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6 OCTOBER 2026

Cabinet backs SMEs and logistics

World Bank lifts the growth forecast.
Nobel Prizes go to neutrinos and optogenetics.

10,000 cr

SME GROWTH FUND,
RS

7.1%

FY27 FORECAST

375

VB-G RAM G WORKS

Original concept illustration | Figures from cited sources

ITLA: one transport plan

Master plan 10+ years.
Appraises Rs 500 cr+.

Nobel 2026: two prizes

IceCube neutrinos.
Optogenetics.

Price of the Edition: Complimentary Copy

Designed and prepared by CrackExam.co.in Team

<https://crackexam.co.in/>

Research cutoff: 6 October 2026, sources dated 5 to 6 October 2026

Editor's briefing and contents

Cabinet decisions on 6 October lead this edition, followed by the World Bank outlook, a rural works notification and defence milestones. Two Nobel Prizes close the set. Every story links to its source.

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Reading guide

9 verified stories, each linked to its source. Earlier developments are explicitly carried forward. Not every possible update is covered. The separate 25-question test uses this same dataset. Original practice, not an actual previous-year paper.



Economy and Finance

World Bank raises India's FY27 growth forecast to 7.1%

6 October 2026 | World Bank, via Economic Times

The World Bank raised its forecast for India's economic growth in fiscal 2026-27 to 7.1 per cent from 6.6 per cent, saying resilient domestic consumption helped the economy absorb higher energy prices even as inflationary pressures persisted. It lifted its 2026 growth forecast for South Asia to 6.9 per cent, 60 basis points above its earlier estimate.

Growth is set to slow from 8.6 per cent in 2025-26. The upgrade followed stronger-than-expected domestic activity, with the economy growing 7.8 per cent in April-June. The World Bank warned that elevated oil prices, a severe weather shock and a correction in global financial markets could weigh on the outlook.

Key facts

FY27 forecast: 7.1% (from 6.6%)

South Asia 2026 forecast: 6.9%

Growth in 2025-26: 8.6%

Risks: oil prices, severe weather, market correction

Exam takeaway: Forecast changes: old figure, new figure and the reason (consumption).

One-minute recall: World Bank: India FY27 7.1% (from 6.6%); South Asia 6.9%.

World Bank, via Economic Times

Government Schemes

Cabinet approves Rs 10,000 crore SME Growth Fund

6 October 2026 | Union Cabinet, via Economic Times (ANI)

The Union Cabinet approved a Rs 10,000 crore SME Growth Fund (SGF) on Tuesday, 6 October 2026, to provide long-term equity capital to small and medium enterprises. The fund was announced in Budget 2026-27 and aims to help growth-oriented

SMEs become champion Indian enterprises across manufacturing, services, technology and strategic value chains.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, briefing the media, said the fund will help SMEs tap opportunities created by recent free trade agreements. It will enable SMEs to scale operations, invest in technology and manufacturing capacity, expand into international markets and join global value chains.

Key facts

Fund: SME Growth Fund (SGF), Rs 10,000 crore

Purpose: long-term equity capital for SMEs

Announced in: Budget 2026-27

Briefed by: Ashwini Vaishnaw, 6 October 2026

Exam takeaway: SGF gives equity capital, not loans.

One-minute recall: SME Growth Fund: Rs 10,000 crore equity capital; Budget 2026-27.

Union Cabinet, via Economic Times (ANI)

Cabinet sets up Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority

6 October 2026 | Union Cabinet, via Hindustan Times and Economic Times

The Union Cabinet approved an Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA) to prepare long-term transport plans, appraise major projects and integrate data across roads, railways, ports, aviation, waterways and urban mobility. ET reports it will be a special purpose vehicle under the administrative control of DPIIT.

ITLA will prepare a National Transport Master Plan with a horizon of 10 years or more, evaluate five-year sectoral plans and annual plans, technically appraise projects costing Rs 500 crore or more, monitor them and assess their impact after completion. A National Transport Data Repository will combine data such as GSTN e-way bills, FASTag and Vahan. Vaishnaw said that if GDP grows 7 per cent, logistics requirement grows 10 per cent.

Key facts

Body: Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA)

Output: National Transport Master Plan (10+ years)

Technical appraisal: projects of Rs 500 crore or more

Data: National Transport Data Repository

Exam takeaway: Technical appraisal moves to ITLA; financial appraisal stays with existing mechanisms.

