UPSC Current Affairs

Friday, 20 November 2026 · Sources: PIB and The Hindu · 53 items

Paper	Items	Top headlines
GS1	7	Vinita Zutshi brings Kashmir’s forgotten folktales to young ; Yadadri Thermal Power Plant: The toxic cost of power
GS2	39	Prime Minister shares an article on transformative initiativ; CGST Faridabad detects pan masala manufacturing unit running
GS3	7	COP 31: Nations still seeking deeper fossil fuel cuts as cli; Preserve native cattle breeds for their disease resistance a

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

GEOGRAPHY

Odisha gears up for cyclone Akvan, shifts 3 lakh people to safety

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography

• Severe cyclonic storm Akvan is projected to make landfall close to Gopalpur on the south Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coast.
• Odisha authorities initiated pre-emptive evacuation of three lakh individuals to designated cyclone shelters.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Reflects standard operating procedures for coastal evacuation, demonstrating Odisha's recognized disaster preparedness model.
• **Geography & disasters:** Tests multi-hazard cyclone mitigation frameworks, early warning dissemination, and shelter management in the eastern coastal belt.

Prelims pointers

• Gopalpur is an important coastal town and port located in Odisha.
• Tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal are classified by IMD based on Maximum Sustained Surface Wind speeds.

Static connect: Tropical Cyclones in India

• India's east coast is more vulnerable to cyclones due to higher sea surface temperatures and basin shape of the Bay of Bengal.
• Classifications include Cyclonic Storm (62-87 kmph), Severe Cyclonic Storm (88-117 kmph), and Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (118-165 kmph).
UPSC angle: Relevant for recurring questions on disaster risk reduction and physical geography of tropical cyclones.

Mains angle

Highlights India's disaster management protocols and evacuation logistics for tropical cyclones under GS Paper 1 (Geography) and GS Paper 3 (Disaster Management).

Source: The Hindu, National, 19 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/odisha/odisha-gears-up-for-cyclone-akvan-shifts-3-l

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Yadadri Thermal Power Plant: The toxic cost of power

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Geography

• Fly ash from the 4,000-MW Yadadri thermal plant is polluting a stream that sustains farms and fishing communities, before flowing into the Krishna river.
• As Telangana powers up, the fallout extends beyond the vicinity of the project, which started operations less than two years ago, with concerns rising over water quality, public health and livelihoods along the river system, reports Swathi Vadlamudi

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: Yadadri Thermal Power Plant, Fly, MW Yadadri, Krishna, As Telangana

Source: The Hindu, National, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/yadadri-thermal-power-plant-the-toxic-cos

HISTORY & ART AND CULTURE

Vinita Zutshi brings Kashmir’s forgotten folktales to young readers

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · History & Art and Culture, International Relations, Science & Technology

• Author and storyteller Vinita Zutshi revisits Kashmir’s oral traditions in a collection of 18 folktales, bringing its characters, customs and storytelling heritage to a new generation of readers

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.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Vinita Zutshi, Kashmir, Author

Source: The Hindu, National, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/books/books-authors/vinita-zutshi-brings-kashmirs-forgotten-folkt

Stories Without Borders, Now in Print and Pixels: IFFILOID Returns for 57th IFFI

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · History & Art and Culture, Science & Technology, Internal Security

• As the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) gets underway in Goa, Festival Director and acclaimed filmmaker Shri Ashutosh Gowariker today launched Volume 5, Issue 1 of IFFILOID , the daily festival newsletter published by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
• Returning for another edition of IFFI, IFFILOID offers its readers a glimpse into the vibrant world of…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Stories Without Borders, Print and Pixels, IFFILOID Returns, IFFI, International Film Festival of India

Source: PIB, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, 20 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338918

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Asian American women feel impact of Nvidia CEO affair scandal, 'spy' accusations (The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026)
• NFDC Partners with Svayam to Make 57th IFFI Accessible and Inclusive for All (PIB, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, 20 Nov 2026)
• TRIFED Organises Aadi Mahotsav 2026 at Dilli Haat, INA, to Promote Tribal Entrepreneurship and Indigenous Products (PIB, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 20 Nov 2026)

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

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Botswana-born Cheetah gives Birth to Four Cubs in the Wild; India’s Cheetah Population Rises to 62

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology, Governance & Social Justice

• A two-and-a-half-year-old female cheetah, KOMG 3, brought from Botswana, gave birth to four healthy cubs in the wild today, marking a significant milestone for Project Cheetah and India's efforts towards restoring a viable cheetah population.
• In a post on social media, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, stated that KOMG 3 is the first female cheetah from Botswana to give…

