DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

31 OCTOBER 2026 | NDA & DEFENCE EXAM EDITION

18 exam-focused updates across National Affairs, Polity, Economy, International Relations, Science, Environment, Defence and Sports.

How to use this issue

Read the headline, remember the key facts and attempt the MCQs at the end. Visuals in this PDF are original editorial illustrations created for learning; they are not documentary photographs of the actual events.

Important date note: This issue covers developments reported for 31 October 2026. Some announcements and events were officially made on 30 October and are included because they formed part of the 31 October current-affairs cycle.

NATIONAL | UNITY

01. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas: India Marks Patel’s 151st Birth Anniversary



• 31 October is observed as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), commemorating Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s birth anniversary.

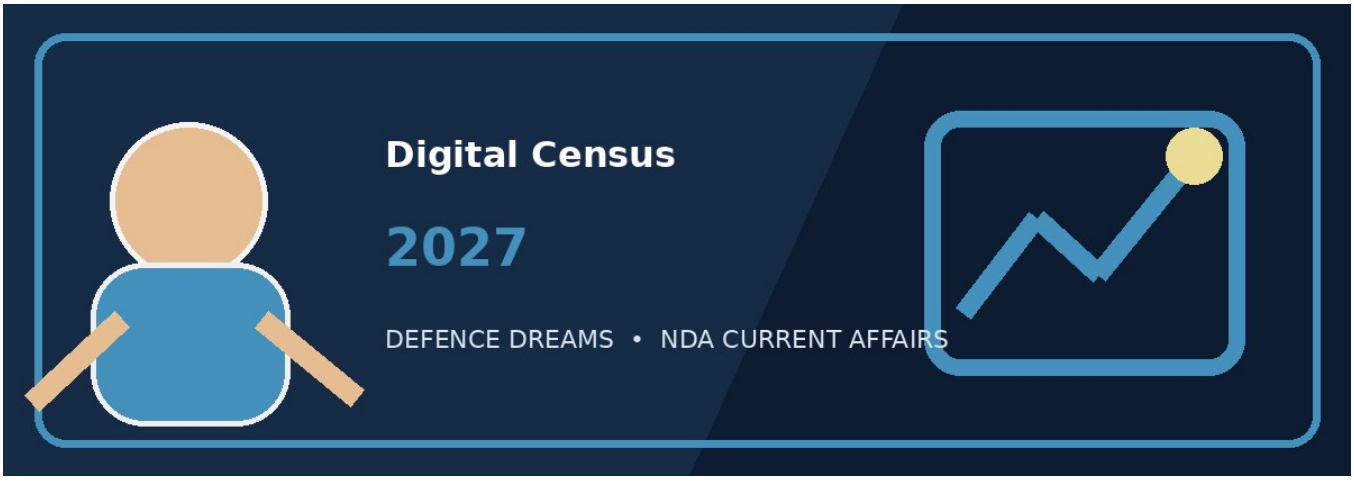
• The Prime Minister paid tribute at the Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat. Thirty-one development projects worth ₹426.71 crore were launched or inaugurated.

• Exam link: Patel, popularly called the Iron Man of India, played a key role in integrating princely states after Independence.

NDA QUICK REVISION: 31 October — Rashtriya Ekta Diwas; Statue of Unity — Gujarat.

POLITY | CENSUS

02. Census 2027: India Prepares for Its First Digital Census



• The population enumeration schedule announced for 2027 is 25 January–28 February 2027; the reference moment is 00:00 on 1 March 2027.

• Self-enumeration is scheduled for 10–24 January 2027. A revisional round is planned for 1–5 March 2027.

• The exercise is planned as India's first digital census and includes caste enumeration for all communities. The approved outlay is ₹11,718.24 crore.

NDA QUICK REVISION: First digital Census; reference date — 1 March 2027.

GOVERNMENT SCHEME | RURAL

03. PMGSY-IV: 45 Road Projects Approved for Mizoram



• Forty-five rural road works covering 509.54 km were cleared for Mizoram under Batch-I of PMGSY-IV for FY 2026–27.

