EduTap

CurrentTap

October 2026 – 1st to 7th

Comprehensive
Current Affairs Magazine
Covering

GA **ESI** **FINANCE**





Dear Students,

We understand that while reading the magazine, it can sometimes feel overwhelming to decide what to focus on first. To make your preparation smoother and more strategic, we've introduced three support features — designed to work together with your preparation style.

FAQ Document – To Help You Understand Better

- It makes student understand the relevance of the document for the respective examination by making student understand the Weightage, Timeline, Date of Uploading with respect to the document.
- Click here to read the FAQ document.
  - RBI
  - NABARD

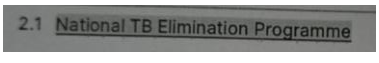
YouTube Videos – To Help You Reinforce Concepts

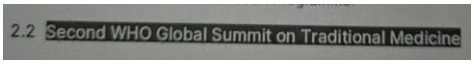
- We have covered some of the most important news articles from the document in a simplified format
- We have added a **YouTube icon (▶) with embedded link** along with the titles of news which are covered in the YouTube lectures.

Colour Coding – To Help You Prioritise

- We have introduced **two dedicated colour codes** to help you quickly **identify high-priority content**.
- **Colour Code Classification:**
  - **Relevant for Phase I (Light Blue Color) Example – 2.1 National TB Elimination Programme**
  - **Relevant for Phase I and II (Maroon Color) – 2.3 Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine**

After taking a printout the news will look as follows:

Phase I (It will appear light in color)- 

Phase I and II (It will appear dark in color) - 

- **Important Note:**

- The **colour codes** have been applied **only** to those news items that carry **high exam priority**, based on analysis of previous year question trends and expected relevance.
- Students are **strongly advised** to go through the **entire magazine** for **comprehensive coverage**.
- However, if you are short on time and wish to focus only on high-priority topics, you may use these colour codes as a quick reference guide.

Warm regards,

Team EduTap

CurrentTap1st to 7th October 2026

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1. GA IN NEWS

PIB IN NEWS

FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	India's First Plastic-free Oil Terminal	• Milestone achieved by **Jawahar Dweep Marine Oil Terminal (also known as Butcher Island), operated by the Mumbai Port Authority.**
2.	Historic Firsts Infrastructure Projects from Indian Railways	• **India's first Vande Bharat Express** — launched in on the **New Delhi–Kanpur–Prayagraj–Varanasi corridor.** • **India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper** – launched between **Howrah–Guwahati in 2026.** • **Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor** includes **India's first undersea rail tunnel beneath Thane Creek.**
3.	India's First 5.56 km Free-Space Quantum Key Distribution Link	• **India's first free-space Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) link** over a **distance of 5.56 km** was successfully demonstrated by **QNu Labs**, in collaboration with **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) and IIT Gandhinagar**.
4.	The first Fleet Support Ship (FSS-1) being built for the Indian Navy	• Name: **Surya.** • Launched at **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.** • **HSL is constructing five Fleet Support Ships for the Indian Navy.**

5.	First-ever competitive e-auction of two mineral blocks in Jammu & Kashmir	• Two limestone blocks have been auctioned through the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, under the Central Government's mineral auction process.
		  ○ **Koot–Kapran Limestone Block, Anantnag.**
		  ○ **Wantrag Limestone Block, Anantnag.**

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

S.No	Initiative	Key Facts
1.	Five Centres of Excellence for Classical Languages	• The **Ministry of Education** has approved the establishment of **five Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** for the study of Classical Assamese, Classical Bengali, Classical Marathi, Classical Pali and Classical Prakrit.

Classical Language	Centre of Excellence Location	State
Assamese	Tezpur University	Assam
Bengali	Visva-Bharati University	West Bengal
Marathi	Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune	Maharashtra
Pali	Central University of Odisha	Odisha
Prakrit	Central University of Gujarat	Gujarat

		Additional Information • **India** currently has **11 Classical Languages.** • The status is granted to languages with high antiquity, a rich body of ancient literature, knowledge texts/inscriptions, and a classical form that may be distinct from the modern form. • **Tamil was the first language to receive Classical Language status** in India, in **2004.**
2.	**Special Campaign 6.0**	• Being undertaken from 2 October to 31 October 2026. • Coordinated by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG),** Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India. • Its twin focus is **Swachhata (cleanliness) and good governance/reduction of pendency in government offices.**

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

S.No	Summit/Conference	Key Outcomes
1.	**70th meeting of the International Whaling Commission**	• Venue: **Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.** • **The biennial summit** coincided with the **80th anniversary** of the **signing of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1946).** • Its membership includes **89 governments from all over the world.** • **India has been a member of the International Whaling Commission since 1981**
		Additional Information • Its membership includes **89 governments from all over the world.** • India has been a **member of the International Whaling Commission since 1981.** • HQ: **Impington, United Kingdom.**
2.	**5th Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC 2026)**	• Held in **New Delhi.** • Theme: **"Resilience in an Age of Flux".** • Jointly convened by the **Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) and the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.**

DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Exercise/Technology	Key Facts
1.	**MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN 2026**	• **India-UAE Joint Military Exercise.** • Held in **Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.**
2.	**12th National Maritime Search & Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026)**	• Conducted by the **Indian Coast Guard** under the **aegis the National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB).** • **Held off the coast of Paradip, Odisha.**

