UPSC Current Affairs

Sunday, 29 November 2026 · Sources: PIB and The Hindu · 17 items

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GS Paper I: Heritage, Culture, History, Geography & Society

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Input subsidies must reach farmers affected by drought and cyclones without delay, says Andhra Pradesh CM

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Prelims · Disaster Management, Geography

• Andhra Pradesh has sought ■2,459 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to compensate farmers affected by drought and cyclones.
• The agricultural distress stems from El Niño-induced dry spells compounded by cyclonic disturbances (cyclones Arnav and Murasu).

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Understanding disaster relief architecture and agricultural safety nets is central to agrarian risk mitigation in disaster-prone coastal states.
• **Disaster Management:** Streamlining SDRF disbursals is vital for preventing debt cycles among farmers affected by compound climate shocks like droughts and cyclones.

Prelims pointers

• The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) is constituted under Section 48(1)(a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
• Financing of SDRF is shared between Central and State Governments in a 75:25 ratio for general states and 90:10 for northeastern and Himalayan states.

Static connect: State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)

• Primary fund available with state governments to meet expenses for relief operations.
• Allocations are recommended by the Finance Commission.
• Headed at the state level by the State Executive Committee under the Chief Secretary.
UPSC angle: Directly tested in GS Paper III under disaster financing and relief institutional frameworks.

Mains angle

Highlights disaster risk financing and the recurring impact of climate variability on agriculture under GS Paper III (Disaster Management & Agriculture).
Source: The Hindu, National, 28 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/input-subsidies-must-reach-farmers-a

HISTORY & ART AND CULTURE

Locals in Uttarakhand oppose relocation of Jageshwar's ancient sculptures to Delhi; officials says no shifting planned

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Prelims · History & Art and Culture

• Residents of Jageshwar in Uttarakhand opposed the proposed relocation of ancient stone sculptures to New Delhi for exhibition.
• The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) clarified that no permanent shifting of the idols was planned.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Highlights the interface between national museum projects, local religious sentiments, and heritage preservation.
• **Society:** Local communities hold deep religious and cultural attachment to historical idols, creating resistance when artefacts are moved away from living temple traditions.

Prelims pointers

• The Jageshwar group of temples (Almora district, Uttarakhand) represents early Nagara style temple architecture, largely attributed to the Katyuri rulers.
• The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), an attached office of the Ministry of Culture, is the premier organization for archaeological research and heritage protection.

Static connect: Jageshwar Temples

• A cluster of over 100 stone temples dating between the 7th and 12th centuries CE in Almora, Uttarakhand.
• Primarily dedicated to Lord Shiva, featuring Nagara architectural features with tall curvilinear shikharas.
• Historically patronised by the Katyuri and later Chand dynasties of Kumaon.
UPSC angle: Tested under Temple Architecture and regional cultural heritage in GS Paper I.

Mains angle

Deals with the conservation of local heritage and public engagement in cultural preservation under GS Paper I (Indian Culture and Heritage).

Source: The Hindu, National, 28 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/uttarakhand/locals-in-uttarakhand-oppose-relocation

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• 7 women among 8 killed after vehicle falls into 300-metre gorge in Uttarakhand (The Hindu, National, 28 Nov 2026)
• Magnitude 5 earthquake hits California: USGS (The Hindu, International, 28 Nov 2026)

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

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Study calls for uniform national framework to regulate ASHAs' pay, roles

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

• A new study advocates for a uniform national framework to regulate compensation, workload, and roles of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs).
• Researchers highlighted an escalating disparity between ASHAs' nominal status as 'honorary volunteers' and their expanding workload.
• Key recommendations include institutionalizing fair remuneration, establishing workload caps, and instituting grievance redressal mechanisms.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Frontline community health workers form the backbone of India's rural healthcare architecture, but their working conditions and lack of formal employment status pose major public policy challenges.
• **Governance & polity:** Institutionalizing a uniform national framework would transition frontline health delivery from ad-hoc honorariums to structured, legally protected public sector service standards.
• **Society:** Highlights the undervaluation of female-dominated care work in public welfare programmes, demanding gender justice and social security.

