RRB NTPC 2026 · CBT-1 & CBT-2 · GENERAL AWARENESS

RRB NTPC 2026 Current Affairs & Railway GK

January–October 2026 Capsule with an Indian Railways Special

The news of 1 January to 24 October 2026 that the General Awareness section asks — polity, economy, the world, science and defence, awards and sports — and the railway facts every NTPC candidate needs: zones, firsts, trains, bridges and projects

419 one-liners · **179 practice questions** · English

Subash · Literational Press

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GETTING STARTED

The General Awareness Section at a Glance

> From the RRBs' detailed notice for the NTPC graduate-level posts (CEN 06/2025, paragraph 13), whose scheme of examination the 2026 notices follow.

Questions and time

Stage	General Awareness questions	Whole test
CBT-1	40	100 questions in 90 minutes
CBT-2	50	120 questions in 90 minutes

- Each question carries 1 mark; 1/3 mark is deducted for each wrong answer. The section-wise numbers are indicative.

The official syllabus for General Awareness

> Current Events of National and International Importance, Games and Sports, Art and Culture of India, Indian Literature, Monuments and Places of India, General Science and Life Science (up to 10th CBSE), History of India and Freedom Struggle, Physical, Social and Economic Geography of India and World, Indian Polity and Governance — constitution and political system, General Scientific and Technological Developments including Space and Nuclear Program of India, UN and Other important World Organizations, Environmental Issues Concerning India and World at Large, Basics of Computers and Computer Applications, Common Abbreviations, Transport Systems in India, Indian Economy, Famous Personalities of India and World, Flagship Government Programs, Flora and Fauna of India, Important Government and Public Sector Organizations of India etc.

Where the marks come from

Published reports of the graduate-level CBT-1 of March 2026, based on candidates' feedback, put the General Awareness questions in a shift at roughly the following numbers. Treat them as approximate; they change from shift to shift.

Area	Questions in a shift (reported)
Current affairs	10–12
General science	5–8
History	4–6

CHAPTER 1

India: Polity, Governance and Elections

The offices and their holders, the laws that came into force, the Constitution amendment that failed, the renaming of Kerala, the census, and the assembly elections of 2026.

Who holds which office (as on 24 October 2026)

Office	Holder
President	Droupadi Murmu (15th; since 25 July 2022)
Vice-President	C. P. Radhakrishnan (15th; elected September 2025)
Prime Minister	Narendra Modi (third term since June 2024)
Chief Justice of India	Surya Kant (53rd; since 24 November 2025)
Chief Election Commissioner	Gyanesh Kumar (since February 2025)
Governor, Reserve Bank of India	Sanjay Malhotra (since December 2024)
Chairman, 16th Finance Commission	Arvind Panagariya
Chairman, ISRO	V. Narayanan (since January 2025)
Chief of the Army Staff	General Dhiraj Seth (since 30 June 2026)
Chief of the Naval Staff	Admiral Krishna Swaminathan (since 31 May 2026)
Railway Minister	Ashwini Vaishnaw
Chairman and CEO, Railway Board	Satish Kumar (term extended to 31 August 2027)

Parliament and the Constitution

1. Constitution amendment Bill defeated in the Lok Sabha on 17 April 2026 → **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026**
2. The 131st Amendment Bill sought to bring into force early → **one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies**
3. Votes for and against the 131st Amendment Bill → **298 for, 230 against (short of two-thirds)**
4. Law of 2023 that provides one-third reservation for women in the legislatures → **106th Amendment (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam)**
5. Article that lays down the procedure for amending the Constitution → **Article 368**
6. Sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court, including the Chief Justice, since 16 May 2026 → **38 (earlier 34)**
7. Number of Supreme Court judges besides the Chief Justice after the 2026 increase → **37**

CHAPTER 2

The Economy, the Budget and Banking

The Economic Survey and the Union Budget of 2026, the Finance Commission, the Reserve Bank's rate decisions, the new base years for GDP and prices, and the trade agreements.

The Budget in numbers

Item	2026-27
Presented on	1 February 2026 (a Sunday)
Fiscal deficit target	4.3% of GDP
Capital expenditure of the Centre	₹12.2 lakh crore
Capital expenditure on the railways	₹2.93 lakh crore — the highest ever
Finance Commission grants to the states	₹1.4 lakh crore
New railway projects announced	seven high-speed corridors and a Dankuni–Surat freight corridor

The Survey, the Budget and the Finance Commission

45. Economic Survey 2025-26 was tabled on → **29 January 2026**
46. Growth of the economy in 2025-26 estimated by the Economic Survey → **7.4%**
47. Official who prepares the Economic Survey → **Chief Economic Adviser (V. Anantha Nageswaran)**
48. Union Budget 2026-27 was presented on → **1 February 2026**
49. Finance Minister who presented the Union Budget 2026-27, her ninth in a row → **Nirmala Sitharaman**
50. Fiscal deficit target for 2026-27 → **4.3% of GDP**
51. Capital expenditure of the Centre budgeted for 2026-27 → **₹12.2 lakh crore**
52. Capital expenditure for the railways in 2026-27, the highest ever → **₹2.93 lakh crore**
53. Number of high-speed rail corridors announced in the Budget 2026-27 → **seven**
54. New dedicated freight corridor announced in the Budget 2026-27 → **Dankuni–Surat**
55. Name the Constitution uses for the Budget → **Annual Financial Statement (Article 112)**
56. Finance Commission whose report was tabled on 1 February 2026 → **Sixteenth Finance Commission**
57. Period covered by the Sixteenth Finance Commission → **2026-27 to 2030-31**
58. Chairman of the Sixteenth Finance Commission → **Arvind Panagariya**

CHAPTER 7

Indian Railways: History and Firsts

From the first train of 1853 to the famous trains and record-holders of today: the dates, names and firsts the General Awareness section asks about the railways.