3.	Exercise VARUNA- 24th edition	• **Annual bilateral maritime exercise** between the **Indian Navy and French Navy.** • Held in **Toulon, France.** • **INS Trishul** represented **Indian Navy.**

ENVIRONMENT

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Recovery Programme	• The process for **releasing two captive-bred Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) into the wild was initiated at Desert National Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**. • The release marks the **culmination of around 10 years of dedicated conservation breeding efforts for GIB**. **About the Programme** • A **collaborative initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Rajasthan Forest Department and Wildlife Institute of India (WII),** with technical collaboration from the **International Fund for Houbara Conservation.** • Funded via the **National CAMPA Authority.** • **Aim:** To rescue the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard Rajasthan's state bird—from extinction

APPOINTMENT

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts
1.	Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit	• Appointed as the **29th Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) of the Indian Air Force.** • He will **succeed Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh.**
2.	Dr. Bimal N. Patel	• Took oath as a **Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)** for a tenure of **9-year term (2026–2035).** • He currently serves as **Vice-Chancellor of Rashtriya Raksha University**. **About ITLOS** • An independent international judicial body established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to resolve maritime disputes. • Comprises 21 independent judges, elected for 9-year terms, with due consideration to geographical representation and major legal systems. • Headquarters: **Hamburg, Germany.**

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

S.No	Book Title	Key Facts

1.	"Rajbhasha Khand Ki Svarnim Yatra"	• Launched on the **Golden Jubilee celebration** of the **Official Languages Wing** of the **Legislative Department** of the Ministry of Law and Justice

DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Day in News	Key Facts
1.	Centenary Celebrations of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) (October 1)	• The UPSC commenced its **two-day centenary celebrations titled "Manthan" at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** • The event marked the **culmination of year-long celebrations commemorating 100 years** since the **establishment of the Public Service Commission.** **About UPSC** • Established as **Public Service Commission on 1 October 1926.** • The Public Service Commission was later transformed into the **Federal Public Service Commission** under the **Government of India Act, 1935.** • After the Constitution came into force, it became the **UPSC in 1950**. • UPSC is a constitutional body under **Article 315.** • UPSC is headquartered at **New Delhi.**
2.	23rd Foundation Day of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) (October 1)	• The **NBA is an autonomous statutory body** established by the **Government of India in 2003** to **implement the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.** • Headquarters: **Chennai, Tamil Nadu.** • Ministry: **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).**
3.	National Voluntary Blood Donation Day (October 1)	• Theme: '**One Drop of Humanity, Give Blood, Save Lives.**'
4.	National Anti-Drug Addiction Day (October 2)	--
5.	72nd National Wildlife Week 2026 (2to 8 October)	• Theme: "**Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife**".
6.	Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) (October 4)	• **UCIL** was incorporated in **October 1967** as a **Public Sector Enterprise** under the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).**

OTHER NEWS

FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	First artificial intelligence hardware under Project Suncatcher	• **Google tested its Artificial Intelligence (AI) hardware in space** for the first time under **Project Suncatcher.** • The prototype satellite was **launched aboard SpaceX's Transporter-18 rideshare mission.** • The mission **tested Google's Tensor Processing Units (TPUs)** under radiation, thermal and other physical conditions in orbit. • Project Suncatcher is a long-term research programme to explore whether machine-learning infrastructure can be scaled in space.
2.	India's first dedicated MICE Incentive Portal	• **Launched by the Government of Odisha.** • MICE stands for **Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions.**
3.	First international inland waterways cargo shipment from Upper Assam since India's Independence in 1947	• **A barge carrying industrial methanol** was shipped from **Bogibeel Terminal in Dibrugarh, Assam to Pangaon Port in Dhaka, Bangladesh.**
4.	First-ever Irani Cup match hosted by Jammu & Kashmir/Srinagar	• **The Rishabh Pant-led Rest of India team won the 2026–27 Irani Cup, defeating the 2025–26 Ranji Trophy champions, Jammu & Kashmir.** • The match was played at the **Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium, Srinagar.** • **Smaran Ravichandran** was named **Player of the Match.** • Irani Cup is a first-class domestic cricket competition in India; It is played between the Ranji Trophy champion and the Rest of India team.
5.	India's first commercial private thermal-imaging nanosatellite payload	• Name: **TAPAS-1 (Thermal Access Platform for Analytics & Solutions).** • Developed by **Ahmedabad-based SatLeo Labs.** • Launched aboard **SpaceX's Falcon 9 under the Transporter-18 rideshare mission** from **Vandenberg Space Force Base, California** • It flew as a hosted payload via **Dhruva Space's LEAP-2 platform.** • It was deployed into **Low Earth Orbit at about 500 km altitude.** • TAPAS-1 uses **Thermal Infrared (TIR) sensing to detect heat and temperature variations on Earth's surface.**
6.	India's first networked orbital data centre mission	• To be launched by **Hyderabad-based TakeMe2Space in 2028.** • The mission will **fly aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 as part of the Waymaker 2 rideshare mission.** • The mission will fly two 100-kilogram "My Orbital Infrastructure" (MOI) constellation satellites. • The company ultimately plans to build a **core constellation of six satellites** to provide global coverage with orbital data processing capabilities.

