

National News

- **Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) Approved:** The Union Cabinet approved the Green Energy Corridor Phase-III scheme with a total outlay of **₹1,86,405 crore**.
 - **Breakdown:** ₹1,36,378 crore is earmarked for grid transmission infrastructure, while ₹50,000 crore is dedicated to **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)**, supported by a Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of ₹54,082 crore.
 - **Targets:** Aims to evacuate 135 GW of renewable power and integrate 50 GWh of energy storage by FY 2032–33.
 - **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
 - Exam Tag: UPSC / SSC / Banking / State PCS.
- **UPSC Marks 100 Years (Centenary Celebration):** The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) completed 100 years of establishment (founded on October 1, 1926, based on the Lee Commission's recommendations).
 - **Releases:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative ₹100 coin, a postage stamp, and a volume on landmark civil service judicial rulings.
 - **Key Decision:** UPSC Chairman Dr. Ajay Kumar announced a new **Centre of Excellence** to standardize meritocratic recruitment and reduce examination cycle durations.
 - Static Link: Articles 315 to 323 under Part XIV of the Indian Constitution govern Public Service Commissions.
- **Rewilding of Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Initiated:** Captive-bred Great Indian

Bustards were released into the wild at Desert National Park, Jaisalmer (Rajasthan) under the Integrated GIB Conservation Project.

- **Facility:** A specialized rewilding aviary at Ramdevra was set up at an outlay of ₹9.25 crore.
- **Conservation Status:** IUCN Red List — Critically Endangered; WPA 1972 — Schedule I; CITES — Appendix I.
- Exam Tag: Environment & Ecology (UPSC / State PCS).

- **Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR) 2026:** Published jointly by Lokniti-CSDS and Common Cause. The report revealed that **63% of cybercrime victims** were dissatisfied with police response mechanisms, with only 29% receiving prompt police action within an hour.

International News

- **Strait of Hormuz Transit Restrictions:** Iran's parliament speaker announced that the Strait of Hormuz will remain closed to select Western commercial shipping until seven specific diplomatic conditions are fulfilled. Meanwhile, Iraq's State Oil Tanker Company successfully navigated a Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) carrying 2 million barrels through the choke point.
 - Static Link: The Strait connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, serving as the world's most critical crude oil choke point.
- **OPEC+ Output Policy Maintained:** Seven key OPEC+ countries (Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Oman) resolved to keep their production quotas unchanged through November during a ministerial review.



- **North Korea Tests Hypersonic Missile:** North Korea flight-tested an intermediate-range strategic hypersonic missile equipped with a maneuvering reentry vehicle (MaRV) under Kim Jong Un's supervision.
- **Swiss President Begins State Visit:** Swiss President Guy Parmelin initiated a 3-day official visit to India to advance trade commitments under the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

Economics & Banking

- **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 Comes into Effect:** Replaces the 135-year-old Bankers' Books Evidence Act of 1891.
 - **Core Impact:** Fully integrates digital banking ledgers, cloud extracts, and electronic records as primary admissible evidence under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) framework.
 - **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Law and Justice.

Economic Indicator / Metric	October 04, 2026 Fact / Value
Gross GST Revenue (Sept 2026)	₹2.04 lakh crore (+14.7% YoY)
Top GST Growth States	Assam (+88%), Uttar Pradesh (+18%)
Monsoon Performance (IMD)	Ended 13% below LPA (~87% of Long Period Average)
RBI Repo Rate (MPC Base)	5.25% (Stance: Neutral)

RBI Revises Norms for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs): The Reserve Bank of India issued updated liquidity management and Asset-Liability Management (ALM) frameworks targeting Tier-3 and Tier-4 Urban Cooperative Banks to curb concentration risks.

Defense News & Technology

- **DRDO Flight Tests Hypersonic Cruise Missile:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) executed a successful launch of an indigenous hypersonic cruise missile system from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
 - **Technology:** Uses an indigenous scramjet engine capable of maintaining speeds above Mach 5 in sustained atmospheric flight.



DRDO Hypersonic Cruise Missile Test. Source: RailTel Achieves Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) Milestone: RailTel Corporation of India

validated an unbreakable quantum encryption link across operational optical fiber links, enhancing national telecom security.

Government Schemes & Digital Portals

- **Krishi-Nivesh Portal:** Launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
 - **Objective:** Serves as a centralized Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) platform to streamline agribusiness investments, track post-harvest capital assistance, and simplify access to agricultural subsidy schemes.

