Ludhiana to DDU.

✓ **Q2 · c, Sonnagar; JNPT.** If you said Dankuni, you had the older plan for the Eastern corridor. The 1,337 km corridor ends at Sonnagar in Bihar.

✓ **Q3 · a, I and II only.** If you kept statement III, you were one step short: the stretch from Sonnagar to Dankuni is not part of the 1,337 km corridor.

ASKED BEFORE · APPSC GROUP 2 SCREENING TEST, NOTIFICATION 11/2023, HELD 2024, Q58

Bilaspur is the headquarters of which of the following Railway zones?

- a South Eastern
- b East Coastal
- c East Central
- d South East Central

The key is d. No APPSC paper, and no UPSC paper since 2013, in our question banks asks about the Dedicated Freight Corridors. This is the nearest railway question, on zones and their headquarters.



CARRY THIS

The Dedicated Freight Corridor network, 1,337 km Eastern from Ludhiana to Sonnagar and 1,506 km Western from Dadri to JNPT, was declared complete at Vadodara on 8 September 2026.

Sources: PIB PRID 2307800 and 2307919, 8 September 2026; PMO curtain-raiser on pmindia.gov.in; DFCCIL overview, milestones and funding pages; PIB PRID 2217341, 22 January 2026; Railway Gazette, 3 February 2026; Business Standard; Business Today; APPSC Group 2 Screening 2024 paper.

BRIEFS • ECONOMY AND SCHEMES

C4 • WATER AND FARMING • NATIONAL • 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

Rabi MSP 2027-28: safflower rises most

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved Minimum Support Prices for **six** Rabi crops.

Safflower's rise of **Rs 675** a quintal, to Rs 7,215, tops the six crops.

Wheat gets the smallest rise, **Rs 25**, to Rs 2,610 a quintal.

Wheat has the highest margin over cost, at **106 per cent**.

MSP is fixed at least **1.5 times** the all-India weighted average cost.

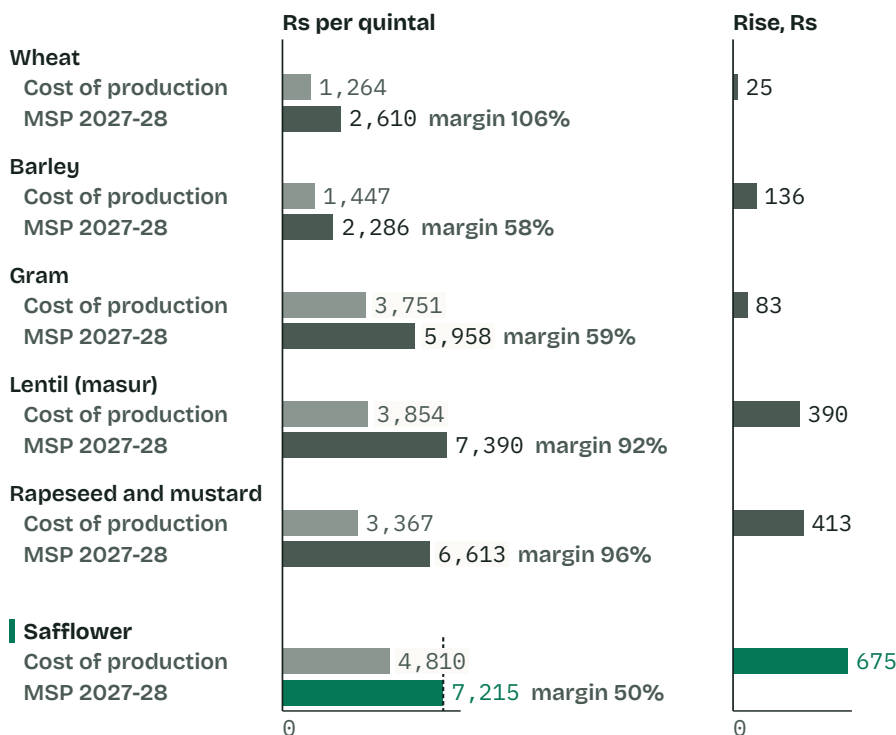


50 per cent Safflower's margin over cost, the lowest in the table, since 1.5 times Rs 4,810 is Rs 7,215; wheat's 106 per cent is the highest.

Rs 413 The rise for rapeseed and mustard, the second largest; it is offered as the largest, which is safflower's Rs 675.

Compare each grey cost bar with its MSP bar; safflower sits exactly on the 1.5 times mark.

Fig C4.1 **Safflower rises most, wheat has the widest margin**



Margin is over the all-India weighted average cost, with family labour counted. Rise is on last season's MSP.

Q1 Under the Rabi MSP for Marketing Season 2027-28, the MSP of wheat per quintal is:

- a Rs 2,585
- b Rs 2,610
- c Rs 2,286
- d Rs 2,675

Q1 • b. Wheat rises Rs 25 to Rs 2,610. Rs 2,585 tempts because it is a real figure, but it is the previous season's MSP.

Sources: PIB, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, 30 September 2026 (PRID 2316941); PIB, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (PRID 2316956).

C5 · INFRASTRUCTURE · NATIONAL · 9 SEPTEMBER 2026

Eight rail projects include Arakkonam-Renigunta lines

The 77 km **Arakkonam-Renigunta** line links Tamil Nadu with Andhra Pradesh. It runs on the **Chennai-Tirupati** route, through Tirupati and Chittoor districts.

The eight projects cost **Rs 20,804 crore** and add about 1,196 km.

PIB issued them as **two releases**: five southern and three eastern projects.

All eight are to be completed by **2029-30**.



Rs 10,021 crore The cost of the five southern projects together, not of Arakkonam-Renigunta alone; Rs 10,783 crore is the eastern batch.

540 km The length the five southern projects add; the three eastern projects add about 656 km.

Compare the two columns: the lines there before, the lines added and the lines after.

Fig C5.1 **Doubling adds a second line; this project adds a third and fourth**

	Doubling	Third and fourth line
Lines before	One	Two
Lines added	A second	A third and a fourth
Lines after	Two	Four
In this batch	Hosur-Omalur; Salem-Karur-Dindigul	Arakkonam-Renigunta; Whitefield-Bangarapet

Trap Hosur-Omalur and Salem-Karur-Dindigul are doubling projects, not third and fourth lines.

Arakkonam-Renigunta has two lines today, so the new pair makes four.

- Q1 Among the railway projects approved by the Cabinet on 9 September 2026, the third and fourth line between Arakkonam and Renigunta, which touches Andhra Pradesh, is how long?
- a 47 km

b 77 km

c 147 km

d 159 km

Q1 · b. PIB lists Arakkonam-Renigunta at 77 km. The 47 km option tempts because it is also a third and fourth line, but it is Whitefield-Bangarapet.

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Railways, 9 September 2026 (PRID 2308264 and 2308258); Deccan Chronicle, September 2026.

C6 · RPT · INTERNATIONAL · 29 SEPTEMBER 2026

Global Innovation Index 2026: India 38th

The World Intellectual Property Organization publishes the Global Innovation Index.

India ranks 38th of 139 economies, the same rank as in 2025.

India is 49th in inputs but 25th in outputs.

India and Viet Nam are innovation overperformers for a 16th consecutive year.

India is first in the world in ICT services exports.



38th India's overall rank in 2026, unchanged from 2025; a tempting wrong figure is 39th, which was India's rank in 2024.

49th and 25th India's ranks in innovation inputs and in innovation outputs; a question often offers the pair reversed, as 25th and 49th.

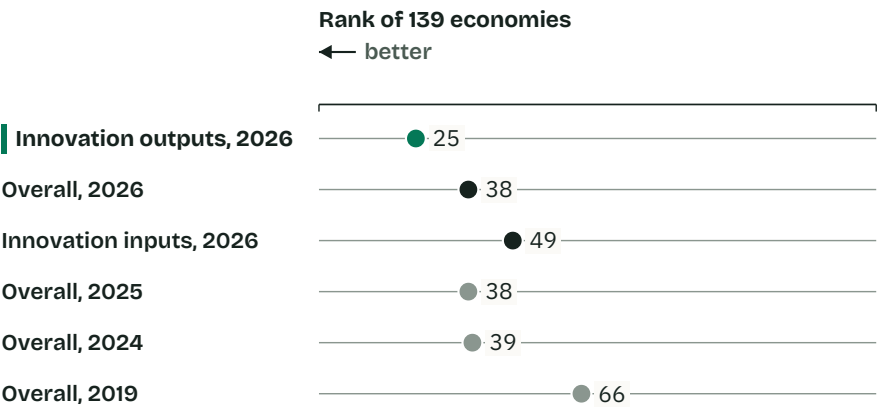
GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2026, WIPO · RANKS OF 139

Top 3	India	Bottom 3
1st Switzerland	38th India	137th DR Congo
2nd Sweden		138th Niger
3rd United States		139th Chad

Compare the dots for inputs and outputs: India ranks higher on what it produces than on what it puts in.

Ranks are out of 139 economies. The 2025, 2024 and 2019 ranks are as reported.

Fig C6.1 India is 49th in innovation inputs but 25th in outputs



Trap A question may offer the pair reversed: 25th for inputs and 49th for outputs.

- Q1 In the WIPO Global Innovation Index 2026, India's overall rank is:
- a 39th

b 49th

c 38th

d 25th

Q1 · c. India ranks 38th, the same as in 2025. The 39th option tempts because it is a real rank, but it was India's rank in 2024.

Sources: WIPO, Global Innovation Index 2026 results and press release PR/2026/959, 29 September 2026; News on AIR, 27 September 2024 and 30 January 2026.

C7 · RPT · INTERNATIONAL · 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

Global Gender Gap 2026: India 131st

The World Economic Forum publishes the Global Gender Gap Report, first issued in 2006.

India ranks 131st of 145 economies, with 64.5 per cent of its gap closed.

India's best rank is in Political Empowerment, at 67th.

India's Educational Attainment score is 96.6 per cent, yet its rank is 112th.

Iceland is first for the 17th consecutive year, at 93 per cent.



64.5 per cent The share of India's gender gap that is closed in 2026; a tempting wrong figure is 69.2 per cent, which is the global figure.

143rd India's rank in Economic Participation and Opportunity, and also Pakistan's overall rank; a question may offer it as India's overall rank, which is 131st.

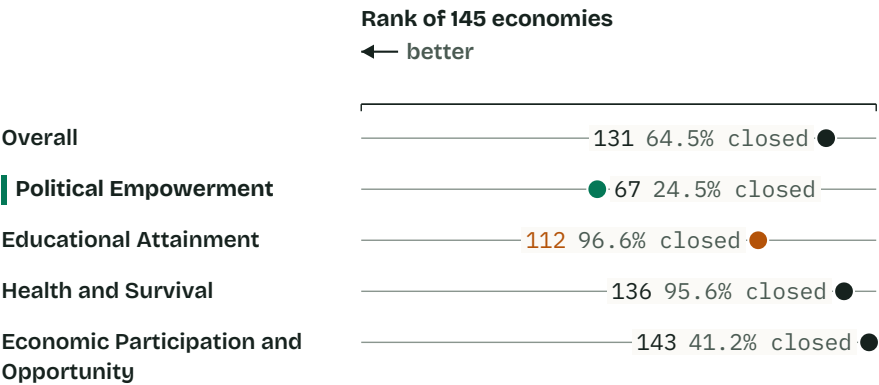
GLOBAL GENDER GAP INDEX 2026, WEF · RANKS OF 145

Top 3	India	Bottom 3
1st Iceland	131st India	143rd Pakistan
2nd Finland		144th Iran
3rd Norway		145th Chad

Find the dot nearest the left: Political Empowerment at 67th, where the score is 24.5%.

Each dot is a rank out of 145 economies; the share of the gap closed sits beside it.

Fig C7.1 India's best rank is Political Empowerment, 67th of 145



Trap A score of 96.6% still ranks 112th; India's best rank is 67th.

- Q1 In the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2026, India's overall rank among 145 economies is:
- a 143rd

b 129th

c 131st

d 67th

Q1 · c. India retains the 131st position. The 143rd option tempts because it is a real India figure, but it is India's rank in Economic Participation and Opportunity.

Sources: World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2026, 16 September 2026 (Tables 1.1, 1.3 and 1.4); PTI (Business Standard), 16 September 2026.

ONE-QUESTION NEWS · ECONOMY AND SCHEMES

C-L1 to C-L11, each a question with its facts in the answer

Read down the dates: each one carries the number of its line.

Fig C-STRIP-2 **The last five economy lines, by date**

24 Sep	C-L5	Edible oil duties cut ●
25 Sep	C-L4	Second-half borrowing announced ●
28 Sep	C-L6	Index of Industrial Production, August ●
29 Sep	C-L2	RBI committee on Ways and Means Advances reports ●
30 Sep	C-L11	RoSCTL extended ●

The RBI committee report of 29 September is a recommendation, not an order.

C-L1 PRIP, the Rs 5,000 crore scheme for research and innovation in pharma and MedTech, is run by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the:

- a Ministry of Health and Family Welfare b Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
c Ministry of Science and Technology d Ministry of Commerce and Industry

C

- b. PRIP is run by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. The Ministry of Health tempts because the scheme is about medicines, but the department sits in another ministry.

