UPSC Current Affairs

Saturday, 14 November 2026 · Sources: PIB and The Hindu · 48 items

Paper	Items	Top headlines
GS1	10	What are the findings of the 2024 Hindu Kush Himalayas snow ; Twenty-four hours in Ahmedabad: A quick guide to India’s fir
GS2	33	Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal to; Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission
GS3	5	India's exports up 29.9% in October; trade deficit narrows t; ‘Jeevadhara’ takes root in Kannur, seeks to conserve 100 rar

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

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Concern mounts over poor air quality in Kochi; Corpn. to set up monitoring stations

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

• Experts flag vehicular emissions, open construction sites, and post-monsoon weather changes; PCB awaits govt.
• nod for repair and maintenance of two of its three monitoring stations, which have remained dysfunctional for over six months

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.
• **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: Concern, Kochi, Corpn, PCB

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/national/kerala/concern-mounts-over-poor-air-quality-in-koch

GEOGRAPHY

What are the findings of the 2024 Hindu Kush Himalayas snow update? | Explained

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, International Relations, Economy

• What does the report by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development highlight?
• How important is snow persistence?

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.
• **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: What, Hindu Kush Himalayas, Explained, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, How

Source: The Hindu, Environment, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/hindu-kush-himalayas-snow-update-

Yemen’s Houthis say they targeted Saudi East-West pipeline, port city of Yanbu

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, International Relations, Economy

• The East-West pipeline, which ends at Yanbu, has become increasingly important to Saudi Arabia, allowing it to get its oil to market after Iran blockaded the Strait of Hormuz on the other side of the Arabian Peninsula

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** Energy security, strategic petroleum reserves, Gulf investment (sovereign funds) and the India–UAE CEPA (2022).
• **Society:** Large Indian diaspora and remittances; labour welfare issues (kafala system).
• **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: Yemen, Houthis, Saudi East-West, Yanbu, East-West

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/yemens-houthis-say-they-targeted-saudi-east-we

Critical ban: On recycling of lithium-ion batteries

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, Environment & Ecology

• India needs to create an entire ecosystem for recycling of lithium-ion batteries

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** India depends on imports (largely China) for rare earths, lithium and chips needed for EVs, electronics and defence; National Critical Mineral Mission and India Semiconductor Mission respond to this.
• **International relations:** Partnerships such as the Minerals Security Partnership, Quad and KABIL's overseas mines aim to de-risk supply chains.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Critical

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, Editorial, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/critical-ban-on-recycling-of-lithium-ion-batter

HISTORY & ART AND CULTURE

Twenty-four hours in Ahmedabad: A quick guide to India’s first UNESCO World Heritage City

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · History & Art and Culture, International Relations, Science & Technology

• A delayed flight and a failed alarm cost me a heritage walk.
• Undeterred, I set out to explore Ahmedabad’s contemporary art spaces, historic architecture and Sabarmati Ashram.

Prelims pointers

• How much can I cover in 24 hours?
• Key terms: Twenty-four, Ahmedabad, UNESCO World Heritage City, Undeterred, Sabarmati Ashram

Static connect: UNESCO lists

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

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

Source: The Hindu, National, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/travel/twenty-four-hours-in-ahmedabad-a-quick-guid

Speaker’s last-minute withdrawal triggers protest at unveiling of Kanayi’s sculpture in Kasaragod

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

• The unexpected development triggered protests and sharp criticism from elected representatives, cultural activists, and members of the art fraternity, who viewed the speaker’s absence as an insult to the veteran sculptor

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Speaker, Kanayi, Kasaragod

Source: The Hindu, National, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/speakers-last-minute-withdrawal-triggers-pro

National Tribal Literary Festival Concludes with Emphasis on Preserving Oral Traditions and Promoting Contemporary Tribal Literature

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · History & Art and Culture, Indian Society

• The Ministry of Tribal Affairs organized a two-day National Tribal Literary Festival at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
• Held as part of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrations, the event focused on preserving indigenous oral narratives and promoting contemporary tribal literature.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Preserving indigenous oral history and tribal dialects is crucial for conserving India's vulnerable intangible cultural heritage and advancing social inclusion.
• **Society:** Mainstreams marginalized tribal narratives and bridges the gap between endangered oral lore and modern vernacular literature.
• **Governance & polity:** Aligns with constitutional mandates under Articles 29 and 350A regarding the protection of distinct language, script, and culture of minorities.

Prelims pointers

• The National Tribal Literary Festival is organized by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
• Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas is celebrated to honor the contributions of tribal freedom fighters (commemorating the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda on November 15).

