MUST HAVE PDF

VISHNU IAS
MODERN GURUKUL FOR CIVIL SERVICES
TGPSC G 1 | UPSC - CSE | APPSC G 1

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

USEFUL FOR UPSC | TGPSC | APPSC

29TH OCTOBER 2026

Headlines:

- Cyclone Arnab: Impact on Andhra Pradesh and Disaster Management
- India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- Israel Elections 2026: Coalition Politics and Regional Implications
- Disinvestment as a Key Economic Strategy
- India–U.S. Defence Ties: Concerns over Pakistan's F-16 Support



सत्यमेव जयते

WWW.VISHNUIAS.COM

https://t.me/vishnuiasmentor

9000400939

1. Cyclone Arnab: Impact on Andhra Pradesh and Disaster Management

GS Paper: GS III – Disaster Management, Agriculture and Infrastructure

Why in News?

- According to the reported news, Cyclone Arnab crossed the Andhra Pradesh–Yanam coast on Wednesday morning, bringing extremely heavy rainfall and winds gusting up to 150 kmph.
- The reported IMD bulletin indicated that the system weakened from a very severe cyclonic storm into a cyclonic storm. Its name, classification and landfall details require verification against official IMD releases.

Key Impacts

- **Human casualties:** Five people reportedly died in rain-related incidents, while over 28,000 people were evacuated to relief shelters.
- **Agriculture:** Around 70,900 hectares of agricultural crops and 10,450 hectares of horticultural crops were affected, taking the reported total to approximately 81,350 hectares.
- **Infrastructure:** Around 180 houses were damaged, more than 1,000 trees were uprooted in affected areas, and road connectivity and electricity supply were disrupted.
- **Regional impact:** Konaseema, Kakinada, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Anakapalli and Visakhapatnam districts experienced significant damage. Fishing communities also faced losses to boats and nets.
- **Rainfall:** Garividi in Vizianagaram district reportedly recorded 260 mm of rainfall in 24 hours.

Government Response

- Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu sought continued National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) support and an early Central team visit to assess losses.
- Restoration operations focused on clearing roads, repairing infrastructure and restoring electricity.
- Centre–State coordination is essential for damage assessment, relief assistance and compensation to affected households and farmers.

Key Challenges

- Agricultural losses, disruption of fishing livelihoods and damage to essential infrastructure.
- Flooding risks in low-lying Godavari delta regions and vulnerable coastal settlements.

Vishnu IAS Academy

- Need for stronger early-warning communication and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Way Forward

- Strengthen cyclone forecasting, timely evacuation, cyclone shelters and last-mile warnings.
- Promote crop insurance, resilient farming, livelihood restoration and prompt compensation.
- Adopt risk-informed coastal planning, improve drainage, conserve mangroves and strengthen power and transport networks.

2. India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

GS Papers: GS II – International Relations; GS III – Indian Economy and External Trade

Why in News?

- The India–New Zealand FTA was signed on 27 April 2026 and reportedly entered into force on 20 October 2026, aiming to deepen bilateral economic relations. These dates should be verified against official government notifications before publication.



Key Features

- **Trade in goods:** New Zealand has offered 100% duty-free access across its tariff lines for Indian exports, benefiting textiles, apparel, leather, footwear and engineering goods. This does not imply reciprocal duty-free access for all New Zealand exports to India.
- **Trade in services:** Commitments cover approximately 118 services sectors, including IT, healthcare, education and professional services.
- **Professional mobility:** The agreement provides a quota of 5,000 temporary employment visas for eligible skilled Indian professionals and 1,000 Working Holiday visas annually, subject to applicable eligibility conditions.
- **Investment:** New Zealand has committed to facilitate US$20 billion in investment into India over 15 years. This is a facilitation commitment, not a guarantee of realised investment.

Vishnu IAS Academy

- **Trade target:** The agreement aims to double bilateral trade in goods and services to NZ$7 billion by 2030.

Significance for India

- **Export diversification:** Expands access to a developed market and creates opportunities for Indian exporters, particularly MSMEs and labour-intensive industries.
- **Employment generation:** Supports export-oriented manufacturing and creates opportunities for skilled professionals.
- **Services and investment:** Strengthens India's IT, healthcare, education and manufacturing linkages.
- **Strategic engagement:** Deepens economic cooperation with New Zealand and strengthens India's engagement in the Indo-Pacific.

