UPSC Current Affairs

Wednesday, 11 November 2026 · Sources: PIB and The Hindu · 47 items

Paper	Items	Top headlines
GS1	10	Himalayas agenda left off COP31 formal list as major blocs w; Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan at Six
GS2	33	COP31: Can negotiators finally deliver results? | The Hindu ; India's efforts to clean its air need not slow its economic
GS3	4	How do tokamaks work to make nuclear fusion possible?; Delhi air quality deteriorates, AQI settles at 303

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

Govt. prohibits export of unsorted lithium-ion battery waste, scrap

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, Polity & Constitution, Economy

• The Government of India has prohibited the export of unsorted lithium-ion battery waste and scrap.
• Earlier classified under the 'Free' category, the move aims to retain critical battery material within the country for recycling.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Securing lithium and other critical minerals is central to India's electric mobility and energy storage targets amid heavy reliance on imports.
• **Economy:** Incentivizes indigenous recycling capacities and protects supply chains from global supply shocks.
• **Environment:** Fosters a circular economy by diverting toxic e-waste into secondary raw material extraction.
• **International relations:** Reduces external vulnerabilities to foreign monopolies controlling the processing and refining of battery raw materials.

Prelims pointers

• Export policy notifications for commodities are issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
• Lithium is designated as a critical and strategic mineral under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023.

Static connect: Critical Minerals Policy in India

• The Ministry of Mines identified 30 critical minerals essential for economic development and national security.
• Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 mandate Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) targets for recovery and recycling of battery materials.
UPSC angle: Directly linked to green transition, supply chain resilience, and industrial policy.

Mains angle

Discuss the significance of retaining critical mineral waste in bolstering India's domestic battery recycling ecosystem and energy transition (GS Paper III - Economic Development & Industrial Policy).

Practice question

Examine the strategic and ecological necessity of developing a domestic circular economy for critical minerals. In this context, assess the impact of recent restrictions on the export of battery scrap.

Source: The Hindu, National, 11 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/business/govt-prohibits-export-of-unsorted-lithium-ion-batterywas

NMDC said to be in talks with Russia’s Rosatom over lithium investments

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, International Relations, Economy

• Rosatom and Russian miner Nornickel, however, are developing the country’s largest lithium deposit through their PolarLithium joint venture, with commercial production expected to begin by 2030

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: NMDC, Russia, Rosatom, Rosatom and Russian, Nornickel

Static connect: Critical minerals

• The Centre has notified a list of critical minerals and launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (2025).
• KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd) secures overseas mineral assets.

UPSC angle: Energy transition, supply chains and mineral security (GS1, GS3).

Source: The Hindu, International, 10 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/business/nmdc-said-to-be-in-talks-with-russias-rosatom-over-lithi

Cyclone-hit villages in Prakasam district remain without electricity

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

• The villagers are going to the nearest urban centre to charge their mobile phones at a cost of ■10 per charge and are facing difficulties in meeting their daily needs, including access to drinking water and arranging fuel for generators, sources say

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Geography & disasters:** India is exposed to cyclones, floods and heatwaves; the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (amended 2025), NDMA and NDRF/SDRF lead the response.
• **Governance & polity:** Shift from relief to risk reduction (Sendai Framework); early warning, CDRI and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Cyclone-hit, Prakasam

Source: The Hindu, National, 10 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/cyclone-hit-villages-in-prakasam-dis

HISTORY & ART AND CULTURE

Does the Temple wearable reveal useful information about brain health?

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

• Billionaire Deepinder Goyal has begun selling Temple, a temple-attached wearable he says can monitor brain health and ageing by measuring cerebral blood flow outside the lab.
• Critics and doctors question the device’s medical claims, noting the evidence is preliminary, not peer-reviewed, and its core metric—the Brain Flow index—remains controversial amid concerns over links to longevity or cognitive outcomes

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Does the Temple, Billionaire Deepinder Goyal, Temple, Critics, Brain Flow

Source: The Hindu, Health, 10 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/does-the-temple-wearable-reveal-useful-informatio

No shielding from accountability, scope of probe must be expanded: Congress on Ram temple donation theft

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · History & Art and Culture, International Relations, Environment & Ecology

• Congress asserted that accountability cannot be limited solely to the eight employees who have been arrested and that the role of persons responsible for construction, management and handling of offerings at the temple must be investigated

