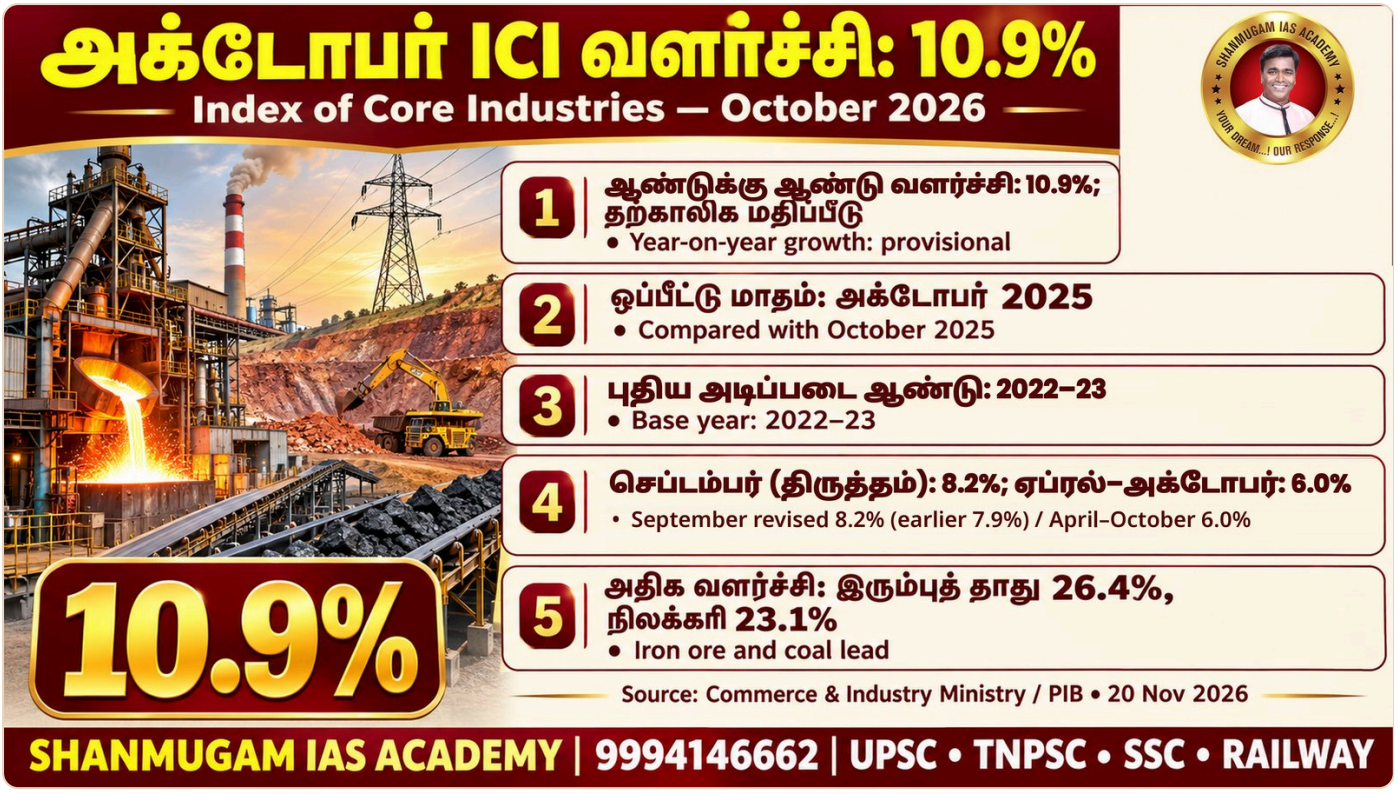
October 2026: Index of Core Industries (ICI) grows 10.9%

Topics: Economy · UPSC Prelims · TNPSC · SSC · Current Affairs



News

Provisional data released by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 20 November 2026 show the Index of Core Industries (ICI) grew 10.9% in October 2026 over the same month a year ago, the index rising from 111.0 to 123.1 (DD News). Of the nine industries in the index, iron ore (26.4%), coal (23.1%), electricity (21.6%), cement (15.4%), steel (7.3%) and refinery products (3.4%) grew, while fertilisers (–12.2%), natural gas (–7.6%) and crude oil (–4.1%) declined. September 2026 growth was revised up from 7.9% to 8.2%. Cumulative growth for April–October 2026 was 6.0%, against 2.3% a year earlier. The figures follow the new base-year series published from 20 July 2026. The November index will be released on 21 December 2026.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Oct 2026 growth	10.9% (index 123.1)
Released	20.11.2026 – Commerce & Industry Ministry (provisional)
Top growth	Iron ore 26.4%, coal 23.1%, electricity 21.6%
Declines	Fertilisers –12.2%, natural gas –7.6%, crude oil –4.1%
Sept 2026 (revised)	8.2% (earlier 7.9%)

