UPSC Current Affairs

Wednesday, 18 November 2026 · Sources: PIB and The Hindu · 138 items

Paper	Items	Top headlines
GS1	23	The expansion of Bhagyalakshmi Temple near Hyderabad's Charm; In Karnataka, World Heritage Week to be marked with special
GS2	91	Department of Commerce Amends Guidelines of Four Interventio; LOK SABHA SPEAKER PARTICIPATES IN VISHWA SHANTI MAHAYAGYA AT
GS3	24	India calls for an Open, Transparent and Equitable Second Gl; India positions CDRI as a key Global Platform for Climate-re

Every item links to its original source: tap a headline or the Source line to open the full article on thehindu.com or the press release on pib.gov.in. The Hindu text here is only the short RSS excerpt.

GS Paper I: Heritage, Culture, History, Geography & Society

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Andhra keeps 13 NDRF and 11 SDRF teams ready for Cyclone Akvan

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Disaster Management, Geography, Reports & Indices

• People can call 112, 1070 or 18004250101 in an emergency, and report power cuts, fallen trees and waterlogging on WhatsApp at 95523 00009

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Geography & disasters:** India is exposed to cyclones, floods and heatwaves; the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (amended 2025), NDMA and NDRF/SDRF lead the response.
• **Governance & polity:** Shift from relief to risk reduction (Sendai Framework); early warning, CDRI and climate-resilient infrastructure.
• **Economy:** RBI's MPC targets 4% CPI inflation (±2%); rate decisions affect EMIs, credit growth, investment and the rupee.
• **Society:** Food inflation hits poor households the most; links to supply-side measures like buffer stocks and export curbs.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Andhra, NDRF, SDRF, Cyclone Akvan, People

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/andhra-keeps-13-ndrf-and-11-sdrf-tea

GEOGRAPHY

Cyclone Akvan: why is Andhra Pradesh facing a third cyclone in a month?

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography

• Warm seas, river water that traps heat near the surface and winds that steer storms towards the coast have made this post-monsoon season unusual, experts say

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Geography & disasters:** India is exposed to cyclones, floods and heatwaves; the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (amended 2025), NDMA and NDRF/SDRF lead the response.
• **Governance & polity:** Shift from relief to risk reduction (Sendai Framework); early warning, CDRI and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Cyclone Akvan, Andhra Pradesh, Warm

Source: The Hindu, Environment, 18 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/cyclone-akvan-why-is-andhra-pradesh-

India’s sole island-dwelling cobra faces conservation challenges

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, International Relations, Environment & Ecology

• The Andaman cobra is highly venomous, and on top of that is capable of spitting venom as a defence mechanism, raising the probability of people killing it out of fear

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Andaman

Source: The Hindu, Science, 17 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/india-sole-island-dwelling-andama

Kochi Corporation to seek govt. relief for building tax defaulters

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, Economy, Disaster Management

• A resolution to this effect was moved by Vaduthala West councillor Jismy Jerald, highlighting a similar issue faced by around 160 families who were assigned title deeds for river puramboke land

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Kochi Corporation, Vaduthala West, Jismy Jerald

Source: The Hindu, National, 17 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kochi-corporation-to-seek-govt-relief-for-bu

Prince William says Gen Z is the torchbearer of the global movement for change

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, International Relations, Reports & Indices

• Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, Mahindra Last Mile Mobility among the five winners of Earthshot Prize

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **International relations:** Closest partner in the neighbourhood; hydropower cooperation (Chukha, Tala, Mangdechhu); Bhutan–China boundary talks matter because of Doklam.
• **Internal security:** Doklam plateau is close to the Siliguri Corridor ('Chicken's Neck'), India's link to the North-East.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Prince William, Gen, Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, Mahindra Last Mile Mobility, Earthshot Prize

Source: The Hindu, National, 17 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/maharashtra/prince-william-says-gen-z-is-the-torchb

Bahrain, Kuwait attacked after U.S. strikes Iranian island

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, International Relations, Internal Security

• Bahrain, Kuwait attacked after U.S. strikes Iranian island

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** US is India's largest export market; tariffs, H-1B visa rules and trade-deal talks hit IT services, textiles, gems and pharma exports and the rupee.
• **International relations:** Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership: defence deals, iCET/TRUST technology cooperation, Quad; India balances this with strategic autonomy (Russian oil, BRICS).
• **Society:** About 9 million Indians live in the Gulf; their safety (evacuation operations such as Ajay/Kaveri) and remittances (India is the world's largest recipient) are at stake.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Bahrain, Kuwait, Iranian

Source: The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/bahrain-kuwait-attacked-after-us-strikes-irani

Cyclone Akvan shifts track again; T.N. may have to wait till November 23 for heavy rain

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography

• In its latest forecast, the IMD has said cyclone Akvan has intensified into a severe cyclonic storm and lies over westcentral and adjoining central parts of south Bay of Bengal

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Geography & disasters:** India is exposed to cyclones, floods and heatwaves; the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (amended 2025), NDMA and NDRF/SDRF lead the response.
• **Governance & polity:** Shift from relief to risk reduction (Sendai Framework); early warning, CDRI and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Cyclone Akvan, November, IMD, Akvan, Bay of Bengal

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/cyclone-akvan-shifts-track-again-tn-may-

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

In line with WHO framework, T.N.’s National Centre of Ageing provides integrated care for the elderly

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Indian Society, Reports & Indices

• WHO’s approach is to provide a continuum of integrated care that helps to reorient health and social services towards more person-centred and coordinated care

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: WHO, National Centre of Ageing

Source: The Hindu, Health, 17 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/in-line-with-who-framework-tns-national-

HISTORY & ART AND CULTURE

The expansion of Bhagyalakshmi Temple near Hyderabad’s Charminar | Explained

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · History & Art and Culture, Governance & Social Justice, Polity & Constitution

• One of the first letters the ASI wrote to the Commission of Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad was on December 13, 1968, alerting the civic body of the construction

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Bhagyalakshmi Temple, Hyderabad, Charminar, Explained, One

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/the-expansion-of-bhagyalakshmi-temple-near-

In Karnataka, World Heritage Week to be marked with special sessions on 3D scanning, digitisation of inscriptions and more

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · History & Art and Culture

• Udaya Kumar, an expert in discovering and preserving inscriptions, will deliver two lectures; in Mysuru and Bengaluru, there will be a photo exhibition of monuments and various heritage structures in the State.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Karnataka, World Heritage Week, Udaya Kumar, Mysuru and Bengaluru

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/in-karnataka-world-heritage-week-to-be-ma

57th IFFI 2026 Unveils New Animation Segment to Celebrate the Heart and Soul of Animated Storytelling

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · History & Art and Culture, Governance & Social Justice, International Relations

• Across every culture and age, animation has a rare gift for turning simple drawings into stories that move us deeply.
• Expanding its cinematic horizons, the 57th International Film Festival of India 2026 unveils a dedicated new Animation segment to celebrate the artistry and emotional depth of animated storytelling.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Unsettled LAC (eastern Ladakh, Arunachal): border infrastructure, disengagement and buffer zones; China's dual-use villages (Xiaokang) and dams on the Brahmaputra (Yarlung Tsangpo).
• **Economy:** Large trade deficit and dependence on Chinese inputs (APIs, electronics, solar, rare earths) drive PLI schemes, Press Note 3 (2020) FDI curbs and supply-chain diversification.
• **International relations:** Strategic competition in the Indian Ocean (String of Pearls), BRI vs connectivity alternatives (IMEC), and balancing via Quad while engaging in BRICS/SCO.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: IFFI, Unveils New Animation Segment, Celebrate the Heart and Soul of Animated Storytelling, Across, Expanding

Source: PIB, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337808

Cancel wetland excavation project in eastern Assam grazing grounds, CM urged

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · History & Art and Culture, Geography, Governance & Social Justice

• People from villages in Jorhat district’s Teok region staged a protest in Guwahati, demanding a halt to the ongoing project across 7,598 bighas

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Environment:** Conservation under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and Forest Conservation Act 1980; India's commitments under the CBD (30x30 target).
• **Society:** Human–wildlife conflict and the rights of forest dwellers under the Forest Rights Act 2006.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Cancel, Assam, People, Jorhat, Teok

