Sources for the political writing samples

Aditya Totade · facts checked 11 October 2026 (pieces 1–3), 17 October 2026 (piece 4) and 25 October 2026 (piece 5). Each factual claim in the five pieces, with the report it came from. Interpretations and opinions in the pieces are the author's own and are not listed here.

Mumbai Does Not Need More Civic Spectacle. It Needs a BMC That Can Be Measured.

FACT USED IN THE PIECE	SOURCE
₹25,000 per instance on C&D vehicles without active/authorised tracking (VTMS) and on sites not registered on the MDCTS portal; from Monday; circular to wards; air quality worsening post-monsoon	Moneycontrol, 11 Oct 2026 *"BMC cracks down on construction waste violations…" (citing Indian Express)* www.moneycontrol.com
Same, original	Indian Express, 11 Oct 2026 *"Rs 25,000 fine from Monday: BMC goes after construction waste trucks as Mumbai's air worsens"* indianexpress.com
Fine effective 12 Oct	Free Press Journal, 10–11 Oct 2026 *"Mumbai: BMC to impose ₹25,000 fine…"* www.freepressjournal.in
~8,000 tonnes/day generated; ~1,200 TPD processed ("nearly 85% unprocessed")	FPJ, 20 Aug 2026 *"BMC Seeks Private Partners To Add 2,000 TPD C&D Waste Processing Capacity"* www.freepressjournal.in
Five years ago the city generated only ~1,200–1,300 TPD	ETV Bharat, ~23 May 2026 *"Construction activities in Mumbai are generating…"* www.etvbharat.com
Drivers: redevelopment, Metro construction, road concretisation	Times of India *"BMC disposes of 14k tonnes of debris via automated monitoring system in 1 month"* timesofindia.indiatimes.com
BMC invited EOI to add ~2,000 TPD via private partners (EOI window 20–27 Aug)	FPJ, 20 Aug 2026 www.freepressjournal.in
Portal: 220 registrations 24 Aug–9 Oct; 109 from builders/developers; MDCTS launched 24 Aug	Moneycontrol, 11 Oct 2026 *Moneycontrol, 11 Oct 2026 ("data from the civic body")* www.moneycontrol.com
Portal to be linked to building-permission system (AutoDCR) and estimate debris per project	FPJ, 20 Aug 2026 www.freepressjournal.in

19 Sep announcement: 3-month drive from 1 Oct against 39,111 slum structures 14 ft or taller; followed Kurla landslide and Mankhurd collapse	Indian Express, ~19–24 Sep 2026; HT, 2 Oct 2026 *IE explainer; IE 24 Sep; HT 2 Oct* indianexpress.com indianexpress.com
Mumbai has 2,23,150 slum structures; action already taken on 4,584, notices on 611	Times of India, 1 Oct 2026 *"Amid oppn, BMC shelves plan for 14ft+ slum demolition drive"* timesofindia.indiatimes.com
Corporators of BJP, Congress, Sena (UBT) said they weren't consulted; Phanse's "on what basis" question; Khankar wrote to Bhide seeking rollback and cited "nearly 40 per cent" in slums	Indian Express, 24 Sep 2026 *"After 'pedestrian first' row, BMC faces fresh pushback on demolition drive"* indianexpress.com
Bhide on 1 Oct: "No mass action or special drive is planned"; routine action on unsafe multi-storey structures	Times of India, 1 Oct 2026 *TOI, 1 Oct 2026* timesofindia.indiatimes.com
Joint Commissioner (Vigilance) Devendra Singh: "There was no special drive announced"; BMC press note of 19 Sep; opponents had no written assurance	Hindustan Times, 2 Oct 2026 *"On Day 1, confusion rules over BMC's 14-ft slum demolition plan"* www.hindustantimes.com
Bombay HC, 7 Oct: clean South Mumbai/Worli ≠ clean city; Jogeshwari, Malad among worst; BMC to file affidavit on ward-officer assessments; hearing 22 Oct	Moneycontrol, 8 Oct 2026 *"Bombay HC slams BMC over garbage crisis..." (citing NDTV)* www.moneycontrol.com

Maharashtra's Biggest Political Question Is Not Who Wins the Next Contest. It Is Whether the State Can Deliver.