PRIP is run by the Department of **Pharmaceuticals**, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

Of the 41 projects, 27 are in New Medicines.

The first call approved 41 projects with about Rs 1,600 crore of assistance.

The new **Discovery** track gives startups and MSMEs up to Rs 50 crore.

Rs 1,600 crore The Government assistance approved for the 41 first-call projects; a tempting wrong figure is Rs 4,620 crore, the total once Rs 3,020 crore of private investment is added. · **Rs 50 crore** The Discovery track cap per company, project or portfolio of projects; Rs 100 crore is the Later Stage cap and Rs 5 crore the Early Stage cap.

C-L2 An RBI advisory committee on Ways and Means Advances to State Governments, chaired by I S N Prasad, reported on 29 September 2026. Its recommendations are:

- a Already in force as RBI directions
b Recommendations that the Reserve Bank shall examine, not yet an RBI order
c Binding on States as a Finance Commission award
d An amendment to the FRBM Act

- b. They are recommendations that the Reserve Bank shall examine, not yet an RBI order.

The Advisory Committee on Ways and Means Advances to State Governments reported on 29 September 2026.

The Reserve Bank's press release says it shall examine the recommendations, so they are not yet an order.

I S N Prasad chaired the committee.

The tempting option, already in force as RBI directions, skips the step where the Reserve Bank decides.

29 September 2026 date the committee submitted its report · **Rs 67,839 crore** proposed aggregate limit for all States · **11.2 per cent** proposed rise over Rs 61,008 crore

C-L3 In September 2026 Japan Credit Rating Agency upgraded India's sovereign issuer rating from BBB+ to which level?

- a A- b A
c BBB d AA-

a. JCR upgraded India's sovereign issuer rating from BBB+ to A-, with a Stable outlook.

Japan Credit Rating Agency upgraded India by one notch in September 2026.

The outlook stayed Stable.

India's long-term foreign-currency and local-currency issuer ratings moved from BBB+ to A-.

The tempting option, A, is India's new country ceiling, a separate grade.

A- India's new issuer rating from JCR · A India's new country ceiling · 4.4 per cent Central fiscal deficit in FY26

C-L4 The Centre's market borrowing for the second half of 2026-27, announced on 25 September 2026, is how much, including Rs 15,000 crore of Sovereign Green Bonds?

- a Rs 5,86,000 crore b Rs 15,99,506 crore
c Rs 6,86,000 crore d Rs 7,86,000 crore

d. The Centre will borrow Rs 7,86,000 crore in the second half of 2026-27.

The Government decided the plan with the Reserve Bank on 25 September 2026.

That includes Rs 15,000 crore of Sovereign Green Bonds.

It will borrow Rs 7,86,000 crore in the second half of 2026-27.

The tempting Rs 15,99,506 crore is the full-year dated securities figure, not the half-year one.

Rs 7,86,000 crore borrowing in the second half of 2026-27 · Rs 15,000 crore Sovereign Green Bonds within it · Rs 15,99,506 crore expected full-year dated securities borrowing

C-L5 In September 2026 the Centre cut basic customs duty on which crude edible oil to nil?

- a Palm oil b Soybean oil
c Sunflower oil d Groundnut oil

c. Basic customs duty on crude sunflower oil was cut from 10 per cent to nil.

The Government cut customs duty on crude edible oils on 24 September 2026.

Crude soybean oil and crude palm oil went from 10 per cent to 5 per cent.

Crude sunflower oil went from 10 per cent to nil.

The tempting palm oil option was cut too, but only to 5 per cent.

nil new duty on crude sunflower oil · 5 per cent new duty on crude soybean and palm oil · 19.25 per cent duty gap between crude and refined oils

C-L6 India's Index of Industrial Production grew by how much in August 2026, by the Quick Estimate?

- a 4.8 per cent b 8.0 per cent
c 6.7 per cent d 9.0 per cent

b. The Index of Industrial Production grew 8.0 per cent in August 2026, by the Quick Estimate.

The Quick Estimate for August 2026 was released on 28 September.

Manufacturing grew 9.0 per cent, while mining fell 5.6 per cent.

Industrial output grew 8.0 per cent, against 6.7 per cent in July.

The tempting 4.8 per cent is the Index of Core Industries, a separate series.

8.0 per cent industrial production growth, August 2026 · 4.8 per cent core industries growth, August 2026 · US\$ 82.68 billion estimated total exports, August 2026

C-L7 DILRMP 3.0 assigns each land parcel a 14-digit identifier called what?

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|---------------------|
| a | Land Stack Code | b | Bhu-Aadhaar (ULPIN) |
| c | Khasra ID | d | Survey PIN |

b. Each land parcel gets Bhu-Aadhaar (ULPIN), a 14-digit unique identifier.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the DILRMP 3.0 guidelines on 10 September 2026.

Bhu-Aadhaar, or ULPIN, gives each land parcel a 14-digit number.

The scheme has an outlay of Rs 565.50 crore for 2026-2031, fully funded by the Centre.

The tempting Land Stack is the GIS-enabled platform, not the parcel's number.

Rs 565.50 crore outlay for 2026-2031 · 14-digit length of the Bhu-Aadhaar parcel number · 75 Sub-Registrar Offices to become Seva Kendras

C-L8 Ahmedabad became which airport to join India's international Hub and Spoke framework on 1 September 2026?

- a First b Second
c Third d Fifth

c. Ahmedabad became the third airport in the Hub and Spoke framework, after Varanasi and Amritsar.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched the Ahmedabad operations on 1 September 2026.

Varanasi joined first, on 25 June 2026.

Delhi is the hub airport of the framework.

The tempting second place belongs to Amritsar, which joined on 28 July 2026.

third Ahmedabad's place in the framework · **22** destinations linked by flight AI 1117 · **2047** target year to be a leading global hub

C-L9 Which declaration was adopted at the close of the Dryland Congress 2026 in New Delhi?

- a Delhi Declaration on Drylands b Gandhinagar Declaration
c Riyadh Drylands Compact d Nairobi Declaration

a. The Dryland Congress 2026 adopted the Delhi Declaration on Drylands, called 3D.

The Dryland Congress 2026 met in New Delhi from 10 to 12 September.

It closed with the Delhi Declaration on Drylands, endorsed at the closing plenary.

Its theme was Transforming Dryland Agriculture with South-South Cooperation.

The last day fell on the UN Day for South-South Cooperation, 12 September.

10 to 12 September 2026 dates of the Dryland Congress · 3D short name of the Delhi Declaration on Drylands

C-L10 How many beneficiaries had registered under PM Vishwakarma at its third anniversary in September 2026?

- a 18 lakh b 24.5 lakh
c 30 lakh d 50 lakh

c. 30 lakh beneficiaries had registered under PM Vishwakarma, meeting its target.

PM Vishwakarma was launched on 17 September 2023 for artisans in 18 trades.

The tempting 24.5 lakh is the number given Basic Skill Training, not the number registered.

By its third anniversary, 30 lakh beneficiaries had registered after three-stage verification.

About 6.18 lakh artisans got loans of up to Rs 1 lakh at 5 per cent a year.

30 lakh beneficiaries registered · 24.50 lakh artisans given Basic Skill Training · Rs 5,297 crore value of loans to 6.18 lakh artisans

C-L11 The RoSCTL scheme, extended in September 2026 up to 31 December 2026, applies to exports of which products?

- a Apparel/garments and made-ups
- b Gems and jewellery
- c Marine products
- d Engineering goods

a. RoSCTL applies to exports of apparel/garments and made-ups.

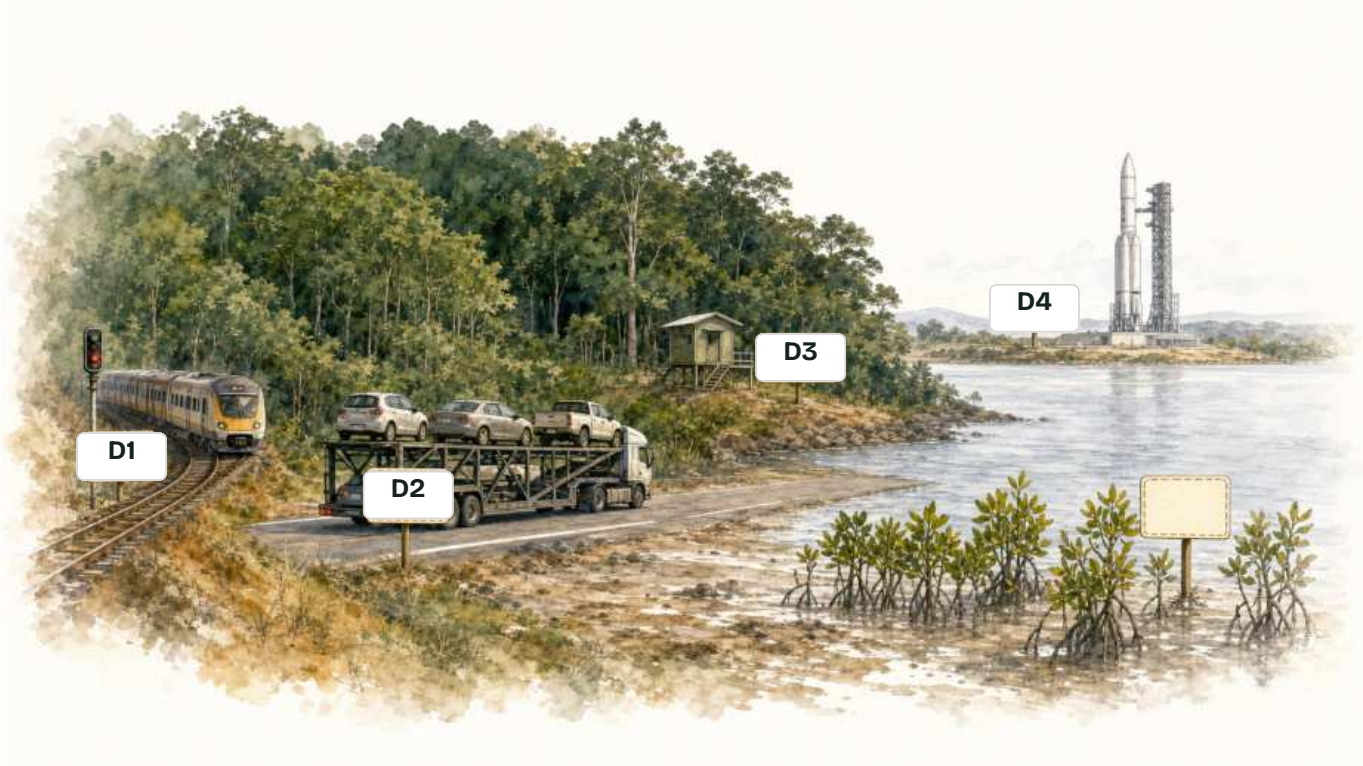
The Ministry of Textiles extended RoSCTL on 30 September 2026.

RoSCTL stands for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies.

The extension runs from 1 October to 31 December 2026, at existing rates.

It has been operational since 7 March 2019.

31.12.2026 end of the three-month extension · 07.03.2019 scheme operational from · 15,400 exporters benefited in 2025-26



SECTION D

D

Science, Technology, Environment and Health

- D1

First Kavach 4.0 on South Central Railway
- D2

CAFE-3 fuel norms for cars notified
- D3

Sixth tiger reserve evaluation covers all 58
- D4

GSLV-F17 lifts EOS-05 from Sriharikota
- D5

80 lakh HPV doses; Ayushman at eight
- One-question news, D-L1 to D-L11

BRIEFS · SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

D1 · INFRASTRUCTURE · NATIONAL · 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

First Kavach 4.0 on South Central Railway

The **Malkajgiri-Kamareddi** section of Hyderabad Division, in Telangana, got Kavach 4.0.

It was an **upgrade** from Version 3.2, not the zone's first Kavach.

Kavach applies the **brakes** automatically if the loco pilot fails to.

It helps prevent **Signal Passing at Danger** (SPAD).

RDSO approved the Version 4.0 specification on **16 July 2024**.