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Congress, Ram

Source: The Hindu, National, 11 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/no-shielding-from-accountability-scope-of-probe-mus

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INDIAN SOCIETY

Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan at Six

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Indian Society, Science & Technology

• Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) completed six years; initially rolled out in 272 vulnerable districts in 2020, it was expanded nationwide in 2023.
• The campaign operates alongside the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) to manage substance abuse demand and outreach.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Substance abuse poses multidimensional threats to India's demographic dividend and public health infrastructure.
• **Society:** Mobilizes women and youth networks to de-stigmatize addiction treatment and encourage early intervention.
• **Internal security:** Drives demand reduction, complementing law enforcement crackdowns on illicit cross-border narcotics trafficking.

Prelims pointers

• Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan is an initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
• National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) provides financial assistance for de-addiction, rehabilitation, and preventive awareness.

Static connect: National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)

• Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
• Focuses on a multi-pronged strategy involving preventive education, treatment, and socio-economic integration of rehabilitated individuals.
UPSC angle: Frequently referenced in questions on vulnerable groups, youth welfare, and social security mechanisms.

Mains angle

Evaluates targeted community and youth awareness initiatives in curbing substance abuse under social welfare schemes (GS Paper II - Social Justice).

Source: PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 11 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2334910

Caste and class: On OBC reservation

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Mains · Indian Society

• Exclusion of creamy layer is essential, but must be done consistently

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Society:** Data and policy for social justice: the next Census will include caste enumeration; sub-classification of SC/ST (Supreme Court 2024) and the 50% ceiling (Indra Sawhney).
• **Governance & polity:** Targeting welfare and reservation policy needs reliable data; also linked to delimitation.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Caste, OBC, Exclusion

Source: The Hindu, Editorial, 10 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/caste-and-class-on-obc-reservation/article71686

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Himalayas agenda left off COP31 formal list as major blocs withhold support: Nepal Foreign Minister

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

• The dedicated agenda on the Himalayan ecosystem was excluded from the COP31 formal negotiations list due to lack of support from major geopolitical blocs.
• Nepal's leadership indicated persistent hurdles for Himalayan nations in securing formal global climate recognition for mountain vulnerabilities.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Highlights the marginalisation of fragile mountain ecosystems in the UNFCCC agenda despite severe glacio-hydrological risks for South Asia.
• **International relations:** Underscores divergence between major geopolitical blocs and vulnerable mountain nations regarding climate negotiation priorities.
• **Environment:** Risks delaying global adaptation finance and monitoring frameworks essential to avert Himalayan glacial retreat.

Prelims pointers

• The Himalayas are known as the 'Third Pole' due to holding the largest concentration of ice and snow outside the polar regions.

Static connect: Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) Region

• Spans across 8 countries including India, Nepal, Bhutan, and China.
• Sources 10 major river basins, supporting over 1.9 billion people downstream.
UPSC angle: Relevant to ecological vulnerabilities, glaciology, and disaster risks under physical geography and climate change.

Mains angle

Highlights the geopolitical challenges of mountain states in mainstreaming vulnerable ecosystems into multilateral climate negotiations (GS Paper III - Environment).

Source: The Hindu, International, 11 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/himalayas-agenda-left-off-cop31-f

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ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Tamil Nadu to push green cracker production in meeting with Sivakasi manufacturers this month: Minister V.K. Rajeev (The Hindu, National, 11 Nov 2026)
• Prime Minister extends greetings to the nation on the occasion of Bhai Dooj (PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 11 Nov 2026)

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

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Supreme Court goes beyond Deepavali AQI, flags vehicular emissions polluting Delhi air

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

• The court says Delhi and the NCR bear the ‘cumulative burden of vehicular traffic’ and seeks to know what has been done to regulate in the capital the entry and plying of vehicles from neighbouring States

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Governance & polity:** Judicial review and the separation of powers; such rulings often clarify fundamental rights or federal relations and become Mains examples.
• **Society:** Access to justice and pendency (over 5 crore cases) affect citizens' trust in institutions.
• **Environment:** India's NDCs (45% cut in emission intensity of GDP from 2005 levels by 2030, 50% non-fossil power capacity, net zero by 2070) and the principle of CBDR-RC.
• **International relations:** India speaks for the Global South on climate finance and technology transfer; carbon border taxes like the EU's CBAM affect Indian exports.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Supreme Court, Deepavali AQI, Delhi, NCR

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, Environment, 10 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/supreme-court-goes-beyond-deepavali-aqi-flags-vehic

Delhi's air quality improves to 'poor' due to increased wind speed

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

• On Monday, the day after Diwali, the capital's average Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 376, in the 'very poor' category.

