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01 OCTOBER 2026

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IPS LAXMAN PRATAP
RANK - 597
FORMER ASST. COMMANDANT IN BSF
CITY COLLEGE KOLKATA

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IRS SARLA JAKHER
AIR 593
CITY COLLEGE KOLKATA



IRS TANMAY
AIR 346
IIT KHARAGPUR





DAILY CURATED NEWS | EXAM ORIENTED ANALYSIS | SMART NOTES & INFOGRAPHICS | BOOST YOUR PREPARATION

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS-

1. **SpaceX Starship Engine Failure Could Hit NASA's Lunar Mission**
2. **MSP for Rabi Crops: Balancing Farmer Income and Crop Diversification**
3. **National Coastal Mission 2.0: Strengthening Coastal Resilience and Blue Economy**
4. **Southwest monsoon ends with 12% deficit, October rain also likely below normal: IMD**
5. **Italy: India–Italy Cooperation in Tourism**

1.SpaceX Starship Engine Failure: Implications for Lunar Exploration

Source: The HIndu

Recent Development

- SpaceX's **Starship** experienced a **Raptor engine failure** during its 14th uncrewed orbital test flight.
- The failure occurred after separation from the lower-stage booster and brought the mission to an early end.
- The test nevertheless achieved some objectives, including **commercial satellite deployment**.
- The incident highlights the technological challenges involved in developing a **fully reusable heavy-lift launch system**.

Implications for Artemis Programme

- NASA has selected a modified **Starship as the Human Landing System (HLS)** for its Artemis lunar missions.
- Delays in Starship development, testing and certification could affect NASA's planned timeline for **crewed lunar missions**.
- Artemis seeks not only to return humans to the Moon but also to develop capabilities for **sustained lunar exploration and future Mars missions**.
- The programme demonstrates the growing importance of **public-private partnerships in human spaceflight**.

Technological Significance

- **Raptor** is a methane-fuelled engine using **liquid methane and liquid oxygen (methalox)**.
- Methane propulsion is relevant to future Mars missions because methane can potentially be produced using **carbon dioxide and water** available on Mars.

- Starship's design depends heavily on **reusability, high launch frequency and multiple-engine operation**, making engine reliability critical.
- Repeated testing is essential for identifying technical failures before human missions.

Strategic Dimensions of Lunar Exploration

- NASA is encouraging competition in lunar lander development, particularly between **SpaceX and Blue Origin**.
- Commercial participation can promote **innovation, technological competition and cost reduction**.
- China's stated objective of a **crewed lunar landing by 2030** has added a strategic dimension to the renewed lunar exploration.
- The emerging lunar race reflects the increasing intersection of **space technology, scientific exploration, commercial interests and strategic competition**.

Current Status (as of October 2026)

As of **September 28, 2026**, SpaceX achieved a historic milestone with **Flight 14**, the first mission to successfully place the Starship upper stage into orbit.

- **Orbital Deployment:** The mission successfully deployed **26 next-generation Starlink V3 satellites**, marking Starship's first revenue-generating flight.
- **Flight Performance:** Despite losing one Raptor engine during ascent, the vehicle performed an "orbit insertion burn" to reach its target. It concluded with a controlled splashdown in the Pacific Ocean after approximately three hours, shortened from the original 10-hour plan for safety.
- **Booster Recovery:** The **Super Heavy booster** (Booster 21) successfully performed a controlled splashdown in the Gulf of Mexico. This followed earlier test successes where the launch tower's "chopstick" arms successfully caught returning boosters.

Technical Specifications

The system is composed of two main stages, both powered by **Raptor 3** engines, which use sub-cooled liquid methane and liquid oxygen (methalox).

Component	Height	Engines	Key Role
Super Heavy (Booster)	~72 meters	33 Raptor 3	Initial lift-off; designed for vertical landing & catch.
Starship (Upper Stage)	~52 meters	6 Raptor (3 SL, 3 Vacuum)	Deep-space transport, orbital refueling, and landing.
Full Stack	~124 meters	39 Total	World's most powerful rocket (16.7M lbs of thrust).