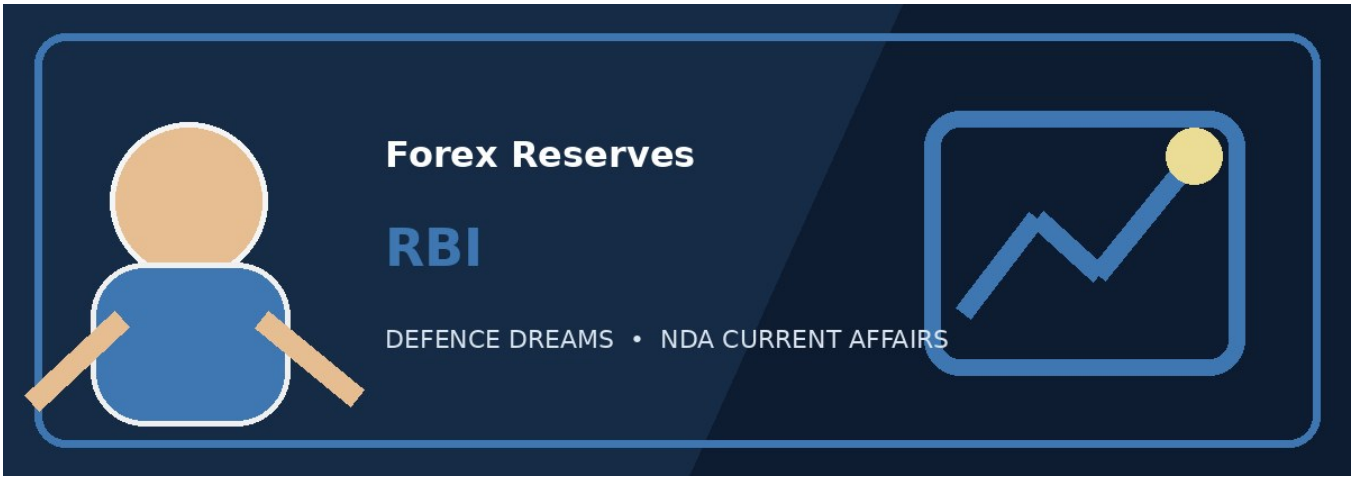
• PMGSY-IV has an outlay of ₹70,125 crore for 2024–25 to 2028–29 and aims to connect 25,000 unconnected habitations through 62,500 km of roads.

• Exam link: The scheme focuses on rural road connectivity, including eligible unconnected habitations.

NDA QUICK REVISION: PMGSY — rural road connectivity.

ECONOMY | EXTERNAL SECTOR

04. India’s Forex Reserves Stand at About US$719.75 Billion



• India’s foreign exchange reserves declined by about US$1.27 billion to US$719.75 billion in the week ended 23 October 2026.

• Foreign currency assets rose, while the value of gold reserves fell during the week. The reported all-time high was US$785.706 billion in the week ended 4 September 2026.

• Exam link: RBI publishes weekly data on foreign exchange reserves; reserves support external stability and confidence.

NDA QUICK REVISION: Forex reserves — RBI weekly statistical data.

BANKING | RBI

05. RBI Central Board Holds Its 625th Meeting in Mumbai



• The Reserve Bank of India’s 625th Central Board meeting was held in Mumbai on 30 October 2026 under Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

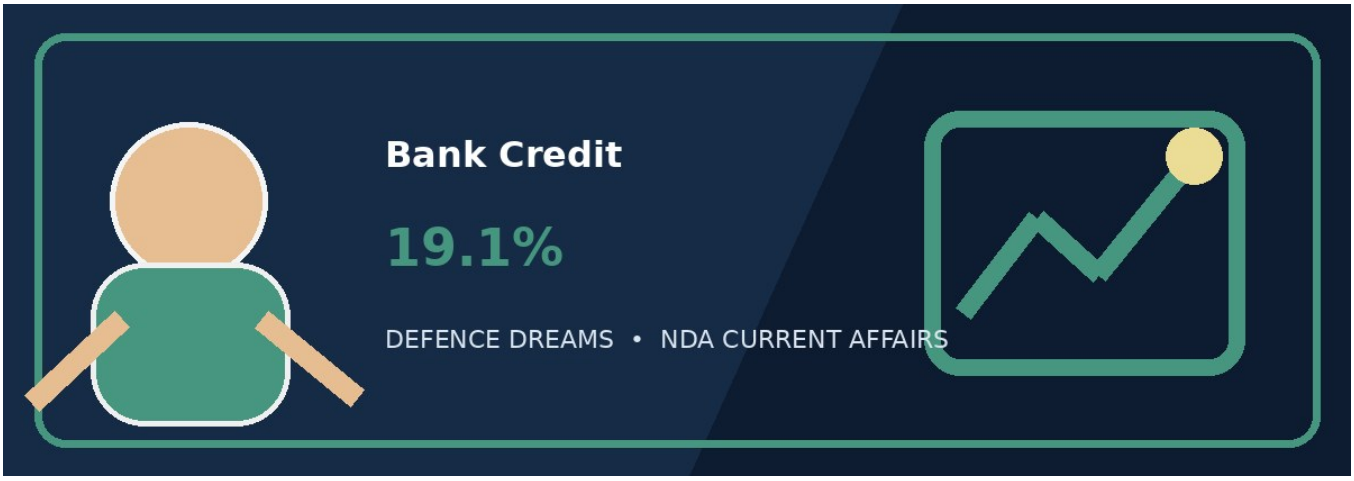
• The Board reviewed the economic situation, risks to the outlook, DICGC activities and selected Central Office departments.