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: Delhi, Monday, Diwali, Air Quality Index, AQI

Static connect: Air quality governance

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• National Clean Air Programme (NCAP, 2019) targets particulate reduction in non-attainment cities.
UPSC angle: Pollution control framework (GS3).

Source: The Hindu, Health, 10 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/delhis-air-quality-improves-to-poor-due-to-incr

EU climate chief Wopke Hoekstra warns 'expectations low' from COP31 summit

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology, International Relations

• "If indeed we manage to make electrification the sole focus, or close to the sole focus of the COP, I think we have a chance to deliver on something that is truly meaningful," Wopke Hoekstra said

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Environment:** India's NDCs (45% cut in emission intensity of GDP from 2005 levels by 2030, 50% non-fossil power capacity, net zero by 2070) and the principle of CBDR-RC.
• **International relations:** India speaks for the Global South on climate finance and technology transfer; carbon border taxes like the EU's CBAM affect Indian exports.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Wopke Hoekstra, COP31, COP

Static connect: UNFCCC & Paris Agreement

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

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

Source: The Hindu, International, 10 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/eu-climate-chief-wopke-hoekstra-warns-expectat

Delhi: CPCB mulls raising monitoring cap after readings go blank

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

• The pollution control board said PM levels were measured only up to 1,000 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³) for AQI calculations, which explained the missing data on Deepavali night, when actual concentrations exceeded this limit

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: Delhi, CPCB, AQI, Deepavali

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, 11 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/delhi-cpcb-mulls-raising-monitoring-cap-after-r

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

COP31: Can negotiators finally deliver results? | The Hindu explains

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Environment & Ecology, Disaster Management

• From catastrophic floods in Nepal to record-breaking heat, droughts and wildfires, the climate crisis is no longer a future threat.
• As world leaders gather in Antalya for COP31, the focus has shifted from promises to implementation.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Environment:** India's NDCs (45% cut in emission intensity of GDP from 2005 levels by 2030, 50% non-fossil power capacity, net zero by 2070) and the principle of CBDR-RC.
• **International relations:** India speaks for the Global South on climate finance and technology transfer; carbon border taxes like the EU's CBAM affect Indian exports.
• **Internal security:** 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: COP31, Can, Hindu, From, Nepal

Static connect: UNFCCC & Paris Agreement

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

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

Source: The Hindu, Environment, 10 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/videos/cop31-can-negotiators-finally-deliver-results-the-hindu-ex

India’s efforts to clean its air need not slow its economic growth

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

• Highlights the need to decouple air pollution mitigation from economic slowdown through targeted developmental interventions.
• Identifies cleaner industrial processes, clean household cooking, and upgraded municipal solid waste management as key win-win solutions.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Crucial for answering how India can balance carbon/pollution mitigation goals without compromising economic output and energy access.
• **Environment:** Emphasizes targeted sectoral interventions over blunt industrial bans to lower PM2.5 and PM10 levels.
• **Economy:** Promoting clean cooking and industrial efficiency avoids productivity losses linked to poor health and fossil-fuel dependence.

Prelims pointers

• National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) targets reduction in PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations across non-attainment cities.

Static connect: National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

• Launched in 2019 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
• Aims for a 40% reduction in PM concentrations by 2026 across non-attainment cities compared to 2017 levels.

UPSC angle: Frequently evaluated under government initiatives addressing urban air pollution.

Mains angle

Examines the policy synergy between environmental sustainability and industrial growth in India (GS Paper III - Environment).

Source: The Hindu, Science, 11 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/indias-efforts-to-clean-its-air-n

Transparency is essential to institutional credibility

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

• Minority institutions opposing the FCRA amendments must demonstrate transparency and accountability themselves

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Transparency, Minority, FCRA

Source: The Hindu, Lead (Op-Ed), 10 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/transparency-is-essential-to-institutional-credibili

NCAHP Proposes New Registration Framework to Strengthen Allied and Healthcare Professions in India

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) under MoHFW proposed a regulatory framework for provisional registration of allied health professionals.
• Framework defines structured pathways for competency evaluation, skill upgradation, and standardization of allied healthcare services.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Standardizing allied health professionals is critical for India's doctor-to-population and paramedic ratios under universal healthcare delivery.
• **Governance & polity:** Institutionalizes qualifications and establishes transparency through centralized registration databases.
• **Society:** Improves healthcare service delivery quality in secondary and tertiary care by eliminating quackery.