MoUs, Trade Agreements & Partnerships

- **India-Canada CEPA 5th Round Negotiations:** Official teams convened in Ottawa for the 5th round of negotiations under the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), aiming for finalization by late 2026.

Sports News

- **20th Asian Games (Aichi-Nagoya 2026) Conclude:** The multi-sport event in Japan concluded with the closing ceremony on October 4.
 - **India's Tally:** India finished with **85 medals**, featuring gold medal wins in Men's and Women's Cricket, Men's Field Hockey, Men's Kabaddi, alongside podium finishes by golfer Diksha Dagar and wrestler Antim Panghal.
- **NFL London Series:** Indianapolis Colts defeated the Washington Commanders at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, opening the 2026 NFL UK international series.

Appointments & Resignations

- **Anup Bagchi:** Approved by the RBI as the Managing Director & CEO of **HDFC Bank** for a 3-year term starting October 27, 2026, succeeding Sashidhar Jagdishan.
- **Jay Clayton:** Appointed as AI Coordinator / Chief by the US Administration to oversee national intelligence-AI integration.

Awards, Honors, Books & Authors

- **Book Release:** "100 Years of Judicial Foundations and Civil Service Evolution" — Released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the UPSC Centenary event.

National & International Important Days

- **World Animal Day — October 04:**
 - **2026 Theme:** "See the World Through Their Eyes"
 - **History:** Initiated in 1925 by Heinrich Zimmermann and formally adopted in 1931 at Florence. Celebrated on the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi.



World Animal Day — October 04. Source:

- **World Space Week — October 04 to 10:**
 - **2026 Theme:** "Rocket Revolution"
 - **Significance:** Established by UN General Assembly Resolution 54/68. October 4 marks the 1957 launch of **Sputnik 1**, the first artificial satellite.
- **Lesotho Independence Day — October 04:** Marks the Kingdom of Lesotho's independence from Britain in 1966.

Art, Culture & Festivals

- **National Jain Convention (Delhi & Guntur):** Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan addressed delegates on the philosophical tenets of Ahimsa (non-violence) and Kshama (forgiveness).

Birth & Death Anniversaries (Obituaries)

- **Singeetham Srinivasa Rao (Passed away at 94):** Legendary Indian filmmaker known for pioneering work in South Indian cinema.
- **Notable Works:** Directed Aditya 369 (India's first sci-fi time-travel film) and Pushpaka Vimana (acclaimed silent dialogue-free comedy).

1. International Relations

Which country's defence company recently developed and deployed the FP-7 tactical ballistic missile, marking its first combat usage in October 2026?

- A) Israel
- B) Ukraine
- C) Iran
- D) Taiwan

- **Correct Answer: B) Ukraine**

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Ukraine has deployed its newly developed FP-7 tactical ballistic missile in combat for the first time.
- **Key Details:** Developed by the Ukrainian defence firm Fire Point, the FP-7 is a short-range tactical ballistic missile that can also function as a ballistic missile interceptor. Ukraine is concurrently developing the FP-9, an extended-range variant capable of striking targets up to 850 km away.
- **Exam Takeaway:** Crucial for international relations and defence technology questions in UPSC Civil Services Mains and Prelims.

2. International News & Diplomacy

Regarding India's foreign policy statement on the Russia-Ukraine conflict delivered on October 4, 2026, which position was emphasized by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar?

- A) India has adopted complete economic sanctions against both nations.
- B) India is moving "beyond advocacy" towards active diplomatic dialogue and grain security negotiations.
- C) India has called for an immediate termination of all Black Sea shipping corridors.
- D) India is deploying military observers under the UN peacekeeping umbrella.

- **Correct Answer: B) India is moving "beyond advocacy" towards active diplomatic dialogue and grain security negotiations**

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** EAM S. Jaishankar stated that India is taking steps "beyond advocacy" to help resolve the Russia-Ukraine war, specifically engaging on Black Sea safety and grain export agreements.



- **Significance:** India reiterates that durable peace requires negotiations and bilateral diplomacy rather than unilateral isolation, positioning New Delhi as a neutral bridge between global blocs.

3. International Investments & Economy

Where was the 14th meeting of the High-Level Joint Task Force on Investments (HLJTFI) held between India and the UAE in October 2026?