• Members also took the Integrity Pledge during Vigilance Awareness Week 2026.

NDA QUICK REVISION: RBI headquarters — Mumbai.

BANKING | CREDIT

06. Non-Food Bank Credit Growth Accelerates to 19.1%



• RBI data showed non-food bank credit grew 19.1% year-on-year as of 30 September 2026, compared with 11.2% a year earlier.

• Credit to services grew 28.3%; industry and agriculture-allied credit each rose 19.5%, while personal loans grew 17.3%.

• The data covered 41 scheduled commercial banks, accounting for about 95% of non-food credit.

NDA QUICK REVISION: Non-food credit — lending excluding food procurement credit.

FINANCE | SEBI

07. SEBI Extends KYC Review Cycle for Eligible FPIs



• SEBI has extended the periodic KYC review cycle to once every eight years for eligible Category I and Category II Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).

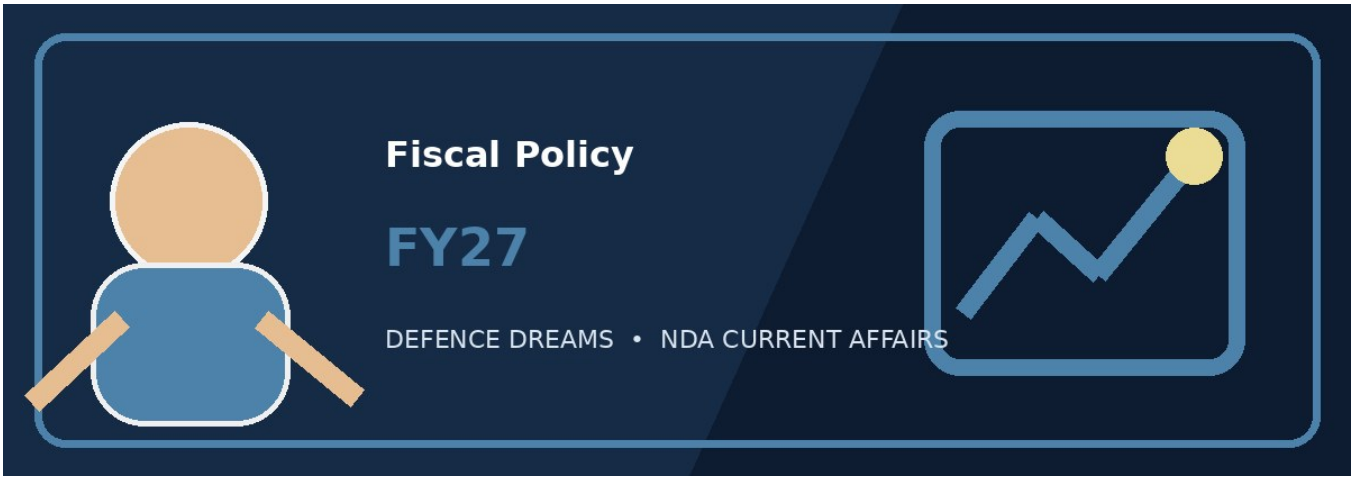
• The revised framework is scheduled to take effect from 1 December 2026. Certain investor categories retain separate review arrangements.

• Exam link: SEBI regulates securities markets in India; FPIs invest in Indian financial assets from outside India.

NDA QUICK REVISION: FPI — Foreign Portfolio Investor; regulator — SEBI.

ECONOMY | FISCAL

08. Fiscal Deficit Reaches 42.1% of FY27 Budget Estimate



• The Centre’s fiscal deficit for April–September 2026 was reported at ₹7.14 lakh crore, or 42.1% of the FY27 Budget Estimate.

