UPSC Current Affairs

Thursday, 26 November 2026 · Sources: PIB and The Hindu · 66 items

Paper	Items	Top headlines
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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

GEOGRAPHY

A rare bird on stony rivers shows why Himalayan water needs its sediment

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, Environment & Ecology, Economy

• The Himalayan rivers are home to several species that depend on rivers and their ecosystems, including fish, aquatic invertebrates like stonefly larvae and mayfly nymphs, and flora such as Himalayan alder and sea buckthorn along the banks and on the floodplains.
• When a river changes, all these environs, and their species, change as well

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Himalayan, When

Source: The Hindu, Science, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/ibisbill-rare-bird-stony-rivers-h

Great Nicobar Island project: Final Calcutta High Court hearing deferred as Centre seeks to file affidavit, objections

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, Polity & Constitution, Science & Technology

• Centre argues that the FRA is not implemented in the A&NI, objects to some petitions claiming that they should be heard by the NGT or SC; next hearing posted for January 13, 2027; court to hear Attorney General of India on January 22

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: Great Nicobar Island, Final Calcutta High Court, FRA, NGT, January

Source: The Hindu, National, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/great-nicobar-island-project-final-calcutta-high

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Ayush Pavilion at IITF 2026 draws strong public response with interactive activities, free consultations and healthy food displays

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

• The Ministry of Ayush is taking part in the 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
• The Ayush Pavilion, themed "Ayush Ki Virasat Se Swasth Bharat Ka Vikaas", is seeing huge participation from visitors.

Prelims pointers

• Alarmelmangai D, Joint Secretary, Ministry of…
• Key terms: Ayush Pavilion, IITF, Ministry of Ayush, India International Trade Fair, Bharat Mandapam

Source: PIB, AYUSH, 26 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341877

HISTORY & ART AND CULTURE

ASI unveils tactile experience model of iconic sculpture of Gangaikondacholapuram Brihadisvara Temple

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · History & Art and Culture

• Booklet in Braille language on the temple, listed as one of the great living Chola temples by UNESCO, also released

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: ASI, Gangaikondacholapuram Brihadisvara Temple, Booklet, Braille, Chola

Static connect: UNESCO lists

• World Heritage under the 1972 Convention; Intangible Cultural Heritage under the 2003 Convention.
• UNESCO also runs the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme and Global Geoparks.

UPSC angle: Indian sites and elements on UNESCO lists (GS1, Prelims).

Source: The Hindu, National, 26 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirapalli/asi-unveils-tactile-experience-model-o

21 lakh diyas, 2,100 drones light up Varanasi on Dev Deepavali

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

• 2,100 Made-in-India drones depict Shiv Tandav and Ganga Avtaran; 21 lakh diyas illuminate Varanasi as lakhs of devotees join deepdaan and Ganga Aarti; festival business projected between ■400 crore and ■500 crore

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: Varanasi, Dev Deepavali, Made-in-India, Shiv Tandav and Ganga Avtaran, Ganga Aarti

Source: The Hindu, National, 26 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/uttar-pradesh/21-lakh-diyas-2100-drones-light-up-va

IFFI Campus Offers an Experience Beyond Cinema, Celebrating India’s Creative and Cultural Diversity

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

• At the ongoing 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Panaji, the festival experience extends well beyond the silver screen.
• The IFFI campus has evolved into a vibrant meeting ground for creative institutions, cultural initiatives, regional cuisines, local products, merchandise and accessibility initiatives.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: IFFI Campus Offers, Experience Beyond Cinema, Celebrating India, Creative and Cultural Diversity, International Film Festival of India

Source: PIB, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, 26 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341736

Prime Minister pays homage to Babasaheb Dr BR Ambedkar and other luminaries on Constitution Day

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

• The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has extended warm greetings to all citizens on the occasion of Constitution Day.
• Paying homage to Babasaheb Dr.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Prime Minister, Babasaheb Dr BR Ambedkar, Constitution Day, Shri Narendra Modi, Paying

Source: PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 26 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341703

Kyrgyz Drama ‘Skylark’ Brings Stories of Displacement, Memory and Resilience to IFFI

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

• Director and screenwriter Narghiza Dotieva and producer Gulnara Kasmambetova addressed a press conference organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) in Goa today, following the India Premiere of their film Skylark in the International Competition section of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
• The filmmakers discussed the real-life experiences that inspired the film, its exploration of the…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Kyrgyz Drama, Skylark, Brings Stories of Displacement, Memory and Resilience, IFFI

