UPSC Current Affairs

Saturday, 21 November 2026 · Sources: PIB and The Hindu · 43 items

Paper	Items	Top headlines
GS1	4	International research team develops early warning system fo; After strong El Niño, La Niña may boost India’s 2027 monsoon
GS2	31	Key takeaways from the Quad, ASEAN-India, and East Asia Summ; BHASHINI Showcases Multilingual AI Applications for Healthca
GS3	8	NIA’s anti-terror conference discusses cross-border terroris; Srikakulam releases 15,440 cusecs as inflows moderate after

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

ECONOMY

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Celebrated Women Entrepreneurship Day on 19th November, 2026

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy, Environment & Ecology, Indian Society

• The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, celebrated Women Entrepreneurship Day 2026 in association with India SME Forum in New Delhi on 19 November 2026.
• The event brought together policymakers, industry leaders, financial institutions, development partners and women entrepreneurs to deliberate on strengthening the ecosystem for women-led enterprises.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Society:** Women's safety, workforce participation and representation (Women's Reservation Act 2023, one-third seats after delimitation).
• **Governance & polity:** Laws such as the POSH Act 2013 and the new criminal laws (BNS 2023) and their implementation gaps.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Celebrated Women Entrepreneurship Day, November, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME

Source: PIB, Ministry of Micro,Small & Medium Enterprises, 21 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2339456

GEOGRAPHY

After strong El Niño, La Niña may boost India’s 2027 monsoon, says INCOIS forecast

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

• Scientists indicate that the ongoing strong El Niño could persist until March 2027, followed by neutral conditions and a possible transition to La Niña during the Southwest Monsoon.
• They are also monitoring widespread marine heatwaves across the Indian Ocean

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.
• **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: El Ni, La Ni, INCOIS, Scientists, March

Static connect: El Niño / La Niña

• El Niño is unusual warming of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific; it usually weakens the Indian monsoon.
• A positive Indian Ocean Dipole can offset El Niño's effect on India.

UPSC angle: Monsoon variability, drought and agriculture (GS1, GS3).

Source: The Hindu, National, 21 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/after-strong-el-nino-la-nina-may-boost-in

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

International research team develops early warning system for landslides in Keralam’s Idukki

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology, Disaster Management, Geography

• The system — dubbed the Google Earth Engine-based Landslide Early Warning System, or GLEWS — combines real-time satellite data, weather forecasts and live ground-level rainfall measurements to issue color-coded public safety alerts

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.
• **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: International, Keralam, Idukki, Google Earth Engine-based Landslide Early Warning System, GLEWS

Source: The Hindu, National, 21 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/international-research-team-develops-early-w

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Following Cyclone Akvan, monsoon rain to resume over T.N. from tomorrow (The Hindu, National, 20 Nov 2026)

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

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

BHASHINI Showcases Multilingual AI Applications for Healthcare at Global Digital Health Summit 2026

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

• The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under the Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, is participating in the Global Digital Health Summit (GDHS) 2026 , being held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 20–21 November 2026 .
• On Day 1 (20 November) , BHASHINI showcased its multilingual Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem through an…

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Science & tech:** IndiaAI Mission (2024) for compute, datasets and indigenous models; India hosted the AI Impact Summit in 2026.
• **Ethics:** Deepfakes, bias, privacy and accountability call for responsible-AI rules and platform obligations under the IT Rules.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: BHASHINI Showcases Multilingual AI Applications for Healthcare, Global Digital Health Summit, Digital India BHASHINI Division, DIBD, Digital India Corporation

Source: PIB, Ministry of Electronics & IT, 21 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2339441

FDA sets up council for post-market review of vaccines, gene therapies

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

• The FDA said the council is intended to improve accountability and transparency as biologic products grow increasingly complex, particularly in cell and gene therapy, a sector that has seen rapid regulatory expansion in recent years

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: FDA

Source: The Hindu, Health, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/fda-sets-up-council-for-post-market-review-of-vac

In Keralam, the children beyond healthcare

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• Attappady’s recurring infant deaths this year point to a crisis that goes beyond malnutrition and access to timely healthcare.
• Poverty, land alienation, and the erosion of traditional food systems, are taking a toll on maternal and child health in this predominantly tribal region of Keralam

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: Keralam, Attappady, Poverty

Source: The Hindu, National, 21 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/in-keralam-the-children-beyond-healthcare/ar

