

# UPSC Current Affairs 12th October



# Polity & Governance

## India–U.S. Relations: Visit of U.S. Ambassador-Designate Sergio Gor

**Keywords:** Strategic Partnership, Bilateral Diplomacy - Strategic Partnership: Long-term cooperation framework between nations involving multiple domains like defence, trade, and technology; Bilateral Diplomacy: Direct diplomatic engagement between two sovereign nations to address mutual interests and resolve conflicts.

### U.S. Envoy Meetings

Sergio Gor met PM Modi, EAM Jaishankar, NSA Ajit Doval, and FS Vikram Misri.

### Repair Mission

Address strained ties over U.S. tariffs on Indian goods (50%), visa issues, and Russia oil imports.

### Discussion Agenda

Defence cooperation, trade deal, technology & critical minerals partnership.

**Context:** Diplomatic engagement ahead of ASEAN Summit (Kuala Lumpur, Oct 26–27).

**UPSC Relevance:** India–U.S. relations | Strategic partnership | ASEAN diplomacy

# Regional Security - Taliban FM's Historic India Visit

## Taliban FM Amir Khan Muttaqi's Visit to India

**Keywords:** Regional Diplomacy, Pragmatic Engagement - Regional Diplomacy: Strategic diplomatic initiatives within a specific geographical region to manage security and economic interests; **Pragmatic Engagement**: Practical diplomatic approach focused on mutual benefits despite ideological differences.

### Historic Visit

First top Taliban leader hosted since 2021 takeover. Visited Darul Uloom Deoband, calling it "alma mater".

### Key Statement

"India-Afghanistan ties have a bright future" - expressed gratitude for warm hospitality.

### Gender Controversy

Ban on women journalists at Delhi press conference - Opposition slammed Modi govt.

**Key Issues Discussed:** Afghan prisoners in India; humanitarian assistance (50,000 tonnes wheat, 330 tonnes medicines since 2021).

**UPSC Relevance:** India-Afghanistan ties | Taliban diplomacy | Gender rights



# Right to Information (RTI) Act – 20 Years

**Keywords:** Transparency & Accountability, Good Governance - Transparency & Accountability: Core democratic principles ensuring government actions are open to public scrutiny and officials are answerable for their decisions; Good Governance: Effective, responsive, and accountable administration that serves public interest and ensures rule of law.

**Coverage:** Feature on challenges facing RTI law after two decades.

**Key Issues:** Weakening commissions, delay in responses, institutional resistance.

**Theme:** Citizens continue to use RTI as a transparency tool despite obstacles.

**Constitutional Significance:** Article 19(1)(a) - Right to Information as part of freedom of speech and expression.



**UPSC Relevance:** Transparency & accountability | Good governance | Citizens' rights

# Economy & Agriculture

## PM Launches Agricultural Missions

**Keywords:** Food Security, Agri-tech Integration - Food Security: Ensuring all people have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet dietary needs; Agri-tech Integration: Application of modern technology in agriculture to increase productivity and sustainability.

### Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

Comprehensive agricultural development scheme launched by PM Modi.

### Pulses Mission

₹11,000 crore Pulses Self-Reliance Mission targeting 2 crore farmers.

### Expansion Target

Increase pulses cultivation by 35 lakh hectares across India.

**Linked Reform:** PM claimed GST reforms halved rural household costs.

**UPSC Relevance:** Agri policy | Food security | Self-reliance | Public Distribution System

# Water Management & Export Diversification

## Odisha River-Linking Projects

**Investment:** ₹1,790 crore for 6 intra-state river linking schemes (2025–30).

**Objective:** Drought resilience, flood mitigation, agriculture boost.

**Keywords:** Interlinking of Rivers, Climate Resilience

- Interlinking of Rivers: Ensuring systems for water transfer from surplus to deficit areas; Climate Resilience: Capacity of systems to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to climate-related hazards.

**UPSC Tag:** Water management | Interlinking of rivers | State initiatives

## Uttar Pradesh Export Diversification

**Policy:** U.P. Export Promotion Policy 2025–30 launched.

**Aim:** Offset U.S. tariff impact, promote new markets in Europe & Asia.

**Incentives:** Freight support (30%), 1% reward on export growth, e-commerce reimbursements.

**Keywords:** Trade Diversification, MSME Promotion -

Trade Diversification: Strategy to reduce dependence on single markets by expanding to multiple trading partners; MSME Promotion: Government initiatives to support micro, small, and medium enterprises for inclusive economic growth.