FACT USED IN THE PIECE	SOURCE
Biennial polls Oct 23 for 5 of 78 seats: Aurangabad, Pune, Nagpur Graduates'; Amravati, Pune Teachers'; counting Oct 27	Moneycontrol, ~7 Oct 2026; The Hindu *Moneycontrol/PTI; The Hindu (ECI announcement)* www.moneycontrol.com www.thehindu.com
Nominations closed Tue 6 Oct; 62 candidates filed for Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Graduates'	Moneycontrol, ~7 Oct 2026; The Hindu *Moneycontrol/PTI* www.moneycontrol.com www.thehindu.com
Withdrawals closed Fri 9 Oct; Chivate (Sena) withdrew in Pune Teachers' after BJP central leadership intervened	Hindustan Times, 10 Oct 2026 *"As nomination withdrawal window for council polls ends, allies set to clash"* www.hindustantimes.com
Nagpur: ex-BJP MLA (Anil Sole) independent vs official candidate (Sudhakar Kohale); Sena (UBT) vs NCP (SP) in Aurangabad/Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Graduates'	Hindustan Times, 10 Oct 2026 *HT, 10 Oct 2026* www.hindustantimes.com

265 talukas drought-declared in early September after one of the driest monsoons in years ("nearly 74% of the state")	Down To Earth, Oct 2026 *"Maharashtra's water crisis shows why wastewater reuse must move from policy to practice"* www.downtoearth.org.in
5 Oct: min. 10% water cut from 16 Oct in all urban & rural local bodies; El Niño concern; plan to 31 Aug 2027; drinking water first, then livestock/fodder, then irrigation (rabi food grains/fodder first); 10% emergency buffer per dam; joint squads vs illegal extraction; review via guardian ministers and canal advisory committees	Indian Express, 5 Oct 2026 *"Maharashtra orders water cuts from October 16 amid drought, El Nino concerns"* indianexpress.com
Same, corroboration	Times of India, 5 Oct 2026 *"Maharashtra announces 10% water cut from October 16..."* timesofindia.indiatimes.com
611 tankers (15 govt, 596 private) in 10 districts serving 517 villages and 2,147 hamlets; Sambhajinagar division 263; Ahilyanagar 153; Beed 111; Solapur 98	NDTV, ~9 Oct 2026 *"Maharashtra Deploys 611 Water Tankers Amid Drought, Central Team Visits State" (citing Water Supply & Sanitation Dept report)* www.ndtv.com

Strategic Autonomy Is Becoming More Expensive for India. That Is Exactly Why It Matters.

FACT USED IN THE PIECE	SOURCE
5 Oct: Sitharaman said talks hit a "plateau"; more concessions "very, very difficult"; talks since Feb 2025; Greer said last week a deal wasn't imminent; she said US "would want to reduce that imbalance"	Reuters, 5 Oct 2026 *"India, US have reached a plateau in trade talks, Indian finance minister says"* www.reuters.com
India's surplus with US ≈ $34bn in FY2025/26	Reuters, 6 Oct 2026 *"Explainer: Why have India-US trade talks stalled again and what's next?"* www.reuters.com
US Congress passed the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act; expected to take effect by mid-Oct; tariffs up to 100% possible over Russian-energy purchases	Moneycontrol, 7 Oct 2026; Indian Express, 11 Oct 2026 *"India floats 3-part Russia-Ukraine truce..." ; Indian Express explainer* www.moneycontrol.com indianexpress.com
Trump announced (Fri 9 Oct) a deal for Russia to supply diesel to US/global markets; IE describes "contradictory signals"	11 Oct 2026 *Indian Express explainer (Shubhajit Roy)* www.moneycontrol.com indianexpress.com
Russian crude: >$43bn in 2025; +25% in H1 2026; record share >50% (≈2.47m bpd) in July; ≈1.82m bpd by Sept	11 Oct 2026 *Indian Express explainer* www.moneycontrol.com indianexpress.com

