1. National News

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY)

- **Details:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY)** as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) running from **2026–27 to 2030–31**, aligning with the timeframe of the Sixteenth Finance Commission.
- **Financial Outlay:** The total financial outlay is **₹7,395.55 crore**, which includes a Central share of ₹4,869.48 crore and a state share of ₹2,526.07 crore.
- **Objective:** To transform grassroots governance, empower Panchayati Raj Institutions, and link the vision of Viksit Bharat with rural community needs. It directly benefits about 32 lakh elected representatives and functionaries across more than 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats.
- **Exam Relevance:** Important for Polity, Government Schemes, and Rural Development sections.

MoRTH Policy Updates on Toll Passes & E100 Ethanol Fuel

- **Annual Toll Pass:** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) introduced a Concessional Local Pass for non-commercial vehicle owners residing within **20 km** of a National Highway fee plaza, priced at ₹1,500/year (outside local town limits) and ₹3,000/year.
- **E100 Ethanol Fuel:** MoRTH amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989, to officially permit the use of **up to 100% ethanol (E100)** fuel in vehicles specifically designed for flexible fuel (Flex-Fuel vehicles).

2. International News

WJP Rule of Law Index 2026

- **Details:** The World Justice Project (WJP) released the **Rule of Law Index 2026**.
- **Key Findings: Denmark** secured the top position globally, reflecting strong adherence to the rule of law, anti-corruption frameworks, and fundamental rights. India experienced a drop in its ranking, placing **88th**.
- **Exam Relevance:** Global indices and rankings are high-yield areas for UPSC prelims and banking awareness.

IUCN Global Coral Reef Assessment Report

- **Details:** Released during the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Yerevan, Armenia.
- **Findings:** The first global coral reef assessment under the Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) warned that an alarming **96% of assessed coral reef ecosystems face the risk of collapse by 2075** due to climate change and marine heatwaves.

3. Economy & Banking

SBI Launches Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (CyRIS)

- **Details:** State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, launched **CyRIS (Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence)** in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- **Objective:** To shift from a reactive stance to proactive threat prevention, enhancing threat intelligence and cyber resilience across India's financial sector.

Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme

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- **Details:** The Union Cabinet approved the **₹10,000 crore** Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme to boost domestic manufacturing capacity.
- **Target:** To scale up India's annual container manufacturing capacity from ~70,000 TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) to **7.5 lakh TEU** by FY 2039–40, reducing import dependency.

4. Defence News

HQ IDS Signs MoU with Sarvam AI

- **Details:** The Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) signed a five-year MoU with **Sarvam AI** to develop sovereign Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities tailored specifically for the Indian Armed Forces.

Exercise Garuda Shakti 2026

- **Details:** The 11th edition of the India–Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise **'Garuda Shakti 2026'** commenced in **Banyuwangi, Indonesia.**
- **Objective:** To enhance bilateral defense cooperation, counter-terrorism tactics, and tactical operational interoperability between the special forces of both nations.

Launch of Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) 'Srishti'

- **Details:** Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) launched the fourth indigenous NGOPV named **'Srishti' (Yard 1283)** for the Indian Navy at Vaddem, Vasco-da-Gama, Goa.

5. Appointments

- **Air Marshal Vikram Gaur:** Appointed as the Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), marking a historic milestone as **the first Indian Air Force (IAF) officer to hold this position**.
- **Rajesh Kumar Singh:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved a one-year extension for Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, extending his tenure until **31 October 2027**.

6. Awards and Honors

UAE Civilian Honor for Indian Pilot

- **Recipient:** Captain **Smit Machchhar**.
- **Award:** First Class Order of Zayed II (Civilian Decoration of the UAE).
- **Reason:** Honored by UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his exemplary bravery in protecting 174 passengers aboard a Flydubai flight during a mid-air security threat.

7. Books and Authors

- **Book Title:** Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World
- **Author: Anil K. Antony**
- **Released By:** Vice-President of India, C. P. Radhakrishnan.

8. Important Days

- **Date: October 29**
- **Day Name: International Day of Care and Support**
- **Significance:** Proclaimed by the United Nations to raise awareness about the critical role of care and support work in achieving gender equality, sustainable social development, and economic stability.

9. Sports News

- **World Boxing U19 Championships 2026:** Held in Budva, Montenegro. India secured four medals (1 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze) to finish joint seventh overall. India's **Aditya**

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claimed the **gold medal** in the men's 55 kg category.