Significance for India

- Developments in reusable launch technology have implications for India's growing **commercial space sector**.
- India can benefit from advances in **reusable launch vehicles, methane propulsion, human spaceflight and lunar technologies**.
- The episode also highlights the importance of **indigenous technological capability, private-sector participation and sustained R&D investment** for India's long-term space ambitions.

2.MSP for Rabi Crops: Balancing Farmer Income and Crop Diversification

Source: IE

MSP and Recent Decision

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved MSPs for six Rabi crops for the 2027-28 marketing season.
- Wheat MSP was increased by ₹25 to ₹2,610/quintal, the lowest increase in 17 years.
- Safflower received the highest increase of ₹675/quintal, taking its MSP to ₹7,215.
- The government expects procurement of around 324 lakh tonnes, involving MSP payments of about ₹90,962 crore.
- The relatively modest wheat increase has been linked to high wheat stocks.

MSP Mechanism

- MSP is the minimum price at which the government offers to procure specified crops to protect farmers from distress sales when market prices fall.
- CACP recommends MSPs, while the CCEA takes the final decision.
- MSPs are announced before the Kharif and Rabi seasons.
- MSP currently covers 22 mandated crops, including cereals, pulses, oilseeds and commercial crops.
- Sugarcane is not covered under MSP; its price is determined through the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) mechanism.

A2+FL and C2 Cost

- A2 covers actual paid-out costs such as seeds, fertilisers, fuel, irrigation and hired labour.
- A2+FL includes A2 plus the imputed value of family labour.

- C2 additionally includes imputed rent on owned land and interest on owned fixed capital.
- Since 2018-19, the government has followed the principle of at least 1.5 times A2+FL as the MSP benchmark.
- The M.S. Swaminathan Commission had recommended MSP at 1.5 times C2 cost.
- The difference between A2+FL and C2 remains central to the debate over remunerative prices for farmers.

MSP and Crop Diversification

- Higher support for pulses and oilseeds can encourage diversification away from wheat and paddy.
- Greater pulse production can reduce import dependence and strengthen nutritional security.
- Promoting oilseeds can contribute to edible-oil self-sufficiency.
- However, MSP alone may not change cropping patterns because farmers also consider assured procurement, irrigation, input costs and market demand.
- Effective diversification requires procurement infrastructure and remunerative markets for alternative crops.

Challenges and Way Forward

- Although MSP is announced for 22 crops, effective procurement remains concentrated in a few crops and regions, particularly wheat and paddy.
- This creates regional and crop-wise differences in the actual benefits of MSP.
- The demand for a legal guarantee of MSP seeks to ensure that farmers receive at least the announced MSP even when market prices fall below it.
- A legal guarantee could provide greater price security but may also involve concerns regarding fiscal costs, procurement capacity, market distortions and WTO-related issues.
- A sustainable MSP framework should combine targeted procurement, better market infrastructure, storage capacity and support for pulses and oilseeds, while balancing farmer incomes with fiscal and environmental sustainability.

3.National Coastal Mission 2.0: Strengthening Coastal Resilience and Blue Economy

Source: PIB

Key Features

- The Union Environment Ministry launched guidelines for National Coastal Mission (NCM) 2.0.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme with an approved outlay of ₹767 crore.
- The mission will be implemented up to 2030-31.
- It covers 9 coastal States and 4 Union Territories.
- The core objective is to strengthen coastal resilience, ecosystem sustainability and the Blue Economy.

Focus Areas

- Coastal vulnerability assessment and climate-resilience planning.
- Restoration and conservation of **coastal and marine ecosystems**.
- Pollution prevention and management.
- **Biodiversity conservation** and protection of coastal habitats.
- Promotion of **sustainable coastal tourism**.
- Scientific research, monitoring and capacity building.
- Better **coastal spatial planning** to balance conservation and economic activities.

Institutional Approach

- NCM 2.0 adopts a whole-of-government approach by promoting coordination among different ministries, departments and coastal States/UTs.
- The guidelines aim to clarify institutional responsibilities and improve transparent and timely implementation.
- Convergence with existing government schemes is intended to avoid duplication and improve utilisation of resources.
- Greater scientific and institutional capacity can improve evidence-based management of coastal ecosystems.