7.	India's first private-sector micro-missile programme	• Name: **JWALA.** • Developed by Noida based defence technology firm **IG Defence.** • IG Defence successfully test-fired two solid rocket motors under the mission. • **JWALA** is a **short-range surface-to-air missile (SAM)** designed to destroy hostile drones using hard-kill counter-drone technology.
8.	First Indian Cement Company to Cross 2 GW Green Energy Capacity	• Milestone achieved by **UltraTech Cement, an Aditya Birla Group company** after commissioning a wind energy project in **Barmer, Rajasthan.**

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

S.No	Summit/Conference	Key Outcomes
1.	Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) Convention- 19th Edition	• To be held in **Kolkata, West Bengal** in **January 2027.** • Organizer: **Ministry of External Affairs & State Government of West Bengal.** • It is the Government of India's flagship platform for engaging with the overseas Indian community and recognising its contribution to India and the wider world. • **Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas** is observed on **9 January** to commemorate the **return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9 January 1915.**

BANKING AND FINANCE

S.No	Program/Initiative	Key Facts
1.	BOB Pension Fund Management Company Limited	• **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has officially entered the **pension fund business** by incorporating its **new subsidiary, BOB Pension Fund Management Company Limited.** • This milestone makes **Bank of Baroda only the second public sector bank (PSB) in India to enter the pension fund management market**, following **State Bank of India (SBI), which entered the segment in 2008**.
2.	Apple Pay Launched in India	• **Apple Pay was launched in India**, in partnership with **Axis Bank, its first Indian banking partner.** • Initially, the service supports **Axis Bank-issued Visa and Mastercard credit cards, while RuPay cards are not eligible**. • Apple Pay enables **contactless payments using Near Field Communication (NFC)** through iPhones and Apple Watches, along with in-app and online payments.
3.	Poorna Rakshak	• Launched by **Pramerica Life Insurance.** • **A non-linked, non-participating individual savings life insurance plan.**

4.	VIBE	• Launched by **ICICI Lombard General Insurance.** • A new digital-first health protection plan specifically tailored for young adults aged 18 to 35 years.

DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Exercise/Technology	Key Facts
1.	HAL Koraput – 2,000th Aero-Engine & New Shakti Line	• **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Koraput Division** at **Sunabeda, Odisha,** rolled out its **2,000th aero-engine,** marking six decades of propulsion manufacturing. • Second production line for Shakti helicopter engines was announced at Sunabeda.

AWARDS

S.No	Award/Milestone	Key Facts
1.	36th First Annual Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony	• **The ceremony was moved out of the US for the first time and held in Zurich, Switzerland.** • **10 prizes were awarded in 2026 across different fields.** • A major highlight was the **Chemistry Prize** for research on cockroach milk, whose proteins were found to have about three times the energy content of cow's milk proteins. • Indian-linked winners included **Sanchari Banerjee, Nitish Satyanarayanan, and Jandhyam Srikanth from InStem Bengaluru**, and **Subramanian Ramaswamy of Purdue University**, in the cockroach-milk protein research team. **About IG Nobel Prize** • A satirical annual award that honors quirky, imaginative, and unusual scientific research that "first makes people laugh, and then make them think. • Celebrate unusual and imaginative research and stimulate public interest in science, medicine and technology. Improbable Research • The prizes were **founded in 1991 by Marc Abrahams.** • Awarded by **Annals of Improbable Research (AIR).**
2.	2026 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries	• Awarded to **Professor Mahesh Kakde, a faculty member at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.** • Awarded for his **fundamental contributions to algebraic number theory.** **About the Award** • Awarded by **Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and the International Mathematical Union (IMU).** • Awarded to **mathematicians who are under 40 from a developing economy for outstanding contributions to mathematics.** • Reward: US$10,000.

APPOINTMENT

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts
1.	Anup Bagchi	• Appointed as the next **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of HDFC Bank.** • He will **succeed Sashidhar Jagdishan.**
2.	Anup Kumar Saha	• **RBI** approved his appointment as the **MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank for 3 years.** • He will **succeed Ashok Vaswani.**
3.	Sidharatha Mishra	• Appointed as the **new Managing Director & CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.**
4.	Rajeshwari Kumari	• **Unanimously elected to the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Athletes Commission** for the **2026–2030 term.** • She became only the **second Indian to ever serve on the OCA Athletes' Commission**, joining **former luger and current Vice-Chairman Shiva Keshavan.** • She was **nominated by the OCA Executive Board to represent the South Asian region.** • **She is a former Indian trap shooter and Olympian.**
		Additional Information • **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Headquarters:** Kuwait City, Kuwait.

PERSONS IN NEWS

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts
1.	Captain Smit Machchhar	• An **Indian flydubai pilot** who came into the news after **helping prevent a serious cockpit takeover attempt on a Dubai–Tel Aviv flight.**
2.	Narendra Modi	• The Union Cabinet passed a resolution, congratulating Prime Minister **Narendra Modi on completing 25 years of continuous service as Head of Government.** • **He first assumed office as Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001.** • He served as **Gujarat Chief Minister from 2001 to 2014 and has served as Prime Minister of India since 2014.** • In June 2026, he also became **India's longest-serving Prime Minister in terms of continuous elected tenure**, **surpassing Jawaharlal Nehru's record of 4,398 days.**

OBITUARIES

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts

1.	Professor Palle Rama Rao	• An **eminent Indian scientist, visionary leader, and metallurgist**. • Served as the **chair of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).** • **Padma Vibhushan awardee.**

PLACES IN NEWS

S.No	Place in News	Key Facts
1.	Anak Krakatau volcano	• **Two new island-like formations emerged near Anak Krakatau** volcano in **Indonesia.** • The formations are located in the **Sunda Strait**, between the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra.

DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Day in News	Key Facts
1.	World Rabies Day 2026 (September 28)	• Theme: **"Stronger Together".**
2.	International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW) (September 29)	• Theme: **"Transformative Potential of Reducing Food Loss and Waste".**
3.	International Day of Older Persons (October 1)	• Theme: **"The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives.".**
4.	International Day of Non-Violence (October 2)	• Theme: "**Non-Violence as a means to Peace and Development.".** • Coincided with the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, who led the Indian independence movement and pioneered the global strategy of non-violence.
5.	World Habitat Day (October 5)	• Theme: "**Adequate Housing for All".** • Global Host: **Muscat, Oman**
6.	World Teachers Day (October 5)	• **Theme:** "Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures."
7.	World Space Week (4-10 October)	• Theme: **"Rocket Revolution."**
8.	World Cotton Day 2026 (October 7)	• Theme: **"Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership."** • Global Host: **Tashkent, Uzbekistan.**
9.	Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2026 (October)	• Theme: **Every story is unique, every journey matters.**

SPORTS

ASIAN GAMES 2026 – IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

Exam-Oriented Quick Revision Sheet

1. EVENT OVERVIEW

Host	Motto	Mascot	India Flag Bearers	Upcoming Hosts
Aichi–Nagoya, Japan (3rd time after 1958 & 1994)	Imagine One Asia	HONOHON	Opening – Manu Bhaker & Pawan Sehrawat Closing – Neeru Dhanda	2030 – Doha, Qatar 2034 – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

2. MEDAL TALLY & INDIA PERFORMANCE

Rank	Country	Total Medals
1	China	341
2	Japan	269
3	South Korea	150
4	**India**	**85** (21 Gold, 27 Silver, 37 Bronze)
5	Uzbekistan	70

India's second-highest Asian Games tally after Hangzhou 2023 (107 medals, 28 Gold).

India's first medal: Women's 10m Air Rifle Team – Silver (Elavenil Valarivan, Sonam Maskar & Vidarsa Vinod).

3. CONSOLIDATED ATHLETE / TEAM TABLE

Name of Athlete / Team	Sport	Key Achievement
Kamaljeet & Suruchi Inder Singh	Shooting	10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Gold; Asian Record (484.6)
Kynan Chenai & Neeru Dhanda	Shooting	Trap Mixed Team Gold; Asian Record
Neeru Dhanda	Shooting	Women's Individual Trap Gold; first Indian woman to win this Gold; Asian Record (28)
Kumkum Anil Mohod	Archery	Individual Recurve Gold, Women's Team Recurve Gold & Mixed Team Silver (3 medals)
Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Prithika Pradeep & Chikitha Thaniparthi	Archery	Women's Compound Team Gold; equalled World & Asian Records
Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing	Women's 75kg Gold
Aman Sehrawat	Wrestling	Men's 57kg Freestyle Gold
Pranavi Sharath Urs	Golf	Women's Individual Gold & Women's Team Silver (2 medals)
Vithya Ramraj	Athletics	Gold – Women's 4×400m Relay; Silver – Mixed 4×400m Relay; Bronze – 400m Hurdles; National Record (54.75 sec)
Indian Men's & Women's Teams	Hockey / Cricket / Kabaddi	Double Gold in all three sports
Suchika Tariyal	MMA	Bronze; India's first-ever Asian Games medal in MMA
Jay Meena	Soft Tennis	Bronze; India's first-ever medal in Soft Tennis
Anahat Singh	Squash	Women's Singles Silver; first Indian silver in this event
Sawan Barwal	Athletics	Men's Marathon Silver; National Record (2:11:37); first Indian marathon medal since 1982
Naorem Roshibina Devi	Wushu	Women's Sanda 60kg Silver; first Indian with medals at 3 consecutive Asian Games
Parul Chaudhary	Athletics	Bronze in 3000m Steeplechase & 5000m; National Record in Steeplechase
Nethra Kumanan	Sailing	Women's Dinghy Bronze; first Indian medal in event

4. OTHER IMPORTANT FIRSTS

Athlete / Team	Key Achievement
Baranica Elangovan	Pole Vault Bronze; first Indian women's medal
Indian Men's Team	Sepaktakraw Men's Quadrant Bronze; first Indian medal in event
Maheshwari Chauhan, Parinaaz Dhaliwal & Raiza Dhillon	Women's Skeet Team Bronze; first Indian medal in event
Parinaaz Dhaliwal & Anantjeet Singh Naruka	Skeet Mixed Team Bronze; first Indian medal in event
Satnam Singh & Salman Khan	Rowing Men's Double Sculls Bronze; first Indian medal in event

5. HISTORICAL FACTS

First Asian Games: **1951, New Delhi** | India hosted again in **1982** | Asian Games concept: **Prof. G.D. Sondhi**

MISCELLANEOUS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	Mann Ki Baat Completes 12 Year	• Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme **"Mann Ki Baat" completed 12 years.** • The **first episode of Mann Ki Baat** was broadcast in **2014.** • The programme **highlights inspiring stories from areas such as education, healthcare, environmental conservation, innovation and social service.** • Mann Ki Baat is broadcast across the **Akashvani and Doordarshan networks.**

2. GA + ESI

PIB IN NEWS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.1 Capacity Enhancement for Effective Forest Management Project

Why in News?

