UPSC Current Affairs

Friday, 13 November 2026 · Sources: PIB and The Hindu · 62 items

Paper	Items	Top headlines
GS1	7	Iran says it struck U.S. military radar in Bahrain; Tanker carrying LNG hit mine, suffered explosion in Hormuz:
GS2	42	Karnataka to write to Prime Minister asking for inclusion of; COP31: Himalayan flash floods should push all to act ‘faster
GS3	12	India’s Renewable Energy Journey: Powering a Cleaner Future; Now agentic AI can perform complex lab research, and maybe c
Prelims	1	India records 38% drop in TB mortality since 2015: WHO repor

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

Rampur’s Lavi Fair: Storytelling through 300 years of Himalayan trade and tradition

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, Economy, Indian Society

• Rampur Bushahr’s Lavi Fair in Himachal Pradesh traces a Himalayan journey from wool and barter to women entrepreneurs and digital payments

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: Rampur, Lavi Fair, Storytelling, Himalayan, Rampur Bushahr

Source: The Hindu, National, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/society/lavi-fair-rampur-himachal-pradesh-story/article71660853.e

INTERNAL SECURITY

Iran says it struck U.S. military radar in Bahrain

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

• The IRGC says the strait is closed, while the U.S.
• Navy claims that it has opened a southern route for commercial vessels to exit and enter the critical waterway, while maintaining its “ironclad blockade” of Iranian ports

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).
• **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.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Iran, Bahrain, IRGC, Navy, Iranian

Source: The Hindu, International, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/iran-says-it-struck-us-military-radar-in-bahra

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Tanker carrying LNG hit mine, suffered explosion in Hormuz: Iran

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Geography

• Tankers are still facing attacks across the strait, ■despite a rebound in traffic and expectations of a de-escalation ■in the US-Israeli war on Iran, that have been reflected in falling oil prices

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: Tanker, LNG, Hormuz, Iran, Tankers

Static connect: Strait of Hormuz

• Connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
• Lies between Iran (north) and Oman's Musandam peninsula (south).
• Major chokepoint for crude oil and LNG exports from the Gulf, including a large part of India's energy imports.

UPSC angle: Chokepoints and India's energy security (GS2, GS3); map-based Prelims questions.

Source: The Hindu, International, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/tanker-carrying-lng-hit-mine-suffered-explosio

Passenger van plunges into river in northern Pakistan, killing 11 people

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Geography

• Officials say a passenger van veered off a mountainous road and plunged into a river in northern Pakistan, killing 11 people and injuring three others

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Passenger, Pakistan

Source: The Hindu, International, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/passenger-van-plunges-into-river-in-northern-p

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Delhi’s air was already toxic before Deepavali. Here’s what a new study found (The Hindu, Environment, 12 Nov 2026)
• Illegal oocyte collection racket: 27 ART centres inspected across Telangana, notices issued to seven hospitals (The Hindu, Health, 12 Nov 2026)
• New blood test finds early risk for ovarian cancer (The Hindu, Health, 12 Nov 2026)

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

AGRICULTURE

CPI(M) seeks withdrawal of proposed Water Regulatory Commission

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Agriculture, Governance & Social Justice, Economy

• Party alleges it will privatise drinking and irrigation water, impose an additional financial burden on people and adversely affect agriculture

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: CPI, Water Regulatory Commission, Party

Source: The Hindu, National, 12 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/cpim-seeks-withdrawal-of-proposed-wa

ECONOMY

Vizag CII Summit: ReNew to invest ■80,000 crore in green data centre, solar manufacturing in Andhra Pradesh

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

• Investments include a ■67,000-crore Green Hyperscale Data Centre in Anakapalli, ■11,000-crore polysilicon and metallurgical silicon manufacturing facilities in Anakapalli and Nellore; and ■1,500-crore permanent magnet manufacturing facility in Rambilli

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Vizag CII Summit, ReNew, Andhra Pradesh, Investments, Green Hyperscale Data Centre

Source: The Hindu, National, 12 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/vizag-cii-summit-renew-to-invest-800

Why RBI wants to cap select overseas remittances at ■50 Lakh to save rupees | Explained