- **US Grand Prix 2026:** Mercedes driver **Kimi Antonelli** clinched his ninth victory of the season at the United States Grand Prix.

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. What is the financial outlay approved by the Union Cabinet for the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS) through FY 2039–40?

(a) ₹5,000 crore

(b) ₹7,500 crore

(c) ₹10,000 crore

(d) ₹15,000 crore

Q2. India ranked at which position in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2026?

(a) 72nd

(b) 88th

(c) 94th

(d) 102nd

Q3. Which country topped the WJP Rule of Law Index 2026?

(a) Denmark

(b) Norway

(c) Finland

(d) Sweden

Q4. Exercise 'Garuda Shakti 2026' is a joint special forces exercise conducted between India and which country?

(a) France

(b) Indonesia

(c) Sri Lanka

(d) Thailand

Q5. Where was the 11th edition of Exercise 'Garuda Shakti 2026' conducted?

(a) Banyuwangi, Indonesia

(b) Umroi, Meghalaya

(c) Cisotru, Bandung

(d) Pune, Maharashtra

Q6. What is the theme for the International Day of Care and Support 2026, observed on 29 October?

(a) Care Economy for Inclusive Growth

(b) Sustainable Care and Digital Inclusion

(c) Building Sustainable Care and Support Systems through Decent Work

(d) Empowering Caregivers Worldwide

Q7. Who was appointed as the Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), becoming the first IAF officer to hold the post?

(a) Air Marshal Vikram Gaur

(b) Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

(c) Air Marshal R. K. S. Bhadauria

(d) Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh

Q8. What is the target annual manufacturing capacity of TEUs under the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)?

(a) 2.5 lakh TEUs

(b) 5.0 lakh TEUs

(c) 7.5 lakh TEUs

(d) 10.0 lakh TEUs

Q9. Which bank launched 'CyRIS' (Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence) in Mumbai?

(a) HDFC Bank

(b) ICICI Bank

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(c) Punjab National Bank

(d) State Bank of India

Q10. Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) 'Srishti' (Yard 1283) was launched by which shipyard?

(a) Cochin Shipyard Limited

(b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

(c) Goa Shipyard Limited

(d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

Q11. President Droupadi Murmu released a ₹200 commemorative coin to mark the 200th birth anniversary of which spiritual leader?

(a) Sant Tukaram Ji

(b) Mata Sahib Hasi Devi Ji

(c) Mata Gujri Ji

(d) Rani Rashmoni

Q12. What is the distance limit for non-commercial vehicle owners to qualify for MoRTH's Concessional Local Pass at toll plazas?

(a) 10 km

(b) 15 km

(c) 20 km

(d) 30 km

Q13. HQ IDS signed a 5-year MoU with which technology firm to develop sovereign AI capabilities for the Indian Armed Forces?

(a) Tata Consultancy Services

(b) Sarvam AI

(c) Krutrim AI

(d) Infosys

Q14. The Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY) has been approved with an outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore for which period?

(a) FY 2025–26 to 2028–29

(b) FY 2026–27 to 2030–31

(c) FY 2026–27 to 2032–33

(d) FY 2027–28 to 2031–32

Q15. Who won the Gold medal for India in the men's 55 kg category at the World Boxing U19 Championships 2026?

(a) Nishant Dev

(b) Aditya

(c) Deepak Bhoria

(d) Sachin Siwach

Q16. Where were the World Boxing U19 Championships 2026 held?

(a) Yerevan, Armenia

(b) Budva, Montenegro

(c) Sofia, Bulgaria

(d) Astana, Kazakhstan

Q17. According to the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems report, what percentage of global coral reefs face risk of collapse by 2075?

(a) 75%

(b) 82%

(c) 90%

(d) 96%

Q18. Who won the United States Grand Prix 2026 (Formula 1)?

(a) Max Verstappen

(b) Kimi Antonelli

(c) Charles Leclerc

(d) Lando Norris

Q19. Yasuo Fukuda, who recently passed away, was the former Prime Minister of which country?

(a) South Korea

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(b) Japan

(c) Vietnam

(d) Singapore

Q20. What is *Osbeckia assamensis*, which was recently in the news?

(a) A new species of butterfly

(b) A new flowering plant species

(c) A deep-sea fish species

(d) A newly discovered frog species

Q21. Which organization collaborated with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to introduce the "Sports Values in Every Classroom Toolkit"?

(a) UNICEF

(b) UNESCO

(c) IOC

(d) WHO

Q22. The Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989 amendment by MoRTH officially permitted the adoption of which fuel blend in flex-fuel vehicles?

