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Weekly Current Affairs

October 2026 – Week 5

27 – 31 October 2026 | Exam Revision Notes

31 Topics · 14 Sections · ~28 Min Read

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Dear Aspirants,

Greetings from ReadingRoomz! This week covered important international topics (Lula's election win in Brazil, the expiring India–Bangladesh Ganges Water-Sharing Treaty, India's vote on the Cuba embargo), Andhra Pradesh news (Cyclone Arnab, Operation Firewall-2026, the analogue paneer ban), the collegium system, big science and technology themes (CCUS, India's space technologies, gene-edited rice, MeghRaj 2.0), new schemes such as PMVGSY and the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme, and India's best-ever performance at the Asian Para Games.

Read each topic carefully, revise the Quick Revision Table before your next practice session. **Every small step today brings you closer to your dream tomorrow.**

— Team ReadingRoomz | contact@readingroomz.com

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1. International Current Affairs

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva Wins Brazil's 2026 Presidential Election

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has won **Brazil's 2026 presidential election**, securing a **fourth presidential term** after defeating **Flávio Bolsonaro** of the **Liberal Party (PL)** in the **second-round runoff**. Brazil is the **largest country in South America** and a **founding member of BRICS**, making its elections important for India's relations with Latin America.

India–Bangladesh Ganges Water-Sharing Treaty Nears Expiry

Bangladesh has urged India to negotiate a new **Ganges Water-Sharing Treaty** before the existing **30-year** agreement expires on **12 December 2026**. The treaty regulates sharing of Ganges water during the **dry season** at the **Farakka Barrage, West Bengal**. Bangladesh fears freshwater shortages, agricultural losses and falling fish catches, especially in its north-west, and seeks a revised deal considering **climate change**, growing demand and the whole Ganges basin.

Key Detail	Fact
Treaty signed	**December 1996**, for **30 years**
Lean season covered	Mainly **January to May**, at Farakka
Extension	**No automatic extension clause** — continuation needs a fresh agreement
Farakka Barrage	Commissioned **1975** across the Ganga in **West Bengal**
Earlier agreement	**1977**

India Voted UN General Assembly Resolution to End U.S. Embargo on Cuba

India **voted in favour** of a **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** resolution in **October 2026** calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial **embargo imposed by the United States on Cuba**, reiterating that the restrictions should be lifted to support Cuba's development. **UNGA resolutions are recommendatory and non-binding**.

> **Background:** The US imposed a comprehensive trade embargo on Cuba in **1962** | The UNGA has repeatedly adopted resolutions to end it | Cuba: capital **Havana**; currency **Cuban Peso (CUP)**

2. National Current Affairs

India's First Integrated Air Pollution Analysis Laboratory

Union MoS (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences **Dr Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the **Integrated Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory (AATAL)** at the **Delhi branch of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**. Described as the **world's first integrated facility of its kind**, it was set up under **Mission Mausam** for **Delhi-NCR**. Unlike conventional monitors, AATAL can identify the **chemical composition, sources and health impacts** of pollutants.

New RBI Data Centre in Bhubaneswar

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the new **Data Centre and Cyber Security Training Institute** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, on **25 October 2026**, to strengthen digital banking infrastructure and cybersecurity in the financial sector.

Tummidihatti Barrage

The **Tummidihatti Barrage** is a proposed irrigation project across the **Pranahita River** on the **Telangana–Maharashtra** border, emphasising **gravity-based** water conveyance to reduce dependence on electricity-intensive pumping. Telangana CM **A. Revanth Reddy** requested Maharashtra CM **Devendra Fadnavis** to raise the barrage height from **148 metres to 152 metres**; the 148-metre height was envisaged under a **2016 agreement** between the two States.

Gujarat Court Awards Life Imprisonment in Cow Slaughter Case

A court in **Gandhinagar district, Gujarat**, sentenced **three persons** to **life imprisonment** in a cow slaughter case involving the seizure of **277 kg** of beef.

Provision	Detail
Gujarat Animal Preservation Act, 1954	Regulates and prohibits slaughter of specified animals; **2017 amendment** made punishment for cow slaughter extend to **life imprisonment** — Gujarat the **first State** to do so
Article 48 (DPSP)	Organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern lines; preserve cattle breeds; prohibit slaughter of cows, calves and other milch and draught cattle
Article 48A	Environmental protection; safeguarding forests and wildlife
State of Gujarat v. Mirzapur Moti Kureshi Kassab Jamat (2005)	Supreme Court **upheld** Gujarat's restrictions on slaughter of certain cattle

Kerala to Revive Traditional Surangam Water Harvesting System in Kasaragod

The **Kerala** government plans to restore traditional underground water harvesting tunnels called **Surangams** across **eight grama panchayats** in **Kasaragod district**, to conserve rainwater, improve groundwater and sustain river flows amid declining rainfall and drought risk.