• The FY27 fiscal deficit target is 4.3% of GDP. Capital expenditure during the period was reported at ₹6.55 lakh crore.

• Concept: Fiscal deficit is the excess of total government expenditure over total receipts excluding borrowings.

NDA QUICK REVISION: Fiscal deficit = expenditure minus receipts excluding borrowings.

ECONOMY | TRADE

09. India’s Services Exports Rise 7.2% in September



• RBI’s monthly data put India’s services export receipts at US$39.305 billion in September 2026, up 7.2% year-on-year.

• Services import payments rose 12.6% to US$20.097 billion. July–September figures were described as provisional.

• Exam link: IT, business, transport, travel and financial services are important components of services trade.

NDA QUICK REVISION: Services exports — receipts from services supplied abroad.

TAXATION | GST

10. CBIC Issues Clarifications on GST Enforcement



• CBIC issued Instruction No. 02/2026-GST on 30 October to implement recommendations of the 57th GST Council meeting.

• The instruction sets a ₹10,000 threshold for specified show-cause notices and provides safeguards for e-way-bill interception.

• Exam link: CBIC functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

NDA QUICK REVISION: CBIC — Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.

INTERNATIONAL | G20

11. G20 Foreign Ministers Meet in Atlanta; Jaishankar Meets Rubio



• The G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in Atlanta, Georgia, on 30–31 October 2026, hosted by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

• External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Rubio and discussed bilateral cooperation. Maritime security and freedom of navigation under UNCLOS were also raised.

• The United States is scheduled to host the G20 Leaders' Summit in Miami on 14–15 December 2026.

NDA QUICK REVISION: G20 — forum of major advanced and emerging economies.

AGRICULTURE | LIVESTOCK

12. Bharat Bovine Breeding and Research Centre Opens in Gujarat



• The Bharat Bovine Breeding and Research Centre at Bhildi, Banaskantha district, Gujarat, was dedicated on 30 October 2026.

• The 127-acre facility is focused on the Kankrej cattle breed and received support under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

• It aims to produce up to 25,000 high-quality embryos annually using IVF and embryo-transfer technologies; NDDB provides technical support.

NDA QUICK REVISION: Kankrej — indigenous cattle breed of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

SPACE | ISRO

13. GSLV-F18 Places NavIC Satellite NVS-03 in Transfer Orbit



• ISRO’s GSLV-F18 mission placed the NVS-03 navigation satellite into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit after launch from Sriharikota late on 30 October.

• NVS-03 is part of the second-generation NavIC satellite series. It carries an indigenous atomic clock and adds the L1 signal alongside L5 and S-band signals.

• Exam link: NavIC is India’s regional satellite navigation system, developed to provide positioning and timing services.

NDA QUICK REVISION: NavIC — India’s regional navigation satellite system.

ENVIRONMENT | AIR QUALITY

14. Construction and Demolition Halt Announced Across NCR



• A complete halt on construction and demolition activities across the National Capital Region was announced for 5–20 November 2026 as an air-pollution control measure.

• The announcement was made by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav. Delhi’s AQI was reported at 133 (Moderate) on 30 October after rainfall.

• Exam link: AQI communicates ambient air quality; stubble management and dust control are important pollution-mitigation measures.

NDA QUICK REVISION: NCR — National Capital Region; AQI — Air Quality Index.

DEFENCE | JOINT EXERCISE

15. AUSTRAHIND 2026: India–Australia Army Exercise in Kerala



• AUSTRAHIND 2026 is the fifth edition of the India–Australia joint military exercise, scheduled from 19 October to 1 November 2026 in Kerala.

• The Indian contingent is represented by the Garhwal Rifles; Australia by its 13th Brigade. The exercise involves approximately 120 personnel from each side.

• The focus includes joint sub-conventional operations in island and coastal settings under a UN mandate.

NDA QUICK REVISION: AUSTRAHIND — India–Australia joint military exercise.

DEFENCE | APPOINTMENT

16. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Takes Over as Chief of the Air Staff



• Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit assumed charge as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff on 31 October 2026, succeeding Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh.

• Dixit was commissioned into the IAF fighter stream on 6 December 1986 and has more than 3,500 flying hours.

• He previously served as Vice Chief of the Air Staff and Chief of Integrated Defence Staff.

NDA QUICK REVISION: Chief of the Air Staff heads the Indian Air Force.

SPORTS | WRESTLING

17. Manisha Bhanwala Wins Historic World Wrestling Gold



• Manisha Bhanwala won gold in the women’s 59 kg category at the Senior World Wrestling Championships in Astana, becoming the first Indian woman to win a senior world wrestling title.

