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FREE · QUIZ EBOOK

CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

October 2026

Every daily quiz of the month · 26 quizzes · 367 MCQs with answers

For NABARD Grade A · RBI Grade B · SEBI Grade A · IRDAI · SIDBI

Big themes · Banking 70 · Schemes 63 · Agri & Rural 50

8 OF THE TOP 10 Eight of the top 10 ranks in NABARD Grade A 2025 came from this classroom — 32 final selections in one batch. The same mentors write these quizzes every day.

Contents

All 367 MCQs of October 2026, quiz by quiz — 26 quizzes, each followed by its answer key and explanations. Every line is linked; so is every bookmark in your PDF reader. Online: c4scourses.in/ca-quiz/2026-10

How to use this book — the method, the month by topic, and your score tracker **3**
1 October 2026 — 15 MCQs · Economy 4 · Reports 3 · Banking 2 · Schemes 2 ..... **5**
2 October 2026 — 15 MCQs · Schemes 4 · Banking 3 · Sci & Env 3 · International 2 ..... **11**
3 October 2026 — 15 MCQs · Schemes 4 · Banking 3 · Sci & Env 3 · Sports & Days 2 ..... **17**
4 & 5 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Schemes 5 · Agri & Rural 3 · Banking 3 · Appointments 1 ..... **23**
6 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Schemes 3 · Reports 3 · Agri & Rural 2 · Economy 1 ..... **29**
7 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Reports 4 · Sci & Env 2 · Schemes 2 · Banking 2 ..... **35**
8 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Agri & Rural 5 · Reports 3 · Banking 3 · Schemes 2 ..... **41**
9 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Economy 5 · Appointments 3 · Banking 2 · Schemes 1 ..... **47**
10 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Agri & Rural 4 · Banking 4 · Reports 4 · Economy 1 ..... **53**
11 & 12 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Schemes 4 · Sci & Env 4 · Banking 2 · Economy 2 ..... **58**
13 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Banking 5 · Economy 3 · Agri & Rural 2 · Reports 1 ..... **63**
14 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Sci & Env 3 · Schemes 3 · Economy 2 · Banking 2 ..... **68**
15 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Sci & Env 4 · Banking 2 · Reports 2 · Economy 2 ..... **74**
16 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Schemes 4 · Banking 4 · Reports 3 · Agri & Rural 2 ..... **80**
17 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Banking 4 · Schemes 3 · Sci & Env 2 · Economy 2 ..... **86**
18 & 19 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Agri & Rural 4 · Economy 3 · International 3 · Sports & Days 1 ..... **92**
20 & 21 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Banking 5 · Agri & Rural 3 · Sci & Env 3 · Reports 3 ..... **98**
22 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Banking 5 · Reports 3 · Agri & Rural 2 · Sci & Env 2 ..... **104**
23 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Sci & Env 5 · Reports 5 · Banking 2 · Economy 1 ..... **110**
24 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Agri & Rural 5 · Schemes 3 · Banking 2 · International 2 ..... **116**
25 & 26 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Agri & Rural 5 · Banking 3 · International 2 · Sci & Env 1 ..... **122**
27 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Schemes 5 · Sci & Env 4 · Agri & Rural 2 · Economy 2 ..... **128**
28 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Schemes 4 · Agri & Rural 3 · Economy 2 · Banking 2 ..... **134**
29 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Schemes 5 · Sci & Env 4 · Banking 2 · Reports 2 ..... **139**
30 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Banking 5 · Agri & Rural 4 · Schemes 2 · Misc GA 1 ..... **144**
31 October 2026 — 14 MCQs · Schemes 3 · Sci & Env 3 · Economy 2 · Misc GA 2 ..... **150**

PRACTISE THE WAY TOPPERS DO

How to use this book

One quiz a sitting. Attempt all the questions with a pen before you look — each day's answer key and explanations follow its questions. When the month is done, finish with the **Exam Ready** set.

367	26	10	7 min
MCQs with answers	daily quizzes	topics covered	per quiz, timed

1 Attempt
All the day's questions, timed, before you look at any answer.

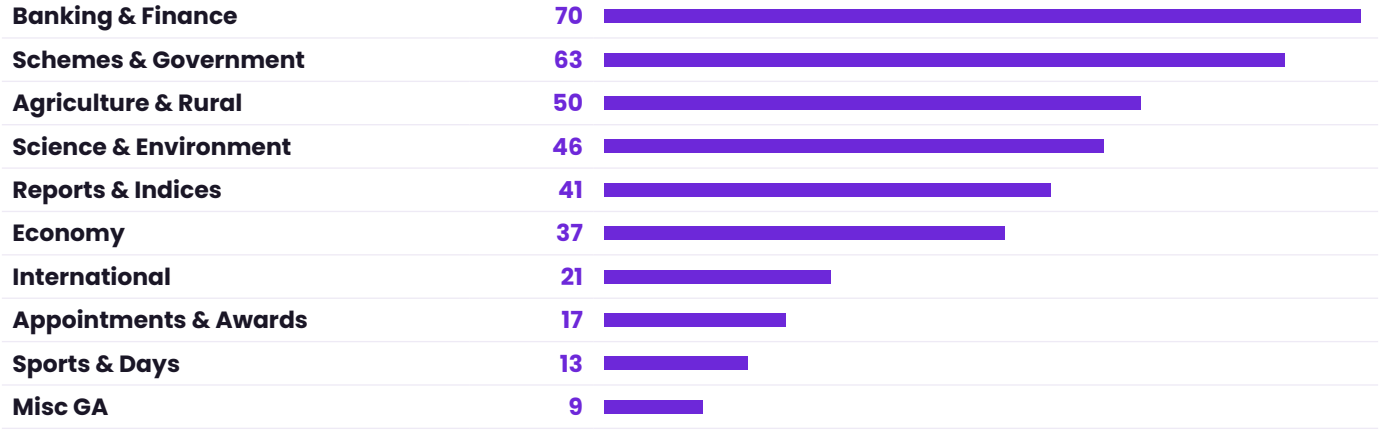
2 Check
The answer key and explanations follow each day. Read every explanation.

3 Log
Score in the tracker; note the question numbers you missed.

4 Retake
Your misses on day 3 and day 7, then the Exam Ready set.

The month by topic

Where the month's questions came from. The long bars are what examiners had the most to ask about.



TRACK EVERY ATTEMPT

Your score tracker

A score that rises on the retake is a fact that has moved into exam-day memory.

QUIZ	SCORE	RETAKE +3	RETAKE +7	DONE	MISSED Q NOS.
1 October 2026	___ / 15	___	___	☐	
2 October 2026	___ / 15	___	___	☐	
3 October 2026	___ / 15	___	___	☐	
4 & 5 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
6 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
7 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
8 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
9 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
10 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
11 & 12 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
13 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
14 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
15 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
16 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
17 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
18 & 19 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
20 & 21 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
22 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
23 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
24 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
25 & 26 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
27 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
28 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
29 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
30 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	
31 October 2026	___ / 14	___	___	☐	

QUIZ 1 OF 26

1 October 2026

15 questions · Economy 4 · Reports 3 · Banking 2 · Schemes 2

Q1

The 2026 southwest monsoon ended with rainfall at what percentage of the Long Period Average (LPA)?

A. 92%
B. 87%
C. 94%
D. 83%
E. 96%

Q2

According to the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2024–25 released by MoSPI, the average wage per factory worker rose 5.3% to:

A. ₹1.63 lakh
B. ₹3.04 lakh
C. ₹2.05 lakh
D. ₹2.28 lakh
E. ₹2.52 lakh

Q3

Under SEBI's approved reforms for Portfolio Management Services (PMS), PMS providers can invest up to what share of client AUM in investment-grade unlisted debt?

A. 10%
B. 5%
C. 15%
D. 20%
E. 25%

Q4

India's net FDI in July 2026 rose to its highest level since May 2021. What was the net FDI figure for the month?

A. US$14.58 billion
B. US$13.4 billion
C. US$9.7 billion
D. US$5.82 billion
E. US$7.35 billion

Q5

Which institution launched India's first blue bond?

A. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
B. National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)
C. Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd. (SMFCL)
D. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
E. India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (IIFCL)

Q6

Which bank launched a dedicated Global Capability Centre (GCC) Banking vertical, supported by its International Banking Unit at GIFT City?

A. IndusInd Bank
B. HDFC Bank
C. Axis Bank
D. Kotak Mahindra Bank
E. Yes Bank

Q7

The Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR) 2026, which mapped cybercrime exposure and police redressal, was published jointly by:

A. NCRB and BPR&D
B. I4C and NCRB
C. PRS Legislative Research and ADR
D. Lokniti–CSDS and Common Cause
E. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and NITI Aayog

Q8

According to the Moody's Ratings global demographics report, India may become a 'super-aged' society (21% of the population aged 65+) by which year?

A. 2049
B. 2047
C. 2055
D. 2075
E. 2065

Q9

Under the third phase of Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE-III) norms, a battery electric vehicle counts as how many vehicles for the fleet-efficiency calculation?

A. Two
B. Three
C. Four
D. Five
E. One and a half

Q10

Green Energy Corridor Phase III, approved by the Union Cabinet, aims to integrate up to how much renewable energy into the electricity grid by FY2032–33?

A. 100 GW
B. 175 GW
C. 135 GW
D. 150 GW
E. 90 GW

Q11

The 23rd ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultation and the 14th East Asia Summit–Economic Ministers' Meeting were held in:

A. Manila
B. Jakarta
C. Kuala Lumpur
D. Hanoi
E. Vientiane

Q12

Indian spacetech company TakeMe2Space plans to launch India's first networked orbital data-centre mission in which year?

A. 2026
B. 2027
C. 2030
D. 2028
E. 2029

Q13

Which airline was named the World's Best Airline in the 2026 Skytrax World Airline Awards?

A. Qatar Airways
B. Cathay Pacific
C. Emirates
D. All Nippon Airways
E. Singapore Airlines

Q14

V.S. Rathanvel of Tamil Nadu, who achieved the title during the 3rd Guwahati Smart City International Open 2026, became India's:

A. 98th Grandmaster
B. 99th Grandmaster
C. 100th Grandmaster
D. 97th Grandmaster
E. 101st Grandmaster

Q15

World Environmental Health Day, observed on 26 September, is coordinated by which organisation?

A. World Health Organization (WHO)
B. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
C. International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH)
D. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
E. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

ANSWERS — 1 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** D	**Q3** A	**Q4** E	**Q5** C
Q6 A	**Q7** D	**Q8** E	**Q9** B	**Q10** C
Q11 A	**Q12** D	**Q13** E	**Q14** B	**Q15** C

Q1. The 2026 southwest monsoon ended with rainfall at what percentage of the Long Period Average (LPA)?

Answer B. 87%

The 2026 southwest monsoon ended at 87% of the LPA, with India receiving about 759.4 mm against the LPA of 868.6 mm. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the 13% deficit was the largest in more than a decade. A strong El Niño in the Pacific was one of the factors associated with the deficient monsoon.

Q2. According to the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2024–25 released by MoSPI, the average wage per factory worker rose 5.3% to:

Answer D. ₹2.28 lakh

ASI 2024–25 reported 2.7 lakh factories and 1.67 crore workers, with the average wage per factory worker rising 5.3% to ₹2.28 lakh. ₹3.04 lakh was Jharkhand's average wage (despite a 5.2% fall), while ₹1.63 lakh was Bihar's average wage after a 16.7% increase.

Q3. Under SEBI's approved reforms for Portfolio Management Services (PMS), PMS providers can invest up to what share of client AUM in investment-grade unlisted debt?

Answer A. 10%

SEBI allowed PMS providers to invest up to 10% of client AUM in investment-grade unlisted debt, subject to conditions and client consent. They will also be allowed to invest client funds in direct mutual fund schemes and Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs). SEBI also approved changes to settlement proceedings, including formula-based settlement amounts and a fast-track mechanism for certain violations.

Q4. India's net FDI in July 2026 rose to its highest level since May 2021. What was the net FDI figure for the month?

Answer E. US$7.35 billion

India's net FDI rose to US$7.35 billion in July 2026, the highest since May 2021, while gross FDI inflows stood at US$14.58 billion. During April–July 2026, net FDI reached US$13.4 billion compared with US$9.7 billion a year earlier. Communication, financial services and computer services were among the major sectors receiving equity inflows.

Q5. Which institution launched India's first blue bond?

Answer C. Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd. (SMFCL)

Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd. (SMFCL) launched India's first blue bond, aiming to raise ₹600 crore with a ₹500 crore green-shoe option. The 10-year bond will support maritime lending, greenfield ports and coastal road projects. Blue bonds are debt instruments used to finance projects linked to marine and water-related sustainability.

Q6. Which bank launched a dedicated Global Capability Centre (GCC) Banking vertical, supported by its International Banking Unit at GIFT City?

Answer A. IndusInd Bank

IndusInd Bank launched a dedicated GCC Banking vertical combining digital banking, employee banking, commercial cards, FEMA/capital-account solutions and foreign-currency banking. Its International Banking Unit at GIFT City will support cross-border banking requirements. India's GCC ecosystem has grown significantly, with 2,117 GCCs reported.

Q7. The Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR) 2026, which mapped cybercrime exposure and police redressal, was published jointly by:

Answer D. Lokniti–CSDS and Common Cause

SPIR 2026 was published jointly by Lokniti–CSDS and Common Cause, based on a 16-state survey of 8,306 citizens. It noted that cybercrime cases rose 17.9%, from 86,420 in 2023 to 1,01,928 in 2024, while overall registered crime fell by about 6%. Only 49% of cybercrime victims surveyed filed a formal police complaint.

Q8. According to the Moody's Ratings global demographics report, India may become a 'super-aged' society (21% of the population aged 65+) by which year?

Answer E. 2065

India entered the 'ageing' category around 2024, when its 65+ population crossed 7%. It may become 'aged' (14%) by 2049 and 'super-aged' (21%) by 2065. The report also noted that over 70% of the world's population lives in countries with fertility at or below replacement level.

Q9. Under the third phase of Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE-III) norms, a battery electric vehicle counts as how many vehicles for the fleet-efficiency calculation?

Answer B. Three

The CAFE-III norms notified by the government will apply from 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2032. They tighten fleet-level fuel-efficiency requirements and provide incentives for EVs, hybrids, flex-fuel vehicles and other cleaner technologies. Under the framework, a battery electric vehicle counts as three vehicles for the fleet-efficiency calculation.

Q10. Green Energy Corridor Phase III, approved by the Union Cabinet, aims to integrate up to how much renewable energy into the electricity grid by FY2032–33?

Answer C. 135 GW

Green Energy Corridor Phase III has an outlay of over ₹1.86 lakh crore and aims to integrate up to 135 GW of renewable energy by FY2032–33. Around ₹1.36 lakh crore is allocated for intra-state transmission systems. A dedicated ₹50,000 crore component will support 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

Q11. The 23rd ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultation and the 14th East Asia Summit–Economic Ministers' Meeting were held in:

Answer A. Manila

India participated in both meetings in Manila, where discussions covered trade, investment, energy security, industrial clusters and regional economic cooperation. India called for a balanced and trade-facilitative review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA). India-ASEAN trade reached US$128.38 billion in 2025–26.

Q12. Indian spacetech company TakeMe2Space plans to launch India's first networked orbital data-centre mission in which year?

Answer D. 2028

TakeMe2Space plans to launch the mission in 2028, with two satellites of about 100 kg each on a SpaceX Falcon 9. Each satellite is planned to carry NVIDIA Thor GPUs, 100 TB storage and 1.5 kW power. The project aims to enable in-orbit computing and data processing across satellites.

Q13. Which airline was named the World's Best Airline in the 2026 Skytrax World Airline Awards?

Answer E. Singapore Airlines

Singapore Airlines was named the World's Best Airline in the 2026 Skytrax awards, with Qatar Airways second and Cathay Pacific third. Air India was the highest-ranked Indian airline at 57th globally. IndiGo ranked 61st and was recognised as the Best Low-Cost Airline in India & South Asia.

Q14. V.S. Rathanvel of Tamil Nadu, who achieved the title during the 3rd Guwahati Smart City International Open 2026, became India's:

Answer B. 99th Grandmaster

V.S. Rathanvel became India's 99th Grandmaster after crossing the required 2,500 Elo rating. The achievement came during the 3rd Guwahati Smart City International Open 2026. In another chess milestone, Indian-origin British player Bodhana Sivanandan became the youngest Woman Grandmaster (WGM) at age 11.

Q15. World Environmental Health Day, observed on 26 September, is coordinated by which organisation?

Answer C. International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH)

World Environmental Health Day is observed on 26 September and is coordinated by the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH). The 2026 theme was 'Environmental Health: Standing with Science to Protect Communities'. The same date also marks World Contraception Day and the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

QUIZ 2 OF 26

2 October 2026

15 questions · Schemes 4 · Banking 3 · Sci & Env 3 · International 2

Q1

National Coastal Mission 2.0 (NCM 2.0), a Central Sector Scheme administered by MoEFCC for 2025-26 to 2030-31, has an outlay of:

A. ₹567 crore
B. ₹767 crore
C. ₹867 crore
D. ₹1,767 crore
E. ₹676 crore

Q2

The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), the technical arm for coastal management, is located in:

A. Kochi
B. Visakhapatnam
C. Chennai
D. Panaji
E. Bhubaneswar

Q3

Air Ayodhya, which received an NOC from the Ministry of Civil Aviation to operate under RCS-UDAN, is operated by:

A. Megamax Aviation
B. Fly91
C. Star Air
D. FlyBig
E. Alliance Air

Q4

According to the WHO-UNICEF report on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools (2015–25), around how many Indian children lacked access to sanitation services at school in 2025, the highest number globally?

A. 20 million
B. 30 million
C. 35 million
D. 50 million
E. 65 million

Q5

UIDAI launched five new initiatives at Aadhaar Samvaad, marking the 17th Aadhaar Day, in which city?

A. New Delhi
B. Bengaluru
C. Hyderabad
D. Mumbai
E. Kolkata

Q6

Under the MoMSME–MoSPI MoU to strengthen the Statistical Business Register (SBR), which data will be shared with MoSPI through APIs?

A. Udyam Registration data
B. GSTN return data
C. EPFO payroll data
D. MCA21 company filings
E. e-Shram registration data

Q7

DRDO is developing indigenous lightweight bulletproof glass for armoured vehicles with which CSIR laboratory?

A. CSIR-NAL
B. CSIR-NPL
C. CSIR-CMERI
D. CSIR-CGCRI
E. CSIR-NML

Q8

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) partnered with which institution for India's first blue financing for shore power infrastructure?

A. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
B. International Finance Corporation (IFC)
C. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
D. New Development Bank (NDB)
E. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Q9

Apple Pay was launched in India initially with Visa and Mastercard credit cards issued by which bank?

A. HDFC Bank
B. ICICI Bank
C. Axis Bank
D. State Bank of India
E. Kotak Mahindra Bank

Q10

Which bank launched user-level programmable CBDC with auto-issuance, allowing users to schedule recurring Digital Rupee (e₹) payments?

A. State Bank of India
B. Bank of Baroda
C. Canara Bank
D. Punjab National Bank
E. Bank of India

Q11

The Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) scheme will support India's goal of how much installed non-fossil fuel capacity by 2035?

A. 500 GW
B. 600 GW
C. 700 GW
D. 900 GW
E. 1,000 GW

Q12

The second edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) commenced at:

A. Subic Bay, Philippines
B. Changi, Singapore
C. Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam
D. Sattahip, Thailand
E. Surabaya, Indonesia

Q13

The Sengol, presented to Jawaharlal Nehru in August 1947 and now installed beside the Lok Sabha Speaker's chair, was commissioned by:

A. Dharmapuram Adheenam
B. Madurai Adheenam
C. Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham
D. Sringeri Sharada Peetham
E. Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam

Q14

The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste is observed on:

A. 16 October
B. 29 September
C. 28 September
D. 5 June
E. 22 March

Q15

How many awards were announced by the Lalit Kala Akademi at its 65th National Exhibition of Art?

A. 10
B. 15
C. 20
D. 25
E. 30

ANSWERS — 2 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** C	**Q3** A	**Q4** D	**Q5** E
Q6 A	**Q7** D	**Q8** B	**Q9** C	**Q10** E
Q11 D	**Q12** A	**Q13** E	**Q14** B	**Q15** C

Q1. National Coastal Mission 2.0 (NCM 2.0), a Central Sector Scheme administered by MoEFCC for 2025-26 to 2030-31, has an outlay of:

Answer B. ₹767 crore

The Union Environment Minister launched implementation guidelines for NCM 2.0, a ₹767 crore Central Sector Scheme covering nine coastal States and four Union Territories. It subsumes NCM 1.0 (2021-22 to 2025-26) and aims to protect coastal and marine ecosystems and sustainably harness India's Blue Economy. Its five pillars are Blue Economy growth, coastal risk reduction, climate adaptation and mitigation, capacity building and effective project management.

Q2. The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), the technical arm for coastal management, is located in:

Answer C. Chennai

NCSCM, Chennai, serves as the technical arm for sustainable coastal management. Coastal regulation is governed by the CRZ Notification, 2019, with zones CRZ-I to IV. The Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Project has been World Bank-supported since 2010.

Q3. Air Ayodhya, which received an NOC from the Ministry of Civil Aviation to operate under RCS-UDAN, is operated by:

Answer A. Megamax Aviation

Air Ayodhya, operated by Megamax Aviation, aims to connect Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, pilgrimage centres and tourism hubs in Uttar Pradesh. Operations are planned with Cessna Grand Caravan EX aircraft, later expanding to larger aircraft. The airline plans to build a 50-aircraft fleet by 2036.

Q4. According to the WHO-UNICEF report on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools (2015–25), around how many Indian children lacked access to sanitation services at school in 2025, the highest number globally?

Answer D. 50 million

The report, released under the JMP-WASH programme, found that around 50 million Indian children lacked school sanitation services in 2025. Globally, 244 million children lacked school sanitation services. About 20 million Indian children also lacked hygiene services at school.

Q5. UIDAI launched five new initiatives at Aadhaar Samvaad, marking the 17th Aadhaar Day, in which city?

Answer E. Kolkata

UIDAI launched the initiatives at Aadhaar Samvaad in Kolkata on 29 September 2026. They include Face Authentication for ePDS, SWIK Portal 2.0, the Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA (LITE) Framework, a New Token Management System and a revamped UIDAI website. Aadhaar Day commemorates the issuance of the first Aadhaar number on 29 September 2010.

Q6. Under the MoMSME–MoSPI MoU to strengthen the Statistical Business Register (SBR), which data will be shared with MoSPI through APIs?

Answer A. Udyam Registration data

MoMSME and MoSPI signed an MoU under which Udyam Registration data will be shared with MoSPI through APIs. The data will help improve the coverage, consistency and reliability of business statistics. The SBR is a regularly updated database of businesses and economic units used for statistical purposes.

Q7. DRDO is developing indigenous lightweight bulletproof glass for armoured vehicles with which CSIR laboratory?

Answer D. CSIR-CGCRI

DRDO and CSIR-CGCRI are working on a ₹50-crore, four-year project using glass-ceramic technology and nanocrystals. The project aims for multi-shot protection against AK-47-class threats. Initial trials successfully stopped TAR rounds at around 695 m/s.

Q8. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) partnered with which institution for India's first blue financing for shore power infrastructure?

Answer B. International Finance Corporation (IFC)

JNPA partnered with IFC for USD 70 million (about ₹672 crore) of blue financing through a 10-year ECB loan. Shore Power Supply (SPS) allows ships at berth to use electricity from the grid instead of diesel engines. The project will help reduce fuel consumption and port-related emissions.

Q9. Apple Pay was launched in India initially with Visa and Mastercard credit cards issued by which bank?

Answer C. Axis Bank

Apple Pay launched in India with Axis Bank-issued Visa and Mastercard credit cards. Transactions use tokenisation and can be authenticated through Face ID, Touch ID or a device passcode. The initial service supports cards but not UPI or RuPay cards.

Q10. Which bank launched user-level programmable CBDC with auto-issuance, allowing users to schedule recurring Digital Rupee (e₹) payments?

Answer E. Bank of India

Bank of India launched user-level programmable CBDC with auto-issuance, letting users schedule recurring e₹ payments with fixed amounts and frequencies. Users can also specify the purpose for which the recipient can use the funds. Applications include allowances, education expenses and other recurring purpose-bound payments.

Q11. The Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) scheme will support India's goal of how much installed non-fossil fuel capacity by 2035?

Answer D. 900 GW

GEC-III, with an outlay of ₹1,86,405 crore and central financial support of ₹54,082 crore, will support India's goal of 900 GW installed non-fossil capacity by 2035. It will enable evacuation of up to 135 GW of renewable energy and deploy 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems, with completion planned by FY 2032-33. The nodal ministry is the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

Q12. The second edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) commenced at:

Answer A. Subic Bay, Philippines

AIME-2026 commenced at Subic Bay, Zambales, in the Philippines, with INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish deployed alongside naval assets of ASEAN member states. It is a multilateral joint naval exercise between the Indian Navy and ASEAN maritime forces. The inaugural edition was hosted by Singapore in May 2023.

Q13. The Sengol, presented to Jawaharlal Nehru in August 1947 and now installed beside the Lok Sabha Speaker's chair, was commissioned by:

Answer E. Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam

The Sengol was commissioned by the Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam, a centuries-old non-Brahmin Saivite mutt in Tamil Nadu, and crafted by Madras jewellers Vummidi Bangaru Chetty. It was preserved for decades at the Allahabad Museum and installed in the new Parliament building in May 2023. NCERT has now included it in its newly released Class 9 Social Science textbook.

Q14. The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste is observed on:

Answer B. 29 September

The day is observed on 29 September; the UN General Assembly established it in 2019 and the first observance was held on 29 September 2020. The 2026 theme was 'Transformative Potential of Reducing Food Loss and Waste'. 28 September is the International Day for Universal Access to Information.

Q15. How many awards were announced by the Lalit Kala Akademi at its 65th National Exhibition of Art?

Answer C. 20

The 65th National Exhibition of Art, held at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi, showcased 6,175 artworks by 2,495 artists. The Lalit Kala Akademi announced 20 awards across visual art forms. Major categories included painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking and mixed media.

QUIZ 3 OF 26

3 October 2026

15 questions · Schemes 4 · Banking 3 · Sci & Env 3 · Sports & Days 2

Q1

The GOBARdhan Central Sector Scheme, launched to accelerate India's Compressed Biogas (CBG) sector from FY2026-27 to FY2035-36, has an outlay of:

A. ₹13,731 crore
B. ₹20,000 crore
C. ₹23,731 crore
D. ₹27,371 crore
E. ₹32,731 crore

Q2

India's first Female Farmer Worker Conference, held in New Delhi during the UN International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026, was organised by:

A. Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS)
B. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
C. NABARD
D. Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
E. Ministry of Rural Development

Q3

Mahila Kisan Diwas, which coincides with the International Day of Rural Women, is observed on:

A. 16 October
B. 8 March
C. 23 December
D. 15 October
E. 1 October

Q4

Under MoHUA's PRAGATI-50 initiative, a Swachh Bharat Test Bed & Innovation Centre will be established with CSIR-CMERI at:

A. Kanpur
B. Durgapur
C. Indore
D. Pune
E. Bhopal

Q5

The Ministry of Finance kept Small Savings Scheme interest rates unchanged for Q3 FY27. For how many consecutive quarters have the rates now remained unchanged?

A. 8
B. 10
C. 12
D. 16
E. 14

Q6

Which insurer launched 'VIBE', a health insurance product aimed at Gen Z customers aged 18–35 years?

A. HDFC ERGO
B. Star Health
C. Niva Bupa
D. ICICI Lombard
E. Care Health Insurance

Q7

The Competition Commission of India approved BNP Paribas Cardif's proposal to acquire a 26% stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance from:

A. Warburg Pincus
B. Bank of Baroda
C. Union Bank of India
D. Carlyle Group
E. KKR

Q8

BHASHINI, which developed CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad for the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, supports how many Indian text languages?

A. 22
B. 23
C. 36
D. 35
E. 30

Q9

The Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) for Delhi, approved by the Cabinet at an estimated cost of ₹1,789.52 crore, will cover how many traffic corridors?

A. 24
B. 32
C. 36
D. 52
E. 42

Q10

India Energy Week 2027, the first edition to be hosted in eastern India, will be held in:

A. Bhubaneswar
B. Kolkata
C. Guwahati
D. Patna
E. Ranchi

Q11

According to the HSBC Global Entrepreneurial Wealth Report 2026, which was the most preferred relocation destination for Indian entrepreneurs?

A. Singapore
B. United Arab Emirates
C. France
D. United Kingdom
E. United States

Q12

RBI approved Anup Kumar Saha as the next MD & CEO of which bank, succeeding Ashok Vaswani?

A. South Indian Bank
B. IndusInd Bank
C. Federal Bank
D. Kotak Mahindra Bank
E. Bandhan Bank

Q13

Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri has been appointed as the first woman Prime Minister of which country?

A. Tunisia
B. Algeria
C. Jordan
D. Egypt
E. Morocco

Q14

World Rabies Day, observed on 28 September, commemorates the death anniversary of:

A. Edward Jenner
B. Robert Koch
C. Louis Pasteur
D. Alexander Fleming
E. Jonas Salk

Q15

Zuppa signed an MoU with which body to establish indigenous drone training labs at Army Regimental Centres for training Agniveers?

A. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
B. Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Corporation (TNUAVC)
C. Drone Federation of India
D. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
E. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

ANSWERS — 3 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 C	**Q2** A	**Q3** D	**Q4** B	**Q5** E
Q6 D	**Q7** A	**Q8** C	**Q9** E	**Q10** B
Q11 A	**Q12** D	**Q13** E	**Q14** C	**Q15** B

Q1. The GOBARdhan Central Sector Scheme, launched to accelerate India's Compressed Biogas (CBG) sector from FY2026-27 to FY2035-36, has an outlay of:

Answer C. ₹23,731 crore

The Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched the GOBARdhan scheme with an outlay of ₹23,731 crore; the nodal ministry is the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It offers capital assistance of up to ₹2 crore per TPD of installed CBG capacity for eligible greenfield plants. Its credit guarantee covers up to 85% of outstanding defaults, with an exposure cap of ₹20 crore (₹25 crore for women-led enterprises).

