

UPSC Current Affairs 8th October



Polity & Governance

SC Notice on Assam BJP Video (Communal Content Case)

Keywords: Judicial Activism, Freedom of Speech vs Hate Speech - **Judicial Activism:** When the judiciary takes a proactive approach in addressing social and constitutional issues, potentially expanding its role beyond traditional interpretation; **Freedom of Speech vs Hate Speech:** The constitutional balance between protecting expression rights under Article 19(1)(a) and imposing reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2) to prevent communal disharmony.

Issue Details

Supreme Court issued notice on plea seeking removal of Assam BJP's video alleged to vilify Muslims.

Viral Impact

Video viewed 4.6 million times, reposted 6,100 times, liked 19,000 times (as of Sept 18).

Legal Argument

Petitioner claims violation of secular values and promotion of communal disharmony.

Constitutional Link: Article 19(2) restrictions on freedom of speech; Secular principles under Article 25-28.

UPSC Relevance: Freedom of speech vs hate speech; Role of social media in communal tensions.

Senior CPI (Maoist) Leader Surrenders – Telangana

Keywords: Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), Counter-Insurgency Operations - LWE refers to violent movements led by Maoist groups challenging state authority in tribal and forest areas; Counter-Insurgency Operations involve systematic efforts by security forces to eliminate insurgent threats through intelligence, combat, and rehabilitation measures.

Surrendered Individual: Manda Ruben alias Kannanna alias Manganna (67 years).

Position: Senior Division Committee Secretary, South Bastar & member of Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC).

Reward Amount: ₹8 lakh bounty.

Reason: Health issues and internal organizational fatigue.

Keywords: Rehabilitation Policies, Insurgency Decline Indicators - Rehabilitation Policies aim to reintegrate surrendered militants into mainstream society through skill development and livelihood support; Insurgency Decline Indicators include increasing surrenders, reduced violence, and weakening of organizational structures.

Economy & Technology

India's Stablecoin Regulation Debate

- **Context:** India now open to engaging with crypto assets like stablecoins.**Keywords:** Digital Currency Evolution, Regulatory Sandbox - Digital Currency Evolution refers to the transition from traditional fiat currencies to blockchain-based digital assets; Regulatory Sandbox allows testing of innovative financial products under relaxed regulatory requirements.
- **Policy Stance:** FM Nirmala Sitharaman states India must prepare to regulate stablecoins.**Keywords:** Financial Innovation Management, Cross-border Payment Systems - Financial Innovation Management involves balancing technological advancement with systemic stability; Cross-border Payment Systems enable international transactions using digital currencies.
- **Stablecoins Definition:** Blockchain-based assets pegged to fiat currencies for stability.**Keywords:** Price Stability Mechanism, Cryptocurrency Volatility Mitigation - Price Stability Mechanism ensures digital assets maintain consistent value relative to reference currencies; Cryptocurrency Volatility Mitigation reduces price fluctuations through various backing mechanisms.
- **Integration Goal:** Build interoperable digital finance using UPI, Aadhaar, Account Aggregator frameworks.**Keywords:** Digital Public Infrastructure Synergy, Fintech Ecosystem Integration - Digital Public Infrastructure Synergy leverages existing platforms for comprehensive financial services; Fintech Ecosystem Integration creates seamless interaction between traditional and digital financial services.

Tesla's Low-Cost Electric Vehicle Initiative

Keywords: Electric Vehicle Democratization, AI-Automotive Convergence - Electric Vehicle Democratization involves making EVs accessible to mass markets through cost reduction; AI-Automotive Convergence represents the integration of artificial intelligence with vehicle technology for autonomous capabilities.

01

Pricing Strategy

Target Price: Below \$30,000 for mass market access.

Timeline: Customer availability by end-2025.

02

Diversification Focus

Beyond Vehicles: AI, robotaxis, humanoid robots integration.

Strategic Shift: From pure EV manufacturer to AI-integrated mobility solutions.



Law & Internal Security

CBI's Operation HAECHI-VI (Interpol-led Crackdown)

Keywords: Transnational Cyber Crime, International Law Enforcement Cooperation - Transnational Cyber Crime involves criminal activities conducted across international borders using digital technologies; International Law Enforcement Cooperation enables coordinated action against global criminal networks through agencies like Interpol.

Operation Results: 8 arrests, 45 suspects identified

Targeting transnational cyber-enabled financial fraud against U.S. citizens

Keywords: Jurisdictional Challenges, Cross-border Investigation - Jurisdictional Challenges arise when crimes span multiple countries with different legal systems; Cross-border Investigation requires coordination between law enforcement agencies across nations.

Financial Recovery: \$66,340 cash seized, 30 bank accounts frozen

Illegal call centres in Delhi and Amritsar targeted

Keywords: Asset Recovery Mechanisms, Financial Intelligence Units - Asset Recovery Mechanisms enable authorities to trace and freeze criminal proceeds; Financial Intelligence Units analyze suspicious financial transactions to detect criminal activities.

Significance for UPSC

- **CBI jurisdiction** in cyber crimes
- **Interpol cooperation** mechanisms
- **Cyber security** challenges in digital era



International Relations

Regional & Global Developments

India at UN – WPS Agenda

Speaker: Parvathaneni Harish, India's Permanent Representative to UN.

Context: Criticised Pakistan for "bombing its own people" and "conducting genocide."

Theme: 'Women, Peace and Security' (WPS) Agenda.

India's Contribution: Deployed women medical officers to Congo (1960s); Hosted International Conference on Women Peacekeepers (Feb 2025) with 35 nations.