One-minute recall: ITLA: master plan 10+ yrs; appraises Rs 500 crore+ projects; DPIIT SPV.

Union Cabinet, via Hindustan Times and Economic Times

375 permissible works notified under VB-G RAM G

6 October 2026 | Ministry of Rural Development, via CNBC-TV18

The Centre notified 375 types of works under the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (VB-G RAM G) Gramin Act, 2025, 41 per cent more than the earlier scheme's list. The works fall in four categories: water security, core rural infrastructure, livelihood-related infrastructure, and works related to extreme weather events and disaster preparedness.

Of the 375 works, 128 are under water security and 111 under core rural infrastructure. Livelihood-related infrastructure is 26 per cent of the list, against 1.1 per cent under the earlier framework, and includes market yards, dairy infrastructure and aquaculture structures. The list also covers drip and sprinkler irrigation, artificial glaciers, solar street lights and repair of Jal Jeevan Mission water-supply assets.

Key facts

Works notified: 375, up 41%

Four categories, including disaster preparedness

Water security: 128; core rural infrastructure: 111

Livelihood infrastructure: 26% of list (earlier 1.1%)

Exam takeaway: Remember the four categories and the livelihood share jump from 1.1% to 26%.

One-minute recall: VB-G RAM G: 375 works; 4 categories; livelihood 26%.

Ministry of Rural Development, via CNBC-TV18

National and International Affairs

First indigenous Fleet Support Ship 'Surya' launched

6 October 2026 | Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, via DD India

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the first indigenously designed and built Fleet Support Ship, 'Surya' (FSS-1), at Hindustan Shipyard Limited in Visakhapatnam on 6 October 2026. He also laid the keel of the fifth Fleet Support Ship, FSS-5, and inaugurated an upgraded Slipway-4 and a 300-tonne Goliath Crane.

Fleet Support Ships provide at-sea replenishment and sustained support to naval operations, with larger cargo and fluid capacity, onboard first-line maintenance workshops and a helicopter deck. The upgraded Slipway-4 lets HSL build and launch ships of up to 45,000 deadweight tonnes. Singh called for a maritime industrial hub at Visakhapatnam.

Key facts

Ship: FSS-1 'Surya', Hindustan Shipyard, Visakhapatnam

Also: keel of FSS-5 laid

Role: at-sea replenishment and support

Slipway-4: ships up to 45,000 DWT

Exam takeaway: Fleet support ships are the Navy's floating supply and repair base.

One-minute recall: FSS 'Surya' launched at HSL; FSS-5 keel laid.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, via DD India

Appointments, Awards and Important Days

Nobel Prize in Physics 2026: Francis Halzen

6 October 2026 | Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, via NobelPrize.org

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2026 to Francis Halzen of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, 'for decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the discovery of high-energy

neutrinos of astrophysical origin'. The announcement was on 6 October 2026.

Halzen realised that ice at the South Pole could be used to track neutrinos. IceCube is a cubic kilometre of ice equipped with light sensors, which can capture neutrinos from highly energetic processes in the distant universe. He first presented the vision in 1988.

Key facts

Laureate: Francis Halzen, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Work: IceCube Neutrino Observatory, South Pole

Cited for: discovery of high-energy neutrinos of astrophysical origin

Announced: 6 October 2026

Exam takeaway: Awards questions: laureate, field, the work cited and the announcing body.

One-minute recall: Physics Nobel 2026: Francis Halzen; IceCube; astrophysical neutrinos.

Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, via NobelPrize.org

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026: optogenetics

6 October 2026 (announced 5 October 2026) | Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet, via Karolinska Institutet news

The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Peter Hegemann, Georg Nagel and Karl Deisseroth for optogenetics, a method that makes it possible to switch nerve cells on or off in the living brain. The prize was announced on 5 October 2026.

Hegemann and Nagel discovered channelrhodopsin, an algal protein that opens a channel when lit with blue light. Deisseroth introduced the gene for channelrhodopsin into rat nerve cells, published the breakthrough in 2005 and made the light-controlled switch work in the brains of living mice two years later.

Key facts

Laureates: Peter Hegemann, Georg Nagel, Karl Deisseroth

Work: optogenetics

Protein: channelrhodopsin, from an alga

Announced: 5 October 2026 (carried forward)

Exam takeaway: Optogenetics: controlling nerve cells with light via channelrhodopsin.