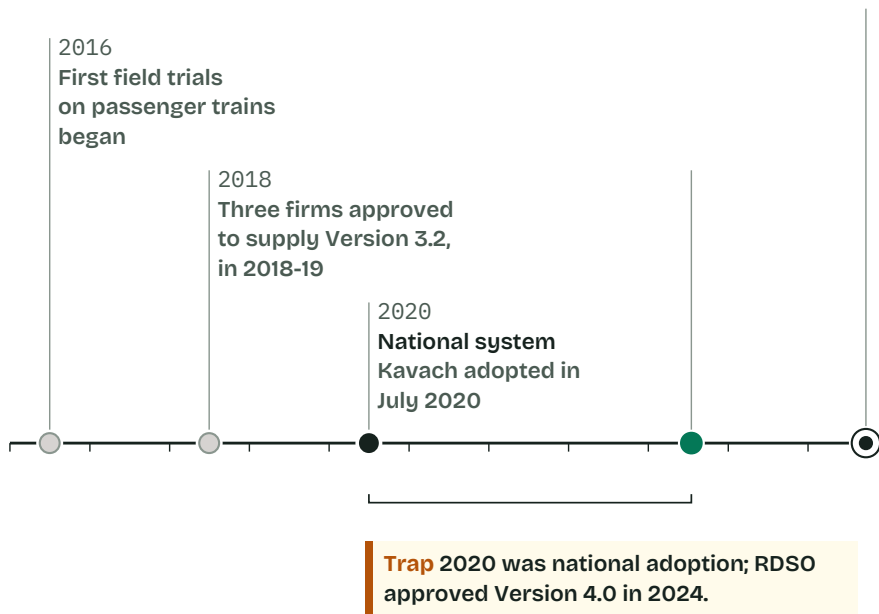
108 route km The length upgraded to Version 4.0; 1,465 route km is the Version 3.2 coverage already on the zone.

July 2020 When Kavach was adopted as the National ATP system; 2024 is the year of the Version 4.0 specification.

Find July 2024 on the line: RDSO approved the Version 4.0 specification then, four years after national adoption.

Version 3.2 already ran on 1,465 route km of South Central Railway before this upgrade.

Fig D1.1 **Kavach: national in 2020, Version 4.0 specified in 2024**



Q1 Kavach, the automatic train protection system of Indian Railways, carries safety certification at which level?

- a SIL-2
- b SIL-3
- c SIL-4
- d SIL-1

Q1 · c. PIB says Kavach needs SIL-4, the highest order of safety certification.

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Railways, 23 September 2026 (PRID 2313758); PIB, 27 November 2024 (PRID 2078090) and 30 January 2026 (PRID 2221011).

D

D2 · ENVIRONMENT · NATIONAL · 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

CAFE-3 fuel norms for cars notified

The **Ministry of Power** notified CAFE-3 for new passenger vehicles.

The norms apply from **1 April 2027** to 31 March 2032.

The benchmark falls to **3.3273 litres** per 100 km by 2031-32.

The target is a **fleet average** for each maker, not each model.

The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** runs the credit buyout for makers.



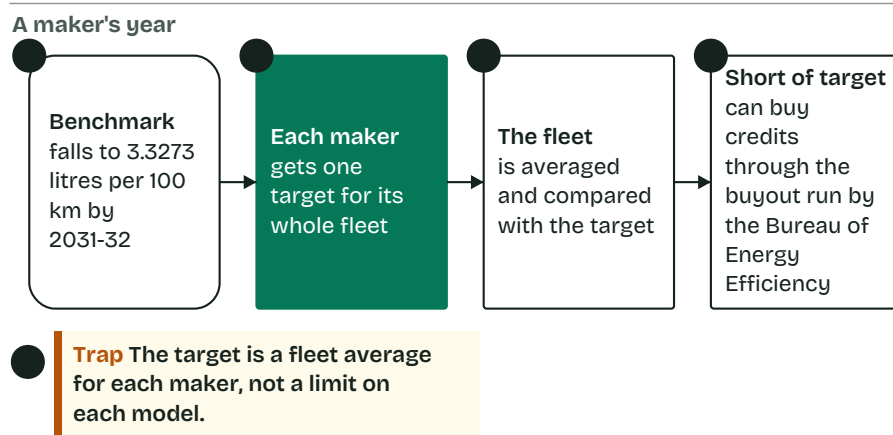
16.7 per cent The improvement from 3.996 to 3.3273 litres per 100 km; 13.6 per cent is the rise in reference weight.

1,229 kg The CAFE-3 reference weight, up from 1,082 kg under CAFE-2; there is no separate concession for small cars.

The norms run from 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2032; figures as reported.

Follow the four boxes: the target is set for the whole fleet, then the fleet is averaged against it.

Fig D2.1 **A fleet average, not a limit on each model**



Q1 The Corporate Average Fuel Economy norms for passenger vehicles in force from 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2032 were notified by the:

- a Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- b Ministry of Power
- c Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- d Ministry of Heavy Industries

Q1 · b. The Ministry of Power notified the norms.

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Power, 30 September 2026 (PRID 2316792); Gazette S.O. 1072(E), 23 April 2015; Business Standard, 30 September 2026.

D3 · ENVIRONMENT · NATIONAL · 25 SEPTEMBER 2026

Sixth tiger reserve evaluation covers all 58

Andhra Pradesh's Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam reserve scored 82.58 per cent, Very Good, in 2022.

The sixth cycle covers all 58 tiger reserves; 51 were evaluated in 2022.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) runs it with the Wildlife Institute of India.

The framework is adapted from the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

A new criterion checks **solid waste** from outposts, tourism and rescue centres.



78.01 per cent The mean score of the 2022 cycle across 51 reserves; Periyar topped it at 94.38 per cent.

75 to 89 The per cent band for Very Good; Excellent starts at 90, and Good runs from 60 to 74.

2022 cycle, 51 reserves. The reserve next to it in Telangana is Amrabad, not Kawal.

Find the ring in the emerald Very Good step; the grey dot just below it is the cycle mean.

Fig D3.1 **Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam scored 82.58 per cent, in the Very Good band**

Management score, per cent

↑ higher is up



Trap 82.58 is Very Good, not Excellent: Excellent starts at 90.

Q1 In the 2022 Management Effectiveness Evaluation, Andhra Pradesh's Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve scored 82.58 per cent, which is in the category:

- a Excellent
- b Very Good
- c Good
- d Fair

Q1 · b. The Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve's 82.58 per cent sits in the 75 to 89 per cent band, which is Very Good.

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 25 September 2026 (PRID 2314795) and 29 July 2023 (PRID 1943923); NTCA MEE 2022 summary report; WII MEE portal.

D4 · SCIENCE · NATIONAL · 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

GSLV-F17 lifts EOS-05 from Sriharikota

EOS-05 lifted off from the Second Launch Pad at **Sriharikota**, Andhra Pradesh.

ISRO calls it India's first imaging satellite from **geosynchronous** orbit.

GSLV-F17 was the **19th** flight of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

Its third stage, **CUS15**, is an indigenous cryogenic stage using liquid hydrogen and oxygen.

Three burns raised EOS-05 toward its slot at **85.5 degrees East**.

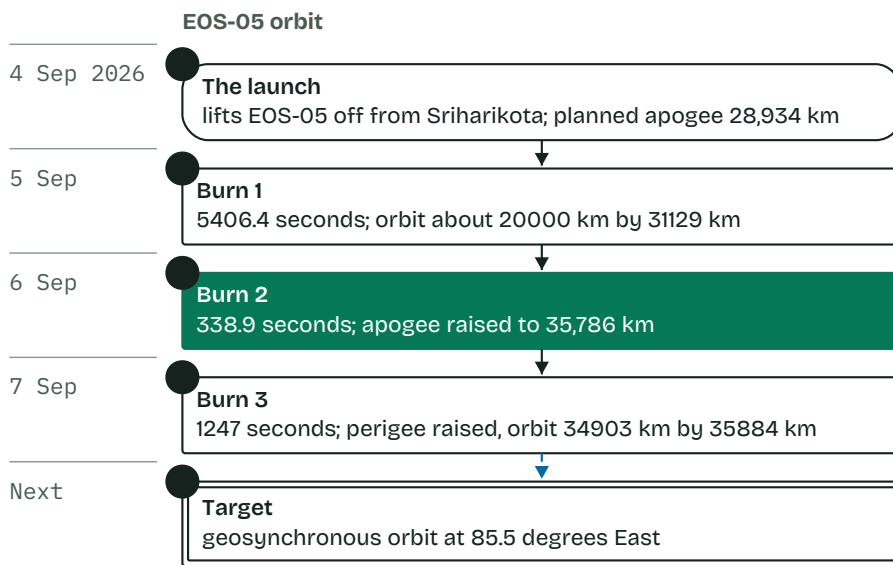


about 2367 kg The payload mass of EOS-05 in ISRO's brochure; a tempting wrong figure is 2,637 kg, the same digits in a different order.

35,786 km The apogee reached after the second burn on 6 September, the height of a geosynchronous orbit; a tempting wrong figure is 28,934 km, the nominal apogee of the transfer orbit at launch.

Follow the dates down the page: the second burn raised the apogee, the third raised the perigee.

Fig D4.1 **Three burns, one a day, raise EOS-05 toward its slot**



Orbit figures are ISRO's estimates after each burn. The last box is the target slot.

Trap 35,786 km is the apogee after burn 2; 28,934 km was only the planned launch apogee.

Q1 EOS-05, launched by GSLV-F17 on 4 September 2026, is described by ISRO as India's first ever imaging satellite from:

- a Sun-synchronous orbit
- b Geosynchronous orbit
- c Low Earth orbit
- d Polar orbit

Q1 · b. ISRO calls EOS-05 India's first ever imaging satellite from geosynchronous orbit.

Sources: ISRO, GSLV-F17/EOS-05 mission page, mission brochure (31 August 2026) and orbit manoeuvre updates of 5, 6 and 7 September 2026; The Tribune, 4 September 2026.

D5 · HEALTH · NATIONAL · 11 TO 25 SEPTEMBER 2026

80 lakh HPV doses; Ayushman at eight

PIB places **Andhra Pradesh** among States above 90 per cent of the HPV cohort.

Over **80 lakh** human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine doses were given by 11 September 2026.

Fourteen-year-old girls get a free single dose of **Gardasil-4**.

PM-JAY, launched on 23 September 2018, gives **Rs 5 lakh** yearly cover.

Aarogya Manthan 2026 also marked five years of the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**.



1.2 crore The yearly cohort of 14-year-old girls the campaign serves; a tempting wrong figure is 1.2 lakh, the new cervical cancer cases in India each year.

60 crore The beneficiaries with access to Ayushman Bharat's Rs 5 lakh cover; a tempting wrong figure is 13 crore, the hospital admissions PM-JAY has facilitated.

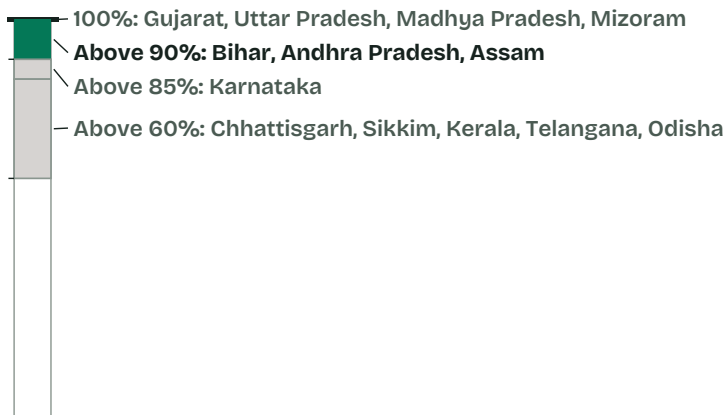
Find Andhra Pradesh in the second band from the top.

Bands are as PIB reports them, for each State's target group of girls.

Fig D5.1 **Andhra Pradesh is above 90 per cent in the HPV campaign**

HPV coverage of the target group, per cent

↑ higher is up



Q1 Under the National HPV Vaccination Campaign launched on 28 February 2026, the free vaccination is given to:

- a Girls aged 9 to 14, as two doses of Gardasil-9
- b 14-year-old girls, as a single dose of Gardasil-4
- c Boys and girls aged 14, as a single dose
- d All women aged 15 to 45, as three doses

Q1 · b. The campaign gives 14-year-old girls a free single dose of Gardasil-4.

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 28 February, 11 and 25 September 2026 (PRID 2233906, 2309109, 2314839); PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 23 September 2026 (PRID 2313742); PIB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 22 September 2018 (PRID 1546948).

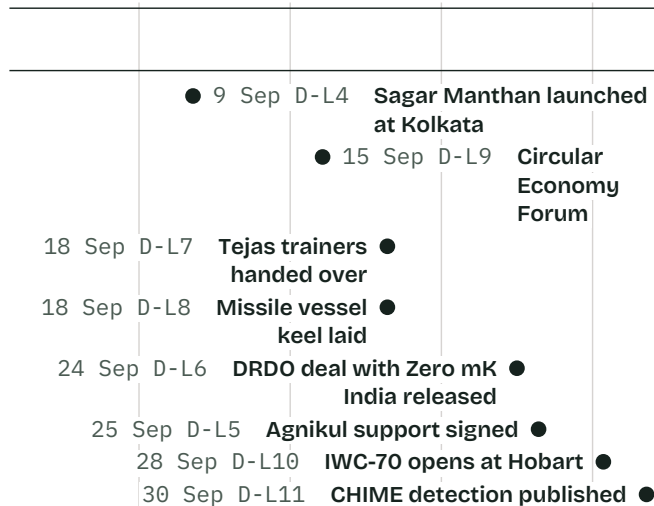
D

ONE-QUESTION NEWS · SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

D-L1 to D-L11, each a question with its facts in the answer

Read down the dates: each one carries the number of its line.

Fig D-STRIP **The eight science lines, by date**



Two things happened on 18 September: the aircraft handover and the keel laying.