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/assam/cancel-wetland-excavation-project-in-eastern-

PM Modi gifts Pichwaai painting, Banarasi Katan silk stole, Kashmiri carpet to world leaders

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · History & Art and Culture, Polity & Constitution

• The Prime Minister has gifted the U.S.
• president a golden Pichwaai painting, originating in Nathdwara, Rajasthan

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Infiltration, hybrid terrorists and narco-terror links; normalcy indicators such as tourism and voter turnout.
• **Governance & polity:** After the abrogation of Article 370 (2019, upheld by the Supreme Court in 2023), questions of statehood restoration and Sixth Schedule demands in Ladakh.
• **Economy:** US is India's largest export market; tariffs, H-1B visa rules and trade-deal talks hit IT services, textiles, gems and pharma exports and the rupee.
• **International relations:** Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership: defence deals, iCET/TRUST technology cooperation, Quad; India balances this with strategic autonomy (Russian oil, BRICS).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: PM Modi, Pichwaai, Banarasi Katan, Kashmiri, Prime Minister

Source: The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-modi-gifts-pichwaai-painting-banarasi-katan-silk

INDIAN SOCIETY

Eight workers, including 16-year-old boy, rescued from bonded labour in Narayanpet

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Indian Society, Governance & Social Justice

• The group included an elderly couple from Wanaparthy, aged 78 and 66, and a young couple from Mahbubnagar, aged 19 and 22.
• Seven of the eight workers belong to the Scheduled Caste community.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Society:** Data and policy for social justice: the next Census will include caste enumeration; sub-classification of SC/ST (Supreme Court 2024) and the 50% ceiling (Indra Sawhney).
• **Governance & polity:** Targeting welfare and reservation policy needs reliable data; also linked to delimitation.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Eight, Narayanpet, Wanaparthy, Mahbubnagar, Seven

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/eight-workers-including-16-year-old-boy-r

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports Constitutes High-Level Committee to Build a Sustainable Sports League Ecosystem in India (PIB, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, 18 Nov 2026)
• Transgender rights, healthcare should not be compromised (The Hindu, Health, 18 Nov 2026)
• One in five women in parts of Northeast deficient in vitamin B1: ICMR-NIN study (The Hindu, Health, 18 Nov 2026)
• At Deepavali celebration, Mamdani flags targeting of Hindu temples (The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026)
• Pinarayi flags healthcare crisis in Attappady, seeks ■5 lakh for each infant death (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• Cyclone 'Akvan' LIVE updates: Akvan likely to cross between Machilipatnam and Puri, says APSDMA (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• Will protect tribal rights, cancel all fake ST certificates: Bengal CM (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• Cyclone Akvan: Visakhapatnam Collector directs officials to remain alert (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• Captain dies after Army vehicle plunges into Itam River in Imphal East (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)

GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, Social Justice & IR

AGRICULTURE

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan to dedicate Indias First Indigenous H5N1 (Clade 2.3.2.1a) Chicken Vaccine to the Nation on 20 November

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Agriculture, Science & Technology, Governance & Social Justice

• The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, will dedicate India’s first indigenous Inactivated H5N1 (Clade 2.3.2.1a) Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Vaccine for Chickens to the Nation on 20 th November, 2026 at ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (ICAR-NIHSAD), Bhopal.
• Developed indigenously by ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal, the vaccine…

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Society:** Public health outcomes and out-of-pocket spending; schemes like Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY and the TB-elimination target.
• **Governance & polity:** Health is a State subject; centre–state coordination and the One Health approach for disease surveillance.
• **Economy:** Agriculture employs about 45% of workers; MSP, procurement and input prices affect farm incomes, food inflation and the subsidy bill.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Indias First Indigenous H5N1, Clade, Chicken Vaccine, Nation

Source: PIB, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337716

‘Record horticultural production’ shows increase of 4.36% from 2024-25: Agriculture Ministry

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Agriculture, Governance & Social Justice

• Significant increase in horticultural production reflects the hard work of India’s farmers and the impact of the Centre’s farmer-friendly policies, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan says

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** Agriculture employs about 45% of workers; MSP, procurement and input prices affect farm incomes, food inflation and the subsidy bill.
• **Governance & polity:** Debates on MSP legal guarantee, crop diversification away from water-intensive paddy, and agricultural marketing reforms.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Record, Agriculture Ministry, Significant, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Source: The Hindu, National, 17 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/record-horticultural-production-shows-increase-of-4

ECONOMY

India’s Oct. crude import bill soars 87.5% to $19.5-bn amid West Asia tensions, volumes up 11%

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy, Polity & Constitution, Governance & Social Justice

• While higher petroleum product exports offer a partial natural hedge, sustained increases in crude and gas prices could intensify pressure on the country’s import bill.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** India imports most of its crude oil, much of it from the Gulf; conflict raises oil prices, shipping and insurance costs, inflation and the current account deficit.
• **Society:** About 9 million Indians live in the Gulf; their safety (evacuation operations such as Ajay/Kaveri) and remittances (India is the world's largest recipient) are at stake.
• **International relations:** India balances ties with Israel, Iran and the Arab states; projects like Chabahar and IMEC depend on regional stability.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Oct, West Asia

Source: The Hindu, Economy, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/indias-oct-crude-import-bill-soars-875-to-195-bn

IEPFA and SEBI Organise "Niveshak Shivir" in New Delhi to Resolve Investor Grievances and Unclaimed Dividend Claims

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy, Governance & Social Justice

• The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs), organised a "Niveshak Shivir" at Jacaranda Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, on 17th November 2026.
• The one-day Shivir offered claimants face-to-face grievance redressal…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: IEPFA and SEBI Organise, Niveshak Shivir, New Delhi, Resolve Investor Grievances and Unclaimed Dividend Claims, Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority

Source: PIB, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337817

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Department of Commerce Amends Guidelines of Four Interventions under Export Promotion Mission to Enhance Support for Exporters

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy

• The Department of Commerce has amended the guidelines of four interventions under the Niryat Disha sub-scheme of Export Promotion Mission (EPM) on 17 November 2026 to enhance support for exporters and broaden participation.
• These interventions are Market Access Support (MAS), Trade Regulations, Accreditation & Compliance Enablement (TRACE), and Logistics Interventions for Freight and Transport (LIFT).

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** Affects India's export competitiveness, MSMEs and jobs in labour-intensive sectors; India's recent FTAs include UAE, Australia, EFTA (TEPA) and the UK.
• **International relations:** Trade is now a tool of geopolitics; India defends policy space at the WTO on food security (public stockholding) and agriculture.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Department of Commerce Amends Guidelines of Four Interventions, Export Promotion Mission, Enhance Support for Exporters, Department of Commerce, Niryat Disha

Source: PIB, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337815

LOK SABHA SPEAKER PARTICIPATES IN VISHWA SHANTI MAHAYAGYA AT HISTORIC SHRI HATKESHWAR MAHADEV TEMPLE IN VADNAGAR

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Polity & Constitution

• Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla visited Vadnagar in Mehsana district, Gujarat, today and participated in a series of spiritual, educational, and cultural engagements.
• Beginning his visit at the historic Shri Hatkeshwar Mahadev Temple, Shri Birla offered prayers and participated in the ongoing 10-day Vishwa Shanti Mahayagya organised under the divine guidance and presence of Kanchi Kamakoti Peethadhipati Jagadguru…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: LOK SABHA SPEAKER PARTICIPATES IN VISHWA SHANTI MAHAYAGYA AT HISTORIC SHRI HATKESHWAR MAHADEV TEMPLE IN VADNAGAR, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla, Vadnagar, Mehsana, Gujarat

Source: PIB, Lok Sabha Secretariat, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338131

Strengthening India's Community Seed Banks (CSBs): DIVERSIFARM-India Maps 652 CSBs and Releases New Capacity-Building Manual

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy, Agriculture

• India has at least 1,000 community seed banks (CSBs), according to a survey conducted by DIVERSIFARM-India.
• The project's digital atlas has already mapped 652 of these community-led institutions, providing an important foundation for understanding, strengthening and supporting India's diverse community seed banks.