- A) Abu Dhabi
- B) New Delhi
- C) Mumbai
- D) Dubai

• **Correct Answer: C) Mumbai**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** The 14th India-UAE High-Level Joint Task Force on Investments met in Mumbai to accelerate bilateral trade and financial integration.
- **Key Highlights:** The UAE committed to mobilizing an additional \$25 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) toward its overall target of \$100 billion in India. Additionally, both central banks agreed to test Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) interoperability for cross-border payments.

4. National Infrastructure & Maritime Sector

Which marine oil terminal became the first in India to completely eliminate single-use plastics under Swachhata Abhiyan 2026?

- A) Pir Pau Marine Terminal
- B) Jawahar Dweep Marine Oil Terminal
- C) Deendayal Port Terminal (Kandla)
- D) Paradip Marine Terminal

• **Correct Answer: B) Jawahar Dweep Marine Oil Terminal**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** The Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA) officially declared the Jawahar Dweep Marine Oil Terminal as India's first plastic-free marine oil terminal.
- **Details:** Located off the coast of Mumbai, Maharashtra, Jawahar Dweep features five jetties dedicated to crude oil and refined petroleum product handling. The zero-single-use-plastic initiative extends across its docks and surrounding marine environments.

5. National Urban Governance

Under the PRAGATI-50 initiative launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), where was the first official Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (RRR) Centre inaugurated?

- A) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- B) Sankalp Bhawan, New Delhi
- C) Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
- D) Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

• **Correct Answer: B) Sankalp Bhawan, New Delhi**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** MoHUA rolled out initiatives under PRAGATI-50 to create 50 model cities setting higher urban cleanliness standards.
- **Key Feature:** The inaugurated RRR Centre institutionalizes sustainable waste segregation, resource recovery, and circular economy practices directly within government office complexes.

6. Economics & Banking Legislation

On October 1, 2026, which central legislation came into force, replacing a 135-year-old law to recognize digital and electronic banking records in legal proceedings?

- A) Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2026
- B) Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026
- C) Reserve Bank of India Digital Banking Act, 2026
- D) Indian Evidence Digital Reform Act, 2026

• **Correct Answer:** B) Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** The Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 replaced the colonial-era Bankers' Books Evidence Act of 1891.
- **Key Provisions:** Managed under the Ministry of Finance, the new law incorporates digital logs, core banking system (CBS) entries, and electronic transaction trails into evidentiary frameworks (including BNSS investigations) without requiring physical ledger production.

7. Banking & Sustainable Finance

Which institution successfully listed India's first Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Social Bond on the National Stock Exchange (NSE)?

- A) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- B) NABKISAN Finance Ltd
- C) National Housing Bank (NHB)
- D) Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

• **Correct Answer:** B) NABKISAN Finance Ltd

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** NABKISAN Finance Ltd, a subsidiary of NABARD, listed India's pioneer WASH Social Bond on the NSE.
- **Significance:** Proceeds are strictly earmarked for projects delivering clean drinking water access, community sanitation facilities, and hygiene infrastructure in rural and semi-urban communities.

8. Banking Regulation & Central Banking

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued updated regulatory norms for Tier-3 and Tier-4 Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) specifically targeting which operational aspect?

- A) Priority Sector Lending mandates
- B) Asset-Liability Management and liquidity standards
- C) Foreign exchange trading limits
- D) Pension fund allocations

• **Correct Answer:** B) Asset-Liability Management and liquidity standards

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** RBI revised asset-liability management (ALM) guidelines for large-sized Tier-3 and Tier-4 UCBs.
- **Objective:** Stricter liquidity coverage requirements reduce systemic vulnerabilities, protect retail depositors, and align cooperative banking prudential norms closer to scheduled commercial banks.

9. Economic Indices & Global Rankings

According to the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026 published by WIPO, what is India's rank among 139 economies?

- A) 36th
- B) 38th
- C) 40th



D) 42nd

• **Correct Answer: B) 38th**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** Released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva, India climbed to 38th place with a score of 40.1.
- **Regional Performance:** India retained 1st position in Central and Southern Asia. Switzerland held 1st place globally for the 16th consecutive year. India's global research output rose to 6.6% of all scientific publications.

10. Defense & Strategic Technology

From which test facility did the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-test an advanced Hypersonic Cruise Missile system in early October 2026?

- A) Sriharikota Launch Complex, Andhra Pradesh
- B) Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha
- C) Pokhran Test Range, Rajasthan
- D) INS Hansa, Goa

• **Correct Answer: B) Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** DRDO successfully validated complex scramjet propulsion and high-temperature thermal shielding during a flight test off the Odisha coast.
- **Strategic Impact:** Hypersonic vehicles travel at speeds exceeding Mach 5 (> 6,100 km/h), placing India in an elite group of nations with indigenous air-breathing hypersonic flight capability.