Static connect: Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas

• Designated by the Government of India in 2021 to be observed annually on November 15.
• Commemorates the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, an iconic tribal freedom fighter and folk hero who led the Ulgulan movement.
• Celebrated to honor the legacy and contributions of scheduled tribes to India's freedom struggle and cultural heritage.
UPSC angle: Relevant to tribal uprisings against British colonial rule and contemporary state initiatives for tribal cultural preservation.

Mains angle

Examines government efforts to safeguard intangible cultural heritage, oral traditions, and linguistic diversity of India's indigenous communities (GS Paper 1: Indian Culture).

Source: PIB, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 14 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336125

INDIAN SOCIETY

Kurumba: a language and community fighting for visibility

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

• The Kurumbas of Keralam are an Adivasi community with a population of only 2,719 as of 2024, who speak Kurumba, an oral language without a script; with the Census classifying languages with fewer than 10,000 speakers as ‘others’, the future of the language appears bleak

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: Kurumba, Kurumbas of Keralam, Adivasi, Census

Source: The Hindu, National, 14 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kurumba-a-language-and-community-fighting-fo

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ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Former Nvidia CEO Huang had a relationship with a second employee, sources say (The Hindu, International, 13 Nov 2026)
• Jewellery and souvenir made from plastic discarded in the Himalayas (The Hindu, Environment, 13 Nov 2026)

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

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar places Karnataka’s demands on stage with Prime Minister

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Disaster Management, International Relations, Reports & Indices

• Demands included a fairer financial partnership over Bengaluru’s Namma Metro, clearance for Mekedatu project, scrapping Kasturirangan Report and immediate drought relief

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: Chief Minister, Shivakumar, Karnataka, Prime Minister, Demands

Source: The Hindu, National, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/dk-shivakumar-seeks-fairer-centre-state-c

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Urgent climate finance pleas at COP31 face a non-urgent response

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

• Climate action has slipped down the political agenda for Western governments as U.S.
• President Donald Trump has withdrawn international funding, while wars in Ukraine and West Asia have added to inflationary ■pressures and the need to spend on security

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.
• **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.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Urgent, COP31, Climate, Western, President Donald Trump

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/urgent-climate-finance-pleas-at-c

Aaditya Thackeray calls for Climate Change Councils at Centre, State levels to tackle pollution

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

• At the State level, he proposed similar councils chaired by the respective Chief Ministers, with participation from relevant departments to monitor the implementation of climate action plans

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.
• **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: Aaditya Thackeray, Climate Change Councils, At the State, Chief Ministers

Source: The Hindu, Environment, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/aaditya-thackeray-calls-for-clima

Daily Quiz: On Climate Change summit

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology, International Relations

• As the COP 31 kicked off in Turkiye on Monday (November 9, 2026), a quiz on the annual gatherings which have delivered some landmark treaties to address the climate crisis

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: Daily Quiz, Climate Change, As the COP, Turkiye, Monday

Source: The Hindu, Environment, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/daily-quiz-on-climate-change-summ

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• Many of India’s 10.4 crore Scheduled Tribes derive 20–40% of their annual income from Minor Forest Produce (MFP).
• Historically, tribals sold this produce to middlemen at distress prices, earning below the cost of their own labour.

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.
• **Governance & polity:** Targeting welfare and reservation policy needs reliable data; also linked to delimitation.

Prelims pointers

• To address this, the government runs the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM).
• The mission organises tribals into community-owned Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs), moving them from…

Source: PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 14 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336101

Eisenkot urges respect for Israel's Arab minority after Netanyahu attacks

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

• Two Arab-majority parties, Raam and the Joint List, secured a combined 19 seats in last month's election, winning nearly a sixth of the 120-seat parliament and potentially emerging as kingmakers in efforts by Eisenkot to form a government

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: Eisenkot, Israel, Arab, Netanyahu, Two Arab-majority

Source: The Hindu, International, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/eisenkot-urges-respect-for-israels-arab-minori

TAS conference urges BRICS countries to join hands to tackle mental health stigma

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

• Panelists at the conference identified youth participation, school-based interventions, community mental healthcare and evidence-based policy reforms as key priorities

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: TAS, BRICS, Panelists

Static connect: BRICS

• Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa; expanded from 2024 with Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE, and Indonesia in 2025.
• Set up the New Development Bank (Shanghai) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement.
UPSC angle: Multipolarity and Global South diplomacy (GS2).