D-L1 Under the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020, Acceptance of Necessity for acquisition cases above Rs 500 crore is accorded by the:

- a Cabinet Committee on Security b Defence Procurement Board
c Defence Acquisition Council d Finance Minister
- c. The Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by the Raksha Mantri, accords Acceptance of Necessity above Rs 500 crore. The Defence Procurement Board tempts because it also accords it, but only for cases above Rs 300 crore and up to Rs 500 crore.

On 7 September the **Defence Acquisition Council** approved proposals of about Rs 1,10,000 crore.

About **98 per cent** of the procurements will come from Indian industry.

That **Acceptance of Necessity** is an in-principle approval, not a contract.

RAKSHA, released on 3 September, maps defence partnerships for the next ten years.

Rs 500 crore Above this cost the Defence Acquisition Council accords Acceptance of Necessity; a tempting wrong figure is Rs 3,000 crore, beyond which the Cabinet Committee on Security gives the final sanction. · **six months** How long Acceptance of Necessity stays valid under the Buy categories; a tempting wrong figure is one year, which applies to Buy and Make (Indian) and turnkey projects.

D-L2 The Union Cabinet approved Semicon 2.0 on 15 July 2026 with a total budget outlay of:

- a Rs 1 lakh crore b Rs 1.64 lakh crore
c Rs 4,600 crore d Rs 1,27,500 crore
- d. The outlay is Rs 1,27,500 crore. Rs 1 lakh crore tempts because it is a real figure, but it is the investment commitments received from industry.

The Andhra Pradesh unit, **ASIP**, has a technology tie-up with South Korea's APACT.

Semicon 2.0 has an approved outlay of **Rs 1,27,500 crore**.

The Prime Minister laid a chip plant's foundation stone at **Visakhapatnam** on 1 August.

Twelve manufacturing units were approved under the Mission's first phase.

96 million The units ASIP's Andhra Pradesh plant can make in a year; a tempting wrong figure is 158.38 million, the yearly capacity of the CDIL unit in Mohali. · **five** The commercial packaging units working on 17 September, after lines opened at Mohali and Surat; a tempting wrong figure is three, the count in July.

D-L3 On the Survey of India's re-verified figures, reported by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in Parliament on 4 December 2025, the length of Andhra Pradesh's coastline is:

- a 974 km b 1,053.07 km
c 973.7 km d 1,027 km

b. Andhra Pradesh's re-verified coastline is 1,053.07 km. The 974 km option tempts because it is printed in the AP Statistical Abstract 2023, but it is the older figure that the revision replaced.

Andhra Pradesh is one of the **nine** coastal States the mission covers.

National Coastal Mission 2.0 has an outlay of **Rs 767 crore** until 2030-31.

Andhra Pradesh's re-verified coastline is **1,053.07 km**, third after Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

It is a **Central Sector** Scheme, funded wholly by the Environment Ministry.

1,053.07 km Andhra Pradesh's coastline, the Survey of India's re-verified length reported by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in Parliament on 4 December 2025; 974 km is the older figure in the AP Statistical Abstract 2023.

· Rs 250 crore The budget line for green coastal infrastructure on highly eroding coasts, together with the coastal plans, out of Rs 767 crore; Rs 100 crore is the figure for coastal tourism and also for the Somnath oceanarium.

D-L4 ORV Sagar Manthan, launched at Kolkata in September 2026, is being built for which body?

- National Institute of Ocean Technology
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers
- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services
- National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research

d. ORV Sagar Manthan is being built for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research.

ORV Sagar Manthan was launched on 9 September 2026 at the Rishi Bankim Shipyard, Kolkata.

The tempting option, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, is the builder, not the user.

It is built for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

It comes under Vertical-4 of the Deep Ocean Mission, which covers deep ocean survey and exploration.

Rs 840 crore approximate cost of the vessel · **2028** scheduled delivery year · **1983** when Sagar Kanya, the ship it replaces, was procured

D-L5 The Technology Development Board's Rs 200 crore support to Agnikul Cosmos in September 2026, from the RDI Fund, is to develop what?

- a A reusable launch vehicle, AgniBaan RLV
- b A multisensor SAR and optical satellite
- c A dilution refrigerator
- d An ocean research vessel

a. The Rs 200 crore support is to develop Agnibaan RLV, a reusable launch vehicle.

The Technology Development Board signed the Agnikul agreement on 25 September 2026.

The support comes through optionally convertible debentures.

Agnikul Cosmos of Chennai gets Rs 200 crore from the Research, Development and Innovation Fund.

It will take Agnibaan RLV from technology readiness level 4 and above to level 8.

Rs 200 crore support to Agnikul Cosmos · Rs 63.84 crore support to GalaxEye's satellite · Rs 1 lakh crore size of the RDI Fund

D-L6 DRDO's first high-value deep-tech agreement under the Technology Development Fund, signed with Zero mK India in September 2026, is to develop what?

- a A reusable rocket
- b A 20 mK dilution refrigerator for quantum applications
- c A hypersonic missile
- d A military satellite

b. The agreement is for a 20 mK dilution refrigerator for quantum applications.

DRDO signed the agreement with Zero mK India Pvt Ltd, a start-up from Alwar, Rajasthan.

It draws on a Rs 500 crore corpus approved by the Raksha Mantri for deep-tech projects.

It is the first high-value deep-tech agreement under DRDO's Technology Development Fund.

A dilution refrigerator reaches millikelvin temperatures, which quantum computers need.

20 mK temperature the refrigerator is built for · Rs 500 crore corpus for DRDO deep-tech projects

D-L7 At Bengaluru on 18 September 2026, HAL handed over which aircraft to the Indian Air Force?

- a Four Dhruv NG helicopters
- b Six Tejas Mk1A fighters
- c Two Tejas FOC twin-seater trainers and three HTT-40 basic trainers
- d Three Su-30MKI

c. HAL handed over two Tejas FOC twin-seater trainers and three HTT-40 basic trainers to the IAF.

HAL made the handovers at Bengaluru on 18 September 2026.

It also received three HTT-40 basic trainers.

The Indian Air Force received two Tejas Final Operational Clearance twin-seater trainers.

The tempting Dhruv NG helicopters went to Pawan Hans Ltd, not to the Air Force.

2 Tejas FOC twin-seater trainers to the IAF · 3 HTT-40 basic trainers to the IAF · 4 Dhruv NG helicopters to Pawan Hans

D-L8 The keel of the first Next Generation Missile Vessel for the Indian Navy was laid in September 2026 at which shipyard?

- a Cochin Shipyard
- b Garden Reach Shipbuilders
- c Mazagon Dock
- d Goa Shipyard

a. The keel of the first Next Generation Missile Vessel was laid at Cochin Shipyard, Kochi.

The keel of the first Next Generation Missile Vessel was laid on 18 September 2026.

Vice Admiral Sanjay Sadhu, Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition, was Chief Guest.

The ceremony was held at Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi.

Steel for the second vessel was cut at the same yard on 17 September 2026.

18 September 2026 keel laid for the first vessel · 17 September 2026 steel cut for the second vessel · March 2023 contract signed with Cochin Shipyard

D-L9 The World Circular Economy Forum 2026, held at Gandhinagar in September 2026, was the first edition hosted in which region?

- a Southeast Asia
- b Africa
- c Latin America
- d South Asia

d. The World Circular Economy Forum 2026 was the first edition held in South Asia.

The Forum met at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on 15 and 16 September 2026.

Finland's innovation fund Sitra and the Central Pollution Control Board were among the organisers.

Its theme was Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity.

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav and Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel inaugurated it.

15 and 16 September 2026 dates of the main Forum · 2,700 delegates, approximately · 60 countries, at least, that took part

D-L10 India, which highlighted the Arabian Sea humpback whale at IWC-70 in Hobart in September 2026, has been a member of the International Whaling Commission since which year?

- a 1946
c 1981
- b 1972
d 1986

c. India has been a member of the IWC since 1981.

IWC-70 met in Hobart, Australia, from 28 September to 2 October 2026.

The IWC was set up under the whaling convention signed on 2 December 1946.

India highlighted the Arabian Sea humpback whale in its opening statement.

The tempting 1946 is the convention's year, not India's joining year.

1981 India joins the IWC · 1946 whaling convention signed, Washington, DC · 89 member governments of the IWC

D-L11 The CHIME telescope, whose first standalone detection of the glow of hydrogen was announced in September 2026 with Raman Research Institute collaborators, is located in which country?

- a India b Canada
c Australia d Chile

b. CHIME is in Canada.

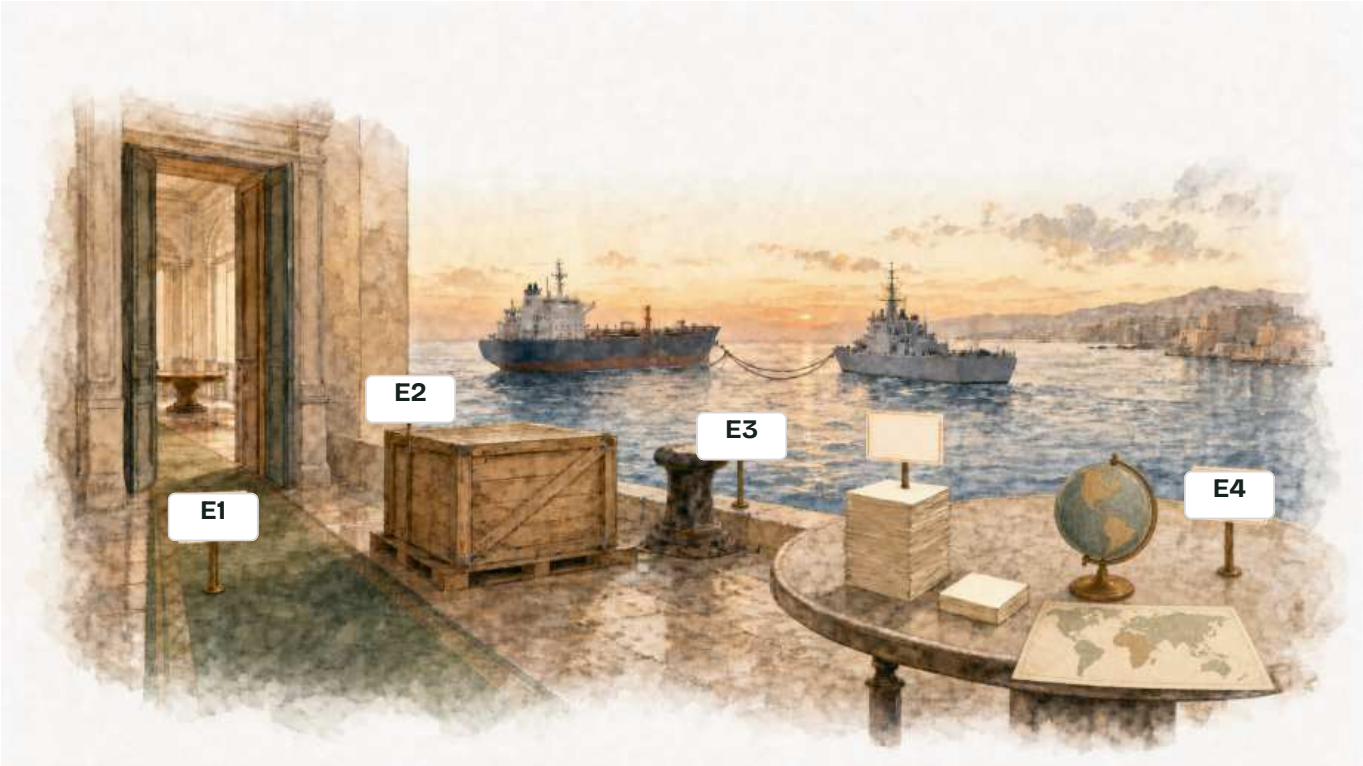
CHIME is the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment, a radio telescope in Canada.

The glow dates from when the universe was about five billion years old.

It detected the glow of hydrogen on its own for the first time.

The tempting India is home to a collaborator, the Raman Research Institute.