Q2. India's first Female Farmer Worker Conference, held in New Delhi during the UN International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026, was organised by:

Answer A. Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS)

The conference was organised by the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh to recognise women's contributions to agriculture and rural livelihoods. It sought to establish women's formal identity as farmers and facilitate their access to land rights and credit. 2026 is the UN International Year of the Woman Farmer, proposed by India and adopted by the UNGA.

Q3. Mahila Kisan Diwas, which coincides with the International Day of Rural Women, is observed on:

Answer D. 15 October

Mahila Kisan Diwas is observed on 15 October, the same day as the International Day of Rural Women. Women constitute roughly one-third of the agricultural workforce but own only about 14% of operational holdings. Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) is implemented under DAY-NRLM.

Q4. Under MoHUA's PRAGATI-50 initiative, a Swachh Bharat Test Bed & Innovation Centre will be established with CSIR-CMERI at:

Answer B. Durgapur

PRAGATI-50 was launched under SBM-U 2.0 to develop 50 clean role-model cities across 24 States using KPI-based monitoring and technology-enabled governance. A Swachh Bharat Test Bed & Innovation Centre will be set up at Durgapur with CSIR-CMERI. A new cohort of sanitation and waste-management startups was also launched with IIT Kanpur.

Q5. The Ministry of Finance kept Small Savings Scheme interest rates unchanged for Q3 FY27. For how many consecutive quarters have the rates now remained unchanged?

Answer E. 14

Small Savings Scheme rates for October–December 2026 (Q3 FY27) were kept unchanged, making it 14 consecutive quarters without a change. The last revision was made in Q4 FY24. SSS instruments are government-backed savings products administered mainly through Post Offices and designated banks.

Q6. Which insurer launched 'VIBE', a health insurance product aimed at Gen Z customers aged 18–35 years?

Answer D. ICICI Lombard

ICICI Lombard launched VIBE, combining hospitalisation, outpatient care, mental-health support, fitness benefits and wellness rewards. It offers six variants with coverage from ₹7 lakh to ₹1 crore. The product uses the company's IL TakeCare digital ecosystem.

Q7. The Competition Commission of India approved BNP Paribas Cardif's proposal to acquire a 26% stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance from:

Answer A. Warburg Pincus

BNP Paribas Cardif is acquiring the 26% stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance from Warburg Pincus. After the transaction, the shareholding is expected to be Bank of Baroda 65%, BNP Paribas Cardif 26% and Union Bank of India 9%. CCI is India's statutory competition regulator under the Competition Act, 2002.

Q8. BHASHINI, which developed CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad for the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, supports how many Indian text languages?

Answer C. 36

BHASHINI supports 36 Indian text languages, 23 Indian voice languages and 35 international languages. It was launched in 2022 under the National Language Translation Mission as an initiative of MeitY. CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad is an AI-powered multilingual translation solution for official and audit-related documents.

Q9. The Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) for Delhi, approved by the Cabinet at an estimated cost of ₹1,789.52 crore, will cover how many traffic corridors?

Answer E. 42

The Delhi ITMS project will cover 42 traffic corridors at an estimated cost of ₹1,789.52 crore. It will be implemented in three phases over 24 months, followed by five years of operation and maintenance. It aims to improve traffic management, urban mobility and transport infrastructure.

Q10. India Energy Week 2027, the first edition to be hosted in eastern India, will be held in:

Answer B. Kolkata

India Energy Week 2027 will be held in Kolkata from 28–31 January 2027. Its theme is 'Unlocking Innovation. Securing Energy. Shaping Tomorrow.' The event will focus on oil and gas, LNG, hydrogen, biofuels, petrochemicals, AI and digitalisation.

Q11. According to the HSBC Global Entrepreneurial Wealth Report 2026, which was the most preferred relocation destination for Indian entrepreneurs?

Answer A. Singapore

Around 74% of Indian entrepreneurs surveyed planned to relocate or secure overseas residency, with Singapore the most preferred destination, followed by France, the UK and the US. Around 99% were adopting or planning to adopt AI in business. Major AI-related concerns included data privacy, employee resistance and integration with legacy systems.

Q12. RBI approved Anup Kumar Saha as the next MD & CEO of which bank, succeeding Ashok Vaswani?

Answer D. Kotak Mahindra Bank

Anup Kumar Saha will take charge as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank on 1 January 2027 for a three-year term, succeeding Ashok Vaswani. Separately, Mahesh Muralidhar Pai became MD & CEO of South Indian Bank from 1 October 2026, succeeding P. R. Seshadri.

Q13. Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri has been appointed as the first woman Prime Minister of which country?

Answer E. Morocco

Morocco's King Mohammed VI appointed Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri as Prime Minister, making her the country's first woman PM. She belongs to the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM). Morocco follows a constitutional monarchy with a bicameral Parliament.

Q14. World Rabies Day, observed on 28 September, commemorates the death anniversary of:

Answer C. Louis Pasteur

World Rabies Day commemorates the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur, developer of the first successful rabies vaccine. The day was established in 2007 by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control. The 2026 theme was 'Stronger Together'.

Q15. Zuppa signed an MoU with which body to establish indigenous drone training labs at Army Regimental Centres for training Agniveers?

Answer B. Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Corporation (TNUAVC)

Zuppa and TNUAVC signed an MoU to set up indigenous drone training labs at Army Regimental Centres to train Agniveers and defence personnel in UAV operations. Zuppa plans to train and certify over 2,000 personnel in three years. Training will cover drone flying, simulation, maintenance, safety, mission planning and DGCA regulations.

QUIZ 4 OF 26

4 & 5 October 2026

14 questions · Schemes 5 · Agri & Rural 3 · Banking 3 · Appointments 1

Q1

The CCEA has approved higher Minimum Support Prices for the Rabi crops of the 2027–28 Marketing Season. What is the revised MSP of wheat?

A. ₹2,585 per quintal
B. ₹2,610 per quintal
C. ₹2,635 per quintal
D. ₹2,425 per quintal
E. ₹2,700 per quintal

Q2

Under the ICAR–FCI MoU on alternative fumigation technologies for stored wheat and rice, which institute will implement Phase-I?

A. ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
B. ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana
C. ICAR-NDRI, Karnal
D. ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack
E. ICAR-IIWBR, Karnal

Q3

The ICAR–FCI programme is looking for substitutes to which two chemicals, whose repeated use in grain storage has led to pest resistance?

A. Methyl bromide and DDT
B. Aluminium phosphide and malathion
C. Ethylene dibromide and lindane
D. Chlorpyrifos and endosulfan
E. Sulfuryl fluoride and carbaryl

Q4

NPS Swasthya was launched by PFRDA on 1 October 2026 (NPS Diwas). Which pension fund manager is so far the only one to have launched this scheme?

A. SBI Pension Funds
B. HDFC Pension Fund
C. Axis Pension Fund
D. UTI Retirement Solutions
E. LIC Pension Fund

Q5

The Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026, which came into force on 1 October 2026, replaces a law enacted in which year?

A. 1872
B. 1881
C. 1891
D. 1934
E. 1949

Q6

Bank of Baroda has become the second PSU bank to sponsor a pension fund. Which PSU bank was the first to enter this segment, in 2008?

A. Punjab National Bank
B. Canara Bank
C. State Bank of India
D. Bank of India
E. Union Bank of India

Q7

Who has been appointed MD & CEO of HDFC Bank, becoming the first external candidate to lead the bank?

A. Sandeep Bakhshi
B. Anup Bagchi
C. Ashok Vaswani
D. Shashidhar Jagdishan
E. Amitabh Chaudhry

Q8

The RoDTEP Scheme has been extended up to 31 December 2026. Which body administers and implements this scheme?

A. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)
B. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
C. EXIM Bank
D. ECGC Ltd
E. Federation of Indian Export Organisations

Q9

What is the outlay of Samudra Manthan, the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, till FY2030-31?

A. ₹48,084 crore
B. ₹64,084 crore
C. ₹76,000 crore
D. ₹84,084 crore
E. ₹1,00,000 crore

Q10

The Ministry of Finance has projected India's real GDP growth for Q2 FY27 at:

A. 6.8%
B. 7.0%
C. 7.3%
D. 7.8%
E. 8.2%

Q11

The Centre has approved ₹10,520 crore for the Amended BharatNet Programme in Maharashtra. How many Gram Panchayats will it cover?

A. 15,799
B. 22,450
C. 25,100
D. 28,237
E. 32,600

Q12

NRIDA has signed an MoU with which institution for a four-year impact assessment of rural roads built under PMGSY-IV and PM-JANMAN?

A. IIM Ahmedabad
B. IIM Kolkata
C. IIM Bangalore
D. NIRDPR, Hyderabad
E. IIT Delhi

Q13

A New Discovery Track has been launched under the PRIP Scheme. With what outlay was the PRIP Scheme launched in 2023?

A. ₹1,500 crore
B. ₹2,500 crore
C. ₹5,000 crore
D. ₹7,500 crore
E. ₹10,000 crore

Q14

Which was the highest-ranked Indian institution in the THE World University Rankings 2027, and at what position?

A. IIT Bombay, 198th
B. IIT Delhi, 231st
C. IISc Bengaluru, 254th
D. IIT Madras, 276th
E. JNU, 301st

ANSWERS — 4 & 5 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** B	**Q3** B	**Q4** C	**Q5** C
Q6 C	**Q7** B	**Q8** B	**Q9** D	**Q10** C
Q11 D	**Q12** B	**Q13** C	**Q14** C	

Q1. The CCEA has approved higher Minimum Support Prices for the Rabi crops of the 2027–28 Marketing Season. What is the revised MSP of wheat?

Answer B. ₹2,610 per quintal

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs raised MSPs for all mandated Rabi crops for the 2027–28 season. Wheat got a hike of ₹25, taking it to ₹2,610 per quintal. Barley, gram, lentil, rapeseed-mustard, safflower and toria are also covered, and the aim is to give farmers remunerative prices and encourage Rabi output.

Q2. Under the ICAR–FCI MoU on alternative fumigation technologies for stored wheat and rice, which institute will implement Phase-I?

Answer B. ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana

Phase-I is a two-year programme with an approved outlay of ₹3.28 crore, to be carried out by ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana. It will test nitrogen, carbon dioxide and combined CO_2-phosphine fumigation as safer options for grain held in FCI storage.

Q3. The ICAR–FCI programme is looking for substitutes to which two chemicals, whose repeated use in grain storage has led to pest resistance?

Answer B. Aluminium phosphide and malathion

Heavy reliance on aluminium phosphide and malathion has pushed pest resistance in key states to 72–100%. This raises fumigation costs and exposes workers and the environment to greater risk, which is why ICAR and FCI are developing safer and more sustainable alternatives.

Q4. NPS Swasthya was launched by PFRDA on 1 October 2026 (NPS Diwas). Which pension fund manager is so far the only one to have launched this scheme?

Answer C. Axis Pension Fund

NPS Swasthya pairs a dedicated investment corpus with a super top-up health insurance policy, and Axis Pension Fund is the first to offer it. The family floater covers the subscriber, spouse and children (not parents) with a sum insured of ₹1 lakh to ₹30 lakh. Subscribers may withdraw up to 25% of their own contributions.

Q5. The Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026, which came into force on 1 October 2026, replaces a law enacted in which year?

Answer C. 1891

The new Act replaces the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 and gives a modern framework for using banking records as evidence, including records kept electronically. It received Presidential assent on 13 August 2026.

Q6. Bank of Baroda has become the second PSU bank to sponsor a pension fund. Which PSU bank was the first to enter this segment, in 2008?

Answer C. State Bank of India

SBI entered the pension fund business in 2008. BoB will operate through BoB Pension Fund Management Company, holding an 80.10% stake, with Baroda BNP Asset Management Company holding 19.90%. BoB has also linked Tatkal NPS with the BHIM App for digital onboarding.

Q7. Who has been appointed MD & CEO of HDFC Bank, becoming the first external candidate to lead the bank?

Answer B. Anup Bagchi

Anup Bagchi has been appointed for three years, subject to RBI approval. He earlier served as MD & CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance and held senior roles at ICICI Bank and ICICI Securities, bringing over 30 years of banking and financial services experience.

Q8. The RoDTEP Scheme has been extended up to 31 December 2026. Which body administers and implements this scheme?

Answer B. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)

RoDTEP is notified by the DGFT under the Department of Commerce, but administered by the CBIC under the Department of Revenue. In force since 1 January 2021, this WTO-compliant scheme replaced MEIS and refunds embedded Central, State and local taxes on exported goods.

Q9. What is the outlay of Samudra Manthan, the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, till FY2030-31?

Answer D. ₹84,084 crore

This Central Sector scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas targets deep and ultra-deep offshore basins. It seeks to add over 600 MMTOE of recoverable reserves, raise domestic production to 80 MMTOE a year and reduce dependence on imported crude.

Q10. The Ministry of Finance has projected India's real GDP growth for Q2 FY27 at:

Answer C. 7.3%

Growth stood at 7.8% in Q1 FY27, and the 7.3% projection for Q2 is backed by domestic consumption, investment, bank credit, infrastructure activity and services. Total exports were close to US$400 billion in the first five months of FY27.

Q11. The Centre has approved ₹10,520 crore for the Amended BharatNet Programme in Maharashtra. How many Gram Panchayats will it cover?

Answer D. 28,237

DBN signed the agreement with Maharashtra, MDIL, BSNL and MahaIT. The programme will cover 28,237 Gram Panchayats and provide on-demand connectivity to 15,799 villages, improving rural broadband and last-mile digital access.

Q12. NRIDA has signed an MoU with which institution for a four-year impact assessment of rural roads built under PMGSY-IV and PM-JANMAN?

Answer B. IIM Kolkata

The longitudinal study will cover 10 States/UTs, 50 districts, 150 blocks, 250 roads and about 5,000 households. Using baseline, transition and endline surveys, it will measure changes in mobility, livelihoods and access to essential services.

Q13. A New Discovery Track has been launched under the PRIP Scheme. With what outlay was the PRIP Scheme launched in 2023?

Answer C. ₹5,000 crore

PRIP, run by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, strengthens pharma research and innovation. The new track gives early-stage funding to New Chemical Entities, New Biological Entities, complex generics, biosimilars and medical devices, with projects required to bring 25% co-funding.

Q14. Which was the highest-ranked Indian institution in the THE World University Rankings 2027, and at what position?

Answer C. IISc Bengaluru, 254th

IISc Bengaluru was placed 254th globally. Oxford stayed at the top for the 11th year in a row, and the USA had the most ranked universities (168), followed by India (143). The rankings assess teaching, research environment, research quality, international outlook and industry.

QUIZ 5 OF 26

6 October 2026

14 questions · Schemes 3 · Reports 3 · Agri & Rural 2 · Economy 1

Q1

Two captive-bred male Great Indian Bustards were recently released into the wild at Sam. In which protected area is Sam located?

A. Ranthambore National Park
B. Desert National Park
C. Tal Chhapar Sanctuary
D. Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary
E. Sariska Tiger Reserve

Q2

According to the Annual Survey of Industries 2024–25 released by MoSPI, by how much did manufacturing GVA increase?

A. 7.19%
B. 8.25%
C. 9.59%
D. 11.40%
E. 12.08%

Q3

As per ASI 2024–25, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka together accounted for what share of total establishments?

A. 41.20%
B. 47.65%
C. 53.30%
D. 58.10%
E. 62.40%

Q4

PM-SETU has an outlay of ₹60,000 crore over five years. What is the share to be contributed by industry?

A. ₹5,000 crore
B. ₹10,000 crore
C. ₹15,000 crore
D. ₹20,000 crore
E. ₹30,000 crore

Q5

PM-SETU targets the upgrade of 1,000 Government ITIs. How are they to be organised?

A. 100 Hub and 900 Spoke ITIs
B. 200 Hub and 800 Spoke ITIs
C. 250 Hub and 750 Spoke ITIs
D. 172 Hub and 678 Spoke ITIs
E. 300 Hub and 700 Spoke ITIs

Q6

Under PMAY-G, what financial assistance is provided per house in plain areas and in North-Eastern/hilly areas respectively?

A. ₹1.20 lakh and ₹1.30 lakh
B. ₹1.30 lakh and ₹1.50 lakh
C. ₹1.00 lakh and ₹1.20 lakh
D. ₹1.50 lakh and ₹1.60 lakh
E. ₹1.20 lakh and ₹1.50 lakh

Q7

Andhra Pradesh is launching India's first national-level pilot of rural houses built with 3D Concrete Printing under PMAY-G. How many houses does the pilot cover?

A. 100
B. 150
C. 177
D. 250
E. 300

Q8

NABKISAN Finance Ltd, a NABARD subsidiary, listed India's first WASH-focused Social Bond on the NSE. How much did it raise?

A. ₹100 crore
B. ₹150 crore
C. ₹180 crore
D. ₹250 crore
E. ₹500 crore

Q9

RBI has registered Indiabulls Limited as a Core Investment Company (CIC). Generally, at least what share of a CIC's net assets must be in investments in or loans to group companies?

A. 50%
B. 60%
C. 75%
D. 90%
E. 100%

Q10

According to the first National Household Travel Survey released by the NSO, roughly what share of workers use public transport?

A. 15%
B. 28%
C. 35%
D. 46%
E. 52%

Q11

The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded for optogenetics. In which organism was the light-sensitive protein channelrhodopsin discovered?

A. The single-celled alga Chlamydomonas
B. The archaeon Halobacterium
C. The fruit fly Drosophila
D. The zebrafish
E. The nematode
C. elegans

Q12

After five new cubs were born in Kuno National Park, what is India's total cheetah population?

A. 41
B. 48
C. 55
D. 60
E. 65

Q13

DRDO's Kaveri Dry Engine, which recently completed high-altitude and flight trials in Russia, is being developed for which platform?

A. Tejas Mk2
B. Ghatak UCAV
C. AMCA
D. Rustom-II
E. Archer-NG

Q14

What was India's position and medal tally at the Aichi–Nagoya Asian Games 2026?

A. 3rd with 85 medals
B. 4th with 85 medals
C. 4th with 106 medals
D. 5th with 78 medals
E. 3rd with 92 medals

ANSWERS — 6 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** C	**Q3** C	**Q4** B	**Q5** B
Q6 A	**Q7** C	**Q8** C	**Q9** D	**Q10** A
Q11 A	**Q12** D	**Q13** B	**Q14** B	

Q1. Two captive-bred male Great Indian Bustards were recently released into the wild at Sam. In which protected area is Sam located?

Answer B. Desert National Park

Desert National Park covers 3,162 sq km of the hyper-arid Thar in Jaisalmer and Barmer, gets under 100 mm of rain a year and was gazetted in 1980. It has GIB breeding centres at Sam and Ramdevra. The Great Indian Bustard, locally called Godawan, is Critically Endangered and is Rajasthan's state bird.

Q2. According to the Annual Survey of Industries 2024–25 released by MoSPI, by how much did manufacturing GVA increase?

Answer C. 9.59%

The ASI covers India's registered manufacturing sector. In 2024–25, manufacturing GVA rose 9.59%, employment grew 7.19% to 2.10 crore and total emoluments went up 12.08%. The other options in this question are figures from the same survey, which is a common trap in exams.

Q3. As per ASI 2024–25, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka together accounted for what share of total establishments?

Answer C. 53.30%

These five states held 53.30% of all registered manufacturing establishments, showing how concentrated factory activity remains. The survey also put total employment in the sector at 2.10 crore, up 7.19% over the previous year, while manufacturing GVA expanded by 9.59%.

Q4. PM-SETU has an outlay of ₹60,000 crore over five years. What is the share to be contributed by industry?

Answer B. ₹10,000 crore

The outlay is split as ₹30,000 crore from the Centre, ₹20,000 crore from the States and ₹10,000 crore from industry. The scheme, which has completed one year, aims to modernise Government ITIs and make skill training more industry-oriented.

Q5. PM-SETU targets the upgrade of 1,000 Government ITIs. How are they to be organised?

Answer B. 200 Hub and 800 Spoke ITIs

The scheme follows a hub-and-spoke model of 200 Hub and 800 Spoke ITIs. In its first year, 850 ITIs were identified, comprising 172 Hubs and 678 Spokes, so option D reflects first-year progress, not the overall target.

Q6. Under PMAY-G, what financial assistance is provided per house in plain areas and in North-Eastern/hilly areas respectively?

Answer A. ₹1.20 lakh and ₹1.30 lakh

PMAY-G gives ₹1.20 lakh in plain areas and ₹1.30 lakh in North-Eastern and hilly areas. Andhra Pradesh recently received the first instalment for 3 lakh PMAY-G houses, amounting to ₹3,600 crore. Alongside this release, a pilot for 177 houses built with 3D concrete printing was also launched in the state.

Q7. Andhra Pradesh is launching India's first national-level pilot of rural houses built with 3D Concrete Printing under PMAY-G. How many houses does the pilot cover?

Answer C. 177

The 177-house pilot uses 3DCP, in which a robotic nozzle deposits a cement-based mix layer by layer along paths generated from a BIM model. Walls are formed without conventional formwork, cutting construction time, labour needs and costs.

Q8. NABKISAN Finance Ltd, a NABARD subsidiary, listed India's first WASH-focused Social Bond on the NSE. How much did it raise?

Answer C. ₹180 crore

The 5-year bond carries an 8.10% coupon, was 1.8 times oversubscribed and is rated CRISIL AAA (Stable) and CARE AAA (Stable). The money will fund Water, Sanitation and Hygiene projects for rural and underserved communities.

Q9. RBI has registered Indiabulls Limited as a Core Investment Company (CIC). Generally, at least what share of a CIC's net assets must be in investments in or loans to group companies?

Answer D. 90%

A CIC is an NBFC mainly engaged in holding investments in, and lending to, group companies. At least 90% of its net assets should be in such group exposures, with at least 60% in equity. The registration places Indiabulls under RBI's CIC framework.

Q10. According to the first National Household Travel Survey released by the NSO, roughly what share of workers use public transport?

Answer A. 15%

Only about 15% of workers use buses, trains, trams or auto-rickshaws. Around 46% rely on cars or two-wheelers, and 28% walk to work, giving a picture of how Indians commute. Such data helps planners understand urban mobility patterns and the gaps in public transport coverage.

Q11. The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded for optogenetics. In which organism was the light-sensitive protein channelrhodopsin discovered?

Answer A. The single-celled alga Chlamydomonas

Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel identified channelrhodopsin in Chlamydomonas; under blue light it opens an ion channel and creates an electrical signal. Karl Deisseroth inserted its gene into nerve cells, showing in 2005 that light could trigger nerve signals. The three shared the prize.

Q12. After five new cubs were born in Kuno National Park, what is India's total cheetah population?

Answer D. 60

The cubs were born to KJP21, the third India-born female cheetah to give birth in the country. The population now stands at 60, of which 41 are cubs born in India, strengthening Project Cheetah.

Q13. DRDO's Kaveri Dry Engine, which recently completed high-altitude and flight trials in Russia, is being developed for which platform?

Answer B. Ghatak UCAV

The engine, developed by DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment, is a non-afterburning version of the Kaveri engine meant for the Ghatak Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle. It delivered 48.5 kN of dry thrust, beating the 46 kN target.

Q14. What was India's position and medal tally at the Aichi–Nagoya Asian Games 2026?

Answer B. 4th with 85 medals

India finished fourth with 85 medals: 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze. China topped the table with 341 medals, followed by Japan and South Korea. The Games ended on 4 October 2026 and had 469 medal events across 43 sports.

QUIZ 6 OF 26

7 October 2026

14 questions · Reports 4 · Sci & Env 2 · Schemes 2 · Banking 2

Q1

At the 28th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 28), India reported its forest and tree cover as what share of its geographical area?

A. 21.76 per cent
B. 23.41 per cent
C. 25.17 per cent
D. 26.59 per cent
E. 28.12 per cent

Q2

FAO's State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2026 report estimates that roughly how much land is degraded across the world?

A. 1.12 billion hectares
B. 1.56 billion hectares
C. 2.29 billion hectares
D. 0.82 billion hectares
E. 3.50 billion hectares

Q3

Under the Bonn Challenge, India has pledged to bring how much degraded land under restoration by 2030?

A. 21.76 million hectares
B. 18 million hectares
C. 30 million hectares
D. 26 million hectares
E. 82.74 million hectares

Q4

In the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025, India is ranked at which position worldwide in net annual forest area gain?

A. 9th
B. 3rd
C. 1st
D. 5th
E. 7th

Q5

The PM E-DRIVE Scheme, which completed two years on 29 September 2026, has been extended up to which date?

A. 31 March 2027
B. 30 September 2027
C. 31 December 2027
D. 30 June 2028
E. 31 March 2028

Q6

In the October edition of its India Development Update, the World Bank revised India's FY27 growth projection to:

A. 7.1 per cent
B. 6.6 per cent
C. 6.9 per cent
D. 7.0 per cent
E. 7.4 per cent

Q7

Among the agencies that recently revised India's FY27 growth forecast, which one placed it at 6.9 per cent?

A. OECD
B. ADB
C. Moody's
D. S&P Global
E. Fitch

Q8

The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), launched in April 2015, is implemented by which institutions?

A. ISRO and DRDO
B. C-DAC, Pune and IISc, Bengaluru
C. IIT Bombay and IIT Madras
D. NIC and BARC
E. C-DAC, Pune and IIT BHU

Q9

In India's first National Household Travel Survey (NHTS), a trip is counted as "travel" only if it covers at least:

A. 500 metres
B. 2 km
C. 1 km
D. 5 km
E. 10 km

Q10

As per the NHTS findings, what is the average monthly commute cost in India?

A. ₹612
B. ₹1,044
C. ₹550
D. ₹785
E. ₹925

Q11

The India-Japan Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), whose Operational Manual was launched in New Delhi, operates under which provision?

A. Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement
B. Article 4 of the Paris Agreement
C. Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol
D. Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement
E. Article 2 of the UNFCCC

Q12

Under Odisha's new digital portal for MICE tourism, eligible events can receive an incentive of:

A. ₹500 per room per day
B. ₹2,000 per event
C. ₹1,500 per room per night
D. ₹1,000 per room per day
E. ₹5,000 per delegate

Q13

The global observance of World Habitat Day 2026 was held in which city?

A. Nairobi, Kenya
B. Muscat, Oman
C. Geneva, Switzerland
D. Rome, Italy
E. Dubai, UAE

Q14

After the 24 Departmentally-Related Standing Committees were reconstituted for 2026–27, who was appointed Chairperson of the Committee on Finance?

A. Shashi Tharoor
B. Radha Mohan Singh
C. Rajnath Singh
D. Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya
E. Bhartruhari Mahtab

ANSWERS — 7 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 C	**Q2** B	**Q3** D	**Q4** B	**Q5** E
Q6 A	**Q7** E	**Q8** B	**Q9** C	**Q10** D
Q11 A	**Q12** D	**Q13** B	**Q14** E	

Q1. At the 28th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 28), India reported its forest and tree cover as what share of its geographical area?

Answer C. 25.17 per cent

India placed its national statement on forest and landscape restoration before COFO 28, held in Rome from 28 September to 2 October 2026. Its combined forest and tree cover now spans 82.74 million hectares, equal to 25.17 per cent of the country's geographical area. The session ran alongside the 10th World Forest Week under the theme "Forests for food, resilience and prosperity".

Q2. FAO's State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2026 report estimates that roughly how much land is degraded across the world?

Answer B. 1.56 billion hectares

SOFO 2026, subtitled "Restoring Forests and Landscapes – The Way Forward for a Sustainable Future", is a global assessment of land degradation. It puts degraded land at close to 1.56 billion hectares, roughly a tenth of the planet's land area and about 5.2 times the size of India, and sets out practical ways to scale up high-quality Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR).

Q3. Under the Bonn Challenge, India has pledged to bring how much degraded land under restoration by 2030?

Answer D. 26 million hectares

India's Bonn Challenge commitment is to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, and about 21.76 million hectares is already under restoration. On the climate side, India created an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent by 2021 and is aiming for 3.5–4.0 billion tonnes by 2035.

Q4. In the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025, India is ranked at which position worldwide in net annual forest area gain?

Answer B. 3rd

FRA 2025 places India 3rd in the world for net annual gain in forest area and 9th for total forest area. The FRA is released by the FAO once every five years. The FAO, set up in 1945 and based in Rome, also brings out the SOFI report on food security and the SOFA report on agriculture.

Q5. The PM E-DRIVE Scheme, which completed two years on 29 September 2026, has been extended up to which date?

Answer E. 31 March 2028

The PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement scheme began in October 2024 and will now run until 31 March 2028. Around 26.59 lakh electric vehicles had been sold under it by June 2026. It supports e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks and e-buses, along with EV charging infrastructure.

Q6. In the October edition of its India Development Update, the World Bank revised India's FY27 growth projection to:

Answer A. 7.1 per cent

The World Bank lifted its FY27 estimate for India from 6.6 per cent to 7.1 per cent, pointing to robust domestic demand and strong exports despite global headwinds. Private consumption is expected to remain the key growth driver, while a rainfall deficit through August may weigh modestly on rural demand and government consumption is likely to stay subdued.

Q7. Among the agencies that recently revised India's FY27 growth forecast, which one placed it at 6.9 per cent?

Answer E. Fitch

Fitch raised its projection from 6.4 to 6.9 per cent, the lowest among the upgraded figures. The OECD moved to 7.1 per cent, matching the World Bank, while ADB, S&P Global and Moody's all settled at 7.0 per cent. Moody's made the largest jump, up from 6.0 per cent.

Q8. The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), launched in April 2015, is implemented by which institutions?

Answer B. C-DAC, Pune and IISc, Bengaluru

NSM has an outlay of ₹4,500 crore and is run jointly by DST and MeitY, with C-DAC Pune and IISc Bengaluru as implementing agencies. It has so far deployed 40 indigenous supercomputers with a combined capacity of 68 petaflops, building self-reliance in high-performance computing.