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: Botswana-born Cheetah, Birth, Four Cubs, Wild, Cheetah Population Rises

Source: PIB, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 20 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338867

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Prime Minister shares an article on transformative initiatives undertaken to enhance farmers’ prosperity and strengthen rural India

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

• The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today, shared an article by Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan highlighting how the development of indigenous vaccines is playing a crucial role in protecting livestock and poultry from infectious diseases in the last 12 years.
• These efforts have helped safeguard animal health, reduce disease-related losses, enhance farmers’ income and improve the overall quality of…

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.
• **Society:** Public health outcomes and out-of-pocket spending; schemes like Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY and the TB-elimination target.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, These

Source: PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 20 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338948

CGST Faridabad detects pan masala manufacturing unit running undeclared pouch-packing machines in Rewari; four machines seized; one arrested under HSNS Cess Act, 2025

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy

• Acting on specific intelligence, the CGST Faridabad Commissionerate conducted a search on 16.11.2026 at the premises of a firm at Ram Garh Road, Rewari, Haryana, suspected of manufacturing pan masala without discharging the Health Security se National Security (HSNS) Cess .
• During the search, four vertical pouch-packing machines used for manufacturing of “Dhanraj: brand pan masala were found installed.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: CGST Faridabad, Rewari, HSNS Cess Act, Acting, CGST Faridabad Commissionerate

Source: PIB, Ministry of Finance, 20 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338858

Union Health Ministry’s Health Pavilion at IITF 2026 Records Over 12,189 Stall Visits in First Five Days, Promoting Health Awareness and Preventive Healthcare

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is witnessing encouraging public participation at its Health Pavilion at the 45 th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2026, being organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from 14 th to 27 th November 2026.
• The Pavilion has recorded over 12,189 cumulative stall visits during the first five days (14 th –18 th November 2026) …

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Union Health Ministry, Health Pavilion, IITF, Records Over, Stall Visits

Source: PIB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 20 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338963

President Droupadi Murmu Addresses 12th Convocation of ABVIMS and Dr. RML Hospital in Presence of Union Health Minister Shri J.P. Nadda

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

• The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences (ABVIMS) and Dr.
• Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi, celebrated its 12th Convocation Ceremony today at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: President Droupadi Murmu Addresses, Convocation of ABVIMS and Dr, RML Hospital, Presence of Union Health Minister Shri, Nadda

Source: PIB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 20 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338934

Ministry of Jal Shakti launches ‘Swachh Shauchalay – Garimamay Bhavishya’ (SSGB) campaign on World Toilet Day 2026

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

• The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, launched the ‘Swachh Shauchalay – Garimamay Bhavishya’ (SSGB) campaign under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] yesterday on World Toilet Day, 2026.
• The campaign and its reporting module were e-launched by Ms.

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

• Aishvarya Singh, Joint Secretary & National Mission Director, SBM(G), DDWS.
• Key terms: Ministry of Jal Shakti, Swachh Shauchalay, Garimamay Bhavishya, SSGB, World Toilet Day

Source: PIB, Ministry of Jal Shakti, 20 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338851

ED arrests cloud particles scam ‘mastermind’, his wife at Delhi’s IGI Airport

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

• As the couple were headed to Nepal, the agency took them into custody for duping people by taking funds to the tune of ■3,558 crore through the scam

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: Delhi, IGI Airport, Nepal

Source: The Hindu, National, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ed-arrests-cloud-particles-scam-mastermind-his-wife

Health Ministry proposes to include antimicrobials in ‘New Drug’ definition, separate licence for bulk drug wholesale

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

• Draft amendments to the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019, and the Drugs Rules, 1945, would require manufacturers of antimicrobials to obtain Central Licensing Authority permission before applying for a State licence, amid concerns over antimicrobial resistance, and introduce separate forms for the wholesale sale of bulk drugs

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: Health Ministry, New Drug, Draft, New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, Drugs Rules

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: The Hindu, Health, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/health-ministry-proposes-to-include-antimicrobials-

India’s Television Broadcasting Shift

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

• Broadcasting is the systematic transmission of audio and video content to a large audience through electronic communication networks.
• Television broadcasting combines sound and moving images to deliver news, information, education and entertainment.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Science & tech:** India's space programme (Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan, NavIC) and the 2023 Space Policy opening the sector to private firms (IN-SPACe).
• **Internal security:** Space is now a strategic domain: surveillance satellites, anti-satellite capability (Mission Shakti 2019) and the Defence Space Agency.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Television Broadcasting Shift, Broadcasting, Television, Over