Challenges

- Non-tariff barriers, regulatory compliance costs and limited market awareness may constrain export growth.
- Smaller exporters may lack resources to meet quality standards and establish distribution networks.
- Increased competition may create adjustment pressures for some domestic producers.
- Investment commitments must translate into viable projects and actual capital flows; facilitation alone does not ensure investment realisation.

Way Forward

- Strengthen export facilitation, quality certification and market intelligence for MSMEs.
- Promote commercially viable partnerships in renewable energy, agritech, manufacturing and infrastructure.
- Monitor implementation, help smaller exporters utilise tariff concessions and address adjustment pressures through appropriate support.

Vishnu IAS Academy

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Telegram Whatsapp Instagram Youtube

VISHNU IAS ACADEMY | UPSC | TGPSC | APPSC | OPTIONALS: ANTHROPOLOGY | PSIR | SOCIOLOGY 9000350939

3. Israel Elections 2026: Coalition Politics and Regional Implications

GS Papers: GS II – International Relations and India's Foreign Policy; GS III – Energy Security and the Global Economy

Why in News?

- Israel's October 27, 2026 parliamentary election produced a fragmented mandate. Provisional results indicated 53 seats for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc, 48 for the opposition bloc and 19 for Arab-led parties in the 120-member Knesset. A minimum of 61 seats is required for a majority.



Key Political Developments

- **Coalition uncertainty:** Neither major bloc secured a majority, making coalition negotiations central to government formation.
- **Arab parties' role:** Their historically high projected representation could influence government formation, although ideological differences may complicate alliances.
- **Security and accountability:** The election reflects debates over the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks, the subsequent Gaza war, military policy and government accountability.

Regional and Global Implications

- **Israel–Palestine conflict:** The emerging political configuration could influence debates on ceasefire efforts, humanitarian access and the prospects for a negotiated two-state solution.
- **West Asian stability:** Israel's relations with Iran and neighbouring countries remain important to regional security and diplomacy.
- **Global economy:** Regional escalation risks disrupting energy supplies and shipping routes, increasing oil-price volatility and affecting international trade.

Implications for India

- **Energy security:** Instability in West Asia could affect crude oil supplies, import costs and economic stability.
- **Defence and counterterrorism:** India must protect its defence cooperation with Israel while addressing evolving regional security threats.

- **Diplomatic balance:** India seeks to maintain strategic ties with Israel while supporting Palestinian rights and a negotiated two-state solution.
- **Diaspora and connectivity:** Regional instability can threaten Indian nationals and disrupt trade corridors and connectivity initiatives.

Way Forward

- Support diplomatic engagement, de-escalation, humanitarian assistance and adherence to international law.
- Maintain constructive relations with Israel, Palestine and other West Asian partners.
- Diversify energy sources and strengthen contingency planning for disruptions to shipping and trade.

4. Disinvestment as a Key Economic Strategy

GS Paper: GS III – Indian Economy: Government Budgeting, Resource Mobilisation, Investment Models and Economic Reforms

Why in News?

- During FY 2026–27, the Centre reportedly mobilised ₹62,124 crore through disinvestment and asset monetisation during April–September, against a budget target of ₹80,000 crore.
- On October 14, 2026, the government approved Fairfax Financial Holdings as the strategic buyer for a 60.72% stake in IDBI Bank. Approval does not mean the transaction has been completed or the proceeds received.

Key Concepts and Developments

- **Disinvestment:** Sale of government equity in public-sector enterprises (PSEs), through minority stake sales or strategic disinvestment.
- **IDBI Bank transaction:** The proposed sale involves 30.48% government equity and 30.24% LIC equity, subject to regulatory approvals and completion of the transaction.
- **Asset monetisation:** Unlocking value from existing public assets to mobilise resources, potentially without transferring ownership. Its receipts are distinct from disinvestment proceeds.
- **Policy framework:** The 2021 New Public Sector Enterprise Policy envisages a bare-minimum public-sector presence in strategic sectors.

Significance for India

- **Fiscal consolidation:** Disinvestment proceeds are non-debt capital receipts, helping finance government expenditure without directly increasing borrowing.
- **Economic efficiency:** Private participation may improve governance, technology adoption, competition and operational performance.