Point	Details
Apr–Oct 2026	6.0% (previous year 2.3%)
Base year	2022-23 (from July 2026; earlier 2011-12)
New-series weights (%)	Electricity 30.932, refinery products 22.572, steel 17.584, crude oil 7.430, coal 5.596, iron ore 4.905, cement 4.410, natural gas 3.841, fertilisers 2.731
Next release	November data – 21.12.2026

Background

- The ICI is a monthly production-volume index of key infrastructure industries and serves as a lead indicator of overall industrial performance. Its weights are drawn from the corresponding item weights in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), pro-rated to 100. The IIP itself is released by the National Statistics Office (NSO).
- New series (20 July 2026): the base year moved from 2011-12 to 2022-23, the common base year approved by MoSPI for GDP, WPI, IIP and other indicators. Iron ore was added as the ninth industry because of its intensive use in production. Electricity's weight now includes renewable generation (the 2011-12 series counted only conventional sources), which – together with higher electricity GVA – raised its weight from 19.853% to 30.932%. Steel now uses gross production data, and only raw coal is counted to avoid double counting. A committee chaired by the Principal Economic Adviser, Office of the Economic Adviser (DPIIT), set up on 7 November 2025, recommended the changes.
- Constitution: 'electricity' is in the Concurrent List (List III, Entry 38) of the Seventh Schedule, so both the Union and the States can legislate on it. The Electricity Act, 2003 is a central law.

Tamil Nadu link: Cement and electricity, which grew strongly in October, matter to Tamil Nadu. TANCEM, the Tamil Nadu government's cement company, has plants at Ariyalur and Alangulam (Tenkasi district) (PTI – Business Standard); Ariyalur's limestone makes it a cement hub.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

Provisional data released by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 20 November 2026 show the Index of Core Industries (ICI) grew 10.9% in October 2026 over the same month a year ago, the index rising from 111.0 to 123.1 (DD News).

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Oct 2026 growth: 10.9% (index 123.1); Released: 20.11.2026 – Commerce & Industry Ministry (provisional); Top growth: Iron ore 26.4%, coal 23.1%, electricity 21.6%; Declines: Fertilisers –12.2%, natural gas –7.6%, crude oil –4.1%.

What is the background to this news?

The ICI is a monthly production-volume index of key infrastructure industries and serves as a lead indicator of overall industrial performance.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. What is the base year of the revised Index of Core Industries (ICI) released in July 2026?

A) 2011-12

B) 2017-18

C) 2022-23

D) 2020-21

Answer: C – Explanation: 2022-23 (earlier 2011-12) – changed to align with the new base years of GDP, WPI and IIP.

2. Which industry was newly added as the ninth core industry in the new ICI series?

A) Aluminium

B) Iron ore

C) Copper

D) Natural rubber

Answer: B – Explanation: Iron ore (weight 4.905%) – added for its intensive use in production. It grew fastest in October: 26.4%.

3. The weight of each industry in the ICI is derived from the item weights of which index?

A) IIP

B) WPI

C) CPI

D) PMI

Answer: A – Explanation: The Index of Industrial Production (IIP), pro-rated to 100. ICI is a lead indicator of overall industrial performance; the IIP is released by the NSO (MoSPI).

4. Besides Alangulam, in which district does TANCEM, the Tamil Nadu government's cement company, run a plant?

A) Dindigul

B) Virudhunagar

C) Ariyalur

D) Coimbatore

Answer: C – Explanation: Ariyalur – a limestone-rich cement hub; Alangulam is in Tenkasi district.

5. Which industry carries the largest weight in the ICI series with base year 2022-23?

A) Refinery products

B) Steel

C) Coal

D) Electricity

Answer: D – Explanation: Electricity – 30.932% (earlier 19.853%), raised by the inclusion of renewable generation. Refinery products follow at 22.572%.

Sources: DD News; OEA (DPIIT) ICI Press Note; OEA ICI Committee Report; Office of the Economic Adviser, ICI FAQs – eaindustry.nic.in (weights); Business Standard (PTI, TANCEM); Constitution of India, Seventh Schedule. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.