Blue Economy and Climate Resilience

- India's coastline supports fisheries, ports, shipping, tourism, aquaculture and other economic activities, making coastal sustainability important for the **Blue Economy**.

- Coastal ecosystems such as **mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass and salt marshes** provide natural protection against storms, erosion and flooding.
- Ecosystem restoration can therefore provide both **ecological and economic benefits** while strengthening climate resilience.
- The mission aligns with the broader vision of **Viksit Bharat @2047** by combining environmental protection with sustainable economic development.

Evolution: NCM 1.0 vs NCM 2.0

The second phase introduces several regulatory and technological shifts:

Feature	NCM 1.0 (2021-2025)	NCM 2.0 (2025-2031)
Approach	Static map-based zoning	Real-time digital Integrated Coastal Zone Managemer (ICZM)
Clearance Process	Manual/Standard timelines	Digitized through PARIVESH 2.0; faster DLC approval
Focus	Primarily conservation	Conservation + Blue Economy + Climate Mitigation
Governance	Centralized oversight	Whole-of-government; Decentralized District Level Committees (DLCs)

Significance

NCM 2.0 represents a shift from fragmented coastal management towards **integrated, ecosystem-based and climate-resilient coastal governance**. Its success will depend on effective coordination between the Centre and coastal States/UTs, scientific monitoring, community participation and ensuring that coastal economic development does not undermine the ecological systems on which the Blue Economy depends.

4.Southwest monsoon ends with 12% deficit, October rain also likely below normal: IMD

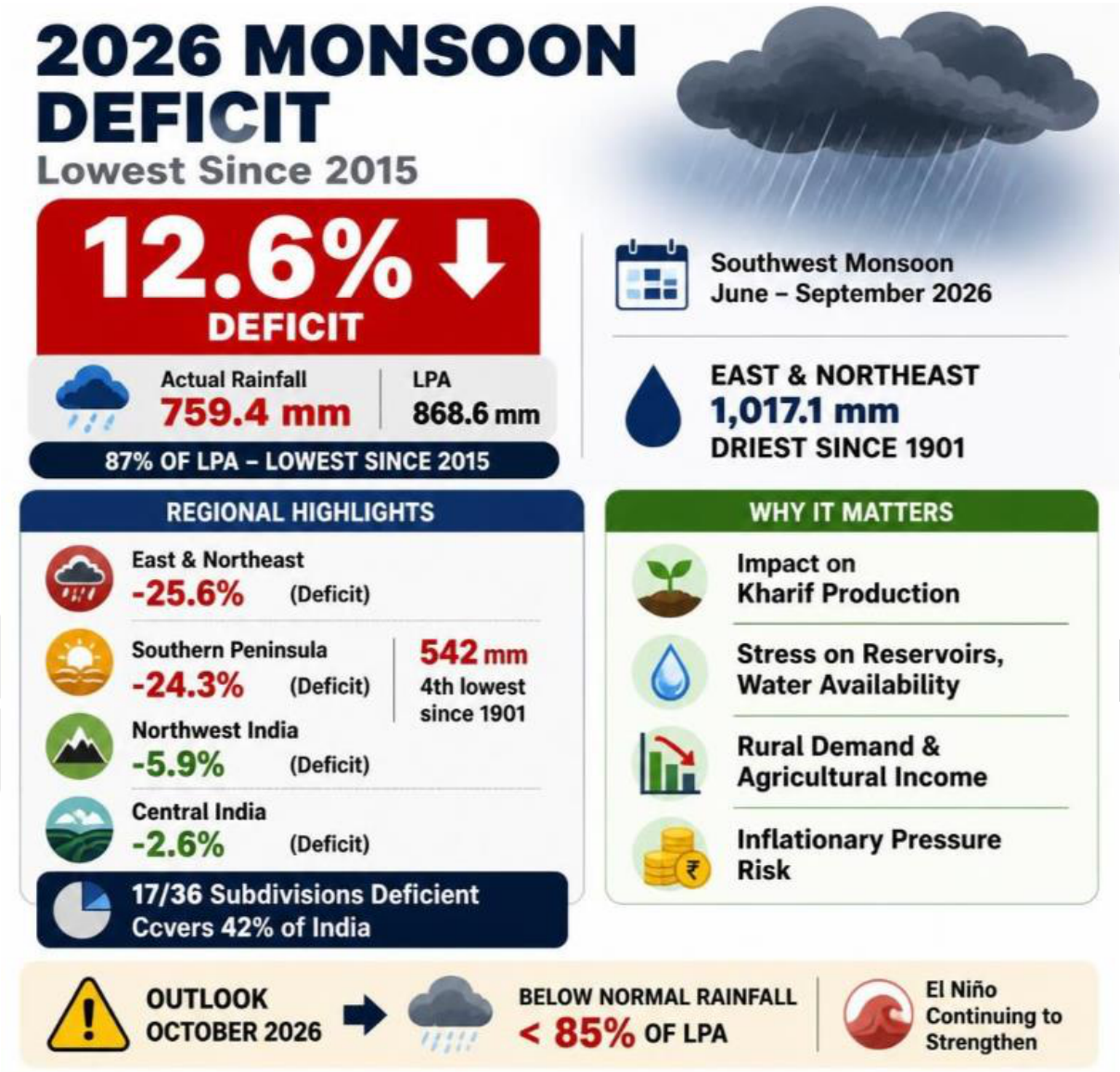
Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