Workers’ welfare and industrial growth are twin wheels of the vehicle of national progress, says Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy

• A two-day Chintan Shivir of Labour and Employment Ministers was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, organized by the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
• The conference reviewed progress marking one year since the nationwide enforcement of the four consolidated Labour Codes.
• The Union Minister highlighted that worker welfare and industrial expansion must function together as parallel drivers of economic growth.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Labour reforms represent one of India's biggest economic transformations, attempting to integrate the massive informal workforce into formal social security nets while boosting manufacturing competitiveness.
• **Economy:** Reduces compliance friction and rationalizes outdated dispute-resolution mechanisms, encouraging foreign direct investment and formal job creation.
• **Governance & polity:** Requires close cooperative federalism as framing rules under the Concurrent List depends on state-level executive notifications.
• **Society:** Addresses vulnerability in the gig and informal economy by mandating registration and social security funds funded by aggregators and employers.

Prelims pointers

• The 4 Labour Codes are: Code on Wages (2019), Industrial Relations Code (2020), Code on Social Security (2020), and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (2020).
• Labour is placed under the Concurrent List (List III) of the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Static connect: Four Labour Codes Reform

• Consolidated 29 central labour enactments into four simplified codes covering Wages, Industrial Relations, Social Security, and Occupational Safety.
• Code on Social Security (2020) formally defines and extends social security coverage to gig workers and platform workers.
• Code on Wages (2019) mandates a statutory floor wage applicable across all employments and states.
UPSC angle: Consistently relevant for GS Paper II (Government Policies) and GS Paper III (Employment & Labour Reforms).

Mains angle

Examine how the four Labour Codes aim to balance the ease of doing business with comprehensive social security for gig and informal workers (GS Paper III - Economy / GS Paper II - Governance).

Practice question

The consolidation of 29 central labour laws into four comprehensive codes is regarded as a landmark structural reform. Critically analyze how these codes balance labor market flexibility with social security guarantees for unorganized and platform workers.

Source: PIB, Ministry of Labour & Employment, 21 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2339467

GeM Signs MoU with TICCI to Expand Public Procurement Opportunities for Tribal Entrepreneurs

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

• Government e Marketplace (GeM), the national public procurement portal, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tribal Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TICCI) on 20 November 2026 to strengthen the participation of tribal entrepreneurs and enterprises in government procurement.
• The collaboration aims to connect tribal businesses with public procurement opportunities through targeted outreach…

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:** 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).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: GeM Signs MoU, TICCI, Expand Public Procurement Opportunities for Tribal Entrepreneurs, Marketplace, GeM

Source: PIB, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, 21 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2339431

India’s civilisational gambit in China’s backyard

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

• New Delhi’s success lies in constructing an Asian identity where China could participate without dominating, and India becomes the bridge between the Global South, the West and Central Asia

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, New Delhi, Asian, Global South, West and Central Asia

Source: The Hindu, Lead (Op-Ed), 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/indias-civilisational-gambit-in-chinas-backyard/arti

Malaysia plans to resettle 10,000 Rohingya in Turkiye

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

• Malaysia announced plans to resettle 10,000 Rohingya refugees in Turkiye.
• The move follows a landmark ruling by the UN's International Court of Justice affirming that Myanmar committed genocide against the Rohingya.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

The Rohingya refugee crisis is a major regional humanitarian and security challenge directly affecting South and Southeast Asian geopolitics, including India.
• **International relations:** Demonstrates evolving third-country resettlement initiatives among Islamic nations while highlighting Myanmar's persistent diplomatic isolation.
• **Internal security:** India maintains a strict stance on illegal Rohingya migration citing domestic security concerns, while providing humanitarian aid to refugee hubs in Bangladesh.

Prelims pointers

• Rohingya are an ethnic Muslim minority primarily originating from Rakhine State in Myanmar.
• The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, seated in The Hague.

Static connect: International Court of Justice (ICJ)

• Established in June 1945 by the UN Charter and began work in April 1946; seated at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands.
• Composed of 15 judges elected for nine-year terms by the UN General Assembly and Security Council.
• Settles legal disputes between States and gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred by authorized UN organs.
UPSC angle: Frequently tested in Prelims regarding UN bodies and GS Paper II international tribunals.

Mains angle

Examines the legal and geopolitical dimensions of refugee resettlement and the enforcement of ICJ rulings under international humanitarian law (GS Paper II - International Relations).