- **Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change** in collaboration with **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**, organized a workshop on "**Capacity Enhancement for Effective Forest Management Project**" in New Delhi.

About Capacity Enhancement Project

- **Project period**: 2025–26 to 2031–32, covering 7 years.
- **Total project outlay**: ₹537.10 crore
  - **JICA contribution**: ₹440.42 crore
  - **Government of India contribution**: ₹96.68 crore.
- **Objective:** Strengthen frontline forest personnel in forest and wildlife management, forest fire control, biodiversity conservation, climate response, and sustainable forest management.

Key Focus Areas

- Wood transformation and livelihood generation
- Digital transformation for improved forest management
- Collaborative academic research.

2.2 India's Environmental-Economic Accounts Strategy 2026–2030

Why in News?

- **MoSPI** released the **"Strategy for Environmental-Economic Accounts in India 2026–2030".**
- It helps India to measure not only **economic growth**, but also **what is happening to its natural wealth while that growth takes place.**

About Strategy for Environmental-Economic Accounts in India
• It is a **UN-backed statistical framework** that links **economy** and **environment**, helps to prepare accounts for natural resources in a way like how they prepare national accounts.
Major Priority Areas
• The roadmap covers areas like **forest, minerals, soil resources, land, water, carbon stock, Environmental related activities, Biodiversity, environment statistics etc.** • These areas are mainly selected based on recommendations mentioned in the report of "**Green National Account in India A Framework**" and the **SEEA-CF framework**.
New Focus Area
• **Pollination accounting**: MoSPI published its **first monetary account of pollination services** in **2026**, helping estimate the economic value of pollinators to agriculture.

2.3 India–Japan Launch Operational Manual for Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

Why in News?

- **India** and **Japan** launched the **Operational Manual** for the **Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** in New Delhi.

Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)
• It is a bilateral partnership enabling **Japan to fund and export advanced low-carbon technologies** to India. In return, the resulting carbon emission credits are shared between both countries. • **Legal Basis: Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement** (which regulates cooperative, bilateral carbon markets). • **Target Gases:** Covers **7 greenhouse gases**. • **Key Priority Sectors:** Green Hydrogen/Ammonia, Carbon Capture (CCUS), Industrial Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Waste Management.
Project Lifecycle under JCM - 1. **Project Idea Note (PIN):** Submitted through the **Indian Carbon Market Portal** for in-principle clearance by **NDAIAPA.**

- **NDAIAPA -** The **National Designated Authority for the Implementation of Article 6.2 Mechanism.** Operating under **India's Environment Ministry (MoEFCC),** this **sovereign body holds the ultimate authority to clear or veto Indian projects.**

2. **Project Design Document (PDD):** Prepared using an approved JCM methodology, including baseline and additionality.
3. **Third-Party Validation:** Independent accredited **Third-Party Entity (TPE)** validates the project.
4. **Project Registration:** Approved and registered by the **India–Japan Joint Committee.**
5. **Monitoring & Verification:** Emission reductions are monitored and independently verified by a TPE.
6. **Credit Issuance:** Verified emission reductions are issued as JCM credits and allocated between India and Japan.
7. **Crediting Period: Maximum 10 years**, including renewals.
8. **Corresponding Adjustment (CA):** A rule to **prevent double counting of emission reductions**. If India transfers credits to Japan, India adjusts its emissions accounting, so the same reduction is not counted by both countries.

2.4 India at COFO 28

Why in News?

- India participated in the **28th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 28)** held in **Rome, Italy.**
- **Theme: "Forests for food, resilience and prosperity".**

Committee on Forestry (COFO)

• It is the **highest global intergovernmental body on forestry under Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.
• **Role:** Guides FAO's forestry work **fosters international policy dialogue, reviews global forest-related issues,** and **provides technical guidance.**
• **Establishment:** 1971
• **Membership: 128** Member Nations **(India is also a member)**
• **Meetings: Convenes biennially (every two years)** at **FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy**.
• **Reporting Structure:**
  ○ **Reports** to the **FAO Council** on **program and budget matters**, and
  ○ **Reports** to the **FAO Conference** on **policy and regulatory issues.**

2.5 India's First PRAMAAN Certificates

Why in News?

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** awarded **India's first PRAMAAN certificates** under the **Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS).**

First Certificate Recipients

- **Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC)** received certification for plantations covering about **33,000 hectares.**
- **Govind Mohapatra,** a bamboo farmer associated with **the Odisha Bamboo Development Agency,** also received certification**.**



Main Objective

- Promote sustainable **forest management and agroforestry.**
- Help Indian producers and exporters meet emerging global requirements for **responsible and deforestation-free timber sourcing**.
- Improve access of certified Indian forest and agroforestry products to **domestic and international markets.**

About PRAMAAN

- It stands for **Programme for Recognition and Accreditation of Sustainable Management Practices for Agroforestry and Natural Forestry Resources**.
- It is a national framework for certifying forests, wood and non-timber forest products.

