

OCTOBER 2026

CURRENT AFFAIRS

1 October – 30 October 2026

NDA • CDS • AFCAT • CAPF • UPSC • Other Defence & Government Exams

DEFENCE DREAMS

Focused knowledge. Stronger preparation. A step closer to the uniform.

Inside this capsule
Defence & military exercises • Space and science • Economy • International relations • Awards • Sports • Exam-focused facts

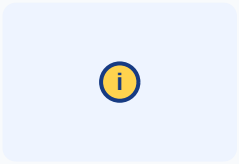
Prepared in English | Information cut-off: 30 October 2026

Note: This is an exam-oriented selection of important developments, not an exhaustive news archive. Events scheduled for 30 October are described as scheduled/prepared where confirmation of completion was not available at compilation time.

IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

Each headline includes a short explanation, the key fact to remember and a visual cue for quick revision.

01 OCT | POLITY & GOVERNANCE



UPSC marks its centenary

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) marked 100 years since the establishment of the Public Service Commission in 1926. The centenary event was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, and highlighted merit-based recruitment and public service.

Exam focus: UPSC is a constitutional body under Articles 315–323. The first Public Service Commission in India began functioning on 1 October 1926.

05–07 OCT | ECONOMY



RBI raises the policy repo rate to 5.50%

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50% on 7 October 2026. The policy stance shifted from "neutral" to "calibrated tightening".

Exam focus: Repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends short-term funds to banks against eligible collateral. A 25-basis-point change equals 0.25 percentage point.

04 OCT | SPORTS

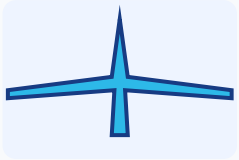


India finishes Asian Games 2026 with 85 medals

At the Aichi–Nagoya Asian Games in Japan (19 September–4 October), India finished fourth with 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze medals. The 85-medal haul was India's second-highest total at the Asian Games.

Exam focus: Host — Aichi–Nagoya, Japan; India's rank — 4th; total medals — 85. Athletics contributed 24 medals and shooting 15.

05–12 OCT | INTERNATIONAL / DEFENCE

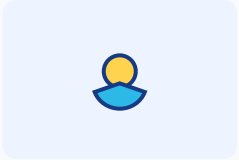


Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 concludes in Jodhpur

The Indian Air Force hosted the second edition of the multinational air exercise Tarang Shakti from 26 September to 12 October 2026. Seven partner air forces participated: Australia, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Sri Lanka, the UAE and the United States; 32 nations attended as observers.

Exam focus: Host service — Indian Air Force; venue — Air Force Station Jodhpur; theme — "Power in Partnership".

05 OCT | AWARDS



Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026

Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel were recognised for pioneering optogenetics — techniques that use light-sensitive proteins to control the activity of cells, especially neurons.

Exam focus: Optogenetics combines optics and genetics and has become an important tool in neuroscience.

06 OCT | AWARDS

Nobel Prize in Physics 2026

Francis Halzen was honoured for advancing neutrino astronomy, including the use of Antarctic ice as a detector medium to observe high-energy neutrinos.

Exam focus: Neutrinos are electrically neutral, extremely light subatomic particles that interact very weakly with matter. IceCube is located at the South Pole.

IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS — CONTINUED

07–08 OCT | SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

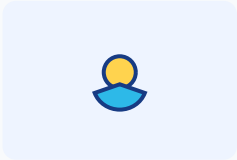


Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026

Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai received the Chemistry Nobel for methods that steer chemical reactions towards a desired molecular handedness (chirality), with relevance to synthesis and drug development.

Exam focus: Enantiomers are molecules that are non-superimposable mirror images of one another.

09 OCT | AWARDS

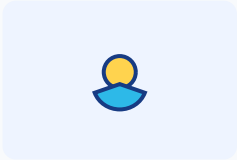


Nobel Peace Prize 2026

Jurist Navi Pillay received the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize for her work promoting international law and human rights. The Peace Prize is awarded by the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

Exam focus: The Peace Prize is presented in Oslo, Norway; the other Nobel Prizes are presented in Stockholm, Sweden.