Source: The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/malaysia-plans-to-resettle-10000-rohingya-in-t

INTERNAL SECURITY

Estonia to close border with Russia, Moscow decries 'new Iron Curtain'

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Internal Security, International Relations

• NATO and EU member ■Estonia on November 15 accused Russian security services of staging an attempted ■arson ■attack on an Estonian defence company, in what it said ■was the second such incident this year

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: Estonia, Russia, Moscow, Iron Curtain, NATO and EU

Source: The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/estonia-to-close-border-with-russia-moscow-dec

Pakistan Army chief Munir vows to eliminate terrorism from country

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Internal Security, International Relations, Reports & Indices

• Pakistan overall witnessed a significant decline in terrorism-related violence during October, with attacks falling by 37%, deaths resulting from these attacks declining by 57%, and injuries decreasing by 71% compared to September, said Dawn newspaper report

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.
• **Governance & polity:** Debate on UAPA's stringent bail provisions, low conviction rate and civil liberties versus security.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Pakistan Army, Munir, Pakistan, October, September

Source: The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/pakistan-army-chief-munir-vows-to-eliminate-te

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Key takeaways from the Quad, ASEAN-India, and East Asia Summits in Manila | Explained

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Apart from the bilateral visits, Mr.
• Modi’s multilateral ASEAN engagements showed a growing desire to work more closely with the grouping at a time when global powers are working in a more unilateral manner

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: Key, Quad, ASEAN-India, East Asia Summits, Manila

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, 21 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/key-takeaways-from-the-quad-asean-india-and-ea

Three to tango: On Trump, Xi, Putin trilateral summit

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• U.S., China, Russia must draw up a roadmap for talks on nuclear weapons

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: Three, Trump, Putin, China, Russia

Source: The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/three-to-tango-on-trump-xi-putin-trilateral-sum

India says no change in its position on Indus Water Treaty as Pakistan minister attends SCO forum in Delhi

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• India suspended the treaty in 2025 as one of the punitive measures against Pakistan after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack last year that claimed 26 lives

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.
• **Governance & polity:** Debate on UAPA's stringent bail provisions, low conviction rate and civil liberties versus security.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Indus Water Treaty, Pakistan, SCO, Delhi, April

Static connect: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

• Founded in 2001; India and Pakistan became full members in 2017.
• Secretariat in Beijing; Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent.
UPSC angle: India's engagement with Central Asia, China and Russia (GS2).

Source: The Hindu, National, 21 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-says-no-change-in-its-position-on-indus-water

Russia dusts off its pre-war demands as the U.S. raises discussing European security at Ukraine talks

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• The proposal to discuss broader security arrangements for Europe was floated by Donald Trump’s envoys, and that has worried Ukraine and its Western allies, who fear it will play into Moscow’s hands and weaken NATO

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: Russia, European, Ukraine, Europe, Donald Trump

Source: The Hindu, International, 21 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/russia-dusts-off-its-pre-war-demands-as-the-us

Russia says role for EU's Kallas in Ukraine talks with Moscow would lead to their collapse

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Zakharova told a press briefing in Moscow that Kallas was totally unsuitable to take part in such talks and listed ■a series of statements from Kallas which she ■said showed the EU official was anti-Russian

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, Kallas, Ukraine, Moscow, Zakharova

Source: The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/russia-says-role-for-eus-kallas-in-ukraine-tal

PM Modi says cultural connect can guarantee global peace

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Prime Minister Modi addressed an SCO forum, stating that cultural and civilisational connect can guarantee global peace.
• He highlighted that cultural cooperation plays an important role in strengthening bilateral and multilateral relations among member nations.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Shows India's strategy of utilizing civilisational linkages and soft power to balance complex geopolitical dynamics within the SCO.
• **International relations:** Maintains India's strategic footprint in Central Asia and balances engagement with Eurasian powers amidst geopolitical realignments.

Prelims pointers

• Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was established in 2001; India and Pakistan became full members in 2017.
• SCO's permanent executive bodies are the Secretariat in Beijing and the Executive Committee of RATS in Tashkent.

Static connect: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

• Intergovernmental organization founded in Shanghai in 2001 by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
• India and Pakistan joined in 2017; Iran joined as the ninth member in 2023.
• Hosts the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) headquartered in Tashkent.
UPSC angle: Frequently tested under Regional and Global Groupings in GS Paper II.