Q9. In India's first National Household Travel Survey (NHTS), a trip is counted as "travel" only if it covers at least:

Answer C. 1 km

The NHTS was carried out by the National Statistics Office under MoSPI from July 2025 to June 2026, covering 4.92 lakh households and more than 20.34 lakh persons. It captures why, how, how far and at what cost people travel, but trips shorter than 1 km fall outside its definition.

Q10. As per the NHTS findings, what is the average monthly commute cost in India?

Answer D. ₹785

Commuters spend about ₹785 a month on average, with urban users paying ₹1,044 and rural users ₹612. Two-wheelers are used by 42.6 per cent overall, and the survey shows a wide gender gap, with 61.9 per cent of men travelling against 41.9 per cent of women.

Q11. The India-Japan Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), whose Operational Manual was launched in New Delhi, operates under which provision?

Answer A. Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement

Article 6.2 allows two countries to cooperate voluntarily and transfer emission reductions, called Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs). Under the JCM, Japan provides low-carbon technology and the resulting credits are shared. It builds on a Memorandum of Cooperation of 7 August 2025 and Rules of Implementation adopted on 8 June 2026.

Q12. Under Odisha's new digital portal for MICE tourism, eligible events can receive an incentive of:

Answer D. ₹1,000 per room per day

Odisha has launched India's first dedicated portal for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions tourism. It simplifies applications and approvals for large business events, and qualifying events can claim ₹1,000 per room per day, subject to conditions, as the state pushes business tourism and corporate event infrastructure.

Q13. The global observance of World Habitat Day 2026 was held in which city?

Answer B. Muscat, Oman

World Habitat Day falls on the first Monday of October and promotes adequate housing and better human settlements. The 2026 theme was "Adequate Housing for All", with the global event hosted in Muscat from 5 to 8 October. In India, attention centred on progress under PMAY-U and PMAY-U 2.0.

Q14. After the 24 Departmentally-Related Standing Committees were reconstituted for 2026–27, who was appointed Chairperson of the Committee on Finance?

Answer E. Bhartruhari Mahtab

The Lok Sabha Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chairman reconstituted all 24 DRSCs for 2026–27, naming Bhartruhari Mahtab to head the Finance Committee. Shashi Tharoor will lead the Committee on External Affairs, while Radha Mohan Singh takes charge of the Defence Committee.

QUIZ 7 OF 26

8 October 2026

14 questions · Agri & Rural 5 · Reports 3 · Banking 3 · Schemes 2

Q1

A field study by FSII and NSAI estimates that roughly what share of India's cotton area may be under unauthorised GM cotton hybrids?

A. 10–15 per cent
B. 24–30 per cent
C. 35–40 per cent
D. 50–55 per cent
E. 72–75 per cent

Q2

Which two Bt genes are currently permitted in GM cotton in India?

A. cp4-epsps and Vip3A
B. cry1Ac and Vip3A
C. cry1Ac and cry2Ab
D. cry2Ab and cp4-epsps
E. cry1F and cry3Bb

Q3

In the study on illegal herbicide-tolerant cotton, which state recorded the highest prevalence of the cp4-epsps gene in field samples?

A. Maharashtra
B. Andhra Pradesh
C. Rajasthan
D. Gujarat
E. Telangana

Q4

World Cotton Day, observed on 7 October, was proposed by the Cotton Four (C-4) countries. Which of the following is NOT a C-4 country?

A. Benin
B. Burkina Faso
C. Chad
D. Egypt
E. Mali

Q5

WWF's Living Planet Report 2026 recorded what average decline in monitored vertebrate populations between 1970 and 2022?

A. 69 per cent
B. 73 per cent
C. 85 per cent
D. 59 per cent
E. 49 per cent

Q6

Which type of ecosystem showed the steepest population decline in the Living Planet Report 2026?

A. Marine
B. Terrestrial
C. Mountain
D. Freshwater
E. Mangrove

Q7

An RBI study on rural resilience found that for small farm households owning up to one acre, wages contribute:

A. About 36 per cent of income
B. More than 55 per cent of income
C. Less than 25 per cent of income
D. Exactly half of income
E. Over 80 per cent of income

Q8

The Ministry of Rural Development has expanded the permissible works under the VB–G RAM G Act, 2025 from 266 to:

A. 300
B. 325
C. 350
D. 375
E. 400

Q9

Under the expanded VB–G RAM G list of permissible works, how many works are agriculture-related?

A. 109
B. 181
C. 266
D. 141
E. 211

Q10

After raising the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.5 per cent, the MPC changed its stance from neutral to:

A. Accommodative
B. Withdrawal of accommodation
C. Calibrated tightening
D. Hawkish pause
E. Calibrated easing

Q11

Following the latest monetary policy decision, what is the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate?

A. 5.00 per cent
B. 5.50 per cent
C. 5.75 per cent
D. 6.00 per cent
E. 5.25 per cent

Q12

SEBI launched the 'Samajh Se Investing Simple' campaign during World Investor Week 2026 under which initiative?

A. Project Jagrook
B. Project Nivesh
C. Project Sankalp
D. Investor Mitra
E. Project Suraksha

Q13

The Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA), approved by the Union Cabinet, will be set up as a:

A. Statutory body under an Act of Parliament
B. Special Purpose Vehicle
C. Constitutional body
D. Attached office of NITI Aayog
E. Registered society under the Societies Act

Q14

GSMA's India Consumer Scam Report 2026 found that what percentage of Indian respondents were scammed in the previous 12 months?

A. 8 per cent
B. 13 per cent
C. 33 per cent
D. 12 per cent
E. 67 per cent

ANSWERS — 8 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** C	**Q3** E	**Q4** D	**Q5** B
Q6 D	**Q7** B	**Q8** D	**Q9** B	**Q10** C
Q11 E	**Q12** A	**Q13** B	**Q14** D	

Q1. A field study by FSII and NSAI estimates that roughly what share of India's cotton area may be under unauthorised GM cotton hybrids?

Answer B. 24–30 per cent

The Federation of Seed Industry of India and the National Seed Association of India found that 26.2–29 lakh hectares of the 114.8 lakh hectares under cotton in 2025–26 may carry unapproved traits. Labour shortages and costly manual weeding are the main reasons farmers are turning to these illegal hybrids.

Q2. Which two Bt genes are currently permitted in GM cotton in India?

Answer C. cry1Ac and cry2Ab

India allows GM cotton with only cry1Ac and cry2Ab, which shield the crop from certain bollworm pests. The unapproved genes found in the study are cp4-epsps, which makes the plant tolerant to glyphosate herbicide, and Vip3A, a Bt-derived gene that protects against a wider set of pests, including pink bollworm.

Q3. In the study on illegal herbicide-tolerant cotton, which state recorded the highest prevalence of the cp4-epsps gene in field samples?

Answer E. Telangana

The herbicide-tolerance gene turned up in 72.69 per cent of all field samples. Telangana led at 88.64 per cent, ahead of Maharashtra (70.92%), Andhra Pradesh (62.86%) and Rajasthan (57.14%). Researchers tested 227 geo-tagged samples from the fields of 984 farmers across 16 districts in these four states.

Q4. World Cotton Day, observed on 7 October, was proposed by the Cotton Four (C-4) countries. Which of the following is NOT a C-4 country?

Answer D. Egypt

Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali form the C-4 group that proposed the day, and the United Nations formally recognised 7 October as World Cotton Day in 2021. The 2026 theme, "Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership", highlights cotton's role in trade, growth and poverty reduction.

Q5. WWF's Living Planet Report 2026 recorded what average decline in monitored vertebrate populations between 1970 and 2022?

Answer B. 73 per cent

The biennial report draws on data from 35,803 populations of 5,790 species and finds an average fall of 73 per cent over 52 years. Its Living Planet Index measures relative change in population size, not the total number of animals lost. Food production and consumption is named the single largest driver of biodiversity loss.

Q6. Which type of ecosystem showed the steepest population decline in the Living Planet Report 2026?

Answer D. Freshwater

Freshwater populations fell the most at 85 per cent, followed by terrestrial (69%) and marine (59%) ecosystems. Among regions, Latin America and the Caribbean saw the sharpest drop at 95 per cent. Recovery is still possible: global wild tiger numbers rose from around 3,200 in 2010 to 5,700 in 2025.

Q7. An RBI study on rural resilience found that for small farm households owning up to one acre, wages contribute:

Answer B. More than 55 per cent of income

The RBI found that non-farm work, allied sectors and better irrigation are making the rural economy less reliant on rainfall. In the smallest farm households, wages bring in over 55 per cent of income, while crops and livestock together add about 36 per cent. Even in years of severe rainfall deficit, non-agricultural rural growth stays fairly strong.

Q8. The Ministry of Rural Development has expanded the permissible works under the VB–G RAM G Act, 2025 from 266 to:

Answer D. 375

Raising the list from 266 to 375 works is an increase of about 41 per cent under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act. The works are grouped under four heads: Water Security, Core Rural Infrastructure, Livelihood Infrastructure and Disaster Preparedness.

Q9. Under the expanded VB–G RAM G list of permissible works, how many works are agriculture-related?

Answer B. 181

Of the 375 permissible works, 181 relate to agriculture, covering water management, land development, plantations, livestock and productive assets. All works are to be planned through Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans that must be approved by the Gram Sabha, keeping planning rooted at the village level.

Q10. After raising the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.5 per cent, the MPC changed its stance from neutral to:

Answer C. Calibrated tightening

Calibrated tightening signals a gradual move towards tighter policy to contain inflation, ruling out rate cuts in the near term. Crude oil above $100 a barrel, West Asia tensions, El Niño risks to food prices and a weaker rupee clouded the inflation outlook, while strong growth gave the RBI room to raise rates.

Q11. Following the latest monetary policy decision, what is the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate?

Answer E. 5.25 per cent

With the repo rate at 5.50 per cent, the SDF now stands at 5.25 per cent, while both the MSF and the Bank Rate are at 5.75 per cent. The SDF lets banks park surplus funds with the RBI without collateral, whereas the MSF is an overnight borrowing window against specified securities.

Q12. SEBI launched the 'Samajh Se Investing Simple' campaign during World Investor Week 2026 under which initiative?

Answer A. Project Jagrook

The campaign aims to raise financial literacy, encourage informed investment choices and strengthen investor protection. Its MUST programme trains university and college faculty, staff and senior students as investor-education trainers, with support from NISM, BSE, NSE, MCX, CDSL, NSDL and AMFI.

Q13. The Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA), approved by the Union Cabinet, will be set up as a:

Answer B. Special Purpose Vehicle

ITLA will serve as the national apex body for transport and logistics planning, formed as an SPV — a separate company with one defined purpose rather than a body created by law. It will handle multimodal planning, big-data analytics, technical appraisal and project monitoring, filling gaps that remained after PM GatiShakti (2021) and the National Logistics Policy (2022).

Q14. GSMA's India Consumer Scam Report 2026 found that what percentage of Indian respondents were scammed in the previous 12 months?

Answer D. 12 per cent

About 12 per cent of Indians reported being scammed within a year, against 8 per cent across six ASEAN countries. Although 86 per cent of victims reported their case, a third of reported cases stayed unresolved and 67 per cent of those who lost money recovered nothing. Online shopping scams were the most common type at 33 per cent.

QUIZ 8 OF 26

9 October 2026

14 questions · Economy 5 · Appointments 3 · Banking 2 · Schemes 1

Q1

Under the RBI's plan announced for Account Aggregators, interoperability is to be enabled among which category of entities?

A. Payments Banks
B. Small Finance Banks
C. NBFC Account Aggregators (NBFC-AAs)
D. Asset Reconstruction Companies
E. Credit Information Companies

Q2

By what date is the RBI's account aggregator interoperability framework expected to be implemented?

A. 31 March 2026
B. 30 June 2026
C. 30 September 2026
D. 31 December 2026
E. 31 March 2027

Q3

MoSPI's Strategy for Environmental Economic Accounts 2026–2030 is based on which international framework?

A. UN System of National Accounts 2008
B. UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)
C. OECD Green Growth Indicators
D. World Bank Changing Wealth of Nations framework
E. IMF Climate Change Indicators Dashboard

Q4

Which body released the Strategy for Environmental Economic Accounts 2026–2030?

A. Economic Statistics Division of the NSO
B. Social Statistics Division of the NSO under MoSPI
C. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
D. NITI Aayog
E. Central Pollution Control Board

Q5

The FTA Utilisation Cell, set up to help Indian businesses use the benefits of Free Trade Agreements, has been established by:

A. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
B. Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
C. Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance
D. Export-Import Bank of India
E. Ministry of External Affairs

Q6

The G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting attended by Piyush Goyal from 30 September to 1 October 2026 was held in which US city?

A. Washington DC
B. New York
C. Milwaukee
D. Chicago
E. Houston

Q7

Ladakh has launched India's first high-altitude snow leopard safari. About how many of India's estimated 718 snow leopards does Ladakh host?

A. 218
B. 312
C. 389
D. 477
E. 541

Q8

Hical Technologies signed an MoU with Safran Aerosystems to explore a joint venture for manufacturing which items for Rafale aircraft?

A. Engines and turbine blades
B. Landing gear assemblies
C. Fluid systems, fuel systems and related assemblies
D. Radar and avionics suites
E. Ejection seats

Q9

India's latest leprosy figures showed how many new cases against a projected 65,000?

A. 58,240
B. 72,410
C. 84,600
D. 91,783
E. 1,04,500

Q10

In the context of TB elimination, what does JOSH stand for?

A. Joint Outreach for Sustainable Health
B. Jan Outreach for Screening and Health
C. Joint Squad for Health
D. Juvenile Organisation for Social Health
E. Jan Sahbhagita for Health

Q11

Anne Carson, winner of the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature, is a national of which country?

A. United Kingdom
B. Australia
C. Canada
D. Ireland
E. New Zealand

Q12

Henri Boris Kagan and Kenso Soai won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for work in which field?

A. Optogenetics
B. Neutrino detection at IceCube
C. Asymmetric organic synthesis, nonlinear effects and autocatalysis
D. Metal-organic frameworks
E. Protein structure prediction

Q13

Mahesh Kakde, who won the 2026 Ramanujan Prize for Mathematics, is a professor at which institution?

A. IIT Bombay
B. TIFR, Mumbai
C. IISc, Bengaluru
D. ISI, Kolkata
E. Chennai Mathematical Institute

Q14

SAREX-2026, the multinational search and rescue exercise, was inaugurated off which port?

A. Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
B. Kochi, Kerala
C. Paradip, Odisha
D. Chennai, Tamil Nadu
E. Mumbai, Maharashtra

ANSWERS — 9 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 C	**Q2** D	**Q3** B	**Q4** B	**Q5** B
Q6 C	**Q7** D	**Q8** C	**Q9** D	**Q10** C
Q11 C	**Q12** C	**Q13** C	**Q14** C	

Q1. Under the RBI's plan announced for Account Aggregators, interoperability is to be enabled among which category of entities?

Answer C. NBFC Account Aggregators (NBFC-AAs)

The RBI plans to make Non-Banking Financial Company Account Aggregators interoperable, so that a customer can see information on all of their financial assets through one platform instead of logging in to several aggregators. The step is meant to widen access to financial information and make financial services more convenient.

Q2. By what date is the RBI's account aggregator interoperability framework expected to be implemented?

Answer D. 31 December 2026

The target date for putting the interoperability framework in place is 31 December 2026. Once it is live, customers will not need to juggle multiple aggregators to get a consolidated view of their deposits, investments and other financial assets.

Q3. MoSPI's Strategy for Environmental Economic Accounts 2026–2030 is based on which international framework?

Answer B. UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

The strategy follows the United Nations SEEA, which links environmental data with economic information. Its priority areas include forests, water, land, soil, minerals, carbon stocks, biodiversity, pollination services and environment-related economic activity, and the accounts will help measure progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Q4. Which body released the Strategy for Environmental Economic Accounts 2026–2030?

Answer B. Social Statistics Division of the NSO under MoSPI

The document was issued by the Social Statistics Division of the National Statistics Office, which works under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Stronger environmental accounts let policymakers see how natural resources such as forests, water and soil interact with economic activity.

Q5. The FTA Utilisation Cell, set up to help Indian businesses use the benefits of Free Trade Agreements, has been established by:

Answer B. Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

The Department of Commerce created the cell to help exporters understand and claim FTA benefits such as preferential market access and tariff concessions. It will work with Export Promotion Councils, industry associations and state governments to spot export opportunities, since better use of FTAs can lift India's exports.

Q6. The G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting attended by Piyush Goyal from 30 September to 1 October 2026 was held in which US city?

Answer C. Milwaukee

The meeting was held in Milwaukee. Talks covered food security, excess production capacity, forced labour in supply chains and WTO reform. Members agreed on a statement against using food as an instrument of economic or political pressure, while India pressed for food security and the interests of farmers.

Q7. Ladakh has launched India's first high-altitude snow leopard safari. About how many of India's estimated 718 snow leopards does Ladakh host?

Answer D. 477

Ladakh is reported to have 477 snow leopards, roughly two-thirds of the national estimate of 718. The safari begins with six vehicles on routes at Rumbak, Shang and Uley, and relies on trained local guides and approved routes to limit disturbance to wildlife, curb illegal off-roading and create ecotourism jobs.

Q8. Hical Technologies signed an MoU with Safran Aerosystems to explore a joint venture for manufacturing which items for Rafale aircraft?

Answer C. Fluid systems, fuel systems and related assemblies

The proposed venture will make complex fluid systems, fuel systems and related assemblies for the Rafale. Hical's aerospace facility at Devanahalli near Bengaluru, Karnataka, is expected to anchor the work, which supports domestic aerospace manufacturing, technology development and the Make in India push.

Q9. India's latest leprosy figures showed how many new cases against a projected 65,000?

Answer D. 91,783

India recorded 91,783 new leprosy cases, about 41.2% above the projection. Child cases stood at 3,832 against a target of 2,000, the Grade 2 Disability rate was 1.34 per million against a goal of 1, and only 148 districts achieved interrupted transmission compared with a target of 300.

Q10. In the context of TB elimination, what does JOSH stand for?

Answer C. Joint Squad for Health

JOSH means Joint Squad for Health, launched by the Union Health Ministry under the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan. NCC cadets and MY Bharat volunteers will carry out household-level outreach in 55 districts across 11 States and UTs to find people with TB who have been missed and link them to testing and treatment.

Q11. Anne Carson, winner of the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature, is a national of which country?

Answer C. Canada

Carson is a Canadian poet, classicist, essayist and translator, born in Toronto in 1950. She is the second Canadian Literature laureate after Alice Munro (2013) and the 19th woman to receive the prize. Her well-known works include Autobiography of Red, Eros the Bittersweet and Nox.

Q12. Henri Boris Kagan and Kenso Soai won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for work in which field?

Answer C. Asymmetric organic synthesis, nonlinear effects and autocatalysis

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences honoured the French and Japanese chemists for advancing the selective production of molecular mirror images, which matters greatly in drug development. They share 12 million Swedish kronor. Optogenetics and IceCube neutrino detection were the themes of the 2026 Medicine and Physics prizes.

Q13. Mahesh Kakde, who won the 2026 Ramanujan Prize for Mathematics, is a professor at which institution?

Answer C. IISc, Bengaluru

Kakde of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, was recognised for research in algebraic number theory and is the fifth Indian to win the prize. Awarded every year since 2005 to mathematicians under 45 from developing countries, it is presented jointly by ICTP, the International Mathematical Union and India's DST.

Q14. SAREX-2026, the multinational search and rescue exercise, was inaugurated off which port?

Answer C. Paradip, Odisha

The Raksha Rajya Mantri opened SAREX-2026 off Paradip, alongside the 24th National Maritime Search and Rescue Board meeting. The biennial exercise, led by the Indian Coast Guard, simulates aircraft ditching, sinking ships and mass casualty evacuations to test readiness and interoperability.

QUIZ 9 OF 26

10 October 2026

14 questions · Agri & Rural 4 · Banking 4 · Reports 4 · Economy 1

Q1

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated new facilities at ICAR-Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology (ICAR-IIAB), located at:

A. Pusa, New Delhi
B. Garhkhatanga, Ranchi
C. Barrackpore, Kolkata
D. Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru
E. Baramati, Pune

Q2

The Pre-Rabi Kisan Goshti-cum-Agricultural Input Distribution Programme at ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi was organised under which sub-plans?

A. MGNREGA and PMKSY
B. Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)
C. RKVY and NFSM
D. PM-KISAN and PMFBY
E. MIDH and NMSA

Q3

Balanced nutrient management, which the Agriculture Minister stressed for Jharkhand's farmers, primarily means:

A. Using only organic manure and avoiding all chemical fertilisers
B. Applying nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in the correct proportion instead of over-using urea
C. Raising urea application to maximise yields
D. Growing cereals only in rotation with pulses
E. Supplying micronutrients only through foliar sprays

Q4

ICAR was established in 1929 under which original name?

A. Indian Agricultural Research Council
B. Imperial Council of Agricultural Research
C. Imperial Agricultural Research Institute
D. Royal Commission on Agriculture
E. Central Agricultural Research Board

Q5

From 16 October, banks must maintain at least what share of their prescribed CRR on every day of the reporting fortnight?

A. 80%
B. 90%
C. 95%
D. 99%
E. 100%

Q6

A bank has NDTL of ₹1,000 crore and the CRR rate is 3%. Under the revised daily norm, what is the minimum CRR balance it must hold each day?

A. ₹27 crore
B. ₹28.5 crore
C. ₹29.7 crore
D. ₹30 crore
E. ₹33 crore

Q7

Which of the following correctly distinguishes CRR from SLR?

A. CRR is maintained by banks themselves, while SLR is kept with the RBI
B. CRR balances earn interest, while SLR securities earn nothing
C. CRR is held as cash with the RBI, while SLR can be kept in cash, gold and eligible securities
D. Both are calculated on a bank's total assets
E. SLR is used only for monetary policy and CRR only for financial stability

Q8

What is the main objective behind the RBI raising the daily CRR maintenance requirement?

A. To raise the policy repo rate
B. To inject fresh liquidity into the banking system
C. To absorb surplus liquidity and bring short-term market rates closer to the repo rate
D. To reduce the SLR
E. To increase bank credit to MSMEs

Q9

According to UNCTAD's Trade and Development Report 2026, what was India's share of global greenfield investment during 2020–25?

A. 2.8%
B. 3.8%
C. 4.0%
D. 5.7%
E. 7.5%

Q10

The Ayush Services Sector Report 2026 was prepared by which organisation?

A. NITI Aayog
B. Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
C. Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences
D. All India Institute of Ayurveda
E. Quality Council of India

Q11

As per the Ayush Services Sector Report 2026, what was the size of India's Ayush services sector in FY2024-25?

A. US$16.21 billion
B. US$24.50 billion
C. US$36.92 billion
D. US$52.10 billion
E. US$216 billion

Q12

The World Bank Group's World Development Report 2026, launched in New Delhi, is titled:

A. Digital Dividends
B. The Promise of Artificial Intelligence
C. Data for Better Lives
D. Trading for Development in the Age of Global Value Chains
E. The Middle-Income Trap

Q13

NSAM 2.0, being rolled out by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, stands for:

A. National Strategy for Advanced Microelectronics
B. National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing
C. National Semiconductor Assembly Mission
D. National Smart Agriculture Mission
E. National Space Applications Mission

Q14

Navi Pillay, who received the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize, was born in which city?

A. Chennai, India
B. Durban, South Africa
C. Colombo, Sri Lanka
D. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
E. Port Louis, Mauritius

ANSWERS — 10 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** B	**Q3** B	**Q4** B	**Q5** D
Q6 C	**Q7** C	**Q8** C	**Q9** D	**Q10** B
Q11 C	**Q12** B	**Q13** B	**Q14** B	

Q1. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated new facilities at ICAR-Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology (ICAR-IIAB), located at:

Answer B. Garhkhatanga, Ranchi

ICAR-IIAB is at Garhkhatanga in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The new facilities include an Admin-cum-School Building, the Birsa Munda Multipurpose Hall, the Jaipal Singh Munda Sports Complex and a NEXTGEN Breeding Facility, and the foundation of a guest house was also laid. The project is worth ₹119 crore.

Q2. The Pre-Rabi Kisan Goshti-cum-Agricultural Input Distribution Programme at ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi was organised under which sub-plans?

Answer B. Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)

The programme ran under the SCSP and TSP, which require a share of scheme funds to be earmarked for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries. About 1,500 farmers from Ranchi, Khunti, Gumla and Ramgarh districts attended, allowing direct interaction between farmers, scientists and policymakers ahead of the rabi season.

Q3. Balanced nutrient management, which the Agriculture Minister stressed for Jharkhand's farmers, primarily means:

Answer B. Applying nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in the correct proportion instead of over-using urea

Balanced nutrient management means using N, P and K in the right ratio rather than leaning heavily on urea. The Minister also pushed integrated farming, location-specific technologies, timely supply of improved seeds and quicker transfer of research to farmers' fields, which matter in a largely rain-fed state with low irrigation coverage.

Q4. ICAR was established in 1929 under which original name?

Answer B. Imperial Council of Agricultural Research

ICAR began in 1929 as the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and is headquartered in New Delhi. Its network of institutes, including ICAR-IIAB at Ranchi, works on crop improvement and biotechnology and helps carry improved seeds and technologies to farmers.

Q5. From 16 October, banks must maintain at least what share of their prescribed CRR on every day of the reporting fortnight?

Answer D. 99%

The RBI raised the daily minimum CRR maintenance from 90% to 99% of the prescribed requirement. The CRR rate itself is unchanged at 3% of Net Demand and Time Liabilities. Banks therefore have far less room to run their reserve balances below the full requirement on any single day.

Q6. A bank has NDTL of ₹1,000 crore and the CRR rate is 3%. Under the revised daily norm, what is the minimum CRR balance it must hold each day?

Answer C. ₹29.7 crore

The full CRR requirement is 3% of ₹1,000 crore, or ₹30 crore. Under the earlier 90% daily rule the floor was ₹27 crore; at 99% it rises to ₹29.7 crore. The worked example shows how the change tightens day-to-day reserve management without altering the CRR rate.

Q7. Which of the following correctly distinguishes CRR from SLR?

Answer C. CRR is held as cash with the RBI, while SLR can be kept in cash, gold and eligible securities

CRR is a share of NDTL kept as cash reserves with the RBI, and banks earn no interest on it. SLR is maintained by the banks themselves in specified liquid assets such as cash, gold and eligible government securities, which can earn returns. Both are computed on Net Demand and Time Liabilities.

Q8. What is the main objective behind the RBI raising the daily CRR maintenance requirement?

Answer C. To absorb surplus liquidity and bring short-term market rates closer to the repo rate

Banking system liquidity was in surplus by about ₹3.88 lakh crore on 8 October 2026. Making banks hold more of their CRR each day absorbs these surplus funds and helps align short-term rates, such as the Weighted Average Call Rate, with the repo rate. Selling securities through Open Market Operations is another way the RBI absorbs liquidity.

Q9. According to UNCTAD's Trade and Development Report 2026, what was India's share of global greenfield investment during 2020–25?

Answer D. 5.7%

India drew 5.7% of global greenfield investment, ahead of Malaysia (4.0%), Indonesia (3.8%) and China (2.8%), more than twice China's share. Greenfield investment means setting up a new facility abroad from scratch instead of buying an existing one. The report still called India the fastest-growing major economy, though consumption is under price pressure.

Q10. The Ayush Services Sector Report 2026 was prepared by which organisation?

Answer B. Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

RIS, a policy think tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, prepared the report, which the Ministry of Ayush released on Ayurveda Day 2026. It finds that women make up 43% of the Ayush services workforce, rising to over 60% in spas and wellness resorts and 58% in educational institutes.

Q11. As per the Ayush Services Sector Report 2026, what was the size of India's Ayush services sector in FY2024-25?

Answer C. US$36.92 billion

The sector was valued at US$36.92 billion, growing at a CAGR of 16.91%, and is projected to reach US$216–318 billion by 2047. It supports about 1.76 million livelihoods. Standalone clinics earn the largest share of revenue at US$16.21 billion, and Ayurveda accounts for nearly 48% of the total.

Q12. The World Bank Group's World Development Report 2026, launched in New Delhi, is titled:

Answer B. The Promise of Artificial Intelligence

The 2026 report examines how AI can drive development, affect jobs and improve public services. It recommends an adopt-and-adapt approach in which developing countries customise existing AI models instead of building costly ones from scratch, and finds that just over 4% of Indian jobs face immediate automation risk, compared with over one-third in advanced economies.

Q13. NSAM 2.0, being rolled out by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, stands for:

Answer B. National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing

NSAM 2.0 is the National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing, building on the first strategy launched in 2022. Additive manufacturing builds objects layer by layer from 3D model data, unlike subtractive methods that remove material. It cuts material waste and enables complex designs in aerospace, defence, healthcare and automobiles.

Q14. Navi Pillay, who received the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize, was born in which city?

Answer B. Durban, South Africa

Pillay, 85, was born into an Indian Tamil family in Durban, South Africa. A judge and human rights lawyer, she defended Nelson Mandela and other opponents of apartheid and served as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 2008 to 2014. The Peace Prize is the only Nobel awarded in Oslo.

QUIZ 10 OF 26

11 & 12 October 2026

14 questions · Schemes 4 · Sci & Env 4 · Banking 2 · Economy 2

Q1

The PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY), which completed one year on 11 October 2026, covers how many Aspirational Agricultural Districts?

A. 50
B. 75
C. 100
D. 112
E. 150

Q2

For what duration did the Union Cabinet approve the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana?

A. Three years
B. Four years
C. Five years
D. Six years
E. Ten years

Q3

Under PMDDKY, which body provides guidance and review while district, state and national committees oversee implementation?

A. NABARD
B. NITI Aayog
C. Reserve Bank of India
D. Ministry of Rural Development
E. Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Q4

The Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve in Uttarakhand has two core zones. Which pair correctly identifies them?

A. Nanda Devi National Park and Valley of Flowers National Park
B. Nanda Devi National Park and Jim Corbett National Park
C. Valley of Flowers National Park and Gangotri National Park
D. Rajaji National Park and Govind National Park
E. Nanda Devi National Park and Great Himalayan National Park

Q5

Madhya Pradesh began reintroducing wild water buffaloes after nearly a century by releasing eight animals into which tiger reserve?

A. Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve
B. Panna Tiger Reserve
C. Satpura Tiger Reserve
D. Pench Tiger Reserve
E. Kanha Tiger Reserve

Q6

What crude steel capacity target has been set for 2047 in the draft National Steel Policy 2047?

A. 300 million tonnes
B. 505 million tonnes
C. 604 million tonnes
D. 450 million tonnes
E. 700 million tonnes

Q7

India imports nearly what share of its coking coal requirement, a key raw material concern flagged in the draft National Steel Policy 2047?

A. 65%
B. 92%
C. 70%
D. 45%
E. 80%

Q8

Under the RBI's new Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve (FERR), banks must set aside what share of any rupee forex derivative contract above $2 million?

A. 5%
B. 10%
C. 15%
D. 20%
E. 25%

Q9

The RBI's FERR mechanism was borrowed from which country, which had reduced its own reserve ratio to zero in March 2026?

A. China
B. Japan
C. Brazil
D. Russia
E. South Korea

Q10

The GST Council was constituted under which Article of the Constitution?

A. Article 246A
B. Article 269A
C. Article 280
D. Article 270
E. Article 279A

Q11

Who attends GST Council meetings as a permanent non-voting invitee?

A. Revenue Secretary
B. Chief Economic Adviser
C. Chairperson, CBIC
D. Comptroller and Auditor General of India
E. Governor, Reserve Bank of India

Q12

TRISHNA, a thermal infrared satellite expected to launch within 12-16 months, is a joint mission of ISRO and which space agency?

A. NASA (United States)
B. CNES (France)
C. ESA (Europe)
D. JAXA (Japan)
E. DLR (Germany)

Q13

As per data from ACLED, India accounted for what share of global demonstrations recorded through September 2026?

A. 4.5%
B. 10.2%
C. 12.8%
D. 17.5%
E. 21.0%

Q14

INS Mangrol, the third indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), was built by which shipyard?

A. Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi
B. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata
C. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai
D. Goa Shipyard Limited
E. Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam

ANSWERS — 11 & 12 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 C	**Q2** D	**Q3** B	**Q4** A	**Q5** E
Q6 C	**Q7** B	**Q8** D	**Q9** A	**Q10** E
Q11 C	**Q12** B	**Q13** D	**Q14** A	

Q1. The PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY), which completed one year on 11 October 2026, covers how many Aspirational Agricultural Districts?

Answer C. 100

PMDDKY is a focused agricultural development scheme for 100 Aspirational Agricultural Districts, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Formally launched by the Prime Minister on 11 October 2025, it aims to lift farm productivity, promote crop diversification and sustainable farming, and widen access to agricultural credit in these lagging districts.

Q2. For what duration did the Union Cabinet approve the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana?

Answer D. Six years

The Cabinet cleared the scheme on 16 July 2025 for a six-year period beginning with 2025-26. Besides productivity and diversification, its goals include better post-harvest storage at panchayat and block levels, improved irrigation facilities and easier access to both short-term and long-term farm credit.

Q3. Under PMDDKY, which body provides guidance and review while district, state and national committees oversee implementation?

Answer B. NITI Aayog

District-level plans under PMDDKY are prepared to match local agricultural needs, with committees at district, state and national levels monitoring progress and NITI Aayog guiding and reviewing the effort. An FPO Sangam held in December 2025 brought together over 72 FPOs from 15 States and 33 PMDDKY districts.

Q4. The Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve in Uttarakhand has two core zones. Which pair correctly identifies them?

Answer A. Nanda Devi National Park and Valley of Flowers National Park

The reserve is a high-altitude Himalayan landscape under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme, and its two core zones are jointly inscribed as a World Heritage Site. It covers 6,407 sq km across Chamoli, Pithoragarh and Bageshwar districts. A 2026 decadal monitoring campaign by the state Forest Department and WII found landslide-prone zones in the core had nearly doubled.

Q5. Madhya Pradesh began reintroducing wild water buffaloes after nearly a century by releasing eight animals into which tiger reserve?

Answer E. Kanha Tiger Reserve

On 11 October 2026, eight wild water buffaloes were released into a 17-hectare enclosure in the Supkhar range of Kanha Tiger Reserve. The move brings the species back to the state after roughly a hundred years and is meant to rebuild its wild population as part of broader conservation efforts.

Q6. What crude steel capacity target has been set for 2047 in the draft National Steel Policy 2047?

Answer C. 604 million tonnes

The draft policy seeks 604 million tonnes of crude steel capacity by 2047 to raise production, sharpen competitiveness and reduce import dependence. It also projects finished steel demand of 505 million tonnes, per capita consumption of 302 kg and steel exports of 45 million tonnes by that year.

Q7. India imports nearly what share of its coking coal requirement, a key raw material concern flagged in the draft National Steel Policy 2047?

Answer B. 92%

Raw materials account for roughly 65-70% of the cost of making steel, so input security matters greatly. India is largely self-sufficient in iron ore but relies on imports for nearly 92% of its coking coal needs, a major vulnerability for an industry aiming to expand capacity sharply.

Q8. Under the RBI's new Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve (FERR), banks must set aside what share of any rupee forex derivative contract above $2 million?

Answer D. 20%

Banks must park 20% of such contracts as cash with the RBI, earning no return, and the RBI can vary the ratio as conditions require. By tying up bank funds, FERR makes hedging against a falling rupee costlier, which slows forward dollar buying that would otherwise add to pressure on the currency.

Q9. The RBI's FERR mechanism was borrowed from which country, which had reduced its own reserve ratio to zero in March 2026?

Answer A. China

China long used a Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve Ratio of 20%. In March 2026 it cut the ratio to zero because the yuan was strengthening and it wanted to remove the cost of betting against its own currency. India moved the opposite way, bringing in the reserve as the rupee neared its all-time low.

Q10. The GST Council was constituted under which Article of the Constitution?

Answer E. Article 279A

Article 279A was inserted by the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016, and the Council was notified on 12 September 2016. It is a joint Centre-State forum regarded as a pillar of cooperative federalism. Its 57th meeting in New Delhi announced administrative and process reforms that take effect from 1 April 2027.

Q11. Who attends GST Council meetings as a permanent non-voting invitee?

Answer C. Chairperson, CBIC

The Union Finance Minister chairs the Council, with the Union Minister of State for Revenue or Finance and a Finance or Taxation Minister nominated by each State/UT as members. The Revenue Secretary serves as ex-officio Secretary, while the CBIC Chairperson attends permanently but without voting rights.

Q12. TRISHNA, a thermal infrared satellite expected to launch within 12–16 months, is a joint mission of ISRO and which space agency?

Answer B. CNES (France)

TRISHNA, the Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment, is an ISRO-CNES project. It will track land surface temperature, water stress, vegetation health and energy exchanges, producing data useful for agriculture, water-resource management, climate studies and environmental monitoring.

Q13. As per data from ACLED, India accounted for what share of global demonstrations recorded through September 2026?

Answer D. 17.5%

The US-based Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project counted 18,074 demonstrations in India through September 2026, up from 11,020 in 2017. India has reportedly held the largest global share for five straight years, while Pakistan, Mexico and France were also in the top five at about 4-5% each.

Q14. INS Mangrol, the third indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), was built by which shipyard?

Answer A. Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi

INS Mangrol was built by Cochin Shipyard Limited and scheduled for commissioning at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, on 12 October 2026. Such craft are designed to detect and counter submarines and underwater threats in shallow coastal waters, strengthening the Navy's coastal defence and anti-submarine capability.

QUIZ 11 OF 26

13 October 2026

14 questions · Banking 5 · Economy 3 · Agri & Rural 2 · Reports 1

Q1

Which organisation announced the nationwide All-India Sarus Crane Survey to estimate the bird's population baseline?

A. Wildlife Institute of India
B. Bombay Natural History Society
C. WWF-India
D. Zoological Survey of India
E. Wildlife Trust of India

Q2

The World Bank backed Kerala's proposal for a Carbon Credit Cell under the state Agriculture Department as part of the KERA project. What is the size of this project?

A. Rs 1,200 crore
B. Rs 1,850 crore
C. Rs 3,100 crore
D. Rs 2,365 crore
E. Rs 4,500 crore

Q3

The Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission launched SAY-SOBLOK, aimed at 4,000 extremely vulnerable households, in partnership with which organisation?

A. BRAC International
B. UNDP
C. World Bank
D. NABARD
E. Oxfam India

Q4

Lakshadweep has been declared a fully literate Union Territory under which programme?

A. Saakshar Bharat Mission
B. Samagra Shiksha
C. PM eVidya
D. Padhna Likhna Abhiyan
E. ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram

Q5

SEBI's new mandatory colour-coded Credit Risk-o-Meter maps existing credit ratings (AAA to D) into how many risk levels?

A. Four
B. Five
C. Six
D. Seven
E. Eight

Q6

In the context of SEBI's Credit Risk-o-Meter, what does OBPP stand for?

A. Online Bond Platform Provider
B. Open Bond Purchase Programme
C. Online Borrowing and Placement Portal
D. Official Bond Pricing Platform
E. Over-the-counter Bond Placement Provider

Q7

Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for work that helps governments frame which type of policy?

A. Poverty alleviation policy
B. Trade policy
C. Competition policy
D. Stabilisation policy
E. Industrial policy

Q8

The World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief projects India's poverty rate at the $4.20-a-day line to fall to what level by 2028?

A. 14.2%
B. 12.1%
C. 8.6%
D. 16.1%
E. 10.5%

Q9

As per the World Bank brief, India's extreme poverty rate (at $3.00 a day) declined to what level in 2023?

A. 27.1%
B. 8.6%
C. 5.3%
D. 19.3%
E. 2.6%

Q10

BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions, raised India's FY2026-27 economic growth forecast to what figure?

A. 6.8%
B. 7.0%
C. 7.5%
D. 7.8%
E. 8.2%

Q11

India's retail inflation rose to what level in September?

A. 5.5%
B. 4.8%
C. 7.4%
D. 5.7%
E. 6.2%

Q12

The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) came into force on which date?

A. 1 April 2026
B. 1 January 2026
C. 15 August 2026
D. 1 October 2026
E. 2 October 2026

Q13

Federal Bank's newly launched 'Verto', aimed at young professionals, entrepreneurs and salaried executives, is a:

A. Digital credit card
B. Premium savings account
C. Gold loan product
D. Senior citizen fixed deposit
E. Mutual fund investment platform

Q14

CERVAVAC, which recently received WHO prequalification, is an indigenous vaccine developed by the Serum Institute of India against which virus?

A. Rotavirus
B. Dengue virus
C. Hepatitis B virus
D. Influenza virus
E. Human papillomavirus (HPV)

ANSWERS — 13 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** D	**Q3** A	**Q4** E	**Q5** C
Q6 A	**Q7** D	**Q8** B	**Q9** E	**Q10** C
Q11 A	**Q12** D	**Q13** B	**Q14** E	

Q1. Which organisation announced the nationwide All-India Sarus Crane Survey to estimate the bird's population baseline?

Answer B. Bombay Natural History Society

The BNHS, founded in 1883 and headquartered in Mumbai, will map breeding and roosting strongholds and assess collision threats. The Sarus Crane is the world's tallest flying bird, India's only resident breeding crane and the State Bird of Uttar Pradesh. It is listed as Vulnerable by IUCN, and electrocution on power lines is its leading cause of death.

Q2. The World Bank backed Kerala's proposal for a Carbon Credit Cell under the state Agriculture Department as part of the KERA project. What is the size of this project?

Answer D. Rs 2,365 crore

KERA, the Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernisation Project, is a Rs 2,365 crore programme running for five years from 2024 to 2029, centred on climate-resilient farming and stronger agricultural value chains. The proposed cell would encourage climate-friendly practices, raise carbon sequestration and open an additional income source for farmers.

Q3. The Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission launched SAY-SOBLOK, aimed at 4,000 extremely vulnerable households, in partnership with which organisation?

Answer A. BRAC International

SAY-SOBLOK is a three-year initiative operating under the Samaveshi Aajeevika Yojana and DAY-NRLM. It combines livelihood development, financial inclusion, household coaching and help in accessing government entitlements, giving priority to women-led families and persons with disabilities.

Q4. Lakshadweep has been declared a fully literate Union Territory under which programme?

Answer E. ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram

A survey across the islands identified 1,113 adult non-literates, who were then trained in basic literacy and numeracy. Once these learners cleared the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test, Lakshadweep was declared to have achieved 100% literacy.

Q5. SEBI's new mandatory colour-coded Credit Risk-o-Meter maps existing credit ratings (AAA to D) into how many risk levels?

Answer C. Six

The meter translates ratings into six colour-coded levels, from "Lowest Credit Risk" to "High to Very High Risk of Default", so investors can judge a debt security's risk at a glance. It must appear in offer documents, abridged prospectuses, private placement memoranda, issuer and OBPP advertisements, and on OBPP websites and apps.

Q6. In the context of SEBI's Credit Risk-o-Meter, what does OBPP stand for?

Answer A. Online Bond Platform Provider

An OBPP is a SEBI-registered platform that sells bonds to retail investors. The meter covers non-convertible securities, commercial papers, securitised debt instruments, security receipts, and structured debt and market-linked debentures, whose returns are tied to the performance of a market index.

Q7. Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for work that helps governments frame which type of policy?

Answer D. Stabilisation policy

The two American economists were honoured for an empirical formula for stabilisation policy that factors in household demand and firms' supply behaviour. Such policy uses fiscal and monetary tools to smooth swings in growth, inflation and jobs, an idea traced to Keynes's work during the Great Depression. Hall is at Stanford and Woodford at Columbia.

Q8. The World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief projects India's poverty rate at the $4.20-a-day line to fall to what level by 2028?

Answer B. 12.1%

The rate is projected to decline from 14.2% in 2026 to 12.1% by 2028, though the pace is expected to slow. Lower-middle-income poverty dropped from 57.7% in 2011 to 16.1% in 2023, lifting about 496 million people out of poverty, helped by rising consumption, job growth, welfare support and e-commerce.

Q9. As per the World Bank brief, India's extreme poverty rate (at $3.00 a day) declined to what level in 2023?

Answer E. 2.6%

Extreme poverty fell steeply from 27.1% in 2011 to 2.6% in 2023. Even so, about 80% of Indians were still below the upper-middle-income line of $8.30 a day. In 2023 rural poverty stood at 19.3% against 8.6% in urban areas, showing a wide rural-urban gap.

Q10. BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions, raised India's FY2026-27 economic growth forecast to what figure?

Answer C. 7.5%

BMI lifted its projection from 6.8% to 7.5%, pointing to strong economic momentum and continuing investment in artificial intelligence. It identified higher crude oil prices and possible disruptions from El Nino as the main downside risks to this outlook.

Q11. India's retail inflation rose to what level in September?

Answer A. 5.5%

Headline retail inflation climbed to 5.5% in September from 4.8% in the previous month. Inflation in food and beverages jumped to 7.4% from 5.7%, and costlier food and fuel were the main drivers of the overall increase.

Q12. The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) came into force on which date?

Answer D. 1 October 2026

TEPA took effect on 1 October 2026. The European Free Trade Association is made up of Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, none of which belong to the European Union. Apart from trade cooperation, the agreement carries commitments linked to investment and job creation in India.

Q13. Federal Bank's newly launched 'Verto', aimed at young professionals, entrepreneurs and salaried executives, is a:

Answer B. Premium savings account

Verto is a premium savings account offering up to Rs 35 lakh in complimentary insurance cover, 5% cashback on selected debit card spends and domestic airport lounge access. Other features include locker rent concessions, outward remittance facilities and personalised spending insights.

Q14. CERVAVAC, which recently received WHO prequalification, is an indigenous vaccine developed by the Serum Institute of India against which virus?

Answer E. Human papillomavirus (HPV)

CERVAVAC is India's own quadrivalent HPV vaccine, protecting against types 16 and 18, which are linked to cervical cancer, and types 6 and 11, which cause most genital warts. WHO prequalification indicates that the vaccine meets international benchmarks for quality, safety and efficacy.

QUIZ 12 OF 26

14 October 2026

14 questions · Sci & Env 3 · Schemes 3 · Economy 2 · Banking 2

Q1

Nameri Tiger Reserve, where the Nameri Wild Classroom programme was recently launched, adjoins which tiger reserve of Arunachal Pradesh to form a continuous habitat?

A. Namdapha Tiger Reserve
B. Kamlang Tiger Reserve
C. Pakke Tiger Reserve
D. Manas Tiger Reserve
E. Orang Tiger Reserve

Q2

OPEC has lowered its forecast for growth in India's oil demand in 2026 to how many barrels per day (bpd)?

A. 20,000 bpd
B. 40,000 bpd
C. 60,000 bpd
D. 80,000 bpd
E. 1,00,000 bpd

Q3

India recently hosted the first-ever meeting of BIMSTEC Home Ministers, which adopted the Delhi Declaration. Where is the BIMSTEC Secretariat located?

A. Kathmandu
B. Bangkok
C. New Delhi
D. Colombo
E. Dhaka

Q4

SEBI has reportedly extended its temporary relaxation on changes to the fresh-issue size in initial public offerings (IPOs) until which month?

A. December 2026
B. March 2027
C. June 2027
D. September 2027
E. March 2028

Q5

The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, which completed five years on 13 October 2026, was developed by which institution?

A. National Informatics Centre (NIC)
B. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
C. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
D. BISAG-N
E. National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)

Q6

The newly approved Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA) will appraise infrastructure projects worth how much or more?

A. ₹100 crore
B. ₹250 crore
C. ₹500 crore
D. ₹1,000 crore
E. ₹5,000 crore

Q7

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY2026–27 to:

A. 6.4%
B. 6.7%
C. 7%
D. 7.1%
E. 7.8%

Q8

Which country replaced the United States as India's largest supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in September 2026?

A. Qatar
B. United Arab Emirates
C. Australia
D. Oman
E. Russia

Q9

Which toll-free number is used for Tele-MANAS, India's national mental health helpline?

A. 14416
B. 1098
C. 14567
D. 112
E. 104

Q10

The ₹65 crore DRISHTI project, approved to speed up property rights for residents of unauthorised colonies in Delhi, is being taken up under which scheme?

A. PM-UDAY
B. SVAMITVA
C. PMAY-Urban
D. AMRUT
E. Smart Cities Mission

Q11

Which company signed an MoU with MeitY Startup Hub on 13 October 2026 to support India's deep-technology startups?

A. Google
B. Microsoft
C. IBM
D. Intel
E. Nvidia

Q12

The Kisan Cricket League, aimed at spotting cricketing and singing talent in rural and semi-urban India, has been launched by Prasar Bharati together with:

A. Board of Control for Cricket in India
B. In-Dot Sports Private Limited
C. Sports Authority of India
D. NABARD
E. Dream Sports

Q13

INS Trishul reached Plymouth to take part in the bilateral naval exercise KONKAN-2026. The exercise is held between India and which country?

A. France
B. United States
C. United Kingdom
D. Australia
E. Oman

Q14

In the recent list of newly appointed Governors, who has been named Governor of Karnataka?

A. Om Prakash Mathur
B. Sudha Yadav
C. Dushyant Gautam
D. Braj Mohan Ram
E. Dhal Singh Bisen

ANSWERS — 14 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 C	**Q2** B	**Q3** E	**Q4** B	**Q5** D
Q6 C	**Q7** C	**Q8** D	**Q9** A	**Q10** A
Q11 C	**Q12** B	**Q13** C	**Q14** B	

Q1. Nameri Tiger Reserve, where the Nameri Wild Classroom programme was recently launched, adjoins which tiger reserve of Arunachal Pradesh to form a continuous habitat?

Answer C. Pakke Tiger Reserve

The Assam Forest and Climate Change Department started the Nameri Wild Classroom, a residential programme of two- and three-day field camps inside the reserve. Nameri lies in Sonitpur district on the Assam–Arunachal border and links up with Pakke Tiger Reserve, while the Jia Bhoroli (Kameng) river runs along its edge. It is also known for the Endangered White-winged Wood Duck, Assam's state bird.

Q2. OPEC has lowered its forecast for growth in India's oil demand in 2026 to how many barrels per day (bpd)?

Answer B. 40,000 bpd

OPEC trimmed its estimate of India's 2026 demand growth to 40,000 bpd, down from the 60,000 bpd it had projected in September. Overall Indian oil demand is still seen at about 5.7 million bpd, led by petrol and diesel, while demand for LPG and naphtha is expected to shrink.

Q3. India recently hosted the first-ever meeting of BIMSTEC Home Ministers, which adopted the Delhi Declaration. Where is the BIMSTEC Secretariat located?

Answer E. Dhaka

The BIMSTEC Secretariat was set up in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 2014. The grouping began in June 1997 under the Bangkok Declaration, now has seven members, and gained formal legal identity when its Charter came into force in 2024. The Delhi Declaration focuses on radicalisation, terror financing and the misuse of new technologies by terror groups.

Q4. SEBI has reportedly extended its temporary relaxation on changes to the fresh-issue size in initial public offerings (IPOs) until which month?

Answer B. March 2027

The market regulator has kept the temporary relaxation on altering the fresh-issue portion of an IPO in place till March 2027. An IPO is the route through which a company sells its shares to the public for the first time.

Q5. The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, which completed five years on 13 October 2026, was developed by which institution?

Answer D. BISAG-N

The Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N) built the platform, which combines GIS mapping, satellite imagery and ministry databases in one place. Launched by PM Narendra Modi on 13 October 2021, the plan is anchored in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry through DPIIT.

Q6. The newly approved Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA) will appraise infrastructure projects worth how much or more?

Answer C. ₹500 crore

The Union Cabinet cleared ITLA around the time GatiShakti marked five years, giving it the task of appraising projects of ₹500 crore and above. It fits the GatiShakti idea of replacing department-by-department planning with a whole-of-government approach.

Q7. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY2026–27 to:

Answer C. 7%

The IMF raised its FY2026–27 estimate to 7% from 6.4% in July, citing strong domestic demand and services activity, and also lifted its FY2027–28 projection from 6.7% to 7%. India grew 7.8% in FY2025–26, while the World Bank and RBI have pegged FY2026–27 growth at 7.1%.

Q8. Which country replaced the United States as India's largest supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in September 2026?

Answer D. Oman

Oman moved to the top spot among India's LNG suppliers in September 2026. India's LNG imports for the month stood at 2.17 million tonnes, about 14% lower than in the comparison period. LNG is natural gas chilled into liquid form so that it is easier to store and ship.

Q9. Which toll-free number is used for Tele-MANAS, India's national mental health helpline?

Answer A. 14416

Tele-MANAS (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States) was launched on 10 October 2022 under the Health Ministry's National Tele Mental Health Programme. The free, round-the-clock 14416 line offers counselling and referrals and has handled nearly 48 lakh calls in four years. World Mental Health Day 2026 carried the theme "Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change."

Q10. The ₹65 crore DRISHTI project, approved to speed up property rights for residents of unauthorised colonies in Delhi, is being taken up under which scheme?

Answer A. PM-UDAY

DRISHTI (Delhi Revenue and Imaging Survey, Spatial Technology Initiative) will use GIS mapping to improve property surveys and ownership checks across all 13 districts of Delhi under PM-UDAY. Of the cost, ₹52 crore will come from the Urban Development Fund and ₹13 crore from the Delhi government's Revenue Department.

Q11. Which company signed an MoU with MeitY Startup Hub on 13 October 2026 to support India's deep-technology startups?

Answer C. IBM

IBM partnered with MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, to back deep-tech ventures. Deep technology covers innovations rooted in advanced science and engineering, such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors and robotics.

Q12. The Kisan Cricket League, aimed at spotting cricketing and singing talent in rural and semi-urban India, has been launched by Prasar Bharati together with:

Answer B. In-Dot Sports Private Limited

Prasar Bharati and In-Dot Sports Private Limited are behind the league. Its first season is planned for February 2027 with seven teams and 140 cricketers, and matches will be shown on Waves OTT, Doordarshan and Akashvani.

Q13. INS Trishul reached Plymouth to take part in the bilateral naval exercise KONKAN-2026. The exercise is held between India and which country?

Answer C. United Kingdom

KONKAN is a bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom. The guided-missile stealth frigate INS Trishul joined the 2026 edition, which aims to sharpen operational coordination, tactical cooperation and interoperability between the two navies.

Q14. In the recent list of newly appointed Governors, who has been named Governor of Karnataka?

Answer B. Sudha Yadav

Sudha Yadav is the new Governor of Karnataka. The other appointments are Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar (Tamil Nadu), Om Prakash Mathur (Keralam), Dushyant Gautam (Sikkim), Braj Mohan Ram (Odisha) and Dhal Singh Bisen (Uttarakhand).

QUIZ 13 OF 26

15 October 2026

14 questions · Sci & Env 4 · Banking 2 · Reports 2 · Economy 2

Q1

The 10th National Convention of Agrivision 2026, held in New Delhi on 13–14 October, was organised by Agrivision under which body?

A. ICAR Agricultural Extension Division
B. ICAR Agricultural Education Division
C. ICAR Crop Science Division
D. NABARD Farm Sector Development Department
E. Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Q2

NRC 268 and NRC 270, the new high-yielding and climate-resilient soybean varieties that showed yields of about 20 quintals per hectare, were developed by which institute?

A. ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad
B. ICAR-National Soybean Research Institute, Indore
C. ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
D. ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad
E. ICAR-Directorate of Groundnut Research, Junagadh

Q3

Only four Jeypore ground geckos have been recorded in the past year at the site of a proposed bauxite mining project in which hills of Odisha?

A. Niyamgiri hills
B. Gandhamardan hills
C. Balda hills
D. Mahendragiri hills
E. Similipal hills

Q4

Under the Indian Army's Bharat Rice initiative, which organisation will procure and supply rice in 10 kg and 30 kg bags during FY2026–27?

A. Food Corporation of India (FCI)
B. National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF)
C. NAFED
D. Central Warehousing Corporation
E. Kendriya Bhandar

Q5

SEBI's planned expansion of the Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) framework is expected to raise the pool of accredited investors from 1 lakh to about:

A. 2 lakh
B. 3 lakh
C. 4 lakh
D. 5 lakh
E. 10 lakh

Q6

Under the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012, hedge funds and funds using complex trading strategies fall in which category?

A. Category I
B. Category II
C. Category III
D. Category IV
E. Angel Fund category

Q7

Lakshadweep has been declared fully literate under ULLAS–Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. Under ULLAS, an area is declared fully literate when literacy among the target population crosses:

A. 85%
B. 90%
C. 95%
D. 98%
E. 100%

Q8

India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation rose to which level in September, a 49-month high?

A. 5.7%
B. 8.1%
C. 10.3%
D. 11.4%
E. 12.6%

Q9

What was India's trade deficit with China during January–September 2026?

A. $19.26 billion
B. $85.40 billion
C. $105.93 billion
D. $125.19 billion
E. $144.45 billion

Q10

UNCTAD has projected India's economic growth for 2026 at:

A. 2.6%
B. 4%
C. 7%
D. 7.3%
E. 7.8%

Q11

According to India's first all-India household travel survey by the National Statistics Office, which mode accounted for the largest share of workers' travel?

A. Public transport
B. Cars
C. Two-wheelers
D. Bicycles
E. Walking

Q12

Who won the 2026 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel?

A. Robert
E. Hall and Michael Woodford
B. Robert
E. Hall and Paul Romer
C. Michael Woodford and Olivier Blanchard
D. Robert Shiller and Michael Woodford
E. Paul Krugman and Robert
E. Hall

Q13

INS Tarkash arrived in which country for the ninth edition of the trilateral maritime exercise IBSAMAR?

A. Brazil
B. South Africa
C. Mozambique
D. Mauritius
E. India

Q14

What was the theme of the 10th India Mobile Congress 2026, held at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi?

A. Connect, Create, Innovate
B. Scale Without Boundaries
C. Innovate to Transform
D. The Future Is Now
E. Viksit Tech 47

ANSWERS — 15 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** B	**Q3** C	**Q4** C	**Q5** C
Q6 C	**Q7** C	**Q8** D	**Q9** C	**Q10** D

Q11 C	**Q12** A	**Q13** B	**Q14** B	

Q1. The 10th National Convention of Agrivision 2026, held in New Delhi on 13–14 October, was organised by Agrivision under which body?

Answer B. ICAR Agricultural Education Division

Agrivision held the convention under the ICAR Agricultural Education Division at the ICAR-NASC Complex, Pusa. The central theme was India's move from production-centric farming to market-oriented agri-food value chains, with students, scientists, policymakers, entrepreneurs and farmers taking part. Its stated goals include market-driven agriculture and higher farmer profitability through innovation and value addition.

Q2. NRC 268 and NRC 270, the new high-yielding and climate-resilient soybean varieties that showed yields of about 20 quintals per hectare, were developed by which institute?

Answer B. ICAR-National Soybean Research Institute, Indore

Both varieties come from ICAR-NSRI, Indore, and were showcased at its Soybean Harvest Day. They cope better with erratic rainfall, dry spells, pests and diseases, and carry high oil and protein content useful for edible oil and livestock feed. NRC 270 is bold-seeded, and both suit kharif sowing in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

Q3. Only four Jeypore ground geckos have been recorded in the past year at the site of a proposed bauxite mining project in which hills of Odisha?

Answer C. Balda hills

The sightings came from the Balda hills, where a bauxite mine is planned. The Jeypore ground gecko (Cyrtodactylus jeyporensis) is a nocturnal lizard of the Eastern Ghats in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, listed as Endangered by the IUCN and placed in CITES Appendix II. It was rediscovered in 2010 after more than a century without a recorded sighting.

Q4. Under the Indian Army's Bharat Rice initiative, which organisation will procure and supply rice in 10 kg and 30 kg bags during FY2026–27?

Answer C. NAFED

NAFED, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India, will source and deliver the rice to Army Supply Depots, including remote parts of Ladakh and the Northeast. The Directorate General of Supplies and Transport leads the effort, and the Army has a separate five-year, extendable MoU with FCI to use its infrastructure and manpower during operational contingencies.