India's Southwest Monsoon ends with 12.6% deficit, lowest since 2015, influenced by El Nino, with October also predicted below normal.

Key Highlights:

- India's 2026 **southwest monsoon** concluded with 759.4 mm of rainfall, marking a 12.6% deficit compared to the **Long Period Average (LPA)** of 868.6 mm.
- This rainfall, at 87% of the **LPA**, represents the lowest recorded **southwest monsoon** rainfall since 2015.
- The east and northeast region experienced its driest **monsoon** since 1901, recording 1,017.1 mm of rainfall.
- The subdued rainfall was largely consistent with forecasts by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, which anticipated the impact of a strong **El Nino** event



Detailed Insights:

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had predicted a subdued monsoon since April, with final estimates falling within their forecast range.

- Regional variations were significant, with east and northeast India showing a 25.6% deficit and the southern peninsula a 24.3% deficit.
- The southern peninsula's 542 mm rainfall was its fourth lowest monsoon total since 1901.
- Northwest India and central India recorded deficits of 5.9% and 2.6% respectively, closer to normal.
- Nationally, 17 out of 36 meteorological subdivisions, covering 42% of the country, experienced deficient rainfall.
- The IMD forecasts below-normal rainfall for October, likely less than 85% of the LPA, as the El Nino continues to strengthen.
- The southwest monsoon is in the process of withdrawal, with the northeast monsoon expected to commence in October.

5.Italy: India–Italy Cooperation in Tourism

Source: PIB

Recent Development

- The 2nd India–Italy Joint Working Group on Tourism was recently held.
- Both countries agreed to strengthen cooperation in tourism, cultural exchanges and sustainable tourism.

Geographical Location

- Italy is located in South-Central Europe on the Apennine Peninsula.
- It shares land borders with France, Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia.
- Vatican City and San Marino are sovereign enclaves within Italy.
- Major surrounding water bodies include the Adriatic Sea, Ionian Sea, Ligurian Sea and Tyrrhenian Sea.
- Capital: Rome.

Physical Geography

- The Alps form Italy's northern mountain boundary, while the Apennines run along the length of the peninsula.
- The Po is Italy's longest river, while the Adige is another major river.

- Coastal areas generally experience a Mediterranean climate, with mild winters and hot, relatively dry summers.
- Italy has several active volcanoes, including Mount Etna in Sicily and Stromboli in the Aeolian Islands.
- Italy's highest point is Mont Blanc, in the Alps on the France–Italy border.

Natural Resources

- Important mineral and energy resources include natural gas, crude oil, coal, zinc, mercury, antimony, potash, barite, pumice, feldspar and sulphur-bearing minerals.
- Italy's varied geography, Mediterranean coastline and cultural heritage contribute significantly to its tourism sector.

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