What is a Surangam: A **horizontal tunnel** dug into a **laterite hill** | Groundwater seeps in and flows out for use | Monsoon rain recharges the laterite, supplying water in **dry summer months** | An indigenous, **gravity-based** technique of northern Kerala

3. Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs

Operation Firewall-2026

The **Andhra Pradesh Counter Intelligence Cell (CIC)**, with **Naval Intelligence** and **Anti-Terrorist Squads (ATS) across 10 States**, uncovered an alleged **Pakistan-linked espionage network** targeting sensitive **Indian Navy** information, in a coordinated crackdown code-named **Operation Firewall-2026**.

Cyclone Arnab 2026

Cyclone Arnab, a **Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS)**, developed over the **Bay of Bengal** on **26 October 2026** and approached the AP coast on **28 October**. The **IMD** forecast its crossing of the **Andhra Pradesh–Yanam coast** between **Bapatla and Visakhapatnam**, close to the south of **Yanam**. The name **Arnab** was contributed by **Bangladesh** and means **ocean** in Bengali.

Andhra Pradesh Announces One-Year Ban on Analogue Paneer

Andhra Pradesh's **Food Safety Department** has announced a **one-year ban on analogue paneer**, according to a newspaper report, highlighting product standards, **truthful labelling** and protection against misleading food sales. An **analogue** is a substitute resembling a dairy product but made with replacement ingredients; the key issue is whether it is sold as standard paneer.

Regulatory Background: FSSAI public notice dated **22 April 2026** directed food businesses to **stop selling cheese analogues under the name paneer** | Called for clear product identification, disclosure and verification of raw materials

Bapatla Police Launch Samarth App for Election Security

Bapatla district police launched the **Samarth** mobile app to improve coordination during **local body elections**, bringing personnel tracking, emergency alerts and operational instructions into one system.

Key Features: Location monitoring of deployed personnel via Google Maps | **SOS** emergency alerts | Directing mobile patrols, striking forces and special striking forces to trouble spots | Group instructions and officer contacts for quick coordination

4. Polity & Governance

Judicial Appointments and the Collegium System

The **collegium system** has come under renewed scrutiny after remarks by retired Supreme Court judge **Justice Sanjay Kaul**, who raised concerns that former CJI **D.Y. Chandrachud** may have discussed proposed appointments with the Union Government before the collegium formally considered them, reviving debates on **judicial independence, transparency and accountability**.

Article	Constitutional Provision
Article 124	Appointment of **Supreme Court** judges by the **President** after the required consultation
Article 217	Appointment of **High Court** judges by the President after consultation with the **CJI**, the **Governor** and the **HC Chief Justice**

Case / Development	Significance
First Judges Case (1981)	Upheld **primacy of the executive**
Second Judges Case (1993)	**Established the collegium** and judicial primacy
Third Judges Case (1998)	Clarified and expanded the collegium's composition and consultation
99th Constitutional Amendment (2014)	Provided for the **National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)**
NJAC Judgment (2015)	SC **struck down NJAC** for violating judicial independence (basic structure)

Composition of the Collegium: Supreme Court appointments: **CJI + four** senior-most SC judges | **High Court** appointments: **CJI + two** senior-most SC judges at the SC collegium stage

5. Science & Technology

Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)

The Government is promoting **CCUS** to cut industrial emissions and reach **net-zero by 2070**. A **PIB backgrounder** of **27 October 2026** said CCUS is key for hard-to-abate sectors — **steel, cement, power, refineries and chemicals**. CCUS involves **capturing** CO_2, **transporting** it, and **using** it (urea, green methanol, synthetic fuels, construction materials) or **storing** it in depleted oil/gas reservoirs, deep saline aquifers or basalt formations.

Milestone	Detail
Union Budget 2026–27	**₹20,000 crore** over **five years** for CCUS in five sectors
DST	**CCUS R&D Roadmap** — **December 2025**
NITI Aayog	**CCUS Policy Framework and Deployment Mechanism** — **November 2022**
IIT Bombay (May 2026)	**India's first Integrated CCUS Field Laboratory** — captures up to **3 tonnes CO_2/day**; research on storage in **Deccan Trap basalts**

India's Emerging Space Technologies

India is advancing reusable launch vehicles, next-generation rockets, advanced propulsion, docking, navigation and Earth observation, led by **ISRO**, supporting the goal of a **US$44 billion space economy by 2033**.