One-minute recall: Medicine Nobel 2026: optogenetics; Hegemann, Nagel, Deisseroth.

Carried forward: announced on 5 October 2026.

Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet, via Karolinska Institutet news

Reports, Indices, Science and Technology

DRDO flight-tests high-altitude platform at 21 km

6 October 2026 | Defence Ministry and DRDO, via The Hindu

DRDO carried out a flight trial of an indigenously developed High-Altitude Platform (HAPS). The experimental platform reached 21 km above mean sea level and stayed at 20 km for more than 30 minutes. The Defence Ministry said it was developed by the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra.

HAPS is a lighter-than-air system designed as a long-endurance stratospheric aerial surveillance platform. After holding the altitude it was commanded to descend and was recovered, and real-time video and vehicle data were sent to the Ground Control Station throughout.

Key facts

Platform: High-Altitude Platform (HAPS), lighter-than-air

Developer: ADRDE, Agra (DRDO)

Altitude: 21 km peak; over 30 minutes at 20 km

Role: stratospheric aerial surveillance

Exam takeaway: HAPS is a lighter-than-air airship-type platform for surveillance from the stratosphere.

One-minute recall: DRDO HAPS: 21 km peak, 20 km for 30+ min; ADRDE Agra.

Defence Ministry and DRDO, via The Hindu

World Bank report: India among top 10 emerging markets in AI readiness

6 October 2026 | World Bank, via The Hindu BusinessLine

The World Bank said on 6 October 2026 that India is one of the top 10 leading emerging-market performers on AI readiness, helped by its large technical workforce, globally integrated IT sector and digital public infrastructure. The statement came from Paul Procee, World Bank Acting Country Director for India, on the report 'India and Artificial Intelligence: Seizing the Development Opportunity'.

The report says private investment in AI in India more than tripled to 4.1 billion US dollars in 2025 from 1.2 billion in 2024, and employment in Global Capability Centres rose to 2.36 million from 1.9 million. It recommends stronger workforce skills, a more business-enabling environment and better physical and digital infrastructure.

Key facts

Report: India and Artificial Intelligence: Seizing the Development Opportunity

AI private investment: USD 4.1 bn in 2025 (USD 1.2 bn in 2024)

GCC workforce: 2.36 million (from 1.9 million)

Rank: among top 10 emerging-market performers on AI readiness

Exam takeaway: Report questions: publisher, title, the headline ranking and the two numbers.

One-minute recall: World Bank AI report: top 10 emerging markets; AI investment USD 4.1 bn.

World Bank, via The Hindu BusinessLine

Rapid revision and vocabulary

World Bank: India FY27 7.1% (from 6.6%); South Asia 6.9%.

SME Growth Fund: Rs 10,000 crore equity capital; Budget 2026-27.

ITLA: master plan 10+ yrs; appraises Rs 500 crore+ projects; DPIIT SPV.

VB-G RAM G: 375 works; 4 categories; livelihood 26%.

FSS 'Surya' launched at HSL; FSS-5 keel laid.

Physics Nobel 2026: Francis Halzen; IceCube; astrophysical neutrinos.

Medicine Nobel 2026: optogenetics; Hegemann, Nagel, Deisseroth.

DRDO HAPS: 21 km peak, 20 km for 30+ min; ADRDE Agra.

World Bank AI report: top 10 emerging markets; AI investment USD 4.1 bn.

Equity capital: money invested in a firm in exchange for ownership.

Lighter-than-air: a craft that floats because it is lighter than the air it displaces.

Neutrino: a very light particle that rarely interacts with matter.

Optogenetics: controlling cells with light-sensitive proteins.

Deadweight tonnage (DWT): a ship's carrying capacity.

Rapid-revision prompts

What does the SME Growth Fund provide?

What will ITLA appraise and prepare?

Which categories of works are in VB-G RAM G?

What did the World Bank say on India's FY27 growth and AI?

Who won the Physics and Medicine Nobels in 2026?

Sources and publication information

Every figure comes from the linked source page for that story. Where an official page was not read, the story names the publication that reported it. Items we could not verify were left out. This edition has 9 stories because that is what we could verify for the day.

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World Bank, via Economic Times

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