Prelims pointers

• ASHAs are community health workers instituted under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) launched in 2005.
• They act as an interface between the community and the public health system, primarily engaged on an honorarium/incentive basis.

Static connect: Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA)

• Introduced under the National Rural Health Mission (2005), now under the National Health Mission (NHM).
• Selected from the community (typically women aged 25–45) with at least 10th-grade education where possible.
• Conferred the WHO Global Health Leaders Award in 2022 for crucial contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic.
UPSC angle: Directly relevant to GS II topics on health, human resources, and schemes for vulnerable sections.

Mains angle

Examines issues relating to primary healthcare delivery, informalization of frontline care workers, and institutional social security frameworks (GS Paper II).

Practice question

Critically analyze the role of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) as frontline health workers in India's primary healthcare delivery. What structural reforms are required to address the dilemma of their 'honorary volunteer' status?

Source: The Hindu, Health, 28 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/study-calls-for-uniform-national-framewor

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Bangladesh deploys border guards across seven districts amid political unrest, says report

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

• Bangladesh deployed Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) platoons across seven districts, including Gopalganj, following domestic political unrest.
• The internal security mobilization aims to maintain law and order amid ongoing political transitions.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Unrest in Bangladesh directly impacts border security, bilateral trade routes, and refugee movements into India's eastern and northeastern states.
• **Internal security:** Domestic volatility in border districts elevates the risk of illegal cross-border migration, smuggling, and shelter for hostile elements.
• **International relations:** Preserving stable diplomatic communication with Dhaka remains essential for regional transit connectivity and India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

Prelims pointers

• India and Bangladesh share a 4,096 km international border, the longest land boundary India shares with any neighbor.
• Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) is the counterpart paramilitary force to India's Border Security Force (BSF).

Static connect: India-Bangladesh Border Management

• Covers five Indian states: West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
• Manned on the Indian side by the Border Security Force (BSF).
• Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP) was signed in 2011 to curb cross-border crimes.
UPSC angle: Relevant to GS Paper III (Security challenges and their management in border areas).

Mains angle

Evaluates the spillover effects of political instability in Bangladesh on India's border management and neighbourhood diplomacy under GS Paper II (IR) and GS Paper III (Internal Security).

Source: The Hindu, International, 28 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/bangladesh-deploys-border-guards-across-seven-

Global fashion brands shift orders from Bangladesh to India amid unrest

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Mains · International Relations, Reports & Indices

• Global apparel brands diverted roughly $254 million worth of purchase orders away from Bangladesh between November 1 and 18 due to ongoing political unrest.
• A significant portion of these diverted manufacturing orders shifted to Indian textile and garment manufacturers.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Political volatility in neighbouring manufacturing hubs offers India a window to integrate deeper into global supply chains and expand its export base.
• **Economy:** Provides a temporary export and capacity-utilization boost for Indian garment manufacturers, highlighting the need for long-term cost competitiveness.
• **International relations:** Reflects how domestic instability in Bangladesh reshapes trade dynamics and economic interdependence in South Asia.

Prelims pointers

• Bangladesh is one of the world's largest exporters of readymade garments (RMG), competing with India and Vietnam.

Static connect: India's Textile and Apparel Sector

• Textiles is one of India's largest employment generators after agriculture, employing millions in both organized and unorganized segments.
• Government initiatives include the PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) Parks scheme and the PLI scheme for textiles.
• Faces competitive pressures in export markets from Bangladesh and Vietnam due to tariff preferences and lower production costs.
UPSC angle: Relevant to GS III industrial policy, export promotion, and employment generation.

Mains angle

Examines supply chain resilience and opportunities for India's textile and apparel sector amid regional geopolitical and economic disruptions (GS Paper III).