Technology / Mission	Key Developments
Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)	Approved **September 2024**, **₹8,240 crore**; **30 tonnes to LEO**; partially reusable variant **14 tonnes**
RLV – Pushpak	**Three autonomous runway landings** in **2023–24**
Scramjet	Flight-tested **August 2016**, **Mach 6**; uses atmospheric oxygen
Electric Propulsion	**1,000-hour** life test of a **300 mN** plasma thruster — **March 2025**
Green Propulsion	Alternative propellants incl. **ISROSENE** (rocket-grade kerosene)
Nuclear Space Technologies	ISRO–DAE work on **RHUs** and **RTGs**
SpaDeX	India the **fourth country** to dock in space — **16 January 2025**; power transfer **April 2025**
NavIC	Regional navigation over India and up to **1,500 km** beyond
NISAR	Launched **30 July 2025**; NASA–ISRO; **L-band and S-band** radar

Technology / Mission	Key Developments
HysIS	Launched **November 2018**; hyperspectral imaging

Private Space Sector: Cumulative space-startup investment ~**US$618.5 million** (as of **31 March 2026**) | **NSIL** signed **118** technology-transfer agreements covering **83** ISRO technologies

India's First Gene-Edited Rice Varieties

India is advancing **CRISPR-based gene editing** and **apomixis** to improve productivity, climate resilience and food security. In **2025**, India introduced two **gene-edited rice varieties** developed by **ICAR** scientists.

Variety	Major Features
DRR Dhan-100 (Kamala)	Matures in ~**130 days** vs 150; ~**20% higher yield** (~**5.4 t/ha**); less water and labour
Pusa DST Rice-1	Tolerant to **saline and alkaline** soils; ~**10–30%** higher yield in such conditions

Apomixis: Asexual seed reproduction without normal fertilisation | Preserves **hybrid vigour (heterosis)** across generations, letting farmers reuse hybrid seed

New Dwarf Planet Candidate 2026 ED138 Discovered Beyond Pluto

Scientists using the **Vera C. Rubin Observatory, Chile**, identified a distant icy object, **2026 ED138**, that could be classified as a **dwarf planet**. It is estimated at **600–1,500 km** in diameter at about **46 AU** from the Sun (**1 AU ≈ 149.6 million km**).

Dwarf Planets: IAU-recognised (5): **Ceres, Pluto, Haumea, Makemake, Eris** | A dwarf planet orbits the Sun, is **nearly round**, is **not a satellite** and has **not cleared its orbital neighbourhood**

India's Cloud Ecosystem – MeghRaj 2.0

India is strengthening domestic cloud infrastructure through **MeghRaj 2.0**, indigenous data centres and the **IndiaAI Mission** for digital governance, AI and **data sovereignty** (a country's control over data stored and processed under its laws). A **PIB backgrounder** of **29 October 2026** said India had **30 empanelled Cloud Service Providers** as of September 2026.

Initiative	Key Developments
MeghRaj (GI Cloud)	Launched **2014** by **MeitY** for cloud-based e-governance
MeghRaj 2.0	AI-ready government cloud; adopted by **2,330** departments by September 2026

Initiative	Key Developments
Data centre capacity	**1.57 GW** (August 2026); ~**8 GW by 2030**
IndiaAI Mission	Outlay **₹10,371.92 crore**; **45,000+ GPUs** onboarded
BHASHINI	Migrated to Indian cloud (**Yotta Data Services**) — **February 2026**
NIC	**4 National Data Centres** and **24 Mini Data Centres**
Cloud Selection Framework	Issued by MeitY — **March 2026**
FutureSkills PRIME	MeitY–NASSCOM; **34 lakh** registered by August 2026

6. Environment

Salt Marshes

A study in **Nature** by researchers from **Wageningen University & Research, Netherlands**, found that **salt marsh** vegetation and root systems reduce wave energy and prevent coastal erosion, even during extreme storms.

About Salt Marshes: Coastal wetlands regularly flooded by seawater, dominated by salt-tolerant **halophytes** | Provide coastal protection, sediment stabilisation and habitat | India: about **290 sq. km**, largest in **Gujarat**, smaller stretches in **Andhra Pradesh**, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra

7. Defence

Exercise Garuda Shakti 2026

The **11th edition** of **Exercise Garuda Shakti**, a bilateral **Special Forces** exercise between **India and Indonesia**, began on **27 October 2026** in **Banyuwangi, Indonesia**, and runs until **6 November 2026**.

