UPSC Current Affairs

Wednesday, 25 November 2026 · Sources: PIB and The Hindu · 57 items

Paper	Items	Top headlines
GS1	8	Thousands participate at Maha Deepam festival in Tiruvannama; Prime Minister shares an article highlighting the growing ro
GS2	38	Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan visits; China launches crewed spaceship carrying first Pakistani ast
GS3	10	Prime Minister shares an article highlighting India’s journe; Estonia on the edge as Russia-NATO tensions rise
Prelims	1	Release of Report of the ‘Sub-Committee on Regional Accounts

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

WHO chief calls on U.S. to lift oil blockade on Cuba, citing health impact

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

• United Nations has also repeatedly warned of a growing humanitarian crisis on the island, calling the U.S.
• fuel blockade a violation of international ■law and the human rights of all ■Cubans

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: WHO, Cuba, United Nations, Cubans

Source: The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/who-chief-calls-on-us-to-lift-oil-blockade-on-

HISTORY & ART AND CULTURE

Prime Minister shares an article highlighting the growing role of India’s civilisational heritage in shaping global cultural discourse

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

• The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today shared an article by Union Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, highlighting how India's civilisational heritage has a growing role in shaping global cultural discourse.
• Shri Shekhawat highlighted the first SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum and the Indraprastha Communiqué, which sets out a framework for stronger cultural cooperation, exploring how India can take its…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, Union Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Shekhawat, SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum

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: PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 25 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341109

‘Bhai Band’ Brings a Melodious Tale of Brotherhood, Tradition and Changing Times to IFFI 2026

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

• Bhai Band , a Gujarati film directed by Manish Saini, featured in the Gala Premier section of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026 in Goa today.
• The film follows two brothers who run a traditional wedding band in their village.

Prelims pointers

• When one brother returns weeks later with a DJ system and massive speakers, armed with nothing…
• Key terms: Bhai Band, Brings, Melodious Tale of Brotherhood, Tradition and Changing Times, IFFI

Source: PIB, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, 25 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341168

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Solomon Islands names Australia as its primary security partner in a new treaty that excludes China

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Geography

• The new treaty confirms Australia's place as the Solomons' ‘primary security partner’ and states ‘there will be no foreign military or security base’ on the smaller nation 2,000 kilometres northeast of Australia

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: Solomon Islands, Australia, China, Solomons

Source: The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/solomon-islands-names-australia-as-its-primary

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POLITY & CONSTITUTION

Vice-President Inaugurates Swayamsiddha National Conference 2026 on Women’s Empowerment in Nagpur

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

• The Vice-President of India, Shri C.
• Radhakrishnan, today inaugurated the Swayamsiddha National Conference 2026 on Women’s Empowerment, themed “VIJAYA – A Journey of Empowerment through Education”, organised by the Swayamsiddha Centre of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

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: Vice-President Inaugurates Swayamsiddha National Conference, Women, Empowerment, Nagpur, Vice-President of India

Source: PIB, Vice President's Secretariat, 25 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341190

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Thousands participate at Maha Deepam festival in Tiruvannamalai temple (The Hindu, National, 24 Nov 2026)
• Thirupparankundram 'deepathoon' row highlights: Karthigai Deepam lit at traditional spot despite Supreme Court order (The Hindu, National, 24 Nov 2026)
• Sixth Edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow Celebrates Emerging Filmmaking Talent at IFFI 2026 (PIB, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, 25 Nov 2026)

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

ECONOMY

Cabinet approves Rs.11,000 crore Scheme for Enhancement of Construction and Infrastructure Equipment (CIE) Manufacturing Ecosystem

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy, Governance & Social Justice, Environment & Ecology

• The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the "Scheme for Enhancement of Construction and Infrastructure Equipment (CIE) Manufacturing Ecosystem" with a financial outlay of Rs.11,000 crore.
• The Scheme, to be implemented by the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), aims to incentivize domestic manufacturing of CIE and its components and to establish a dedicated CIE testing…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Cabinet, Scheme for Enhancement of Construction and Infrastructure Equipment, CIE, Manufacturing Ecosystem, Union Cabinet

Source: PIB, Cabinet, 25 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341171

Cabinet approves Rs.11,000 crore Scheme for Enhancement of Construction and Infrastructure Equipment (CIE) Manufacturing Ecosystem