SOCIAL SECTOR IN INDIA - HEALTH

2.6 eSanjeevani Crosses 50 Crore Teleconsultations

Why in News?

- **E-Sanjeevani** Crosses **50 Crore Teleconsultations**, strengthening Access to Healthcare Across the Country.

About eSanjeevani
eSanjeevani is a Made-in-India digital telemedicine platform that allows patients to consult doctors remotely through digital technology. • **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). • **Developed by**: Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), with C-DAC Mohali providing technological development and engineering support. • **Objective**: Provide accessible, affordable and equitable healthcare, particularly in rural, remote and underserved areas.

Important Initiatives under eSanjeevani

- **eSanjeevani** integrated an **AI-powered Clinical Decision Support System (AI-CDSS)** to improve clinical decision-making, winning the **Gold Award** at the **National Awards for e-Governance 2026**.
- **Emergency Services**: **eSanjeevani** is integrated with **ERSS-112** to improve coordination between emergency services and remote medical experts.
- **Specialist Consultations**: **eSanjeevani** has introduced **specialist teleconsultations** at **AIIMS Jodhpur, Jammu and Patna**, expanding access beyond primary healthcare.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

2.7 Cabinet Approves Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA)

Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet approved the creation of the **Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA).**

Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA)

- **Nature**: Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)
- **Administrative Department**: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- **Ministry**: Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- **Role**: National apex institution for integrated transport and logistics planning.

Key Functions of ITLA

1. National Transport Master Plan

- ITLA will prepare a comprehensive **National Transport Master Plan** with a planning horizon of **10 years or more.**
- It will provide a common long-term framework for India's different modes of transport.

2. Integration of Sectoral Plans

- ITLA will review **5-year sectoral plans** and **annual transport plans** to ensure alignment with the **National Transport Master Plan and multimodal development.**

3. Appraisal of Major Infrastructure Projects

- ITLA will undertake the **technical appraisal** of Government of India infrastructure projects **costing ₹500 crore or more.**
- However, **financial appraisal will continue through the existing financial appraisal mechanisms.**

4. Project Monitoring & Impact Assessment

- ITLA will monitor projects **above ₹500 crore**, resolve implementation bottlenecks and assess their post-completion impact.

5. National Transport Data Repository (NTDR)

- ITLA will establish a **National Transport Data Repository** by integrating transport and logistics data from sources such as GSTN e-Way Bills, FASTag, Vahan, GPS-based systems, and Urban Traffic Management Systems.

6. National Logistics Policy

- ITLA will advise and assist in reviewing and updating the **National Logistics Policy, 2022.**

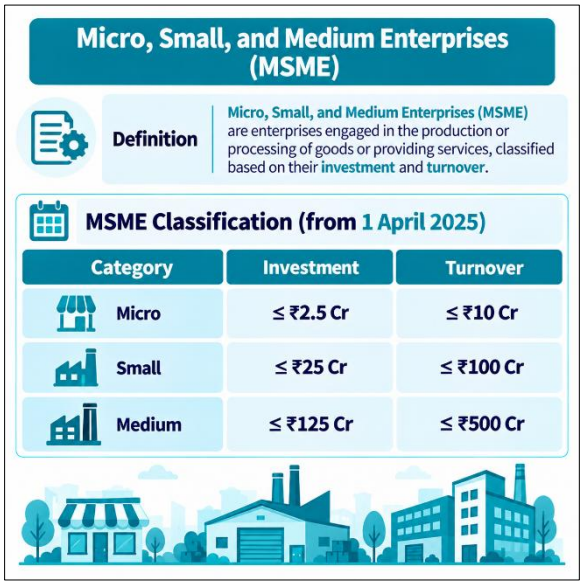
2.8 Cabinet Approves ₹10,000 Crore Commitment Towards Establishment of SME Growth Fund (SGF) to Create Future Champions

Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet approved to establish the **SME Growth Fund (SGF)**. It was announced as part of the **Union Budget 2026–27.**

SME Growth Fund (SGF)

- **Corpus: ₹10,000 crore**.
- **Structure:** The Fund will be established as an **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).**
- **Core Goal:** Fix the lack of **long-term risk** and **growth-stage equity capital** for **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).**
- **Target:** Growth-oriented **Small and Medium Enterprises**, particularly those in **Tier-II and Tier-III cities.**
- **Coverage:** Major focus on **manufacturing**, broader focus in **services, technology, innovation-driven sectors,** and **strategic value chains.**
- **Eligibility:**
  - An enterprise must fall within the official **Small and Medium Enterprise (SME)** classifications.
  - Established SMEs with a **proven track record, viable revenue model,** and **sound financial compliance.**



Note: Unlike early-stage startup funds, the SGF supports established SMEs that are beyond the early stage but need capital to grow further.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

2.9 Government Strengthens Implementation of PCR and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Acts

Why in News?

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** highlighted measures to strengthen the implementation of **the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955** and **the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.**

Key Measures taken

- The Central Government released **₹1,423.30 crore** during 2022–23 to 2024–25 to support implementation of the two Acts**.**
- **217 Exclusive Special Courts** have been established across 15 States/UTs for speedy trials under t**he SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.**
- **The National Helpline Against Atrocities (NHAA),** launched in December 2021 and later renamed **SAMBAL**, enables SC/ST members to register and track grievances through helpline **14566.**
- Financial incentives are provided for **eligible inter-caste marriages where one spouse belongs to a Scheduled Caste.**



INDIAN DEMOGRAPHY

2.10 UIDAI unveils five new initiatives at Aadhaar Samvaad

Why in News?