Prelims pointers

• The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act was enacted in 2021 under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Static connect: National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021

• Regulates education and practice of allied and healthcare professionals across designated categories.
• Mandates maintaining Central and State registers of registered professionals.
UPSC angle: Pertinent to regulatory architecture in the health sector under GS Paper II.

Mains angle

Analyzes the institutionalization and standardization of allied health workers to address shortages and quality gaps in public healthcare (GS Paper II - Social Justice / Health).

Source: PIB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 11 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2334877

APSCHE to launch digital platform to offer quality online education to students, faculty

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

• The initiative named APSCHE LMS–MOOCs will enable students to register, explore courses, enrol in relevant Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), access digital learning materials, participate in assessments and monitor their academic progress

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: APSCHE, APSCHE LMS, MOOCs, Massive Open Online Courses

Source: The Hindu, National, 10 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/apsche-to-launch-digital-platform-to

Keralam Minister calls upon students to join fight against drug abuse

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

• Keralam General Education Minister N.
• Samsudheen warns that the menace threatens not only individual lives but also the growth of society and its cultural values

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Keralam Minister, Keralam General Education Minister, Samsudheen

Source: The Hindu, National, 10 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/keralam-minister-calls-on-students-to-join-f

INTERNAL SECURITY

Israeli forces shoot dead 14-year-old in West Bank: Palestinian officials

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Internal Security, International Relations, Economy

• The Israeli military, asked by AFP about the incident, said on Tuesday (November 10, 2026) it had acted to "thwart stone-hurling and terrorist attacks" in the area.

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.
• **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.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Israeli, West Bank, Palestinian, AFP, Tuesday

Source: The Hindu, International, 10 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/israeli-forces-shoot-dead-14-year-old-in-west-

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Poland arrests two Ukrainians over alleged Russian espionage, sabotage

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Poland has long ■accused Russia and its ally Belarus of waging a hybrid campaign involving sabotage, cyberattacks ■and disinformation since Moscow’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine

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).
• **Governance & polity:** IT Act 2000, Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, and the need for cyber hygiene and capacity in state police.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Poland, Ukrainians, Russian, Russia, Belarus

Source: The Hindu, International, 10 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/poland-arrests-two-ukrainians-over-alleged-rus

Iran rejects France’s ‘baseless accusations’ on cyberattack

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Science & Technology

• Hundreds of French supermarkets were hit in the October 11 and 12 cyberattacks, which raised the temperatures in their refrigerators and freezers, forcing many to throw away entire inventories of perishable food

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• **Internal security:** Cyber attacks on critical infrastructure and fraud like 'digital arrest' scams; CERT-In, NCIIPC and I4C are the response agencies.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Iran, France, Hundreds of French, October

Source: The Hindu, International, 10 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/iran-rejects-frances-baseless-accusations-on-c

Iraq reopens border crossing with Iran

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Environment & Ecology, Internal Security

• The Iraqi government closed the Al-Sheeb crossing in Missan province in October

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: Iraq, Iran, Iraqi, Al-Sheeb, Missan

Source: The Hindu, International, 10 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/iraq-reopens-border-crossing-with-iran/article

Point of no return: On Israel’s next government

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Without peace, Israel risks descending into chaos

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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• **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: Point, Israel, Without

Source: The Hindu, Editorial, 10 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/point-of-no-return-on-israels-next-government/a

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

New Israeli parliament to take aim at Netanyahu as Eisenkot seeks government

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, International Relations

• President Isaac Herzog, ceremonially opening the session, called on all sides to work together and avoid a fresh election in a deeply polarised country weary from three years of war.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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• **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: New Israeli, Netanyahu, Eisenkot, President Isaac Herzog

Source: The Hindu, International, 10 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/new-israeli-parliament-to-take-aim-at-netanyah

Malaysian court clears final hurdle for former PM Najib Razak's transfer to house arrest

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, Economy

• Najib has been behind bars since August 2022, when the Kuala Lumpur High Court upheld his graft conviction linked to a multibillion-dollar looting of the state investment fund 1MDB.