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy, Governance & Social Justice, Environment & Ecology

• The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the "Scheme for Enhancement of Construction and Infrastructure Equipment (CIE) Manufacturing Ecosystem" with a financial outlay of Rs.11,000 crore.
• The Scheme, to be implemented by the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), aims to incentivize domestic manufacturing of CIE and its components and to establish a dedicated CIE testing…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Cabinet, Scheme for Enhancement of Construction and Infrastructure Equipment, CIE, Manufacturing Ecosystem, Union Cabinet

Source: PIB, Ministry of Heavy Industries, 25 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341185

India’s Bio-Economy Set to Reach 300 million Dollars by 2030; Dr. Jitendra Singh Urges Industry to Seize Opportunities in Next Biotechnology Revolution

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

• India’s bio-economy is set to reach 300 billion Dollars by 2030, with biotechnology set to drive the next Industrial Revolution, while Biotech Startups in India had already grown from just 50-60 in 2014 to over 11,000 today, Union Minister Dr.
• Jitendra Singh said today, urging industry leaders, Startups and investors to seize emerging opportunities through greater investment and participation in genomics…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Bio-Economy Set, Reach, Dollars, Jitendra Singh Urges Industry, Seize Opportunities

Source: PIB, Ministry of Science & Technology, 25 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341178

Tamil Nadu government set to ink 70 MoUs for investments to the tune of over ■50,000 crore

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

• Sources said the MoUs would cover sectors including manufacturing, clean energy, textiles, aerospace and defence

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Tamil Nadu, MoUs, Sources

Source: The Hindu, National, 25 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tamil-nadu-government-set-to-ink-70-mous

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan visits farms in Punjab to improve soil health and increase farmers income

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Agriculture

• The Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, today participated in a ‘Kisan Chaupal’ and interacted with the farmers at village 'Booh Haveliyaan' in Tarn Taran district of Punjab.
• While sitting among farmers in the fields and listening to their concerns and suggestions, Shri Chauhan commended the progressive farmers and panchayats who practice modern farming…

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Punjab, Union Minister for Agriculture, Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Source: PIB, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, 25 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341083

Cabinet approves continuation of Postal Operations Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 1,141 Crore for 16th Finance Commission Cycle (FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31)

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

• The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of the Central Sector Scheme “Postal Operations” during the 16th Finance Commission Cycle from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 with a proposed outlay of Rs.
• The scheme seeks to strengthen postal infrastructure, improve operational efficiency and support the growing requirements of logistics, e-commerce and…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Cabinet, Postal Operations Scheme, Crore, Finance Commission Cycle, Union Cabinet

Source: PIB, Cabinet, 25 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341179

Gig workers’ unions demand immediate rollout of welfare schemes, grievance redressal mechanism

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• Gig workers' unions have demanded the urgent rollout of social welfare schemes and grievance redressal mechanisms.
• Demands include health insurance for workers and families, paid leave during hospitalisation, and educational scholarships for children.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Gig platforms are major urban employment drivers in India, but the lack of formal contracts and social safety nets raises critical welfare and labour rights concerns.
• **Economy:** Formalizing safety nets without disproportionately raising compliance costs is vital to sustaining India's booming digital services economy.
• **Society:** Lack of medical cover and paid leaves perpetuates multi-dimensional vulnerability and income instability among urban working-class families.

Prelims pointers

• Code on Social Security, 2020 formally recognizes 'gig workers' and 'platform workers' for establishing social security schemes.

Static connect: Code on Social Security, 2020

• Defines a gig worker as a person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of traditional employer-employee relationship.
• Mandates the constitution of a Social Security Fund funded by aggregators, Central, and State governments.
UPSC angle: Labor law reforms, definitions of platform/gig workers, and social safety nets are recurrent themes in GS 2 and GS 3.

Mains angle

Examines the vulnerability of the platform economy workforce and evaluates legislative measures needed for social security and grievance redressal (GS Paper 3: Indian Economy and Employment; GS Paper 2: Social Justice).

Practice question

Examine the socio-economic vulnerabilities faced by gig and platform workers in India. In light of the Code on Social Security, 2020, suggest structural measures to ensure their institutional protection and welfare.

