SAMATA IAS ACADEMY

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

26 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2026 | UPSC CSE



POLITY • ECONOMY • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS • ENVIRONMENT
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • INTERNAL SECURITY • SOCIAL JUSTICE

PRELIMS FACTS | MCQs WITH EXPLANATIONS | MAINS PRACTICE

EDITORIAL NOTE

This is a working magazine draft prepared from the weekly newspaper compilation and a cross-check of available weekly current-affairs indexes. Before public release, verify every date, numerical figure, judgment detail and official designation against the original court order, government release or institutional report. A few items in the earlier website draft require correction or stronger primary-source confirmation.

HOW TO USE THIS MAGAZINE

Read the issue-wise analysis first, connect each development with the relevant static syllabus, and then attempt the Prelims questions without looking at the answer key. For Mains, practise writing structured answers with constitutional, institutional, economic and environmental dimensions.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Theme	Important developments / UPSC connection
Polity & governance	Electoral roll revision and Form 7 safeguards; constitutional accountability; tribunal appointments; privacy, press freedom and the DPDP framework.
Economy	Poverty and equity assessment; container manufacturing; carbon capture; state borrowing and fiscal prudence; InvITs and infrastructure finance.
Environment	Cyclone Arnab; Delhi-NCR GRAP; COP31 and climate finance; methane and emissions; wetlands and pollution control.
Science & technology	NVS-03 and NavIC; genome-edited rice and apomixis; Kalpakkam fast breeder reactor; AI and immersive technologies.
International relations	BRICS Parliamentary Forum; G20 and Quad engagements; India–Poland ties; ASEAN defence cooperation.
Security & defence	Operation Trident; defence acquisition; counter-terrorism cooperation; digital arrest and cyber-fraud concerns.

1. POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

Electoral roll revision: accuracy must be balanced with due process

The week's reporting on bulk Form 7 applications during electoral-roll revision raises questions about the integrity of voter registration and deletion procedures. Form 7 under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 is used to object to an inclusion or seek deletion of an existing entry. A request is not itself a deletion order: the Electoral Registration Officer must follow the prescribed notice, verification and hearing procedure.

Constitutional framework: Article 324 vests superintendence, direction and control of elections in the Election Commission. Article 326 provides for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies on the basis of adult suffrage, subject to constitutional and statutory qualifications. The Representation of the People Act, 1950 and Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 govern electoral-roll preparation and revision.

Governance concerns: wrongful exclusion of eligible electors; bulk or unsubstantiated objections; inadequate notice; weak audit trails; misuse of digital credentials; and barriers faced by migrants, elderly persons and citizens with limited documentation.

Way forward: mandatory traceable audit logs, independent sample audits, accessible notice and appeal mechanisms, clear accountability for digital credentials, and strict compliance with individual hearings before deletion.

Women's occupational freedom and constitutional equality

The Kerala High Court's ruling on the prohibition of women's employment in toddy shops raises a wider constitutional question: whether a restriction framed as protective can become discriminatory by excluding women from an entire occupation. Articles 14, 15, 19(1)(g) and 21 are relevant to equality, non-discrimination, occupational freedom and dignity. The principle associated with Anuj Garg v. Hotel Association of India (2008) is that workplace risks should ordinarily be addressed through safeguards rather than blanket gender exclusion.

Mains angle: distinguish legitimate protective measures from paternalistic restrictions; assess proportionality; and discuss the State's positive duty to ensure safe workplaces.

2. ECONOMY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Poverty reduction, inequality and employment quality

The World Bank's October 2026 India Poverty and Equity Brief is an important source for examining monetary poverty and distributional outcomes. The weekly coverage reports a marked reduction in the population below the lower-middle-income poverty threshold between 2011 and 2023. The figures must always be quoted with their relevant poverty line and 2021 PPP basis; they should not be treated as directly interchangeable with India's national poverty estimates or multidimensional poverty measures.

Conceptual distinction: poverty measures deprivation below a specified threshold, while inequality measures the distribution of income, consumption or wealth. Poverty can fall even when inequality remains high. A durable poverty-reduction strategy requires productive employment, wage growth, women's workforce participation, human-capital investment, social protection and regional convergence.

Trade negotiations and agriculture

India's trade negotiations must balance export opportunities with the livelihood security of small and marginal farmers. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture addresses market access, domestic support and export competition. Policy choices should be informed by product-specific impact assessments, transparent negotiations, safeguards where appropriate, better logistics and higher agricultural productivity.

Financial cybersecurity and resilient infrastructure

The RBI's data-centre and cybersecurity capacity-building initiatives underline that payment and settlement systems are critical infrastructure. Operational resilience requires redundancy, incident response, secure access controls, third-party risk management, skilled personnel and regular testing. Cybersecurity is therefore linked directly to financial stability and public trust in digital payments.

3. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BRICS Parliamentary Forum and multilateral engagement

The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum was held in New Delhi on 26–27 October 2026 and adopted a joint declaration. The forum provides a parliamentary dimension to BRICS cooperation. For India, it is an opportunity to promote dialogue on development, institutional cooperation and reform of global governance while managing differences among members.

India’s engagement with Europe and Poland

Poland is an important Central European partner and a member of the European Union. Stronger bilateral engagement can support trade, investment, defence-industrial cooperation, research and India’s wider European outreach. Analyse the relationship in the context of strategic autonomy, supply-chain resilience and the changing European security environment.

G20, Quad and ASEAN

The week’s diplomatic calendar included engagement around G20 and Quad foreign-ministerial meetings and ASEAN-related defence cooperation. These platforms illustrate India’s multi-alignment: working with different groupings on maritime security, counter-terrorism, connectivity, resilient supply chains and global economic governance without entering rigid alliance structures.

4. ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Cyclone Arnab and coastal disaster preparedness

Cyclone Arnab made landfall on the Andhra coast on 28 October 2026, according to the weekly current-affairs record. The event is relevant to tropical-cyclone formation, early-warning systems, evacuation, coastal infrastructure and disaster-risk reduction. The Bay of Bengal’s warm waters, high moisture, low-lying deltas and densely populated coastline contribute to vulnerability.

Institutional framework: India Meteorological Department for forecasting; National Disaster Management Authority and State Disaster Management Authorities for planning and coordination; NDRF and local administrations for response. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 provides the statutory framework.

Delhi-NCR air pollution and GRAP

The Graded Response Action Plan is an emergency framework that links restrictions to the severity of air pollution. It can help reduce exposure during severe episodes, but cannot substitute for structural measures addressing transport emissions, industrial sources, construction dust, waste burning and regional pollution. A airshed-based approach requires coordination across the NCR States and local bodies.

Climate negotiations and carbon management

COP31-related reporting, climate finance, methane and carbon-capture proposals offer a useful lens on the tension between mitigation, adaptation and development needs. India’s position should be assessed through climate justice, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, energy access, technology transfer and affordable finance.

5. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND DEFENCE

NavIC and NVS-03

NavIC is India’s regional satellite navigation system developed by ISRO, providing positioning, navigation and timing services. Its strategic value lies in independent capability for civilian, commercial and strategic applications. NVS-03 should be studied in the context of the NavIC constellation, satellite navigation and resilient timing services. Confirm mission-specific launch details against ISRO’s official mission page before publication.

Genome-edited rice and apomixis

Genome editing can enable targeted changes in plant genomes and may support crop improvement, disease resistance, stress tolerance and nutritional traits. Apomixis is a form of asexual seed formation in which seeds develop without fertilisation, potentially allowing desirable hybrid traits to be maintained across generations. Regulatory oversight, biosafety, farmer choice and access to technology remain important policy dimensions.

Kalpakkam fast breeder reactor

Developments at the Kalpakkam fast breeder reactor are relevant to India’s three-stage nuclear power programme. Fast breeder reactors are designed to produce more fissile material than they consume under suitable operating conditions. Their significance lies in long-term utilisation of India’s thorium resources, while safety, fuel-cycle management and waste handling remain central considerations.

Defence acquisition and indigenisation

Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) indicates acceptance of an operational requirement at a stage of the acquisition process; it is not equivalent to contract award or delivery. Domestic procurement can strengthen industrial capability and reduce import dependence, but must be accompanied by timely procurement, testing, lifecycle support and technology development.

6. INTERNAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Narcotics trafficking and hawala networks

Operation Trident, involving agencies and police forces in Assam, Mizoram and Manipur, illustrates the intersection of narcotics trafficking, money laundering and cross-border organised crime. An effective response requires intelligence-led policing, financial investigation, border coordination, international cooperation, demand reduction and treatment-based rehabilitation.

Para-sports and disability inclusion

India’s reported performance at the 2026 Asian Para Games provides an opportunity to examine the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, accessible infrastructure, assistive technology, sports science and equal access to training and competition. Sports can challenge stereotypes, but long-term inclusion requires education, employment and social protection as well.

7. PRELIMS QUICK REVISION

Term / Institution	Prelims pointer
Article 324	Election Commission: superintendence, direction and control of elections.
Article 326	Adult suffrage for elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
Form 7	Objection to inclusion / application for deletion in electoral rolls.
Registration of Electors Rules, 1960	Rules governing electoral-roll registration and revision.
GRAP	Emergency graded response framework for Delhi-NCR air pollution.
CAQM	Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas.
NavIC	India’s regional satellite navigation system developed by ISRO.
Golden Triangle	Narcotics-trafficking region comprising Myanmar, Laos and Thailand.
AoN	Acceptance of Necessity; not a final procurement contract or delivery.
Surangam	Traditional horizontal underground water tunnel system associated with Kasaragod, Kerala.
Disaster Management Act	2005; statutory framework for disaster management in India.

8. PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. With reference to electoral-roll revision, consider the following statements:

1. Article 324 provides the constitutional basis for the Election Commission’s supervision of elections.
2. Form 7 is used to seek deletion of an entry or object to an inclusion.
3. Submission of Form 7 automatically results in deletion.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. Which of the following Articles are relevant to a challenge against a blanket gender-based employment prohibition?

1. Article 14 2. Article 15 3. Article 19(1)(g) 4. Article 21

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1, 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 (d) 2 and 4 only

3. Consider the following statements about poverty and inequality:

1. Poverty is commonly measured against a specified threshold.
2. Multidimensional poverty can include health and education deprivation.
3. A decline in poverty necessarily means inequality has declined.

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

4. Purchasing Power Parity (PPP):

1. Adjusts for differences in price levels between economies.
2. Is necessarily identical to the market exchange rate.
3. Is used to express internationally comparable poverty thresholds.

(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

5. With reference to NavIC, consider the following statements:

1. It is India’s regional satellite navigation system.
2. It provides positioning, navigation and timing services.
3. It is operated by the European Union.

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

6. Which conditions favour tropical cyclone formation?

1. Warm sea-surface temperatures. 2. Adequate atmospheric moisture.
3. Low vertical wind shear. 4. Strong Coriolis force exactly at the equator.

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1, 2 and 3 only (c) 2, 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

7. With reference to GRAP, consider the following statements:

1. It is an emergency response framework for Delhi-NCR.
2. It prescribes graded measures according to air-quality severity.
3. It substitutes for long-term air-pollution control.

(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

8. Acceptance of Necessity in defence procurement:

1. Indicates acceptance of an operational requirement.
2. Is not the same as final contract award or equipment delivery.

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. The Golden Triangle is associated with:

1. Narcotics production and trafficking. 2. Myanmar, Laos and Thailand.

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. Surangams are traditional water-harvesting structures associated with:

(a) Rajasthan (b) Kerala (c) Ladakh (d) Gujarat

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (a)

Article 324 empowers the ECI; Form 7 is used for deletion-related objections. Deletion requires prescribed scrutiny and procedure.

2. (c)

Articles 14, 15, 19(1)(g) and 21 address equality, non-discrimination, occupational freedom and life/liberty.

3. (a)

Poverty and inequality are distinct. Poverty may decline while income or wealth inequality remains high.

4. (b)

PPP adjusts for price-level differences and is not necessarily equal to the market exchange rate.

5. (a)

NavIC is an Indian regional navigation system developed by ISRO. Galileo is the EU system.

6. (b)

Warm water, moisture and low vertical wind shear are favourable. The Coriolis force is very weak at the equator.

7. (b)

GRAP is an emergency framework; structural pollution sources require long-term policies.

8. (c)

AoN accepts the operational requirement but does not itself mean a contract has been awarded or equipment delivered.

9. (c)

The Golden Triangle comprises Myanmar, Laos and Thailand and is associated with illicit narcotics production and trafficking.

10. (b)

Surangams are horizontal underground water tunnels associated particularly with Kasaragod district in Kerala.

9. MAINS ANSWER-WRITING PRACTICE

1. Electoral roll revision is necessary for democratic integrity, but procedural errors can undermine universal adult suffrage. Examine the safeguards required.

2. The State must ensure women’s workplace safety without denying occupational freedom. Discuss in the light of constitutional equality.

3. Poverty reduction must be accompanied by improvements in employment quality and distributional equity. Analyse.

4. Examine the significance of BRICS and other minilateral groupings for India’s strategic autonomy and global governance objectives.

5. India’s cyclone preparedness has improved, but coastal vulnerability remains high. Discuss the need for a multi-hazard, climate-resilient approach.

6. GRAP can manage pollution emergencies but cannot resolve the structural causes of air pollution. Critically examine.

7. Discuss the strategic significance of NavIC and indigenous satellite-navigation capability.

8. Examine the relationship between narcotics trafficking, money laundering and organised crime in India’s Northeast.

CONCLUSION

The week’s developments demonstrate how current affairs connect with enduring themes in the UPSC syllabus: constitutionalism, inclusive growth, strategic autonomy, climate resilience, technological self-reliance and internal security. Aspirants should use each news item as an entry point into the relevant constitutional

provision, statute, institution, economic concept or scientific principle.

SOURCE CHECKLIST FOR FINAL EDITION

Before uploading, cross-check: Election Commission orders and Supreme Court proceedings on Form 7/SIR; World Bank India Poverty and Equity Brief (October 2026); RBI and PIB releases on financial infrastructure; IMD cyclone bulletins; ISRO mission documentation for NVS-03; Ministry of Defence releases on AoN; PIB releases on BRICS and other official meetings; and the relevant High Court judgment on women's employment. Do not rely solely on secondary summaries for legal holdings or precise figures.