Mains angle

Highlights India's soft power diplomacy and engagement within multilateral regional groupings in Eurasia under GS Paper II.

Source: The Hindu, National, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-modi-address-at-sco-civilisational-dialogue-foru

U.S. sanctions Myanmar armed group leader over scam links

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

• The U.S. Treasury Department imposed sanctions on General Saw Shwe Wah, commander-in-chief of Myanmar's Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA).
• Sanctions involve an asset freeze and transaction ban over involvement in cross-border cyber scam operations.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Unregulated border enclaves run by Myanmar insurgent groups operate major digital scam and human trafficking centres that trap youth from across Asia, including India.
• **Internal security:** Indian citizens have repeatedly been trafficked into Myanmar scam compounds, prompting national law enforcement interventions.
• **International relations:** The breakdown of state authority in Myanmar complicates bilateral border management and regional cooperation through ASEAN.

Prelims pointers

• Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) is an ethnic armed organisation operating in Myanmar.
• Southeast Asian cyber-scam syndicates frequently operate from conflict-affected border areas in Myanmar.

Static connect: India-Myanmar Border & Ethnic Armed Groups

• India shares a 1,643 km border with Myanmar spanning Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram.
• Instability in Myanmar post-2021 coup has intensified cross-border illicit trafficking and criminal enclaves.
UPSC angle: Relevant to security challenges in border areas and linkages of transnational organized crime.

Mains angle

Transnational crime syndicates and scam compounds in Myanmar pose regional cyber and human trafficking threats affecting Indian citizens and border security (GS Paper III - Internal Security).

Source: The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/us-sanctions-myanmar-armed-group-leader-over-s

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

PM, HM still searching for ‘supertainted’ two-thirds majority for delimitation bill, says Congress

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution

• Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said it is in the nation's interest to let the current Lok Sabha strength and state-wise configuration continue with one-third reservation for women implemented till the Viksit Bharat objective is achieved

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Society:** Women's safety, workforce participation and representation (Women's Reservation Act 2023, one-third seats after delimitation).
• **Governance & polity:** Laws such as the POSH Act 2013 and the new criminal laws (BNS 2023) and their implementation gaps.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Congress, Jairam Ramesh, Lok Sabha, Viksit Bharat

Source: The Hindu, National, 21 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-hm-still-searching-for-supertainted-two-thirds-m

Congress proposes four-point formula for delimitation, says INDIA bloc on board

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution

• The Congress party has proposed a four-point formula on the upcoming delimitation exercise.
• The proposal suggests retaining 543 Lok Sabha seats, keeping the existing State-wise distribution intact, freezing seat allocation for another 25 years, and implementing one-third reservation for women.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Delimitation post-2026 threatens to alter the balance of political power between demographically declining southern states and populous northern states, striking at the heart of Indian federalism.
• **Governance & polity:** Highlights the tension between the principle of 'one person, one vote' and protecting the representation of states that successfully stabilized population growth.
• **Society:** Implementation of women's reservation is directly linked to the operationalization of the next delimitation exercise post-census.

Prelims pointers

• Delimitation is carried out under Delimitation Commission Acts enacted by Parliament under Article 82.
• Article 81 and Article 82 govern the composition and readjustment of Lok Sabha seats, with the total number frozen until the first census post-2026 (via the 84th Constitutional Amendment Act).

Static connect: Delimitation Commission

• Appointed by the President under the provisions of the Delimitation Commission Act.
• Orders of the Delimitation Commission have the force of law and cannot be called into question before any court.
• Comprises a retired Supreme Court judge, the Chief Election Commissioner, and respective State Election Commissioners.
UPSC angle: Directly relevant to GS II (Elections, Constitutional Amendments, and Federalism).

Mains angle

Examines constitutional issues surrounding federal representation, demographic divergence between northern and southern States, and electoral reforms in GS Paper II.

Practice question

The impending delimitation of parliamentary constituencies presents a complex dilemma between democratic representation and federal equity. Discuss the constitutional and political challenges involved, and suggest possible solutions.