Source: The Hindu, National, 24 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/gig-workers-unions-demand-immediate-rollo

National Milk Day

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy

• Milk occupies a vital place in India's nutritional landscape.
• It provides high-quality animal protein and essential nutrients, including calcium, magnesium and potassium, in easily absorbable forms.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: National Milk Day, Milk, Often

Source: PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 25 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341056

Beyond generosity: on India-Nepal ties

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

• Commentary emphasizes that India must balance generous assistance with actively addressing Nepal's bilateral concerns.
• Highlights the need to sustain trust and cooperation in India-Nepal diplomatic relations.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Nepal holds immense strategic, hydropolitical, and cultural significance for India as a Himalayan buffer state amidst increasing Chinese outreach.
• **International relations:** Proactively addressing political and economic grievances prevents third-party geopolitical encroachment in India's immediate neighbourhood.
• **Internal security:** An open and peaceful 1,850-km border requires strong bilateral trust to prevent illicit trafficking and cross-border security challenges.

Static connect: 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship

• Forms the bedrock of bilateral ties, allowing free movement of people and goods across an open border.
• Provides reciprocal national treatment regarding residence, property ownership, and trade participation.
UPSC angle: India-Nepal border treaties, transit agreements, and strategic connectivity are key components of GS 2 International Relations.

Mains angle

Focuses on neighbourhood diplomacy, structural irritants, and people-to-people connectivity under India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy (GS Paper 2: International Relations).

Source: The Hindu, Editorial, 24 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/beyond-generosity-on-india-nepal-ties/article71

Cabinet approves continuation of Estates Management Scheme for Department of Posts with an outlay of Rs. 1,491 crore

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

• The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of the Department of Posts for the continuation of the Central Sector Scheme, the Estates Management Scheme, during the 16th Finance Commission Cycle from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.
• The scheme carries a total financial outlay of Rs.1,491 crores over a five-year period.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Cabinet, Estates Management Scheme for Department of Posts, Union Cabinet, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Department of Posts

Source: PIB, Cabinet, 25 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341181

All you need to know about: Primary ciliary dyskinesia

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

• PCD is a rare genetic disorder that affects the cilia, which help move mucus and other particles out of the respiratory tract.
• Mucus is therefore not cleared effectively and builds up in the respiratory tract, increasing the risk of recurrent infections

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: All, Primary, PCD, Mucus

Source: The Hindu, Health, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/all-you-need-to-know-about-primary-ciliary-dyskin

Maharashtra FDA cancels Inducare’s manufacturing licences again over nine unauthorised drugs, two found spurious

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy

• Firm manufactured and sold nine drugs without mandatory product permission; drugs worth ■1.72 crore seized from YCM Hospital in Pimpri-Chinchwad

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Maharashtra FDA, Inducare, Firm, YCM Hospital, Pimpri-Chinchwad

Source: The Hindu, Health, 25 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/maharashtra/maharashtra-fda-cancels-inducares-manuf

Former members say EPG report was ‘highly positive’ for India-Nepal ties

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

• Former members of the India-Nepal Eminent Persons Group (EPG) stated that their report was highly positive for bilateral relations.
• This reaction follows remarks by India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri categorizing the EPG report as 'not relevant'.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

The EPG report directly impacts the diplomatic trajectory and institutional frameworks governing India's strategic relations with Nepal.
• **International relations:** Disagreements over the report's relevance risk stalling bilateral dialogue on core issues such as open borders, security cooperation, and economic partnerships.
• **Internal security:** An open and porous border with Nepal necessitates mutual trust to prevent cross-border smuggling, illicit movements, and third-party intelligence operations.

Prelims pointers

• The Eminent Persons Group (EPG) was a joint initiative established by India and Nepal to review bilateral ties and comprehensive treaties, including the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship.

Static connect: India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship (1950)

• Signed in Kathmandu in 1950 establishing open borders and national treatment for citizens of both nations.
• It provides reciprocal privileges regarding residence, property ownership, and movement without visas.
• Nepal has frequently sought revisions to the treaty citing changing geopolitical dynamics and sovereignty concerns.
UPSC angle: Directly relevant to GS-II bilateral agreements and neighborhood diplomacy.

Mains angle

The divergence over the EPG report highlights the enduring complexities and need for treaty revision in India-Nepal bilateral relations (GS Paper II: International Relations).

