

UPSC Current Affairs 13th october



Polity & Governance

NIC Email Migration to Zoho (Digital Sovereignty Initiative)

Keywords: Digital Sovereignty, E-governance - Digital Sovereignty: A nation's ability to control and protect its digital infrastructure and data from foreign interference; E-governance: Use of digital technologies to improve government service delivery and citizen engagement.

Migration Scale

12 lakh Central Govt. employees (including PMO) migrated to Zoho Office Suite.

Security Rationale

Prevent use of open-source apps that risk data security.

Background Context

NIC (est. 1976) earlier hosted govt. email under @nic.in, now data hosted on Zoho servers.

Security Oversight: Reports from CERT-In and Software Quality Systems (SQS) confirm compliance.

Constitutional Link: Part of Atmanirbhar Bharat & Digital Sovereignty — shift from "service economy" to "product nation."

Bihar NDA Seat-Sharing for Assembly Election (2025)

Keywords: Electoral Alliances, Federal Politics - Electoral Alliances: Strategic partnerships between political parties to contest elections together; Federal Politics: Political dynamics between central and state governments in India's federal structure.

Seat Distribution

BJP – 101 seats, JD(U) – 101, others – 41 (incl. LJP, HAM).
Total Assembly seats: 243.

Election Timeline

Poll Phases: Nov 6 & 11; Counting: Nov 14.

International Relations

India to Attend Gaza Peace Summit (Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt)

Keywords: Middle East Diplomacy, India's Peace Role - Middle East

Diplomacy: India's balanced approach to Middle East conflicts, maintaining relations with all stakeholders; **India's Peace Role:** India's traditional role as mediator in international conflicts.

- **Representative:** Kirtivardhan Singh, MoS for External Affairs.
- **Hosts:** Egypt & U.S.
- **Objective:** Seek post-war peace framework between Israel and Hamas.
- **Context:** Recent ceasefire and Gaza reconstruction talks.

Taliban–Pakistan–India Triangle

Keywords: Regional Security, Afghanistan Relations - Regional Security:

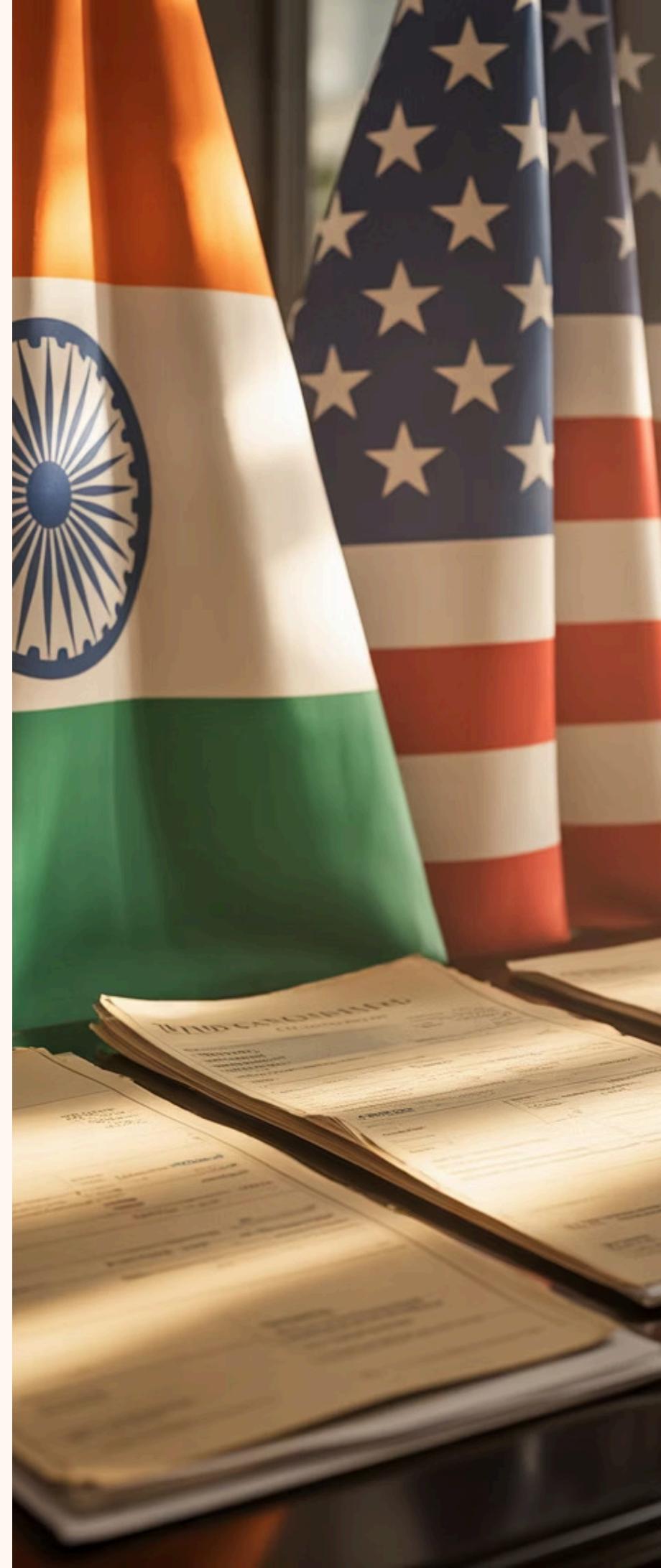
Security challenges affecting South Asian region including terrorism and border issues; **Afghanistan Relations:** India's evolving relationship with Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