4 Oct: Jaishankar said India has gone "beyond advocacy", "a little more involved"; talks with both Moscow and Kyiv	Indian Express, ~5 Oct 2026 *"We are in talks with both Russia and Ukraine: Jaishankar"* indianexpress.com
Five Indian seafarers died in Black Sea attacks in second half of July; India summoned diplomats of both countries; Indians ≈12% (~1 in 10) of seafarers	11 Oct 2026 *Indian Express explainer* www.moneycontrol.com indianexpress.com
Three-part proposal (halt attacks on energy/critical infrastructure; keep grain & energy moving via Black Sea ports; end strikes on commercial shipping); Jaishankar's 3 Sep Kyiv visit	Moneycontrol, 7 Oct 2026; Indian Express, 11 Oct 2026 *Moneycontrol, 7 Oct 2026* www.moneycontrol.com indianexpress.com
Sybiha (2 Oct): proposals from India, Egypt, Turkey, US; India's "most comprehensive"; Putin: Modi has "very good ideas"	Oct 2026 *Moneycontrol 7 Oct; IE "India proposal to end war most comprehensive, says Ukraine"* indianexpress.com
Ukraine angered by India's Russian purchases	11 Oct 2026 *Indian Express explainer ("much to Ukraine's anger")* www.moneycontrol.com indianexpress.com
Black Sea ports ≈30% of Russian energy flows to India	7 Oct 2026 *Hindustan Times, as reported by Moneycontrol* www.moneycontrol.com indianexpress.com
Jaishankar: grain, fertiliser, fuel concerns are in India's and Global South's interest	Indian Express, Oct 2026 *"When did India begin latest round of talks with Russia, Ukraine?"* indianexpress.com
Rupee down >7% YTD, near record low (all-time low 96.96); oil and bond-yield pressure	Reuters *Reuters, 8 & 10 Oct 2026* www.reuters.com
RBI repo +25bp to 5.5% on 7 Oct, first hike in nearly four years	Reuters *Reuters, 7 Oct 2026* www.reuters.com
10 Oct: special window supplying dollars from reserves to IOC, HPCL, BPCL (from Monday); 20% FX risk reserve on hedging derivatives >$2m; ANZ's Dhiraj Nim: "will show up in a depletion of reserves"	Reuters, 10 Oct 2026 *"India unveils tough curbs on dollar demand to defend rupee"* www.reuters.com
Modi expected to travel to US for G20 summit in December	11 Oct 2026 *Indian Express explainer* www.moneycontrol.com indianexpress.com

Drought, an Exam Leak and Protest Policing: Maharashtra's Three Tests Come Down to Trust

FACT USED IN THE PIECE	SOURCE

Drought declared in 265 of 358 talukas; 40 added on 14 Oct (305 in all)	IANS via Punjab Kesari, 14 Oct 2026; Down To Earth, Oct 2026 english.punjabkesari.com www.downtoearth.org.in
Dam storage 73.54% on 8 Oct (90.55% a year earlier); Marathwada 43.58% (85.86%)	ETV Bharat Marathi, 8 Oct 2026, citing Water Resources Department data (translated) www.etvbharat.com
611 tankers on 9 Oct	NDTV, ~9 Oct 2026 (Water Supply & Sanitation Department report) www.ndtv.com
783 tankers by 15 Oct (one regional count)	Maharashtra Desha, 15 Oct 2026 (single source)
Mahajan: 10% cut in municipal corporations, municipalities and gram panchayats from 16 Oct; "Drinking water will be given the highest priority."; drinking water reserved to 31 Aug 2027	The Hans India, 6 Oct 2026; Indian Express, 5 Oct 2026 www.thehansindia.com indianexpress.com
Pune weekly day without supply; Nagpur Rs 5,000 fine for wasting water	Business Standard, 13 Oct 2026; The Daily Jagran, 13 Oct 2026 www.business-standard.com www.thedailyjagran.com
14 Oct cabinet: Rs 5,000 advance per affected farmer before Diwali from state funds; Fadnavis quote; 3.5 lakh loan-waiver list; GPS on tankers; 16,000+ illegal connections cut; fee waivers; lenders told not to force repayment	IANS via Punjab Kesari, 14 Oct 2026 english.punjabkesari.com
Sunetra Pawar: assistance to follow the central team's recommendations	ANI via Asianet Newsable, 14 Oct 2026 newsable.asianetnews.com
Central team toured eight districts from ~9 Oct	Deccan Chronicle, 11 Oct 2026 www.deccanchronicle.com
Wadettiwar, Patil, Deshmukh and All India Kisan Sabha reactions and quotes; convoys from 26 Oct, Azad Maidan sit-in from 27 Oct	IANS via Punjab Kesari, 14 Oct 2026 english.punjabkesari.com
MPSC drug inspector exam 22 Mar; leak complaints in July; referred to Mumbai Police; recruitment cancelled late Aug	DT Next, Aug 2026 www.dtnext.in
Protest at three Pune sites from 1 Oct; objective vs descriptive pattern; Raj Thackeray quote	ThePrint (PTI), 5 Oct 2026 theprint.in
Fadnavis, 9 Oct: chairman "joined after the leak took place"; Article 317; "turned entirely political"; High Court and "contempt of court" remarks	IANS via Punjab Kesari, 9 Oct 2026 english.punjabkesari.com
Bombay High Court, 7 Oct (Tripathi CJ, Sethna J): quotes; three weeks for recruitment plan and vacancies; 70,000+ posts shown vacant	Sabrang India, 8 Oct 2026 (order text not seen) sabrangindia.in