Source: The Hindu, National, 24 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/former-members-say-epg-report-was-highly-positive-f

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Brazil, India are building strategic ties for a changing world, says Brazil’s Foreign Minister

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Brazil's Foreign Minister emphasized building strategic bilateral ties with India in a changing world order.
• Clarified that BRICS does not seek to replace the U.S. dollar, noting that local currency settlement is a commercial choice rather than a mandatory mandate.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Demonstrates the converging perspectives of major Global South democracies on pragmatic trade settlement and international financial governance.
• **International relations:** Strengthens South-South collaboration within BRICS and IBSA, advocating reformed multilateralism without creating anti-Western alignments.
• **Economy:** Settling bilateral trade in national currencies mitigates foreign exchange volatility and lowers transaction costs for Indian exporters.

Prelims pointers

• India and Brazil are common members of BRICS, IBSA, G20, and the G4 grouping seeking UNSC reforms.

Static connect: IBSA Dialogue Forum

• Created by the Brasilia Declaration in 2003, comprising India, Brazil, and South Africa.
• Aims to promote South-South cooperation, democratic governance, and inclusive global institutions.
UPSC angle: Plurilateral groupings involving emerging powers (BRICS, IBSA) are frequently examined in GS 2.

Mains angle

Covers India-Brazil strategic partnership, de-dollarisation narratives, and multilateral cooperation in the Global South (GS Paper 2: Bilateral and Multilateral Groupings).

Source: The Hindu, International, 24 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/brazil-india-are-building-strategic-ties-for-a-chan

Seven Andhra fishermen safe; search for six missing off Odisha reaches Bangladesh, Myanmar waters

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Polity & Constitution

• The State government writes to the Centre seeking help in the search for the Subbampeta fishermen, says Minister K.

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: Seven Andhra, Odisha, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Subbampeta

Source: The Hindu, National, 25 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/seven-andhra-fishermen-safe-search-f

India warns against using tech for strategic one-upmanship, calls for inclusive AI governance

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Science & Technology

• India’s UN Ambassador asserted that amid the rapid integration of AI into military and intelligence spheres, responsibility for the use of lethal autonomous weapons systems must always rest with humans

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: UN Ambassador

Source: The Hindu, National, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-warns-against-using-tech-for-strategic-one-up

Bangladesh garment workers win 36% wage rise

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Economy

• The South Asian nation, the world’s second-biggest garment exporter behind China, has seen widespread protests since October by workers demanding higher pay

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).
• **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: Bangladesh, South Asian, China, October

Source: The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/bangladesh-garment-workers-win-36-wage-rise/ar

Microsoft declares ‘Code Red’ after historic outage, internal memos show

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Economy, Agriculture

• The November 12-13 outage ■hit governments from Australia and Japan to the United States, delayed trading firms ■and disrupted airline communications, fueling broader concerns about the vulnerability of critical digital infrastructure

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Microsoft, Code Red, November, Australia and Japan, United States

Source: The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/microsoft-declares-code-red-after-historic-ou

Hasina to return to Bangladesh on December 16, says Awami League

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• The Awami League announced that ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina plans to return to Bangladesh on December 16.
• She has requested an aircraft from the Bangladesh government, while an Awami League team assessed the Benapole-Petrapole border crossing in West Bengal for potential entry via land route.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Political transitions and unrest in Bangladesh directly affect India's eastern border security, bilateral trade, and regional stability.
• **International relations:** Managing the presence and potential return of Sheikh Hasina requires diplomatic dexterity to maintain institutional relations with Bangladesh's interim government.
• **Internal security:** Heightened political activity near border crossings like Petrapole demands strict vigilance to manage potential unrest and unauthorized crossings.

Prelims pointers

• Petrapole-Benapole is the primary integrated check post (ICP) and largest land port between India (West Bengal) and Bangladesh.

Static connect: Petrapole-Benapole Land Port

• Petrapole is located in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, facing Benapole across the Bangladesh border.
• It is operated by the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
• It handles the highest share of India-Bangladesh land-based bilateral trade and passenger traffic.
UPSC angle: Important for border infrastructure, trade logistics, and cross-border security.

Mains angle

Political volatility in Bangladesh and the movement of political leadership present acute border security and diplomatic balancing challenges for India (GS Paper II: International Relations & GS Paper III: Security).