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy, Governance & Social Justice

• The RBI has reportedly proposed a ■50 lakh sub-limit within the ■2,50,000 annual Liberalised Remittance Scheme cap to curb dollar outflows and protect the rupee

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: Why RBI, Lakh, Explained, RBI, Liberalised Remittance Scheme

Source: The Hindu, Economy, 12 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/why-rbi-wants-to-cap-select-overseas-remittances

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

COP31: Himalayan flash floods should push all to act ‘faster and fairer’ on climate change: UN climate chief

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology, International Relations

• “The glacial collapse and flash floods in the Himalayas this year are a devastating reminder of how fragile these mountain environments can be, particularly the Hindu Kush Himalayas,” UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell 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.
• **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: COP31, Himalayan, Himalayas, Hindu Kush Himalayas, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell

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, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/cop31-himalayan-flash-floods-should-push-all-t

UN climate summit pushes electrification goal as groups call for mining safeguards

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology, International Relations

• The pledge builds on commitments made at previous UN climate summits: At COP28, countries agreed to work toward tripling renewable energy capacity and transitioning away from fossil fuels.
• COP29 focused on energy storage, grid modernisation and climate finance

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: At COP28, COP29

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, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/un-climate-summit-pushes-electrif

Venezuela tells COP31 it has sovereign right to pump more oil

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology, Polity & Constitution, International Relations

• Venezuela’s Acting President ■Delcy Rodriguez’s comments at the UN ■talks on Turkiye’s Mediterranean coast jar with efforts by other conference leaders to convince global governments to accelerate a ■shift from carbon-emitting fossil fuels

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: Venezuela, COP31, Acting President, Delcy Rodriguez, Turkiye

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, 12 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/venezuela-tells-cop31-it-has-sovereign-right-t

On COP31 and Indonesia’s forest fires | Green Humour by Rohan Chakravarty

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology, International Relations

• On COP31 and Indonesia’s forest fires | Green Humour by Rohan Chakravarty

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.
• **Society:** Human–wildlife conflict and the rights of forest dwellers under the Forest Rights Act 2006.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: COP31 and Indonesia, Green Humour, Rohan Chakravarty

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, 12 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/on-cop31-and-indonesias-forest-fi

Trees misidentified, misjudged, wrongly marked and felled to facilitate civil projects in Hyderabad

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

• Over 1800 trees are being felled for an access road to the Cherlapally Railway Station, most of them not the species identified in permission copy; field inspection reveals serious irregularities

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: Trees, Hyderabad, Over, Cherlapally Railway Station

Source: The Hindu, National, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/trees-misidentified-misjudged-wrongly-marke

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

DRDL Director highlights importance of indigenous research

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

• Signing an MoU with Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education, Ankathi Raju urges students and faculty to actively take up research activities, innovation and technology development to contribute towards national missions

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: DRDL Director, Signing, MoU, Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education, Ankathi Raju

Source: The Hindu, National, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/drdl-director-highlights-importance-

CAG widens purview of power sector audit, starting with DISCOMs; consumer satisfaction in focus

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

• Officials stated that DISCOMs would be evaluated for their performance over a five-year period, following by transmission, generation, renewable energy and RDSS.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: CAG, DISCOMs, RDSS

Source: The Hindu, Economy, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/cag-widens-purview-of-power-sector-audit-starti

DIPAM Participates in Special Campaign 6 for Institutionalising Swachhata and Minimising Pendency

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

• The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), Ministry of Finance, actively participated in Special Campaign 6 for institutionalising Swachhata and minimising pendency in Government offices during the period from 2nd October, 2026 to 31st October, 2026.
• DIPAM has no attached or subordinate offices or Autonomous Bodies under it.