12 Oct settlement: chairman on leave (quote); committee with Tukaram Mundhe as secretary, two months; Rohit Pawar quote	IANS via The Hans India, 12 Oct 2026 www.thehansindia.com
Committee headed by a retired judge; cases withdrawn; 70,000 posts over three years (Minister Shivendraraje Bhosale)	Moneylife, 12 Oct 2026 www.moneylife.in
Some protesters would accept nothing short of resignation	Careers360, 12 Oct 2026 news.careers360.com
Chairman sworn in 18 Feb 2026	Free Press Journal, 18 Feb 2026 www.freepressjournal.in
Sapkal, Sept: "Taliban" remark (translated from Marathi) and demand that the CM give up Home	Navarashtra, 11 Sep 2026 www.navarashtra.com
Congress demand in May; fast-track court and special public prosecutor	Lokmat Times, 2 May 2026 www.lokmattimes.com
Pune Police: permission refused citing prohibitory orders; notices to 51 students and 29 coaching operators	Punekar News, Oct 2026 www.punekarnews.in
"Certain political factions" (Fadnavis, 6 Oct)	UNI, 6 Oct 2026 www.uniindia.com
July: police driver video; driver removed; probe ordered	The Week, 23 Jul 2026 www.theweek.in
NCRB 2024: Maharashtra 24,171 crimes against children, highest of any state	The Hindu, 2026 www.thehindu.com
Rate 66.9 vs Madhya Pradesh 76.2 per lakh children	Deccan Herald, citing CRY, 2026 (single secondary report)

Five Outside Pressures Reach India Now. Most of the Relief Is Expected in 2027.

FACT USED IN THE PIECE	SOURCE
Mumbai petrol Rs 111.21 a litre on 25 Oct, unchanged since at least 16 Oct	NDTV fuel prices, 25 Oct 2026 (Times of India and India Today agree) www.ndtv.com
Brent (December delivery) rose 6.24% in the week to settle at $116.72 on 23 Oct	Morningstar (Dow Jones), 23 Oct 2026; The Guardian www.morningstar.com
Monsoon ended at 87% of the long-period average, lowest since 2015; south India 76%; IMD expects Oct-Dec rain mostly below normal	Business Standard, 30 Sep 2026 (IMD season end) www.business-standard.com
WMO: El Niño “firmly established and strengthening rapidly”, near-100% chance it lasts through February 2027	World Meteorological Organization, 6-8 Oct 2026 wmo.int
NOAA: 83% chance of a historically strong El Niño in Oct-Dec; next update 12 Nov	NOAA Climate Prediction Center, 8 Oct 2026 www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov
2026-27 foodgrain target lowered to 373.93 million tonnes	Down To Earth, 29-30 Sep 2026 www.downtoearth.org.in
Food inflation 7.74% in September; onion prices up 108.09% on a year earlier	Business Today (MoSPI release), 12 Oct 2026 www.businesstoday.in
Maharashtra drought now covers 305 talukas	Business Today, 14 Oct 2026 www.businesstoday.in
War began on 28 Feb with US-Israeli strikes that killed Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei	ABC News; NPR (St. Louis Public Radio), 28 Feb to 22 Oct 2026 abcnews.com www.stlpr.org
Ceasefire announced 7 Apr; memorandum signed 17 Jun; both broke down by July; Trump called the ceasefire “over” on 8 Jul; truces lasted about three months and about three weeks	AP timeline; ABC News; Congressional Research Service, Apr-Aug 2026 apnews.com abcnews.com www.congress.gov
Blockade reinstated 14 Jul and still in place; talks indirect via Pakistan and Qatar; some outlets (AFP, Anadolu, 25 Oct) still describe a fragile ceasefire, and no new agreement has been signed	CBS News live blog, 21-22 Oct 2026; The Hindu (AFP); Anadolu, 25 Oct 2026 www.cbsnews.com
Before the war Hormuz carried about 45% of India’s crude, about half its LNG and 90% of its LPG	Atlantic Council (citing India Briefing), 5 Jun 2026 www.atlanticcouncil.org
16 Indian seafarers killed since 28 Feb (11 in West Asia and the Gulf, five in the Black Sea); 4,232 repatriated; 8 Oct briefing	Frontline; The New Indian Express, 8-20 Oct 2026 frontline.thehindu.com www.newindianexpress.com
A resident of Indian nationality among two killed at King Fahd International Airport, Dammam, 21 Oct; the Houthis said they attacked it	BBC; Saudi civil aviation authority, 21-22 Oct 2026 www.bbc.com