Source: PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 20 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338893

Why data interoperability is critical to the future of hospital care

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Mains · Governance & Social Justice, Economy, Agriculture

• Data interoperability across hospital care systems is highlighted as vital for improving clinical outcomes in critical care settings.
• Seamless integration and interpretation of medical data enables effective real-time decision-making and reduces diagnostic redundancies.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Important for evaluating India's digital health mission, electronic health records (EHR) standards, and patient data privacy frameworks.
• **Governance & polity:** Supports the effective roll-out of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission across public and private healthcare facilities.
• **Science & tech:** Requires adopting open digital standards (e.g., FHIR) while safeguarding sensitive medical records under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act.

Prelims pointers

• Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) aims to create a national digital health ecosystem using interoperable health standards.

Static connect: Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

• Launched in 2021, implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA).
• Components include the ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) number, Healthcare Professionals Registry, and Health Facility Registry.
UPSC angle: Key topic under public health delivery and governance schemes.

Mains angle

Examine how digital public infrastructure and health data interoperability can improve healthcare delivery in India (GS Paper 2: Governance & GS Paper 3: Science & Tech).
Source: The Hindu, Health, 19 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/why-data-interoperability-is-critical-to-the-futu

India, Netherlands upgrade ties; sign 17 MoUs on water, renewable energy, and semiconductors

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

• MEA pushes back on Dutch concerns over press freedom and minority rights in India.
• PM Jetten raises child abduction case with PM Modi.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** India depends on imports (largely China) for rare earths, lithium and chips needed for EVs, electronics and defence; National Critical Mineral Mission and India Semiconductor Mission respond to this.
• **International relations:** Partnerships such as the Minerals Security Partnership, Quad and KABIL's overseas mines aim to de-risk supply chains.

Prelims pointers

• Agreements signed include a semiconductor fabrication project between TATA Electronics and Dutch company ASML
• Key terms: Netherlands, MoUs, MEA, Dutch, PM Jetten
Source: The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-netherlands-elevating-ties-to-strategic-partn

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

MeitY Engages with UN Special Rapporteur on Digital Accessibility and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) held an interactive session with Ms.
• Heba Hagrass, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on advancing digital accessibility and inclusion in India.

Prelims pointers

• The engagement, held at CeG Hall, MeitY, formed part of the Special Rapporteur's official visit to India from November 16-25, 2026.
• Key terms: MeitY Engages, UN Special Rapporteur, Digital Accessibility and Inclusion of Persons, Disabilities, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Source: PIB, Ministry of Electronics & IT, 20 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338864

How U.S. controls flow of advanced tech, chip, and compute to China | Explained

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• The U.S. Commerce Department introduced rules restricting foreign data centers with advanced American AI chips from offering cloud services to countries including China, Iran, and Russia.
• The controls aim to curtail the flow of advanced computing, semiconductors, and AI technologies to strategic adversaries.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Crucial for understanding the global semiconductor war, critical and emerging technologies (iCET), and India's opportunity to position itself as a trusted tech hub.
• **Science & tech:** Accelerates technological fragmentation and forces nations to build sovereign AI compute capabilities.
• **Economy:** Offers India an opening through the India Semiconductor Mission to attract data center and chip design investments as a trusted alternative.
• **International relations:** Signifies tightening tech trade barriers and technological bifurcations between Western alliances and strategic rivals.

Prelims pointers

• Export control regimes and extraterritorial jurisdiction of U.S. Commerce Department regulations over critical computing infrastructure.

Static connect: Semiconductor Supply Chain Geopolitics

• Advanced chips (sub-7nm) are critical for training large artificial intelligence models.
• Global fabrication is heavily concentrated in East Asia, while design intellectual property is predominantly held by the U.S.
UPSC angle: Directly links to GS3 science, technology policies, and India Semiconductor Mission.

Mains angle

Analyze how global technological decoupling and semiconductor export controls affect international supply chains and India's tech ecosystem (GS Paper 2: International Relations & GS Paper 3: Science & Tech).

Practice question

Discuss the implications of weaponized tech interdependence and semiconductor export controls on the global digital economy. How should India position itself amidst escalating tech rivalry?