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI**) unveiled five new initiatives during the **Aadhaar Samvaad** conference in **Kolkata** to mark the 17th Aadhaar Day on **September 29**.

The Five New Initiatives

- **Face Authentication for ePDS**: A contactless, consent-based verification method launched with the DFPD and NIC to assist ration beneficiaries.
- **SWIK Portal 2.0:** A streamlined platform for managing governance authentication workflows and eligible entity proposals.
- **Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA (LITE) Framework**: Allows low-volume entities to leverage existing infrastructure for real-time onboarding.
- **Token Management System**: Organizes and streamlines resident visits to UIDAI offices.
- **Revamped UIDAI Website**: A redesigned, accessible, and multilingual portal focused on resident needs.

OTHER NEWS

GLOBALIZATION

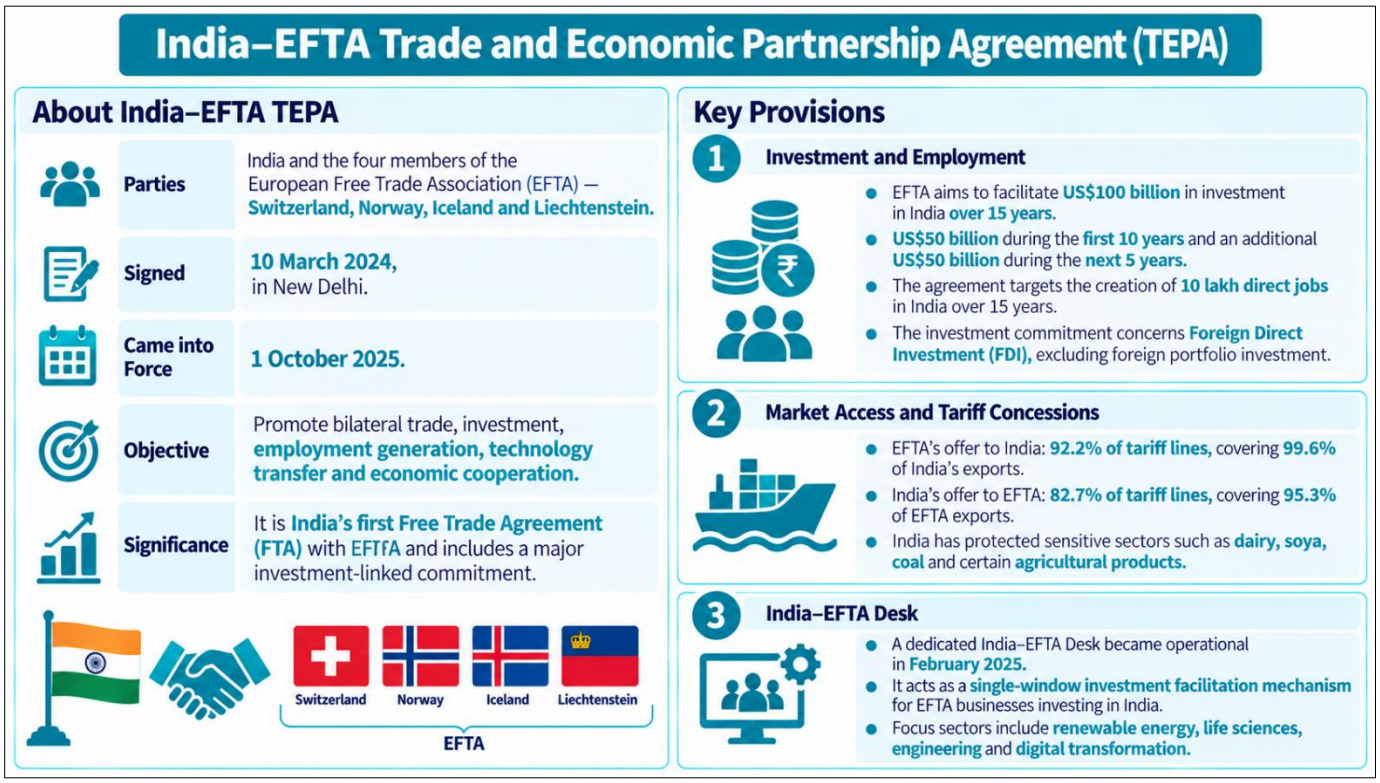
2.11 India–EFTA Trade Deal Completes One Year

Why in News?

- **Swiss Confederation President Guy Parmelin** visited **India** to mark the first anniversary of the implementation of the **India–European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).**

Performance After the First Year

- During the **first year after TEPA** became operational, India's overall exports to EFTA declined, particularly **exports to Switzerland**, while imports increased, driven significantly by gold imports from Switzerland.
- However, Indian exports of certain products recorded strong growth, particularly **Motor cars and other motor vehicles, Heavy water and Moulding patterns.**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.12 First Blue Financing in Maritime Sector

Why in News?

- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** has partnered with the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** for a **USD 70 million loan** to develop **Shore Power Supply (SPS) infrastructure** at its terminals in **Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.**
- The project will allow berthed ships **to use land-based electricity instead of diesel generators**, reducing carbon emissions by about 63% and air pollution by up to 90%.

Key Highlights

- The investment is being described as **India's first blue financing framework for the maritime sector** and the **first labelled blue financing for port infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region.**
- It is also the **first investment by a Development Finance Institution (DFI) in India's state-owned major port authorities.**

3. GA + FINANCE

PIB IN NEWS

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

3.1 India's First WASH-Focused Social Bond

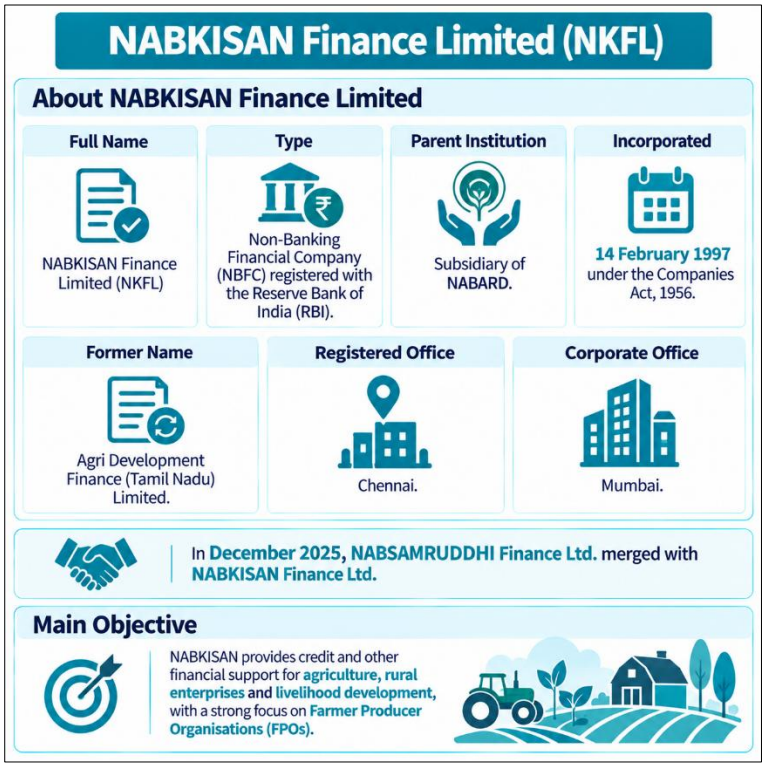
Why in News?

- **NABKISAN Finance Limited**, a subsidiary of **NABARD**, listed **India's first Social Bond** dedicated exclusively to the **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector**.
- The bond was listed on the **National Stock Exchange (NSE), Mumbai**.

Key Features of Bond

- **Amount raised**: ₹180 crore.
- **Tenure: 5 years**
- **Coupon rate**: 8.10%
- **Maturity:** September 2031
- **Credit Ratings**:
  - CRISIL AAA (Stable)
  - CARE AAA (Stable)

  These represent the highest domestic credit-rating category.
- **Purpose:** The proceeds will be used to expand access to Safe drinking water, Sanitation and Hygiene solutions in rural and underserved communities.
- **Technical Partner**: Water.org



OTHER NEWS

Recent Development in Financial Sector

3.2 Sebi launches nationwide investor campaign

Why in News?

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** launched the nationwide investor-awareness initiative **Project Jagrook.** The nationwide campaign will continue till **March 2027.**

About Campaign

- Under **Project Jagrook**, SEBI launched the campaign **"Samajh Se Investing Simple"**, aimed at promoting **informed and responsible investing**.
- The campaign will bring together **SEBI, stock exchanges, depositories, Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) and National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM)** under a coordinated investor-education framework.

MUST Initiative

- SEBI also rolled out **MUST – Mentoring of University and College Students through Trainers**.
- Under MUST, **teachers, staff and senior students** will be trained as **"Partner Trainers"** to conduct financial-literacy and securities-market awareness programmes in colleges and universities.

3.3 Introduction of Credit Risk-o-Meter as an additional disclosure mechanism for debt securities

Why in News?

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India** introduces a **mandatory Credit Risk-o-Meter** as a visual disclosure mechanism for debt securities.

About Credit Risk-o-Meter

Applicability: Listed and proposed issuances of **non-convertible securities**, **commercial papers**, **securitised debt instruments**, **security receipts** and **structured debt.**

Six Credit Risk Levels

	Credit Rating	Risk Level
1.	AAA	Lowest credit risk
2.	AA+, AA, AA-	Very low credit risk
3.	A+, A, A-	Low credit risk
4.	BBB+, BBB, BBB-	Moderate credit risk
5.	BB+, BB, BB-	Moderate risk of default
6.	B+ to D	High to very high risk of default

The categories are displayed using colours ranging from **green for the lowest risk to red for the highest/default risk**.

- The meter must appear in **offer documents, abridged prospectuses, private placement memoranda, advertisements, and web/mobile platforms of Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs)**.
- Where multiple credit ratings exist, the meter will use the **lowest rating**. For unsecured debt, **"Unsecured" must be displayed in bold red text**.
- The Credit Risk-o-Meter indicates **only credit risk**; it does not capture all risks such as **market or liquidity risk**.