FACT USED IN THE PIECE	SOURCE
At least 21 killed in Houthi attacks on Saudi airports between 1 and 22 Oct, per Saudi authorities	BBC, 22 Oct 2026 www.bbc.com
Trump: Iran is “making up fake hits, mines”; “more Oil is coming through the Hormuz Strait now than it did even prior to the beginning of the Conflict”; Iran wants to “drive up the price of Oil prior to the U.S. Midterm Election”	CBS News (Truth Social posts), 22 Oct 2026 www.cbsnews.com
Lloyd’s List: 104 non-Iranian-linked transits 5-11 Oct, 17% fewer than the week before, 31% above the August weekly average; at least 28 attacks in October by 22 Oct; no pre-war baseline given	Lloyd’s List Intelligence, Strait of Hormuz Brief, 22 Oct 2026 www.lloydslistintelligence.com
Trump, 1 Oct: “I believe right after the election we’ll win, but maybe before the election.”	CBS News live blog, 1 Oct 2026 www.cbsnews.com
Araghchi: “The negotiating table remains in place. It is the American side that is closing the path, not Iran.”	CBS News, 21 Oct 2026 www.cbsnews.com
Iran’s chief negotiator, Qalibaf, 4 Oct: “the Strait of Hormuz will not open until our seven conditions based on the Islamabad memorandum are met”	Al Jazeera, 4 Oct 2026 (Reuters carries the same quote, slightly different translation) www.aljazeera.com www.reuters.com
AFP described a tight Israeli election; Israel votes on Tuesday 27 Oct	CNN; Al Jazeera; Council on Foreign Relations, 25 Oct 2026
Netanyahu, 21 Oct: spoke of “toppling the regime in Iran. And that is my directive to the [IDF], the Mossad, and the security services”	CBS News, 21 Oct 2026 www.cbsnews.com
DG Shipping Circular 36 (15 Jul) told owners to avoid deploying Indian seafarers on Hormuz voyages; Circular 47 (5 Aug) replaced it with precautions, reporting and individual consent; Frontline argues consent alone will not protect crews	Frontline, 20 Oct 2026 frontline.thehindu.com
Suez transits in September 39% below pre-crisis levels; Bab el-Mandeb 47% below	Lloyd’s List Intelligence, Red Sea Brief, 15 Oct 2026 www.lloydslistintelligence.com
Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd: one joint service back through Suez, first sailing 27 Oct; Hapag-Lloyd: it “does not amount to a strategic return of its full network”	Ahram Online (Maersk advisory); Datamar, 29 Sep 2026 english.ahram.org.eg datamarnews.com
Drewry World Container Index: $4,585 per 40-foot container on 22 Oct, 163% higher than a year earlier	Drewry, 22 Oct 2026 www.drewry.co.uk
Jawaharlal Nehru Port handled a record 834,697 TEU in September	Maritime Gateway, 9 Oct 2026 www.maritimegateway.com
Mumbai domestic LPG cylinder unchanged at Rs 941.50; commercial 19 kg cylinder up Rs 63 to about Rs 2,764 on 1 Oct (about 2.3%)	NDTV (IndianOil rates); Goodreturns, 1 Oct 2026 www.ndtv.com