Source: The Hindu, International, 19 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/how-us-controls-flow-of-advanced-tech-chip-an

U.S., China, Russia hold historic summit in Shenzhen

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Leaders of the United States, China, and Russia held a trilateral summit in Shenzhen to discuss international security and strategic stability.
• The heads of state exchanged perspectives on the current geopolitical situation and reiterated commitments toward global stability.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Any direct trilateral rapprochement or negotiation between the US, Russia, and China directly alters India's geopolitical leverage, defense ties, and regional balance.
• **International relations:** Challenges India's traditional balancing act between Washington and Moscow, especially regarding defense supplies and regional deterrence against Beijing.
• **Economy:** Could affect global trade rules, sanctions regimes, and currency alternatives currently reshaping international payment settlements.

Prelims pointers

• Shenzhen is a major technology and manufacturing hub located in China's Guangdong province, north of Hong Kong.

Static connect: Strategic Autonomy and Non-Alignment

• Strategic autonomy allows India to pursue national interests independently without formal treaty alliance obligations.
• India actively engages multiple multilateral groupings simultaneously, including the Quad, BRICS, and the SCO.
UPSC angle: A foundational pillar in GS Paper 2 International Relations questions on Indian foreign policy.

Mains angle

Analyze how shifting triangular dynamics between the US, China, and Russia impact India's strategic autonomy and multi-alignment foreign policy (GS Paper 2: International Relations).

Practice question

Great power realignments fundamentally reshape global security architectures. Examine the strategic choices available to India in maintaining its foreign policy autonomy amidst evolving major power equations.

Source: The Hindu, International, 19 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-russia-us-trilateral-summit-xi-putin-tru

Emerging radicalisation hotspots now under purview of Multi-Agency Centre: Amit Shah

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

• Union Home Minister announced that emerging radicalisation hotspots have been brought under the purview of the Multi-Agency Centre (MAC).
• State Anti-Terrorism Squads (ATS) have been urged to strengthen cyber-expert units to tackle online radicalisation and terror financing.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Crucial for strengthening domestic counter-terror architecture against digital radicalisation and decentralized extremist networks.
• **Internal security:** Brings cyberspace and decentralised radicalisation nodes under systematic intelligence surveillance across central and state forces.
• **Science & tech:** Emphasises technical capabilities of State ATS units to counter encrypted communications and online propaganda.

Prelims pointers

• Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) operates under the Intelligence Bureau (IB) as a nodal platform for sharing counter-terrorism intelligence.
• MAC was revitalised post the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks to enable real-time intelligence flow between Centre and States.

Static connect: Multi-Agency Centre (MAC)

• Set up in 2001 following the Kargil War review and fortified after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.
• Functioning under the Intelligence Bureau (MHA), it links around 28 central and state security agencies.
• State Multi-Agency Centres (SMACs) operate at the state level to facilitate horizontal and vertical intelligence sharing.
UPSC angle: Frequently referenced in questions on national intelligence grid, institutional mechanisms, and internal security architecture.

Mains angle

Examines intelligence-sharing mechanisms, the role of MAC, and challenges of cyber-radicalisation under GS Paper 3 (Internal Security).

Practice question

Analyse the role of the Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) in streamlining intelligence sharing and counter-terror operations in India. How does modern cyber-radicalisation challenge this framework?

Source: The Hindu, National, 19 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/emerging-radicalisation-hotspots-now-under-purview-

Third Ukrainian strike in 4 days halts rail traffic on Russia's Kerch Bridge to Crimea

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

• A Ukrainian strike halted rail traffic on the Kerch Strait Bridge connecting mainland Russia to Crimea.
• The attack occurred ahead of high-level diplomatic talks in Berlin involving U.S. and European leaders supporting Ukraine.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Crucial for understanding maritime choke points and the evolving conflict dynamics in the Black Sea region affecting global trade routes.
• **Geography & disasters:** Highlights strategic maritime choke points connecting the Sea of Azov to the Black Sea.
• **International relations:** Impacts ongoing European security negotiations and indirect supply chain stability for energy and agricultural commodities.

Prelims pointers

• Kerch Strait connects the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.
• The Crimean Peninsula was annexed by Russia from Ukraine in 2014.

Static connect: Kerch Strait

• It connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Azov.
• It separates the Crimean Peninsula in the west from Russia's Taman Peninsula in the east.
UPSC angle: Frequently asked in mapping and geographical location questions related to Eastern Europe.

Mains angle

Examines the geopolitical impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on regional connectivity and Eurasian security architectures (GS Paper 2: International Relations).