Prelims pointers

• In the Preparatory Phase from 15th to 30th September, 2026, DIPAM set…
• Key terms: DIPAM Participates, Special Campaign, Institutionalising Swachhata and Minimising Pendency, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, DIPAM

Source: PIB, Ministry of Finance, 13 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2335680

NPPA Directs Strict Monitoring of Implementation of TMR on 137 Anti-Cancer Drugs

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Agriculture

• The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, has directed strict monitoring of the implementation of Trade Margin Rationalisation (TMR) on 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs, notified vide Gazette Order dated 17 October 2026, with revised prices effective from 9 November 2026.
• The latest revised price lists, based on submissions received from companies up to 11…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: NPPA Directs Strict Monitoring of Implementation of TMR, Anti-Cancer Drugs, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, NPPA, Department of Pharmaceuticals

Source: PIB, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers - Department of Pharmaceuticals, 13 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2335722

Eight-year-old undergoes endoscopic treatment for rare swallowing disorder

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

• The child, diagnosed with Type II achalasia, underwent a minimally invasive procedure at Rela Hospital in Chennai

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Eight-year-old, Type II, Rela Hospital, Chennai

Source: The Hindu, Health, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/eight-year-old-undergoes-endoscopic-treatment-for

A disease rooted in social and economic vulnerability can only be eliminated as underlying systems become stronger: Dhun Davar

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

• Dhun Davar, deputy CEO & chief of programmes, Asian Venture Philanthropy Network spoke to The Hindu about the challenges in the TB elimination programme

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Dhun Davar, CEO, Asian Venture Philanthropy Network, Hindu

Source: The Hindu, Health, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/a-disease-rooted-in-social-and-economic-vulnerabi

How did a tax proposal lead the Dutch government to the verge of collapse? | Explained

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy

• The Netherlands currently has a minority government by a coalition of three parties holding 66 seats in the 150-member Tweede Kamer, the lower house

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: How, Dutch, Explained, Netherlands, Tweede Kamer

Source: The Hindu, International, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/how-did-a-tax-proposal-led-the-dutch-government-

Kozhikode-Wayanad tunnel project in Keralam remains stalled despite submission of documents

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Agriculture, Reports & Indices

• Prolonged stoppage has raised concerns over safety and durability of the 110-metre stretch of tunnelling already completed in the right tube on Anakkampoyil side.
• KRCL and the contracting agency have reportedly warned that continued suspension could lead to deterioration of the completed work

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: Kozhikode-Wayanad, Keralam, Prolonged, Anakkampoyil, KRCL

Source: The Hindu, National, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kozhikode-wayanad-tunnel-project-in-keralam-

Prime Minister shares a Sanskrit Subhashitam, highlighting the importance of properly assimilating Dharma, wealth, food, a Gurus teachings, and medicine

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy

• Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi shared a Sanskrit Subhashitam today, highlighting that righteous conduct, honest wealth, food, a Guru's guidance, and health knowledge must be properly understood and put into practice to yield their intended benefits in life.
• The Prime Minister wrote on X; "[redacted]" Dharma—that is, righteous conduct and spiritual…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Prime Minister, Sanskrit Subhashitam, Dharma, Gurus, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Source: PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 13 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2335672

INTERNAL SECURITY

NIA to probe two terror cases in Punjab, U.P.

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

• During the investigation, it emerged that Pakistani gangster Bhatti, Jatt and radical Pakistani YouTubers, allegedly acting on instructions from the ISI, were attempting to radicalise Indian youths and entice them with financial incentives

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **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.
• **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: NIA, Punjab, During, Pakistani, Bhatti

Source: The Hindu, National, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nia-to-probe-online-radicalisation-of-indian-youths

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Turkiye's President calls genocide in Gaza ‘ecocide’ at UN climate summit

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• “Centuries old olive trees have been cut down.
• The soil and water have been polluted in Gaza, and cities in Gaza have been turned into enormous piles of rubble,” the Turkish President said

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.
• **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: Turkiye, President, Gaza, Centuries, Turkish President

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, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/turkiyes-president-calls-genocide-in-gaza-ecoc

Modi to visit Manila for ASEAN Summit; maritime security, trade on agenda

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Modi is also set to join Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, U.S.
• President Donald Trump, and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi for the annual Quad summit in Manila.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **International relations:** India's Act East Policy and vision of a free, open, rules-based Indo-Pacific (UNCLOS 1982); Quad and ASEAN centrality.
• **Economy:** A large share of India's trade passes through the Malacca Strait and South China Sea; disruption hits supply chains (semiconductors from Taiwan).
• **Internal security:** Protecting sea lanes, coastal security after 26/11, anti-piracy patrols in the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden; India as net security provider in the IOR.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Modi, Manila for ASEAN Summit, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, President Donald Trump, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi

Static connect: Quad

• India, the United States, Japan and Australia; focus on a free and open Indo-Pacific.
UPSC angle: Indo-Pacific strategy (GS2).