FACT USED IN THE PIECE	SOURCE
RBI raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50% on 7 Oct; stance “calibrated tightening”; next MPC meeting 2-4 Dec	Reserve Bank of India press releases, 7 Oct 2026 rbi.org.in www.rbi.org.in
Rupee closed at 96.78 to the dollar on 8 Oct, near its all-time low of 96.96 (May)	Reuters, 8 Oct 2026 www.reuters.com
EMI illustration: Rs 50 lakh, 240 months; 8.50% gives Rs 43,391.16, 8.75% gives Rs 44,185.54, a difference of Rs 794.37 a month (assumes full pass-through, unchanged tenor and an assumed 8.50% starting rate)	Author’s arithmetic using the standard EMI formula
Food and petrol illustrations: Rs 10,000 a month at 7.74% is about Rs 774; petrol Rs 111.21 up 5% is about Rs 116.77, or about Rs 167 more on 30 litres (assumed spending and a hypothetical rise; none announced)	Author’s arithmetic on the figures above
ITBP chief Shatrujeet Kapur, 22 Oct: “In the past few-days, a situation arose where face-off happened at several locations in Arunachal and it still continues”; he retires on 31 Oct	The Wire; The Hindu, 22-23 Oct 2026 thewire.in www.thehindu.com
The Hindu reports the video of Kapur’s remarks was removed; no official explanation found	The Hindu, 23 Oct 2026 www.thehindu.com
MEA: the situation “gets disturbed from time to time when Chinese forces diverge from established patrolling patterns”; both sides “continue to use existing diplomatic and military mechanisms”	The Hindu; Hindustan Times, 23 Oct 2026 www.thehindu.com
Unnamed government sources told The Hindu of Chinese tents near Taksing, Upper Subansiri; not officially confirmed and not relied on	The Hindu, 22-23 Oct 2026 www.thehindu.com
India named 27 places in Arunachal on 7 Aug; China’s foreign ministry: “Zangnan region is China’s territory”, names “illegal, null and void”; India: “an inalienable and integral part of India”	The Tribune; The Wire, 10-11 Aug 2026 www.tribuneindia.com m.thewire.in
On 13 Oct China rejected India’s names for 28 places in Ladakh	The Economic Times (PTI), 13 Oct 2026 m.economictimes.com
25 Aug Special Representatives talks: “any situation on the ground would be addressed promptly”	Ministry of External Affairs, 26 Aug 2026 www.mea.gov.in
Xi Jinping visited Delhi in September (met Modi on 12 Sep, BRICS summit)	Reuters; China’s foreign ministry, 12 Sep 2026 www.reuters.com
The Hindu dates the “rising tensions” to July	The Hindu, 22 Oct 2026 www.thehindu.com
China’s foreign ministry briefing on 23 Oct did not mention India or Arunachal	China’s foreign ministry, 23 Oct 2026 www.fmprc.gov.cn