Key Statements by Taliban FM

Speaker: Amir Khan Muttaqi (Taliban FM) during Delhi visit.

Key Points:

- "Open to dialogue with Pakistan but we have other options."
- Blamed Pakistan for harbouring ISIS fighters.
- Claimed exclusion of women journalists at press conference was a 'technical error.'



Society & Social Justice

Tribal Rally Against Kurmi ST Demand (Jharkhand)

Keywords: **Scheduled Tribes**, **Reservation Policy** - **Scheduled Tribes**: Indigenous communities recognized by Constitution with special protections and reservations; **Reservation Policy**: Affirmative action policies for socially and educationally backward classes.

Rally Details

Akrosh Maharally in Ranchi by 32 tribal groups opposing ST status for Kurmi community.

Core Concern

Kurmi inclusion may dilute constitutional, political, and land rights of existing STs.

Background

Kurmi groups demand ST tag & inclusion of Kurmali language in 8th Schedule.

International Developments

Regional Security & Economic Updates

Madagascar Military Mutiny

Location: Antananarivo.

Event: Army's CAPSAT unit declared control of military, alleging "illegal power grab."

Keywords: Political Instability in Africa, Military Coups

Philippines–China Collision in South China Sea

Incident: Chinese coast guard ship used water cannon against Philippine vessel BRP Datu Pagbuaya.

Blame Game: Manila accused deliberate aggression; Beijing blamed Manila's "provocation."

Keywords: Indo-Pacific Tensions, Maritime Sovereignty

China's Response to U.S. Tariff Threat

Statement: China said it will "stand firm" against Trump's 100% tariff threat (effective Nov 1).

Approach: Urged negotiations over threats.

Keywords: Global Economy, U.S.–China Trade War - Global Economy: International trade relationships and their impact on world economic stability; U.S.–China Trade War: Ongoing trade tensions between world's two largest economies affecting global supply chains.

Law & Administration

Sabarimala Gold-Plating Scam Probe Expands

Keywords: **Governance**, **Religious Trust Accountability** - **Governance**: Systems and processes of decision-making and control in institutions; **Religious Trust Accountability**: Oversight and transparency in management of religious institutions and their assets.



Investigation Details

Lead Agency: Kerala Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Case: Misappropriation of gold-plated copper coverings from Sabarimala temple sculptures.



Expanding Scope

Now Extended To: Tamil Nadu, Karnataka.

Multi-state investigation indicates larger network involvement.

Key Focus Areas

- Ethics in administration
- Temple trust management
- Interstate coordination in investigations

Energy & Environment

A.P. CRDA Office Gets 'Net Zero Energy' Certification

Keywords: Renewable Energy, Net-Zero Goals -

Renewable Energy involves using naturally replenishing energy sources like solar and wind.

Net-Zero Goals focus on balancing energy consumption with renewable energy generation.

Location & Certification

Location: Vijayawada.

Certifying Body: Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

Technology Used

Mechanism: Solar rooftop + energy recovery ventilation.

First government office in A.P. to achieve this milestone.

Significance: Demonstrates government's commitment to sustainable development and energy conservation in public buildings.

International Peace & Humanitarian Issues

Gaza After Ceasefire – Humanitarian Return

Keywords: **Israel–Palestine Issue**, **Refugee Crisis** - **Israel–Palestine Issue**: Long-standing territorial and political conflict between Israelis and Palestinians; **Refugee Crisis**: Large-scale displacement of people due to conflict requiring international humanitarian response.

01

Displacement & Return

Event: Thousands of displaced Palestinians returned to Gaza City post Israel– Hamas ceasefire.

Visual Impact: Zeitoun neighbourhood in ruins; UN coordinating aid.

02

International Response

Coordination: UN agencies managing humanitarian aid distribution.

Focus: Reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

Keywords: **International Humanitarian Law** - Protection of civilians during armed conflict and post-conflict reconstruction.

Historical Context

From The Archives (Oct 13, 1975) — Agro-Meteorology Centres for Farmers

Keywords: History of IMD, Agro-climate Adaptation -

History of IMD encompasses the evolution of India's meteorological services since colonial times.

Agro-climate Adaptation involves using weather data to optimize agricultural practices and crop planning.