The first trains

Event	Date	Route
First passenger train in India	16 April 1853	Bori Bunder (Mumbai) to Thane, 34 km
First train in eastern India	15 August 1854	Howrah to Hooghly
First train in southern India	1 July 1856	Royapuram (Madras) to Wallajah Road (Arcot)
First electric train	3 February 1925	Bombay Victoria Terminus to Kurla
First metro railway	24 October 1984	Kolkata (Esplanade to Bhowanipur)

History

248. Date of India's first passenger train → **16 April 1853**
249. Route of India's first passenger train → **Bori Bunder (Mumbai) to Thane**
250. Length of India's first passenger railway line → **34 km**
251. Company that ran India's first passenger train → **Great Indian Peninsula Railway**
252. Names of the three locomotives that hauled the first train → **Sahib, Sultan and Sindh**
253. Governor-General called the "Father of Indian Railways" → **Lord Dalhousie**
254. Year the Railway Board was set up → **1905**
255. Committee whose advice led to a separate railway budget (1924) → **Acworth Committee**
256. Year the railway budget was merged with the Union Budget → **2017**
257. First railway zone formed after independence (14 April 1951) → **Southern Railway**
258. Zones formed on 5 November 1951 → **Central and Western Railways**
259. First Railway Minister of independent India → **John Mathai**
260. First woman Railway Minister of India → **Mamata Banerjee**
261. India's first woman locomotive driver (1988) → **Surekha Yadav**
262. Law that governs the railways today → **Railways Act, 1989**
263. Force that protects railway property and passengers (RPF Act, 1957) → **Railway Protection Force**
264. Rank of Indian Railways among the world's networks by length → **fourth (after the USA, China and Russia)**
265. Width of broad gauge in India → **1,676 mm**
266. Width of metre gauge → **1,000 mm**

CHAPTER 8

Zones, Factories and Railway Companies

The eighteen zones and their headquarters, the newest zone of 2026, the factories that build locomotives, coaches and wheels, and the companies and bodies of the Ministry of Railways.

The 18 zones and their headquarters

Zone	Headquarters	Zone	Headquarters
Central	Mumbai (CSMT)	South Central	Secunderabad
Eastern	Kolkata	South Eastern	Kolkata (Garden Reach)
East Central	Hajipur	South East Central	Bilaspur
East Coast	Bhubaneswar	South Western	Hubballi
Northern	New Delhi (Baroda House)	Western	Mumbai (Churchgate)
North Central	Prayagraj	West Central	Jabalpur
North Eastern	Gorakhpur	Metro Railway	Kolkata
Northeast Frontier	Maligaon (Guwahati)	South Coast (from 1 June 2026)	Visakhapatnam
North Western	Jaipur	Southern	Chennai

Zones

297. Number of zones of Indian Railways after June 2026 → **18**
298. Newest zone of Indian Railways, at work from 1 June 2026 → **South Coast Railway**
299. Headquarters of South Coast Railway → **Visakhapatnam**
300. Divisions of South Coast Railway → **Guntakal, Guntur, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam**
301. New division formed from part of the old Waltair division and kept in East Coast Railway → **Rayagada**
302. Zones from which South Coast Railway was carved → **East Coast and South Central Railways**
303. Number of stars in the new logo of Indian Railways (2026) → **18, one for each zone**
304. Headquarters of Northern Railway → **New Delhi (Baroda House)**
305. Headquarters of Northeast Frontier Railway → **Maligaon, Guwahati**
306. Headquarters of East Central Railway → **Hajipur**
307. Headquarters of North Central Railway → **Prayagraj**

CHAPTER 10

Locomotives, Coaches, Tickets and Services

How to read a locomotive's code, the coaches and classes of travel, tickets and helplines, the special trains of recent years, the Railway Protection Force's campaigns, and the NTPC recruitment itself.

Reading a locomotive code

Letter	Position	Means
W	first	broad gauge
Y	first	metre gauge
Z / N	first	narrow gauge (762 mm / 610 mm)
D	second	diesel
A	second	AC electric
C	second	DC electric
G	third	goods
P	third	passenger
M	third	mixed (goods and passenger)
S	third	shunting

WAP-7 = W (broad gauge) + A (AC electric) + P (passenger). **WDG-4** = broad gauge, diesel, goods.

Locomotives and coaches

377. Letter that marks a broad-gauge locomotive → **W**
378. Letter that marks a metre-gauge locomotive → **Y**
379. Locomotive code WAP stands for → **broad gauge, AC electric, passenger**
380. Locomotive code WDG stands for → **broad gauge, diesel, goods**
381. Locomotive code WAG stands for → **broad gauge, AC electric, goods**
382. Third letter M in a locomotive code means → **mixed traffic**
383. India's most powerful electric locomotive (12,000 HP), built at Madhepura → **WAG-12B**
384. Safer coaches of German design, with anti-climbing features → **LHB coaches**
385. LHB stands for → **Linke-Hofmann-Busch**
386. Factory that first made LHB coaches in India → **Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala**
387. Glass-roofed coaches for scenic routes → **Vistadome coaches**
388. Route of India's first Vistadome coach (April 2017) → **Visakhapatnam–Araku Valley**