Source: The Hindu, National, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/congress-wants-consultation-on-delimitation-issue-a

CREDAI Chennai to move Supreme Court against 1km construction restriction around Pallikaranai marshland

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

• The real estate body has expressed deep disappointment over the order passed by the Madras High Court on the Pallikaranai Ramsar issue

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.
• **Environment:** Conservation under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and Forest Conservation Act 1980; India's commitments under the CBD (30x30 target).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: CREDAI Chennai, Supreme Court, Pallikaranai, Madras High Court, Pallikaranai Ramsar

Source: The Hindu, National, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/credai-chennai-to-move-supreme-court-aga

Karnataka High Court quashes journo-initiated case against pharmacy chain for collecting ■1.12 in ‘excess’

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

• The journalist complained that he had placed order for eight tablets but he was supplied with only seven tablets despite collecting the amount for all the eight tablets, and hence it amounted to ‘excess’ pricing

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: Karnataka High Court

Source: The Hindu, National, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/karnataka-high-court-quashes-journo-initi

U.K., EU move closer together with deals on food, carbon permits and youth mobility

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

• British Prime Minister Andy Burnham, who travelled to Brussels for the Summit, said this was the “limit” of what the two sides would converge during this Parliament (U.K.), i.e., until 2029

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: British Prime Minister Andy Burnham, Brussels, Summit, Parliament

Source: The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/uk-european-union-summit-meeting-on-november-2

Italian workers, students protest over wages and public services

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, Economy

• Parliament is examining Meloni's €26 billion ($30 billion) budget for 2027, which CGIL says does not go far enough to support incomes and public services

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **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: Italian, Parliament, Meloni, CGIL

Source: The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/italian-workers-students-protest-over-wages-an

Economic losses from Indonesia fires could reach $30 billion, research shows

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, International Relations, Science & Technology

• Wildfires have burned through 7.1 million acres so far in 2026, according to the Nusantara Atlas deforestation monitor, an area 18 times the size of London

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Economic, Indonesia, Wildfires, Nusantara Atlas, London

Source: The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/economic-losses-from-indonesia-fires-could-rea

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India Crosses Historic Milestone of 1 Crore HPV Vaccine Doses Administered in Less Than Nine Months, Marking Major Progress in Cervical Cancer Prevention

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

• India has achieved a major milestone in its efforts to prevent cervical cancer, with more than 1 crore doses of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine administered under the National HPV Vaccination Campaign in less than nine months of its launch.
• The achievement marks a significant step towards protecting adolescent girls against HPV infections that can cause cervical cancer and reflects the growing reach of…

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: India Crosses Historic Milestone, Crore HPV Vaccine Doses Administered, Less Than Nine Months, Marking Major Progress, Cervical Cancer Prevention

Source: PIB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 21 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2339423

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Maharashtra FDA issues statewide compliance order for health supplements, nutraceuticals (The Hindu, National, 21 Nov 2026)
• Messi visit row: Keralam govt. grants sanction to investigate former Sports Minister V. Abdurahiman (The Hindu, National, 20 Nov 2026)
• FBI, U.S. Agriculture Department breached by hackers, reports say (The Hindu, International, 21 Nov 2026)
• NIA sends request to UAE to probe any Indian footprints of copilot of flydubai flight who attacked Smit Machchhar (The Hindu, International, 20 Nov 2026)
• IRDAI imposes ■2 cr penalty on Star Health (The Hindu, Health, 21 Nov 2026)
• Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participates in Platinum Jubilee celebrations of IIT Kharagpur (PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 21 Nov 2026)
• AI cracks math’s most famous problem. Have mathematicians lost a guiding light? (The Hindu, Science, 21 Nov 2026)

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

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Srikakulam releases 15,440 cusecs as inflows moderate after cyclone floods

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Mains · Disaster Management

• The district administration heaved a sigh of relief as inflows are moderate compared to inflows of nearly one lakh cusecs one month ago due to the cyclone that caused havoc in Ichchapuram and other places

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: Srikakulam, Ichchapuram

Source: The Hindu, National, 21 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/srikakulam-releases-15440-cusecs-as-

ECONOMY

CEA flags need to align capital markets with India’s development priorities

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy

• Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) stressed the need to align Indian capital markets with the nation's long-term developmental needs.
• Highlighted a structural disparity: equity market capitalization stands at ~130% of GDP, whereas the corporate bond market remains underdeveloped at around 16% of GDP.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

A skewed capital market limits India's ability to fund long-gestation infrastructure without putting excessive asset-liability mismatch burdens on commercial banks.
• **Economy:** Deepening the corporate bond market relieves the banking sector from twin-balance-sheet pressures caused by long-term infrastructure loans.
• **Governance & polity:** Requires regulatory harmonisation between SEBI, RBI, and insurance/pension regulators (IRDAI, PFRDA) to allow larger institutional capital flows into lower-rated bonds.