Source: The Hindu, International, 19 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/third-ukrainian-strike-in-4-days-halts-rail-tr

Nepal PM Balendra Shah to visit India on November 22–23

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

• The two Prime Ministers will inaugurate several energy-related projects; Nepal’s PM will also call on President Murmu during his official visit

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 PM Balendra Shah, November, Prime Ministers, Nepal, President Murmu

Source: The Hindu, National, 20 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nepal-pm-balendra-shah-to-visit-india-on-november-2

Foreign Secretary Misri sets stage for Nepal PM’s upcoming India visit

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

• The Nepali leaders expressed “gratitude for India’s swift and substantial humanitarian and technical assistance in the aftermath of the Bhotekoshi floods”, a joint press release stated

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.
• **Geography & disasters:** India is exposed to cyclones, floods and heatwaves; the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (amended 2025), NDMA and NDRF/SDRF lead the response.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Foreign Secretary Misri, Nepal PM, Nepali, Bhotekoshi

Source: The Hindu, National, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/foreign-secretary-misri-sets-stage-for-nepal-pms-up

Prime Minister shares Sanskrit Subhashitam emphasising the importance of respecting and honouring parents as an essential responsibility

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

• The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, shared a Sanskrit Subhashitam emphasising the importance of respecting and honouring parents as an essential responsibility: The verse underscores that the one who is consistently devoted to austerity and purity, committed to truth and righteousness, should diligently worship and honour their parents .

Prelims pointers

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

Source: PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 20 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338937

Riyadh's tallest building damaged as Saudi reports new Houthi attacks

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Prelims · International Relations, Economy, Agriculture

• Yemen's Houthi forces launched attacks targeting financial, energy, and military infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, damaging Riyadh's tallest building.
• The incident marks an escalation in regional aerial strikes targeting critical infrastructure across the Arabian Peninsula.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

West Asian volatility directly impacts India's crude oil imports, maritime shipping corridors, and the large Indian expatriate workforce in the Gulf.
• **Economy:** Raises potential risks of energy supply disruptions and crude oil price volatility for India.
• **International relations:** Complicates regional stabilization efforts and raises security concerns for millions of Indian workers residing in Saudi Arabia.

Prelims pointers

• Houthis (Ansar Allah) are a political and armed movement primarily based in Yemen.
• Riyadh is the capital of Saudi Arabia.

Static connect: Houthi Conflict in Yemen

• The Houthi movement belongs predominantly to the Zaidi Shia sect.
• The conflict in Yemen escalated significantly following the 2014-2015 takeover of the capital, Sanaa.
UPSC angle: Frequently referenced in questions on Middle Eastern geopolitical conflicts and energy transit routes.

Mains angle

Examine how regional instability in West Asia threatens energy security and the safety of the Indian diaspora (GS Paper 2: International Relations).

Source: The Hindu, International, 19 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/riyadhs-tallest-building-damaged-as-saudi-repo

Rohingya a ‘distinct lineage’ close to Bangladeshis and Burmese: Study

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

• A scientific study found that the Rohingya form a distinct lineage genetically close to Bangladeshi and Burmese populations.
• The community faced mass displacement following state-sponsored violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, which the ICJ recognized as acts of genocide.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Relates directly to India's border management, neighborhood policy, refugee governance framework, and relations with Myanmar and Bangladesh.
• **Internal security:** Influences border surveillance, infiltration monitoring, and internal security management across eastern and northeastern borders.
• **International relations:** Requires balancing strategic ties with Myanmar while addressing refugee and humanitarian concerns in neighborhood forums.

Prelims pointers

• Rakhine State is located on the western coast of Myanmar, bordering Bangladesh.
• The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

Static connect: International Court of Justice (ICJ)

• Established in 1945 by the UN Charter, headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands.
• Settles legal disputes between States and gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred by authorized UN organs.
UPSC angle: Standard factual content for international bodies under GS2.

Mains angle

Discuss the humanitarian, legal, and regional security dimensions of the Rohingya refugee crisis for South and Southeast Asia (GS Paper 2: International Relations).

Source: The Hindu, International, 19 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/rohingya-a-distinct-lineage-close-to-banglades

Rohingya in Bangladesh welcome UN court’s genocide verdict but say they want to go home to Myanmar

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• “The Rohingya have their own distinct culture, their own language, their own land and everything else that defines an ethnic group,” said a Rohingya community leader

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **International relations:** Test of Neighbourhood First and Act East: Bangladesh is India's largest trade partner in South Asia and the gateway for connectivity to the North-East (Chittagong and Mongla port access, BBIN).
• **Internal security:** India's longest land border (~4,096 km) is porous: illegal migration, cattle and fake-currency smuggling, and North-East insurgent groups that have used Bangladeshi territory. Instability in Dhaka or anti-India sentiment directly affects border management (BSF, fencing, Smart Fencing/CIBMS).
• **Governance & polity:** Water and land issues: Ganga Water Treaty (1996, 30 years, due for renewal in 2026), Teesta water sharing, and the Land Boundary Agreement 2015 (100th Constitutional Amendment).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Rohingya, Bangladesh, Myanmar