8. Schemes

Pradhan Mantri Vikasit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PMVGSY)

The **Union Cabinet** approved **PMVGSY** as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** to strengthen grassroots governance and rural development, from **2026–27 to 2030–31**, coinciding with the **Sixteenth Finance Commission**. It aims to build the capacity of about **32 lakh** elected representatives and officials across **2.55 lakh+** Panchayats and traditional local bodies, and help Panchayats use the ~**₹4.35 lakh crore** of rural local body grants recommended by the 16th Finance Commission for **2026–31**.

Key Detail	Fact
Total outlay	**₹7,395.55 crore** — Centre **₹4,869.48 crore**, States **₹2,526.07 crore**
Planning	~**2.55 lakh** Gram Panchayat Development Plans a year on **eGramSwaraj**
Audit	At least **2.55 lakh** online audit plans a year via **AuditOnline**
Communication	**Pancham** — AI-based platform in **17 Indian languages**; each campaign to reach **1 crore+** citizens
Coverage	All States and UTs, incl. traditional rural local bodies; plans reviewed by a **Central Empowered Committee**

Khelo India Sports Equipment Manufacturing Scheme

The **Union Cabinet** approved the **Khelo India Sports Equipment Manufacturing Scheme** with an outlay of **₹1,856.67 crore** for **2026 to 2033–34**. Announced in the **Union Budget 2026–27**, it aims to boost domestic sports equipment manufacturing, investment, jobs and exports, through **Dedicated Sports Goods Manufacturing Zones (SGMZs)**.

Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)

The **Union Cabinet** approved the **Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)** with a proposed outlay of **₹10,000 crore**. Announced in the **Union Budget 2026–27**, it aims to build a globally competitive container industry, reduce imports and strengthen maritime logistics. It supports **greenfield** and **brownfield** units; under the **Interest Subvention Assistance (ISA)** component, **₹859 crore** will provide a **3% annual interest subsidy** on eligible term loans.

9. Awards & Honours

Ashoke Sen Becomes First Indian to Receive Oskar Klein Medal 2026

Theoretical physicist **Ashoke Sen** has been awarded the **2026 Oskar Klein Medal**, becoming the **first Indian** to receive it. The award is associated with **Stockholm University** and the **Nobel Committee for Physics** of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Sen, the **ICTS-Infosys Madhava Chair Professor** at **ICTS, Bengaluru**, delivered the memorial lecture in **Stockholm** on **22 October 2026**, titled **"Gravity from Strings and Strings from Gravity"**. The medal was established in **1988** in honour of Swedish physicist **Oskar Klein (1894–1977)**.

10. Ranks & Reports

Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2027–28

The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** has conducted **ASUSE** since **2021–22** to collect data on India's **unincorporated non-agricultural sector** — manufacturing, trade and services enterprises important for jobs and GVA. For the **first time**, **ASUSE 2027–28** will include questions on **gender-specific constraints faced by women entrepreneurs**, plus questions on **electricity sources** and investment in fixed assets over a longer reference period.

11. Committees & Conferences

12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum 2026 Held in New Delhi

The **12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum** was held in **New Delhi** on **26–27 October 2026** under the theme **"Strengthening Parliaments for People-Centered Development"**, bringing together Presiding Officers and representatives of the **10 BRICS member countries**.

13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, at the **13th ADMM-Plus** in **Cebu, Philippines**, in **October 2026**, said India is ready to share its **counterterrorism** expertise with ASEAN countries.

About ADMM-Plus: Defence cooperation framework of the ASEAN members and **eight dialogue partners** — **India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, United States**

ASEAN Countries (11): Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Cambodia, **Timor-Leste**

12. Important Days

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2026

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** announced nationwide **Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada** (Tribal Pride Fortnight) from **1 to 15 November 2026**, culminating in **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas** on **15 November**, the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter **Bhagwan Birsa Munda** (**Dharti Aaba**).

The Government declared **15 November** as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas in **2021**. Birsa Munda's **150th birth anniversary** was marked during **2024–25** as **Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh**.

13. Sports

Asian Para Games 2026

India achieved its **best-ever performance** at the **Asian Para Games 2026 — 114 medals (30 gold, 35 silver, 49 bronze)** — finishing **fourth**, behind **China, Japan and Uzbekistan**. The **fifth edition** was held in **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**, from **18 to 24 October 2026**. The next edition will be in **Doha, Qatar**, in **2030**.

