

1. National News & Government Schemes

• Cyclone Arnab Hits Eastern Coast:

- Details: Cyclone Arnab made landfall along the eastern coast of India, causing heavy rainfall and severe weather disturbances primarily in Andhra Pradesh and adjoining eastern states. State authorities and disaster response teams took proactive measures, suspending sea fishing, shutting down schools, and safely evacuating over 84,000 people to designated relief and cyclone shelters.

• DPIIT Startup Recognitions Cross 2.5 Lakh Milestone:

- Details: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) reported that recognized startups across India have crossed **250,046**. Spanning over 770 districts, these startups have collectively generated more than 2.54 million jobs, highlighting the decentralized growth of entrepreneurship beyond tier-1 metropolitan cities.

• 7th AgriVoltaics World Conference 2026:

- Details: Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Pralhad Joshi, jointly inaugurated the 7th AgriVoltaics World Conference at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Discussions focused on scaling up agrioltaics under the upcoming phases of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM)** scheme to dual-use agricultural land for crop cultivation and solar energy generation.

• PM-DAKSH Scheme Performance:

- Details: The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) released performance metrics noting that the PM-DAKSH scheme successfully trained 1.87 lakh candidates, resulting in formal job placements for over 96,162 individuals across targeted marginalized communities.

2. International News & MoUs

• 11th Edition of Exercise 'Garuda Shakti':

- Details: India and Indonesia commenced the 11th edition of the bilateral joint special forces military exercise, **Garuda Shakti**, in Banyuwangi, Indonesia. Scheduled to run through November 6, 2026, the exercise focuses on sharing tactical operational expertise, enhancing interoperability, and boosting joint counter-terrorism capabilities.

• India-Sri Lanka Cultural Partnership (SAMHiTA Project):

- Details: Deepening cultural and historical cooperation, India and Sri Lanka advanced the **South Asian Manuscript Histories and Textual Archive (SAMHiTA)** Palm-Leaf Manuscript Digitisation Project at the historic Gangaramaya Temple in Colombo, aiming to digitize 100 ancient Buddhist and religious manuscripts.

• New President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU):

- Details: Milton Dick, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Australia, was elected as the 32nd President of the IPU for a three-year tenure.

3. Economics & Banking

• Jio Platforms IPO Market Debut:

- Details: Jio Platforms made its historic trading debut on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock

Exchange (NSE) following its landmark ₹30,213-crore Initial Public Offering (IPO), which witnessed massive investor appetite with over ₹7.3 lakh crore in bids.

- **Global Workforce and Corporate Restructuring (Microsoft):**
 - Details: Technology giant Microsoft announced a voluntary exit package program targeting approximately 60,000 eligible employees across global operations (including India, the US, UK, and Canada) as part of a strategic corporate pivot to accelerate heavy investments in artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure.

4. Defense News

- **Major Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) Clearances:**
 - Details: The DAC granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) approvals to upgrade India's combat and surveillance readiness:
 - **Army:** Cleared the procurement of over 300 additional **K9 Vajra-T self-propelled howitzers** at an estimated cost exceeding ₹20,000 crore.
 - **Navy:** Approved Active Offboard Decoy Systems (AODS) to effectively counter advanced anti-ship missiles.
 - **Air Force:** Approved new air defense systems, specialized utility helicopters, and Mobile X-Band Doppler Weather Radar Systems for localized high-resolution weather surveillance.

5. Appointments

- **Milton Dick:** Elected as the 32nd President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

6. Awards and Honors

- **70th Ballon d'Or Awards (2026):**

- Details: Hosted at the Palladium Theatre in London, UK, and co-organized by UEFA and Groupe Amaury.
- **Men's Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball):** England captain and Bayern Munich star striker **Harry Kane** won the prestigious honor after netting 73 goals across club and international fixtures. He became the first English player to claim the award in 25 years (following Michael Owen in 2001).

7. Sports News

- **Cricket (T20 International Record):**
 - Details: Explosive Indian opening batsman **Abhishek Sharma** slammed a blistering **35-ball century** during the 3rd T20I match against New Zealand. This marked his 11th T20 hundred, surpassing Virat Kohli's record of 10 centuries to become the Indian player with the most centuries in the format.
- **Chess (European Chess Club Cup 2026):**
 - Details: Indian Grandmasters **Nihal Sarin** and **Koneru Humpy** clinched individual gold medals at the 41st European Chess Club Cup and the 30th European Women's Chess Club Cup held in Budva, Montenegro.

8. Books and Authors

- **'The Story of Vande Mataram':**
 - Details: Former Governor Arif Mohammed Khan officially unveiled the English translation of the book *The Story of Vande Mataram* in New Delhi, shedding light on the historical evolution, freedom struggle context, and cultural significance of India's national song.