12 OCT | AWARDS

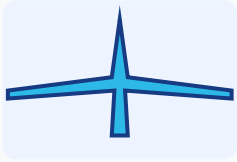


Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2026

Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford received the 2026 economics prize for work on the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation.

Exam focus: The economics prize is formally called the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.

12 OCT | DEFENCE

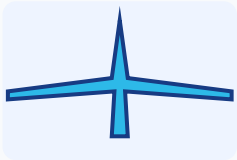


Exercise Tarang Shakti highlights multi-domain warfare

At the closing phase of Tarang Shakti, India's Defence Minister underlined the growing importance of drones, artificial intelligence, electronic warfare, space, cyber and the electromagnetic spectrum in modern operations.

Exam focus: Modern military operations increasingly integrate land, sea, air, space, cyber and information domains.

19 OCT | DEFENCE

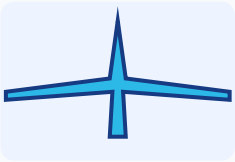


Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 begins in Kerala

The fifth India–Australia joint military exercise AUSTRAHIND commenced at the Foreign Training Node, Thiruvananthapuram. Around 120 personnel from each army took part. The exercise ran from 19 October to 1 November 2026.

Exam focus: AUSTRAHIND is a bilateral Army exercise; the 2026 edition focused on joint sub-conventional operations in island and coastal environments under a UN mandate.

21–26 OCT | DEFENCE



33rd SIMBEX naval exercise held at Visakhapatnam

The 33rd edition of the Singapore–India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) was held at Visakhapatnam. The sea phase in the Bay of Bengal included anti-submarine, anti-surface and anti-air warfare drills.

Exam focus: SIMBEX is between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy. It began in 1994 as Exercise Lion King.

IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS — CONTINUED

21 OCT | DEFENCE INDUSTRY



MoD signs ■770-crore radar contract with BEL

The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited for Improved Low-Level Light-Weight Radars for the Indian Army. The system is designed to detect and track low-flying aerial threats, including small drones.

Exam focus: BEL is a Navratna public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Defence, headquartered in Bengaluru.

23 OCT | DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY



Indigenous Nagastra-2 loitering munition delivered to the Army

Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited delivered the indigenous Nagastra-2 anti-tank loitering munition to the Indian Army. Loitering munitions can remain airborne over an area before engaging a designated target.

Exam focus: Loitering munitions combine features of unmanned aerial vehicles and guided weapons; they support precision engagement.

24 OCT | SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Ashoke Sen becomes first Indian to receive Oskar Klein Medal

Theoretical physicist Ashoke Sen was named the 2026 Oskar Klein Medal recipient, becoming the first Indian to receive the honour. His work includes major contributions to string theory and black-hole entropy.

Exam focus: String theory is a theoretical framework in fundamental physics; black-hole entropy connects gravity, thermodynamics and quantum theory.

30 OCT | SPACE



ISRO prepares GSLV-F18 / NVS-03 NavIC mission

ISRO's GSLV-F18 was scheduled to carry NVS-03, a second-generation navigation satellite, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The satellite is intended to strengthen India's NavIC regional navigation system and carries an indigenous rubidium atomic clock.

Exam focus: NavIC means Navigation with Indian Constellation. It is India's independent regional satellite navigation system; NVS-03 belongs to the second-generation NVS series.

30 OCT | AGRICULTURE & SCHEMES



PM-KISAN's 24th instalment announced

The 24th instalment of PM-KISAN was scheduled for release on 30 October, with ■18,680 crore planned for transfer to 9.34 crore eligible farmers. The scheme provides ■6,000 annually in three equal instalments through Direct Benefit Transfer.

Exam focus: PM-KISAN is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Union Government and administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS — CONTINUED

24 OCT | INTERNATIONAL

India–New Zealand FTA enters into force

The India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement entered into force on 20 October 2026. Customs authorities also moved towards electronic exchange of origin data to support trade administration.