Vishnu IAS Academy

- **Capital recycling:** Asset monetisation can mobilise resources for infrastructure and other productive investments.
- **Wider ownership:** Minority stake sales can broaden public participation in listed enterprises.
- However, one-off disinvestment proceeds cannot replace sustainable tax and non-tax revenue.

Key Challenges

- Undervaluation of public assets and inadequate competition during bidding.
- Employment concerns and potential loss of government control over strategic enterprises.
- Delays due to regulatory clearances and complex transactions.
- Risk of using asset-sale proceeds for routine expenditure rather than productive investment.

Way Forward

- Ensure transparent bidding, independent valuation and competitive price discovery.
- Develop a rolling privatisation pipeline based on investor interest and strategic priorities.
- Strengthen regulatory safeguards and protect workers and consumers.
- Direct proceeds towards productive capital expenditure while maintaining fiscal discipline.





5. India–U.S. Defence Ties: Concerns over Pakistan's F-16 Support

GS Papers: GS II – International Relations; GS III – Internal Security and Defence Preparedness

Why in News?

- On October 28, 2026, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh raised India's concerns over U.S. support for Pakistan's F-16 fighter fleet during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth on the sidelines of the 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Cebu, Philippines.

Key Developments

- **Defence partnership:** Both sides reviewed the ten-year India–U.S. Defence Framework, focusing on technology sharing, operational readiness, information sharing and defence industrial integration.
- **Cross-border terrorism:** India called for a zero-tolerance approach towards countries supporting, training or financing terrorist organisations. The U.S. reaffirmed its support for India's counterterrorism efforts.
- **Technology proliferation:** India expressed concern that advanced military technology supplied to Pakistan could potentially reach a third country. This was a concern about possible proliferation, not confirmation that such a transfer had occurred.
- **India–Japan cooperation:** Rajnath Singh also discussed bilateral defence cooperation, including naval shipbuilding and design, with Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi.

Significance for India

- **Strategic balance:** U.S. support for Pakistan's F-16 fleet raises concerns about regional military capabilities and India's security environment.
- **Defence modernisation:** Technology sharing, co-production and industrial integration can strengthen India's indigenous defence ecosystem.
- **Strategic autonomy:** India must deepen cooperation with the U.S. while preserving independent decision-making and managing relationships with other defence partners.
- **Indo-Pacific security:** Collaboration with the U.S., Japan and ASEAN partners supports maritime security and regional stability.

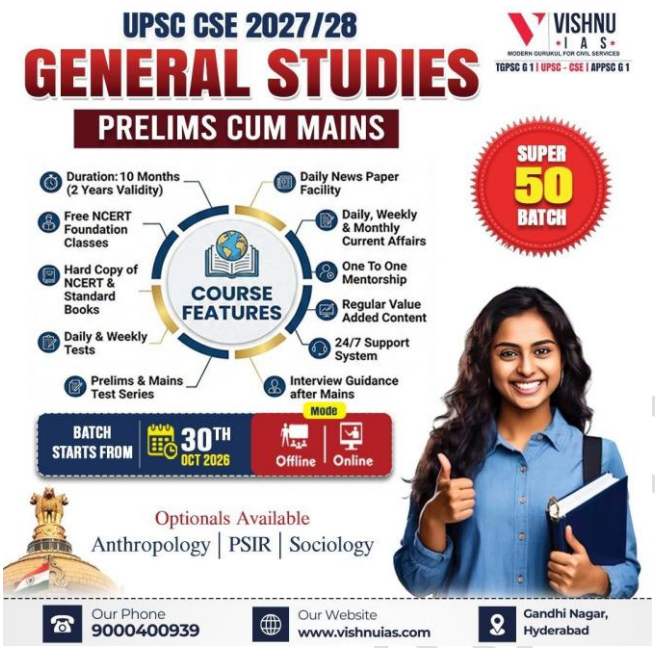
Challenges

- Divergent strategic interests and differences in defence relationships with third countries.
- Risks of unauthorised technology transfers and regional arms competition.
- Continued dependence on imported defence platforms and critical components.

Vishnu IAS Academy

Way Forward

- Diversify defence suppliers while strengthening indigenous research and development (R&D).
- Improve safeguards, end-use monitoring and technology-transfer controls.
- Deepen intelligence sharing, counterterrorism cooperation and defence co-production.
- Sustain diplomatic engagement to address regional security concerns.





FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Telegram Whatsapp Instagram Youtube