9. Important Days, Art, Culture & Festivals

- **Vigilance Awareness Week 2026:** Observed nationwide from **October 26 to November 1, 2026**, focusing on institutional transparency, integrity, and anti-corruption practices.
- **World Day for Audiovisual Heritage:** Observed annually on **October 27** to underline the global importance of preserving recorded sound, films, and video documents.
- **Dyslexia Awareness Month:** Observed throughout **October (1-31)** to spread awareness and build inclusive support frameworks for learning-disabled children and individuals.

30 Practice MCQs for UPSC, SSC, Banking & Railway Exams

Q1. Which international organization's entity provisionally earmarked disaster-specific funds for Nepal's flood recovery in October 2026?

- A) Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- B) Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)
- C) Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- D) Adaptation Fund

Answer: B | Explanation: The FRLD operates under the UNFCCC financial mechanism and allocated its first country-and-disaster-specific relief fund to Nepal.

Q2. Under the Digital Agriculture Mission, how many Farmer IDs were created by October 2026, achieving the target 5 months early?

- A) 5 Crore
- B) 8 Crore
- C) 11 Crore
- D) 15 Crore

Answer: C | Explanation: The Ministry achieved its target early by creating 11 crore verified digital Farmer IDs across India.

Q3. Which derivative exchange launched two new rule-based equity indices named 'NDEX' and 'FINNDEX'?

- A) BSE
- B) NSE
- C) MCX
- D) NCDEX

Answer: D | Explanation: National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) launched NDEX and FINNDEX to enter the equities segment.

Q4. The Union Cabinet renamed the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) to which of the following?

- A) Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana (PMSSY)
- B) PM Gramin Suraksha Yojana
- C) PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana
- D) PM Vaya Vandana Yojana

Answer: A | Explanation: NSAP was restructured and renamed as PMSSY with an outlay of ₹53,428 crore for 2026-2031.

Q5. Who was appointed as the Chairman of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) in October 2026?

- A) Arun Kumar Singh
- B) Sunil Kumar
- C) Sandeep Kumar Gupta
- D) Pankaj Jain

Answer: B | Explanation: The ACC approved the appointment of Sunil Kumar as the Chairman of ONGC for a 3-year term.

Q6. Who is the recipient of the first Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Award?

- A) Lata Mangeshkar
- B) Asha Bhosle
- C) Usha Mangeshkar
- D) K. S. Chithra

Answer: C | Explanation: Playback singer Usha Mangeshkar was selected by the Assam Government for this maiden national honor.

Q7. What is the target market size set for India's chemical and petrochemical sector by 2040?

- A) \$500 Billion
- B) \$750 Billion
- C) \$1 Trillion
- D) \$1.6 Trillion

Answer: C | Explanation: Target set by Union Minister J. P. Nadda at India Chem-2026 is \$1 Trillion by 2040 and \$1.6 Trillion by 2047.

Q8. The Indian Army commemorates Infantry Day (Shaurya Diwas) on which date every year?

- A) October 24
- B) October 26
- C) October 27
- D) October 28

Answer: C | Explanation: October 27 marks the historic landing of Indian troops in Srinagar in 1947.

Q9. Four nations signed the 'Badr MoU' in Doha for defense industrial collaboration. Which country is NOT part of this MoU?

- A) Turkey
- B) Indonesia
- C) Saudi Arabia
- D) Qatar

Answer: C | Explanation: The Badr MoU signatories are Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar, and Indonesia. Saudi Arabia signed the separate Makkah Agreement.

Q10. Where did NLC India Limited sign ₹37,000 crore worth of investment MoUs with IPICOL?

- A) Bhubaneswar
- B) Mumbai
- C) New Delhi
- D) Chennai

Answer: B | Explanation: NLC India Limited signed strategic industrial MoUs with IPICOL (Odisha) in Mumbai.

Q11. Where was the Reserve Bank of India's new Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute inaugurated?

- A) Hyderabad
- B) Bengaluru
- C) Bhubaneswar
- D) Pune

Answer: C | Explanation: The RBI facility was inaugurated in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Q12. The Indian Navy's apex international strategic outreach dialogue (IPRD-2026) is hosted in which city?

- A) Visakhapatnam
- B) Kochi
- C) Mumbai
- D) New Delhi

Answer: D | Explanation: The Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD-2026) is organized at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.

Q13. C-DAC signed an agreement with which Bank to advance quantum financial innovation?

- A) State Bank of India



- B) Bank of India
- C) Punjab National Bank
- D) Canara Bank

Answer: B | Explanation: Bank of India signed an MoU with C-DAC for quantum banking tech and cybersecurity.

Q14. What is the deadline extension year approved for the PMSSY (formerly NSAP) scheme outlay?

- A) 2028-29
- B) 2029-30
- C) 2030-31
- D) 2031-32

Answer: C | Explanation: The Cabinet extended PMSSY operations through FY 2030-31 with an outlay of ₹53,428 crore.