Source: The Hindu, International, 28 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/business/global-fashion-brands-shift-orders-from-bangladesh-to-in

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

New Bills will expand Presidential electoral college, dilute value of MP-MLA votes

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution

• The Constitution (132nd Amendment) Bill and Delimitation (Second) Bill propose to enlarge the Presidential electoral college while keeping states' relative weights intact.
• Without a corresponding expansion of the Rajya Sabha, the relative influence and vote weight of Upper House MPs could decline sharply.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Alterations to parliamentary constituency numbers directly shift the arithmetic weight in the presidential electoral college, impacting federal parity.
• **Governance & polity:** Preserving the mathematical parity between the Union and States under Article 55 becomes challenging if the Lok Sabha expands without proportional adjustments in the Rajya Sabha.
• **Society:** Disproportionate representation changes can exacerbate inter-regional political anxieties between high-fertility and low-fertility states.

Prelims pointers

• Under Article 54, the President is elected by an electoral college consisting of elected members of both Houses of Parliament and elected members of State Legislative Assemblies (including Delhi and Puducherry).
• Article 55 provides for uniformity in the scale of representation of different states as well as parity between the states as a whole and the Union.

Static connect: Presidential Election Mechanism (Articles 54 and 55)

• The value of an MLA's vote depends on the total population of the state divided by the number of elected MLAs.
• The total value of votes of all MLAs across India is equal to the total value of votes of all elected MPs.
• Voting is conducted through a system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote via secret ballot.
UPSC angle: Key static topic under Indian Constitution, repeatedly tested in both Prelims and Mains.

Mains angle

Analyses the constitutional mechanism of presidential elections and the implications of electoral delimitation on bicameral balance under GS Paper II (Polity & Constitution).

Practice question

Discuss the constitutional principles governing the election of the President of India under Articles 54 and 55. How do proposed changes to the composition of Parliament impact the federal balance and parity between the Union and the States?

Source: The Hindu, National, 28 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/new-bills-will-expand-presidential-electoral-colleg

Former civil servants, activists seek 30-day consultation on 132nd Constitution Amendment, Delimitation Bills

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Mains · Polity & Constitution

• Former civil servants and civil society activists have urged the government to hold a 30-day public consultation on the proposed Constitution (132nd Amendment) Bill and Delimitation Bills.
• The demands seek broader public deliberation to resolve remaining concerns over federal representation and delimitation methodology.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Delimitation touches upon sensitive issues of federal balance between growing northern states and demographically stable southern states.
• **Governance & polity:** Pre-legislative consultations promote transparent democratic policymaking and help build national consensus on sensitive constitutional amendments.

Prelims pointers

• Article 82 of the Constitution mandates the reallocation of seats in the Lok Sabha through delimitation after each census.
• The Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy (2014) recommends keeping draft bills in the public domain for 30 days before introduction.

Static connect: Delimitation Commission

• Appointed by the President under the Delimitation Commission Acts to redraw electoral boundaries.
• Orders of the Delimitation Commission have the force of law and cannot be called into question before any court.
• Comprises a retired Supreme Court judge, the Chief Election Commissioner, and respective State Election Commissioners.
UPSC angle: Frequently tested under Indian Polity regarding constitutional mechanisms and electoral reforms.

Mains angle

Scrutinises the balance between demographic representation and federalism, highlighting the need for pre-legislative consultation under GS Paper II (Governance & Federalism).

Source: The Hindu, National, 28 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/former-civil-servants-activists-seek-30-day-consult

Sri Lanka appoints parliamentary panel to study 1983 anti-Tamil riots

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Mains · Polity & Constitution, International Relations

• Sri Lanka has formed a parliamentary panel to examine the 1983 anti-Tamil riots, widely referred to as the 'Black July' riots.
• The riots between July 23 and July 30, 1983, resulted in the killing of approximately 3,000 Tamils across Sri Lanka.
• The move comes as part of broader national reconciliation and historical accountability efforts in post-war Sri Lanka.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Developments concerning the rights and historical grievances of Sri Lankan Tamils directly influence India's domestic politics and foreign policy towards Colombo.
• **International relations:** Genuine progress on transitional justice helps stabilize ties between New Delhi and Colombo, addressing a long-standing diplomatic concern.
• **Society:** Addresses historical trauma of Tamil minorities, which has strong cultural and emotional resonance in India, especially Tamil Nadu.