Prelims pointers

• The outputs were shared at the National Seminar for the Advancement of CSBs held over two days on 17 th…
• Key terms: Strengthening India, Community Seed Banks, CSBs, DIVERSIFARM-India Maps, CSBs and Releases New Capacity-Building Manual

Source: PIB, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338118

Union Health Secretary Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava Holds Review Meeting with Executive Directors of New AIIMS to Assess Institutional Performance and Strengthen Healthcare Delivery

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• Union Health Secretary Smt.
• Punya Salila Srivastava reviewed the functioning of all the New AIIMS under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) in a meeting here today with all the Executive Directors of these Institutes of National Importance (INIs).

Prelims pointers

• Under PMSSY, 22 AIIMS have been approved, out of which 18 are functional with teaching, learning & research, IPD/OPD facilities, emergency & trauma, diagnostic…
• Key terms: Union Health Secretary Smt, Punya Salila Srivastava Holds Review Meeting, Executive Directors of New AIIMS, Assess Institutional Performance and Strengthen Healthcare Delivery, Punya Salila Srivastava

Source: PIB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338125

3rd DHR-ICMR Health Research Excellence Summit Brings Together Over 600 Scientists, Researchers and Policymakers in New Delhi

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Science & Technology, International Relations

• The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has achieved the milestone of 100 successful technology transfers deals, marking a significant step in translating indigenous health research into technologies and solutions for wider public use.
• The milestone was announced at the 3rd Department of Health Research (DHR)-ICMR Health Research Excellence Summit, which concluded today at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: DHR-ICMR Health Research Excellence Summit Brings Together Over, Scientists, Researchers and Policymakers, New Delhi, Indian Council of Medical Research

Source: PIB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337773

Fire destroys nearly 300 fishing nets in Prakasam district

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• Fishing nets stored in the sheds as a precautionary measure against the approaching Cyclone Akvan near K.
• Pallepalem coast caught fire; Deputy Chief Minister orders assistance to the affected under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) 2.0’ scheme

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Geography & disasters:** India is exposed to cyclones, floods and heatwaves; the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (amended 2025), NDMA and NDRF/SDRF lead the response.
• **Governance & polity:** Shift from relief to risk reduction (Sendai Framework); early warning, CDRI and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Fire, Prakasam, Fishing, Cyclone Akvan, Pallepalem

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/fire-destroys-nearly-300-fishing-net

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Calls for Integrated National Sports Ecosystem built Around Universities

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Science & Technology, Environment & Ecology

• Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr.
• Mansukh Mandaviya, chaired a meeting with 13 Sports Universities from across India, in New Delhi.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Mansukh Mandaviya Calls for Integrated National Sports Ecosystem, Around Universities, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, Sports Universities

Source: PIB, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337816

Union Minister Shri Prataprao Jadhav Chairs 13th Governing Body Meeting of National Institute of Unani Medicine

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Ayush and Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Shri Prataprao Jadhav, today chaired the 13th Governing Body meeting of the National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) at Kartavya Bhawan-I, New Delhi.
• Highlighting NIUM's role in advancing Unani education, research and healthcare, Shri Prataprao Jadhav noted that the institute…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Union Minister Shri Prataprao Jadhav Chairs, Governing Body Meeting of National Institute of Unani Medicine, Union Minister of State, Independent Charge, Ministry of Ayush and Minister of State

Source: PIB, AYUSH, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338048

Secretary, DoSEL, chairs interactive session with UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, International Relations

• Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), Union Ministry of Education, Shri T.
• Anil Kumar, chaired an interactive session with United Nations Special Rapporteur (UNSR), Ms.

Prelims pointers

• Heba Hagrass, on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in New Delhi on November 17, 2026.
• Key terms: Secretary, DoSEL, UN Special Rapporteur, Rights of Persons, Disabilities

Source: PIB, Ministry of Education, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338112

Union Health Ministry Observes World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2026, Calls for Collective Action against AMR

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, today, inaugurated the national observance of the World Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week 2026 at Kartavya Bhawan, New Delhi.
• The week-long observance is significant as it seeks to build greater awareness and collective action against antimicrobial resistance, one of the most urgent threats to public health.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Society:** Public health outcomes and out-of-pocket spending; schemes like Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY and the TB-elimination target.
• **Governance & polity:** Health is a State subject; centre–state coordination and the One Health approach for disease surveillance.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Union Health Ministry Observes World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week, Calls for Collective Action, AMR, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, World Antimicrobial Resistance

Static connect: Antimicrobial resistance

• Microbes stop responding to medicines; India has a National Action Plan on AMR and a Red Line campaign on antibiotics.
UPSC angle: Public health (GS2, GS3).
Source: PIB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338081

Ministry of Rural Development Issues Ombudsperson Guidelines to Strengthen Transparency and Accountability under VB-G RAM G

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• The Ministry of Rural Development has strengthened the framework for transparency, accountability and citizen participation in the implementation of the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB-G RAM G Act, 2025, through the Guidelines for Ombudsperson and Appellate Authority.
• The guidelines reinforce the spirit of the VB- G RAM G Act by strengthening institutional mechanisms to…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Ministry of Rural Development Issues Ombudsperson Guidelines, Strengthen Transparency and Accountability, VB-G RAM, Ministry of Rural Development, Viksit Bharat
Source: PIB, Ministry of Rural Development, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337720

CM Vijay virtually inaugurates hospital buildings, higher education infrastructure

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• Minister for Health and Family Welfare K.G.
• Arunraj, Minister for Higher Education P.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: CM Vijay, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Arunraj, Minister for Higher Education, Viswanathan
Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/cm-vijay-virtually-inaugurates-hospital-

Who pays for healthcare in India?

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Science & Technology

• On rising public health spending, household medical costs, access to treatment, infectious disease outbreaks and more

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Society:** Public health outcomes and out-of-pocket spending; schemes like Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY and the TB-elimination target.
• **Governance & polity:** Health is a State subject; centre–state coordination and the One Health approach for disease surveillance.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Who
Source: The Hindu, Health, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/health-matters-newsletter-who-pays-for-healthcare

Prime Minister shares Sanskrit Subhashitam highlighting the importance of balance in maintaining health and happiness

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, International Relations, Economy

• The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, shared a Sanskrit Subhashitam highlighting the importance of balance in maintaining health and happiness: ■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ ■ ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■ ■■■■■ The verse underscores the significance of balance in sustaining good health and achieving happiness.
• It reflects that well-being is not merely the absence of disease but also the harmonious…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Prime Minister, Sanskrit Subhashitam, Shri Narendra Modi

Source: PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337753

9th Naturopathy Day Celebrated Across the Country under the Theme ‘Prakritik Chikitsa, Swasth Bharat’

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, International Relations, Economy

• The 9th Naturopathy Day was celebrated across the country today under the theme ‘Prakritik Chikitsa, Swasth Bharat’, underscoring the importance of naturopathy and nature-based healthcare in promoting preventive healthcare, healthy lifestyles and holistic well-being.
• The national-level celebration was organised by the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN), Ministry of Ayush, in collaboration…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Naturopathy Day Celebrated Across the Country, Theme, Prakritik Chikitsa, Swasth Bharat, Naturopathy Day

Source: PIB, AYUSH, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337874

Union Minister of Communications Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia to participate in Letter of Intent Distribution Ceremony in Bhopal for upcoming Telecom Manufacturing Zone in Gwalior

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy, Science & Technology

• In a significant step towards realising the vision of establishing Asia’s first Telecom Manufacturing Zone in Gwalior, a Letter of Intent (LoI) Distribution Ceremony will be held in Bhopal on November 19, 2026.
• The programme will be graced by Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dr.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Union Minister of Communications Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Letter of Intent Distribution Ceremony, Bhopal, Telecom Manufacturing Zone, Gwalior

Source: PIB, Ministry of Communications, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338073

Vice President of India Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan Addresses 8th Convocation of VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital in the Presence of Union Health Minister Shri J.P. Nadda

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Polity & Constitution

• Vice-President of India, Shri C.
• Radhakrishnan, addressed the 8th Convocation Ceremony of Vardhman Mahavir Medical College (VMMC) and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, today, in the presence of Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri J.