Source: The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/rohingya-in-bangladesh-welcome-un-courts-genoc

Russian strikes damage two bridges in Kyiv: Mayor

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Polity & Constitution

• Russian president Vladimir Putin vowed "much more painful" retaliatory attacks after Ukraine this week damaged the Crimea bridge, a symbol of Putin's rule over the annexed region

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, Kyiv, Mayor, Vladimir Putin, Ukraine

Source: The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/russia-missile-strike-on-kyiv-ukraine/article7

Talks without peace: On Russia, Ukraine, U.S. talks

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Europe must be part of any settlement on the 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: Talks, Russia, Ukraine, Europe

Source: The Hindu, Editorial, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/talks-without-peace-on-russia-ukraine-us-talks/

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

Green India Mission a total failure, says PAC

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

• The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) noted that the National Mission for a Green India (GIM) faced severe underperformance.
• Citing a CAG report, the PAC highlighted that against a target of 2.8 million hectares approved in 2014, only 0.148 million hectares was brought under green cover.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Exposes wide variance between declared environmental commitments and actual implementation on the ground, underscored by CAG findings.
• **Governance & polity:** Demonstrates parliamentary oversight in auditing government spending and holding ministries accountable for programmatic targets.
• **Environment:** Underscores difficulties in achieving afforestation targets essential to fulfilling India's carbon sink pledges under the Paris Agreement.

Prelims pointers

• Green India Mission is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
• The Public Accounts Committee examines the appropriation accounts and reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

Static connect: Public Accounts Committee (PAC)

• Constituted first in 1921 under the Government of India Act 1919.
• Consists of 22 members (15 from Lok Sabha, 7 from Rajya Sabha) elected by proportional representation.
• Headed conventionally by an opposition leader to examine CAG audit reports on public expenditure.
UPSC angle: Core topic in GS Paper 2 on Parliamentary Committees and legislative control over the executive.

Static connect: National Mission for a Green India (GIM)

• Launched under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) to enhance forest cover and ecosystem services.
• Aimed at increasing forest/tree cover to 5 million hectares and improving quality of forest cover on another 5 million hectares.
UPSC angle: Critical component of climate change policy and afforestation targets under GS Paper 3.

Mains angle

Critically analyses the implementation gaps in national climate missions and the role of parliamentary financial committees under GS Paper 2 (Polity) and GS Paper 3 (Environment).

Practice question

Evaluate the institutional and operational bottlenecks hindering the progress of the National Mission for a Green India (GIM). How does legislative oversight via the Public Accounts Committee ensure accountability?

Source: The Hindu, National, 19 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/green-india-mission-a-total-failure-says-pac/articl

Women in high public office doesn’t mean equality throughout society: Justice Nagarathna

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

• Supreme Court Justice Nagarathna highlighted that the presence of women in high public offices does not equate to pervasive gender equality across society.
• She stressed that grassroots women continue to face systemic exclusion from education, formal employment, property ownership, and accessible legal remedies.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Provides an authoritative judicial perspective on the structural barriers undermining substantive gender justice in India.
• **Society:** Highlights the gap between elite tokenism and everyday socio-economic exclusions faced by marginalized women.
• **Governance & polity:** Calls for strengthening enforcement mechanisms around property inheritance, labor rights, and affordable legal aid.

Static connect: Constitutional Provisions for Gender Equality

• Article 15(3) empowers the State to make special provisions for women and children.
• Article 39(a) and 39(d) direct the State toward equal livelihood rights and equal pay for equal work.
UPSC angle: Fundamental to GS2 Social Justice and GS1 Society questions on female empowerment.

Mains angle

Analyze the distinction between symbolic representation and substantive gender empowerment in India (GS Paper 1: Society & GS Paper 2: Social Justice).