About 5 billion years age of the universe at the detected glow · About 2 per cent hydrogen then in neutral atomic form · 94 nights of 2019 data used



E

SECTION E

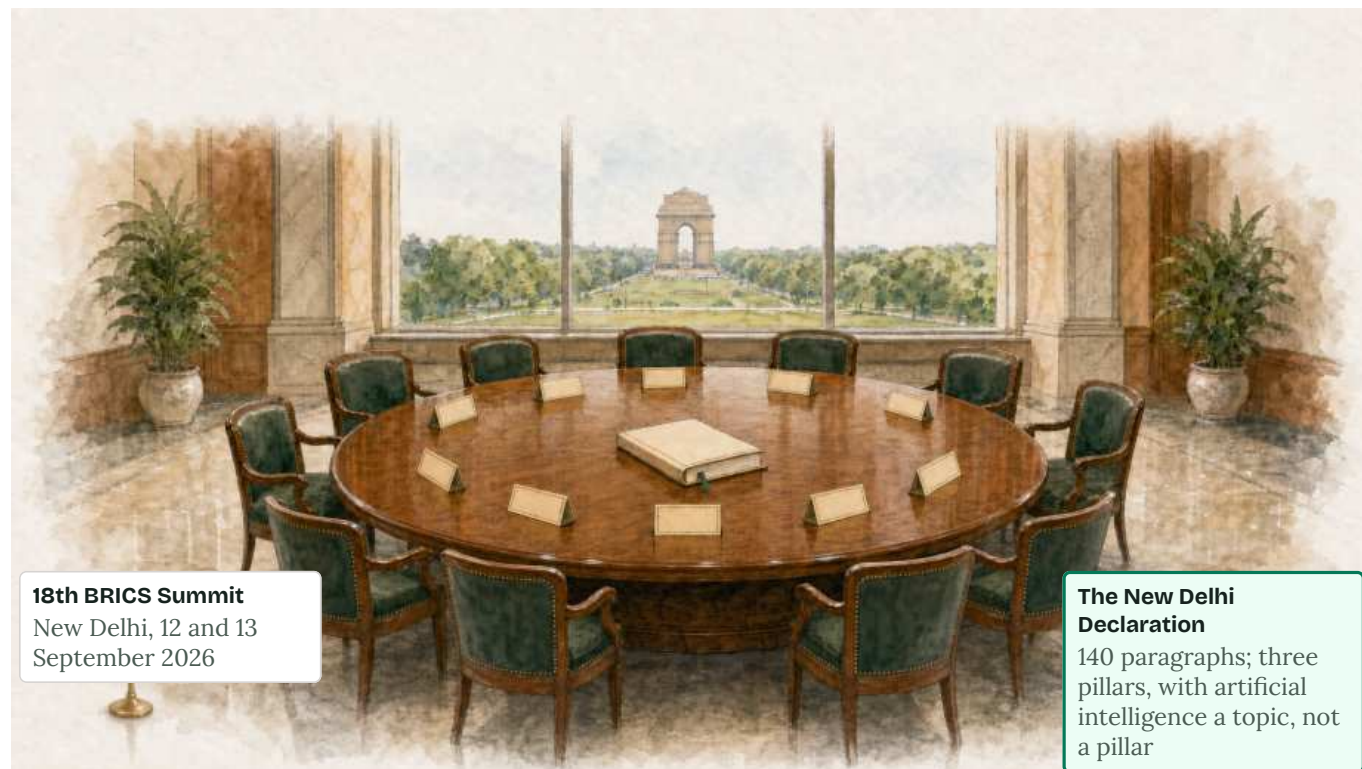
The World

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|---------------------------------|
| E1 | India hosts the 18th BRICS Summit | E4 | UN backs equal-area maps |
| E2 | India-New Zealand FTA starts 20 October | | One-question news, E-L1 to E-L3 |
| E3 | SLINEX-26 at Visakhapatnam | | |

E1 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · WORLD · 11 TO 13 SEPTEMBER 2026

India hosts the 18th BRICS Summit

Did the New Delhi Summit make artificial intelligence a fourth pillar of BRICS?



18th BRICS Summit
New Delhi, 12 and 13
September 2026

The New Delhi Declaration

140 paragraphs; three pillars, with artificial intelligence a topic, not a pillar

Can you answer these yet?

Try them now. The answers, and why each tempting option is one step short, close this unit.

- Q1** How does the chair of BRICS pass from one member to the next?
- a The leaders elect the next chair by vote at each Summit
 - b It rotates by the letters of the acronym, one calendar year at a time
 - c The member with the largest economy chairs every second year
 - d The Board of Governors of the New Development Bank chooses the chair
- Q2** India assumed its fourth BRICS chairship in 2026. In which years had India chaired BRICS before?
- a 2010, 2014 and 2019
 - b 2011, 2016 and 2022
 - c 2012, 2015 and 2020
 - d 2012, 2016 and 2021
- Q3** Consider these statements about the New Delhi Declaration of September 2026.
- I. It adds artificial intelligence as a fourth pillar of BRICS cooperation.
 - II. It supports the bids of Ethiopia and Iran to join the World Trade Organization.
 - III. It urges the quota increases agreed under the 16th General Review of IMF Quotas to take effect with no further delay.
- a II and III only
 - b I and II only
 - c I and III only
 - d I, II and III

E

India hosts the 18th BRICS Summit

Who is in BRICS now, how India came to chair it, and what the New Delhi Declaration says.

1 India chairs BRICS for the fourth time

2026, after 2012, 2016 and 2021.

2 18th Summit · New Delhi, 12 and 13 September 2026

The New Delhi Declaration was adopted on 12 September.

3 Three pillars, as before

The Declaration keeps three pillars of cooperation.

4 Artificial intelligence: a topic, not a fourth pillar

It appears in paragraph 81 of the 140-paragraph Declaration.

5 11 full members, 10 partner countries

Partner countries take part, but they are not full members.

China chairs in 2027

Three words the story needs

A **chairship** is the year a member leads BRICS and hosts its Summit. The chair rotates by the letters of the acronym. Each term runs from 1 January to 31 December. Because BRICS has grown, members are discussing a new rotation formula.

A **declaration** is the joint text the leaders adopt at a Summit. The New Delhi Declaration has 140 numbered paragraphs. A **pillar** is one of the broad areas BRICS works in.

Why was the Summit in New Delhi this year, and why was it larger?

The chair moves by the letters of the acronym, so India's turn came round again. India took the chair on 1 January 2026. It was India's fourth time, after 2012, 2016 and 2021. The year also marked 20 years of BRICS.

The group itself has grown. Five countries became full members in January 2024, and Indonesia became the eleventh in January 2025. Ten more countries joined a new partner category during 2025.

How long does one BRICS chairship last?
It lasts one calendar year, from 1 January to 31 December.

How many pillars does the New Delhi Declaration reaffirm?
It reaffirms three pillars, and artificial intelligence is not added as a fourth.

Why did India chair BRICS in 2026?
The chair rotates by the letters of the acronym, and 2026 was India's turn.

Which country became the eleventh full member, and when?
Indonesia became the eleventh full member in January 2025.

The numbers, and what each one means

THE FIGURE	WHAT IT IS	THE WRONG FIGURE A QUESTION OFFERS
18th	The New Delhi meeting of 12 and 13 September 2026 was the 18th BRICS Summit.	17th, which was the Rio de Janeiro Summit of July 2025, chaired by Brazil.
Fourth	2026 is India's fourth chairship, after 2012, 2016 and 2021.	Third, if you forget the virtual Summit that India chaired in 2021.
11	BRICS has eleven full members, counting Indonesia, which joined in January 2025.	10, which is the number of partner countries, not full members.

Where it sits: the static ground, and the question APPSC has already asked

Goldman Sachs coined the acronym BRIC in 2001. The first BRIC Summit met at Yekaterinburg, Russia, on 16 June 2009. South Africa joined in 2011, after the decision in 2010. The sixth Summit met at Fortaleza in 2014.

Where and when was the first BRIC Summit held?
It was held at Yekaterinburg, Russia, on 16 June 2009.

Where is the New Development Bank headquartered?
It is headquartered in Shanghai, and its agreement was signed at Fortaleza in 2014.

APPSC has asked about this group before. Its Group 2 Screening Test of 2024 asked which countries joined from 1 January 2024.

You can now answer these

✓ **Q1 · b, by the letters of the acronym.** If you chose a vote at each Summit, you were one step short. No vote is held. The order follows the acronym, one calendar year at a time.

✓ **Q2 · d, 2012, 2016 and 2021.** If you chose 2012, 2015 and 2020, you were one step short. The 2015 Ufa and 2020 Moscow Summits were Russian chairships.

✓ **Q3 · a, II and III only.** If you chose all three, statement I held you back. Paragraph 2 keeps three pillars, and artificial intelligence sits in paragraph 81 as a topic.

ASKED BEFORE · APPSC GROUP 2 SCREENING TEST, NOTIFICATION 11/2023, HELD 2024, Q110

Which among the following countries got membership into BRICS bloc with effect from 1st January, 2024?

- I. Egypt;
- II. Argentina;
- III. Indonesia;
- IV. Ethiopia; V. Saudi Arabia

- a I, II and III
- b II, III and V
- c I, III and V
- d I, IV and V

The key is d, I, IV and V. Argentina turned the invitation down, and Indonesia joined a year later, in January 2025.



CARRY THIS

India chaired BRICS for the fourth time in 2026 and hosted the 18th Summit in New Delhi on 12 and 13 September. The New Delhi Declaration has 140 paragraphs and keeps three pillars, with artificial intelligence as a topic, not a pillar.

Sources: PIB, New Delhi Declaration (PRID 2309505), Prime Minister's remarks (PRID 2309468), session readout (PRID 2309642), backgrounder (PRID 2308611), Modi-Putin (PRID 2309208) and Modi-Xi (PRID 2309538) readouts; MEA Brief on BRICS, February 2025; brics2026.gov.in; ndb.int; UN press release of 13 September 2026; APPSC Group 2 Screening Test 2024 paper.

E

BRIEFS · THE WORLD

E2 · THE WORLD · INTERNATIONAL · 21 SEPTEMBER 2026

India-New Zealand FTA starts 20 October

The agreement was **signed** on 27 April 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. New Zealand's Parliament passed the enabling law on **16 September 2026**, says PIB.

The agreement enters into force on **20 October 2026**, chosen as Dussehra. India leaves **dairy**, sugar, edible oils and animal meat except sheep out of tariff cuts.



New Zealand apples, kiwifruit and Manuka honey enter through **Tariff Rate Quotas**.

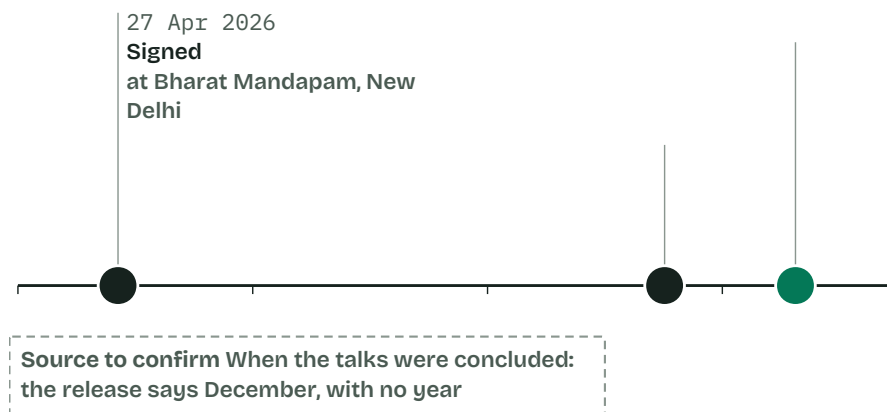
100 per cent The share of India's exports to New Zealand duty-free from day one; 95 per cent is New Zealand's figure for its own exports.

5,000 Temporary Employment Entry visas for skilled Indians; the 1,000 figure is for Working Holiday visas each year.

Follow the three dates left to right: signing, New Zealand's law, then entry into force.

The 16 September date is New Zealand's law, not the start of the agreement.

Fig E2.1 **Signed in April, New Zealand's law in September, in force on 20 October**



Q1 The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, signed in New Delhi on 27 April 2026, enters into force on:

- a 16 September 2026
- b 27 April 2026
- c 20 October 2026
- d 1 January 2027

Q1 • c. The agreement enters into force on 20 October 2026.

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 17 and 21 September 2026 (PRID 2311537, 2313143); Beehive (New Zealand Government), 27 April 2026.

E3 • DEFENCE • INTERNATIONAL • 9 SEPTEMBER TO 12 OCTOBER 2026

SLINEX-26 at Visakhapatnam, and seven more exercises

Visakhapatnam hosted **SLINEX-26**, the 13th India-Sri Lanka maritime exercise, from 17 to 21 September.

AIME-2026, the second ASEAN-India exercise, began at Subic Bay with INS Sahyadri and Kulish.

The 22nd **Yudh Abhyas** with the United States opened at Auli on 15 September.

Nomadic Elephant is with Mongolia, and **KAZIND** is with Kazakhstan.

Tarang Shakti 2026, at Jodhpur, is an air exercise with seven foreign air forces.