1975 Initiative Details

Initiative: Expansion of Agricultural Meteorology Division (IMD) with regional centres.

Locations: Madras, Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Nagpur.

Objectives & Impact

Goal: Radio advisories for fertilizers, harvesting, and crop planning.

Significance: Early integration of weather science with agriculture during Green Revolution era.

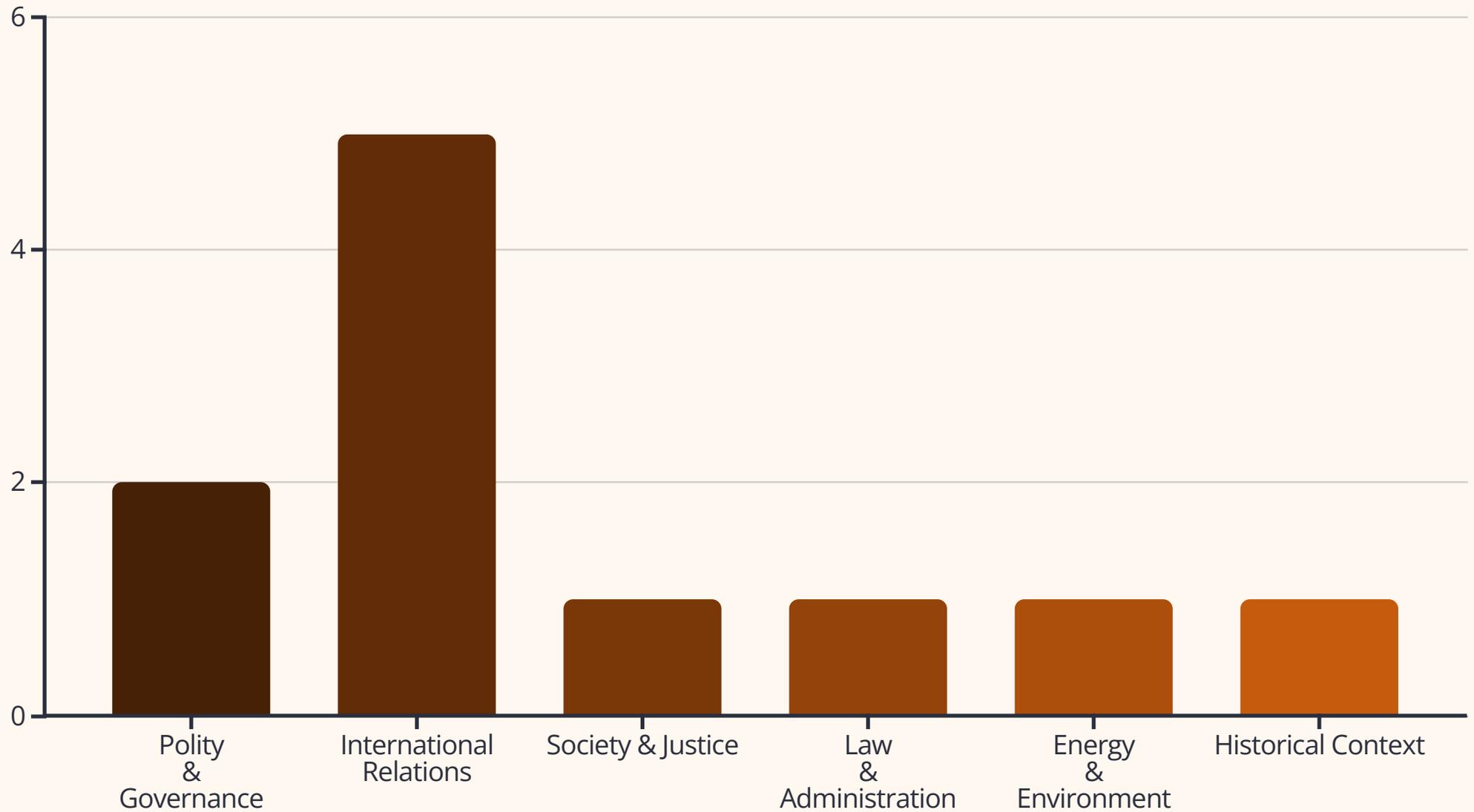
UPSC Relevance

This historical initiative demonstrates early government efforts to:

- Integrate scientific weather forecasting with agriculture
- Support Green Revolution through technology
- Establish institutional framework for agro-meteorology



UPSC Prelims Quick Recap Table



Key Focus Areas for October 13, 2025

12

Total News Items

Major and minor stories covered

5

International Focus

Gaza, Taliban, China-Philippines, Madagascar, China-US

3

Governance Issues

Digital sovereignty, electoral politics, temple scam

Priority Topics: Digital sovereignty, Middle East diplomacy, tribal rights, regional security, net-zero initiatives, and agro-meteorological history.