UPSC Current Affairs

Monday, 23 November 2026 · Sources: PIB and The Hindu · 18 items

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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

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Centre prioritising border villages, 40 seeing reverse migration: Amit Shah in Arunachal Pradesh

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Science & Technology, Indian Society

• Union Home Minister launches development initiatives, including 199 Vibrant Villages projects, worth more than ■5,610 crore on last day of his three-day visit to the State

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Amit Shah, Arunachal Pradesh, Union Home Minister, Vibrant Villages

Source: The Hindu, National, 22 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/arunachal-pradesh/amit-shah-says-congress-neglected

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Giving India’s first practising woman doctor her due: Kadambini Ganguly■ (The Hindu, Health, 22 Nov 2026)

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

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

COP 31 talks fail as EU, others reject any climate deal without language on a fossil fuel phase-out

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

• EU, Panama among about 130 parties that refuse to accept COP President’s consensus cover text, alleges that it “greenwashes” fossil fuels; India, China, Saudi Arabia are on the other side of the divide

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.
• **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.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: COP, Panama, COP President, China, Saudi Arabia

Source: The Hindu, International, 22 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/cop31-fails-to-agree-on-climate-deal-in-chaoti

EU will ‘not endorse’ climate deal, throwing COP31 outcome into doubt

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology, International Relations

• Ireland’s Climate and Energy Minister Darragh O’Brien said the EU would not back an Antalya Pact that “does not even mention fossil fuels”, as the UN climate talks ran into record extra time

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.
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Prelims pointers

• Key terms: COP31, Ireland, Climate and Energy Minister Darragh, Brien, Antalya Pact

Static connect: UNFCCC & Paris Agreement

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

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

Source: The Hindu, International, 22 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/eu-will-not-endorse-climate-deal-throwing-cop3

Paper tiger: On the Green India Mission

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

• Climate action has to be timely, with adequate resources and monitoring

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Source: The Hindu, Environment, 22 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/paper-tiger/article71731271.ece

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

CM Vijay to hold meeting with MLAs of allies, supporting parties

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy

• Sources said that the meeting would focus on the implementation of infrastructure and welfare measures in their constituencies

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: CM Vijay, MLAs, Sources

Source: The Hindu, National, 22 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/cm-vijay-to-hold-meeting-with-mlas-of-al

Netanyahu, Eisenkot parties resume talks to form Israel government

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

• Likud laid down conditions for a unity government, including no Arab parties and rejection of a Palestinian state, while Gadi Eisenkot has until December 6 to form a government

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Netanyahu, Eisenkot, Israel, Likud, Arab

Source: The Hindu, International, 22 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/netanyahu-eisenkot-parties-resume-talks-to-for

Andhra Pradesh gets national recognition for its progress in HIV/AIDS control

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

• Six districts in the State have achieved ‘Surakshit’ status and another 10 the ‘Saksham’ status, and the rankings are based on a district’s performance on 95-95-95 targets fixed by the Joint United Nations Programme

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Andhra Pradesh, HIV, AIDS, Six, Surakshit

Source: The Hindu, Health, 22 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/andhra-pradesh-gets-national-recogni

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Nepal PM Balendra Shah arrives in Delhi for first official visit to India

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• The PMs of India and Nepal are set to hold talks on Monday, with sources saying the discussion will give 'political direction' to bilateral relations for the coming years

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, Delhi, PMs of India and Nepal, Monday

Source: The Hindu, National, 22 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nepal-pm-balendra-shah-arrives-in-delhi-for-first-o

Mysuru to host AI Summit on November 25

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

• CEOs, CXOs, functional heads, MSME owners, technology professionals, academia and students are expected to attend.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Mysuru, AI Summit, November, CEOs, CXOs

Source: The Hindu, National, 22 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/mysuru-to-host-ai-summit-on-november-25/a

Myanmar calls ASEAN review of peace plan 'unfair and imbalanced'; questions bloc's treatment

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Myanmar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the review and recommendations adopted at the ASEAN Summit in Manila did not reflect the positive measures undertaken by the country

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** 1,643 km border with the North-East; Free Movement Regime (the Centre decided in 2024 to end it and fence the border), refugee inflows into Mizoram and Manipur, insurgent camps and drug trafficking (Golden Triangle).
• **International relations:** Act East connectivity: Kaladan Multi-modal project (Sittwe port) and the India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway depend on stability in Rakhine and Chin areas.
• **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: Myanmar, ASEAN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ASEAN Summit, Manila

Source: The Hindu, International, 22 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/myanmar-calls-asean-review-of-peace-plan-unfai

Cargo ship bound for Russia's Kaliningrad hit by drones, Finland tightens security

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

• Finland's Defence Ministry said the military had reintroduced temporary aviation and maritime restrictions in the eastern Gulf of Finland as a precaution to protect civilians and enable authorities ■to operate if drones needed ■to be intercepted.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Cargo, Russia, Kaliningrad, Finland, Defence Ministry

Source: The Hindu, International, 21 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/cargo-ship-bound-for-russias-kaliningrad-hit-b

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Drone strikes hit homes, UN premises in Sudan's capital

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology, International Relations

• A drone strike completely destroyed a house, a witness said, while a Sudanese Army source said the drones had been launched from Ethiopia

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Narco-terror links across the Punjab border (Golden Crescent) and in the North-East (Golden Triangle); drones are used to drop drugs and arms.
• **Society:** Drug abuse among youth; NDPS Act, 1985 and Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Drone, Sudan, Sudanese Army, Ethiopia

Source: The Hindu, International, 22 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/drone-strikes-hit-homes-un-premises-in-sudans-

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• VCK chief Thirumavalavan visits former LTTE chief Prabhakaran’s razed home in Sri Lanka (The Hindu, National, 22 Nov 2026)
• Deepathoon row: Tamil Nadu files a review plea in Supreme Court against Thirupparankundram order (The Hindu, National, 22 Nov 2026)
• Tipu Sultan’s lost palace in Mysuru (The Hindu, National, 22 Nov 2026)

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

ECONOMY

Saudi-led coalition says it intercepted Houthi missile in western region

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy, Agriculture, Science & Technology

• Saudi Arabia's western region contains key energy infrastructure including the Yanbu terminal, a major facility for crude oil exports

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** Energy security, strategic petroleum reserves, Gulf investment (sovereign funds) and the India–UAE CEPA (2022).
• **Society:** Large Indian diaspora and remittances; labour welfare issues (kafala system).
• **International relations:** Diversifying suppliers (Russia, US, Guyana) and building strategic petroleum reserves (Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, Padur).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Saudi-led, Houthi, Saudi Arabia, Yanbu

Static connect: Bab-el-Mandeb & the Red Sea route

• Bab-el-Mandeb strait joins the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, between Yemen and Djibouti/Eritrea.
• Together with the Suez Canal (Egypt) it forms the shortest Asia–Europe sea route.
• Houthi rebels (Yemen) have attacked shipping here, forcing diversions around the Cape of Good Hope.

UPSC angle: Maritime security, Indian Navy deployments, trade costs (GS2, GS3).

Source: The Hindu, International, 22 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/saudi-led-coalition-says-it-intercepted-houthi

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Indian science needs fewer borders (The Hindu, Science, 22 Nov 2026)