**UPSC Tag:** Export policy | MSME | Trade diversification

# International Relations

## Major Global Developments

01

### Trump Imposes 100% Tariff on China

**Effective:** November 1, 2025.

**Reason:** Retaliation over China's export curbs on rare earth minerals.

**Impact:** Global semiconductor and EV industries disruption.

**Keywords:** Trade War Escalation, Supply Chain

**Disruption - Trade War Escalation:** Intensification of economic conflicts through tariffs and trade restrictions;

**Supply Chain Disruption:** Interruption in the flow of goods and services affecting global production networks.

**UPSC Tag:** U.S.–China trade war | Rare earth diplomacy | Global economy

02

### Mongolian President's India Visit (Oct 13–16, 2025)

**Agenda:** Energy, mining, defence cooperation with India.

**Significance:** Strengthens Act East policy & cultural ties (Buddhist diplomacy).

**Keywords:** Act East Policy, Buddhist Diplomacy - Act

**East Policy:** India's strategic initiative to strengthen ties with Southeast and East Asian nations; Buddhist

**Diplomacy:** Use of shared Buddhist heritage as a diplomatic tool to enhance bilateral relations.

**UPSC Tag:** Act East policy | India–Mongolia relations | Cultural diplomacy



# Law & Justice

## Recent Legal Developments

### HC Verdict on Munambam Land (Kerala)

**Issue:** Kerala HC declared Munambam land not Waqf property → legal confusion as case pending before Waqf Tribunal.

**Keywords:** Judicial Conflict, Religious

**Endowments - Judicial Conflict:** Contradictory decisions by different courts on same issue creating legal uncertainty; **Religious Endowments:** Properties and assets dedicated for religious or charitable purposes, governed by specific laws.

**UPSC Tag:** Judiciary | Property rights | Religious endowments

### Scheduled Castes Commission 'Checklist' for Complaints

**Move:** Allows rejection of unsigned / policy-related / court-decided complaints.

**Reason:** Reduce case pendency and improve efficiency.

**Keywords:** Administrative Reform, Social Justice  
**Mechanism - Administrative Reform:** Systematic changes in government procedures to improve efficiency and effectiveness; **Social Justice**  
**Mechanism:** Institutional frameworks designed to protect and promote rights of marginalized communities.

**UPSC Tag:** SC protection | Administrative reform | Social justice

# Science & Environment

## Breakthrough Scientific Discoveries

Keywords: Quantum Computing, Environmental Health - Quantum Computing: Advanced computing technology using quantum mechanical phenomena for information processing; Environmental Health: Study of environmental factors affecting human health and disease prevention.

### RRI Quantum Discovery

Achievement: Certified randomness using one qubit on IBM quantum computers.

Institution: Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru.

Significance: Improves encryption & cybersecurity using quantum mechanics principles.

UPSC Relevance: Quantum computing | National Quantum Mission | Cybersecurity

### Air Pollution Research

Finding: Iron-rich micro particles more toxic than total PM2.5 mass levels suggest.

Research: East China Normal University study on hidden toxicity.

Lesson: Clean-looking air can still be chemically dangerous for human health.

UPSC Relevance: Environment | Air pollution | Health science | Urban planning

# Nobel Prize Winners 2025

**Keywords:** Global Recognition, Scientific Excellence - Global Recognition: International acknowledgment of outstanding contributions to human knowledge and welfare; Scientific Excellence: Highest standards of research and innovation advancing human understanding.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>UPSC Relevance</u>
<u>Physics</u>	<u>John Clarke, Michel Devoret, John Martinis</u>	<u>Macroscopic quantum tunnelling in superconductors</u>	<u>Quantum computing, Superconductivity</u>
<u>Chemistry</u>	<u>Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, Omar Yaghi</u>	<u>Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) for CO<sub>2</sub> capture</u>	<u>Climate tech, Nanoscience</u>
<u>Medicine</u>	<u>Mary Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, Shimon Sakaguchi</u>	<u>Regulatory T-cells &amp; immune tolerance</u>	<u>Autoimmune diseases, Immunotherapy</u>
<u>Peace</u>	<u>María Corina Machado (Venezuela)</u>	<u>Democracy &amp; human rights activism</u>	<u>International relations, Democracy</u>
<u>Literature</u>	<u>László Krasznahorkai (Hungary)</u>	<u>Visionary fiction amid existential themes</u>	<u>Culture &amp; literature</u>

**Note:** Economics Prize to be announced soon.