Source: PIB, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, 26 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341853

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Meet the little stint: The tiny Siberian traveller visiting India’s wetlands

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Geography, Economy

• The Little Stint travels thousands of kilometres between its Arctic breeding grounds and Indian wetlands.
• But as shrinking mudflats and changing landscapes threaten its feeding and resting habitats, this tiny shorebird tells an important story about conserving wetlands

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Meet, Siberian, Little Stint, Arctic

Source: The Hindu, Environment, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/meet-the-little-stint-the-tiny-si

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

Jharkhand CM moves resolution against amended Mines and Minerals Act, claims ■13,000 crore annual revenue loss

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

• Moving the resolution, Hemant Soren said the amendment, passed by Parliament in August, would adversely affect the State's financial position and its ability to fund welfare and development programmes

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Jharkhand CM, Mines and Minerals Act, Moving, Hemant Soren, Parliament

Source: The Hindu, National, 26 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jharkhand/jharkhand-assembly-resolution-against-ame

Women’s Commission urges Telangana Governor to recommend special investigation into illegal oocyte racket

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

• Women’s Commission urges Telangana Governor to recommend special investigation into illegal oocyte racket

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Governance & polity:** Role of the Governor in withholding assent to state bills (Article 200, 201) and Supreme Court guidance on timelines; tests cooperative federalism.
• **Ethics:** Constitutional morality: holders of constitutional office are expected to act neutrally and in good faith.
• **Society:** Women's safety, workforce participation and representation (Women's Reservation Act 2023, one-third seats after delimitation).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Women, Commission, Telangana Governor

Source: The Hindu, National, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/womens-commission-urges-telangana-governo

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ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• National Level Event on Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat to Mark Two Years of Nationwide Campaign Against Child Marriage on 27 November 2026 (PIB, Ministry of Women and Child Development, 26 Nov 2026)
• The menopause India does not treat (The Hindu, Health, 26 Nov 2026)

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

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

DRI seizes over 19 kg elephant ivory in West Champaran, Bihar, near Indo-Nepal Border in a joint operation with Bihar State Police; four persons apprehended

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

• In a major crackdown on illegal wildlife trafficking, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), in a joint operation with Bihar State Police, has seized 19.39 kg elephant ivory and apprehended four persons involved in its illegal trade in West Champaran district of Bihar, near the Indo-Nepal border.
• In an intelligence led operation, DRI officers, in coordination with Bihar State Police, intercepted four persons…

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.
• **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: DRI, West Champaran, Bihar, Indo-Nepal Border, Bihar State Police

Source: PIB, Ministry of Finance, 26 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341791

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

The economic impact of inequitable toilet access

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy

• Inclusive public infrastructure is crucial for the socio-economic participation of all genders and social groups

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: Inclusive

Source: The Hindu, Health, 26 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/society/the-economic-impact-of-inequitable-toilet-access/article7

Digital India BHASHINI Division and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment Exchange MoU to Strengthen Multilingual Access to Government Schemes and Services

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

• The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) , under the Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, and the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment , Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, have exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen multilingual accessibility across the Department's digital platforms and services.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Digital India BHASHINI Division and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment Exchange MoU, Strengthen Multilingual Access, Government Schemes and Services, Digital India BHASHINI Division, DIBD

Source: PIB, Ministry of Electronics & IT, 26 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341811

1,400 of 46,080 applicants selected to attend Kashi Tamil Sangamam: Education Minister

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

• The fifth edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam features the launch of a nationwide student engagement programme focused on learning the Thirukkural

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Kashi Tamil Sangamam, Education Minister, Thirukkural

Source: The Hindu, National, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/1400-of-46080-applicants-selected-to-attend-kashi-t

IAPEN summit adopts national declaration on muscle loss and sarcopenia

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

• IAPEN summit adopts national declaration on muscle loss and sarcopenia

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: IAPEN

Source: The Hindu, Health, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/iapen-summit-adopts-national-declaration-on-m

Air pollution accelerates dementia by reprogramming brain's immune cells: study

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

• The analysis found that people living in the most polluted third of areas are 25% more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia than those in the least polluted third

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Environment:** Air pollution is a public-health emergency in North India; NCAP, GRAP and the Commission for Air Quality Management (2021) are the policy tools.
• **Governance & polity:** Needs inter-state coordination (Punjab, Haryana, Delhi) and alternatives to stubble burning such as Happy Seeder and bio-decomposers.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Air, Alzheimer

Static connect: Air quality governance

• Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR (statutory since 2021) enforces the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).
• National Clean Air Programme (NCAP, 2019) targets particulate reduction in non-attainment cities.
UPSC angle: Pollution control framework (GS3).