Q5. SEBI's planned expansion of the Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) framework is expected to raise the pool of accredited investors from 1 lakh to about:

Answer C. 4 lakh

SEBI is set to issue a circular widening the AIF framework, which could take accredited investors from 1 lakh to roughly 4 lakh. AIFs are privately pooled vehicles that raise funds from institutions and high-net-worth individuals and invest in unlisted securities and other non-traditional assets, so they carry higher risk than retail products like mutual funds.

Q6. Under the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012, hedge funds and funds using complex trading strategies fall in which category?

Answer C. Category III

Category III covers hedge funds and complex trading strategies and may use leverage. Category I includes venture capital, SME, social venture and infrastructure funds, while Category II covers private equity and debt funds with no leverage. The minimum investment in an AIF is ₹1 crore (₹25 lakh for the fund's employees and directors) and the minimum corpus is ₹20 crore (₹10 crore for angel funds).

Q7. Lakshadweep has been declared fully literate under ULLAS–Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. Under ULLAS, an area is declared fully literate when literacy among the target population crosses:

Answer C. 95%

Full literacy under ULLAS means crossing 95% among the target group, as measured through the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT). ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aligned with NEP 2020, run by the Department of School Education and Literacy for adults aged 15 and above from FY2022 to FY2027.

Q8. India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation rose to which level in September, a 49-month high?

Answer D. 11.4%

WPI inflation climbed to 11.4% in September. Food articles inflation rose to 8.1% from 5.7% a month earlier, while non-food primary articles stood at 10.3%. WPI tracks price changes of goods at the wholesale stage, before they reach consumers.

Q9. What was India's trade deficit with China during January–September 2026?

Answer C. $105.93 billion

India's deficit with China reached $105.93 billion in the nine months. Exports to China jumped 40.7% to $19.26 billion, but imports grew 23.3% to $125.19 billion, taking two-way trade to $144.45 billion, up 25.4%.

Q10. UNCTAD has projected India's economic growth for 2026 at:

Answer D. 7.3%

UNCTAD expects India to grow 7.3% in 2026, while global growth slows to 2.6% from 2.9% in 2025 and developing economies grow around 4%. Global trade hit a record $35 trillion in 2025, with AI products, semiconductors and advanced computing equipment gaining weight.

Q11. According to India's first all-India household travel survey by the National Statistics Office, which mode accounted for the largest share of workers' travel?

Answer C. Two-wheelers

Two-wheelers made up 43% of workers' travel, against 15% for public transport and 3% for cars. The survey, run from July 2025 to July 2026 across more than 14,000 villages and 10,000 urban blocks, found an average commute of 25 minutes and monthly spending of ₹785 on travel to a fixed workplace.

Q12. Who won the 2026 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel?

Answer A. Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford

American economists Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford were honoured for their work on the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation. They will share 12 million Swedish kronor, and the prize is presented every year on 10 December in Stockholm.

Q13. INS Tarkash arrived in which country for the ninth edition of the trilateral maritime exercise IBSAMAR?

Answer B. South Africa

The Indian Navy frigate reached South Africa for IBSAMAR IX. The exercise brings together the navies of India, Brazil and South Africa under the IBSA Dialogue Forum to improve joint training, maritime cooperation and operational coordination.

Q14. What was the theme of the 10th India Mobile Congress 2026, held at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi?

Answer B. Scale Without Boundaries

The 10th India Mobile Congress ran from 7 to 10 October under the theme "Scale Without Boundaries", organised by the Department of Telecommunications and the Cellular Operators Association of India. It covered 5G and 6G, AI networks, semiconductors and cybersecurity, and announced Viksit Tech 47, a platform to promote Indian technology brands.

QUIZ 14 OF 26

16 October 2026

14 questions · Schemes 4 · Banking 4 · Reports 3 · Agri & Rural 2

Q1

As per FAO's State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2026, how much additional area must the world restore by 2030 to meet existing pledges?

A. 44 million hectares
B. 127 million hectares
C. 470 million hectares
D. 489 million hectares
E. 1.56 billion hectares

Q2

According to SOFO 2026, which country ranks first in the world in forest area actively under restoration under FRA 2025?

A. China
B. Ethiopia
C. Brazil
D. India
E. Indonesia

Q3

Which State has launched India's first State-level Red List Assessment of Ecosystems (RLE)?

A. Karnataka
B. Kerala
C. Tamil Nadu
D. Odisha
E. Assam

Q4

India has approved accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). Where is the SIOFA headquarters located?

A. Rome, Italy
B. Port Louis, Mauritius
C. Victoria, Seychelles
D. Saint-Denis, Réunion Island (France)
E. Colombo, Sri Lanka

Q5

The WINDS weather network, meant to support crop insurance payouts under PMFBY, is executed through which body?

A. India Meteorological Department
B. National Remote Sensing Centre
C. Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre
D. Agriculture Insurance Company of India
E. National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting

Q6

Under the PM-SETU scheme, Government ITIs in which two clusters will be upgraded in partnership with ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India?

A. Surat and Visakhapatnam
B. Ahmedabad and Vijayawada
C. Vadodara and Guntur
D. Rajkot and Tirupati
E. Hazira and Kakinada

Q7

Fitch Solutions' BMI has raised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2026-27 to what level?

A. 6.3%
B. 6.8%
C. 7.0%
D. 7.5%
E. 7.8%

Q8

Which of the following newly announced LIC plans provides guaranteed annuity rates for retirement income?

A. Health Shield
B. New Cancer Cover
C. New Jeevan Dhara-II
D. Jeevan Utsav
E. New Jeevan Shanti

Q9

Karur Vysya Bank has partnered with Zurich Kotak General Insurance. What is Zurich Insurance Group's stake in this joint venture?

A. 26%
B. 49%
C. 51%
D. 70%
E. 74%

Q10

Under SEBI's finalised Closing Auction Session rules, settlement prices of expiring stock and index derivatives will be based on the VWAP of which period?

A. Final 10 minutes of trading
B. Final 15 minutes of trading
C. Final 30 minutes of trading
D. Final 60 minutes of trading
E. Entire trading day

Q11

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) has been continued till 2030-31 under which new name?

A. Pradhan Mantri Samajik Suraksha Yojana
B. Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana
C. Pradhan Mantri Jan Kalyan Pension Yojana
D. Pradhan Mantri Garib Sahayata Yojana
E. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Samajik Yojana

Q12

Under the revamped Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana, what is the new minimum disability threshold for eligibility?

A. 21% benchmark disability
B. 40% benchmark disability
C. 50% benchmark disability
D. 60% benchmark disability
E. 80% severe disability

Q13

India's merchandise exports rose 23.04% year-on-year in September 2026 to reach what value?

A. $30.21 billion
B. $33.0 billion
C. $44.4 billion
D. $53.3 billion
E. $74.61 billion

Q14

As per the PLFS monthly bulletin for September 2026, what was the unemployment rate in urban areas?

A. 4.2%
B. 4.9%
C. 5.0%
D. 5.2%
E. 6.9%

ANSWERS — 16 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 C	**Q2** D	**Q3** B	**Q4** D	**Q5** C
Q6 A	**Q7** D	**Q8** C	**Q9** D	**Q10** C
Q11 B	**Q12** B	**Q13** C	**Q14** E	

Q1. As per FAO's State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2026, how much additional area must the world restore by 2030 to meet existing pledges?

Answer C. 470 million hectares

The SOFO 2026 report finds that global restoration pledges cross 1 billion hectares, but only about 44 million hectares are reported as restored under FRA 2025. This leaves a gap of 470 million hectares to close by 2030. The report, published every two years by FAO (Rome), focuses this time on Forest and Landscape Restoration and notes that restoration can return up to $30 for every $1 invested.

Q2. According to SOFO 2026, which country ranks first in the world in forest area actively under restoration under FRA 2025?

Answer D. India

India leads with about 9.8 million hectares under active restoration, ahead of China (7.9 million ha) and Ethiopia (5.0 million ha). Compensatory afforestation, agroforestry and Joint Forest Management are key drivers. In its 7th National Report to the CBD, however, India reported 18.9 million hectares under forest and landscape restoration, which places it second after China on that measure.

Q3. Which State has launched India's first State-level Red List Assessment of Ecosystems (RLE)?

Answer B. Kerala

The Kerala State Biodiversity Board has started a one-year assessment covering all 14 districts of the State. Unlike the familiar IUCN Red List, which rates species, this exercise rates whole ecosystems such as forest types, wetlands and grasslands for their risk of collapse. It uses the five standard criteria of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems framework, including habitat loss and environmental degradation.

Q4. India has approved accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). Where is the SIOFA headquarters located?

Answer D. Saint-Denis, Réunion Island (France)

SIOFA is a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation that manages non-tuna, non-migratory fish stocks such as orange roughy, alfonsino and toothfish in the high seas of the Southern Indian Ocean. It was concluded at Rome in 2006 under FAO and came into force in 2012. India, a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party since 2022, now becomes a full Contracting Party.

Q5. The WINDS weather network, meant to support crop insurance payouts under PMFBY, is executed through which body?

Answer C. Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre

WINDS (Weather Information Network and Data System) is run by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and executed through the MNCFC, with States implementing it through private partners. It aims to install Automatic Rain Gauges and Automatic Weather Stations to give hyper-local data for PMFBY claims. The project is over a year behind schedule, with more than 96% of planned sensors not yet installed.

Q6. Under the PM-SETU scheme, Government ITIs in which two clusters will be upgraded in partnership with ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India?

Answer A. Surat and Visakhapatnam

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship signed a Shareholders' Agreement with AM/NS India and the governments of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. Nine ITIs will be upgraded with an approved investment of ₹440 crore: five in Surat (₹240 crore) and four in Visakhapatnam (₹200 crore). Special Purpose Vehicles will manage the clusters, with AM/NS India holding a 51% stake.

Q7. Fitch Solutions' BMI has raised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2026-27 to what level?

Answer D. 7.5%

BMI lifted its FY27 forecast from 6.8% to 7.5%, citing strong industrial growth, economic momentum and investment in AI infrastructure. At the same time, it cut the FY28 forecast to 6.3% on worries about household consumption, higher oil prices and possible El Niño-related disruption. Such forecasts by rating agencies are frequently asked in banking exams.

Q8. Which of the following newly announced LIC plans provides guaranteed annuity rates for retirement income?

Answer C. New Jeevan Dhara-II

LIC announced three plans: New Jeevan Dhara-II (Plan 892), Health Shield (Plan 907) and New Cancer Cover (Plan 908). Jeevan Dhara-II is the annuity product offering guaranteed rates for pension income. Health Shield pays fixed benefits for specified health risks, while New Cancer Cover pays on diagnosis of specified early or major-stage cancer. The plans become available from 19 October 2026.

Q9. Karur Vysya Bank has partnered with Zurich Kotak General Insurance. What is Zurich Insurance Group's stake in this joint venture?

Answer D. 70%

Zurich Kotak General Insurance is a joint venture in which Zurich Insurance Group holds 70% and Kotak Mahindra Bank holds 30%. Under the tie-up, KVB will distribute general (non-life) insurance products through its branch network. Such bancassurance arrangements widen customer access to insurance and give banks a stable stream of fee and commission income.

Q10. Under SEBI's finalised Closing Auction Session rules, settlement prices of expiring stock and index derivatives will be based on the VWAP of which period?

Answer C. Final 30 minutes of trading

SEBI retained the volume-weighted average price of the last 30 minutes of regular trading. For index derivatives, the VWAP of constituent stocks in the cash market is used; for stock derivatives, the underlying stock's VWAP across exchanges is used. Most changes apply from 7 December 2026, while rules for moving certain unexecuted orders into the Closing Auction Session start on 8 February 2027.

Q11. The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) has been continued till 2030-31 under which new name?

Answer B. Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana

The Union Cabinet approved continuing NSAP from FY2026-27 to 2030-31 with an outlay of ₹53,428 crore, renaming it PMSSY. It is a non-contributory, 100% centrally funded scheme run by the Department of Rural Development, giving pensions to BPL elderly persons, widows, persons with disabilities and families that lose their breadwinner. It flows from Article 41, a Directive Principle of State Policy.

Q12. Under the revamped Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana, what is the new minimum disability threshold for eligibility?

Answer B. 40% benchmark disability

Earlier, the disability pension (IGNDPS) required 80% severe disability and a minimum age of 18. Now, 40% benchmark disability is enough, in line with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the minimum age has been removed so eligibility starts from birth. Other components were also renamed, for example the old age pension is now Pradhan Mantri Vridhavastha Pension Yojana.

Q13. India's merchandise exports rose 23.04% year-on-year in September 2026 to reach what value?

Answer C. $44.4 billion

Exports were driven by petroleum products (up 31.9% to $6.2 billion), electronic goods (up 70.44% to $5.3 billion) and chemicals (up 24.21% to $3 billion). Imports stood at $74.61 billion, so the merchandise trade deficit narrowed to $30.21 billion from $33 billion a year earlier. A narrower trade deficit eases pressure on the current account and the rupee.

Q14. As per the PLFS monthly bulletin for September 2026, what was the unemployment rate in urban areas?

Answer E. 6.9%

The overall unemployment rate stayed at 5%, unchanged from August, as per the NSO's Periodic Labour Force Survey bulletin. Urban unemployment (6.9%) was much higher than rural unemployment (4.2%). Among women it was 5.2% against 4.9% for men. The labour force participation rate eased slightly from 55.6% to 55.5%.

QUIZ 15 OF 26

17 October 2026

14 questions · Banking 4 · Schemes 3 · Sci & Env 2 · Economy 2

Q1

Sauj Jheel, recently designated as a Ramsar site, is located in which district of Uttar Pradesh?

A. Etawah
B. Mainpuri
C. Agra
D. Firozabad
E. Unnao

Q2

After the addition of Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel, how many Ramsar sites does India have?

A. 103
B. 98
C. 101
D. 105
E. 110

Q3

Cheruvayal Raman, known as the 'Living Paddy Gene Bank', conserved traditional rice varieties in which district of Kerala?

A. Palakkad
B. Thrissur
C. Idukki
D. Wayanad
E. Kasaragod

Q4

The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for which period?

A. FY 2025-26 to FY 2029-30
B. FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31
C. FY 2026-27 to FY 2028-29
D. FY 2027-28 to FY 2031-32
E. FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29

Q5

Under which scheme did the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launch two credit risk insurance products for shipbuilders on 13 October 2026?

A. Sagarmala Programme
B. Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy
C. Maritime Development Fund
D. PM Gati Shakti
E. Shipbuilding Development Scheme

Q6

According to Union Minister Prahlad Joshi, what is India's global rank in cumulative contracted clean hydrogen volumes?

A. Second
B. Third
C. First
D. Fifth
E. Seventh

Q7

FMO, which gave a $100 million debt facility to ReNew Energy Global, is a development bank of which country?

A. Germany
B. France
C. Netherlands
D. Japan
E. Norway

Q8

Under SEBI's new Common Advertisement Code, regulated market intermediaries may use celebrities for:

A. Endorsing specific mutual fund schemes
B. Brand-level promotion only
C. Promoting specific IPOs
D. Recommending individual stocks
E. Advertising guaranteed-return products

Q9

NovaFusion Capital, which received RBI approval to operate as an NBFC, will focus mainly on financing:

A. Affordable housing
B. Gold loans
C. Commercial electric vehicles
D. Microfinance for self-help groups
E. Farm tractors

Q10

Under the hub-and-spoke model of PM-SETU, one Hub ITI shares its advanced infrastructure with how many Spoke ITIs?

A. Two
B. Three
C. Five
D. Four
E. Six

Q11

The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which completed 10 years in October 2026, targets the phase-down of:

A. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
B. Methane
C. Nitrous oxide
D. Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)
E. Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)

Q12

How many states will the proposed new GST Standing Committee comprise?

A. 12
B. 9
C. 10
D. 15
E. 18

Q13

Where is ICMR's first High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research Centre being set up?

A. Keylong, Himachal Pradesh
B. Leh, Ladakh
C. Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh
D. Gangtok, Sikkim
E. Joshimath, Uttarakhand

Q14

IBSAMAR IX, in which INS Tarkash participated, was held in which country?

A. India
B. Brazil
C. Mozambique
D. South Africa
E. Mauritius

ANSWERS — 17 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** A	**Q3** D	**Q4** B	**Q5** E
Q6 B	**Q7** C	**Q8** B	**Q9** C	**Q10** D
Q11 E	**Q12** A	**Q13** A	**Q14** D	

Q1. Sauj Jheel, recently designated as a Ramsar site, is located in which district of Uttar Pradesh?

Answer B. Mainpuri

Sauj Jheel is a perennial shallow floodplain lake near Kishni in Mainpuri district, lying in the Indo-Gangetic floodplain. It is also an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area. Its listing makes Mainpuri the only Indian district with two Ramsar sites, the other being Saman Bird Sanctuary, designated in 2019.

Q2. After the addition of Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel, how many Ramsar sites does India have?

Answer A. 103

India's count rose to 103 after Sukhna Wetland in Chandigarh (Ramsar Site No. 2602) and Sauj Jheel in Uttar Pradesh (No. 2603) were added. India now has the most Ramsar sites in Asia and the third-highest in the world. The Ramsar Convention was signed in Iran in 1971, and India joined it in 1982.

Q3. Cheruvayal Raman, known as the 'Living Paddy Gene Bank', conserved traditional rice varieties in which district of Kerala?

Answer D. Wayanad

Cheruvayal Raman, popularly called 'Nellachan', passed away at the age of 74. Farming in Wayanad, he conserved more than 45 traditional rice varieties and shared indigenous seeds with farmers free of cost. He received the National Plant Genome Saviour Award in 2016 and the Padma Shri in 2023 for protecting agricultural biodiversity.

Q4. The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for which period?

Answer B. FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31

The Cabinet cleared NSAP for five more years, from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31. The programme gives social assistance to eligible elderly persons, widows and persons with disabilities, and supports families that lose their primary breadwinner. It is an important social security net for poor households, especially in rural areas.

Q5. Under which scheme did the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launch two credit risk insurance products for shipbuilders on 13 October 2026?

Answer E. Shipbuilding Development Scheme

The two products were launched under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS). The SbPCP covers credit and payment risks in export shipbuilding projects, while the BCSPS covers domestic projects. Together they protect shipyards against delayed milestone payments, reduce financial risk and promote indigenous shipbuilding.

Q6. According to Union Minister Prahlad Joshi, what is India's global rank in cumulative contracted clean hydrogen volumes?

Answer B. Third

Prahlad Joshi stated that India ranks third globally in cumulative contracted clean hydrogen volumes. Clean hydrogen can cut emissions in industries that are hard to electrify. This progress supports India's energy security and its wider shift towards cleaner energy.

Q7. FMO, which gave a $100 million debt facility to ReNew Energy Global, is a development bank of which country?

Answer C. Netherlands

ReNew Energy Global secured a 10-year, $100 million debt facility from FMO, the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank, to fund renewable projects under construction. The facility also qualifies under the 2X Challenge, a global initiative that directs investment to promote women's economic participation.

Q8. Under SEBI's new Common Advertisement Code, regulated market intermediaries may use celebrities for:

Answer B. Brand-level promotion only

SEBI notified a Common Advertisement Code (CAC) under which celebrities can be used for brand-level promotion, but not to endorse specific financial products or services. Every celebrity advertisement needs prior approval from the relevant supervisory body or SEBI. This aims to protect investors from being swayed by star power.

Q9. NovaFusion Capital, which received RBI approval to operate as an NBFC, will focus mainly on financing:

Answer C. Commercial electric vehicles

NovaFusion Capital is the lending subsidiary of Astranova Mobility. After getting RBI approval as an NBFC, it aims to reach Rs 5,000 crore in assets under management within five years, mainly by financing commercial electric vehicles. NBFCs provide loans and asset finance but are regulated differently from banks.

Q10. Under the hub-and-spoke model of PM-SETU, one Hub ITI shares its advanced infrastructure with how many Spoke ITIs?

Answer D. Four

PM-SETU groups government ITIs into clusters where one Hub ITI with advanced equipment serves four Spoke ITIs, avoiding costly duplication. Run by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, it has an outlay of Rs 60,000 crore over five years to upgrade 1,000 ITIs. Five new investment plans worth Rs 1,194.92 crore were recently approved.

Q11. The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which completed 10 years in October 2026, targets the phase-down of:

Answer E. Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)

Adopted on 15 October 2016 at Kigali, Rwanda, the amendment legally requires countries to phase down HFCs, powerful greenhouse gases used in air conditioners and refrigerators. It aims to avoid up to 0.5 degree Celsius of warming by 2100. India ratified it in 2021 and was the first country to prepare a Cooling Action Plan (2019).

Q12. How many states will the proposed new GST Standing Committee comprise?

Answer A. 12

The committee will have 12 states: five large, four medium and three small. Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu will be permanent members, while seven seats will rotate every two years. It aims to improve GST compliance, widen the taxpayer base and use data analytics to check tax leakage.

Q13. Where is ICMR's first High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research Centre being set up?

Answer A. Keylong, Himachal Pradesh

Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda laid the foundation stone of the centre at Keylong. It will study altitude-related health risks, acclimatisation, maternal and child health, nutrition and diseases. It will work with the Armed Forces Medical Services and AIIMS Bilaspur, and use telemedicine and drone-based health logistics.

Q14. IBSAMAR IX, in which INS Tarkash participated, was held in which country?

Answer D. South Africa

INS Tarkash, a guided-missile stealth frigate, took part in the ninth India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime Exercise in South Africa from 12 to 22 October 2026. IBSAMAR is a biennial trilateral naval exercise held under the IBSA framework since 2008 to improve interoperability among the three navies.

QUIZ 16 OF 26

18 & 19 October 2026

14 questions · Agri & Rural 4 · Economy 3 · International 3 · Sports & Days 1

Q1

Amid drought, Telangana asked the Centre to remove which procurement cap on major crops?

A. 10%
B. 25%
C. 40%
D. 50%
E. 75%

Q2

FSSAI has proposed maximum residue limits (MRLs) in tea for which two pesticides?

A. Glyphosate and paraquat
B. Chlorpyrifos and malathion
C. Acetamiprid and imidacloprid
D. Endosulfan and DDT
E. Mancozeb and carbendazim

Q3

Since which year had India been a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)?

A. 2019
B. 2020
C. 2021
D. 2022
E. 2024

Q4

As per PLFS 2025, which State/UT recorded the highest average annual change in both rural and urban female labour force participation?

A. Assam
B. Lakshadweep
C. Meghalaya
D. Nagaland
E. Arunachal Pradesh

Q5

The WTO has raised its forecast for global merchandise trade growth in 2026 to:

A. 1.9%
B. 2.6%
C. 3.3%
D. 3.9%
E. 4.1%

Q6

Which body launched the Silver Refinery Scheme during World Standards Day 2026 celebrations?

A. Reserve Bank of India
B. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
C. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
D. Securities and Exchange Board of India
E. Department of Consumer Affairs

Q7

Among Mizoram's new digital financial management initiatives, MIWAS stands for:

A. Mizoram Integrated Works Accounts System
B. Mizoram Integrated Welfare Allocation Scheme
C. Mizoram Internal Works Audit System
D. Mizoram Infrastructure and Works Approval Service
E. Mizoram Integrated Wage Accounting Software

Q8

The National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC) is run by the Department of Commerce together with which body?

A. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
B. DPIIT
C. EXIM Bank
D. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)
E. Reserve Bank of India

Q9

Recent amendments to the India-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement introduce which anti-abuse provision?

A. Equalisation Levy
B. Significant Economic Presence
C. Principal Purpose Test
D. Thin Capitalisation Rule
E. Place of Effective Management test

Q10

Which Indian company signed a cooperation agreement with Africa50 to develop power projects across Africa?

A. NHPC Limited
B. Power Grid Corporation
C. SJVN Limited
D. Tata Power
E. NTPC Limited

Q11

While recognising Internet access as a fundamental right, the Supreme Court referred to which 2020 judgment?

A. Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India
B. K. S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India
C. Shreya Singhal v. Union of India
D. Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India
E. Faheema Shirin v. State of Kerala

Q12

KAUMARACON-2026, held at AIIA New Delhi, focused on Kaumarabhritya, the branch of Ayurveda dealing with:

A. Surgery
B. Toxicology
C. Rejuvenation therapy
D. Psychiatry
E. Child health

Q13

Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director of INCOIS, has been elected Chair of which body?

A. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
B. Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
C. IOC Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)
D. International Maritime Organization (IMO)
E. WMO Regional Association for Asia

Q14

Which Article of the Constitution gives the Election Commission supervisory powers over electoral rolls, the basis of the Special Summary Revision announced for 17 States and UTs?

A. Article 326
B. Article 327
C. Article 280
D. Article 324
E. Article 329

ANSWERS — 18 & 19 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** C	**Q3** D	**Q4** E	**Q5** D
Q6 B	**Q7** A	**Q8** D	**Q9** C	**Q10** E
Q11 A	**Q12** E	**Q13** C	**Q14** D	

Q1. Amid drought, Telangana asked the Centre to remove which procurement cap on major crops?

Answer B. 25%

Telangana reported drought in 315 of its 621 mandals. Its Agriculture Minister asked the Centre to remove the 25% procurement cap on major crops and ensure 100% procurement at the Minimum Support Price. The state also planned the Khet Bachao Abhiyan from 22 to 30 October 2026 and sought funds for micro-irrigation and water conservation.

Q2. FSSAI has proposed maximum residue limits (MRLs) in tea for which two pesticides?

Answer C. Acetamiprid and imidacloprid

FSSAI proposed MRLs of 20 mg/kg for acetamiprid and 50 mg/kg for imidacloprid in tea. The acetamiprid limit is stricter than the limits of Japan and the United States. The proposal aims to improve food safety, pesticide monitoring and regulatory clarity for tea growers and processors.

Q3. Since which year had India been a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)?

Answer D. 2022

India has now approved full accession to SIOFA through the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, after participating as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party since 2022. Full membership gives India a greater say in fisheries decisions and allows Indian vessels authorised fishing for squid, toothfish and alfonsino.

Q4. As per PLFS 2025, which State/UT recorded the highest average annual change in both rural and urban female labour force participation?

Answer E. Arunachal Pradesh

PLFS 2025 shows female labour force participation has risen since 2019-20: rural from 33% to 45.9% and urban from 23.3% to 27.7%. Arunachal Pradesh recorded the highest average annual change in both rural (+8.28 points) and urban (+5.24 points) areas, while Lakshadweep saw declines in both.

Q5. The WTO has raised its forecast for global merchandise trade growth in 2026 to:

Answer D. 3.9%

The WTO lifted its 2026 merchandise trade growth forecast to 3.9% from 1.9% earlier, helped by AI-related investment, which made up 47% of trade growth. It projects 4.1% merchandise trade growth in 2027, services trade growth of 3.3% in 2026, and world GDP growth of 2.6% in 2026.

Q6. Which body launched the Silver Refinery Scheme during World Standards Day 2026 celebrations?

Answer B. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

BIS launched the scheme on 14 October 2026 to create a certification framework for the purity and authenticity of silver bullion and coins. Proposed hallmark details include the BIS mark, the word SILVER, purity grades of 999.9, 999.5 or 999.0, the manufacturer's mark and a unique batch serial number.

Q7. Among Mizoram's new digital financial management initiatives, MIWAS stands for:

Answer A. Mizoram Integrated Works Accounts System

Chief Minister Lalduhoma launched four initiatives: MIWAS, e-Sanction, e-Budget and 100% DBT. MIWAS improves the management and reconciliation of works-related expenditure across six state departments. e-Sanction enables online approval of expenditure, and 100% DBT sends scheme payments directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts.

Q8. The National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC) is run by the Department of Commerce together with which body?

Answer D. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal launched the NSTCC at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. It is a trade intelligence hub that brings scattered trade data onto a single dashboard for policymakers. The aim is to move trade governance from periodic reports to real-time, evidence-based monitoring and faster clearances.

Q9. Recent amendments to the India-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement introduce which anti-abuse provision?

Answer C. Principal Purpose Test

The Centre notified the amendments on 13 October 2026. Under the Principal Purpose Test, treaty benefits can be denied if obtaining them was one of the principal purposes of a transaction, unless granting them is in line with the treaty's objectives. This helps stop misuse of the treaty while protecting genuine investors.

Q10. Which Indian company signed a cooperation agreement with Africa50 to develop power projects across Africa?

Answer E. NTPC Limited

NTPC, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power, will offer expertise in project assessment, engineering, construction and operations. Africa50 will handle project identification, government coordination and investment structuring. The partners will also explore cross-border electricity trading to improve regional power connectivity.

Q11. While recognising Internet access as a fundamental right, the Supreme Court referred to which 2020 judgment?

Answer A. Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India

The Court said the right to access and use the Internet is a fundamental right under Article 21 read with Article 19(1)(a). It relied on Anuradha Bhasin (2020), which protected free speech through the Internet. It also said children should not be treated as the problem; responsibility lies with those who create or share objectionable content.

Q12. KAUMARACON-2026, held at AIIA New Delhi, focused on Kaumarabhritya, the branch of Ayurveda dealing with:

Answer E. Child health

The Vice-President inaugurated the third edition of this international conference at the All India Institute of Ayurveda under the Ministry of AYUSH. Kaumarabhritya covers paediatric care, nutrition, growth, development and disease prevention in children. The event promotes evidence-based Ayurvedic paediatrics.

Q13. Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director of INCOIS, has been elected Chair of which body?

Answer C. IOC Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

Dr. Nair was elected Chair of UNESCO-IOC's Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean at its second session in Bali, Indonesia, from 12 to 14 October 2026. He has over 30 years of experience in operational oceanography. IOCINDIO promotes regional cooperation in ocean science, marine observation and ocean information services.

Q14. Which Article of the Constitution gives the Election Commission supervisory powers over electoral rolls, the basis of the Special Summary Revision announced for 17 States and UTs?

Answer D. Article 324

The Election Commission announced the Special Summary Revision with 1 January 2027 as the qualifying date. It enrols new voters, records address changes and removes dead or duplicate entries. Article 324 gives the Commission its powers, while Section 21(2) of the RP Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 provide the legal framework.