Q15. Under the Indian Air Force Day 2026 theme "Wings over Ganges", where was the aerial display hosted?

- A) Prayagraj
- B) Varanasi
- C) Haridwar
- D) Patna

Answer: B | Explanation: The aerial display was organized at Namo Ghat, Varanasi, commemorating the 94th IAF anniversary.

Q16. World Development Information Day and UN Day are observed annually on which date?

- A) October 22
- B) October 24
- C) October 28
- D) October 30

Answer: B | Explanation: Both UN Day and World Development Information Day are observed globally on October 24.

Q17. Which organization developed the 'RoDTEP' scheme extended by the Ministry of Commerce for exporters?

- A) Ministry of Finance / Commerce
- B) RBI
- C) SEBI
- D) NABARD

Answer: A | Explanation: Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) is an export support scheme under the Ministry of Commerce.

Q18. What does 'VB-G RAM G' stand for in the context of rural employment schemes?

- A) Village Building Gramin Ajeevika Mission
- B) Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)
- C) Vishwakarma Bharat Gramin Rozgar Yojana
- D) Value Based Rural Employment Guarantee

Answer: B | Explanation: VB-G RAM G stands for Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin).

Q19. Who was appointed as the Ambassador-at-Large for IIMSAM (India region) in October 2026?

- A) Anca-Maria Verma
- B) Ruchira Kamboj
- C) Geeta Rao Gupta
- D) Arindam Bagchi

Answer: A | Explanation: Anca-Maria Verma was appointed Ambassador-at-Large for IIMSAM for a 5-year tenure.

Q20. What is the target total steel capacity set by India to achieve by the year 2030-31?

- A) 200 Million Tonnes
- B) 250 Million Tonnes



- C) 300 Million Tonnes
D) 400 Million Tonnes

Answer: C | Explanation: National Steel Policy targets 300 million tonnes of steel capacity by 2030–31.

Q21. Which state government announced the formulation of its first dedicated State Veterinary Policy?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
B) Rajasthan
C) Uttar Pradesh
D) Gujarat

Answer: B | Explanation: Rajasthan announced its first dedicated State Veterinary Policy to boost animal husbandry and livestock yields.

Q22. India targets achieving Net-Zero carbon emissions by which year?

- A) 2050
B) 2060
C) 2070
D) 2080

Answer: C | Explanation: India's official commitment at COP26 is to achieve Net-Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070.

Q23. Which state won 1st place in the Administrative Reforms awards presented for institutional excellence?

- A) Uttar Pradesh (Handloom Dept & Higher Education)
B) Tamil Nadu
C) Maharashtra
D) Karnataka

Answer: A | Explanation: Uttar Pradesh government departments swept top state

institutional administrative performance honors.

Q24. What is the commitment fund approved by the Cabinet for the SME Growth Fund in 2026?

- A) ₹2,000 Crore
B) ₹5,000 Crore
C) ₹10,000 Crore
D) ₹15,000 Crore

Answer: C | Explanation: The Union Cabinet approved a ₹10,000 crore commitment for the SME Growth Fund.

Q25. Which authority regulates InvITs (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) in India?

- A) RBI
B) SEBI
C) IRDAI
D) PFRDA

Answer: B | Explanation: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the statutory regulator for InvITs and REITs.

Q26. What was the central focus of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) meeting in late October 2026?

- A) Crypto regulation
B) Scaling DPI, Account Aggregator framework & ULI for MSMEs
C) Direct tax reforms
D) Foreign Direct Investment caps

Answer: B | Explanation: FSDC focused on expanding Digital Public Infrastructure, Account Aggregators, and Unified Lending Interface (ULI) for small enterprises.

Q27. The National SARAS Mela 2026 primarily provides a marketing platform for which group?

- A) Corporate Startups



- B) Self-Help Group (SHG) Women Artisans
- C) Defense Ex-servicemen
- D) Foreign Exporters

Answer: B | Explanation: SARAS Mela is organized under DAY-NRLM to market products created by rural SHG women.

Q28. The 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan-Rabi 2026' was launched by which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Environment
- B) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- C) Ministry of Rural Development
- D) Ministry of Jal Shakti

Answer: B | Explanation: Launched nationwide by the Ministry of Agriculture to promote sustainable agriculture for the Rabi season.

Q29. What is the full form of 'RELIEF' scheme extended for logistics in trade?

- A) Regional Logistics and Energy Facilitation
- B) Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation
- C) Restructuring Infrastructure and Logistics Scheme
- D) Rapid Export Logistics and Freight Initiative

Answer: B | Explanation: RELIEF stands for Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation.

Q30. International Animation Day is celebrated globally on which date?

- A) October 25
- B) October 27
- C) October 28
- D) October 29

Answer: C | Explanation: Celebrated on October 28 each year by ASIFA to honor the birth of animation art.