Prelims pointers

• Equity market capitalisation measures the total market value of listed company shares relative to GDP.
• The corporate bond market in India represents approximately 16% of GDP, significantly lower than mature economies.

Static connect: Corporate Bond Market in India

• Regulated primarily by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
• Characterized by dominance of private placements over public issues and high reliance on top-rated (AAA/AA) issuances.
• Initiatives like the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF) aim to provide liquidity during periods of market stress.
UPSC angle: Directly relevant to Indian Economy, financial architecture, and resource mobilization in GS Paper III.

Mains angle

Assesses the imbalance in India's financial sector and the critical need for a deep corporate bond market for infrastructure financing in GS Paper III.

Practice question

Despite impressive growth in India's equity markets, the domestic corporate bond market remains shallow. Examine the factors behind this asymmetry and discuss its implications for financing long-term infrastructure projects.

Source: The Hindu, Economy, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/business/markets/cea-flags-need-to-align-capital-markets-with-ind

India’s Expanding Regional Exports

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Prelims · Economy

• India's merchandise exports recorded broad-based regional growth during April-September.
• Exports to Africa registered the highest growth at 44%, followed by Asia at 21%, Americas at 13%, and Europe at 8%.
• Major contributing export categories included engineering goods, electronic goods, and petroleum products.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Highlights the structural shift and market diversification of India's merchandise exports toward emerging economies in Africa and Asia.
• **Economy:** Growth in value-added sectors like engineering and electronics signals an improvement in domestic manufacturing capabilities under schemes like PLI.
• **International relations:** Rapid export growth to Africa reinforces India's South-South cooperation framework and strengthens economic diplomacy in the Global South.

Prelims pointers

• Africa registered the highest regional growth for Indian merchandise exports during the period.
• Key export drivers included engineering goods, electronic goods, and petroleum products.

Static connect: India's Foreign Trade Policy

• Administered by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
• Foreign Trade Policy 2023 focuses on process re-engineering, technology adoption, and promoting rupee-based trade settlement.
UPSC angle: Directly relevant to Prelims questions on trade patterns and GS Paper III trends in merchandise exports.

Mains angle

Diversification of India's export destinations toward Africa and Asia reduces vulnerability to traditional western economic slowdowns (GS Paper III - Indian Economy).

Source: PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 21 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2339440

Trump says U.S. opposes 'globalist regulation' of AI

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Mains · Economy, Science & Technology, Reports & Indices

• The U.S. political leadership has expressed opposition to centralized or 'globalist' international regulations on Artificial Intelligence.
• The debate centers on balancing global safety concerns (such as bioweapons and critical infrastructure cyberattacks) against technological competition.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

A pushback against multilateral AI governance by major tech powers impacts international standards on AI safety, data sovereignty, and technological access for developing countries like India.
• **Science & tech:** Unregulated AI proliferation elevates risks of dual-use applications such as autonomous cyber tools and automated biological weapon design.
• **Governance & polity:** India advocates for an inclusive, risk-based approach to AI regulation that fosters innovation without compromising digital sovereignty.

Static connect: Global Artificial Intelligence Initiatives

• The Bletchley Declaration (2023) was signed by 28 nations, including India, the US, and China, to manage frontier AI risks.
• India is a founding member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), launched in 2020.
UPSC angle: Crucial for GS Paper III questions on AI regulation, ethics, and multilateral tech treaties.

Mains angle

The fragmentation of global AI governance frameworks complicates multilateral efforts to establish universal safety and ethical standards (GS Paper III - Science and Technology / GS Paper II - Global Governance).

Source: The Hindu, International, 19 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/trump-says-us-opposes-globalist-regulation-of-

Earthshot Prize finalists offer climate solutions for Mumbai, from wildfire detection to coastal protection and heat resilience

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy, Environment & Ecology, Awards, Days & Persons

• Earthshot Prize finalists presented climate solutions for Mumbai focusing on coastal protection, heat resilience, and wildfire detection.
• Urban architects emphasized moving away from hard, traditional infrastructure toward nature-based adaptations to tackle rising sea levels and intense rainfall.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Indian coastal cities like Mumbai face existential threats from sea-level rise and urban flooding, requiring a shift toward resilient, nature-based infrastructure.
• **Environment:** Substituting concrete sea walls with mangrove restoration and living shorelines protects marine ecosystems and attenuates wave energy.
• **Geography & disasters:** Extreme precipitation compounded by high tides creates urban flooding risks that necessitate decentralized storm-water management.