Athlete	Achievement
Mona Agarwal	**Two golds** in para shooting; **world record** in women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1
Sheetal Devi	**Two golds** in para archery
Sandeep	**World record** — men's 400m T64
Haney	**World record** — javelin F37/38

Andhra Pradesh Athletes: Ravi Karthik Budigina (para swimming): **two silver** (100m freestyle S13, 100m backstroke S13) and **one bronze** (50m freestyle S13) | **Ravanni Valasanaini (V. Ramani)**: **bronze**, women's 1500m T11, personal best

14. Miscellaneous

Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: Catch the Rain 2026 Campaign

The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** is implementing **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: Catch the Rain (JSJB: CTR) 2026**, launched on **1 June 2026**, integrating JSJB with **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain**. A **PIB backgrounder** of **26 October 2026** said **1.55 crore+** recharge and storage structures have been built under JSJB; an evaluation of **23 lakh** JSJB 1.0 structures estimated **2.43 billion cubic metres** of groundwater recharge (June–December 2025).

Recharge Mobile App

Jal Shakti Minister **C. R. Patil** launched the **Recharge** mobile app, developed by **BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics)** with the **National Water Mission (NWM)**. It helps users identify potential artificial recharge areas within a **3-km** radius and suitable recharge structures using **geospatial** data.

Quick Revision Table

Topic heading on the left. One complete sentence with all key facts on the right.

Topic	One-Line Summary
Lula Wins Brazil Election	Lula da Silva won Brazil's 2026 presidential runoff against Flávio Bolsonaro of the Liberal Party, securing a fourth term.
Ganges Water Treaty	The 30-year India–Bangladesh Ganges Water-Sharing Treaty of December 1996, covering dry-season sharing at the Farakka Barrage (commissioned 1975), expires on 12 December 2026 and has no automatic extension clause.
UNGA Cuba Vote	India voted for the non-binding UNGA resolution in October 2026 calling for an end to the US embargo on Cuba imposed in 1962.
Cow Slaughter Law	Gujarat's 2017 amendment to the Animal Preservation Act, 1954 made it the first State to allow life imprisonment for cow slaughter, linked to Article 48 and upheld in the Mirzapur Moti Kureshi Kassab Jamat case (2005).
Surangam	Kerala will revive Surangams, horizontal tunnels dug into laterite hills for gravity-based groundwater harvesting, in eight grama panchayats of Kasaragod.
Cyclone Arnab	Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Arnab formed over the Bay of Bengal on 26 October 2026 and was forecast to cross the AP–Yanam coast between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam, its name (meaning ocean) given by Bangladesh.
Analogue Paneer Ban	AP's Food Safety Department announced a one-year ban on analogue paneer, following an FSSAI notice of 22 April 2026 barring cheese analogues sold as paneer.
Collegium System	Articles 124 and 217 govern judicial appointments, with the collegium created by the Second Judges Case (1993) and the 99th Amendment's NJAC struck down in 2015.
CCUS	Union Budget 2026–27 provided ₹20,000 crore over five years for CCUS, and India's first Integrated CCUS Field Laboratory (3 tonnes CO_2/day) opened at IIT Bombay in May 2026.
Space Technologies	India's NGLV (₹8,240 crore, 30 tonnes to LEO) was approved in September 2024, SpaDeX made India the fourth country to dock in space on 16 January 2025, and NISAR launched on 30 July 2025.
Gene-Edited Rice	ICAR's gene-edited DRR Dhan-100 (Kamala) matures in about 130 days with about 20% higher yield, while Pusa DST Rice-1 tolerates saline and alkaline soils.
2026 ED138	The Vera C. Rubin Observatory found 2026 ED138, a possible dwarf planet about 46 AU from the Sun, which could join Ceres, Pluto, Haumea, Makemake and Eris.

Topic	One-Line Summary
PMVGSY	PMVGSY, a ₹7,395.55 crore Centrally Sponsored Scheme for 2026–27 to 2030–31, will prepare 2.55 lakh GPDPs a year on eGramSwaraj and use the AI platform Pancham in 17 languages.
CMPS & Khelo India Scheme	The Cabinet approved the ₹10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme with a 3% interest subvention and the ₹1,856.67 crore Khelo India Sports Equipment Manufacturing Scheme with Sports Goods Manufacturing Zones.
Oskar Klein Medal	Ashoke Sen of ICTS Bengaluru became the first Indian to receive the Oskar Klein Medal (established 1988), lecturing in Stockholm on 22 October 2026.
ADMM-Plus	At the 13th ADMM-Plus in Cebu, Philippines, Rajnath Singh offered India's counterterrorism expertise; ADMM-Plus includes eight dialogue partners including India.
Janjatiya Gaurav Divas	Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, declared in 2021, is observed on 15 November, Birsa Munda's birth anniversary, preceded by Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada from 1 to 15 November 2026.
Asian Para Games 2026	India won a best-ever 114 medals (30 gold) and finished fourth at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games (18–24 October 2026), with AP's Ravi Karthik Budigina winning two silvers and a bronze in swimming.

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