Source: The Hindu, Health, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/air-pollution-accelerates-dementia-by-reprogrammi

Keralam UDF govt forms sub-committee to finalise liquor policy

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• Sub-committee appears poised to walk a tightrope between the State’s fiscal exigencies and social, religious, and political sensitivities, including public health and family welfare concerns, centred on liquor consumption

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Keralam UDF, Sub-committee

Source: The Hindu, National, 26 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/keralam-udf-govt-forms-sub-committee-to-fina

J&K Police, after killing last local LeT recruit, shift focus on locals operating from PoK; properties of seven attached

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

• The police suspect that the accused crossed the Line of Control into Pakistan in the 1990s for arms and ammunition training and subsequently remained associated with efforts to revive terrorist activities in the region

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Infiltration, hybrid terrorists and narco-terror links; normalcy indicators such as tourism and voter turnout.
• **Governance & polity:** After the abrogation of Article 370 (2019, upheld by the Supreme Court in 2023), questions of statehood restoration and Sixth Schedule demands in Ladakh.
• **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.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Police, LeT, PoK, Line of Control, Pakistan

Source: The Hindu, National, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jammu-and-kashmir/jk-police-after-killing-last-loca

India-Nepal joint military exercise begins in Rupandehi

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

• The exercise, involving battalion-level soldiers from the two countries, will run till December 8

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: India-Nepal, Rupandehi, December

Source: The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/india-nepal-joint-military-exercise-begins-in-

U.S. Army declares success in detonation of lead-based explosives stockpile in Iowa

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

• Environmental Protection Agency said emission monitors detected zero levels of airborne lead in the surrounding region immediately after the explosion

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).
• **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.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Army, Iowa, Environmental Protection Agency

Source: The Hindu, International, 26 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/us-army-declares-success-in-detonation-of-lead

Nepal flash floods: Kathmandu begins process to declare 213 missing Indians presumed dead

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

• Inviting objections or concerns, the Embassy said concerned family members could contact it via eoikathmandufloodsupport@gmail.com or +9779851316807

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **International relations:** Open border under the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship; map dispute over Kalapani–Lipulekh–Limpiyadhura; competition with Chinese investment.
• **Internal security:** Open border can be misused for trafficking, fake currency and movement of criminals; SSB guards it.
• **Economy:** Hydropower trade (India buys Nepali power), cross-border rail and petroleum pipelines.
• **Geography & disasters:** India is exposed to cyclones, floods and heatwaves; the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (amended 2025), NDMA and NDRF/SDRF lead the response.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Nepal, Kathmandu, Indians, Inviting, Embassy

Source: The Hindu, International, 26 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nepal-flash-floods-kathmandu-begins-process-to-decl

New images reveal crater on asteroid hit by NASA’s DART planetary defence mission

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

• The DART, short for Double Asteroid Redirection ■Test, spacecraft collided with Dimorphos on September 26, 2022; asteroid tumbles in space, with boulders flying around

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: NASA, DART, Double Asteroid Redirection, Test, Dimorphos

Source: The Hindu, Science, 26 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/new-images-reveal-crater-on-asteroid-struck-by-d

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Ukraine says it struck two oil refineries in Russia's Samara region

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Internal Security, Polity & Constitution

• Samara’s regional governor, ■Vyacheslav Fedorishchev, said on social media that local air defence ■forces had downed 145 Ukrainian drones overnight, causing power outages

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Ukraine, Russia, Samara, Vyacheslav Fedorishchev, Ukrainian

Source: The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/ukraine-says-it-struck-two-oil-refineries-in-r

Israeli strike kills Hamas official, his wife and children

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

• The Israeli military confirmed it had killed Abuelouf, whom it described as a significant figure who "served as ■a key source of expertise in efforts to restrict the IDF’s counterterrorism operations in the ■Gaza ■Strip"

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Israeli, Hamas, Abuelouf, IDF, Gaza

Static connect: Gaza Strip

• Narrow Palestinian territory on the Mediterranean coast, bordering Israel and Egypt (Rafah crossing).
• India's long-standing position supports a two-state solution.
UPSC angle: India's West Asia policy and humanitarian law (GS2).