Prelims pointers

• The 'Black July' riots took place in Sri Lanka in July 1983, targeting the ethnic Tamil minority.

Static connect: India-Sri Lanka Accord (1987)

• Signed in 1987 between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President J.R. Jayewardene to resolve ethnic conflict.
• Led to the 13th Constitutional Amendment in Sri Lanka, creating Provincial Councils and devolving powers to Tamil-majority areas.
• India has consistently urged Sri Lanka to implement the 13th Amendment in letter and spirit.
UPSC angle: Frequently referenced in questions on India's neighbourhood policy and minority rights in South Asia.

Mains angle

Reconciliation steps in Sri Lanka directly impact India-Sri Lanka bilateral ties and domestic political sensitivities in Tamil Nadu (GS Paper II).

Source: The Hindu, International, 28 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/sri-lanka-appoints-parliamentary-panel-to-stud

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Israeli strike kills two Doctors Without Borders staff in Gaza (The Hindu, International, 28 Nov 2026)
• At least nine reported killed across Ukraine, while Russia downs near-record number of drones (The Hindu, International, 28 Nov 2026)
• Orders issued relieving lecturers on deputation in DIET (The Hindu, National, 28 Nov 2026)
• Taipei mayor re-elected in tight race (The Hindu, International, 28 Nov 2026)
• Autoimmune conditions can be managed well with early diagnosis and treatment: experts (The Hindu, Health, 28 Nov 2026)
• Night shift work related with differences in heart structure, heart muscle function: Study (The Hindu, Health, 28 Nov 2026)

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

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Cybercrime takes a darker turn: Deepfakes, revenge and stalking fuel surge in online abuse

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology

• Investigators report more than a doubling of cyber harassment cases, driven by AI-generated deepfakes and non-consensual image manipulation.
• Morphed multimedia is increasingly weaponised for online extortion, reputation damage, and stalking.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

AI-generated deepfakes present major regulatory, ethical, and internal security challenges, requiring stronger digital rights frameworks.
• **Science & tech:** Generative adversarial networks (GANs) lower barriers to creating realistic synthetic media, outpacing traditional media-forensic detection techniques.
• **Governance & polity:** Requires updating liability rules for social media intermediaries and setting strict takedown turnaround times under the IT Rules.
• **Ethics:** Weaponisation of private imagery violates digital autonomy, bodily dignity, and moral standards of consent in a connected society.

Prelims pointers

• The Information Technology Act, 2000 (notably Sections 66E, 67, and 67A) provides penalties for privacy violation and transmission of obscene content.
• Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs to tackle cybercrimes across the country.

Static connect: Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

• Established under the Ministry of Home Affairs to act as a nodal point against cybercrime.
• Manages the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (cybercrime.gov.in).
• Coordinates with law enforcement agencies and intermediary platforms for rapid incident redressal.
UPSC angle: Frequently referenced in internal security and cybersecurity questions in GS Paper III.

Mains angle

Addresses the threats posed by artificial intelligence and synthetic media to individual privacy, women's safety, and cybersecurity under GS Paper III (Cybersecurity) and GS Paper II (Governance).

Practice question

The proliferation of generative AI and deepfakes has exacerbated vulnerabilities in cyberspace, particularly affecting women. Critically examine the legal and institutional safeguards available in India to counter AI-driven cyber harassment.

Source: The Hindu, National, 28 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/cybercrime-takes-a-darker-turn-deepfakes-reve