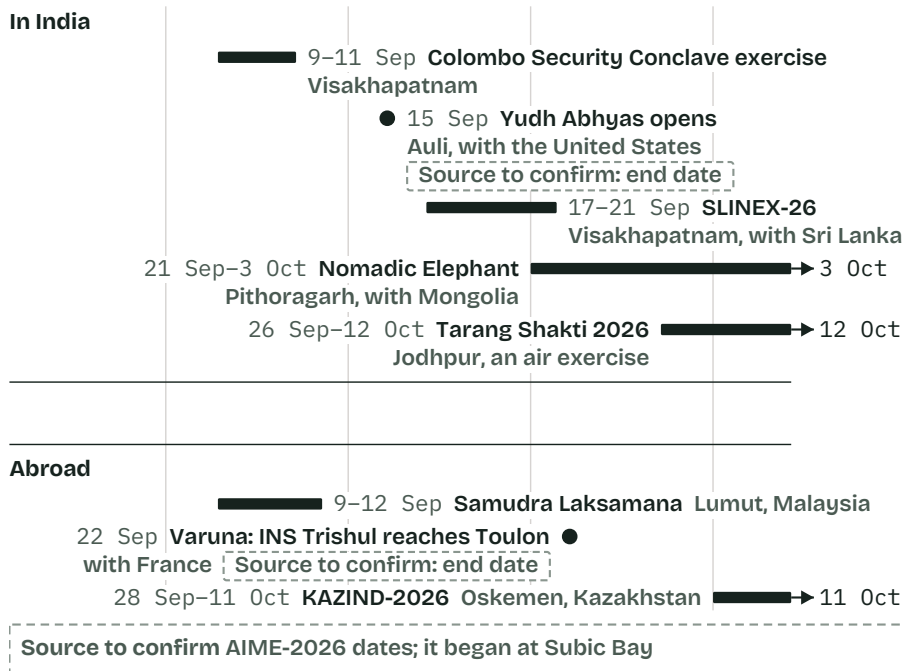


13th The edition number of SLINEX-26, an exercise first conceptualised in 2005; a tempting wrong figure is 18th, the edition number of Nomadic Elephant.

600 The personnel from each side in the 22nd Yudh Abhyas; a tempting wrong figure is 45, the number from each side in Nomadic Elephant.

Exercises held in India sit above the line, those abroad below it.

Fig E3.1 The month's exercises: in India above, abroad below



Two were at Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam: the Colombo Security Conclave exercise and SLINEX-26.

Q1 SLINEX-26, the 13th edition of the Sri Lanka-India bilateral maritime exercise, was held in September 2026 at:

- a Kochi
- b Visakhapatnam
- c Chennai
- d Mumbai

Q1 · b. SLINEX-26 ran at Visakhapatnam from 17 to 21 September under Eastern Naval Command.

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Defence, 10 to 30 September 2026 (PRID 2310476, 2309385, 2312662, 2313929, 2313046, 2315856, 2314333, 2308653, 2310000, 2315563, 2317206); Punjab Kesari on the 21st Yudh Abhyas.

E4 · THE WORLD · INTERNATIONAL · 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

UN backs equal-area maps: 'Correct the map'

The resolution calls the **Equal Earth** projection a relevant option for continent sizes.

Togo introduced the text on behalf of the Group of African States.

The vote was 164 to 1; the **United States** voted against.

India voted **in favour**, as the UN voting record shows.

The text is **non-binding**: it does not ban the Mercator projection.



E

164-1-6 The recorded vote: 164 in favour, 1 against and 6 abstentions; a tempting wrong figure is 174, the vote on the Decade of Culture resolution on the same day.

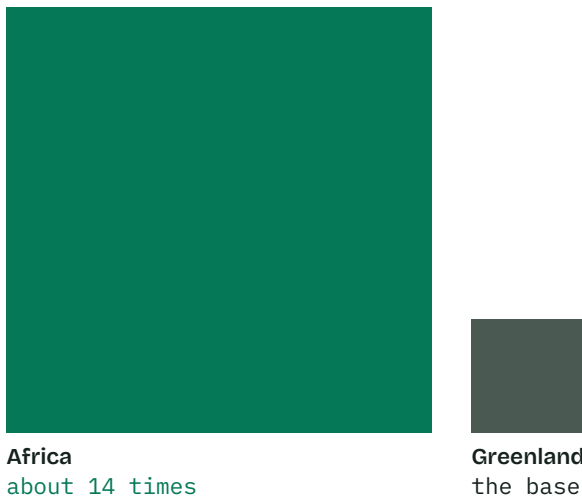
1569 The year Gerardus Mercator, a Flemish cartographer, made his projection for sea navigation, as UN News notes; Equal Earth was developed in 2018.

Fig E4.3 **Who made the Mercator projection, and when**



Compare the two squares by area: Africa is about 14 times Greenland.

Fig E4.1 **Africa against Greenland, at true area**



Each square's area is true to its number.

On a Mercator map the two look alike, because Mercator keeps direction but not area.

- Q1** The UN General Assembly adopted the 'Correct the map' resolution (A/RES/80/307) on 4 September 2026 by a recorded vote of:
- a 164 in favour, 1 against, 6 abstentions
 - b 164 in favour, none against, 7 abstentions
 - c 174 in favour, 1 against, no abstentions
 - d 170 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions

Q1 • a. The tally was 164 in favour, 1 against and 6 abstentions.

Sources: UN Digital Library, voting record 4126977 (A/RES/80/307); UN press release GA/12779 and UN News, 4 September 2026 (UN News for the years 1569 and 2018); draft resolution A/80/L.104; PTI for India's explanation of vote; ANI (The Tribune) and Organiser for the MEA statement.

ONE-QUESTION NEWS · THE WORLD

E-L1 to E-L3, each a question with its facts in the answer

E-L1 Under Article 97 of the UN Charter, the Secretary-General is appointed by the:

- a Security Council, upon the recommendation of the General Assembly
 - b Security Council's five permanent members alone
 - c General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Security Council
 - d General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the International Court of Justice
- c. The General Assembly appoints the Secretary-General on the Security Council's recommendation. Option a tempts because both bodies are named, but it reverses their roles.

Under **Article 97**, the General Assembly appoints the Secretary-General.

Straw polls are **informal**, and the Council does not release their results.

The Security Council only **recommends**; the General Assembly makes the appointment.

Each ballot reads encouraged, discouraged or **no opinion expressed**.

10 The encouraged votes Rebeca Grynspan received in the fourth poll, as reported and unofficial; a tempting wrong figure is 8, the count for Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett and for Rafael Grossi. · **31 December 2026** The day Antonio Guterres's second term ends; a tempting wrong date is 1 January 2027, when his successor takes office.

E-L2 In their September 2026 joint statement, India and Belgium agreed to support each other's candidature for non-permanent UN Security Council membership for which terms?

- a India 2037-2038 and Belgium 2028-29
 - b India 2026-27 and Belgium 2028-29
 - c India 2028-29 and Belgium 2037-2038
 - d India 2028-29 and Belgium 2031-32
- c. India seeks the 2028-29 term and Belgium the 2037-2038 term. Option a tempts because it names both correct terms, but it gives them to the wrong countries.

The protocol amends **Article 16** of Annex III, the Rules of Origin.

The India-MERCOSUR agreement is a **preferential** trade agreement, signed in 2004.

Once in force, electronic Certificates of Origin will match paper in **legal validity**.

India backs Belgium for a **2037-2038** UN Security Council seat.

450 and 452 The tariff lines on which India and MERCOSUR, in that order, give preferential concessions; a question may offer the pair reversed. · **1 June 2009** The day the India-MERCOSUR agreement entered into force; a tempting wrong date is 25 January 2004, when it was signed.

E-L3 At the UN high-level meeting on 24 September 2026, Member States approved a declaration on sea-level rise that recognises which of the following?

- a A binding target to cap sea-level rise at 0.5 m by 2100
 - b A new UN agency for climate migrants
 - c Redrawing of Exclusive Economic Zones to follow the shifting coastline
 - d Continuity of Statehood and stability of maritime zones despite sea-level rise
- d. The declaration recognises continuity of Statehood and stable maritime zones.

The sea-level declaration was approved at the high-level meeting on 24 September 2026.

Jamaica, for CARICOM, welcomed its recognition of Statehood and stable maritime zones.

It goes to the General Assembly for formal adoption.

The tempting 0.5 m figure is a best-case projection, not a binding target.

24.09.2026 sea-level declaration approved · **About 6 mm** rise in global sea level in 2024 · **About 770 million** people under 5 m above high tide (UN Secretary-General)



F

SECTION F

Culture, Awards and Sports

F1 72nd Film Awards

F2 Asian Games 2026

F3 September 2026: days and their themes

One-question news, F-L1 to F-L5

BRIEFS • CULTURE, AWARDS AND SPORTS

F1 • AWARDS • NATIONAL • 22 SEPTEMBER 2026

72nd Film Awards: nine for Telugu films

Telugu films won **nine** feature-film awards, by our count of PIB's list.

Committee Kurrollu won Best Telugu Film; **Kalki 2898 AD** won Best Popular Film.

The awards were presented at **Ekta Nagar**, Kevadia, Gujarat, the first outside Delhi.

Kannada actor **Anant Nag** received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024.

Best Actor was **shared** by Mammooty and Kartik Aaryan.



9 The feature-film awards won by Telugu films, by a count of PIB's full list, which prints no total itself; a tempting wrong figure is 7, which one reference site gave.

22 September 2026 The day President Droupadi Murmu presented the awards; a tempting wrong date is 18 July 2026, when the winners were announced.

Fig F1.1 The Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024



Q1 The Dadasaheb Phalke Award presented at the 72nd National Film Awards on 22 September 2026 went to:

- a Mohanlal
- b Mammooty
- c Kartik Aaryan
- d Anant Nag

Q1 · d. Anant Nag received the Phalke Award for 2024, announced on 16 September 2026.

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 18 July, 16 and 22 September 2026 (PRID 2286143, 2310989, 2313647); PIB, President's Secretariat, 22 September 2026 (PRID 2313663); News on AIR, 20 September 2025.

F2 · SPORTS · INTERNATIONAL · 19 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

Asian Games 2026: India's golds so far

Vijayawada's **Jyothi Surekha Vennam** won compound team gold, her fourth Asian Games gold.

The women's compound team equalled the **world record**, beating China 238-234.

India's men won a record **ninth** kabaddi gold; Iran won at Jakarta 2018.

Neeru Dhanda became the first Indian woman to win individual Trap gold.

The full story follows after the Games end on **4 October**.



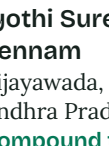
147 runs India's winning margin over Sri Lanka in the women's cricket final on 22 September; a tempting wrong figure is 69, Sri Lanka's total in that match.

20th The edition number of the Aichi-Nagoya Games, after Hangzhou 2022; a tempting wrong figure is 19th, the Hangzhou edition.

Fig F2.2 Two Asian Games gold winners



Neeru Dhanda
Trap shooter
First Indian woman to win individual Trap gold

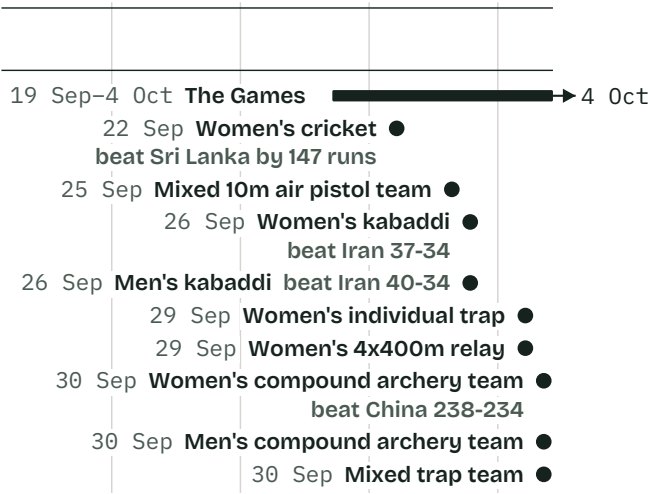


Jyothi Surekha Vennam
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
Compound team gold, her fourth Asian Games gold

Drawn from:
President's Secretariat, GODL-India

Read down the strip: it shows three golds on 30 September, and the Games run to 4 October.

Fig F2.1 India's golds so far, day by day



These are the golds confirmed so far; the Games end on 4 October.

- Q1 Which archer from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, was part of the women's compound team that won Asian Games gold on 30 September 2026?
- a Chikitha Taniparthi

b Jyothi Surekha Vennam

c Prithika Pradeep

d Neeru Dhanda

Q1 · b. Jyothi Surekha Vennam is a native of Vijayawada. Chikitha Taniparthi tempts because she was in the same team, but she is from Peddapalli in Telangana.

Sources: PIB, 22 to 30 September 2026 (PRID 2313381, 2315282, 2315355, 2315357, 2316616, 2316707, 2316904, 2316906, 2317073); Tribune (ANI), Deccan Chronicle, Outlook, organiser's site aichi-nagoya2026.org.

F3 • DAYS • INTERNATIONAL • 8 TO 29 SEPTEMBER 2026**September 2026: days and their themes**

The 9th **Rashtriya Poshan Maah** was launched at Varanasi on 9 September.

Poshan Maah's 2026 theme is **Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari**.

World Ozone Day 2026 marks ten years of the **Kigali Amendment**.

International Literacy Day marked its **60th** anniversary on 8 September.

The 11th **Ayurveda Day** was celebrated nationally at Nagpur on 23 September.



1987 The year the Montreal Protocol was signed, which 16 September commemorates; a tempting wrong year is 1994, when the UN General Assembly proclaimed the day.

1981 The year the UN General Assembly established the International Day of Peace; a tempting wrong year is 2001, when it was made a day of non-violence and cease-fire.

Read down the strip: Poshan Maah starts on 9 September and runs past the month, to 8 October.

Poshan Maah is the month-long campaign; Swachhata Hi Seva begins on 17 September.