Prelims pointers

• The convocation was organised as part of the institution’s Silver Jubilee Year celebrations, marking 25 years of its establishment (2001–2026).
• Key terms: Vice President of India Shri, Radhakrishnan Addresses, Convocation of VMMC, Safdarjung Hospital, Presence of Union Health Minister Shri

Source: PIB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338127

Stage set for launch of Indiramma Bima by Chief Minister at Siddipet on Thursday

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy, Science & Technology

• CM to release application for enrolment into the scheme

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Stage, Indiramma Bima, Chief Minister, Siddipet, Thursday

Source: The Hindu, National, 17 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/stage-set-for-launch-of-indiramma-bima-by

Hospital in Chennai performs complex aortic surgery on 10-year-old boy with rare vascular disease

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Science & Technology

• The child recovered and was discharged on the ninth day after surgery

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Hospital, Chennai

Source: The Hindu, Health, 17 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/hospital-in-chennai-performs-complex-aortic-surge

Microplastics, 'cocktail' of hazardous chemicals in Delhi's Yamuna, flags study

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Agriculture, Science & Technology

• The researchers also identified pharmaceutical compounds such as atomoxetine, domperidone and telmisartan, along with agrochemical-related substances, including diuron and thiamethoxam

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Microplastics, Delhi, Yamuna

Source: The Hindu, Health, 17 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/microplastics-cocktail-of-hazardous-chemicals-in-

Gilead signs generic licensing deals for experimental Ebola drug

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy, Science & Technology

• A late-stage trial is testing the drug in people at high risk after exposure.
• The deals are intended to line up manufacturing and supply before trial results and regulatory filings

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Gilead, Ebola

Source: The Hindu, Health, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/gilead-signs-generic-licensing-deals-for-experime

Centre issues guidelines for ombudspersons under VB G Ram G

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy

• District-level ombudspersons to handle workers' complaints; digital tracking, social audits and community engagement to strengthen transparency under rural employment scheme

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Ram, District-level

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/grievances-under-vb-g-ram-g-centre-issues-guideline

Nepal gets nod to import 350 MW of power from India during winter

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, International Relations, Economy

• The approval is valid from November 17, 2026, to July 31, 2027, and is expected to help Nepal manage the seasonal gap between electricity demand and domestic generation

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **International relations:** Open border under the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship; map dispute over Kalapani–Lipulekh–Limpiyadhura; competition with Chinese investment.
• **Internal security:** Open border can be misused for trafficking, fake currency and movement of criminals; SSB guards it.
• **Economy:** Hydropower trade (India buys Nepali power), cross-border rail and petroleum pipelines.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Nepal, November, July

Source: The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nepal-gets-nod-to-import-350-mw-of-power-from-india

Does India need to financially aid families' decisions to have a child through fertility treatment?

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• Indian laws protect the decision not to have a child through statutes, schemes and subsidies, but the decision to have one is left to the mercy of the private assisted reproduction healthcare market

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Does India

Source: The Hindu, Health, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/does-india-need-to-financially-aid-families-decis

LPST rank-holders decide to continue stir as Keralam govt. undecided on 1:25 teacher-student ratio

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Science & Technology, Reports & Indices

• They meet General Education Minister N.
• Samsudheen, who says the contentious issue requires further discussions since other sections too will raise similar demands.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: LPST, Keralam, General Education Minister, Samsudheen

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/lpst-rank-holders-decide-to-continue-stir-as

PM to participate in the Valedictory Session of Departmental Summit on Social Justice and Empowerment on 19 November

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, International Relations

• Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will participate in the valedictory session of the Departmental Summit on Social Justice and Empowerment on 19 November 2026 at around 4:30 PM at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi.
• He will also address the gathering on the occasion.

Source: PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338126

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) continue strong financial performance in first half of FY2026-27

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy

• The sustained improvement in financial health across different financial parameters, including, inter alia, capital adequacy, business growth, low slippages, healthy asset quality and outstandingly improved profitability, establishes the complete turnaround in overall functioning of Public Sector Banks (PSBs).
• It shows that PSBs are not only making profit but also meeting the requirements of credit supply need with…

Source: PIB, Ministry of Finance, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337946

INTERNAL SECURITY

INDIAN NAVY MARKS 50 YEARS OF LONG-RANGE MARITIME RECONNAISSANCE

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Internal Security, Governance & Social Justice, International Relations

• The Indian Navy marks the Golden Jubilee of its Long-Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR) operations on 18 Nov 2026 .
• The milestone coincides with the 50th anniversary of the commissioning of Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 312, the 'Albatross', and commemorates five decades of airborne vigil in support of India's maritime security.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Protecting sea lanes, coastal security after 26/11, anti-piracy patrols in the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden; India as net security provider in the IOR.
• **International relations:** SAGAR / MAHASAGAR vision, Information Fusion Centre (IOR) at Gurugram, and naval diplomacy.

Prelims pointers

• Following the 1971 war, the need for shore-based maritime patrol aircraft capable…
• Key terms: INDIAN NAVY MARKS, YEARS OF LONG-RANGE MARITIME RECONNAISSANCE, Indian Navy, Golden Jubilee, Long-Range Maritime Reconnaissance

Source: PIB, Ministry of Defence, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337736

Indian Navy marks 50 years of long-range maritime reconnaissance operations

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Internal Security, Governance & Social Justice, International Relations

• INAS 312, the ‘Albatross’ squadron commissioned on November 18, 1976, with five Super Constellation aircraft transferred from the Indian Air Force, completes its Golden Jubilee; P-8I aircraft from INAS 312 and INAS 316 now maintain surveillance across the Indian Ocean and beyond

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Protecting sea lanes, coastal security after 26/11, anti-piracy patrols in the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden; India as net security provider in the IOR.
• **International relations:** SAGAR / MAHASAGAR vision, Information Fusion Centre (IOR) at Gurugram, and naval diplomacy.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Indian Navy, INAS, Albatross, November, Super Constellation

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indian-navy-marks-50-years-of-long-range-maritime-r

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

India, Japan set to review defence ties as Rajnath, Jaishankar arrive in Tokyo

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Disaster Management, Internal Security

• The two-day visit comes a day after the Quad leaders' summit in Manila, Philippines and as India hosts a joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise involving the four member countries

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Shows the threat from cross-border and home-grown terror modules, online radicalisation and terror financing; NIA and the UAPA, 1967 are the main legal and investigative tools.
• **Governance & polity:** Debate on UAPA's stringent bail provisions, low conviction rate and civil liberties versus security.
• **International relations:** India's Act East Policy and vision of a free, open, rules-based Indo-Pacific (UNCLOS 1982); Quad and ASEAN centrality.
• **Economy:** A large share of India's trade passes through the Malacca Strait and South China Sea; disruption hits supply chains (semiconductors from Taiwan).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Japan, Rajnath, Jaishankar, Tokyo, Quad

Static connect: Quad

• India, the United States, Japan and Australia; focus on a free and open Indo-Pacific.
UPSC angle: Indo-Pacific strategy (GS2).