Source: The Hindu, International, 12 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/modi-to-visit-manila-for-asean-summit-maritime-secu

Bharat Summit takes off in Hyderabad today; Rahul Gandhi to participate in valedictory

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

• The gathering assumes significance as the first major international meeting of progressive leaders following electoral outcomes in Brazil, Hungary and Serbia, and comes soon after the United States mid-term elections

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Bharat Summit, Hyderabad, Rahul Gandhi, Brazil, Hungary and Serbia

Source: The Hindu, National, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/bharat-summit-takes-off-in-hyderabad-toda

No compromise with Ukraine, Putin indicates to U.S. envoys during talks

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Polity & Constitution

• The Russian President proposes a short-term ceasefire in a key frontline city in Donetsk; he also rules out agreeing to foreign troops being stationed in Ukraine

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: Ukraine, Putin, Russian President, Donetsk

Source: The Hindu, International, 12 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/us-envoys-meet-putin-at-kremlin-following-ukra

Andhra to bring in Investment Protection Act to ease doing business, says Naidu

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Economy

• 303 MoUs worth ■9.89 lakh crore will be signed at the CII Partnership Summit, the Chief Minister says

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Andhra, Investment Protection Act, Naidu, MoUs, CII Partnership Summit

Source: The Hindu, National, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/andhra-to-bring-in-investment-protec

Centre sanctions new roads, infrastructure along China's border

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

• The Indo-Tibetan Border Police sanctions the construction of 15 pedestrian suspension bridges and 18 log bridges in Arunachal Pradesh; CCS clears 26 new roads as part of ICBR-III

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, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Arunachal Pradesh, CCS, ICBR-III

Source: The Hindu, International, 12 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-sanctions-new-roads-infrastructure-along-chi

CCPA Imposes ■10 Lakh Penalty on Ola for Pre-Ride 'Tip' Feature; Directs Platform to Discontinue Practice

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Agriculture

• The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of ■10 lakh on ANI Technologies Private Limited , which operates the ride-hailing platform Ola, for soliciting additional payments from consumers before completion of their journeys through its pre-ride 'tip'/'add-on' feature.
• The Authority has directed Ola to immediately discontinue the practice, holding that it misleads consumers, constitutes…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: CCPA Imposes, Lakh Penalty, Ola for Pre-Ride, Tip, Feature

Source: PIB, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2335741

In a dilemma: On Sheikh Hasina and India-Bangladesh ties

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• India must improve ties with Bangladesh, and protect Hasina

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **International relations:** Test of Neighbourhood First and Act East: Bangladesh is India's largest trade partner in South Asia and the gateway for connectivity to the North-East (Chittagong and Mongla port access, BBIN).
• **Internal security:** India's longest land border (~4,096 km) is porous: illegal migration, cattle and fake-currency smuggling, and North-East insurgent groups that have used Bangladeshi territory. Instability in Dhaka or anti-India sentiment directly affects border management (BSF, fencing, Smart Fencing/CIBMS).
• **Governance & polity:** Water and land issues: Ganga Water Treaty (1996, 30 years, due for renewal in 2026), Teesta water sharing, and the Land Boundary Agreement 2015 (100th Constitutional Amendment).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Sheikh Hasina and India-Bangladesh, Bangladesh, Hasina

Source: The Hindu, Editorial, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/in-a-dilemma-on-sheikh-hasina-and-india-banglad

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

Karnataka to write to Prime Minister asking for inclusion of enhanced quota in Ninth Schedule

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

• After the High Court of Karnataka quashed the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 2022, the State government will write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to include the enhanced reservation for SCs and STs in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution

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: Karnataka, Prime Minister, Ninth Schedule, After the High Court of Karnataka, Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Source: The Hindu, National, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/karnataka-to-write-to-prime-minister-aski