Source: The Hindu, National, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tas-conference-urges-brics-countries-to-join-hands-

R. Sridhar, founder of Maithri Trust, passes away at 80

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• He started Maithri as a trust in 1983, with the aim of supporting persons with disabilities in their educational pursuits

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Sridhar, Maithri Trust, Maithri

Source: The Hindu, National, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/r-sridhar-founder-of-maithri-trust-passes-awa

PWD gets ■2.68 crore to fortify three rehabilitation sites for Vallarpadam project evictees

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

• The amount has been credited to the official bank account of the PWD Executive Engineer from the funds deposited by the Cochin Port Authority (CoPA) in the district collector’s account for the rehabilitation of the evicted families

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: PWD, Vallarpadam, PWD Executive Engineer, Cochin Port Authority, CoPA

Source: The Hindu, National, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/pwd-gets-268-crore-to-fortify-three-rehabili

Kerala HC directs Excise Commissioner to disclose steps taken to implement prohibitory measures to curb underage alcohol consumption

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

• It was high time that the legislature considered appropriate amendments to the law to reduce the age of minority for juveniles and children in conflict with the law (CCL) to 16 years, the court opined

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Kerala HC, Excise Commissioner, CCL

Source: The Hindu, National, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kerala-hc-directs-excise-commissioner-to-dis

Experts call for coordinated action across sectors to tackle antimicrobial resistance

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

• Ahead of World AMR Awareness Week, global health experts stress the need for stronger surveillance, prevention, sustainable financing and a One Health approach to address antimicrobial resistance

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: Ahead of World AMR Awareness Week, One Health

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, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/experts-call-for-coordinated-action-across-se

Telangana Women's Commission issues notices to eight ART centres in illegal oocyte racket case

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice

• Telangana Women's Commission issues notices to eight ART centres in illegal oocyte racket case

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: Telangana Women, Commission, ART

Source: The Hindu, Health, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/telangana-womens-commission-issues-notices-

U.S. loses measles-free status after continued spread of the disease: report

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

• The reported decision by the Americas branch of the ■World Health Organization comes as the U.S.
• battles ■the ■highest number of measles cases it has seen ■in more than three decades

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:** Food inflation hits poor households the most; links to supply-side measures like buffer stocks and export curbs.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Americas, World Health Organization

Source: The Hindu, International, 14 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/us-loses-measles-free-status-after-continued-s

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal to Visit Egypt from 15–16 November 2026

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

• Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal will undertake an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 15 to 16 November 2026.
• The visit aims to further strengthen the longstanding India–Egypt partnership, with particular emphasis on expanding bilateral trade, promoting investment, enhancing industrial cooperation and strengthening business-to-business engagement.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, Visit Egypt, November, Arab Republic of Egypt, Egypt

Source: PIB, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, 14 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336126

UN nuclear watchdog urges Iran to take 'steps' towards inspections

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Science & Technology

• The International Atomic Energy Agency has not had access to key nuclear facilities in Iran since Israel and the U.S.
• launched a 12-day conflict in June 2025 that included strikes on nuclear sites

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: Iran, International Atomic Energy Agency, Israel, June

Source: The Hindu, International, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/un-nuclear-watchdog-urges-iran-to-take-steps-t

Democratic U.S. senators order Musk to preserve records on Ukraine Starlink access

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Science & Technology

• Ukrainian forces say Starshield, the military-grade version of Starlink, is vital for frontline communications and ■drone operations in their defense against Russian drone and missile attacks

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: Democratic, Musk, Ukraine Starlink, Ukrainian, Starshield

Source: The Hindu, International, 14 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/democratic-us-senators-order-musk-to-preserve-

Ukraine fires nearly 1,200 drones at Russia as U.S.-led talks consider wider European security

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Science & Technology

• Kyiv's forces are using drones and ground robots to help defend against Russia's army along the about 1,200-km front line snaking down eastern and southeastern 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, Russia, European, Kyiv

Source: The Hindu, International, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/ukraine-fires-nearly-1200-drones-at-russia-as-

India supports UNGA resolution on permanent sovereignty of Palestinian people

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Economy

• It demanded that Israel “cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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• **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.
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Prelims pointers

• Key terms: UNGA, Palestinian, Israel, Occupied Palestinian Territory, East Jerusalem

Source: The Hindu, National, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-supports-unga-resolution-on-permanent-soverei

Europe warned against falling for Russia's 'traps' on Ukraine talks

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• The hawkish former Prime Minister of Estonia Kaja Kallas said it was not up to Russia to decide who would represent Europe

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: Europe, Russia, Ukraine, Prime Minister of Estonia Kaja Kallas

Source: The Hindu, International, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/europe-warned-against-falling-for-russias-trap

Pakistan calls for 'immediate' end to Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia at UN

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Agriculture

• UN Security Council renewed targeted sanctions under its Yemen sanctions regime for another year

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Cross-border terrorism and infiltration across the LoC remain India's core security concern; links to J&K, drones dropping arms/drugs in Punjab, and terror financing (FATF).
• **International relations:** India's stated policy: no talks with terror; Indus Waters Treaty (1960) held in abeyance since April 2025; China–Pakistan nexus including CPEC through PoK.
• **Economy:** Energy security, strategic petroleum reserves, Gulf investment (sovereign funds) and the India–UAE CEPA (2022).
• **Society:** Large Indian diaspora and remittances; labour welfare issues (kafala system).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Pakistan, Houthi, Saudi Arabia, UN Security Council, Yemen

Static connect: Bab-el-Mandeb & the Red Sea route

• Bab-el-Mandeb strait joins the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, between Yemen and Djibouti/Eritrea.
• Together with the Suez Canal (Egypt) it forms the shortest Asia–Europe sea route.
• Houthi rebels (Yemen) have attacked shipping here, forcing diversions around the Cape of Good Hope.