Fig F3.1 **September's days and their themes on one strip**



Q1 The 2026 theme Invest in Peace - For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day belongs to which observance?

- a World Ozone Day, 16 September
- b International Day of Peace, 21 September
- c World Rabies Day, 28 September
- d International Literacy Day, 8 September

Q1 • b. Invest in Peace is the theme of the International Day of Peace, 21 September.

Sources: UNESCO; UNEP Ozone Secretariat and OzonAction; WHO; United Nations; Global Alliance for Rabies Control; World Heart Federation; PIB, 9, 16 and 23 September 2026 (PRID 2308322, 2311160, 2313893).

ONE-QUESTION NEWS • CULTURE, AWARDS AND SPORTS

F-L1 to F-L5, each a question with its facts in the answer

F-L1 The 46th Chess Olympiad, held from 15 to 27 September 2026, took place at:

- a Tashkent b Samarkand
c Budapest d Abu Dhabi

b. The Olympiad was held at Samarkand in Uzbekistan. Tashkent tempts because the Uzbek federation first named it as a possible venue, but the event went to Samarkand.

Andhra Pradesh's **Koneru Humpy** returned on board one for India's women.

India's Open team won **silver**, on tiebreak over Germany.

The 46th Chess Olympiad was held at **Samarkand**,
Uzbekistan, not Tashkent.

India's women won **bronze** on tiebreak; China won the gold.

18 The match points India and Germany each finished with in the Open, India winning silver on tiebreak; a tempting wrong figure is 20, the gold-winning total of Uzbekistan. · 2024 The year India won gold in both sections, at Budapest; a tempting wrong year is 2022, when India won bronze in both sections at Chennai.

F-L2 India's win in the 2026 Women's Asia Cup T20 final at Dubai was its:

- a eighth Asia Cup title b seventh Asia Cup title
c sixth Asia Cup title d ninth Asia Cup title

a. The Dubai win was India's eighth Asia Cup title and fourth in the T20 format. The seventh tempts because it is one short, but that count leaves out this final.

India's women beat Sri Lanka by **72 runs** in the Asia Cup T20 final.

The junior hockey finals were played at **Moqi**, China, on 13 September.

It was India's **eighth** Asia Cup title, and fourth in the T20 format.

India's junior women beat hosts **China** 1-0 for a third straight title.

183 for 5 India's total in the Asia Cup T20 final at Dubai; a tempting wrong figure is 111, the total at which Sri Lanka were bowled out. · **sixth** The junior men's Asia Cup titles India now hold, after 2004, 2008, 2015, 2023 and 2024; a tempting wrong figure is fifth, the count before this win.

F-L3 Which institute's team summited 20 unclimbed Ladakh peaks above 6,000 m in 23 days, and was flagged in on 25 September 2026?

- a HMI, Darjeeling b NIMAS, Dirang
c JIM, Pahalgam d NIM, Uttarkashi

b. The team came from NIMAS, Dirang, the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports.

Rajnath Singh flagged in the expedition in New Delhi on 25 September 2026.

Colonel Ranveer Singh Jamwal led the team.

A team of 20 climbers from NIMAS, Dirang, made the climbs.

They summited 20 unclimbed peaks above 6,000 m in the Ladakh Range in 23 days.

20 peaks unclimbed peaks summited in Ladakh · 23 days time taken for the expedition · 6,000 m height all the peaks exceed

F-L4 At WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, India finished in which position, with 6 Silver medals?

- a 6th b 8th
c 13th d 10th

d. India finished 10th at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, with 6 Silver and 20 Medals for Excellence.

The 48th WorldSkills Competition ran in Shanghai from 22 to 27 September 2026.

India finished 10th with 6 Silver Medals and 20 Medals for Excellence.

The tempting 13th was India's place at Lyon 2024, the previous competition.

Smriti Nambiar won silver in Bakery and was named Best of Nation.

10th India's position at Shanghai 2026 · 13th India's position at Lyon 2024 · 6 Silver India's medals at Shanghai 2026

F-L5 Which American Geophysical Union 2026 prize was awarded to Roxy Mathew Koll of IITM Pune?

- a Pavel S. Molchanov Climate Communications Prize

b Walter Munk Award

c Roger Revelle Medal

d James B. Macelwane Medal
- a. Roxy Mathew Koll was selected for the AGU's 2026 Pavel S. Molchanov Climate Communications Prize.

Roxy Mathew Koll works at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune.

PTI reported the award, and IITM Pune posted it.

He was selected for the American Geophysical Union's Pavel S. Molchanov Climate Communications Prize for 2026.

The awards will be presented in San Francisco in December 2026.

2026 year of the Molchanov Climate Communications Prize · December 2026 when the awards are presented in San Francisco

Fig F-L5.1 The climate communications prize



Roxy Mathew Koll

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune

Pavel S. Molchanov Climate Communications Prize, 2026

as reported

Drawn from: President's Secretariat, GODL-India

QUICK REVISION

September 2026 on two pages

One line per item, in book order. Each line is lifted from the item's own fact-checked text; the number takes you to the full item.

A Andhra Pradesh

- A1 Four new police commissionerates (Rajamahendravaram, Guntur, Tirupati, Kurnool) with magistrate powers under BNSS s.14(6); Goa Shipyard gets up to 400 acres at Machilipatnam Port.
- A2 Palle Panduga 3.0 launched 29 Sep at Ramapuram, Udayagiri (Nellore), Rs 11,085 cr of rural works. VB-G RAM G: 125 days of work, cost shared 60:40 in AP.
- A3 APPSC: 20 notifications (07/2026 to 26/2026), 892 provisional vacancies; Group-I 163 posts, applications 6 to 27 Oct; update OTPR first.
- A4 AP Poultry Policy 2026-29 (G.O.Ms.No.20): Rs 657.18 cr total incentives; Rs 296 cr through Animal Husbandry, of which Rs 120 cr is State Budget.
- A5 Group-1 (2018) Mains: single judge cancelled it on 13 Mar 2024; SIT ordered 11 Feb 2026; final hearing began 28 Sep 2026, no judgment yet.
- A6 AP seventh among States in merchandise exports, 2025-26, about Rs 1.77 lakh cr; DGCI&S, Kolkata compiles the State data.
- A7 Coal India got a three-year exploration licence for the Ontillu-Chandragiri rare earth block, 209.62 sq km in Tirupati and Chittoor.
- A8 NTR district: G.O.Ms.No.615 counted 24,042 occupants of poramboke land, regularised 23,593, left 449 to separate orders.
- A-L1 AP excise policy 2026-27: shops stay 3,736; renewal at 38 per cent of RET; permit room compulsory; four CCTV cameras.
- A-L2 APFDC got one of India's first PRAMAAN certificates; IIFM Bhopal operates the scheme.
- A-L3 Bird flu: four AP epicentres declared free areas by G.O.Rt.No.318 of 17 Sep.
- A-L4 Nandi Awards for 2012 to 2025 cleared in three blocks; 2012-16 presented at Vijayawada in November.
- A-L5 Mazagon Dock is anchor shipyard of the Dugarajapatnam cluster, Tirupati district (18 Sep).
- A-L6 AP Cabinet approved the draft Reservoir Cage Culture Policy-2026 on 3 Sep, for fish farming in reservoirs.
- A-L7 Totapuri mango: Price Deficiency Payment of Rs 4 a kg; G.O.Ms.No.47 lets AP MARKFED raise Rs 281 cr; four districts.
- A-L8 AP employees' DA: G.O.Ms.No.119 raised it from 37.31 to 40.04 per cent from 1 July 2024; G.O.Ms.No.120 to 41.86 per cent.
- A-L9 Amaravati Sangamam, Rs 759.79 cr at Sakhamuru: state public library, auditorium, global institute of good governance.
- A-L10 New Machilipatnam-Kurnool City Express: 499 km via Vijayawada, tri-weekly.
- A-L11 FCV tobacco growers in AP: one-time, interest-free loan of Rs 50,000 per barn from the Centre.
- A-L12 State Apprenticeship Council constituted under s.24(4) of the Apprentices Act, 1961 (G.O.Rt.No.46, 30 Sep).
- A-L13 The DGP said cadaver-detection and rescue dogs are joining the AP SDRF for the first time (Mangalagiri, 30 Sep).
- A-L14 G.O.Ms.No.193 brought the Omnibus (Speed of Doing Business) Act's fire provisions, AP Fire Services Act 1999, into force.

A-L15 AP Special Intensive Revision: claims disposed by 10 Oct; final electoral roll due 16 Oct 2026.

A-L16 Polavaram: the Chief Minister set March 2027 for completion (review on 30 Sep).

A-L17 ASI 2024-25: AP sixth among major States with 15,602 factories; Karnataka fifth with 15,629; Tamil Nadu first.

B Polity and Governance

- B1 Election Commissioners (2023 Act): chosen by the PM, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister. On 23 Sep two judges split on referral; papers go to the CJI; the Act stays in force, validity undecided.
- B2 EPFO wage ceiling raised to Rs 25,000 (Cabinet 16 Sep; in force 17 Sep by Gazette).
- B3 Supreme Court refused to stay the UPI merchant charge (28 Sep); a refused stay is not a ruling on validity.
- B4 Article 311(1): no removal by an authority subordinate to the appointing one (Ramdhani Prasad). Victim's appeal against a Magistrate's acquittal goes to the Sessions Court (proviso to s.413 BNSS).
- B-L1 Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 in force from 1 Oct 2026; technology-neutral: paper, electronic and cloud records count.
- B-L2 IST to be the legal time reference (Rules notified 27 Aug); CSIR-NPL generates IST; Legal Metrology enforces.
- B-L3 E-commerce rules: the prior price shown with a discount is the lowest price of the previous 30 days; in force 1 Jan 2027.
- B-L4 Draft Petroleum (Amendment) Bill, 2026: comments invited until 30 Oct 2026 (pre-legislative consultation).
- B-L5 Bhagwat Prasad Makwana became Chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis.
- B-L6 AVM Shakti Sharma, first non-medical woman Air Vice Marshal, is from the IAF's Education Branch.
- B-L7 CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad: AI translation of CAG documents; BHASHINI is under MeitY (Digital India Corporation).

C Economy and Schemes

- C1 New bases: GDP and WPI 2022-23, CPI 2024=100. WPI by the Office of the Economic Adviser (DPIIT); CPI and GDP by NSO (MoSPI).
- C2 Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (30 Sep): intra-State lines for up to 135 GW and 50 GWh of batteries; Rs 1,86,405 cr; STUs implement.
- C3 Dedicated Freight Corridors complete (8 Sep, Vadodara): Eastern 1,337 km Ludhiana-Sonnagar, Western 1,506 km Dadri-JNPT; World Bank funds Eastern's Ludhiana-DDU section, JICA all of Western.
- C4 Rabi MSP 2027-28: safflower rises most, Rs 675 a quintal to Rs 7,215.
- C5 Eight rail projects cleared, including the 77 km Arakkonam-Renigunta line (Tamil Nadu to AP, Chennai-Tirupati route).
- C6 Global Innovation Index 2026 (WIPO): India 38th of 139, same as 2025; 49th in inputs, 25th in outputs.

C7	Global Gender Gap 2026 (WEF): India 131st of 145, 64.5 per cent closed; best rank Political Empowerment, 67th.
C-L1	PRIP (Department of Pharmaceuticals): 41 projects approved, about Rs 1,600 cr.
C-L2	RBI committee on WMA to States (chair I S N Prasad) reported 29 Sep; the RBI will examine its recommendations.
C-L3	JCR upgraded India from BBB+ to A-, outlook Stable.
C-L4	Centre's H2 2026-27 market borrowing: Rs 7,86,000 cr, including Rs 15,000 cr of Sovereign Green Bonds.
C-L5	Basic customs duty on crude sunflower oil cut from 10 per cent to nil; crude soybean and palm oil to 5 per cent.
C-L6	IIP August 2026 (Quick Estimate): 8.0 per cent; manufacturing 9.0; July was 6.7.
C-L7	DILRMP 3.0: Bhu-Aadhaar (ULPIN), a 14-digit number for each land parcel; Rs 565.50 cr for 2026-2031.
C-L8	Ahmedabad joined the Hub and Spoke framework (1 Sep) after Varanasi and Amritsar; Delhi is the hub.
C-L9	Dryland Congress 2026, New Delhi: Delhi Declaration on Drylands.
C-L10	PM Vishwakarma at three years: 30 lakh registered (24.5 lakh is the number trained); 18 trades.
C-L11	RoSCTL extended to 31 Dec 2026, for apparel/garments and made-ups.