Kerala High Court says it may order medical board examination to verify Tomin Thachankary’s illnesses

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

• Considering a plea by former DGP seeking a modification of his bail conditions to resume his employment in the UAE, court says it needs to know whether he had an illness or was there a conspiracy to avoid staying in a prison cell during his incarceration in disproportionate assets case

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.
• **Economy:** Energy security, strategic petroleum reserves, Gulf investment (sovereign funds) and the India–UAE CEPA (2022).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Kerala High Court, Tomin Thachankary, Considering, DGP, UAE

Source: The Hindu, National, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kerala-high-court-says-it-may-order-medical-

Messi visit case: Keralam Governor gives approval to prosecute former Sports Minister Abdurahiman over alleged irregularities

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, International Relations, Science & Technology

• Lok Bhavan’s decision is based on a request of Chief Minister.
• The SIT led by Additional Director General of Police P.

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.
• **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: Messi, Keralam Governor, Sports Minister Abdurahiman, Lok Bhavan, Chief Minister

Source: The Hindu, National, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/keralam-governor-gives-nod-to-prosecute-v-ab

Trump says U.S. does not ‘need a deal with Iran’

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

• His comments came shortly after the Wall Street Journal reported that Vice-President J.D.
• Vance was mulling face-to-face talks with a top Iranian security official

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).
• **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.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Trump, Iran, His, Wall Street Journal, Vice-President

Source: The Hindu, International, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/trump-says-us-does-not-need-a-deal-with-iran/a

What the Punjab and Haryana High Court said about protecting LGBTQIA+ students in schools? | Explained

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

• The Punjab and Haryana High Court asked schools to ensure that Sukdeb Saha guidelines are followed while dealing with a petition filed by the mother of a 16-year-old student who died by suicide in 2022 after allegations of prolonged bullying, harassment and sexual assault at school

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: What the Punjab and Haryana High Court, LGBTQIA, Explained, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Sukdeb Saha

Source: The Hindu, Health, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/what-the-punjab-and-haryana-hc-said-about-protectin

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Phage therapy shows promise against antimicrobial resistance, says expert

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

• Kalyan Chakravarthy Koganti, sepsis and infectious diseases specialist at SHRI Hospital, Guntur, says that bacteriophages selectively target disease-causing bacteria without harming human beings, making them promising alternatives when antibiotics fail

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Society:** Public health outcomes and out-of-pocket spending; schemes like Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY and the TB-elimination target.
• **Governance & polity:** Health is a State subject; centre–state coordination and the One Health approach for disease surveillance.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Phage, Kalyan Chakravarthy Koganti, SHRI Hospital, Guntur

Static connect: Antimicrobial resistance

• Microbes stop responding to medicines; India has a National Action Plan on AMR and a Red Line campaign on antibiotics.

UPSC angle: Public health (GS2, GS3).

Source: The Hindu, Health, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/phage-therapy-holds-promise-in-fight

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• No need for Opposition approval to launch strikes, says Israel's Katz (The Hindu, International, 12 Nov 2026)
• UN peacekeepers failed to protect civilians before South Sudan massacre: Amnesty (The Hindu, International, 11 Nov 2026)
• CAR-T trial deaths do not deter lupus patients hoping for a cure (The Hindu, Health, 12 Nov 2026)
• ISRO successfully carries out ground static test of PSLV third stage (The Hindu, Science, 12 Nov 2026)
• Three polio workers abducted during vaccination campaign in northwestern Pakistan (The Hindu, Health, 11 Nov 2026)
• Study suggests not all obesity means ill-health (The Hindu, Health, 12 Nov 2026)
• What polluted air adds to India's rising blood sugar (The Hindu, Health, 12 Nov 2026)
• Experimental GLP-1 drug demonstrates pain relief in people with osteoarthritis during trials (The Hindu, Science, 13 Nov 2026)
• Why West Bengal's C-Sections, at nearly 1 in 2 births, demand a hard look (The Hindu, Health, 13 Nov 2026)
• Congo's Ebola outbreak tops 11,000 cases as disease keeps spreading (The Hindu, Health, 11 Nov 2026)

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

ECONOMY

Retail inflation crosses RBI's upper limit for first time in two years, comes in at 6.1% in October 2026