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/india-japan-set-to-review-defence-ties-as-rajn

Ukraine strikes major Russian bridge with drones and missiles as aerial attacks escalate

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Science & Technology, Economy

• The Kerch Bridge is a crucial link in moving military and civilian supplies from Russia to Crimea and to support troops on the front line

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **International relations:** India's strategic autonomy: abstentions at the UN, call for dialogue and diplomacy, while keeping ties with Russia and the West.
• **Economy:** Discounted Russian crude, fertiliser and defence spares; Western sanctions and secondary tariffs create payment and trade risks for India.
• **Internal security:** Dependence on Russian defence equipment (S-400, Su-30) and the push for indigenisation (Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence).
• **Society:** Drug abuse among youth; NDPS Act, 1985 and Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Ukraine, Russian, Kerch Bridge, Russia, Crimea

Source: The Hindu, International, 17 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/ukraine-strikes-major-russian-bridge-with-dron

U.K. sanctions Israeli companies building West Bank settlements

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Economy

• The long-discussed E1 project would effectively cut off eastern Jerusalem from Palestinian population centres in the occupied West Bank, harming the prospects for a viable independent Palestinian state, Britain says

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** India imports most of its crude oil, much of it from the Gulf; conflict raises oil prices, shipping and insurance costs, inflation and the current account deficit.
• **Society:** About 9 million Indians live in the Gulf; their safety (evacuation operations such as Ajay/Kaveri) and remittances (India is the world's largest recipient) are at stake.
• **International relations:** India balances ties with Israel, Iran and the Arab states; projects like Chabahar and IMEC depend on regional stability.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Israeli, West Bank, Jerusalem, Palestinian, Britain

Source: The Hindu, International, 17 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/uk-sanctions-israeli-companies-building-west-b

World needs peace, stability, predictability: Modi in Manila

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Quad leaders issue joint statement opposing economic and maritime 'coercion' in Indo-Pacific; Modi proposes seafarers' safety initiative at East Asia Summit, also attends meeting with ASEAN leaders

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **International relations:** India's Act East Policy and vision of a free, open, rules-based Indo-Pacific (UNCLOS 1982); Quad and ASEAN centrality.
• **Economy:** A large share of India's trade passes through the Malacca Strait and South China Sea; disruption hits supply chains (semiconductors from Taiwan).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: World, Modi, Manila, Quad, Indo-Pacific

Static connect: Quad

• India, the United States, Japan and Australia; focus on a free and open Indo-Pacific.

UPSC angle: Indo-Pacific strategy (GS2).

Source: The Hindu, National, 17 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/world-needs-peace-stability-predictability-modi-in-

China's Xi, other leaders say Asia-Pacific must embrace open trade and fair growth

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Polity & Constitution, Economy

• In a CEO Summit on the sidelines of the APEC Summit, the Chinese President did not mention export controls, Nvidia or the U.S.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Unsettled LAC (eastern Ladakh, Arunachal): border infrastructure, disengagement and buffer zones; China's dual-use villages (Xiaokang) and dams on the Brahmaputra (Yarlung Tsangpo).
• **Economy:** Large trade deficit and dependence on Chinese inputs (APIs, electronics, solar, rare earths) drive PLI schemes, Press Note 3 (2020) FDI curbs and supply-chain diversification.
• **International relations:** Strategic competition in the Indian Ocean (String of Pearls), BRI vs connectivity alternatives (IMEC), and balancing via Quad while engaging in BRICS/SCO.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: China, Asia-Pacific, CEO Summit, APEC Summit, Chinese President

Static connect: APEC

• Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, formed in 1989; 21 member economies around the Pacific Rim.
• India is not a member.

UPSC angle: Regional economic groupings; Prelims membership questions.

Source: The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/chinas-xi-other-leaders-say-asia-pacific-must-

Trump-Xi-Putin historic trilateral summit: What to expect, significance, and more

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Xi-Trump-Putin meet comes on the sidelines of the APEC Summit and amidst a long ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** US is India's largest export market; tariffs, H-1B visa rules and trade-deal talks hit IT services, textiles, gems and pharma exports and the rupee.
• **International relations:** Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership: defence deals, iCET/TRUST technology cooperation, Quad; India balances this with strategic autonomy (Russian oil, BRICS).
• **Internal security:** Dependence on Russian defence equipment (S-400, Su-30) and the push for indigenisation (Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Trump-Xi-Putin, What, Xi-Trump-Putin, APEC Summit, Russia-Ukraine

Static connect: APEC

• Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, formed in 1989; 21 member economies around the Pacific Rim.
• India is not a member.
UPSC angle: Regional economic groupings; Prelims membership questions.

Source: The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/trump-xi-putin-shenzhen-meeting-2026-agenda-si

Pakistan, Iran stress sustained engagement, coordination for regional stability

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Field Marshal Munir made the remarks during a meeting with a high-level Iranian delegation led by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Rawalpindi

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Cross-border terrorism and infiltration across the LoC remain India's core security concern; links to J&K, drones dropping arms/drugs in Punjab, and terror financing (FATF).
• **International relations:** India's stated policy: no talks with terror; Indus Waters Treaty (1960) held in abeyance since April 2025; China–Pakistan nexus including CPEC through PoK.
• **Economy:** India imports most of its crude oil, much of it from the Gulf; conflict raises oil prices, shipping and insurance costs, inflation and the current account deficit.
• **Society:** About 9 million Indians live in the Gulf; their safety (evacuation operations such as Ajay/Kaveri) and remittances (India is the world's largest recipient) are at stake.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Pakistan, Iran, Field Marshal Munir, Iranian, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

Source: The Hindu, International, 17 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/pakistan-iran-stress-sustained-engagement-coor

Raksha Mantri visits Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Naval Base in Yokosuka

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• “The growing maritime cooperation between India and Japan is a reflection of the deep trust and shared commitment of the two nations towards a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific,” said Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh in a post on X following his visit to the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Naval Base in Yokosuka on November 18, 2026, along with Japan’s Minister of Defense Mr Shinjiro Koizumi.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **International relations:** India's Act East Policy and vision of a free, open, rules-based Indo-Pacific (UNCLOS 1982); Quad and ASEAN centrality.
• **Economy:** A large share of India's trade passes through the Malacca Strait and South China Sea; disruption hits supply chains (semiconductors from Taiwan).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Raksha Mantri, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Naval Base, Yokosuka, India and Japan, Indo-Pacific

Source: PIB, Ministry of Defence, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337997

What is Quad, what is on the Manila agenda, and why does the 2026 summit matter?

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• The summit in Manila will be the first meeting of Quad leaders since they gathered in Wilmington, United States, in September 2024

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** US is India's largest export market; tariffs, H-1B visa rules and trade-deal talks hit IT services, textiles, gems and pharma exports and the rupee.
• **International relations:** Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership: defence deals, iCET/TRUST technology cooperation, Quad; India balances this with strategic autonomy (Russian oil, BRICS).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: What, Quad, Manila, Wilmington, United States

Static connect: Quad

• India, the United States, Japan and Australia; focus on a free and open Indo-Pacific.

UPSC angle: Indo-Pacific strategy (GS2).

Source: The Hindu, International, 17 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/what-is-quad-manila-agenda-why-does-2026-summi

Xi, Putin meet ahead of historic Trump trilateral summit

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Washington had signalled that Ukraine — something Mr.
• Xi vehemently sees as not China's problem — was not expected to be addressed, before Mr.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** US is India's largest export market; tariffs, H-1B visa rules and trade-deal talks hit IT services, textiles, gems and pharma exports and the rupee.
• **International relations:** Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership: defence deals, iCET/TRUST technology cooperation, Quad; India balances this with strategic autonomy (Russian oil, BRICS).
• **Internal security:** Dependence on Russian defence equipment (S-400, Su-30) and the push for indigenisation (Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Putin, Trump, Washington, Ukraine, China

Source: The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/xi-putin-meet-ahead-of-historic-trump-trilater

Xi hails Russia ties as ‘source of stability’ ahead of trilateral summit

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Polity & Constitution

• The Chinese President opened the two-day APEC gathering with an address to a CEO Summit, where he made a pitch for openness and stable supply chains

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **International relations:** India's strategic autonomy: abstentions at the UN, call for dialogue and diplomacy, while keeping ties with Russia and the West.
• **Economy:** Discounted Russian crude, fertiliser and defence spares; Western sanctions and secondary tariffs create payment and trade risks for India.
• **Internal security:** Dependence on Russian defence equipment (S-400, Su-30) and the push for indigenisation (Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Russia, Chinese President, APEC, CEO Summit

Static connect: APEC

• Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, formed in 1989; 21 member economies around the Pacific Rim.
• India is not a member.

UPSC angle: Regional economic groupings; Prelims membership questions.