Source: The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/israeli-strike-kills-hamas-official-his-wife-a

India, China hold high-level talks in Arunachal sector on border management, LAC issues: MEA

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Science & Technology

• MEA spokesperson Randhir also addressed a report claiming China-sourced satellite data may have aided Pakistan in tracking Indian troop movements and monitoring installations during Operation Sindoor

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, Arunachal, LAC, MEA, Randhir

Source: The Hindu, National, 26 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-china-hold-high-level-talks-in-arunachal-sect

North Korea's Kim vows to build more nuclear weapons after ignoring Trump's overture

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• North Korea didn't say where the nuclear materials production factories that Kim Jong Un visited this week are located; U.S President Trump reiterated his eagerness to restore diplomacy with Mr.
• Kim as he visited China last week for the APEC summit

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:** Unsettled LAC (eastern Ladakh, Arunachal): border infrastructure, disengagement and buffer zones; China's dual-use villages (Xiaokang) and dams on the Brahmaputra (Yarlung Tsangpo).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: North Korea, Kim, Trump, Kim Jong Un, President Trump

Static connect: APEC

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

Source: The Hindu, International, 26 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/north-koreas-kim-vows-to-build-more-nuclear-we

78 MoUs signed at second edition of VETTRI Tamil Nadu Investment and Conversion Conclave

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

• The MoUs involve investments worth ■58,214 crore, with the potential to generate 65,786 jobs across various sectors.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** Jobs for a young workforce decide whether India reaps its demographic dividend; PLFS tracks the labour force participation rate.
• **Society:** Rising gig and platform work needs social security (Code on Social Security 2020); low female labour force participation remains a gap.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: MoUs, VETTRI Tamil Nadu Investment and Conversion Conclave

Source: The Hindu, National, 26 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/78-mous-signed-at-second-edition-of-vett

U.S. shelves proposals to use business deals with Russia to end Ukraine war, FT reports

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Donald Trump’s envoys Steve ■Witkoff and Jared ■Kushner told European officials that ■corporate tie-ups were no longer ■a core aspect of the U.S.

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, Ukraine, Donald Trump, Steve, Witkoff and Jared

Source: The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/us-shelves-proposals-to-use-business-deals-wit

Israeli Defence Minister says Iran is developing chemical weapons

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• ‘We must not allow this to proceed,’ Israel Katz added

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Israeli Defence Minister, Iran, Israel Katz

Source: The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/israeli-defence-minister-says-iran-is-developi

MoSPI launches State Dashboard on eSankhyiki to improve access to State-level statistics

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Science & Technology

• Effective dissemination of official statistics requires that users can readily find the data they need, access them in usable formats and reuse them for analysis.
• The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) developed eSankhyiki as a one-stop window for official statistics.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: MoSPI, State Dashboard, Sankhyiki, State-level, Effective

Source: PIB, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, 26 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341737

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

LOK SABHA SPEAKER PAYS TRIBUTES TO SHRI RABI RAY

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution

• Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla, paid floral tributes to Shri Rabi Ray, former Speaker, Lok Sabha in Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan , on his birth anniversary, today.
• Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh; Members of Parliament and former Members paid tributes to Shri Ray on this occasion.

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: LOK SABHA SPEAKER PAYS TRIBUTES TO SHRI RABI RAY, Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla, Shri Rabi Ray, Speaker

Source: PIB, Lok Sabha Secretariat, 26 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341812

Prime Minister shares an article highlighting how the Constitution remains our timeless compass towards social justice and Viksit Bharat

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

• The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today shared an article by Union Minister of State Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, highlighting how the Constitution remains our timeless compass towards social justice and Viksit Bharat.
• Shri Meghwal highlighted welfare initiatives and landmark constitutional provisions advancing the country closer to realising Babasaheb Ambedkar’s vision for India, focusing on measures for backward…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Prime Minister, Constitution, Viksit Bharat, Shri Narendra Modi, Union Minister of State Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal

Source: PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 26 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341841

The Union Health Ministry observes Constitution Day with collective reading of the Preamble, reaffirms allegiance and commitment to the Constitution

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

• The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare observed Constitution Day with a collective reading of the Preamble to the Constitution of India by its officers and officials, today at Kartavya Bhawan, New Delhi.
• The observance commemorated the adoption of the Constitution of India and reaffirmed the values and ideals enshrined in its Preamble.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Union Health Ministry, Constitution Day, Preamble, Constitution, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Source: PIB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 26 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341733

Prime Minister shares an article highlighting how the Olympic dream can open new opportunities for women across India

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

• The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today shared an article by ace badminton player Ms.
• Sindhu, highlighting how the Olympic dream can open new opportunities for women across India.