Source: The Hindu, National, 19 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/women-in-high-public-office-doesnt-mean-equality-th

‘O.M’ movie review: Dhanush, Sai Pallavi score in an otherwise bloated, convenient action thriller

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

• The initial portions of ‘O.M’ have purpose, but director Rajkumar Periasamy’s convenient writing and hurried editing choices dampen the proceedings

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Dhanush, Sai Pallavi, Rajkumar Periasamy

Source: The Hindu, National, 20 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/movies/om-operation-mole-movie-review-dhanush-mammo

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Hyderabad doctor brings down rare disease drug cost from ■9 crore to ■2.5 lakh; seven children to get free treatment

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

• A Hyderabad-based doctor developed an affordable compounded formulation of tiratricol, drastically lowering annual treatment costs for Allan-Herndon-Dudley syndrome (AHDS) from ■9 crore to ■2.5 lakh.
• Seven children diagnosed with this rare genetic disorder will receive the treatment free of cost.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Highlights the critical issue of drug affordability, domestic compounding innovation, and state support for rare genetic diseases.
• **Science & tech:** Demonstrates the power of pharmaceutical compounding and localized synthesis in circumventing exorbitant imported drug monopolies.
• **Governance & polity:** Underscores gaps in rare disease coverage and the imperative to scale indigenous drug manufacturing under the National Policy for Rare Diseases.

Prelims pointers

• Allan-Herndon-Dudley syndrome (AHDS) is a rare X-linked genetic disorder affecting neurological development and thyroid hormone transport.
• National Policy for Rare Diseases in India provides financial assistance under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi scheme.

Static connect: National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD)

• Classifies rare diseases into three groups based on treatment availability and cost.
• Provides financial support of up to ■50 lakh per patient for treatment at recognized Centers of Excellence.
UPSC angle: Relevant to GS2 health sector schemes and social protection measures.

Mains angle

Assess the institutional and financial challenges in providing accessible treatments for rare diseases in India (GS Paper 2: Health & Governance).

Source: The Hindu, Health, 19 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/hyderabad-doctor-brings-down-rare-disease-d

Karnataka launches State action plan for containment of antimicrobial resistance

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

• Karnataka launches State action plan for containment of antimicrobial resistance

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: Karnataka

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: The Hindu, Health, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/karnataka-launches-state-action-plan-for-

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Bar Council asks law students to verify college approval, affiliation before admission (The Hindu, National, 19 Nov 2026)
• Cheran, the poet who chronicled Eelam's war and memory, passes away at 68 (The Hindu, National, 19 Nov 2026)
• Israel army says it completed ground operation in central Gaza (The Hindu, International, 19 Nov 2026)
• California Attorney General subpoenas Nvidia over chips, former CEO's affair (The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026)
• India's health services has banned reuse of single-use medical devices. But who decides what's safe? (The Hindu, Health, 20 Nov 2026)
• Ministry of Steel to hold Open House on Steel Import Issues on 25th November (PIB, Ministry of Steel, 20 Nov 2026)
• Sellas' cancer vaccine extends survival in blood cancer trial, company says (The Hindu, Health, 19 Nov 2026)
• Delhi rolls out 'Ehsaas 2026' policy to support students' mental health (The Hindu, Health, 20 Nov 2026)
• Indian Railways Organises Mega Camp Under Digital Life Certificate Campaign 5.0 in New Delhi (PIB, Ministry of Railways, 20 Nov 2026)
• NMC asks government medical colleges to onboard PM-RAHAT scheme for cashless emergency care (The Hindu, Health, 20 Nov 2026)

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

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

COP 31: Nations still seeking deeper fossil fuel cuts as climate summit enters final day

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Disaster Management, Environment & Ecology

• The two-week annual summit, which has so far largely failed to advance any big ideas to move away from fossil fuels — mainly coal, oil and gas — which are contributing to more intense and deadly heat waves, droughts, floods and other disasters, ends on Nov.

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: COP, Nations, Nov

Source: The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/cop-31-nations-still-seeking-deep

Incomplete remedies: On Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Disaster Management

• The Election Commission of India (ECI) has provided partial relief for deleted voters during the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls.
• Concerns remain regarding persistent procedural gaps in standard verification routines leading to wrongful disenfranchisement.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Transparent and inclusive electoral rolls are the baseline for fair universal adult suffrage in India.
• **Governance & polity:** Impacts procedural safeguards preventing arbitrary disenfranchisement and maintains public trust in election administration.

Prelims pointers

• Special Summary Revision (SSR) is conducted annually under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.
• Article 324 entrusts superintendence, direction, and control of electoral roll preparation to the Election Commission of India.

Static connect: Preparation of Electoral Rolls

• Governed by the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.
• The qualifying dates for registration as a voter are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 since the 2022 amendments.
• Deletion of names requires mandatory notice and inquiry under Section 22 of the RP Act, 1950.
UPSC angle: Frequently assessed under election management, voting rights, and RPA provisions in GS Paper 2.