Keywords: UN Peacekeeping Evolution, Gender-Inclusive Security Framework

Protests on Gaza War Anniversary

Locations: Indonesia (Jakarta), Japan (Tokyo), Taiwan, UK.

Context: Second anniversary of Hamas attack on Israel.

Nature: "Free Palestine" marches, candlelight vigils, criticism of university protests in UK.

Keywords: Civil Society Mobilization, West Asia Diplomatic Complexities

Iran Security Issues

Incident: Grenade attack in Sarvabad, Kurdistan province.

Casualties: 2 IRGC personnel killed.

Perpetrators: "Anti-revolutionary" Kurdish groups.

Gulf-Israel Relations

Event: Israeli Defence Firms barred from Dubai Airshow.

Reason: "Technical review" (no clear explanation).

Impact: Gulf-Israel cooperation setback amid regional tension.

Ukraine-Russia Update

Event: Ukrainian drone attack on Russian-held Kherson region.

Casualties: 4 civilians killed (Russia's claim).

Context: Ongoing conflict escalation patterns.

South Asia Economic Outlook

Sri Lanka Recovery Assessment (World Bank Report, Oct 2025)

Keywords: Post-Crisis Recovery Dynamics - Post-Crisis Recovery Dynamics examine how economies rebuild after severe financial or political crises, focusing on institutional rebuilding and social recovery.

Assessment: Recovery "uneven and incomplete."

Growth Forecast: 4.6% (2025), 3.5% (2026).

Challenge: Many households haven't regained livelihoods lost in 2022 crisis.

UPSC Relevance:

- IMF-World Bank role in crisis management
- South Asian economic interdependence
- Lessons for India's neighborhood policy

Environment & Disasters

Himachal Pradesh Landslide (Bilaspur District)

Keywords: Himalayan Geological Instability, Climate-Induced Disasters - Himalayan Geological Instability refers to the susceptibility of the young mountain range to landslides, earthquakes, and erosion due to ongoing tectonic activity; Climate-Induced Disasters are extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change, including increased rainfall intensity leading to slope failures.

01

Incident Details

Date: October 8, 2025

Location: Near Bhallu bridge, Bhalughat area, Bilaspur District

Casualties: 15 dead; several trapped

02

Causative Factors

Trigger: Continuous rainfall since October 6

Geological: Himalayan instability and weathering

Anthropogenic: Potential construction activities in vulnerable zones

03

Government Response

Immediate Relief: ₹1 lakh ex-gratia from PMNRF

Injured Support: ₹50,000 compensation

Institutional Framework: NDRF deployment and state machinery activation

Keywords: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Early Warning Systems - DRR involves systematic efforts to analyze and reduce causes of disasters through preparedness, response, and recovery strategies; Early Warning Systems provide timely alerts about impending disasters to enable preventive measures and minimize casualties.

UPSC Significance

- **Landslide vulnerability** in Himalayan states
- **NDRF role** in disaster management
- **Climate change adaptation** strategies
- **PMNRF utilization** in disaster relief



Science & Technology

Nobel Prize in Physics 2025

Keywords: Quantum Computing Foundations, Superconductivity Applications -

Quantum Computing Foundations involve the basic principles and technologies that enable quantum computers to perform calculations using quantum mechanical phenomena;

Superconductivity Applications refer to practical uses of materials that conduct electricity without resistance, crucial for advanced technologies.

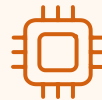


Award Recognition

Achievement: Creating superconducting electrical circuit demonstrating quantum tunnelling.

Key Innovation: Josephson junction development.

Keywords: Fundamental Physics Research, Applied Science Translation - Fundamental Physics Research explores basic principles of nature; Applied Science Translation converts theoretical discoveries into practical technologies.



Technical Concept

Josephson Junction: Thin insulating layer between superconductors allowing current flow without voltage.

Quantum Tunnelling: Phenomenon where particles pass through energy barriers.

Keywords: Quantum Mechanics Applications, Superconductor Physics - Quantum Mechanics Applications involve using quantum phenomena for technological advancement; Superconductor Physics studies materials with zero electrical resistance.



Future Impact

Foundation for: Quantum computing and future digital technologies.

Significance: Revolutionary computing capabilities and information processing.

Keywords: Technological Paradigm Shift, Computing Evolution - Technological Paradigm Shift represents fundamental changes in technology approaches; Computing Evolution tracks advancement from classical to quantum computing systems.

UPSC Relevance

- **Quantum technology** initiatives in India
- **Science and technology** policy implications
- **International scientific** cooperation
- **Innovation ecosystem** development



Archive & Miscellaneous

Historical Perspective: Libraries and Information Science (Oct 8, 1975)

Keywords: Knowledge Infrastructure History, Information Society Evolution - Knowledge Infrastructure History examines the development of systems for organizing and disseminating information; Information Society Evolution tracks the transformation toward societies where information and knowledge are primary economic resources.

Speaker: Prof. W.L. Saunders (Sheffield University)

Event: Seminar on "Librarianship and Information Science in 2001"

Theme: National library systems & information cooperation among institutions

Historical Context: 1975 vision of information systems in the 21st century

- Contemporary Relevance:**
- **Digital India initiatives**
 - **National Digital Library** of India
 - **Public knowledge** infrastructure
 - **Education policy** evolution

Key Market Indicators (October 7, 2025)

Indicator	Value	Change
Sensex	81,927	+0.17%
Gold (₹/10g)	1,24,000	+0.56%
Brent Oil (\$/bbl)	65.24	Stable
USD/INR	88.77	-0.03%

UPSC Angle: Macro indicators reflecting inflation-growth dynamics, currency stability, and commodity price movements.