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy

• The Consumer Price Index saw almost all categories hit series highs as inflation spread across sectors of the economy

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: Retail, RBI, October, Consumer Price Index

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, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/retail-inflation-crosses-rbis-upper-limit-for-fi

Six researchers win Infosys Science Foundation prizes for 2026

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy, Science & Technology, Awards, Days & Persons

• A total of 222 applications were received across six categories with the highest for 'Engineering and Computer Science' category, ISF said

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Six, Infosys Science Foundation, Engineering and Computer Science, ISF

Source: The Hindu, Science, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/infosys-prize-2026-isf-full-list-of-winners-beng

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

India's Renewable Energy Journey: Powering a Cleaner Future

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology, Economy

• India's renewable energy landscape is expanding rapidly to meet rising demand, strengthen energy security, and support a cleaner future.
• The transformation spans solar, wind, hydro, bio-energy, geothermal and green hydrogen.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Renewable Energy Journey, Powering, Cleaner Future, Policy, From

Source: PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 13 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2335742

Delhi reels under ‘severe’ level air pollution

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology

• The 24-hour average overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi was 403 (severe) at 9 a.m.
• on November 13, as per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data

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, Air Quality Index, AQI, November, Central Pollution Control Board

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, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/delhi-reel-under-severe-level-air-pollution/art

INTERNAL SECURITY

In steadfast adherence to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Jis vision of zero tolerance towards terrorism and anti-national activities, MHA extends ban on Islamic Research Foundation as an unlawful association under the UAPA

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Internal Security, Science & Technology

• In steadfast adherence to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's vision of zero tolerance towards terrorism and anti-national activities, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has extended the ban on the Islamic Research Foundation (IRF) as an unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.
• The Home Minister’s Office (HMO) posted on X, “In steadfast adherence to Modi Ji's vision of zero tolerance…

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **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.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Jis, MHA, Islamic Research Foundation, UAPA, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji

Source: PIB, Ministry of Home Affairs, 13 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2335757

The SIR exercise is also a technology failure

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Internal Security

• When code changes but the user manuals have not yet been updated, the software becomes the rulebook

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Governance & polity:** Free and fair elections are part of the basic structure; ECI's powers under Article 324, voter-roll revisions and the balance between cleaning rolls and avoiding exclusion of genuine voters.
• **Society:** Exclusion risk for migrants, the poor and women who lack documents.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: SIR, When

Source: The Hindu, Lead (Op-Ed), 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-sir-exercise-is-also-a-technology-failure/articl

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Now agentic AI can perform complex lab research, and maybe cheaper too

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology

• On November 4, 2026, in the journal Nature, researchers from Shanghai Jiao Tong University presented their findings on an Agentic laboratory platform, “AutoDNA”.
• It is an artificial intelligence system with agents performing the function of humans who usually perform complex experiments

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: November, Nature, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Agentic, AutoDNA

Source: The Hindu, Science, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/education/now-agentic-ai-can-perform-complex-lab-research-and-may

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ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• New shark species identified in Indian Ocean after decades of misclassification (The Hindu, Science, 12 Nov 2026)
• New deal: On COP31 and lofty climate goals (The Hindu, Environment, 12 Nov 2026)
• Age of AI: behind Tarluvada’s blue wall in Visakhapatnam (The Hindu, Environment, 11 Nov 2026)
• World leaders take stage at COP31 but big names missing (The Hindu, Science, 11 Nov 2026)
• India undergoing massive transformation in renewable energy: Earthshot Prize CEO (The Hindu, Science, 12 Nov 2026)

Prelims Facts: Reports, Indices, Awards

REPORTS & INDICES

India records 38% drop in TB mortality since 2015: WHO report

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Prelims · Reports & Indices

• World Health Organization’s Global Tuberculosis Report 2026 showed a total of 1.13 million people died from tuberculosis last year

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:** Health is a State subject; centre–state coordination and the One Health approach for disease surveillance.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: WHO, World Health Organization, Global Tuberculosis Report

Source: The Hindu, National, 12 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-records-38-drop-in-tb-mortality-since-2015-wh

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