Mains angle

Discusses voter enfranchisement, electoral roll integrity, and administrative challenges of the ECI under GS Paper 2 (Elections and Polity).

Source: The Hindu, Editorial, 19 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/incomplete-remedies-on-special-summary-revision

ECONOMY

From Indian Fields to Global Markets: Agri-Exports Gather Pace

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy, Agriculture, Reports & Indices

• India's agricultural exports recorded strong growth during April-September FY 2026-27, led by Basmati rice, processed frozen potatoes and yellow dent corn.
• Basmati rice exports increased 25.4%, while processed potato exports rose 20.8%.

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.
• **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

• Yellow dent corn exports surged around 12-fold.
• Key terms: From Indian Fields, Global Markets, Agri-Exports Gather Pace, April-September FY, Basmati

Source: PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 20 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338907

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Indonesian fire emissions third highest on record this year, says EU’s Copernicus

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology

• This year’s fires in Indonesia produced nearly 200 million metric tonnes of carbon emissions ■by November 15, the European Union’s climate monitoring service ■said

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: Indonesian, Copernicus, Indonesia, November, European Union

Source: The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/indonesian-fire-emissions-third-h

Draft of COP31 cover text drops references to fossil fuel phase-out, net zero dates

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology

• Draft negotiations for the climate summit cover text eliminated explicit timelines for fossil fuel phase-out and net-zero target dates.
• References demanding the phase-out of unilateral trade measures like the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) by 2027 were also dropped.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Directly impacts India's export competitiveness (steel, aluminum under CBAM) and India's negotiating stance on climate justice and equity.
• **Environment:** Dilution of fossil fuel phase-out timelines threatens global progress toward the 1.5°C Paris Agreement pathway.
• **Economy:** Retaining CBAM without multilateral checks exposes Indian heavy industry exports to unilateral European carbon duties.
• **International relations:** Sharpens the divide between the Global North and developing nations over climate finance, equity, and green protectionism.

Prelims pointers

• Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is a carbon tariff imposed by the European Union on carbon-intensive imports.
• Cover text in UNFCCC COP negotiations outlines political consensus and collective global climate ambition.

Static connect: UNFCCC and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR-RC)

• CBDR-RC is a principle formalized at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit acknowledging different capabilities and historic emissions.
• The Paris Agreement aims to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
UPSC angle: A recurring core concept in GS Paper 3 environmental governance questions.

Mains angle

Evaluate the challenges in multilateral climate diplomacy regarding Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) versus unilateral trade measures like CBAM (GS Paper 3: Environment).

Practice question

Unilateral climate measures like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) pose serious equity concerns for developing nations under the UNFCCC framework. Critically evaluate.

Source: The Hindu, International, 19 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/cop31-negotiators-publish-revised-deal-draft-w

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Preserve native cattle breeds for their disease resistance and adaptability, say experts at SVVU seminar

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology

• India has 59 recognised indigenous cattle breeds, offering considerable scope for research and genetic improvement, says SVVU Vice-Chancellor V.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Preserve, SVVU, SVVU Vice-Chancellor, Vaikunta Rao

Source: The Hindu, National, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/preserve-native-cattle-breeds-for-th

Skyroot, OhmSpace, Exolaunch and HEX20 in 4-way partnership for second Vikram-1 flight

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Prelims · Science & Technology, Agriculture

• Skyroot Aerospace entered a four-way partnership with OhmSpace, Exolaunch, and HEX20 for its upcoming second Vikram-1 launch flight.
• The collaboration integrates propulsion, mission management, and satellite platforms to service commercial space clients.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Reflects the rapid commercialization and global integration of India's private space startups following national space sector reforms.
• **Science & tech:** Advances domestic launch capability and commercial payload deployment capabilities in the private domain.
• **Economy:** Boosts India's market share in the multi-billion dollar global small satellite launch services market.

Prelims pointers

• Vikram-1 is a small-satellite launch vehicle developed by private Indian aerospace company Skyroot.
• IN-SPACe is India's single-window autonomous agency facilitating private space sector participation.

Static connect: Indian Space Sector Reforms

• The Indian Space Policy 2023 officially opened space activities to Non-Government Entities (NGEs).
• IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre) acts as the regulator and promoter for private space entities.
UPSC angle: Relevant to GS3 topics on indigenization of technology and awareness in the field of Space.

Mains angle

Assess the role of private sector participation in strengthening India's commercial space economy (GS Paper 3: Science and Technology).

Source: The Hindu, National, 19 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/skyroot-ohmspace-exolaunch-and-hex20-in-4-w