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: Malaysian, PM Najib Razak, Najib, August, Kuala Lumpur High Court

Source: The Hindu, International, 10 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/malaysian-court-clears-final-hurdle-for-former

How Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang's extramarital affair could cause collateral damage in Washington

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

• Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang confronts a widening political and legal storm in Washington over an alleged extramarital affair and claims a former Megaspeed executive spied for China, as federal investigators probe export controls and possible national-security breaches tied to Nvidia’s chips in the high-stakes U.S.-China AI race

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: How Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang, Washington, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang, Megaspeed, China

Source: The Hindu, International, 11 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/how-nvidia-ceo-jensen-huangs-extramarital-affa

Pranab Mukherjee hinted at desire to become PM, ‘shocked’ me, writes Sonia Gandhi

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution

• In her memoir, former Congress president recalls 2010 conversation; Pranab Mukherjee’s daughter Sharmistha asks what there was to be shocked about, says it is not a crime to be ambitious

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Pranab Mukherjee, Sonia Gandhi, Congress, Sharmistha

Source: The Hindu, National, 10 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pranab-mukherjee-hinted-at-desire-to-become-pm-shoc

Without any rationale: On the disbanding of the Justice Kurian Joseph Committee

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution

• India’s federal structure could have benefited from the Kurian Committee

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Without, Justice Kurian Joseph Committee, Kurian Committee

Source: The Hindu, Editorial, 10 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/without-any-rationale-on-the-disbanding-of-the-

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Retired judge Justice M.V. Muralidharan appointed chairperson of Tamil Nadu SC/ST Commission (The Hindu, National, 11 Nov 2026)
• U.S. and China should stay clear-eyed on AI cooperation and competition, says Scott Bessent (The Hindu, International, 11 Nov 2026)
• Van Dyke threatens to ‘reveal shocking details’ of his arrest, incarceration in India, blames Russia (The Hindu, National, 11 Nov 2026)
• U.S. House Oversight Committee criticises Trump administration over release of Epstein records (The Hindu, International, 11 Nov 2026)
• U.S. Army member arrested in U.K. for alleged Russian links (The Hindu, International, 10 Nov 2026)
• Priyanka Gandhi to inaugurate projects, review development works during Wayanad visit (The Hindu, National, 11 Nov 2026)
• U.S. Treasury chief Bessent moved to military base after Iranian threats, reports say (The Hindu, International, 11 Nov 2026)
• Prime Minister shares a Sanskrit Subhashitam, highlighting the foundation of a progressive nations strength and power (PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 11 Nov 2026)
• Andhra Pradesh weighs making father’s name optional in official documents (The Hindu, National, 10 Nov 2026)
• After Bangladesh rules out passport for Hasina, India says ‘travel document’ needed (The Hindu, National, 10 Nov 2026)
• Housing assistance instalments for 32,000 families this fiscal: Minister (The Hindu, National, 10 Nov 2026)
• Air pollution goes through the roof in parts of Delhi on Deepavali night (The Hindu, Health, 09 Nov 2026)
• A country bogged down by smog (The Hindu, Health, 11 Nov 2026)

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

ECONOMY

Industry seeks LTCG, STT cuts in Budget 2027; MSME relief also on wish list

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy

• Several industry bodies have been meeting top officials of the Finance Ministry as part of the annual pre-Budget consultation process

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: Industry, LTCG, STT, Budget, MSME

Source: The Hindu, Economy, 10 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/industry-seeks-ltcg-stt-cuts-in-budget-2027-msme

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Delhi air quality deteriorates, AQI settles at 303

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology

• The national capital is battling rising pollution levels after Deepavali, with stubble burning in neighbouring States contributing to the deterioration

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: Delhi, AQI, Deepavali

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, National, 11 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/delhi-air-quality-deteriorates-aqi-settles-at-3

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

How do tokamaks work to make nuclear fusion possible?

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology

• A tokamak uses magnetic fields to confine superhot plasma to enable nuclear fusion; despite advances in research, engineering challenges remain, and no tokamak has generated net energy for commercial power

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: How
Source: The Hindu, Science, 10 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/how-do-tokamaks-work-to-make-nuclear-fusion-poss

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• India and Norway Explore Joint Technologies to Turn Industrial Waste into Resources for Sustainable Construction
(PIB, Ministry of Science & Technology, 11 Nov 2026)