Source: The Hindu, International, 24 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/former-bangladesh-pm-sheikh-hasina-return-to-b

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

Who pays for climate change is a federal question

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, Environment & Ecology, Reports & Indices

• Sub-national governments bear the immediate fiscal and physical burden of climate disasters but possess limited revenue-raising powers.
• Points to the necessity of aligning federal fiscal architecture with climate adaptation financing.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Recurring extreme weather events disproportionately drain State exchequers, creating structural asymmetries in India's federal disaster and adaptation framework.
• **Governance & polity:** States execute frontline relief and adaptation under the Seventh Schedule, yet their fiscal autonomy remains heavily constrained by central tax devolutions.
• **Environment:** Integrating climate vulnerability metrics into statutory tax transfers is imperative to foster decentralized ecological resilience.

Prelims pointers

• State Disaster Mitigation and Response Funds (SDMF/SDRF) are funded based on Finance Commission recommendations under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

Static connect: Disaster Management Financing & Finance Commission

• The 15th Finance Commission earmarked dedicated allocations for both Disaster Response (SDRF/NDRF) and Disaster Mitigation (SDMF/NDMF).
• Disaster financing follows a cost-sharing ratio between Centre and States (usually 75:25 for general states, 90:10 for Himalayan/NE states).
UPSC angle: Directly links to fiscal federalism (Article 280), Finance Commission terms of reference, and climate vulnerability.

Mains angle

Analyzes the fiscal strains on Indian States from climate-induced disasters and the role of fiscal federalism in climate adaptation (GS Paper 2: Federalism; GS Paper 3: Disaster Management & Economy).

Practice question

Discuss the challenges posed by climate change to India's fiscal federalism. How can the Finance Commission institutionalize climate-resilient resource sharing among States?

Source: The Hindu, Lead (Op-Ed), 24 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/who-pays-for-climate-change-is-a-federal-question/ar

Days before Jharkhand High Court Chief Justice’s retirement, Supreme Court Collegium proposes successor

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Prelims · Polity & Constitution

• The Supreme Court Collegium recommended a successor for the post of Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court shortly before the incumbent's retirement.
• The recommendation followed communication from the Jharkhand Chief Minister expressing concern over impending judicial vacancies.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Timely appointments to constitutional courts are essential to check pendency and uphold institutional efficiency in the justice delivery system.
• **Governance & polity:** Proactive coordination between the executive and judiciary prevents prolonged vacancies in constitutional courts, safeguarding citizen access to justice.

Prelims pointers

• Article 217 of the Constitution governs the appointment of Judges of High Courts by the President.
• The Chief Justice of a High Court is appointed after consultation with the CJI and the Governor of the State.

Static connect: Collegium System for High Courts

• High Court Collegiums are led by the HC Chief Justice and two senior-most judges of that court.
• Final proposals are evaluated by the SC Collegium consisting of the CJI and two senior-most SC judges before recommendation to the Union Law Ministry.
UPSC angle: Constitutional provisions (Arts. 124, 217) and the evolution of the Collegium system via the Three Judges Cases are core Polity topics.

Mains angle

Addresses judicial vacancy management, the Collegium system, and executive-judiciary coordination in appointments (GS Paper 2: Judiciary).

Source: The Hindu, National, 24 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jharkhand/days-before-jharkhand-high-court-chief-ju

‘Saam, daam, dand, bhed’: Congress’ swipe at Modi Govt over delimitation issue

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

• The Congress had earlier claimed that the continued suspense over the Parliament session suggested that either the "PM-HM jodi" is being trapped by its own bluff and bluster or something "truly sinister" is in the works

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Saam, Congress, Modi Govt, Parliament, PM-HM

Source: The Hindu, National, 25 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/saam-daam-dand-bhed-congress-swipe-at-modi-govt-ove

Calcutta High Court restrains KMC polls until challenge on delimitation decided

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

• The West Bengal government, through a delimitation, has increased the number of wards of KMC from 144 to 209.
• The petitioner argued that the State government and its agencies have resorted to gerrymandering in order to secure partisan advantage to the ruling political party in West Bengal on the premise of previous electoral results.