Prelims pointers

• The Earthshot Prize was launched in 2020 by Prince William to support innovative solutions to environmental and climate challenges.

Static connect: Coastal Urban Vulnerability in India

• India has a coastline of 7,516.6 km covering 9 maritime states and 4 Union Territories.
• Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notifications are issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to regulate coastal infrastructure.
UPSC angle: Relevant to GS Paper I Geography (urbanisation), GS Paper III Disaster Management and Environment.

Mains angle

Nature-based solutions and climate-resilient urban planning are vital for safeguarding vulnerable coastal megacities against sea-level rise and extreme weather (GS Paper III - Environment & Disaster Management).

Source: The Hindu, Environment, 21 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/earthshot-prize-finalists-offer-c

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Tiger ‘Explorer’ reaches Mylavaram forest near Vijayawada; four villages on alert

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Prelims · Environment & Ecology

• A radio-collared tiger named 'Explorer' reached the Mylavaram forest area near Vijayawada.
• GPS tracking allows forest officials to monitor its long-range dispersal movement without reported human-wildlife conflict.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Tracks the expansion of tiger ranges and underlines the vital role of wildlife corridors in preventing human-animal conflict.
• **Environment:** Demonstrates the necessity of protecting contiguous forest corridors beyond declared tiger reserves to allow safe genetic dispersal.

Prelims pointers

• Use of GPS/radio-collars facilitates studying dispersal corridors and territory expansion in wild tigers.
• The tiger (Panthera tigris) is classified as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List and listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Static connect: Project Tiger and NTCA

• Project Tiger was launched in 1973 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
• National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006.
• India conducts nationwide tiger estimation every four years using the M-STrIPES application.
UPSC angle: Core static area under Ecology and Biodiversity in Prelims and GS Paper III.

Mains angle

Focuses on human-wildlife coexistence, wildlife corridors, and conservation management under GS Paper III.
Source: The Hindu, Environment, 20 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/tiger-explorer-reaches-mylavaram-for

INTERNAL SECURITY

NIA’s anti-terror conference discusses cross-border terrorism, threat from drones

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Internal Security

• NIA D-G Rakesh Aggarwal says drone smuggling of arms, narcotics, cash and explosives was a key concern, while adding that cheap and easily available drones are increasingly being used in cross-border operations

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.
• **Society:** Drug abuse among youth; NDPS Act, 1985 and Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: NIA, NIA D-G Rakesh Aggarwal
Source: The Hindu, National, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nias-anti-terror-conference-discusses-cross-border-

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Going public on AI: On Anthropic IPO

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology

• Anthropic's prospective public listing highlights the rapidly intensifying global artificial intelligence competition.
• Calls are emerging for India to adopt a proactive national strategy to avoid falling behind in frontier AI model development.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Strategic dependence on foreign proprietary AI platforms poses risks to India's digital sovereignty, data governance, and industrial competitiveness.
• **Science & tech:** Emphasizes the urgency of developing domestic compute infrastructure and foundational models tailored to local languages and public services.
• **Economy:** Failure to participate in core AI innovation could relegate India to a mere service-layer consumer rather than a creator of high-value intellectual property.

Prelims pointers

• Frontier AI models are foundation models that possess advanced general-purpose capabilities and high compute requirements.
• The IndiaAI Mission is implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to build indigenous AI compute capacity.

Static connect: IndiaAI Mission

• Approved with an outlay of over ■10,300 crore to establish public-private computing capacity of over 10,000 GPUs.
• Includes pillars such as IndiaAI Compute Capacity, IndiaAI Innovation Centre, and IndiaAI Datasets Platform.
• Aims to foster indigenous foundational models and develop skilled AI human capital.
UPSC angle: Key initiative under Science & Technology developments and IT policy in GS Paper III.

Mains angle

Examines the geopolitical and economic implications of global generative AI dominance and the need for indigenous computing power in GS Paper III.

Source: The Hindu, Editorial, 20 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/going-public-on-ai-on-anthropic-ipo/article7172