QUIZ 17 OF 26

20 & 21 October 2026

14 questions · Banking 5 · Agri & Rural 3 · Sci & Env 3 · Reports 3

Q1

As per the design standard for agrivoltaics, what minimum share of natural radiation should solar panels allow to reach the crop canopy?

A. 30 per cent or more
B. 50 per cent or more
C. 60 per cent or more
D. 70 per cent or more
E. 90 per cent or more

Q2

Under the PM-KUSUM scheme, which component deals with the installation of standalone solar pumps?

A. Component A
B. Component B
C. Component C
D. Component D
E. Component E

Q3

Kufri Jamunia, a biofortified purple potato highlighted as a step against hidden hunger, was developed by which institute?

A. ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
B. ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla
C. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram
D. ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru
E. ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi

Q4

Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, where Asiatic lions have returned after nearly 144 years, lies in which districts of Gujarat?

A. Junagadh and Amreli
B. Gir Somnath and Bhavnagar
C. Porbandar and Devbhumi Dwarka
D. Kutch and Jamnagar
E. Rajkot and Morbi

Q5

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), which recently disbursed about ₹1.19 crore to State Biodiversity Boards under the Access and Benefit Sharing mechanism, is headquartered at:

A. New Delhi
B. Dehradun
C. Bhopal
D. Chennai
E. Kolkata

Q6

According to the Central Water Commission bulletin dated 15 October 2026, India's 178 major reservoirs held what share of their total usable capacity?

A. 54.21%
B. 60.50%
C. 68.58%
D. 72.32%
E. 83.44%

Q7

As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) monthly bulletin for September 2026, what was India's overall unemployment rate?

A. 4.2%
B. 5.0%
C. 5.2%
D. 6.9%
E. 7.1%

Q8

In October 2026, the Government of India approved the rollover of a currency swap facility to the Maldives. What is the size of this facility?

A. ₹1,000 crore
B. ₹2,000 crore
C. ₹3,000 crore
D. ₹5,000 crore
E. ₹7,500 crore

Q9

Under SEBI's revised Closing Auction Session (CAS) framework for the equity cash market, effective from 7 December 2026, the session will run during which time window?

A. 3:00 p.m. to 3:10 p.m.
B. 3:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
C. 3:30 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.
D. 3:40 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
E. 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Q10

CARE Ratings agreed to sell a 19.8% stake in its subsidiary CareEdge Global IFSC Limited. Which two institutions will each acquire 9.9%?

A. LIC and State Bank of India
B. State Bank of India and NSE IFSC (NSEIX)
C. NABARD and SIDBI
D. BSE and India INX
E. HDFC Bank and NSE IFSC (NSEIX)

Q11

As per the World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief, what share of India's population lived below the $4.20-a-day line in 2023?

A. 2.6 per cent
B. 12.1 per cent
C. 14.2 per cent
D. 16.1 per cent
E. 57.7 per cent

Q12

What was India's rank in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026?

A. 98th out of 122 countries
B. 100th out of 122 countries
C. 102nd out of 127 countries
D. 105th out of 127 countries
E. 111th out of 125 countries

Q13

Apart from undernourishment, which other Global Hunger Index indicator carries a weight of one-third?

A. Child stunting
B. Child wasting
C. Child mortality
D. Low birth weight
E. Anaemia among women

Q14

Canara HSBC Life Insurance launched the USD-denominated Global Wealth Plan for Non-Resident Indians through which location?

A. Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai
B. GIFT City, Gujarat
C. Navi Mumbai Special Economic Zone
D. Noida Special Economic Zone
E. Cyberabad, Hyderabad

ANSWERS — 20 & 21 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 D	**Q2** B	**Q3** B	**Q4** C	**Q5** D
Q6 C	**Q7** B	**Q8** C	**Q9** C	**Q10** B
Q11 D	**Q12** B	**Q13** C	**Q14** B	

Q1. As per the design standard for agrivoltaics, what minimum share of natural radiation should solar panels allow to reach the crop canopy?

Answer D. 70 per cent or more

Agrivoltaics (also called AgriPV) means growing crops and generating solar power on the same piece of land. To keep farming viable, panel height and spacing must let 70 per cent or more of natural radiation reach the crop canopy. The partial shade also protects crops from heat stress, drought, excessive solar radiation and hail. India is hosting the 7th AgriVoltaics World Conference at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (21–23 October 2026) on the theme "Powering the Global South".

Q2. Under the PM-KUSUM scheme, which component deals with the installation of standalone solar pumps?

Answer B. Component B

PM-KUSUM aims to solarise farm irrigation through three components: Component A for decentralised solar plants on barren land, Component B for standalone solar pumps, and Component C for solarising existing grid-connected pumps. PM-KUSUM 2.0 is set to include a dedicated agrivoltaics component, which would let farmers earn a second income from the same land. A 100 kW Centre of Excellence on Agri-Photovoltaics was set up at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi in 2025, run by ICAR and NISE under MNRE.

Q3. Kufri Jamunia, a biofortified purple potato highlighted as a step against hidden hunger, was developed by which institute?

Answer B. ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla

Kufri Jamunia was released in 2024 by ICAR-CPRI, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh); all CPRI varieties carry the "Kufri" prefix. It has deep purple skin and flesh and is rich in anthocyanins (42.05 mg per 100 g), vitamin C, iron and zinc. It follows earlier coloured varieties Kufri Neelkanth (2018) and Kufri Manik (2021). Biofortification means breeding a crop to carry more nutrients, instead of adding them later. India is the second-largest potato producer after China, with Uttar Pradesh in the lead.

Q4. Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, where Asiatic lions have returned after nearly 144 years, lies in which districts of Gujarat?

Answer C. Porbandar and Devbhumi Dwarka

Barda is a hilly forest sanctuary of about 192.31 sq km in the Saurashtra region, spread over Porbandar and Devbhumi Dwarka districts, barely 15 km from Porbandar town. Notified in February 1979, it has been designated the second home for the Asiatic lion. A PLOS One study found that lions have now permanently reclaimed it. Gir remains the primary habitat (891 lions as per the 2025 census). The Asiatic lion is IUCN Endangered and listed in CITES Appendix I and Schedule I.

Q5. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), which recently disbursed about ₹1.19 crore to State Biodiversity Boards under the Access and Benefit Sharing mechanism, is headquartered at:

Answer D. Chennai

The NBA is a statutory, autonomous regulatory and advisory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It was set up in 2003 under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and is based in Chennai. Under Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), those who commercially use biological resources share part of the gains with the communities that conserve them. The latest release went to 29 State Biodiversity Boards and one UT Biodiversity Council.

Q6. According to the Central Water Commission bulletin dated 15 October 2026, India's 178 major reservoirs held what share of their total usable capacity?

Answer C. 68.58%

The CWC Reservoir Storage Bulletin showed live storage of 126.717 billion cubic metres, or 68.58% of usable capacity. Storage was 24.53% lower than a year earlier and 16.44% below normal. The Pennar basin had a 72.32% deficit and the Cauvery basin a 60.50% deficit, while the Swarnarekha, Narmada and Mahanadi basins were above normal. Reservoir levels after the monsoon matter a lot for rabi sowing, irrigation, drinking water and hydropower.

Q7. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) monthly bulletin for September 2026, what was India's overall unemployment rate?

Answer B. 5.0%

The NSO under MoSPI released its 18th monthly PLFS bulletin. The overall unemployment rate fell to 5.0% from 5.2% in September 2025; the rural rate was 4.2% and the urban rate 6.9%. The Labour Force Participation Rate rose to 55.5% (from 55.3%), female LFPR stood at 34.6%, and the Worker Population Ratio rose to 52.7% from 52.4%. LFPR counts people working or looking for work, while WPR counts only those employed.

Q8. In October 2026, the Government of India approved the rollover of a currency swap facility to the Maldives. What is the size of this facility?

Answer C. ₹3,000 crore

India approved the rollover of a ₹3,000 crore currency swap facility for the Maldives. It works under the SAARC Currency Swap Arrangement Framework and the bilateral framework for 2024–2027. The agreement was signed between the RBI and the Maldives Monetary Authority in October 2024, and the first drawdown was extended on 23 April 2026. A swap line gives a partner quick access to funds for short-term liquidity needs, and this one reflects India's Neighbourhood First Policy and MAHASAGAR vision.

Q9. Under SEBI's revised Closing Auction Session (CAS) framework for the equity cash market, effective from 7 December 2026, the session will run during which time window?

Answer C. 3:30 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.

The revised CAS will run from 3:30 p.m. to 3:40 p.m. in three phases: reference-price calculation, order entry and final limit-order entry. Only limit orders are allowed in the final phase, and market orders cannot be modified or cancelled. The order-entry session will close at a random moment between 3:38 p.m. and 3:40 p.m., which makes it harder to game the closing price. Closing prices matter for index values, derivative settlement and fund valuations.

Q10. CARE Ratings agreed to sell a 19.8% stake in its subsidiary CareEdge Global IFSC Limited. Which two institutions will each acquire 9.9%?

Answer B. State Bank of India and NSE IFSC (NSEIX)

CARE Ratings signed agreements to sell 19.8% of CareEdge Global International Financial Services Centre Limited, split equally between State Bank of India and NSE IFSC (NSEIX) at 9.9% each. CARE Ratings will keep an 80.2% majority stake, so the subsidiary will no longer be wholly owned. The deal brings two financial-market institutions into the ownership of a rating entity operating from the IFSC.

Q11. As per the World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief, what share of India's population lived below the $4.20-a-day line in 2023?

Answer D. 16.1 per cent

The share below the $4.20-a-day (lower-middle-income) line fell from 57.7 per cent in 2011 to 16.1 per cent in 2023, lifting about 496 million people above it. Extreme poverty ($3 a day) stood at 2.6 per cent, and the rate is projected to fall to 14.2 per cent in 2026 and 12.1 per cent in 2028. Still, about 80 per cent remain below $8.30 a day. The World Bank revised its poverty lines in 2025 to $3.00, $4.20 and $8.30 in 2021 PPP terms.

Q12. What was India's rank in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026?

Answer B. 100th out of 122 countries

India ranked 100th of 122 countries with a score of 24.1, which falls in the "serious" band (20–34.9). The GHI 2026, titled "No Security Without Food Security", was released on 14 October 2026 in Berlin, ahead of World Food Day (16 October). It is published by Welthungerhilfe with IFHV and Helvetas. Somalia was last with 47.0. India has consistently questioned the methodology, saying three of four indicators cover only children under five.

Q13. Apart from undernourishment, which other Global Hunger Index indicator carries a weight of one-third?

Answer C. Child mortality

The GHI uses four indicators: undernourishment (one-third), child stunting (one-sixth), child wasting (one-sixth) and child mortality (one-third). Stunting is low height for age and wasting is low weight for height among children under five, while child mortality measures deaths before the fifth birthday. Scores run from 0 (no hunger) to 100 (worst). The global score worsened from 17.6 in 2018 to 18.1 in 2026.

Q14. Canara HSBC Life Insurance launched the USD-denominated Global Wealth Plan for Non-Resident Indians through which location?

Answer B. GIFT City, Gujarat

The plan was launched through Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) and is meant for NRIs who want life cover along with market-linked global investments. It offers exposure to global equities, precious metals such as gold and silver, and debt funds. It comes in three variants — Wealth, Wealth Plus and Wealth Forever. Returns are market-linked and not guaranteed, so the investment risk stays with the policyholder.

QUIZ 18 OF 26

22 October 2026

14 questions · Banking 5 · Reports 3 · Agri & Rural 2 · Sci & Env 2

Q1

The upgraded Agri Welfare Portal launched by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan brings together which three systems on a single window?

A. PM-KISAN, PMFBY and AgriStack
B. PM-KISAN, e-NAM and Soil Health Card
C. PMFBY, KCC and PM-KUSUM
D. AgriStack, e-NAM and PM-KUSUM
E. PM-KISAN, KCC and Soil Health Card

Q2

The upgraded Agri Welfare Portal has been built in line with DBIM 3.0 and GIGW 3.0. These standards are issued by which ministry?

A. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
B. Ministry of Rural Development
C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
D. Ministry of Finance
E. Ministry of Home Affairs

Q3

Under PM-KISAN, which is integrated into the Agri Welfare Portal, how is the annual income support paid to eligible farmers?

A. ₹6,000 a year in two instalments of ₹3,000
B. ₹12,000 a year in four instalments of ₹3,000
C. ₹6,000 a year in three instalments of ₹2,000
D. ₹9,000 a year in three instalments of ₹3,000
E. ₹4,000 a year in two instalments of ₹2,000

Q4

In the October 2026 RBI Monetary Policy Committee minutes, members discussed the risk of 'second-round' price effects. What does this term mean?

A. A fall in prices after a rate cut by the central bank
B. An initial price increase leading to further increases in wages and other prices
C. A one-time rise in food prices due to a poor monsoon
D. Price changes caused only by currency appreciation
E. A rise in government bond yields after an auction

Q5

In which type of Pumped Storage Project (PSP) are both the upper and the lower reservoir located completely away from natural river flows?

A. On-stream
B. Off-stream open-loop
C. Run-of-the-river
D. Off-stream closed-loop
E. Barrage-based storage

Q6

In a Pumped Storage Project, the surplus energy is stored in which form?

A. Chemical energy
B. Gravitational potential energy
C. Thermal energy
D. Kinetic energy of flowing water
E. Electromagnetic energy

Q7

According to UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2026, what is India's position among the world's emitters in total greenhouse gas emissions?

A. First
B. Second
C. Third
D. Fourth
E. Fifth

Q8

As per the UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2026, current policies put the world on track for about how much warming this century?

A. 1.5°C
B. 2.0°C
C. 2.8°C
D. 3.5°C
E. 4.2°C

Q9

The World Bank Group launched its first comprehensive digital strategy at a summit in Seoul. How many people does the strategy aim to benefit by 2030?

A. 100 million
B. 500 million
C. 1 billion
D. 2 billion
E. 3 billion

Q10

The 'Andaman Subduction Volcanoes', newly added to India's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, is a serial site made up of which islands?

A. Havelock Island and Neil Island
B. Baratang Island and Ross Island
C. Narcondam Island and Barren Island
D. Great Nicobar and Car Nicobar
E. Barren Island and Baratang Island

Q11

Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape, added to UNESCO's Tentative List, is located on the eastern bank of which river?

A. Godavari
B. Narmada
C. Mahanadi
D. Indravati
E. Son

Q12

After the three new additions, what is the total number of Indian sites on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List?

A. 62
B. 69
C. 75
D. 81
E. 103

Q13

On the new 'NPS Central' platform launched by PFRDA, subscribers can log in using which details instead of their PRAN?

A. Aadhaar number and PAN
B. Registered mobile number and date of birth, verified by OTP
C. Bank account number and IFSC
D. Email ID and password only
E. Voter ID and mobile number

Q14

What is the main role of the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), whose new part-time Chairperson is Subhas Chandra Lal Das?

A. Regulating NBFCs and housing finance companies
B. Recommending candidates for senior leadership posts in public-sector banks, financial institutions and public-sector insurers
C. Supervising payment systems and UPI
D. Resolving complaints of bank customers
E. Setting the policy repo rate

ANSWERS — 22 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 A	**Q2** C	**Q3** C	**Q4** B	**Q5** D

Q6 B	**Q7** C	**Q8** C	**Q9** C	**Q10** C
Q11 C	**Q12** D	**Q13** B	**Q14** B	

Q1. The upgraded Agri Welfare Portal launched by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan brings together which three systems on a single window?

Answer A. PM-KISAN, PMFBY and AgriStack

The portal combines PM-KISAN (income support), PMFBY (crop insurance) and AgriStack (the farmer and land database). The idea is that a farmer can check scheme details, see eligibility and apply in one place instead of moving across separate portals. It also offers weather updates, market prices, seed and fertiliser availability, and DBT-based financial help.

Q2. The upgraded Agri Welfare Portal has been built in line with DBIM 3.0 and GIGW 3.0. These standards are issued by which ministry?

Answer C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

DBIM (Digital Brand Identity Manual) and GIGW (Guidelines for Indian Government Websites) are MeitY frameworks that set common design, accessibility and usability norms for government websites. Following them gives citizens a uniform and accessible experience. The portal also links FPOs, PACS, scientists, researchers and startups, with training through Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Q3. Under PM-KISAN, which is integrated into the Agri Welfare Portal, how is the annual income support paid to eligible farmers?

Answer C. ₹6,000 a year in three instalments of ₹2,000

PM-KISAN gives eligible farmer families ₹6,000 every year, released in three equal instalments of ₹2,000 each. The money goes directly into bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer, which cuts leakages. It is one of the core welfare schemes now accessible through the single-window Agri Welfare Portal.

Q4. In the October 2026 RBI Monetary Policy Committee minutes, members discussed the risk of 'second-round' price effects. What does this term mean?

Answer B. An initial price increase leading to further increases in wages and other prices

Second-round effects occur when a first price shock, such as costlier fuel or food, spreads into wages and then into prices of other goods and services. This makes inflation broader and more persistent. Central banks watch for these effects closely because they can turn a temporary shock into lasting inflation, which is why MPC members debated further tightening.

Q5. In which type of Pumped Storage Project (PSP) are both the upper and the lower reservoir located completely away from natural river flows?

Answer D. Off-stream closed-loop

A pumped storage plant works like a large water battery: surplus power, for example at midday solar peak, pumps water uphill, and the water is released through reversible pump-turbines when demand rises. In a closed-loop design, neither reservoir sits on a natural stream, which reduces impact on rivers. India ranks fourth globally in pumped storage after China, Japan and the United States.

Q6. In a Pumped Storage Project, the surplus energy is stored in which form?

Answer B. Gravitational potential energy

Water pumped to the higher reservoir holds energy because of its height, i.e. gravitational potential energy. When released downhill, this turns into kinetic energy and then electricity. The Ministry of Power and CEA have highlighted PSPs as India crossed 300 GW of non-fossil capacity on the way to its 500 GW target for 2030, since storage helps balance solar and wind.

Q7. According to UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2026, what is India's position among the world's emitters in total greenhouse gas emissions?

Answer C. Third

The order of top emitters is China, the United States, India, the EU and Russia. The report noted that India's emissions fell in 2025, breaking a long period of rapid growth, helped by a shift towards renewables and partly by weather. India's per capita emissions remain less than half the global average and far below China and the US.

Q8. As per the UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2026, current policies put the world on track for about how much warming this century?

Answer C. 2.8°C

The report says limiting warming to 1.5°C without overshoot is no longer achievable, and current policies point to about 2.8°C above the 1850–1900 baseline. The Paris Agreement of 2015 aims to keep warming well below 2°C while pursuing 1.5°C. UNEP, set up in 1972 after the Stockholm Conference, is headquartered in Nairobi and releases this report before each COP.

Q9. The World Bank Group launched its first comprehensive digital strategy at a summit in Seoul. How many people does the strategy aim to benefit by 2030?

Answer C. 1 billion

The strategy targets 1 billion people by 2030 through better connectivity, affordable access, digital services and skills, and AI readiness. The gap is large: in 2025 over 2 billion people were offline, and internet use was 23% in low-income countries against 94% in high-income ones. A new AI Infrastructure and Readiness Initiative will start with Africa and Latin America.

Q10. The 'Andaman Subduction Volcanoes', newly added to India's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, is a serial site made up of which islands?

Answer C. Narcondam Island and Barren Island

Narcondam and Barren Island form a natural serial site. They are the only Quaternary-period subduction volcanoes in the inner volcanic arc of the roughly 5,000 km Burma-Andaman-Java subduction complex. The other natural addition is the Karst-mud-volcano Complex of Baratang, which combines limestone caves with active mud volcanoes.

Q11. Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape, added to UNESCO's Tentative List, is located on the eastern bank of which river?

Answer C. Mahanadi

Sirpur lies on the eastern bank of the Mahanadi in Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh. Known in ancient times as Shripur, it was the capital of the Kosala Kingdom under the Sharabhapuriya and Panduvamshi dynasties. Its remains, from the 5th to the 12th century CE, show Hindu, Buddhist and Jain traditions in one urban landscape.

Q12. After the three new additions, what is the total number of Indian sites on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List?

Answer D. 81

The total has risen to 81 sites: 59 cultural, 19 natural and 3 mixed. A place must be on a country's tentative list before it can be formally nominated and evaluated for the World Heritage List. As a next step, a detailed nomination dossier has to be prepared and submitted to UNESCO.

Q13. On the new 'NPS Central' platform launched by PFRDA, subscribers can log in using which details instead of their PRAN?

Answer B. Registered mobile number and date of birth, verified by OTP

NPS Central was launched on 1 October 2026, observed as NPS Diwas. It is a unified platform for registration, contributions, investment choices and account updates. Login with mobile number and date of birth plus OTP makes access easier for users who do not remember their PRAN. It is run jointly by the three CRAs: Protean, KFin Technologies and CAMS.

Q14. What is the main role of the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), whose new part-time Chairperson is Subhas Chandra Lal Das?

Answer B. Recommending candidates for senior leadership posts in public-sector banks, financial institutions and public-sector insurers

FSIB selects and recommends top-level leaders, such as chiefs and directors, for public-sector banks, financial institutions and public-sector insurance companies. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved retired IAS officer Subhas Chandra Lal Das (1992 batch) as part-time Chairperson for three years, along with six part-time members.

QUIZ 19 OF 26

23 October 2026

14 questions · Sci & Env 5 · Reports 5 · Banking 2 · Economy 1

Q1

The 7th Agrivoltaics World Conference (AWC) 2026, the first edition hosted by India and the Global South, was held at which venue?

A. Yashobhoomi, Dwarka
B. Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
C. Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar
D. HITEX, Hyderabad
E. Jio World Centre, Mumbai

Q2

Which Union Ministry hosted the 7th Agrivoltaics World Conference 2026?

A. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
B. Ministry of Power
C. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
D. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
E. Ministry of Rural Development

Q3

What growth did the Index of Eight Core Industries record in September 2026?

A. 5.2%
B. 6.4%
C. 7.9%
D. 8.6%
E. 9.1%

Q4

Which of the following is NOT one of the Eight Core Industries?

A. Fertilisers
B. Cement
C. Natural gas
D. Refinery products
E. Textiles

Q5

SEBI's revised framework for Early Pay-In (EPI) of shares is scheduled to come into effect from which date?

A. 1 November 2026
B. 22 December 2026
C. 22 February 2027
D. 1 April 2027
E. 1 January 2027

Q6

Form 173A, introduced by the CBDT with effect from 19 October 2026, applies to which of the following?

A. Resident salaried taxpayers claiming house rent allowance
B. Eligible Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
C. Charitable trusts seeking registration
D. Startups claiming a tax holiday
E. Senior citizens claiming interest deduction

Q7

What is the title of UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2026?

A. The Point of Return
B. Broken Record
C. No More Hot Air
D. Off Target
E. Turning the Tide

Q8

According to the Emissions Gap Report 2026, what level of global warming is projected under existing policies?

A. 1.9°C
B. 2.1°C
C. 2.4°C
D. 2.8°C
E. 3.3°C

Q9

What are India's projected per capita emissions for 2035 as per the Emissions Gap Report 2026?

A. 2.1 tCO_2e
B. 3.6 tCO_2e
C. 5.4 tCO_2e
D. 9.3 tCO_2e
E. 11.5 tCO_2e

Q10

SUVIKALP, the mine repurposing tool that won the SKOCH Gold Award 2026, was developed by which body?

A. Coal Controller Organisation
B. Coal India Limited
C. Central Mine Planning and Design Institute
D. Indian Bureau of Mines
E. NITI Aayog

Q11

The 17th United Nations biodiversity conference, held to review progress towards the 2030 biodiversity targets, took place in which city?

A. Cali
B. Montreal
C. Yerevan
D. Baku
E. Nairobi

Q12

What is the title of UNESCO's 2026 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Gender Report?

A. Gender Equity in Access to Education
B. Leave No Girl Behind
C. Her Education, Our Future
D. Bridging the Learning Divide
E. Education for All Girls

Q13

Stage I of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR is invoked when the AQI falls in which category?

A. Moderate (101–200)
B. Poor (201–300)
C. Very Poor (301–400)
D. Severe (401–450)
E. Severe+ (above 450)

Q14

The 33rd edition of the Singapore–India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) commenced in October 2026 at which place?

A. Kochi
B. Mumbai
C. Port Blair
D. Chennai
E. Visakhapatnam

ANSWERS — 23 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** D	**Q3** C	**Q4** E	**Q5** C
Q6 B	**Q7** A	**Q8** D	**Q9** B	**Q10** A
Q11 C	**Q12** A	**Q13** B	**Q14** E	

Q1. The 7th Agrivoltaics World Conference (AWC) 2026, the first edition hosted by India and the Global South, was held at which venue?

Answer B. Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

The 7th AWC 2026 took place at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, the first time this global meet came to India and the Global South. Agrivoltaics means using the same land for growing crops and producing solar electricity, so farmers can earn an extra income without giving up cultivation. The theme of the conference was "Powering the Global South."

Q2. Which Union Ministry hosted the 7th Agrivoltaics World Conference 2026?

Answer D. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

The conference was hosted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). Since agrivoltaics combines solar power with farming, it links India's clean-energy goals with farm incomes and efficient land use, which makes it an important topic for agriculture and rural development papers.

Q3. What growth did the Index of Eight Core Industries record in September 2026?

Answer C. 7.9%

Core sector output grew 7.9% in September 2026, its highest in the series and the second straight month of faster growth. Electricity (11.4%), coal (10.7%) and refinery products (10.3%) led the rise. Commentators, however, warned that such strong numbers may be short-lived and may not signal lasting economic momentum.

Q4. Which of the following is NOT one of the Eight Core Industries?

Answer E. Textiles

The eight core industries are coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity. Textiles is not part of this index. These eight sectors are tracked closely because they feed into almost every other industry and carry a large weight in the Index of Industrial Production.

Q5. SEBI's revised framework for Early Pay-In (EPI) of shares is scheduled to come into effect from which date?

Answer C. 22 February 2027

SEBI has relaxed the Early Pay-In rules, under which investors deliver shares before the normal settlement date. Shares delivered early can be counted towards the margin needed for the related sale, easing the burden on sellers. The new framework will apply from 22 February 2027, giving brokers and clearing corporations four months to update their systems.

Q6. Form 173A, introduced by the CBDT with effect from 19 October 2026, applies to which of the following?

Answer B. Eligible Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

Form 173A was brought in under the Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2026. It standardises how eligible FIIs and the BIS report exemption claims on interest and capital gains from government securities. Part A captures investor details, while Part B covers securities held, transactions, interest income and capital gains, which makes verification easier.

Q7. What is the title of UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2026?

Answer A. The Point of Return

The 17th edition of UNEP's annual report is titled “The Point of Return.” It compares emissions expected under current national pledges with the levels needed to meet the Paris goals. Its main warning is that limiting warming to 1.5°C without overshoot is no longer possible. Global emissions stood at about 58.4 $GtCO_2e$ in 2025.

Q8. According to the Emissions Gap Report 2026, what level of global warming is projected under existing policies?

Answer D. 2.8°C

Under existing policies, the world is heading for about 2.8°C of warming; even if all pledges are fully met, warming would be about 2.1°C. To stay on track, emissions must fall 18% by 2030, 45% by 2035 and 69% by 2040 from 2025 levels. The report also estimates that 320 $GtCO_2$ of carbon removal will be needed this century.

Q9. What are India's projected per capita emissions for 2035 as per the Emissions Gap Report 2026?

Answer B. 3.6 tCO_2e

India's per capita emissions are projected at 3.6 tCO_2e in 2035, far below China (9.3), Russia (11.5) and Saudi Arabia (15.2). The report also says India will meet its 2030 and 2035 NDC targets under existing policies. India's NDC includes a 45% cut in emissions intensity by 2030 over 2005 and net zero by 2070.

Q10. SUVIKALP, the mine repurposing tool that won the SKOCH Gold Award 2026, was developed by which body?

Answer A. Coal Controller Organisation

SUVIKALP is an indigenous, data-driven tool built by the Coal Controller Organisation under the Ministry of Coal. It identifies and ranks sustainable alternative uses for closed and abandoned coal mines. The aim is scientific mine closure, environmental restoration, livelihood generation and balanced regional development in mining areas.

Q11. The 17th United Nations biodiversity conference, held to review progress towards the 2030 biodiversity targets, took place in which city?

Answer C. Yerevan

Delegates from 196 countries, along with Indigenous peoples and local communities, met in Yerevan, Armenia. The meeting reviewed progress on the 2030 targets and the steps needed to stop biodiversity loss driven by habitat destruction, pollution, climate change and overuse of resources. It is also a chance to speed up the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Q12. What is the title of UNESCO's 2026 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Gender Report?

Answer A. Gender Equity in Access to Education

The 2026 GEM Gender Report, "Gender Equity in Access to Education," looks at enrolment, completion and higher education. It notes that global gender parity was reached in pre-primary, primary and secondary enrolment by 2024, but gaps remain in tertiary education. Between 2000 and 2024, countries with fewer than nine girls per ten boys in primary school fell from 15% to 2%.

Q13. Stage I of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR is invoked when the AQI falls in which category?

Answer B. Poor (201–300)

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) invoked GRAP Stage I after the AQI entered the Poor band (201–300). Stage II applies to Very Poor, Stage III to Severe and Stage IV to Severe+ air. GRAP was notified on 12 January 2017 by the Environment Ministry following Supreme Court directions in M. C. Mehta v. Union of India.

Q14. The 33rd edition of the Singapore–India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) commenced in October 2026 at which place?

Answer E. Visakhapatnam

SIMBEX-2026 began at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, with opening ceremonies aboard INS Nilgiri and INS Kamorta. The exercise between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy aims to improve tactical coordination and interoperability, especially for shared security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

QUIZ 20 OF 26

24 October 2026

14 questions · Agri & Rural 5 · Schemes 3 · Banking 2 · International 2

Q1

Which institution is the nodal agency for the registration of indigenous livestock breeds in India?

A. ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal
B. ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal
C. National Dairy Development Board, Anand
D. ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar
E. ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hisar

Q2

Gomanchali, the only buffalo among the 16 newly recognised indigenous breeds, belongs to which state?