• She defeated USA’s Abigail Nette 8–6 in the final after coming back from a substantial early deficit.

• India’s campaign included one gold, two silver and one bronze medal.

NDA QUICK REVISION: Manisha Bhanwala — 59 kg; Astana — Kazakhstan.

SCIENCE | BIODIVERSITY

18. New Tiny Land Snail Species Identified in the Western Ghats



• Researchers described a new microscopic land snail species, Dicharax tilariensis, from the Tilari region of Kolhapur district, Maharashtra.

• It is currently known from a limited locality in the northern Western Ghats and inhabits moist forest-floor microhabitats.

• Exam link: The Western Ghats are a global biodiversity hotspot with high endemism.

NDA QUICK REVISION: Western Ghats — global biodiversity hotspot.

NDA PRACTICE MCQs

Choose the most appropriate answer. Answer key with brief explanations follows.

1. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is observed on:

A. 2 October B. 31 October C. 14 November D. 26 January

2. The Statue of Unity is located in:

A. Rajasthan B. Madhya Pradesh C. Gujarat D. Maharashtra

3. The announced population enumeration for Census 2027 begins on:

A. 10 January 2027 B. 25 January 2027 C. 1 March 2027 D. 1 April 2027

4. PMGSY primarily relates to:

A. Urban metro rail B. Rural road connectivity C. Crop insurance D. Digital payments

5. Which institution publishes India’s foreign exchange reserve data?

A. SEBI B. RBI C. NITI Aayog D. NABARD

6. Who chaired the RBI Central Board’s 625th meeting?

A. Shaktikanta Das B. Sanjay Malhotra C. Urjit Patel D. T. Rabi Sankar

7. FPIs are regulated in India by:

A. SEBI B. IRDAI C. TRAI D. CCI

8. Fiscal deficit is measured as government expenditure minus:

A. Total receipts including borrowings B. Revenue expenditure only C. Receipts excluding borrowings D. Tax revenue only

9. The G20 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting on 30–31 October was held in:

A. Geneva B. Atlanta C. Tokyo D. New Delhi

10. The Bharat Bovine Breeding and Research Centre is focused on which breed?

A. Gir B. Sahiwal C. Kankrej D. Tharparkar

11. NVS-03 is associated with which Indian programme?

A. Gaganyaan B. NavIC C. Chandrayaan D. Aditya-L1

12. NavIC provides:

A. Regional navigation services B. Weather forecasts only C. Deep-sea internet D. Missile interception

13. AUSTRAHIND is a joint military exercise between India and:

A. France B. Australia C. Japan D. Nepal

14. The Chief of the Air Staff heads the:

A. Indian Army B. Indian Navy C. Indian Air Force D. Coast Guard

15. Manisha Bhanwala won the world wrestling title in which category?

A. 50 kg B. 53 kg C. 59 kg D. 68 kg

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

1. B — It marks the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
2. C — It is at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat.
3. B — The announced enumeration window is 25 January–28 February 2027.
4. B — PMGSY is the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.
5. B — The Reserve Bank of India publishes weekly reserve data.
6. B — The meeting was chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
7. A — SEBI regulates India’s securities market and FPI framework.
8. C — Borrowings finance the fiscal deficit and are excluded from receipts in the definition.
9. B — Atlanta is in the US state of Georgia.
10. C — The centre at Bhildi is dedicated to the Kankrej breed.
11. B — NVS-03 is a second-generation NavIC navigation satellite.
12. A — NavIC is India’s regional satellite navigation system.
13. B — AUSTRAHIND is the India–Australia joint exercise.
14. C — The Chief of the Air Staff is the professional head of the IAF.
15. C — She won the women’s 59 kg gold at the Senior World Championships.

SOURCES & EDITORIAL NOTE

Compiled using the 31 October 2026 daily current-affairs round-up and cross-checking references from GK Now, Insights on India, Vajiram & Ravi, Utkarsh Classes and GKToday. Key reference pages:

- Safalsetu — Daily Current Affairs: 31 October 2026
- GK Now — Current Affairs: 31 October 2026
- Insights on India — Daily Current Affairs: 31 October 2026
- Vajiram & Ravi — UPSC Prelims Current Affairs: 31 October 2026
- Utkarsh Classes — Manisha Bhanwala wrestling achievement
- GKToday — India–Brazil defence, aerospace and space cooperation

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