FACT USED IN THE PIECE	SOURCE
China's foreign ministry, 26 Oct (Guo Jiakun): China "has consistently and strictly abided by the relevant agreements and important understandings between the two countries, conducting routine patrols and management activities in the border areas"; the two countries "remain in communication through diplomatic and military channels"	The Tribune (ANI); Businessworld, 26 Oct 2026 www.tribuneindia.com www.businessworld.in
Mallikarjun Kharge (Congress president): "deeply alarming"; Jairam Ramesh: "a deafening silence from the PM"	The Hindu; The Wire; The New Indian Express, 23 Oct 2026 www.newindianexpress.com www.thehindu.com
Defence sources told The Indian Express that no violent clashes have been reported (anonymous)	The Indian Express, 24-25 Oct 2026
Violent protests on 23 Oct against the Siang Upper dam, which India says is needed to counter China's Yaxia project; Chief Minister Pema Khandu: "Question us, have dialogue with us, instead of violence."	Arab News (AFP), 25 Oct 2026 www.arabnews.com
Goyal in Berlin, 22 Oct: the EU agreement "will be signed before the end of the calendar year 2026", in force "probably in the first quarter of 2027"; the EU's carbon border tax and 50% steel duty are "inviting disaster"; no EU or German reply found	Business Standard, 22 Oct 2026 www.business-standard.com
Start dates Goyal gave or was reported giving, 15-23 Oct: February 2027 (reporter's paraphrase), first quarter, "March or April", four to five months after signing (Reuters' wording)	Moneycontrol; Business Standard; Reuters, 15-23 Oct 2026 www.moneycontrol.com www.moneycontrol.com www.reuters.com
European Commission asked the Council on 11 Sep for approval to sign; European Parliament consent and India's ratification follow; the deal "brings together two of the world's largest economies"	European Commission press release, 11 Sep 2026 ec.europa.eu
Goyal, 15 Oct: US trade deal first tranche "has been finalised"; Sitharaman, 5 Oct: talks at a "plateau"	Moneycontrol, 15 Oct 2026; Reuters, 5 Oct 2026 www.moneycontrol.com www.reuters.com
60-day US tariff waiver over Russian oil purchases; Ajay Srivastava of GTRI: it lets Washington "keep the threat hanging over New Delhi"; no reply found	The Times of India, about 19-20 Oct 2026 timesofindia.indiatimes.com
US midterm elections on 3 Nov 2026	Fixed by US federal law (first Tuesday after the first Monday in November)
India's October consumer price inflation release on 12 Nov 2026	MoSPI release calendar (via indiainflation.com, a secondary source) indiainflation.com
Maharashtra water cut and drought relief (17 Oct)	See the piece 4 section above

FACT USED IN THE PIECE	SOURCE
Benchmark: Mumbai petrol Rs 111.21 (25 Oct and 26 Sep 2026), Rs 104.21 (26 Oct 2025), Rs 72.83 (from 16 Oct 2016)	Upstox fuel-price page, 26 Oct 2026; Autocar Professional, 17 Oct 2016 upstox.com autocarpro.in
Benchmark: Brent $115.22 (20 Oct 2026), $116.01 (25 Sep 2026), $65.80 (24 Oct 2025), $49.80 (24 Oct 2016)	Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis (FRED), EIA series fred.stlouisfed.org
Benchmark: Mumbai domestic LPG 14.2 kg Rs 941.50 (Sep and Oct 2026), Rs 852.50 (Oct 2025)	BankBazaar monthly table; Angel One, 1 Oct 2025 www.bankbazaar.com oga-prod.angelone.in
Benchmark: onions, all-India average retail, Rs 52.68/kg (15 Oct 2026), Rs 53.92 (15 Sep 2026), Rs 26.64 (15 Oct 2025); a news-reported series, different from the official CPI onion index	NewsBytes, Sep-Oct 2026 www.newsbytesapp.com
Benchmark: rupee per US dollar 94.96 (16 Oct 2026), 95.81 (25 Sep 2026), 87.83 (24 Oct 2025), 66.89 (24 Oct 2016); Federal Reserve series, not the RBI reference rate	FRED (Federal Reserve H.10 series) fred.stlouisfed.org
Benchmark: RBI repo rate 5.50% (7 Oct 2026), 5.25% before that decision, 5.50% (Oct 2025)	Reserve Bank of India; Outlook Money, 4 Oct 2026 www.rbi.org.in www.outlookmoney.com rbi.org.in
Benchmark: unemployment, all India, age 15 and over (PLFS monthly): 5.0%, urban 6.9% (Sep 2026); 5.2%, urban 6.8% (Sep 2025)	MoSPI, 15 Oct 2026; PIB, 15 Oct 2025 www.mospi.gov.in static.pib.gov.in
Benchmark: CPI housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels +2.74% year on year (Sep 2026); no reliable Mumbai rent series found	MoSPI CPI release, Sep 2026 www.mospi.gov.in
In a year: Brent +75.1%, the dollar 8.1% dearer in rupees, Mumbai petrol +6.7%, onions x1.98	Author's arithmetic on the benchmark rows above