A. Goa
B. Gujarat
C. Maharashtra
D. Karnataka
E. Kerala

Q3

The Kombai, recognised among the new indigenous breeds, is a dog breed from which state?

A. Kerala
B. Karnataka
C. Andhra Pradesh
D. Tamil Nadu
E. Puducherry

Q4

India, the world's largest milk producer, accounts for about what share of global milk output?

A. 12 per cent
B. 18 per cent
C. 24 per cent
D. 30 per cent
E. 35 per cent

Q5

Where did the Union Agriculture Minister launch the ‘Khet Bachao Abhiyan – Rabi 2026’?

A. Karnal, Haryana
B. Pusa, New Delhi
C. Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
D. Ludhiana, Punjab
E. Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Q6

Khet Bachao Abhiyan – Rabi 2026 aims to reach about how many participants through ATMA and ICAR?

A. 25 lakh
B. 50 lakh
C. 75 lakh
D. Nearly 1 crore
E. 2 crore

Q7

BSE Limited has partnered with which company to expand India's Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) market?

A. IBJA
B. NSE Clearing
C. SafeGold
D. Augmont
E. MMTC-PAMP

Q8

Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs), which let investors hold gold in demat form, are securities regulated by which body?

A. Reserve Bank of India
B. Securities and Exchange Board of India
C. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
D. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
E. Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Q9

The Khajuraho group of temples in Madhya Pradesh was built mainly by which dynasty?

A. Paramara
B. Pratihara
C. Chandela
D. Kalachuri
E. Rashtrakuta

Q10

The Shamonda virus, which caused its first documented human infection and death in Lyon, France, spreads mainly through which vector?

A. Aedes mosquitoes
B. Ixodes ticks
C. Sandflies
D. Culicoides biting midges
E. Tsetse flies

Q11

Who has been awarded the 2026 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought by the European Parliament?

A. UNHCR
B. The International Criminal Court and its officials
C. Amnesty International
D. Reporters Without Borders
E. International Committee of the Red Cross

Q12

Where did President Droupadi Murmu release a ₹200 commemorative coin marking the 200th birth anniversary of Mata Sahib Hasi Devi Ji?

A. Raipur
B. Bhopal
C. Ahmedabad
D. Jaipur
E. Lucknow

Q13

Who has been appointed as the next Chairman of ONGC by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet?

A. Arun Kumar Singh
B. Pankaj Jain
C. Alka Mittal
D. Om Prakash Singh
E. Sunil Kumar

Q14

International Snow Leopard Day (23 October) traces its origin to the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum held in 2013 in which city?

A. Kathmandu
B. Thimphu
C. Bishkek
D. Almaty
E. Ulaanbaatar

ANSWERS — 24 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** A	**Q3** D	**Q4** C	**Q5** A
Q6 D	**Q7** E	**Q8** B	**Q9** C	**Q10** D
Q11 B	**Q12** A	**Q13** E	**Q14** C	

Q1. Which institution is the nodal agency for the registration of indigenous livestock breeds in India?

Answer B. ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal

ICAR-NBAGR, Karnal, is the nodal agency that registers indigenous breeds, while DARE under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare notifies them. On the advice of the Breed Registration Committee, 16 new breeds across 13 states and one UT were notified. Each registered breed gets a formal national identity and a unique accession number in the Gazette of India.

Q2. Gomanchali, the only buffalo among the 16 newly recognised indigenous breeds, belongs to which state?

Answer A. Goa

Gomanchali buffalo is from Goa. The new list also includes four cattle breeds — Koppal (Karnataka), Mahakaushali (Madhya Pradesh), Periyar dwarf (Kerala) and Umarda (Maharashtra) — along with goats, sheep, equines, a pig, a yak and a dog. Breed recognition helps in conservation, breeding programmes and better use of native genetic resources.

Q3. The Kombai, recognised among the new indigenous breeds, is a dog breed from which state?

Answer D. Tamil Nadu

Kombai is a native canine breed from Tamil Nadu and the only dog in this year's list. Other unusual additions include the Sikkimese Yak (Sikkim), the Nagal Pig (Nagaland), the Braj Donkey (Uttar Pradesh) and the Kashmiri Horse/Pony (Jammu & Kashmir). Registration is based on distinct physical, phenotypic and genetic traits.

Q4. India, the world's largest milk producer, accounts for about what share of global milk output?

Answer C. 24 per cent

India produces about 24% of the world's milk, making it the largest producer. The country has over 200 registered indigenous breeds of livestock and poultry, and NBAGR maintains the National Animal Gene Bank. Native breeds are valued for their adaptation to local climate, feed and disease conditions.

Q5. Where did the Union Agriculture Minister launch the 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan – Rabi 2026'?

Answer A. Karnal, Haryana

Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the campaign in Karnal, Haryana. It runs from 22 October to 30 November 2026 and promotes soil health, balanced use of fertilisers, crop diversification and sustainable farming. Such Rabi-season outreach is meant to carry scientific advice directly to farmers' fields.

Q6. Khet Bachao Abhiyan – Rabi 2026 aims to reach about how many participants through ATMA and ICAR?

Answer D. Nearly 1 crore

The government plans to reach nearly 1 crore participants through the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and ICAR. Around 4,150 teams and more than 12,000 scientists and ATMA staff are expected to take part through training sessions, farmers' meetings and field demonstrations.

Q7. BSE Limited has partnered with which company to expand India's Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) market?

Answer E. MMTC-PAMP

BSE tied up with MMTC-PAMP, which brings its expertise in gold and silver refining. BSE plans to offer EGR contracts in several denominations. The partnership aims to improve transparency, liquidity and investor participation, and to move more gold trading onto regulated exchange platforms.

Q8. Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs), which let investors hold gold in demat form, are securities regulated by which body?

Answer B. Securities and Exchange Board of India

EGRs are SEBI-regulated securities that represent physical gold and are held in demat accounts, just like shares. Because they trade on a stock exchange, they offer price transparency and easy transfer. They also help bring the large informal gold trade into a regulated market.

Q9. The Khajuraho group of temples in Madhya Pradesh was built mainly by which dynasty?

Answer C. Chandela

The Chandela dynasty built the Khajuraho temples mainly between 950 and 1050 CE in Chhatarpur district. They are the high point of Nagara-style architecture and became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986; the Kandariya Mahadeva is the largest. The ASI now plans to re-attach a recently found head to the Vishnu idol at the Javari Temple.

Q10. The Shamonda virus, which caused its first documented human infection and death in Lyon, France, spreads mainly through which vector?

Answer D. Culicoides biting midges

Shamonda virus is spread by Culicoides midges and mainly infects ruminants, causing fever, lower milk yield and abortions. It belongs to the Simbu serogroup (genus Orthobunyavirus) and is close to the Schmallenberg virus. First isolated in cattle in Nigeria in 1965, it is not a notifiable disease under WOAH, so reporting is not compulsory.

Q11. Who has been awarded the 2026 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought by the European Parliament?

Answer B. The International Criminal Court and its officials

The ICC and its judges, prosecutors and investigators were named collective winners on 22 October 2026. The Sakharov Prize, set up in 1988, is the EU's top human rights award and carries €50,000. The ICC was created by the Rome Statute and sits at The Hague; India is not a party to the Statute.

Q12. Where did President Droupadi Murmu release a ₹200 commemorative coin marking the 200th birth anniversary of Mata Sahib Hasi Devi Ji?

Answer A. Raipur

The coin was released in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Mata Hasi Devi Ji was the fifth spiritual head of the Shadani Darbar, a well-known Sindhi religious institution. The coin, issued by the Ministry of Finance, shows her image on one side and the Lion Capital of Ashoka with the denomination on the other.

Q13. Who has been appointed as the next Chairman of ONGC by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet?

Answer E. Sunil Kumar

The ACC approved Sunil Kumar, an Executive Director at ONGC, as Chairman for a three-year term. He is expected to take charge on or after 7 December 2026, succeeding Arun Kumar Singh. He joined ONGC in 1991 and has worked on the Vasistha and S1 deep-water project on the east coast.

Q14. International Snow Leopard Day (23 October) traces its origin to the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum held in 2013 in which city?

Answer C. Bishkek

The day comes from the 2013 forum in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, where 12 snow leopard range countries adopted the Bishkek Declaration for joint conservation. In December 2024, the UN General Assembly formally proclaimed 23 October as International Snow Leopard Day through Resolution A/RES/79/143.

QUIZ 21 OF 26

25 & 26 October 2026

14 questions · Agri & Rural 5 · Banking 3 · International 2 · Sci & Env 1

Q1

The Union government has extended the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) up to which date?

A. 31 December 2026
B. 30 September 2027
C. 31 March 2027
D. 31 March 2028
E. 30 June 2027

Q2

Which body gave the approval for extending the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund beyond 30 September 2026?

A. NITI Aayog
B. Department of Expenditure
C. Reserve Bank of India
D. NABARD Board
E. Department of Financial Services

Q3

How many Farmer IDs have been created under the Digital Agriculture Mission, five months ahead of the 31 March 2027 deadline?

A. 6 crore
B. 8 crore
C. 9.5 crore
D. 11 crore
E. 14 crore

Q4

The Digital Agriculture Mission, approved by the Union Cabinet in 2024, has an outlay of about how much?

A. ₹1,250 crore
B. ₹2,817 crore
C. ₹4,500 crore
D. ₹6,000 crore
E. ₹10,000 crore

Q5

The Farmer ID plays the same role in AgriStack that which of the following plays in India Stack?

A. UPI
B. DigiLocker
C. Aadhaar
D. e-KYC
E. Jan Dhan account

Q6

The upgraded NMMS 2.0 app for recording worker attendance under VB-G RAM G was developed with technical support from which institution?

A. IIT Bombay
B. IIT Delhi
C. IISc Bengaluru
D. IIT Madras
E. C-DAC Pune

Q7

Under the RBI's revised leverage ratio framework, what minimum leverage ratio applies to Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)?

A. 3%
B. 3.5%
C. 4%
D. 4.5%
E. 5%

Q8

From which date will the RBI's revised bank leverage ratio framework come into effect?

A. 1 January 2027
B. 1 April 2027
C. 1 October 2026
D. 1 April 2028
E. 31 March 2027

Q9

The leverage ratio measures a bank's capital against its total exposure. Which capital is used in this ratio?

A. Tier 2 capital
B. Total risk-weighted assets
C. Common equity only
D. Tier 1 capital
E. Paid-up capital

Q10

The World Bank's World Development Report 2026 recommends which three-step approach to AI for developing countries?

A. Awareness, access and action
B. Adoption, adaptation and advancement
C. Investment, innovation and inclusion
D. Regulation, research and rollout
E. Data, devices and deployment

Q11

Under the IndiaAI Mission, 'AIKosh' is the name of which pillar?

A. IndiaAI Compute Capacity
B. IndiaAI FutureSkills
C. IndiaAI Startup Financing
D. Safe and Trusted AI
E. IndiaAI Datasets Platform

Q12

Who chaired the 30th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) in New Delhi?

A. RBI Governor
B. Prime Minister
C. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
D. SEBI Chairperson
E. Chief Economic Adviser

Q13

India's first Snow Leopard Population Assessment (SPAI) recorded how many snow leopards in the country?

A. 477
B. 516
C. 718
D. 832
E. 1,050

Q14

Ashoke Sen became the first Indian to win the 2026 Oskar Klein Medal. His research mainly focuses on which field?

A. Quantum computing
B. Dark matter detection
C. Nuclear fusion
D. String theory
E. Gravitational waves

ANSWERS — 25 & 26 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 C	**Q2** B	**Q3** D	**Q4** B	**Q5** C
Q6 D	**Q7** C	**Q8** B	**Q9** D	**Q10** B
Q11 E	**Q12** C	**Q13** C	**Q14** D	

Q1. The Union government has extended the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) up to which date?

Answer C. 31 March 2027

The AIF was due to end on 30 September 2026, but the Centre has now extended it up to 31 March 2027. The extra time lets more farmers, FPOs and agri-entrepreneurs take loans for post-harvest assets such as cold storages, warehouses and grading units, with interest subvention and credit guarantee support.

Q2. Which body gave the approval for extending the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund beyond 30 September 2026?

Answer B. Department of Expenditure

The extension was cleared by the Department of Expenditure under the Ministry of Finance. Launched in 2020-21, the AIF has sanctioned about ₹1.03 trillion for over 2.28 lakh projects and mobilised more than ₹1.75 trillion. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Gujarat are the leading states.

Q3. How many Farmer IDs have been created under the Digital Agriculture Mission, five months ahead of the 31 March 2027 deadline?

Answer D. 11 crore

The Agriculture Ministry completed 11 crore Farmer IDs on the night of 23 October 2026. A Farmer ID is a unique digital identity that links a farmer to land records and crop details, making it easier to reach government schemes, bank credit, crop insurance and disaster relief.

Q4. The Digital Agriculture Mission, approved by the Union Cabinet in 2024, has an outlay of about how much?

Answer B. ₹2,817 crore

The mission carries an outlay of roughly ₹2,817 crore. Its core is AgriStack, built on three registries: the Farmer Registry, Geo-referenced Village Maps and the Crop Sown Registry. The Farmer ID works as the identity layer of AgriStack, much like Aadhaar does in India Stack.

Q5. The Farmer ID plays the same role in AgriStack that which of the following plays in India Stack?

Answer C. Aadhaar

Just as Aadhaar is the identity layer of India Stack, the Farmer ID is the identity layer of AgriStack. Since agriculture is a State subject, the pace and manner of AgriStack implementation differ from state to state, and states play a central role in verifying land and crop data.

Q6. The upgraded NMMS 2.0 app for recording worker attendance under VB-G RAM G was developed with technical support from which institution?

Answer D. IIT Madras

NMMS stands for National Mobile Monitoring System. Version 2.0, launched by Shivraj Singh Chouhan, was built with IIT Madras and adds device-level security, AI-based verification and offline attendance, all meant to curb fake attendance under the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar & Ajeevika Mission (Gramin).

Q7. Under the RBI's revised leverage ratio framework, what minimum leverage ratio applies to Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)?

Answer C. 4%

D-SIBs must keep a minimum leverage ratio of 4%, while other banks need 3.5%. Indian branches of Global Systemically Important Banks (G-SIBs) need 3.5% plus the applicable buffer. The higher bar for D-SIBs reflects the bigger risk their failure would pose to the economy.

Q8. From which date will the RBI's revised bank leverage ratio framework come into effect?

Answer B. 1 April 2027

The changes were issued through the Commercial Banks – Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy (Eleventh Amendment Directions), 2026, and take effect from 1 April 2027. They bring Indian rules in line with the 2017 Basel Committee on Banking Supervision standard under Basel III.

Q9. The leverage ratio measures a bank's capital against its total exposure. Which capital is used in this ratio?

Answer D. Tier 1 capital

The leverage ratio compares a bank's Tier 1 capital with its total exposure, covering both on-balance-sheet and off-balance-sheet items. Unlike the risk-weighted capital ratio, it is a simple, non-risk-based backstop that stops banks from building up too much debt.

Q10. The World Bank's World Development Report 2026 recommends which three-step approach to AI for developing countries?

Answer B. Adoption, adaptation and advancement

The report suggests countries first adopt existing AI tools, then adapt them to local needs and finally advance by building their own capabilities. It also stresses basics like electricity, internet, computing, quality data and skilled workers, and urges scaling up pilots only on evidence of impact.

Q11. Under the IndiaAI Mission, 'AIKosh' is the name of which pillar?

Answer E. IndiaAI Datasets Platform

AIKosh is the IndiaAI Datasets Platform, which gives developers access to datasets for building AI. It is one of seven pillars of the IndiaAI Mission, alongside Compute Capacity, the Innovation Centre, Application Development, FutureSkills, Startup Financing and Safe and Trusted AI.

Q12. Who chaired the 30th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) in New Delhi?

Answer C. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

The FSDC is chaired by the Union Finance Minister, and Nirmala Sitharaman led its 30th meeting. The council reviews domestic and global financial developments and emerging risks, and helps coordinate the work of financial-sector regulators such as RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA.

Q13. India's first Snow Leopard Population Assessment (SPAI) recorded how many snow leopards in the country?

Answer C. 718

The SPAI counted 718 snow leopards, of which 477 are in Ladakh. The Environment Ministry highlighted the figures on International Snow Leopard Day, 23 October. Known as the 'Ghost of the Mountains', Panthera uncia is a solitary apex predator listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN.

Q14. Ashoke Sen became the first Indian to win the 2026 Oskar Klein Medal. His research mainly focuses on which field?

Answer D. String theory

The medal is given by Stockholm University and the Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Sen works on string theory, which tries to explain all particles and forces, including gravity, in one framework and link quantum physics with Einstein's relativity.

QUIZ 22 OF 26

27 October 2026

14 questions · Schemes 5 · Sci & Env 4 · Agri & Rural 2 · Economy 2

Q1

Sauj Jheel, which recently became India's 103rd Ramsar Site, is located in which district of Uttar Pradesh?

A. Ballia
B. Mainpuri
C. Etawah
D. Agra
E. Bareilly

Q2

Which wetland was designated as India's 100th Ramsar Site in June 2026?

A. Glaw Lake
B. Sukhna Wetland
C. Surha Tal (Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary)
D. Chilika Lake
E. Loktak Lake

Q3

Which two Indian Ramsar Sites are currently placed on the Montreux Record?

A. Chilika Lake and Keoladeo National Park
B. Keoladeo National Park and Loktak Lake
C. Loktak Lake and Wular Lake
D. Sambhar Lake and Chilika Lake
E. Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel

Q4

In hydroseeding, recently used by Tata Steel to restore mined land in Jharkhand, what role do tackifiers play in the slurry?

A. They act as binders
B. They supply nitrogen to the soil
C. They kill weeds before planting
D. They are the grass seeds themselves
E. They raise the salinity of the water

Q5

The Kharai camel of Kutch, known as the 'swimming camel', was recognised as a distinct breed in 2015 by which body?

A. ICAR-National Research Centre on Camel
B. National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR)
C. Animal Welfare Board of India
D. National Dairy Development Board
E. Gujarat Livestock Development Board

Q6

A recent study comparing protein bioavailability in plant-based meat and chicken was carried out by the Good Food Institute India along with which institute?

A. CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru
B. CSIR-IHBT, Palampur
C. ICAR-NRC on Meat, Hyderabad
D. CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad
E. ICMR-NIN, Hyderabad

Q7

The SAMHiTA Project of India and Sri Lanka, aimed at digitising ancient manuscripts, was launched at which place?

A. Temple of the Tooth, Kandy
B. Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo
C. Kelaniya Raja Maha Vihara
D. Jaffna Cultural Centre
E. Thiruketheeswaram Temple, Mannar

Q8

AATAL, a laboratory for atmospheric chemistry and aerosol toxicity analysis inaugurated in New Delhi, has been developed by which institution?

A. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune
B. India Meteorological Department
C. National Physical Laboratory
D. Central Pollution Control Board
E. IIT Delhi

Q9

Which of the following districts is NOT among the six districts covered by the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority?

A. Tuensang
B. Mon
C. Kiphire
D. Kohima
E. Noklak

Q10

At India Chem 2026, what target was highlighted for the size of India's chemical industry by 2030?

A. US$150 billion
B. US$300 billion
C. US$500 billion
D. US$1 trillion
E. US$1.6 trillion

Q11

To allow E85 and E100 flex-fuel vehicles, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways amended which rules on 23 October 2026?

A. Motor Vehicles (Driving) Regulations, 2017
B. Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989
C. Bharat Stage Emission Norms, 2020
D. Motor Vehicles Aggregator Guidelines, 2020
E. Energy Conservation Rules, 2001

Q12

Kufri Jamunia, a biofortified potato variety with dark purple skin, was developed by which institute?

A. ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
B. ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla
C. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram
D. CSIR-IHBT, Palampur
E. Dr YS Parmar University, Solan

Q13

Of the capital acquisition proposals worth about Rs 2.12 lakh crore cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council, roughly what share will be sourced from Indian industry?

A. 62%
B. 72%
C. 82%
D. 92%
E. 100%

Q14

At the Asian Para Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya), India finished fourth with how many medals?

A. 99
B. 106
C. 111
D. 114
E. 135

ANSWERS — 27 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** C	**Q3** B	**Q4** A	**Q5** B
Q6 B	**Q7** B	**Q8** A	**Q9** D	**Q10** B
Q11 B	**Q12** B	**Q13** C	**Q14** D	

Q1. Sauj Jheel, which recently became India's 103rd Ramsar Site, is located in which district of Uttar Pradesh?

Answer B. Mainpuri

Sauj Jheel is a shallow floodplain lake in Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh. It was designated on 15 October 2026 along with Sukhna Wetland in Chandigarh, an artificial rain-fed reservoir at the Shivalik foothills. These two additions took India's total to 103 Ramsar Sites, spread over more than 13.87 lakh hectares in 28 States and UTs. Ballia is the district of Surha Tal, the 100th site.

Q2. Which wetland was designated as India's 100th Ramsar Site in June 2026?

Answer C. Surha Tal (Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary)

Surha Tal, also known as the Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh, became the 100th site in June 2026. It is a floodplain ecosystem rich in birdlife. Glaw Lake in Arunachal Pradesh followed as the 101st site in August 2026. Chilika Lake and Keoladeo National Park were India's first sites after the country joined the Convention in 1982.

Q3. Which two Indian Ramsar Sites are currently placed on the Montreux Record?

Answer B. Keoladeo National Park and Loktak Lake

The Montreux Record lists Ramsar Sites whose ecological character is changing or is likely to change, so they need priority conservation attention. India has two sites on it: Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan and Loktak Lake in Manipur. The Ramsar Convention itself was signed at Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 and came into force in 1975, making it the oldest modern global environmental treaty.

Q4. In hydroseeding, recently used by Tata Steel to restore mined land in Jharkhand, what role do tackifiers play in the slurry?

Answer A. They act as binders

Hydroseeding is a mechanised planting method in which a slurry of seeds, fibrous mulch, fertiliser, tackifiers (binders), soil-conditioning agents and water is sprayed on bare ground with high-pressure equipment. The binders help the mix stick to slopes. Tata Steel's West Bokaro Division in Ramgarh district has used it on over 50 acres of mined land and overburden dumps, the first such effort in the state, to build green cover and check erosion.

Q5. The Kharai camel of Kutch, known as the 'swimming camel', was recognised as a distinct breed in 2015 by which body?

Answer B. National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR)

Kharai camels live in the coastal areas and mangrove swamps of Kutch and feed on Avicennia marina mangroves, while the Kutchhi camel lives in inland thorn-scrub and the Rann. NBAGR recognised Kharai as a separate breed in 2015. These camels are reared by the Rabari, Maldhari and Jath communities. Their number in Kutch has fallen sharply from over 17,600 in 1992, and the Bhed Mata Camel Fair now sees fewer than 200 animals.

Q6. A recent study comparing protein bioavailability in plant-based meat and chicken was carried out by the Good Food Institute India along with which institute?

Answer B. CSIR-IHBT, Palampur

Scientists from the CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur, worked with GFI India using an in vitro method, that is, lab testing outside a living body. Plant-based seekh kebabs showed protein bioavailability of 80.8% and 86.1% against 38.8% for chicken. Nuggets scored 61.2% versus 43.4%, and plant-based burger patties about 57-58% versus 21.2%.

Q7. The SAMHiTA Project of India and Sri Lanka, aimed at digitising ancient manuscripts, was launched at which place?

Answer B. Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo

SAMHiTA stands for South Asian Manuscript Histories and Textual Archive. It was launched at Gangaramaya Temple, one of Colombo's leading Buddhist temples and Sri Lanka's first partner institution, with an MoU signed in July 2026. It will digitise 100 manuscripts by November 2026 and is run by the India International Centre, New Delhi, with Indian government grant support.

Q8. AATAL, a laboratory for atmospheric chemistry and aerosol toxicity analysis inaugurated in New Delhi, has been developed by which institution?

Answer A. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune

AATAL was built by IITM Pune, which works under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, and is located at the IITM Delhi branch. Inaugurated by Dr Jitendra Singh, it goes beyond normal monitoring: it identifies the molecular make-up of pollutants, tracks how they change in the air, finds sources in real time and assesses health risks. It links with AIRWISE, which gives 400-metre resolution forecasts for 72 hours.

Q9. Which of the following districts is NOT among the six districts covered by the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority?

Answer D. Kohima

The FNTA covers Tuensang, Mon, Longleng, Kiphire, Noklak and Shamator in Eastern Nagaland, home mainly to the Konyak, Chang, Phom and Sangtam tribes. The Bill was passed unanimously by the Nagaland Assembly and has received Presidential assent. It rests on the tripartite MoA of 5 February 2026 between the Centre, the state government and ENPO, while the Assembly keeps legislative power over the region.

Q10. At India Chem 2026, what target was highlighted for the size of India's chemical industry by 2030?

Answer B. US$300 billion

The 14th India Chem was held from 22 to 24 October 2026 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, NESCO, Mumbai, with the theme 'Advantage Bharat: An Emerging Global Chemicals Hub'. It was organised by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals with FICCI. The roadmap aims at US$300 billion by 2030, US$1 trillion by 2040 and around US$1.6 trillion by 2047.

Q11. To allow E85 and E100 flex-fuel vehicles, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways amended which rules on 23 October 2026?

Answer B. Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989

The amendment to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 sets the regulatory framework for vehicles using higher ethanol blends. E85 contains up to 85% ethanol, while E100 refers to ethanol fuel. Flex-fuel vehicles can run on petrol as well as specified ethanol blends, so the change helps widen the use of alternative fuels in transport.

Q12. Kufri Jamunia, a biofortified potato variety with dark purple skin, was developed by which institute?

Answer B. ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla

Kufri Jamunia was developed by ICAR-CPRI, Shimla, and officially released in 2024. Its dark purple skin is its key identifying feature. Biofortification means raising the nutritional quality of a crop through plant breeding and related methods, which helps tackle hidden hunger through everyday food.

Q13. Of the capital acquisition proposals worth about Rs 2.12 lakh crore cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council, roughly what share will be sourced from Indian industry?

Answer C. 82%

The DAC, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for proposals for all three services, with around 82% from domestic industry. AoN is only the first formal approval that confirms the need for equipment; it does not mean final contracts are signed. Army items include high-mobility vehicles, self-propelled tracked guns, light multi-role helicopters, VSHORADS, surveillance UAVs and long-range kamikaze drones.

Q14. At the Asian Para Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya), India finished fourth with how many medals?

Answer D. 114

India won 114 medals - 30 gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze - with 168 athletes across 11 disciplines at the fifth Asian Para Games held in Japan from 18 to 24 October 2026. China topped the table with 435 medals, followed by Japan (186) and Uzbekistan (145). Doha, Qatar, will host the sixth edition in 2030.

QUIZ 23 OF 26

28 October 2026

14 questions · Schemes 4 · Agri & Rural 3 · Economy 2 · Banking 2

Q1

Which Union Territory has been declared India's first 100 per cent Organic Union Territory?

A. Jammu and Kashmir
B. Ladakh
C. Lakshadweep
D. Puducherry
E. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Q2

In which month of 2026 did Ladakh impose a complete ban on the procurement, sale and use of chemical and synthetic fertilisers?

A. January 2026
B. March 2026
C. May 2026
D. July 2026
E. October 2026

Q3

Which Indian state has the largest area under organic farming?

A. Sikkim
B. Rajasthan
C. Madhya Pradesh
D. Maharashtra
E. Uttarakhand

Q4

To create a framework for flex-fuel vehicles that can run on ethanol blends up to E100, MoRTH amended which rules?

A. Motor Vehicles (Driving) Regulations, 2017
B. Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989
C. Bureau of Energy Efficiency Rules, 2001
D. Petroleum Rules, 2002
E. National Biofuel Rules, 2018

Q5

What is the outlay of the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS) approved by the Union Cabinet?

A. ₹5,000 crore
B. ₹7,500 crore
C. ₹10,000 crore
D. ₹15,000 crore
E. ₹20,000 crore

Q6

The Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme aims to raise India's annual domestic container manufacturing capacity to about how many TEUs?

A. 75,000 TEUs
B. 2,50,000 TEUs
C. 5,00,000 TEUs
D. 7,50,000 TEUs
E. 10,00,000 TEUs

Q7

Which age group of Indian citizens is eligible for skill training under the PM-DAKSH Yojana?

A. 14–35 years
B. 16–40 years
C. 18–35 years
D. 18–45 years
E. 21–50 years

Q8

Which of the following correctly describes the PM-DAKSH Yojana?

A. Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2015–16
B. Central Sector Scheme launched in 2020–21
C. State scheme of Maharashtra launched in 2019–20
D. Central Sector Scheme launched in 2023–24
E. Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2022–23

Q9

In an Initial Public Offering (IPO), what does an 'Offer for Sale' (OFS) mean?

A. The company issues new shares to raise fresh capital
B. Existing shareholders sell their shares to the public
C. The company buys back its own shares
D. Shares are given free to existing shareholders
E. Debt is converted into equity

Q10

The newly discovered deep-sea Arabian Black Electric Ray (Tetronarce ramanamurthyi) is named after M. V. Ramana Murthy, who is associated with which programme?

A. Gaganyaan Mission
B. Namami Gange
C. Deep Ocean Mission
D. National Mission on Himalayan Studies
E. Sagarmala Programme

Q11

Captive-bred Great Indian Bustards (Ardeotis nigriceps) have been released into the wild at which protected area?

A. Ranthambore National Park
B. Gir National Park
C. Desert National Park, Jaisalmer
D. Kuno National Park
E. Tal Chhapar Sanctuary

Q12

Where were the 19th Urban Mobility India Conference and the second National Urban Conclave held in October 2026?

A. Pune
B. Bhubaneswar
C. Indore
D. Kochi
E. Gandhinagar

Q13

Indian AI company Sarvam signed a five-year MoU for AI projects across the three Services with which body?

A. DRDO
B. Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS)
C. Indian Space Research Organisation
D. Bharat Electronics Limited
E. National Security Council Secretariat

Q14

What is the theme of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026, observed from 26 October to 1 November?