11. Defense Co-development & Bilateral Technology

What is UNICORN, the project that Japan's Defence Ministry urged India to fast-track co-development processing for in October 2026?

- A) Unified Complex Radio Antenna for naval warships
- B) Unmanned Coastal Reconnaissance Network
- C) Universal Crypto-Orbital Radar Navigation System
- D) Underwater Combat Rescue Vessel

• **Correct Answer: A) Unified Complex Radio Antenna for naval warships**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** UNICORN (Unified Complex Radio Antenna) is the first defence co-development agreement between India and Japan.
- **Implementation:** Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) serves as the primary Indian production partner. UNICORN integrates multi-frequency antenna systems into a stealthy dome, lowering the radar cross-section of Indian Navy warships.

12. Defense & Strategic Cybersecurity

Which Indian Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) successfully tested an indigenous Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) link over commercial optical fiber networks?

- A) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- B) RailTel Corporation of India
- C) ITI Limited
- D) Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL)

• **Correct Answer: B) RailTel Corporation of India**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** RailTel tested operational quantum encryption across high-traffic telecom corridors.
- **Technology:** QKD uses quantum mechanics principles (photon entanglement/superposition) to generate encryption keys that instantly alert users if intercepted, providing tamper-evident communication for defense and banking.

13. Asian Games 2026 – Final Standings

Where were the 20th Asian Games held, concluding on October 4, 2026, and where did India finish in the final medal standings?

- A) Hangzhou, China; India finished 3rd
- B) Aichi-Nagoya, Japan; India finished 4th
- C) Doha, Qatar; India finished 5th
- D) Jakarta, Indonesia; India finished 2nd

• **Correct Answer: B) Aichi-Nagoya, Japan; India finished 4th**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** The 20th Asian Games concluded on October 4, 2026, in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- **Tally:** China topped the table (169 Gold), Japan stood 2nd, South Korea 3rd, and India 4th with 21 Gold and 85 total medals. Future games: Doha (2030) and Riyadh (2034).

14. Asian Games 2026 – Hockey Achievements

India won the Women's Hockey Gold Medal at the 20th Asian Games by defeating which nation in the final match?

- A) Japan
- B) China
- C) South Korea
- D) Malaysia

• **Correct Answer: B) China**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** India's Women's Hockey team defeated defending champion China 1-0 in the final.
- **Highlights:** Lalremsiami scored the winning goal in the 10th minute. This marked India's first Asian Games women's hockey gold in 44 years (since New Delhi 1982) and secured direct entry to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

15. Sports – Closing Ceremony Honor

Who served as the flag bearer for the Indian contingent during the Closing Ceremony of the Asian Games on October 4, 2026?

- A) Harmanpreet Singh (Hockey)
- B) Neeru Dhanda (Shooting)
- C) Aman Sehrawat (Wrestling)
- D) Manu Bhaker (Shooting)

• **Correct Answer: B) Neeru Dhanda (Shooting)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** Trap shooter Neeru Dhanda, who secured gold in her event, carried the Indian flag at the closing ceremony in Aichi-Nagoya.
- **Sports Context:** India closed out the event with double gold medals in both Men's and Women's hockey at a single Asian Games edition.

16. Wildlife Conservation & Environment

At which protected area were two captive-bred male Great Indian Bustards (GIB) released into the wild on October 4, 2026?

- A) Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur
- B) Desert National Park, Jaisalmer
- C) Velavadar Blackbuck National Park, Gujarat



D) Kutch Bustard Sanctuary, Gujarat

- **Correct Answer: B) Desert National Park, Jaisalmer**
- **Detailed Explanation:**
 - **Context:** Union Environment Minister along with the Rajasthan Chief Minister released two captive-reared male GIBs into the wild at Desert National Park.
 - **Significance:** Culmination of a decade-long conservation breeding program guided by the Supreme Court expert panel and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to restore the critically endangered bird (Ardeotis nigriceps).

17. Biodiversity & Taxonomy Discoveries

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India recently discovered two new gecko species (*Hemidactylus cairnicola* and *Hemidactylus koyaorum*) in which Indian state?