D Science, Technology, Environment and Health

D1	First Kavach 4.0 on South Central Railway: Malkajgiri-Kamareddi section, Hyderabad Division (Telangana), upgraded from 3.2.
D2	CAFE-3 (Ministry of Power): 1 Apr 2027 to 31 Mar 2032; a fleet average, not a per-model limit; BEE runs the credit buyout.
D3	Sixth tiger reserve evaluation covers all 58 reserves; Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem scored 82.58 per cent, Very Good, in 2022.
D4	GSLV-F17 lifted EOS-05 off the Second Launch Pad, Sriharikota; ISRO calls it India's first imaging satellite from geosynchronous orbit.
D5	Over 80 lakh HPV vaccine doses by 11 Sep; AP among States above 90 per cent of the cohort.
D-L1	DAC approved about Rs 1,10,000 cr of proposals (7 Sep); an AoN is in-principle, not a contract.
D-L2	Semicon 2.0 outlay Rs 1,27,500 cr; SEMICON India 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.
D-L3	National Coastal Mission 2.0: Rs 767 cr to 2030-31; AP coastline 1,053.07 km, third after Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
D-L4	ORV Sagar Manthan, launched at Kolkata, is for NCPOR (Ministry of Earth Sciences).
D-L5	Agnikul Cosmos gets Rs 200 cr from the RDI Fund (TDB) to develop Agnibaan RLV, a reusable launch vehicle.

D-L6	DRDO's first high-value deep-tech TDF deal: Zero mK India, a 20 mK dilution refrigerator for quantum work.
D-L7	HAL handed the IAF two Tejas FOC twin-seat trainers and three HTT-40 basic trainers (Bengaluru, 18 Sep).
D-L8	Keel of the first Next Generation Missile Vessel laid at Cochin Shipyard, Kochi.
D-L9	World Circular Economy Forum 2026, Gandhinagar: first edition in South Asia.
D-L10	IWC-70 at Hobart; India, a member since 1981, highlighted the Arabian Sea humpback whale.
D-L11	CHIME, a radio telescope in Canada, made its first standalone detection of the glow of hydrogen.

E The World

E1	18th BRICS Summit, New Delhi, 12-13 Sep, India's fourth chair; Declaration keeps three pillars (AI a topic, not a pillar); China chairs 2027.
E2	India-New Zealand FTA (signed 27 Apr 2026, Bharat Mandapam) starts 20 Oct 2026.
E3	SLINEX-26, 13th India-Sri Lanka maritime exercise, at Visakhapatnam, 17-21 Sep; AIME-2026 at Subic Bay.
E4	UN resolution 'Correct the map' calls Equal Earth projection a relevant option; Togo moved it for the African Group.
E-L1	UN Secretary-General: General Assembly appoints on Security Council recommendation (Art. 97); straw polls are informal.
E-L2	India-MERCOSUR PTA (2004): e-certificates of origin to match paper; India and Belgium back each other's UNSC bids.
E-L3	UN sea-level declaration (24 Sep) recognises continuity of Statehood and stable maritime zones.

F Culture, Awards and Sports

F1	72nd National Film Awards: nine for Telugu films; Phalke Award (2024) to Anant Nag.
F2	Asian Games 2026: Vijayawada's Jyothi Surekha Vennam won compound team gold, her fourth.
F3	Days: Poshan Maah 9 Sep to 8 Oct (Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari); Ozone Day 16 Sep; Ayurveda Day 23 Sep (Nagpur).
F-L1	46th Chess Olympiad, Samarkand (not Tashkent): Open silver, women bronze; Koneru Humpy on board one.
F-L2	Women's Asia Cup T20: India beat Sri Lanka by 72 runs, eighth title; junior hockey titles for both men and women.
F-L3	NIMAS, Dirang team summited 20 unclimbed Ladakh peaks above 6,000 m in 23 days.
F-L4	WorldSkills Shanghai 2026: India 10th, 6 Silver and 20 Medals for Excellence (13th at Lyon 2024).
F-L5	Roxy Mathew Koll (IITM Pune); AGU's Pavel S. Molchanov Climate Communications Prize 2026.

Rankings: top 3, India, bottom 3

Ranking	Top 3	India / AP	Bottom 3
A6 Merchandise exports by State, 2025-26	1st Gujarat, 2nd Maharashtra, 3rd Tamil Nadu	7th Andhra Pradesh	not ranked here
C6 Global Innovation Index 2026, WIPO (of 139)	1st Switzerland, 2nd Sweden, 3rd United States	38th India	137th DR Congo, 138th Niger, 139th Chad
C7 Global Gender Gap Index 2026, WEF (of 145)	1st Iceland, 2nd Finland, 3rd Norway	131st India	143rd Pakistan, 144th Iran, 145th Chad

SEPTEMBER 2026

30 questions to close the month

Mixed from every section, in the proportions of the Group 2 current-affairs section. Each question names the item it comes from; the key on the last page gives the answer and the page to go back to.

- Q1** **B3** On 28 September 2026 the Supreme Court, hearing a petition against the UPI merchant discount rate on payments above Rs 2,000:
- a Stayed the charge until the next hearing
 - b Referred the question to a Constitution Bench
 - c Issued notice, sought the Centre's affidavit and refused to stay the charge
 - d Struck down the charge as an unauthorised tax
- Q2** **C-L8** Ahmedabad became which airport to join India's international Hub and Spoke framework on 1 September 2026?
- a Second
 - b Fifth
 - c Third
 - d First
- Q3** **C-L7** DILRMP 3.0 assigns each land parcel a 14-digit identifier called what?
- a Survey PIN
 - b Land Stack Code
 - c Bhu-Aadhaar (ULPIN)
 - d Khasra ID
- Q4** **A-L7** Under the Totapuri mango Price Deficiency Payment cleared in September 2026, AP MARKFED was allowed to raise Rs 281 crore through working capital or short-term loans for support at what rate per kg?
- a Rs 4
 - b Rs 2
 - c Rs 10
 - d Rs 15
- Q5** **F2** India's men won a record ninth Asian Games kabaddi gold in 2026. Which country won the only men's title India has not won, at Jakarta 2018?
- a Bangladesh
 - b Iran
 - c Pakistan
 - d South Korea
- Q6** **C-L1** Under the new Discovery track of the PRIP scheme announced on 30 September 2026, startups and MSMEs can receive financial assistance of up to:
- a Rs 100 crore per project
 - b Rs 5 crore per project
 - c Rs 1,600 crore
 - d Rs 50 crore per company, project or portfolio
- Q7** **A-L14** G.O.Ms.No.193 of 29 September 2026 brought into force the provisions of the AP Omnibus (Speed of Doing Business) Act, 2026 relating to which law?
- a AP Fire Services Act, 1999
 - b AP Public Services Delivery Guarantee Act, 2017
 - c AP Industrial Single Window Clearance Act, 2002
 - d AP Building Rules, 2017

Q8 **C-L3** In September 2026 Japan Credit Rating Agency upgraded India's sovereign issuer rating from BBB+ to which level?

- a A- b A
c BBB d AA-

Q9 **C5** Among the railway projects approved by the Cabinet on 9 September 2026, the third and fourth line between Arakkonam and Renigunta, which touches Andhra Pradesh, is how long?

- a 47 km b 147 km
c 159 km d 77 km

Q10 **E4** How did India vote on the UN General Assembly's 'Correct the map' resolution (A/RES/80/307) on 4 September 2026?

- a Against b Abstained
c Did not vote d In favour

Q11 **B-L1** The Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026, in force from 1 October 2026, replaces the:

- a Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 b Information Technology Act, 2000
c Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 d Indian Evidence Act, 1872

Q12 **D-L8** The keel of the first Next Generation Missile Vessel for the Indian Navy was laid in September 2026 at which shipyard?

- a Goa Shipyard b Cochin Shipyard
c Garden Reach Shipbuilders d Mazagon Dock

Q13 **c6** In the WIPO Global Innovation Index 2026, India's overall rank is:

- a 25th
c 39th
- b 38th
d 49th

Q14 **F-L5** Which American Geophysical Union 2026 prize was awarded to IITM Pune's Roxy Mathew Koll?

- a Pavel S. Molchanov Climate Communications Prize
- b Walter Munk Award
- c Roger Revelle Medal
- d James B. Macelwane Medal

Q15 **D3** In the 2022 Management Effectiveness Evaluation, Andhra Pradesh's Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve scored 82.58 per cent, which is in the category:

- a Very Good b Excellent
c Good d Fair

Q16 **c4** In the Rabi MSP for Marketing Season 2027-28, which crop has the largest absolute increase per quintal?

- a Rapeseed and mustard b Lentil (masur)
c Wheat d Safflower

Q17 **C-L2** An RBI advisory committee on Ways and Means Advances to State Governments (chair I S N Prasad) reported on 29 September 2026. Its recommendations are:

- a Already in force as RBI directions
- b Binding on States as a Finance Commission award
- c An amendment to the FRBM Act
- d Recommendations that the Reserve Bank shall examine, not yet an RBI order

- Q18** **A-L2** Which body operates the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme as its designated Scheme Operating Agency?
- National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies
 - Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal
 - Forest Survey of India
 - Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
- Q19** **D-L9** The World Circular Economy Forum 2026, held in September 2026, was the first edition hosted in which region, at Gandhinagar?
- Latin America
 - South Asia
 - Southeast Asia
 - Africa
- Q20** **B-L7** 'CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad', launched in September 2026, is an AI tool built by BHASHINI under which ministry?
- Ministry of Education
 - Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Official Language)
 - Ministry of Culture
 - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- Q21** **F1** The Dadasaheb Phalke Award presented at the 72nd National Film Awards on 22 September 2026 went to:
- Kartik Aaryan
 - Anant Nag
 - Mohanlal
 - Mammooty
- Q22** **B-L4** Until what date did the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas invite comments on the draft Petroleum (Amendment) Bill, 2026?
- 30 October 2026
 - 15 October 2026
 - 30 November 2026
 - 31 December 2026
- Q23** **D-L11** The CHIME telescope, whose first standalone detection of the glow of hydrogen was announced in September 2026 with Raman Research Institute collaborators, is located in which country?
- Canada
 - India
 - Australia
 - Chile
- Q24** **E-L3** At the UN high-level meeting on 24 September 2026, Member States approved a declaration on sea-level rise that recognises which of the following?
- Redrawing of Exclusive Economic Zones to follow the shifting coastline
 - Continuity of Statehood and stability of maritime zones despite sea-level rise
 - A binding target to cap sea-level rise at 0.5 m by 2100
 - A new UN agency for climate migrants
- Q25** **E-L2** In their September 2026 joint statement, India and Belgium agreed to support each other's candidature for non-permanent UN Security Council membership for which terms?
- India 2037-2038 and Belgium 2028-29
 - India 2026-27 and Belgium 2028-29
 - India 2028-29 and Belgium 2031-32
 - India 2028-29 and Belgium 2037-2038

- Q26** **D-L7** At Bengaluru on 18 September 2026, HAL handed over which aircraft to the Indian Air Force?
- Four Dhruv NG helicopters
 - Two Tejas FOC twin-seater trainers and three HTT-40 basic trainers
 - Six Tejas Mk1A fighters
 - Three Su-30MKI
- Q27** **A-L12** Under which provision did Andhra Pradesh constitute its State Apprenticeship Council in September 2026?
- Section 24(4) of the Apprentices Act, 1961
 - Section 9 of the Apprentices Act, 1961
 - Section 21 of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946
 - Section 12 of the Skill India Mission guidelines
- Q28** **F-L1** At the 46th Chess Olympiad in Samarkand (15 to 27 September 2026), India's Open and Women's teams won, respectively:
- Bronze and silver
 - Silver and bronze
 - Gold and gold
 - Silver and gold
- Q29** **D-L10** India, which highlighted the Arabian Sea humpback whale at IWC-70 in Hobart in September 2026, has been a member of the International Whaling Commission since which year?
- 1986
 - 1981
 - 1946
 - 1972
- Q30** **E1** India assumed its fourth BRICS chairship in 2026. In which years had India chaired BRICS before?
- 2011, 2016 and 2022
 - 2012, 2015 and 2020
 - 2012, 2016 and 2021
 - 2010, 2014 and 2019

THE KEY

Q	KEY	ITEM	PAGE	Q	KEY	ITEM	PAGE	Q	KEY	ITEM	PAGE
Q1	c	B3	p. 30	Q11	c	B-L1	p. 33	Q21	b	F1	p. 76
Q2	c	C-L8	p. 55	Q12	b	D-L8	p. 65	Q22	a	B-L4	p. 33
Q3	c	C-L7	p. 54	Q13	b	C6	p. 50	Q23	a	D-L11	p. 66
Q4	a	A-L7	p. 21	Q14	a	F-L5	p. 81	Q24	b	E-L3	p. 75
Q5	b	F2	p. 77	Q15	a	D3	p. 59	Q25	d	E-L2	p. 75
Q6	d	C-L1	p. 53	Q16	d	C4	p. 49	Q26	b	D-L7	p. 65
Q7	a	A-L14	p. 23	Q17	d	C-L2	p. 53	Q27	a	A-L12	p. 22
Q8	a	C-L3	p. 53	Q18	b	A-L2	p. 19	Q28	b	F-L1	p. 80
Q9	d	C5	p. 50	Q19	b	D-L9	p. 65	Q29	b	D-L10	p. 66
Q10	d	E4	p. 73	Q20	d	B-L7	p. 34	Q30	c	E1	p. 68

Your score this month: _____ of 30. Next month, set your new score beside this one. It is a measure of you against yourself, not against anyone else.