Source: The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/xi-hails-russia-ties-as-source-of-stability-ah

Pakistani man convicted of plotting to kill Trump is sentenced to over 27 years in prison

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Prosecutors said Asif Merchant tried to recruit people in U.S.
• in a plan targeting Donald Trump, others ■in retaliation for Washington's killing of ■Iranian military commander in 2020

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Cross-border terrorism and infiltration across the LoC remain India's core security concern; links to J&K, drones dropping arms/drugs in Punjab, and terror financing (FATF).
• **International relations:** India's stated policy: no talks with terror; Indus Waters Treaty (1960) held in abeyance since April 2025; China–Pakistan nexus including CPEC through PoK.
• **Economy:** US is India's largest export market; tariffs, H-1B visa rules and trade-deal talks hit IT services, textiles, gems and pharma exports and the rupee.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Pakistani, Trump, Prosecutors, Asif Merchant, Donald Trump

Source: The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/pakistani-man-convicted-of-plotting-to-kill-tr

Rajnath Singh begins Japan visit with naval base tour

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• “The growing maritime cooperation between India and Japan is a reflection of the deep trust and shared commitment of the two nations towards a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific,” says Defence Minister

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **International relations:** India's Act East Policy and vision of a free, open, rules-based Indo-Pacific (UNCLOS 1982); Quad and ASEAN centrality.
• **Economy:** A large share of India's trade passes through the Malacca Strait and South China Sea; disruption hits supply chains (semiconductors from Taiwan).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Rajnath Singh, Japan, India and Japan, Indo-Pacific, Defence Minister

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajnath-singh-begins-japan-visit-with-naval-base-to

Russian military transport plane crashes in Siberia, killing 19: Defence Ministry

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• The An-12 aircraft went down in an unpopulated area near the city of Kemerovo, about 3,000 kilometres (about 1,860 miles) east of Moscow

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **International relations:** India's strategic autonomy: abstentions at the UN, call for dialogue and diplomacy, while keeping ties with Russia and the West.
• **Economy:** Discounted Russian crude, fertiliser and defence spares; Western sanctions and secondary tariffs create payment and trade risks for India.
• **Internal security:** Dependence on Russian defence equipment (S-400, Su-30) and the push for indigenisation (Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Russian, Siberia, Defence Ministry, An-12, Kemerovo

Source: The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/several-dead-after-russian-military-transport-

MoD signs ■1,976-crore contract with Israel to upgrade Barak missile system

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Science & Technology, Internal Security

• The upgrade will involve comprehensive hardware and software improvements to enhance the missile system's operational capabilities and engagement range aboard Indian Navy warships

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** India imports most of its crude oil, much of it from the Gulf; conflict raises oil prices, shipping and insurance costs, inflation and the current account deficit.
• **Society:** About 9 million Indians live in the Gulf; their safety (evacuation operations such as Ajay/Kaveri) and remittances (India is the world's largest recipient) are at stake.
• **International relations:** India balances ties with Israel, Iran and the Arab states; projects like Chabahar and IMEC depend on regional stability.
• **Internal security:** Protecting sea lanes, coastal security after 26/11, anti-piracy patrols in the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden; India as net security provider in the IOR.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: MoD, Israel, Barak, Indian Navy

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/mod-signs-1976-crore-contract-with-israel-to-upgrad

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

Construction activities on Kaziranga wildlife corridors flagged

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, International Relations, Environment & Ecology

• An Eastern Assam-based environment activist writes to the Supreme Court-constituted Central Empowered Committee, highlighting the concerns

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Environment:** Conservation under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and Forest Conservation Act 1980; India's commitments under the CBD (30x30 target).
• **Society:** Human–wildlife conflict and the rights of forest dwellers under the Forest Rights Act 2006.
• **Governance & polity:** Judicial review and the separation of powers; such rulings often clarify fundamental rights or federal relations and become Mains examples.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Construction, Kaziranga, Eastern Assam-based, Supreme Court-constituted Central Empowered Committee

Source: The Hindu, National, 17 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/assam/construction-activities-on-kaziranga-wildlife

When does the 24-hour countdown begin after arrest? Supreme Court answers

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution

• The Supreme Court ruled that the 24-hour custody limit under Article 22(2) of the Indian Constitution begins when a person's liberty is curtailed during detention, not from the formal arrest

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Governance & polity:** Judicial review and the separation of powers; such rulings often clarify fundamental rights or federal relations and become Mains examples.
• **Society:** Access to justice and pendency (over 5 crore cases) affect citizens' trust in institutions.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: When, Supreme Court, Article, Indian Constitution

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/when-does-the-24-hour-countdown-begin-after-arrest-

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE VALEDICTORY CEREMONY OF THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, Governance & Social Justice, Reports & Indices

• The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced the Valedictory Ceremony of the Centenary Celebrations of Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) in New Delhi today (November 18, 2026).
• Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the country's leading educational institutions must evolve into world-class institutions.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE VALEDICTORY CEREMONY OF THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE, President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, Valedictory Ceremony, Centenary Celebrations of Shri Ram College of Commerce

Source: PIB, President's Secretariat, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338083

Rights beyond the pad: making menstrual health services work in every school

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, Governance & Social Justice

• The Supreme Court has recognised menstrual health as a constitutional right and laid down obligations for schools and governments.
• The real challenge now is making these services function reliably, every month, in every school

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Governance & polity:** Judicial review and the separation of powers; such rulings often clarify fundamental rights or federal relations and become Mains examples.
• **Society:** Access to justice and pendency (over 5 crore cases) affect citizens' trust in institutions.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Rights, Supreme Court

Source: The Hindu, Health, 17 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/rights-beyond-the-pad-making-menstrual-health-ser

Italian politician’s remark: Supreme Court agrees to hear plea to take down videos of Giacomo Filibeck’s comments at Bharat Summit

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, Governance & Social Justice, International Relations

• The petitioner questioned the participation of a foreign political representative in Indian politics by “raising of derogatory slogans and making prejudicial political statements”

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Governance & polity:** Judicial review and the separation of powers; such rulings often clarify fundamental rights or federal relations and become Mains examples.
• **Society:** Access to justice and pendency (over 5 crore cases) affect citizens' trust in institutions.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Italian, Supreme Court, Giacomo Filibeck, Bharat Summit

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/italian-politicians-remark-supreme-court-to-hear-pl

Israeli Parliament elects new Knesset Speaker backed by Netanyahu's opponents

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, International Relations

• The newly-elected Speaker is Matan Kahana, an ally of Gadi Eisenkot, the party leader currently working to form the next government and replace Mr.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** India imports most of its crude oil, much of it from the Gulf; conflict raises oil prices, shipping and insurance costs, inflation and the current account deficit.
• **Society:** About 9 million Indians live in the Gulf; their safety (evacuation operations such as Ajay/Kaveri) and remittances (India is the world's largest recipient) are at stake.
• **International relations:** India balances ties with Israel, Iran and the Arab states; projects like Chabahar and IMEC depend on regional stability.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Israeli Parliament, Knesset Speaker, Netanyahu, Speaker, Matan Kahana

Source: The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/israeli-parliament-elects-new-knesset-speaker-

Union Ayush Minister Shri Prataprao Jadhav Meets H.E. Mr. Roger Baro, Minister and Special Adviser to the President of Burkina Faso

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, International Relations

• The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush, Shri Prataprao Jadhav, met with the delegation of Burkina Faso led by H.E.
• Roger Baro, Minister and Special Adviser to the President of Burkina Faso, in New Delhi today.

Source: PIB, AYUSH, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338094

REPORTS & INDICES

Over 400 citizens urge CM to postpone Invest Telangana Global Summit citing drought

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Reports & Indices, International Relations, Science & Technology

• Environmentalists, scientists, academics, civil society representatives and people’s organisations expressed concern over the reported deployment of one government officer for each delegate, arguing that administrative personnel should instead be engaged in drought mitigation

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** RBI's MPC targets 4% CPI inflation (±2%); rate decisions affect EMIs, credit growth, investment and the rupee.
• **Society:** Food inflation hits poor households the most; links to supply-side measures like buffer stocks and export curbs.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Over, Invest Telangana Global Summit, Environmentalists

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/over-400-citizens-urge-cm-to-postpone-inv

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

MoD inks Rs 1,976.40 crore contract with Israel Aerospace Industries for upgradation & obsolescence management of Barak Point Defence Missile System for Indian Navy

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology, Internal Security, International Relations