A. Integrity for Growth
B. Corruption-Free India for a Developed Nation
C. Probity for Prosperity
D. Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity
E. Transparency in Governance

ANSWERS — 28 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** D	**Q3** C	**Q4** B	**Q5** C
Q6 D	**Q7** D	**Q8** B	**Q9** B	**Q10** C
Q11 C	**Q12** B	**Q13** B	**Q14** C	

Q1. Which Union Territory has been declared India's first 100 per cent Organic Union Territory?

Answer B. Ladakh

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena declared Ladakh India's first fully organic Union Territory in October 2026. The move aims to promote chemical-free farming, protect the fragile Himalayan ecosystem and improve farmer incomes through certification, value addition and better market links.

Q2. In which month of 2026 did Ladakh impose a complete ban on the procurement, sale and use of chemical and synthetic fertilisers?

Answer D. July 2026

The transition happened in stages. Organic fertilisers were distributed to villages in March 2026 ahead of the sowing season, a total ban on chemical and synthetic fertilisers followed in July 2026, and the UT was declared fully organic in October 2026.

Q3. Which Indian state has the largest area under organic farming?

Answer C. Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh leads India in total area under organic cultivation. Sikkim, on the other hand, became India's first fully organic state in 2016 and won the FAO Future Policy Gold Award in 2018. India also has the largest number of organic farmers in the world.

Q4. To create a framework for flex-fuel vehicles that can run on ethanol blends up to E100, MoRTH amended which rules?

Answer B. Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 for flex-fuel vehicles. E100 is fuel made almost entirely of ethanol from sugarcane, molasses or maize. Wider ethanol use can open new markets for farm produce and cut crude oil imports.

Q5. What is the outlay of the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS) approved by the Union Cabinet?

Answer C. ₹10,000 crore

The Cabinet approved the ₹10,000 crore CMPS, first announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the February Budget. The scheme will run till 2039-40 and seeks to build a globally competitive container manufacturing industry in India.

Q6. The Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme aims to raise India's annual domestic container manufacturing capacity to about how many TEUs?

Answer D. 7,50,000 TEUs

CMPS targets a roughly ten-fold rise in capacity to 7,50,000 TEUs a year. Indian traders have faced high and volatile freight and container costs since 2023, and global shipping lines have bought containers mostly from China because of its cost advantage.

Q7. Which age group of Indian citizens is eligible for skill training under the PM-DAKSH Yojana?

Answer D. 18–45 years

PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi) Yojana covers citizens aged 18–45 years. It gives skill training to SCs, OBCs, EWS, De-notified Tribes and Safai Karamcharis, including waste pickers, to improve their employability.

Q8. Which of the following correctly describes the PM-DAKSH Yojana?

Answer B. Central Sector Scheme launched in 2020–21

PM-DAKSH is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2020–21 under the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. It is implemented through NSFDC, NBCFDC and NSKFDC. In October 2026 the department said 1.87 lakh candidates had been trained so far.

Q9. In an Initial Public Offering (IPO), what does an 'Offer for Sale' (OFS) mean?

Answer B. Existing shareholders sell their shares to the public

An IPO can have two parts. In a Fresh Issue the company creates new shares and the money goes to the company. In an Offer for Sale, existing shareholders sell part of their holding, so the money goes to them, not to the company.

Q10. The newly discovered deep-sea Arabian Black Electric Ray (Tetronarce ramanamurthyi) is named after M. V. Ramana Murthy, who is associated with which programme?

Answer C. Deep Ocean Mission

Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India found the species in the southeastern Arabian Sea. It is named after M. V. Ramana Murthy, Mission Director of the Deep Ocean Mission, for his work in marine science. It belongs to the family Torpedinidae.

Q11. Captive-bred Great Indian Bustards (Ardeotis nigriceps) have been released into the wild at which protected area?

Answer C. Desert National Park, Jaisalmer

The first captive-bred birds were released at Desert National Park in Jaisalmer. One bird was apparently killed by a desert fox, but officials will continue releases and treat predation as part of reintroduction. The bird is Rajasthan's State Bird and is Critically Endangered on the IUCN list.

Q12. Where were the 19th Urban Mobility India Conference and the second National Urban Conclave held in October 2026?

Answer B. Bhubaneswar

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Government of Odisha held both events in Bhubaneswar from 23 to 25 October 2026. The mobility conference theme was 'Urban Accessibility and Liveability in Digital Age', with a focus on sustainable transport and better city governance.

Q13. Indian AI company Sarvam signed a five-year MoU for AI projects across the three Services with which body?

Answer B. Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS)

Sarvam signed the MoU with HQ IDS under the Ministry of Defence. It sets up an umbrella framework for AI projects in the Army, Navy and Air Force, covering data analysis and planning, and supports the use of indigenous AI in defence.

Q14. What is the theme of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026, observed from 26 October to 1 November?

Answer C. Probity for Prosperity

The Central Vigilance Commission leads the week, and the 2026 theme is 'Probity for Prosperity'. It promotes integrity and transparency in public life and coincides with the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31 October.

QUIZ 24 OF 26

29 October 2026

14 questions · Schemes 5 · Sci & Env 4 · Banking 2 · Reports 2

Q1

What is the total outlay of the PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY) approved by the Union Cabinet for 2026–27 to 2030–31?

A. ₹4,869.48 crore
B. ₹5,911.00 crore
C. ₹7,395.55 crore
D. ₹8,250.00 crore
E. ₹10,000.00 crore

Q2

PM-VGSY is an upgraded version of which existing scheme?

A. Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan
B. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–NRLM
C. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission
D. SVAMITVA Scheme
E. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana

Q3

Under PM-VGSY, Gram Panchayat Development Plans for 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats are to be prepared through which digital platform?

A. e-NAM
B. PM Gati Shakti
C. eGramSwaraj
D. Meri Panchayat
E. UMANG

Q4

The Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, added by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, contains how many subjects?

A. 18
B. 22
C. 29
D. 32
E. 47

Q5

SBI's new Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence, CyRIS, launched in Mumbai, works through which three pillars?

A. DETECT, PROTECT, RECOVER
B. THINK, INNOVATE, DEFEND
C. LEARN, BUILD, SECURE
D. PLAN, ACT, REVIEW
E. IDENTIFY, RESPOND, RESTORE

Q6

What is India's rank in the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2026?

A. 79th
B. 84th
C. 86th
D. 88th
E. 92nd

Q7

Which country topped the WJP Rule of Law Index 2026?

A. Norway
B. Finland
C. Denmark
D. Sweden
E. New Zealand

Q8

What is the full form of RELIEF, the export support initiative of the Department of Commerce?

A. Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation
B. Rapid Export Logistics and Insurance for Exporters' Finance
C. Risk Evaluation and Logistics Intervention for Export Finance
D. Relief for Exporters through Logistics and Insurance Enhancement Facility
E. Resilient Export Logistics Infrastructure and Enabling Framework

Q9

RELIEF is implemented through which organisation, and its Component II window has been extended till when?

A. EXIM Bank; 31 December 2026
B. ECGC; 31 March 2027
C. SIDBI; 30 June 2027
D. ECGC; 30 September 2026
E. DGFT; 31 March 2028

Q10

Under NAPS-2, what share of the minimum stipend does the government pay to apprentices, and what is the monthly cap?

A. 10%, capped at ₹1,000
B. 25%, capped at ₹1,500
C. 25%, capped at ₹2,500
D. 50%, capped at ₹1,500
E. 50%, capped at ₹3,000

Q11

In IUCN's first global coral reef assessment under the Red List of Ecosystems, which reef ecoregion has been classified as 'collapsed'?

A. Great Barrier Reef
B. Gulf of Mannar
C. Western Galápagos
D. Red Sea
E. Maldives

Q12

According to the IUCN coral reef assessment, which threat affects the largest share (77 per cent) of reef ecoregions?

A. Overfishing
B. Marine heat stress
C. Plastic pollution
D. Coastal construction
E. Invasive species

Q13

What are the names of India's first genome-edited rice varieties released in 2025?

A. Pusa Basmati 1121 and Swarna
B. DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala) and Pusa DST Rice 1
C. Golden Rice and IR-64
D. Sahbhagi Dhan and Pusa 44
E. DMH-11 and Bt Rice 1

Q14

Nobel laureate Richard J. Roberts, speaking at ESTIC 2026, said which term should replace 'genetically modified'?

A. Gene-edited
B. Naturally improved
C. Biotechnologically modified
D. Scientifically enhanced
E. Bio-fortified

ANSWERS — 29 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 C	**Q2** A	**Q3** C	**Q4** C	**Q5** B
Q6 D	**Q7** C	**Q8** A	**Q9** B	**Q10** B
Q11 C	**Q12** B	**Q13** B	**Q14** C	

Q1. What is the total outlay of the PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY) approved by the Union Cabinet for 2026–27 to 2030–31?

Answer C. ₹7,395.55 crore

PM-VGSY has an outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore for five years. The Centre will give ₹4,869.48 crore and the States ₹2,526.07 crore. The aim is to improve the planning and governance capacity of Gram Panchayats across the country.

Q2. PM-VGSY is an upgraded version of which existing scheme?

Answer A. Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

PM-VGSY upgrades the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan. It moves away from separate training for each scheme to an integrated approach to village development, and plans to train about 32 lakh elected representatives and functionaries.

Q3. Under PM-VGSY, Gram Panchayat Development Plans for 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats are to be prepared through which digital platform?

Answer C. eGramSwaraj

The scheme targets 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayat Development Plans through eGramSwaraj, the Panchayati Raj Ministry's planning and accounting portal. Digital planning helps panchayats track works and funds in a more transparent way.

Q4. The Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, added by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, contains how many subjects?

Answer C. 29

The 73rd Amendment gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj by adding Part IX and the Eleventh Schedule. The Eleventh Schedule lists 29 subjects, such as agriculture and drinking water, that can be devolved to panchayats.

Q5. SBI's new Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence, CyRIS, launched in Mumbai, works through which three pillars?

Answer B. THINK, INNOVATE, DEFEND

CyRIS rests on THINK (policy, education and talent), INNOVATE (research and security solutions) and DEFEND (threat detection and incident response). It was inaugurated by DFS Secretary Sanjay Lohiya in the presence of SBI Chairman C. S. Setty.

Q6. What is India's rank in the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2026?

Answer D. 88th

India ranked 88th out of 143 countries with a score of 0.48, slipping from 86th in 2025. The index judges rule of law on eight factors, including absence of corruption, fundamental rights and civil and criminal justice.

Q7. Which country topped the WJP Rule of Law Index 2026?

Answer C. Denmark

Denmark ranked first with a score of 0.90, followed by Norway and Finland. Venezuela was last at 143rd with 0.26. The 2026 edition covers 143 countries, home to about 95 per cent of the world's population.

Q8. What is the full form of RELIEF, the export support initiative of the Department of Commerce?

Answer A. Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation

RELIEF stands for Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation. Launched on 19 March 2026 under the Export Promotion Mission, it is a time-bound safety net for exporters hit by shipping surcharges, route diversions and transit risks in West Asia.

Q9. RELIEF is implemented through which organisation, and its Component II window has been extended till when?

Answer B. ECGC; 31 March 2027

The scheme was framed by the Department of Commerce and runs through the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) and its digital portal. The operational window under Component II has been extended to 31 March 2027.

Q10. Under NAPS-2, what share of the minimum stipend does the government pay to apprentices, and what is the monthly cap?

Answer B. 25%, capped at ₹1,500

Under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme-2, the government pays 25 per cent of the minimum stipend, up to ₹1,500 a month. Women's share among apprentices rose from 11.8% in 2018–19 to 32.4% in 2025–26, but they remain rare in technical trades.

Q11. In IUCN's first global coral reef assessment under the Red List of Ecosystems, which reef ecoregion has been classified as 'collapsed'?

Answer C. Western Galápagos

The assessment, released at the UN Biodiversity Conference in Yerevan, Armenia, rated 122 of 127 ecoregions (96 per cent) as Critically Endangered, with the Western Galápagos already collapsed. Collapse risk is projected by 2075.

Q12. According to the IUCN coral reef assessment, which threat affects the largest share (77 per cent) of reef ecoregions?

Answer B. Marine heat stress

Marine heat stress affects 77 per cent of reef ecoregions, while overfishing affects 63 per cent. Extreme heat makes corals lose their zooxanthellae algae, which supply up to 90 per cent of their energy, and the reef can turn into algae and rubble.

Q13. What are the names of India's first genome-edited rice varieties released in 2025?

Answer B. DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala) and Pusa DST Rice 1

India released DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala) and Pusa DST Rice 1 in 2025. Genome-edited crops under SDN-1 and SDN-2 are exempt from GM rules because no foreign DNA is added. Bt cotton remains India's only commercially approved GM crop.

Q14. Nobel laureate Richard J. Roberts, speaking at ESTIC 2026, said which term should replace 'genetically modified'?

Answer C. Biotechnologically modified

Roberts, who won the 1993 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering split genes, called the GM label misleading and preferred 'biotechnologically modified'. He argued that every life form has been genetically modified by evolution and that India can build its own GM technology.

QUIZ 25 OF 26

30 October 2026

14 questions · Banking 5 · Agri & Rural 4 · Schemes 2 · Misc GA 1

Q1

Which institute developed the gene-edited rice variety DRR Dhan 100, released in India in 2025?

A. ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute
B. ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research
C. ICAR-National Rice Research Institute
D. International Rice Research Institute
E. Punjab Agricultural University

Q2

Pusa DST Rice 1, a CRISPR-Cas9 based rice variety, is mainly known for which feature?

A. Tolerance to submergence for up to two weeks
B. Resistance to bacterial leaf blight
C. Better performance in saline and alkaline soils
D. High zinc content for better nutrition
E. Suitability for direct seeding in dry areas

Q3

What is apomixis in plants?

A. Fusion of male and female gametes to form a seed
B. Insertion of a gene taken from another species
C. Growing plants in a nutrient solution without soil
D. Seed formation without fertilisation, giving offspring almost identical to the mother plant
E. Higher yield obtained by crossing genetically different parents

Q4

Under India's rules, which category of gene editing is regulated in the same way as GM crops?

A. SDN-1 only
B. SDN-2 only
C. Both SDN-1 and SDN-2
D. SDN-3
E. None of the SDN categories

Q5

HB4 wheat, developed in Argentina by Bioceres Crop Solutions, is drought-tolerant because of a gene taken from which plant?

A. Sunflower
B. Soybean
C. Maize
D. Sorghum
E. Mustard

Q6

What outlay has the Union Cabinet approved for the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme for 2026-27 to 2033-34?

A. ₹985 crore
B. ₹1,130 crore
C. ₹1,856.67 crore
D. ₹2,250.50 crore
E. ₹3,400 crore

Q7

According to the World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief, extreme poverty in India (US$3.00 a day line) fell from 27.1 per cent in 2011 to what level in 2023?

A. 16.1 per cent
B. 8.6 per cent
C. 5.3 per cent
D. 2.6 per cent
E. 1.2 per cent

Q8

As per the World Bank brief, about how many people in India moved out of poverty at the US$4.20 a day line between 2011 and 2023?

A. 270 million
B. 496 million
C. 134 million
D. 415 million
E. 550 million

Q9

During April-September 2026, India's fiscal deficit reached what share of the FY27 Budget Estimate?

A. 37 per cent
B. 25 per cent
C. 48 per cent
D. 55 per cent
E. 42 per cent

Q10

The Union Government has raised Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief to what rate with effect from 1 July 2026?

A. 58 per cent
B. 60 per cent
C. 63 per cent
D. 61 per cent
E. 65 per cent

Q11

The MoU signed between SEBI and the Bank of England on 28 October 2026 mainly relates to cooperation on which entities?

A. SEBI-recognised Clearing Corporations (Central Counterparties)
B. Credit rating agencies
C. Mutual fund houses
D. Foreign portfolio investors
E. Stock brokers

Q12

SEBI's SMARTs portal, which faced a code execution attack on 26 October 2026, stands for what?

A. SEBI Market Analytics and Reporting Tool
B. Securities Market Trainers
C. Systematic Monitoring of Accounts and Risk Tracking
D. Securities Market Awareness and Research Team
E. Smart Market Alert and Response System

Q13

The fourth edition of the Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign (TFYC 4.0), launched on 28 October 2026, will run for how many days?

A. 30 days
B. 45 days
C. 60 days
D. 90 days
E. 100 days

Q14

The second BRICS Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' meeting under India's 2026 presidency was co-chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra and whom?

A. The Chief Economic Adviser
B. DEA Secretary Anuradha Thakur
C. The President of the New Development Bank
D. The Lok Sabha Speaker
E. The CEO of NITI Aayog

ANSWERS — 30 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 B	**Q2** C	**Q3** D	**Q4** D	**Q5** A
Q6 C	**Q7** D	**Q8** B	**Q9** E	**Q10** C
Q11 A	**Q12** B	**Q13** C	**Q14** B	

Q1. Which institute developed the gene-edited rice variety DRR Dhan 100, released in India in 2025?

Answer B. ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research

DRR Dhan 100 was developed by ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research using the CRISPR-Cas9 tool. It matures in about 130 days against 150 days for its parent variety and gives nearly 20 per cent higher yield. A shorter crop cycle saves water and gives farmers time for the next crop.

Q2. Pusa DST Rice 1, a CRISPR-Cas9 based rice variety, is mainly known for which feature?

Answer C. Better performance in saline and alkaline soils

Pusa DST Rice 1, developed by ICAR-IARI, does better in saline and alkaline soils, giving 10-30 per cent higher yield in such conditions. Salinity means excess soluble salts in soil, which damage crop growth and is a major problem in many irrigated and coastal areas.

Q3. What is apomixis in plants?

Answer D. Seed formation without fertilisation, giving offspring almost identical to the mother plant

Apomixis is a form of asexual reproduction where seeds form without fertilisation. Because the offspring are almost identical to the mother plant, a hybrid could keep its vigour over generations. This could cut the cost farmers pay for fresh hybrid seed every year.

Q4. Under India's rules, which category of gene editing is regulated in the same way as GM crops?

Answer D. SDN-3

SDN-1 and SDN-2 make small changes in the plant's own DNA without adding foreign DNA, so they are exempt from GM rules. SDN-3 inserts a whole new gene and is treated as GM. That is why two gene-edited rice varieties could be released in 2025 while GM mustard is still stuck in litigation.

Q5. HB4 wheat, developed in Argentina by Bioceres Crop Solutions, is drought-tolerant because of a gene taken from which plant?

Answer A. Sunflower

HB4 wheat carries a sunflower gene that helps it tolerate drought. Since a gene from another species is inserted, it is a transgenic GM crop, not a gene-edited one. In India such crops need GEAC approval, and Bt cotton remains the only commercially approved transgenic crop since 2002.

Q6. What outlay has the Union Cabinet approved for the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme for 2026-27 to 2033-34?

Answer C. ₹1,856.67 crore

The scheme, run by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, aims to boost domestic manufacturing and exports of sports goods and reduce imports. It gives 20 per cent capital support to anchor investors putting in at least ₹100 crore, turnover-linked incentives up to 15 per cent, and plans four manufacturing zones of 300 acres or more each.

Q7. According to the World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief, extreme poverty in India (US$3.00 a day line) fell from 27.1 per cent in 2011 to what level in 2023?

Answer D. 2.6 per cent

The World Bank calls this one of the fastest falls in poverty in the world. At the higher US$4.20 lower-middle-income line, poverty dropped from 57.7 per cent to 16.1 per cent. It credits strong consumption growth, more jobs especially for women, and social transfers such as food subsidies.

Q8. As per the World Bank brief, about how many people in India moved out of poverty at the US$4.20 a day line between 2011 and 2023?

Answer B. 496 million

Around 496 million people crossed the US$4.20 line in this period. The same brief notes that about 80 per cent of Indians are still below the upper-middle-income line of US$8.30 a day. The belt from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal holds 57 per cent of India's poor.

Q9. During April-September 2026, India's fiscal deficit reached what share of the FY27 Budget Estimate?

Answer E. 42 per cent

The deficit rose nearly 25 per cent year-on-year to ₹7.14 lakh crore in the first half of FY27, compared with about 37 per cent of the target a year earlier. Total spending grew about 11 per cent to ₹25.50 lakh crore, led by revenue expenditure on subsidies, while tax collection was slower.

Q10. The Union Government has raised Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief to what rate with effect from 1 July 2026?

Answer C. 63 per cent

DA and DR were raised by three percentage points, from 60 to 63 per cent. DA is paid to serving government employees and DR to pensioners. It is a cost-of-living adjustment that protects their purchasing power against inflation.

Q11. The MoU signed between SEBI and the Bank of England on 28 October 2026 mainly relates to cooperation on which entities?

Answer A. SEBI-recognised Clearing Corporations (Central Counterparties)

The MoU sets up regulatory cooperation and information sharing on SEBI-recognised clearing corporations. It allows the Bank of England to rely on SEBI's supervision of these CCPs, subject to law. Clearing corporations complete trade settlement and reduce the risk of default between buyers and sellers.

Q12. SEBI's SMARTs portal, which faced a code execution attack on 26 October 2026, stands for what?

Answer B. Securities Market Trainers

SMARTs is a platform where eligible trainers register with SEBI and conduct investor awareness programmes. A code execution attack exploits a weakness to run unauthorised commands on a system, which can put data at risk and disrupt services. SEBI placed its cyber team on red alert after repeated attempts.

Q13. The fourth edition of the Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign (TFYC 4.0), launched on 28 October 2026, will run for how many days?

Answer C. 60 days

TFYC 4.0 is organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and was launched in New Delhi by MoS Prataprao Jadhav. It focuses on Higher Educational Institutions and tobacco-free campuses, and the Say No to Tobacco pledge asks young people to reject tobacco and nicotine products.

Q14. The second BRICS Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' meeting under India's 2026 presidency was co-chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra and whom?

Answer B. DEA Secretary Anuradha Thakur

The FMCBG meeting was co-chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra and Department of Economic Affairs Secretary Anuradha Thakur. India's 2026 BRICS presidency theme is Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability, and New Delhi also hosted the BRICS Business Forum.

QUIZ 26 OF 26

31 October 2026

14 questions · Schemes 3 · Sci & Env 3 · Economy 2 · Misc GA 2

Q1

Which company developed Pioxaniliprole, recognised as India's first indigenously discovered insecticide active ingredient?

A. UPL Ltd
B. Rallis India
C. PI Industries Ltd
D. Dhanuka Agritech
E. Coromandel International

Q2

Pioxaniliprole belongs to the anthranilic diamide class. What does it target in insects?

A. Acetylcholinesterase enzyme
B. Ryanodine receptors
C. Sodium channels
D. Chitin synthesis
E. GABA receptors

Q3

Under which law has Pioxaniliprole been registered by the CIB&RC?

A. Insecticides Act, 1968
B. Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
C. Seeds Act, 1966
D. Essential Commodities Act, 1955
E. Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006

Q4

India's pesticide use is about how much per hectare?

A. 1.2 kg
B. 2.38 kg
C. 3.5 kg
D. 0.5 kg
E. 5.0 kg

Q5

The UNEP report that recognised India's Ganges River dolphin recovery programme named it one of how many UN World Restoration Flagships?

A. 10
B. 21
C. 35
D. 50
E. 75

Q6

What is the IUCN status of the Ganges River dolphin?

A. Least Concern
B. Near Threatened
C. Vulnerable
D. Endangered
E. Critically Endangered

Q7

The Punah Bharan Mobile Application launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti is meant for which purpose?

A. Real-time monitoring of river water quality
B. Village-level planning of artificial groundwater recharge structures
C. Flood forecasting in the Ganga basin
D. Online payment of irrigation water charges
E. Registering farmers for micro-irrigation subsidy

Q8

What is the total outlay of the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY) for FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31?

A. ₹4,869.48 crore
B. ₹2,526.07 crore
C. ₹5,911 crore
D. ₹9,250 crore
E. ₹7,395.55 crore

Q9

PM-VGSY will cover over how many Panchayats and Traditional Local Bodies?

A. 1.25 lakh
B. 2.55 lakh
C. 3.10 lakh
D. 6.40 lakh
E. 50,000

Q10

IN-SPACe, which selected six private space firms under its AI INSPIRED initiative, is headquartered at which place?

A. Bengaluru
B. Sriharikota
C. Bopal, Ahmedabad
D. Thiruvananthapuram
E. New Delhi

Q11

Ayushman Vay Vandana, which completed two years in October 2026, covers senior citizens of what age and above?

A. 70 years
B. 60 years
C. 65 years
D. 75 years
E. 80 years

Q12

The first World Savings Day was observed on 31 October 1924 during the first International Thrift Congress held in which city?

A. Paris
B. Geneva
C. Milan
D. Vienna
E. London

Q13

Which UN Security Council resolution, adopted on 31 October 2000, established the Women, Peace and Security agenda?

A. Resolution 1244
B. Resolution 1325
C. Resolution 1820
D. Resolution 2250
E. Resolution 68/239

Q14

ISRO's GSLV-F18 launched which satellite to support continuity of the NavIC system?

A. NVS-01
B. GSAT-20
C. NVS-02
D. NVS-03
E. IRNSS-1I

ANSWERS — 31 OCTOBER 2026

Q1 C	**Q2** B	**Q3** A	**Q4** D	**Q5** C
Q6 D	**Q7** B	**Q8** E	**Q9** B	**Q10** C
Q11 A	**Q12** C	**Q13** B	**Q14** D	

Q1. Which company developed Pioxaniliprole, recognised as India's first indigenously discovered insecticide active ingredient?

Answer C. PI Industries Ltd

PI Industries Ltd of Gurugram developed Pioxaniliprole over more than a decade of research at a cost of about ₹2,000 crore. It will be sold as Pioxazon from the Rabi 2026-27 season and is approved for rice, chilli, tomato and Bengal gram against pests such as stem borer, fruit borer and pod borer.

Q2. Pioxaniliprole belongs to the anthranilic diamide class. What does it target in insects?

Answer B. Ryanodine receptors

It acts on ryanodine receptors, causing uncontrolled calcium release and paralysis of the pest. Chlorantraniliprole and cyantraniliprole work the same way, so there is a risk of cross-resistance if farmers keep using the same class.

Q3. Under which law has Pioxaniliprole been registered by the CIB&RC?

Answer A. Insecticides Act, 1968

The CIB&RC registers pesticides under the Insecticides Act, 1968. The proposed Pesticides Management Bill is meant to replace this old law. Related steps in this area include the ban on Paraquat Dichloride and the proposed ban on Carbosulfan.

Q4. India's pesticide use is about how much per hectare?

Answer D. 0.5 kg

India uses about 0.5 kg of pesticide per hectare, far below the global average of 2.38 kg. Still, India is among the largest producers and exporters of generic pesticides, so a home-grown new molecule moves the industry up the value chain.

Q5. The UNEP report that recognised India's Ganges River dolphin recovery programme named it one of how many UN World Restoration Flagships?

Answer C. 35

The report Nature's Comeback – Scaling Ecosystem Restoration for People and Planet listed it among 35 flagships. The Ganges River dolphin, called Susu after the sound it makes while breathing, is India's National Aquatic Animal and the state aquatic animal of Assam.

Q6. What is the IUCN status of the Ganges River dolphin?

Answer D. Endangered

It is listed as Endangered by IUCN, and is in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and CITES Appendix I. This freshwater-only cetacean lives in deep pools, river bends and confluences of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu systems.

Q7. The Punah Bharan Mobile Application launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti is meant for which purpose?

Answer B. Village-level planning of artificial groundwater recharge structures

Punah Bharan is a geospatial decision-support app and web portal built by BISAG-N with the National Water Mission. It moves recharge planning from ad-hoc choices to a data-driven framework, helping maximise rainwater harvesting and keep aquifers healthy over the long term.

Q8. What is the total outlay of the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY) for FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31?

Answer E. ₹7,395.55 crore

PM-VGSY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a Central share of ₹4,869.48 crore and a State share of ₹2,526.07 crore. Run by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, it strengthens grassroots governance through Gram Panchayat Development Plans, capacity building, digital support and financial accountability.

Q9. PM-VGSY will cover over how many Panchayats and Traditional Local Bodies?

Answer B. 2.55 lakh

The scheme covers all States and UTs, with more than 2.55 lakh Panchayats and Traditional Local Bodies, including areas where Panchayats under Part IX do not exist. Its six components include a common digital platform for Panchayat governance and linking national priorities with local needs.

Q10. IN-SPACe, which selected six private space firms under its AI INSPIRED initiative, is headquartered at which place?

Answer C. Bopal, Ahmedabad

IN-SPACe is an autonomous single-window agency under the Department of Space that acts as both regulator and promoter for non-government space entities. Under AI INSPIRED, the six selected entities will get seed-fund grants of up to ₹1 crore each.

Q11. Ayushman Vay Vandana, which completed two years in October 2026, covers senior citizens of what age and above?

Answer A. 70 years

All senior citizens aged 70 and above get cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for hospitalisation, whatever their income. Those whose families are already under AB PM-JAY get an extra top-up of up to ₹5 lakh only for themselves. The National Health Authority implements it.

Q12. The first World Savings Day was observed on 31 October 1924 during the first International Thrift Congress held in which city?

Answer C. Milan

World Savings Day, also called World Thrift Day, promotes the habit of saving and financial security. It was introduced by Italian professor Filippo Ravizza. The 2026 theme is AI Advises, Human Decides.

Q13. Which UN Security Council resolution, adopted on 31 October 2000, established the Women, Peace and Security agenda?

Answer B. Resolution 1325

Resolution 1325 promotes women's role in conflict prevention, peace talks and rebuilding after conflict. The 2026 UN Secretary-General's report says at least 25 women and girls were killed daily in armed conflicts in 2025, and 9,788 cases of conflict-related sexual violence were verified.

Q14. ISRO's GSLV-F18 launched which satellite to support continuity of the NavIC system?

Answer D. NVS-03

NVS-03 is the third satellite of the next-generation navigation series and was launched from Sriharikota. NavIC is India's own regional system for Position, Navigation and Timing, covering India and a region about 1,500 km beyond its boundary.

THE CLASSROOM BEHIND THIS QUIZ

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