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

• Sindhu highlighted how India’s ambition to host the 2036 Olympics can promote women’s participation in sports, strengthen grassroots infrastructure, and create pathways to financial independence, while also emphasizing…
• Key terms: Prime Minister, Olympic, Shri Narendra Modi, Sindhu, Olympics

Source: PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 26 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341846

Governor seeks CM’s report on compliance with SC’s directions

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, Economy, Reports & Indices

• Governor seeks CM’s report on compliance with SC’s directions

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** RBI's MPC targets 4% CPI inflation (±2%); rate decisions affect EMIs, credit growth, investment and the rupee.
• **Society:** Food inflation hits poor households the most; links to supply-side measures like buffer stocks and export curbs.
• **Governance & polity:** Role of the Governor in withholding assent to state bills (Article 200, 201) and Supreme Court guidance on timelines; tests cooperative federalism.
• **Ethics:** Constitutional morality: holders of constitutional office are expected to act neutrally and in good faith.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Governor

Source: The Hindu, National, 25 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/governor-seeks-cms-report-on-compliance-

Trump awards Rudy Giuliani the Medal of Freedom

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, Science & Technology, Awards, Days & Persons

• After the 9/11 attacks, Mr.
• Giuliani ■became one of the most popular figures in U.S.

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).

Source: The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/trump-awards-rudy-giuliani-the-medal-of-freedo

Prime Minister shares an OpEd highlighting the uniqueness of India’s Constitution and efforts towards boosting social and economic justice

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

• The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today shared an OpEd authored by him, highlighting the uniqueness of India's Constitution and Constituent Assembly, and how the Constitution of India is an inseparable part of his journey.
• In the article, the Prime Minister highlighted efforts towards boosting SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Prime Minister, OpEd, Constitution, Shri Narendra Modi, Constitution and Constituent Assembly

Source: PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 26 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341792

Take constitutional patriotism to the people

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution

• Waving pocket editions of the Constitutions is an empty ritual if the Opposition and civil society fail to champion constitutional patriotism

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Take, Waving, Constitutions, Opposition

Source: The Hindu, Lead (Op-Ed), 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/take-constitutional-patriotism-to-the-people/article

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India AI Mission-supported Chariot-1 Foundation Models Launched, Strengthening Indias Indigenous AI Capabilities

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

• In a significant milestone towards strengthening India's indigenous Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem, Shri S.
• Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), inaugurated the launch of Chariot-1 Foundation Models , developed by Chariot Artificial Intelligence Pvt.

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

• Ltd., under the IndiaAI Mission.
• Key terms: India AI Mission-supported Chariot-1 Foundation Models Launched, Strengthening Indias Indigenous AI Capabilities, Artificial Intelligence, Shri, Krishnan

Source: PIB, Ministry of Electronics & IT, 26 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341725

India’s satellite supply chain ‘highly dependent on imports’, says space body

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology, Polity & Constitution, Economy

• India’s space economy is currently valued at nearly $9 billion and is set to grow to $40-45 billion in less than a decade

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Source: The Hindu, National, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/indias-satellite-supply-chain-highly-dependent-o

SSC plans to use indigenous examination devices to take computer-based tests beyond private centres

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

• The Staff Selection Commission has floated an RFP for indigenous examination tablets, attracting interest from over 25 bidders, says its chairman.
• It is also exploring edge-based CCTV systems, as defence officials seek homegrown space, AI and communication technologies

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: SSC, Staff Selection Commission, RFP, CCTV

Source: The Hindu, National, 26 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ssc-plans-to-use-indigenous-examination-devices-to-

Top 10 math problems AI models have taken a run at in 2026 (so far)

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

• A flurry of announcements landed in the third week of November claiming that various artificial intelligence (AI) models had solved longstanding mathematical problems

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: Top, November

Source: The Hindu, Science, 26 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/top-10-math-problems-ai-models-have-taken-a-run-