• The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Israel Aerospace Industries for the upgradation and obsolescence management of Barak Point Defence Missile System onboard Indian Navy ships at an overall cost of Rs 1,976.40 crore.
• The contract, under Other Capital Procurement Procedure, was inked in the presence of Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi on November 18, 2026.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** India imports most of its crude oil, much of it from the Gulf; conflict raises oil prices, shipping and insurance costs, inflation and the current account deficit.
• **Society:** About 9 million Indians live in the Gulf; their safety (evacuation operations such as Ajay/Kaveri) and remittances (India is the world's largest recipient) are at stake.
• **International relations:** India balances ties with Israel, Iran and the Arab states; projects like Chabahar and IMEC depend on regional stability.
• **Internal security:** Protecting sea lanes, coastal security after 26/11, anti-piracy patrols in the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden; India as net security provider in the IOR.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: MoD, Israel Aerospace Industries, Barak Point Defence Missile System for Indian Navy, Ministry of Defence, Barak Point Defence Missile System

Source: PIB, Ministry of Defence, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338016

Chinese scientist fired after child death in gene-editing trial: state media

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology, Reports & Indices, Governance & Social Justice

• The child who died had a rare neurodevelopmental condition called Snijders Blok-Campeau syndrome, according to the report

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** RBI's MPC targets 4% CPI inflation (±2%); rate decisions affect EMIs, credit growth, investment and the rupee.
• **Society:** Food inflation hits poor households the most; links to supply-side measures like buffer stocks and export curbs.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Chinese, Snijders Blok-Campeau

Source: The Hindu, Health, 17 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/chinese-scientist-fired-after-child-death-in-gene

Voyager 1, one light-day away from earth today, is a marvel of science

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology, Governance & Social Justice

• Measurements lying in the shadows of their successors can find new lives in the light of new theories.
• The Voyager 1 mission’s longevity made that more apparent, allowing successive generations of researchers to find more uses for its data even as it continues to collect new information

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Voyager, Measurements

Source: The Hindu, Science, 16 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/voyager-1-one-light-day-away-from-earth-today-is

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Bangladesh connects first nuclear power plant to national grid (The Hindu, International, 17 Nov 2026)
• Japan offers ASEAN nations access to energy storage (The Hindu, International, 17 Nov 2026)
• Three space companies selected to develop high-resolution 3D reconstruction techniques for Indian cities (The Hindu, Science, 17 Nov 2026)
• Ebola outbreak remains out of control in Congo six months into response (The Hindu, Health, 16 Nov 2026)
• Balancing AI-driven estimates and ground-level evidence in official statistics (The Hindu, Economy, 17 Nov 2026)
• Why frontline experience and operational research need to come together in the health sector (The Hindu, Health, 18 Nov 2026)
• NASA Voyager 1 probe believed to have reached 'light-day' milestone (The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026)
• Australia sanctions Israeli settlers, organisations over West Bank expansion (The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026)
• India on track to hit $1 trillion exports this year: Commerce Secretary (The Hindu, Economy, 18 Nov 2026)
• Scientists warn of growing health threats of chemicals found everywhere (The Hindu, Health, 18 Nov 2026)
• Researchers boost gut microbial activity linked to longevity in aged mice, find improved metabolism (The Hindu, Health, 18 Nov 2026)
• Andhra Pradesh's amended semiconductor policy fully matches Centre's capital support (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• Revanth to launch Indiramma family life insurance scheme in Siddipet today (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• Centre of excellence for rare diseases at Kozhikode MCH yet to become reality (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• SGOU signs MoU with IBM partner to launch industry-oriented tech programmes (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• U.S. proposes tougher rules for employment-based green cards, longer hiring process (The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026)
• NASA's Voyager 1 reaches one light-day from Earth on November 18: What does it mean? (The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026)
• Pandemic-era ban on filling grant-in-aid posts in aided educational institutions not perpetual: Karnataka High Court (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• Student innovations take centre stage at State school science fair (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• VSU signs MoU with Malladi Drugs to make pharma students industry-ready (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• Early detection of hearing disorders crucial, says Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• Telangana accords top priority to SC, ST welfare and development, says CM (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• Fearmongering around fake drugs (The Hindu, Health, 17 Nov 2026)
• Centre offers up to 75% relief in environmental compensation to groundwater users (The Hindu, Environment, 18 Nov 2026)
• U.K. hands NATO-assigned American soldier accused of Russia spying to U.S. (The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026)
• Fresh unrest in Bangladesh as garment workers protest, block highways for higher wages (The Hindu, International, 17 Nov 2026)
• What are the eight Articles of impeachment filed against U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth? (The Hindu, International, 17 Nov 2026)
• PM Modi leads foundation stone-laying ceremony for Philippines' oldest gurudwara's redevelopment (The Hindu, International, 17 Nov 2026)
• Vice-President Graces Silver Jubilee Celebrations and 8th Annual Convocation of Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi (PIB, Vice President's Secretariat, 18 Nov 2026)
• Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal Holds Meetings with CEOs of Leading Italian Companies in Rome (PIB, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, 18 Nov 2026)
• Prime Minister meets Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales (PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 18 Nov 2026)
• Iran targets Bahrain, slams 'fabricated' dirty-bomb report (The Hindu, International, 17 Nov 2026)

GS Paper III: Economy, Environment, S&T, Security & DM

ECONOMY

Deutsche Bank chair backs CEO after reports expose past lapses; Trump calls tax leak ‘illegal’

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy

• Reports cite 15 million leaked records reviewed by more than 200 journalists; German Finance Minister calls for authorities to investigate

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** US is India's largest export market; tariffs, H-1B visa rules and trade-deal talks hit IT services, textiles, gems and pharma exports and the rupee.
• **International relations:** Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership: defence deals, iCET/TRUST technology cooperation, Quad; India balances this with strategic autonomy (Russian oil, BRICS).
• **Society:** Food inflation hits poor households the most; links to supply-side measures like buffer stocks and export curbs.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Deutsche Bank, CEO, Trump, Reports, German Finance Minister

Source: The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/deutsche-bank-chair-backs-ceo-after-reports-ex

India sitting on 'economic disaster': Rahul Gandhi at Columbia University

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy, Agriculture, Disaster Management

• Arguing that small and medium businesses and agriculture form the backbone of India's economy and are crucial for job creation, Rahul Gandhi said the country's manufacturing sector needed to be rebuilt

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Geography & disasters:** India is exposed to cyclones, floods and heatwaves; the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (amended 2025), NDMA and NDRF/SDRF lead the response.
• **Governance & polity:** Shift from relief to risk reduction (Sendai Framework); early warning, CDRI and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Rahul Gandhi, Columbia University, Arguing

Source: The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-sitting-on-economic-disaster-rahul-gandhi-at-

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

India calls for an Open, Transparent and Equitable Second Global Stocktake under Paris Agreement; Presses for Accountability on Climate Finance and Technology Transfer, at COP31 in Antalya (Türkiye)

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology

• Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, has called for the Second Global Stocktake (GST-2) under the Paris Agreement to be an open, transparent and inclusive process, grounded in the best available science and equity, and delivering balanced outcomes across all aspects of climate action.
• Addressing the High-Level Event on the Second Global Stocktake at UNFCCC COP31 in…

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Environment:** India's NDCs (45% cut in emission intensity of GDP from 2005 levels by 2030, 50% non-fossil power capacity, net zero by 2070) and the principle of CBDR-RC.
• **International relations:** India speaks for the Global South on climate finance and technology transfer; carbon border taxes like the EU's CBAM affect Indian exports.
• **Economy:** Shows the health of the economy and fiscal space for capex and welfare; FRBM targets and centre–state revenue sharing (Finance Commission, GST Council).
• **Governance & polity:** Cooperative fiscal federalism: GST Council (Article 279A) and states' demands for a larger share of the divisible pool.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Open, Transparent and Equitable Second Global Stocktake, Paris Agreement, Presses for Accountability, Climate Finance and Technology Transfer

Static connect: UNFCCC & Paris Agreement

• UNFCCC adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit; the Conference of Parties (COP) meets yearly.
• Paris Agreement (COP21, 2015): keep warming well below 2°C, pursue 1.5°C; countries submit NDCs.
• India's targets include net zero by 2070.

UPSC angle: Climate negotiations and India's commitments (GS3).