(a) E20

(b) E50

(c) E85

(d) E100

Q23. Who was given additional charge as the Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)?

(a) Rahul Rasgotra

(b) Sanjay Singhal

(c) Nitin Agrawal

(d) Anish Dayal Singh

Q24. International Animation Day is celebrated globally on which date?

(a) October 27

(b) October 28

(c) October 29

(d) October 30

Q25. Which exchange signed an agreement with MMTC-PAMP to expand the Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR) market?

(a) NSE

(b) BSE

(c) MCX

(d) NCDEX

Q26. What is the overall financial outlay of the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme approved through 2033–34?

(a) ₹1,130.00 crore

(b) ₹1,500.50 crore

(c) ₹1,856.67 crore

(d) ₹2,100.00 crore

Q27. COP17 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in which city where the IUCN Coral Reef report was presented?

(a) Baku, Azerbaijan

(b) Yerevan, Armenia

(c) Tashkent, Uzbekistan

(d) Tbilisi, Georgia

Q28. Anca-Maria Verma was appointed Ambassador-At-Large for India by which inter-governmental institution?

(a) International Solar Alliance

(b) IIMSAM (Micro-Algae Spirulina Against Malnutrition)

(c) FAO

(d) Bay of Bengal Initiative

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Q29. What is the annual toll pass fee fixed by MoRTH for non-commercial local residents living outside municipal limits within 20 km of a toll plaza?

(a) ₹1,000

(b) ₹1,500

(c) ₹2,000

(d) ₹3,000

Q30. The International Day of Care and Support was first officially recognized and observed in which year?

(a) 2021

(b) 2022

(c) 2023

(d) 2024

Answer Key & Explanations

1. **(c) ₹10,000 crore** — CMPS is budgeted at ₹10,000 crore up to FY40.
2. **(b) 88th** — India ranks 88th in the 2026 WJP Rule of Law Index.
3. **(a) Denmark** — Denmark secured 1st position globally.
4. **(b) Indonesia** — Garuda Shakti is the India-Indonesia joint special forces drill.
5. **(a) Banyuwangi, Indonesia** — The 11th edition took place at Banyuwangi.
6. **(c) Building Sustainable Care and Support Systems through Decent Work** — Official 2026 UN/ILO theme.
7. **(a) Air Marshal Vikram Gaur** — First IAF officer appointed as Additional Secretary in DMA.
8. **(c) 7.5 lakh TEUs** — CMPS aims to expand annual container production to 7.5 lakh TEUs.
9. **(d) State Bank of India** — SBI established CyRIS in Mumbai.
10. **(c) Goa Shipyard Limited** — GSL constructed and launched NGOPV *Srishti*.
11. **(b) Mata Sahib Hasi Devi Ji** — Released on her 200th birth anniversary at Shadani Darbar.
12. **(c) 20 km** — Applies to non-commercial vehicles within 20 km of NH toll plazas.
13. **(b) Sarvam AI** — Partnered with HQ IDS for sovereign military AI development.
14. **(b) FY 2026–27 to 2030–31** — PM VGSY covers a 5-year execution window.
15. **(b) Aditya** — Won Gold in 55 kg category at Budva, Montenegro.
16. **(b) Budva, Montenegro** — Venue for the U19 World Boxing Event.
17. **(d) 96%** — IUCN report states 96% face severe collapse risk by 2075.
18. **(b) Kimi Antonelli** — Mercedes driver won the US Grand Prix in Austin.
19. **(b) Japan** — Former Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda passed away at 90.
20. **(b) A new flowering plant species** — Discovered in Assam, India.
21. **(b) UNESCO** — MYAS signed MoU with UNESCO for classroom toolkits.
22. **(d) E100** — 100% ethanol flex-fuel vehicles were authorized.
23. **(b) Sanjay Singhal** — DG SSB took additional charge of ITBP.
24. **(b) October 28** — International Animation Day is observed on Oct 28.
25. **(b) BSE** — BSE partnered with MMTC-PAMP for Electronic Gold Receipts.
26. **(c) ₹1,856.67 crore** — Outlay allocated for sports goods manufacturing scheme.
27. **(b) Yerevan, Armenia** — CBD COP17 host location.
28. **(b) IIMSAM** — Appointed Ambassador-At-Large for a 5-year term.
29. **(b) ₹1,500** — Fee set for non-commercial passes outside municipal limits.
30. **(c) 2023** — The UN first observed IDCS on October 29, 2023.

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