- A) Telangana
- B) Western Ghats, Kerala
- C) Arunachal Pradesh
- D) Odisha

- **Correct Answer: A) Telangana**
- **Detailed Explanation:**
 - **Context:** Two new bent-toed gecko species were documented in Telangana.
 - **Details:** *Hemidactylus cairnicola* was found in Nalgonda district amidst traditional stone cairns, while *Hemidactylus koyaorum* was identified in Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary (Warangal) and named after the native Koya tribe. This brings Telangana's endemic reptile count to six.

18. Species Conservation & High-Altitude Ecology

The high-altitude sighting of which small, endangered wild cat species was recently documented in a newly designated sanctuary in Ladakh?

- A) Marbled Cat
- B) Pallas's Cat (*Otocolobus manul*)
- C) Fishing Cat
- D) Asian Golden Cat

- **Correct Answer: B) Pallas's Cat (*Otocolobus manul*)**
- **Detailed Explanation:**
 - **Context:** Wildlife researchers confirmed a breeding population of Pallas's Cat (Manul) in alpine habitats in Ladakh.
 - **Ecology:** Characterized by dense fur and low-set ears adapted to freezing cold temperatures, the species serves as a key indicator of healthy high-altitude steppe and cold desert ecosystems in the Himalayas.

19. Environment & Big Cat Conservation

Under the Tiger Reintroduction Programme, the Union Environment Ministry released the first tigress in which tiger reserve of West Bengal?

- A) Sundarbans Tiger Reserve
- B) Buxa Tiger Reserve
- C) Jaldapara National Park
- D) Gorumara National Park

- **Correct Answer: B) Buxa Tiger Reserve**
- **Detailed Explanation:**
 - **Context:** The Union Environment Minister and CM of West Bengal oversaw the release of a wild-caught tigress into Buxa Tiger Reserve.
 - **Goal:** Buxa had seen no resident tiger breeding activity for decades;

reintroduction from neighboring high-density reserves aims to restore apex predator balance in northern Bengal's Terai-Dooars ecosystem.

20. Government Initiatives – Agriculture Sector

What is the objective of the digital portal named Krishi-Nivesh launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare?

- A) Providing online land title registration for small farmers
- B) Streamlining, monitoring, and attracting private investments in agriculture
- C) Direct doorstep distribution of subsidized seeds
- D) Real-time tracking of localized weather forecasts

• **Correct Answer:** B) Streamlining, monitoring, and attracting private investments in agriculture

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** The Union Agriculture Ministry launched the single-window Krishi-Nivesh portal.
- **Features:** It acts as a centralized dashboard linking Agri-Infra Fund (AIF) schemes, private agribusiness proposals, food processing units, and credit capital flow tracking.

21. Agricultural Economics – Rabi MSP 2027-28

Under the revised Minimum Support Price (MSP) announcement for Rabi crops, which crop family received the largest absolute price support increases to reduce import dependencies?

- A) Foodgrains (Rice & Wheat)

B) Oilseeds & Pulses (Mustard, Safflower, Lentil)

C) Cash crops (Sugarcane & Cotton)

D) Coarse cereals (Barley & Maize)

• **Correct Answer:** B) Oilseeds & Pulses (Mustard, Safflower, Lentil)

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved Rabi crop MSPs.
- **Pricing Strategy:** Safflower, rapeseed-mustard, and lentil received high absolute price hikes, whereas wheat saw a 0.97% nominal adjustment. Wheat still retains a 106% profit margin over A2 + FL production costs. This skew encourages crop diversification away from water-intensive wheat toward edible oilseeds.

22. Awards & Honors

The 4th Eco Warrior Awards 2026 were hosted under the aegis of which Union Ministry to honor environmental champions?

- A) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- B) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
- C) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- D) Ministry of Jal Shakti

• **Correct Answer:** B) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** The MoEFCC conferred the 4th Eco Warrior Awards to individuals, forest officers, and communities demonstrating grassroot conservation excellence.
- **Key Emphasis:** Focus areas included community forest management, wildlife

rescue operations, and e-waste management initiatives.

23. Nobel Prize Schedule 2026

The announcement cycle for the 2026 Nobel Prizes begins on October 5, 2026. Which Nobel category is traditionally announced from Oslo, Norway, rather than Stockholm, Sweden?

- A) Nobel Prize in Literature
- B) Nobel Peace Prize
- C) Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine
- D) Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences

• **Correct Answer: B) Nobel Peace Prize**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** As per Alfred Nobel's 1895 will, the Nobel Peace Prize is selected by the Norwegian Nobel Committee and announced in Oslo.
- **Schedule:** Medicine (Oct 5), Physics (Oct 6), Chemistry (Oct 7), Literature (Oct 8), Peace (Oct 9, Oslo), and Economic Sciences (Oct 12).