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ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• NLMC holds 22nd Board Meeting; Considers fresh asset monetisation and valuation proposals worth approximately ■1,300 crore (PIB, Ministry of Finance, 26 Nov 2026)
• North Korea declares a Swiss diplomat persona non grata and orders him to leave (The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026)
• No permission sought for November 26 anti-SIR march, Delhi Police say; organisers say ‘intimation’ sent (The Hindu, National, 25 Nov 2026)
• Workers in high-risk jobs to receive shots against rabies in Tamil Nadu (The Hindu, Health, 25 Nov 2026)
• Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Observes Constitution Day with Collective Reading of the Preamble (PIB, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, 26 Nov 2026)
• Sheikh Hasina’s return gambit tests Bangladesh’s political fault lines (The Hindu, International, 26 Nov 2026)
• Kremlin rejects ex-U.K. PM Johnson's call for a token Western force in Ukraine as unacceptable (The Hindu, International, 25 Nov 2026)
• Malaysia to repatriate another 6,803 Myanmar nationals despite ICJ genocide ruling (The Hindu, International, 24 Nov 2026)
• IRDAI health panel forms 2 study groups to enhance transparency in claims (The Hindu, Health, 26 Nov 2026)
• Karnataka charts India’s first comprehensive care and rehabilitation policy for burns survivors (The Hindu, Health, 26 Nov 2026)
• Science Quiz: On famous fossils (The Hindu, Science, 24 Nov 2026)

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

ECONOMY

Broad-based pressure on food prices continues: RBI Bulletin

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy

• CPI inflation peaked to 6.1 % (y-o-y) in October 2026 from 5.5% in September 2026, slightly above the upper tolerance level of 6%–last observed in October 2024.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Broad-based, RBI Bulletin, CPI, October, September

Static connect: Inflation measures

• CPI is compiled by the National Statistics Office (MoSPI); WPI by the Office of the Economic Adviser (DPIIT).
• The RBI targets CPI (combined) inflation.
UPSC angle: Which body publishes which index (Prelims).

Source: The Hindu, Economy, 25 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/broad-based-pressure-on-food-prices-continues-rb

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ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Wildlife, forests, and culture in Gudalur: Sculptures, stories, and interactive workshops

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology

• Into the Forest, an ongoing exhibition in Gudalur explores the relationship between forests, wildlife and people through sculptures, stories, workshops for children and creative artefacts made using invasive plant species

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Wildlife, Gudalur, Sculptures, Into the Forest

Source: The Hindu, Environment, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/wildlife-forests-and-culture-in-g

The Return of the Spotted Sprint

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology

• The winter mornings at Kuno National Park begin in tranquillity, as sunlight spreads across its grasslands and scrub.
• Amid this landscape, a species that disappeared from India seven decades ago is gradually reclaiming its place.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Return, Spotted Sprint, Kuno National Park, Field, Kuno

Source: PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 26 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2341719

INTERNAL SECURITY

At least two Indians among 11 injured in Houthi attack in Riyadh; New Delhi condemns strike

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Internal Security, Agriculture

• Saudi Arabia's Civil Defence said a tower in Riyadh's King Abdullah Financial District came under what it described as a "terrorist attack" by Houthi militia

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).
• **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.

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, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/houthi-attack-in-saudi-capital-riyadh-indians-injur

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

All to play for: On the World chess championship in Geneva

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology

• Chess is one sport where both the young and the old can excel

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: All, the World, Geneva, Chess

Source: The Hindu, Editorial, 25 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/all-to-play-for-on-the-world-chess-championship

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• COP31 and the unmet promises of climate action (The Hindu, Science, 25 Nov 2026)

• IREF say non-basmati rice export bans are unlikely, but urges exporters to remain cautious (The Hindu, Agriculture, 26 Nov 2026)

• Telecom Regulatory Authority of India releases findings of Independent Drive Test conducted across city route of Una, Mandi, Joginder Nagar and highway route of Una to Mandi and Mandi to Una under HP LSA, during the month of September 2026 (PIB, Ministry of Communications, 26 Nov 2026)

• Raksha Mantri addresses Convocation & Valedictory Ceremony of 66th NDC Course in New Delhi (PIB, Ministry of Defence, 26 Nov 2026)

• High Standards of National Highways Facilitate Landing of Army Aircraft (PIB, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, 26 Nov 2026)