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: Calcutta High Court, KMC, West Bengal

Source: The Hindu, National, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/calcutta-high-court-restrains-kmc-polls-until

Supreme Court 'inclined' to stay Calcutta HC order deferring Kolkata civic polls till decision on ward delimitation

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution

• The KMC has undertaken a revision of municipal ward boundaries ahead of the next civic polls.
• As part of the plan, the number of wards in the civic body may rise to 209 from the current 144

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: Supreme Court, Calcutta HC, Kolkata, KMC

Source: The Hindu, National, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/west-bengal/supreme-court-inclined-to-stay-calcutta

REPORTS & INDICES

U.S. set to slap tariffs on China, EU and others after probe on excess industrial capacity: report

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Reports & Indices, Polity & Constitution, International Relations

• India was also named among 16 ■major U.S.
• trading partners; Together, the duties are meant to ■rebuild Trump’s global “Liberation Day” tariffs that were struck down by the U.S.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: China, Together, Trump, Liberation Day, Supreme Court

Source: The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/trump-administration-set-to-unveil-new-tariffs

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

China launches crewed spaceship carrying first Pakistani astronaut to its space station

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology, International Relations

• Using a Long March-2F rocket, the spacecraft took ■off at 8:18 a.m.
• (0018 GMT) ■from ■the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre ■in northwest China

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Cross-border terrorism and infiltration across the LoC remain India's core security concern; links to J&K, drones dropping arms/drugs in Punjab, and terror financing (FATF).
• **International relations:** India's stated policy: no talks with terror; Indus Waters Treaty (1960) held in abeyance since April 2025; China–Pakistan nexus including CPEC through PoK.
• **Economy:** 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: China, Pakistani, Using, Long March-2F, GMT

Source: The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/chinas-shenzhou-24-space-flight-takes-off-with-p

China to launch Shenzhou-20 spaceflight on April 24

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology, International Relations

• The Shenzhou-20 spaceflight will carry three astronauts namely Chen Dong, Chen Zhongrui and Wang Jie

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).
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Prelims pointers

• Key terms: China, Shenzhou-20, April, Chen Dong, Chen Zhongrui and Wang Jie

Source: The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/china-to-launch-shenzhou-20-spaceflight-on-april-24/arti

The cow, the flea and the genome: One Health and the statecraft of prevention

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

• A cattle virus at home and a plague scare abroad make the same argument this World One Health Day: life is epidemiologically indivisible, and the institutions that govern and study it must learn to be so too

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: One Health, World One Health Day

Source: The Hindu, Science, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/the-cow-the-flea-and-the-genome-one-health-and-th

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Maharashtra FDA commissioner warns against unlicensed sale of whey protein, misleading health claims (The Hindu, National, 24 Nov 2026)
• Lula takes to streets with people’s demands as Flávio leans on Big Tech in Brazil’s presidential race (The Hindu, International, 24 Nov 2026)
• Sri Lanka’s Opposition lawmakers accuse government of preventing parliamentary debate on Imran Khan’s release (The Hindu, International, 24 Nov 2026)
• Andhra Pradesh extends Employees Health Scheme facilities to retired transport staff (The Hindu, National, 24 Nov 2026)
• Over 6,500 lung cancer cases reported in prominent Delhi hospitals in six years; one death every three days (The Hindu, Health, 25 Nov 2026)
• Prime Minister shares an article highlighting the expansion of social security coverage for India’s workforce (PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 25 Nov 2026)
• Chinese tech giant Huawei is guilty of conspiracy to steal trade secrets, U.S. jury finds (The Hindu, International, 24 Nov 2026)
• Why has the FSSAI sanctioned prosecution against Bisleri? | Explained (The Hindu, Health, 25 Nov 2026)
• PM shares a Sanskrit Subhashitam highlighting the path to supreme spiritual attainment (PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 25 Nov 2026)
• Global climate talks must shut door on fossil fuel ‘clout’ (The Hindu, Economy, 25 Nov 2026)

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

ECONOMY

Prime Minister shares an article highlighting India’s journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047 shaped by sustained reforms and investment

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy

• The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today shared an article by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President Shri R Mukundan, highlighting how India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047 is being shaped by sustained reforms and investment across key sectors.
• Shri Mukundan highlighted the foundations laid through infrastructure investment, GST, digital public infrastructure, corporate tax reforms, PLI schemes…

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: Prime Minister, Viksit Bharat, Shri Narendra Modi, Confederation of Indian Industry, CII

Source: PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 25 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341108

INTERNAL SECURITY

Estonia on the edge as Russia-NATO tensions rise

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Prelims · Internal Security

• Estonia is overhauling military strategy, raising defence spending by 42% in 2026 to €2.4 billion (~5.4% of GDP) amid Russian grey-zone tactics.
• Troops are being moved closer to the border alongside investments in long-range arms.
• The U.K. maintains around 1,200 troops in Estonia under NATO's forward defence deployment.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Tensions on NATO's eastern flank exacerbate global geopolitical fragmentation and energy/supply chain volatility impacting India's strategic balancing.
• **International relations:** Heightened Russia-NATO polarization complicates India's strategic autonomy and bilateral defence/energy cooperation with Moscow.
• **Internal security:** The proliferation of hybrid and grey-zone warfare tactics along borders provides key operational lessons for India's own contested frontiers.