Source: PIB, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 18 Nov 2026 ·
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338141

India positions CDRI as a key Global Platform for Climate-resilient Infrastructure; Calls for translating Commitments into Action at COP31, in Antalya (Türkiye)

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology

• Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, today highlighted India's leadership in advancing global cooperation on disaster-resilient infrastructure at the CDRI Ministerial Dialogue on ‘Disaster Resilient Infrastructure for Climate Adaptation’ at UNFCCC COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye.
• He emphasised that climate action must go hand in hand with climate negotiations, with the success…

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Environment:** India's NDCs (45% cut in emission intensity of GDP from 2005 levels by 2030, 50% non-fossil power capacity, net zero by 2070) and the principle of CBDR-RC.
• **International relations:** India speaks for the Global South on climate finance and technology transfer; carbon border taxes like the EU's CBAM affect Indian exports.
• **Geography & disasters:** India is exposed to cyclones, floods and heatwaves; the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (amended 2025), NDMA and NDRF/SDRF lead the response.
• **Governance & polity:** Shift from relief to risk reduction (Sendai Framework); early warning, CDRI and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: CDRI, Global Platform for Climate-resilient Infrastructure, Calls, Commitments, Action

Static connect: UNFCCC & Paris Agreement

• UNFCCC adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit; the Conference of Parties (COP) meets yearly.
• Paris Agreement (COP21, 2015): keep warming well below 2°C, pursue 1.5°C; countries submit NDCs.
• India's targets include net zero by 2070.

UPSC angle: Climate negotiations and India's commitments (GS3).

Source: PIB, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 18 Nov 2026 ·
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337921

Indias Wind Energy Transition

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology, Science & Technology

• Wind energy is emerging as a key pillar of India’s transition towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy future.
• By harnessing the natural movement of air to generate electricity, wind power offers a renewable alternative to fossil fuels .

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Indias Wind Energy Transition, Wind, As India

Source: PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337735

India calls for Equity, Climate Justice and Fulfilment of Climate Finance Obligations at UNFCCC COP31, at Antalya (Türkiye)

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology

• Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, delivering India's National Statement at the UNFCCC COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, called for climate action rooted in equity, climate justice and the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).
• Emphasising the COP31 theme of ‘Dialogue, Consensus and Action’, the Minister said that honest…

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Environment:** India's NDCs (45% cut in emission intensity of GDP from 2005 levels by 2030, 50% non-fossil power capacity, net zero by 2070) and the principle of CBDR-RC.
• **International relations:** India speaks for the Global South on climate finance and technology transfer; carbon border taxes like the EU's CBAM affect Indian exports.
• **Society:** Human–wildlife conflict and the rights of forest dwellers under the Forest Rights Act 2006.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Equity, Climate Justice and Fulfilment of Climate Finance Obligations, UNFCCC COP31, Antalya, Union Minister for Environment

Static connect: UNFCCC & Paris Agreement

• UNFCCC adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit; the Conference of Parties (COP) meets yearly.
• Paris Agreement (COP21, 2015): keep warming well below 2°C, pursue 1.5°C; countries submit NDCs.
• India's targets include net zero by 2070.

UPSC angle: Climate negotiations and India's commitments (GS3).

Source: PIB, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337813

Initiate action against persons who threw stones at elephant in Nagarahole, says Forest Minister

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology

• Minister for Forests and Ecology Ramalinga Reddy has directed Forest officials to initiate stringent action against the persons, who threw stones at an elephant in Nagarahole forest limits

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Environment:** Conservation under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and Forest Conservation Act 1980; India's commitments under the CBD (30x30 target).
• **Society:** Human–wildlife conflict and the rights of forest dwellers under the Forest Rights Act 2006.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Initiate, Nagarahole, Forest Minister, Minister for Forests and Ecology Ramalinga Reddy, Forest

Source: The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/initiate-action-against-persons-who-threw

INTERNAL SECURITY

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah congratulates brave Jawans of JKP, Army and CRPF and intelligence agencies for neutralizing Lashkars last known active local terrorist in the valley, Lateef Bhat

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Internal Security

• Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah has congratulated brave Jawans of JKP, Army and CRPF and intelligence agencies for neutralizing Lashkar's last known active local terrorist in the valley, Lateef Bhat, in an operation in Kulgam in the early morning hours today.
• In a post on X platform, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said, “With the coordinated efforts of…

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Shows the threat from cross-border and home-grown terror modules, online radicalisation and terror financing; NIA and the UAPA, 1967 are the main legal and investigative tools.
• **Governance & polity:** Debate on UAPA's stringent bail provisions, low conviction rate and civil liberties versus security.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, Jawans of JKP, Army and CRPF, Lashkars, Lateef Bhat

Source: PIB, Ministry of Home Affairs, 18 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338078

Elusive peace: On Kashmir terror attack

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Internal Security

• Restoration of Statehood is essential for peace in Jammu and Kashmir

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Shows the threat from cross-border and home-grown terror modules, online radicalisation and terror financing; NIA and the UAPA, 1967 are the main legal and investigative tools.
• **Governance & polity:** Debate on UAPA's stringent bail provisions, low conviction rate and civil liberties versus security.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Elusive, Kashmir, Restoration of Statehood, Jammu and Kashmir

Source: The Hindu, Editorial, 18 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-hindu-editoral-on-kashmir-terror-attack/art

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Iran army says it targeted U.S. military base in Kuwait

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology, Internal Security

• The army claimed it had targeted air defence systems, as well as drone and missile launch platforms, according to a statement carried by Iran’s state broadcaster

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** US is India's largest export market; tariffs, H-1B visa rules and trade-deal talks hit IT services, textiles, gems and pharma exports and the rupee.
• **International relations:** Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership: defence deals, iCET/TRUST technology cooperation, Quad; India balances this with strategic autonomy (Russian oil, BRICS).
• **Society:** About 9 million Indians live in the Gulf; their safety (evacuation operations such as Ajay/Kaveri) and remittances (India is the world's largest recipient) are at stake.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Iran, Kuwait

Source: The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/iran-army-says-it-targeted-us-military-base-in

Earthshot Prize: Climate action needs innovation, global cooperation, say leaders on green carpet in Mumbai

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology, Environment & Ecology, Reports & Indices

• Maharashtra Environment and Climate Change Minister Pankaja Munde called for global cooperation to protect the planet for future generations

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Environment:** India's NDCs (45% cut in emission intensity of GDP from 2005 levels by 2030, 50% non-fossil power capacity, net zero by 2070) and the principle of CBDR-RC.
• **International relations:** India speaks for the Global South on climate finance and technology transfer; carbon border taxes like the EU's CBAM affect Indian exports.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Earthshot Prize, Climate, Mumbai, Maharashtra Environment and Climate Change Minister Pankaja Munde

Source: The Hindu, National, 17 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/earthshot-prize-climate-action-needs-innovation-glo

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Singapore seeks ‘trusted access’ to AI chips after new US curbs (The Hindu, International, 17 Nov 2026)
• Assam elephant rescue operation turns violent, eight people arrested (The Hindu, Environment, 17 Nov 2026)
• India needs a comprehensive doctrine on space security (The Hindu, Science, 17 Nov 2026)
• Video showing Tamil Nadu Minister getting close to wild elephant will be probed: Karnataka Forest Minister (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• What to know about the online banking delays affecting major U.S. banks (The Hindu, International, 17 Nov 2026)
• Why did the U.S. lose its measles elimination status? | Explained (The Hindu, International, 18 Nov 2026)
• UDF Cabinet in Keralam shows signs of unravelling, says M.V. Govindan (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• Krishi Mela at UAS-Bengaluru records low footfall (The Hindu, National, 18 Nov 2026)
• Prince and Princess of Wales in Mumbai for Earthshot Prize 2026: All you need to know (The Hindu, International, 17 Nov 2026)
• PM to inaugurate FICCI Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention on 19 November (PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 18 Nov 2026)
• High-Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat initiates stakeholder consultations (PIB, Ministry of Finance, 18 Nov 2026)
• DRI seizes 148 kg alprazolam intermediate and over 1,046 kg raw materials and chemicals in clandestine drug manufacturing laboratory bust in Delhi; one arrested (PIB, Ministry of Finance, 18 Nov 2026)
• Rising prices reflect government’s economic mismanagement: Congress (The Hindu, Economy, 17 Nov 2026)