24. Important Days & Themes

What is the official theme for World Animal Day, observed globally on October 4, 2026?

- A) "Shared Planet, Shared Future"
- B) "See the World Through Their Eyes"
- C) "Paws for Peace and Nature"
- D) "Protect Biodiversity, Preserve Life"

• **Correct Answer: B) "See the World Through Their Eyes"**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** World Animal Day is celebrated annually on October 4, coinciding with the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi (patron saint of animals).

- **Focus:** Encourages animal welfare standards, habitat conservation, and compassionate treatment of livestock and wild fauna globally.

25. UN Observances & Science

Which UN-declared week commences every year on October 4 to commemorate the launch of Sputnik-1 (1957)?

- A) International Science Week
- B) World Space Week
- C) Global Aviation & Aerospace Week
- D) World Astronomy Observance

• **Correct Answer: B) World Space Week**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** World Space Week runs from October 4 to October 10.
- **Dates:** Oct 4 marks the launch of humanity's first artificial satellite, Sputnik-1 (1957), while Oct 10 marks the signing of the Outer Space Treaty (1967). Theme for 2026: "Rocket Revolution".

26. National Conservation Observance

When is National Wildlife Week observed every year across India?

- A) October 1 to October 7
- B) October 2 to October 8
- C) October 5 to October 11
- D) September 25 to October 1

• **Correct Answer: B) October 2 to October 8**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** India observes Wildlife Week annually from October 2 (Gandhi Jayanti) to October 8.
- **Origin:** Instituted in 1952 by the Indian Board for Wildlife to promote awareness

around forest ecosystems, protected areas, and endangered species protection.

27. National Infrastructure & Forestry

How many saplings have been planted along National Highways under India's Green Highways Programme over the last five years (up to July 2026)?

- A) 1.50 Crore
- B) 3.61 Crore
- C) 5.12 Crore
- D) 2.25 Crore

• **Correct Answer: B) 3.61 Crore**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) announced that over 3.61 crore saplings were planted across approximately 1.32 lakh km of highway corridors.
- **Objectives:** Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance) Policy aims to reduce soil erosion, absorb carbon emissions, and minimize noise pollution along major freight routes.

28. Heritage & International Geography

The "Ahwar of Southern Iraq", highlighted in UNESCO World Heritage updates, is a mixed site comprising ancient Sumerian cities and which ecological feature?

- A) Zagros Mountain Forests
- B) Mesopotamian Marshes
- C) Tigris Canyon Basin
- D) Al-Khali Desert Oasis

• **Correct Answer: B) Mesopotamian Marshes**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** Ahwar of Southern Iraq is recognized as a mixed (natural and cultural) UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Composites:** It contains three archaeological sites (the Sumerian cities of Ur, Uruk, and Eridu) alongside four wetland marsh areas fed by the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

29. Books, Authors & Cultural Figures

Which botanical species, *Calotropis gigantea* (commonly called Aak or Crown Flower), featured in conservation medicine guidelines, is known for which ecological trait?

- A) Carnivorous plant targeting agricultural pests
- B) Drought-tolerant xerophytic plant host for Monarch butterflies
- C) Mangrove shrub growing exclusively in saline estuaries
- D) Epiphytic orchid found in high-canopy rainforests

• **Correct Answer: B) Drought-tolerant xerophytic plant host for Monarch butterflies**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** *Calotropis gigantea* (Aak) was featured in dryland ecosystem restoration manuals released by MoEFCC.
- **Significance:** Widely used in traditional Ayurveda (Aak medicine), it acts as a hardy pioneer species preventing desertification and serving as a host plant for pollinator species.

30. Governance & Cleanliness Campaigns

On Gandhi Jayanti (October 2, 2026), which phase of the Special Campaign was kicked off across central ministries to promote e-waste management and clear office pendency?

- A) Special Campaign 3.0
- B) Special Campaign 6.0
- C) Special Campaign 4.0
- D) Swachh Office Mission 2.0

• **Correct Answer: B) Special Campaign 6.0**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

- **Context:** Launched by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievance (DARPG) and MoEFCC on October 2, 2026.
- **Target:** Special Campaign 6.0 focuses on scrap disposal, institutionalizing digital record management, clearing public grievances, and liberating government office space across nationwide offices.