Exam focus: A Free Trade Agreement reduces or removes trade barriers between partner economies; rules of origin determine the national source of a product.

NDA-LEVEL QUICK REVISION

High-yield one-liners

• UPSC: constitutional body; Articles 315–323; origins of the Public Service Commission in India date to 1926.

• RBI: repo rate reported at 5.50% after a 25-basis-point hike on 7 October 2026.

• Tarang Shakti: multinational air exercise hosted by the Indian Air Force; Jodhpur; seven participating partner air forces.

• AUSTRAHIND: India–Australia joint Army exercise; 2026 edition began in Thiruvananthapuram.

• SIMBEX: India–Singapore maritime exercise; began in 1994 as Exercise Lion King.

• NavIC: India's regional satellite navigation system; full form — Navigation with Indian Constellation.

• PM-KISAN: ■6,000 per eligible farmer family per year, paid in three instalments of ■2,000.

• Asian Games 2026: Aichi–Nagoya, Japan; India fourth with 85 medals (21 gold, 27 silver, 37 bronze).

• BEL: Bharat Electronics Limited; defence public sector enterprise headquartered in Bengaluru.

• Optogenetics: uses light-sensitive proteins to control cellular activity; recognised in the 2026 Medicine Nobel.

PRACTICE MCQs

Try the questions first. The answer key is given at the end.

Q1. The Union Public Service Commission is provided for under which part of the Constitution?
A. Part X B. Part XIV C. Part XVIII D. Part XX

Q2. Exercise Tarang Shakti is hosted by which Indian service?
A. Indian Army B. Indian Navy C. Indian Air Force D. Coast Guard

Q3. AUSTRAHIND is a joint military exercise between India and:
A. France B. Australia C. Japan D. Singapore

Q4. SIMBEX is a maritime exercise between India and:
A. Singapore B. Sri Lanka C. Thailand D. Indonesia

Q5. NavIC is the regional navigation system developed by:
A. DRDO B. ISRO C. HAL D. BEL

Q6. The 2026 Nobel Prize in Medicine recognised pioneering work in:
A. CRISPR B. Optogenetics C. Graphene D. Quantum dots

Q7. India's medal tally at Asian Games 2026 was:
A. 70 B. 78 C. 85 D. 91

Q8. The repo rate is decided by the RBI's:
A. Finance Commission B. Monetary Policy Committee C. GST Council D. SEBI Board

Q9. BEL is headquartered in:
A. Hyderabad B. Pune C. Bengaluru D. Chennai

Q10. PM-KISAN provides eligible farmer families how much annual support?
A. ■3,000 B. ■4,000 C. ■6,000 D. ■12,000

Q11. The 2026 Nobel Peace Prize laureate listed in this capsule is:
A. Navi Pillay B. Anne Carson C. Francis Halzen D. Ashoke Sen

Q12. SIMBEX began in 1994 under which original name?
A. Varuna B. Lion King C. Malabar D. Milan

ANSWER KEY

1-B | 2-C | 3-B | 4-A | 5-B | 6-B | 7-C | 8-B | 9-C | 10-C | 11-A | 12-B

SOURCES & FURTHER READING

The following sources were consulted for the facts in this capsule. Use official releases and original institutions for final verification before an examination.

• Press Information Bureau — Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 (10 Oct 2026)

• Press Information Bureau — Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 (19 Oct 2026)

• Press Information Bureau — SIMBEX-2026 (21 Oct 2026)

• Indian Olympic Association — India at Asian Games 2026

• Reuters — RBI policy rate decision (7 Oct 2026)

• Associated Press — 2026 Nobel Prize winners overview

• Insights IAS — Science & Technology current affairs October 2026

• MockSutra — Defence current affairs October 2026

• Civils Notes — 30 October 2026 current affairs / NVS-03 and PM-KISAN

• Shishya — October 2026 current affairs index

• BookOfExams — 1 October 2026 current affairs / UPSC centenary and Varuna

• News on AIR / Oskar Klein Medal background

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