Prelims pointers

• Estonia is a Baltic state bordering Russia, Latvia, and the Gulf of Finland / Baltic Sea.
• NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence involves multinational battlegroups deployed in the Baltic states and Poland.

Static connect: Baltic States and NATO

• The Baltic states comprise Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania; all three joined NATO and the EU in 2004.
• Estonia shares an eastern land border with the Russian Federation and borders the Baltic Sea.
UPSC angle: Geography of the Baltic region and European security pacts frequently feature in Prelims mapping.

Mains angle

Highlights the evolving European security architecture, NATO-Russia frontier tensions, and the rise of grey-zone warfare (GS Paper 2: International Relations).

Source: The Hindu, International, 24 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/estonia-on-the-edge-as-russia-nato-tensions-ri

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NIELIT brings a talent boost to Amaravati Quantum Valley

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology

• The institute will build a talent pipeline spanning technicians, equipment operators and researchers, says Director General Madan Mohan Tripathi

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: NIELIT, Amaravati Quantum Valley, Director General Madan Mohan Tripathi

Source: The Hindu, National, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/nielit-brings-a-talent-boost-to-amar

Indian space companies sign largest-of-its-kind deal on satellite systems

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Prelims · Science & Technology

• Bellatrix Aerospace and GalaxEye signed a major commercial deal for space systems in India.
• Under the agreement, Bellatrix Aerospace will supply in-space propulsion systems for GalaxEye's constellation of 30 satellites.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Demonstrates the practical expansion of domestic private supply chains and indigenous manufacturing capabilities within India's commercial space economy.
• **Science & tech:** Advancements in indigenous in-space propulsion and observation constellations build self-reliance and reduce dependence on foreign satellite components.
• **Economy:** Inter-startup commercial contracts strengthen the domestic space ecosystem, attracting private venture capital and driving export potential.

Prelims pointers

• Bellatrix Aerospace specializes in satellite propulsion systems, while GalaxEye focuses on multi-sensor earth observation satellite constellations in India's private space sector.

Static connect: Indian Space Policy 2023 and IN-SPACe

• Indian Space Policy 2023 officially opened up end-to-end space activities to Non-Government Entities (NGEs).
• IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre) acts as a single-window autonomous agency to authorize and promote private space activities.
• NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) is the commercial arm of ISRO tasked with commercially exploiting space research and assets.
UPSC angle: Core static syllabus under GS-III indigenisation of technology and space sector reforms.

Mains angle

Growing B2B contracts between domestic spacetech startups indicate the maturation of India's privatized space sector following recent space policy reforms (GS Paper III: Science and Technology).

Source: The Hindu, Science, 24 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/indian-space-companies-sign-largest-of-its-kind

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• U.S. CIA, ODNI suffer cybersecurity breach of some unclassified information, NYT reports (The Hindu, International, 24 Nov 2026)
• Air passenger services see 35% inflation in Q2; banking, securities transaction witness deflation (The Hindu, Economy, 25 Nov 2026)
• Cabinet approves development of the Second Container Terminal at Kamarajar Port Limited under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) Basis (PIB, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), 25 Nov 2026)
• TRAI releases findings of Independent Drive Test (IDT) conducted across Noida, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida and nearby areas route under Delhi LSA, for the month of Sep 2026 (PIB, Ministry of Communications, 25 Nov 2026)
• Cabinet approves development of the Second Container Terminal at Kamarajar Port Limited under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) Basis (PIB, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, 25 Nov 2026)
• Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0 (PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 25 Nov 2026)

Prelims Facts: Reports, Indices, Awards

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Release of Report of the ‘Sub-Committee on Regional Accounts’ for the 2022-23 Series of National Accounts (PIB, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, 25 Nov 2026)