UPSC angle: Maritime security, Indian Navy deployments, trade costs (GS2, GS3).

Source: The Hindu, International, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/pakistan-calls-for-immediate-end-to-houthi-att

Why climate finance remains a recurring flashpoint at UN summits

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Environment & Ecology

• As climate negotiators meet in Türkiye, the familiar battle over climate finance exposes a deeper divide.
• While wealthy nations count the money they mobilise, developing countries question how much actually reaches them

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: Why

Source: The Hindu, Environment, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/why-the-same-climate-finance-disp

Europe pushes for seat at Ukraine peace talks but lacks unified voice

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Mains · International Relations

• European nations are seeking a direct role in negotiations concerning the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
• Ukraine is seeking European participation to avoid negotiations being conducted exclusively through bilateral channels between the U.S. and Russia.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Shifts in European participation in conflict resolution affect international alignments, global energy markets, and India's balanced diplomatic posturing between the West and Russia.
• **International relations:** India advocates for diplomatic resolution and dialogue; any shift in negotiating dynamics impacts global stability and strategic alignments.
• **Economy:** Prolonged European instability influences global supply chains, energy prices, and fertilizer imports vital for Indian economic stability.

Static connect: European Security Architecture

• The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) was established via the 1975 Helsinki Final Act to ensure regional security.
• Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty establishes the principle of collective defense among NATO members.
UPSC angle: Frequently referenced in questions on continental security dynamics, multilateralism, and peace negotiations.

Mains angle

Analyzes the geopolitical implications of European strategic autonomy and shifting power balances in European security architecture (GS Paper 2: International Relations).

Source: The Hindu, International, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/europe-pushes-for-seat-at-ukraine-peace-talks-

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

Rajya Sabha panel visits ISRO, HAL facilities in Bengaluru

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

• Rajya Sabha panel visits ISRO, HAL facilities in Bengaluru

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Rajya Sabha, ISRO, HAL, Bengaluru

Source: The Hindu, National, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/rajya-sabha-panel-visits-isro-hal-facilit

Trump administration will fund new research on controversial psychedelic drug ibogaine

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

• Federal officials say there’s new funding to study the medical potential of a powerful psychedelic

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: Trump, Federal

Source: The Hindu, Health, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/trump-administration-will-fund-new-research-on-co

REPORTS & INDICES

As external funding to combat TB falls, domestic spending accounts for 86%: WHO report

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

• TB cases remain one of the leading causes of death from a single infectious agent, with a quarter of all cases concentrated in India in 2025

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.

Source: The Hindu, Health, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/as-external-funding-to-combat-tb-falls-domestic-s

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Second car bomb to hit Russia in two days targets exiled Ukrainian political aide, media report (The Hindu, International, 13 Nov 2026)
• Coordination between Industrial Development and Environmental Protection is the Foundation for Building a Developed India: Union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh (PIB, Ministry of Textiles, 14 Nov 2026)
• The challenge of holding the Quad together (The Hindu, National, 13 Nov 2026)
• Andhra Pradesh secures ■9.88 lakh crore investment commitments at CII Partnership Summit in Vizag (The Hindu, National, 13 Nov 2026)
• Cellular atlas created for the basal ganglia, a key brain region (The Hindu, Health, 13 Nov 2026)
• IIT-Kanpur researchers identify how pancreatic immune cells switch off insulin release (The Hindu, Health, 13 Nov 2026)
• Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan back in jail after medical treatment, sources say (The Hindu, Health, 12 Nov 2026)
• U.S. Commerce Secretary Lutnick to testify before Congress on Nvidia: US media (The Hindu, International, 13 Nov 2026)

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

ECONOMY

India's exports up 29.9% in October; trade deficit narrows to $20.09 billion

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy

• The growth in India’s merchandise exports in October, the fastest in five years and faster than import growth, indicates that volumes of exports are growing along with prices

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** Affects India's export competitiveness, MSMEs and jobs in labour-intensive sectors; India's recent FTAs include UAE, Australia, EFTA (TEPA) and the UK.
• **International relations:** Trade is now a tool of geopolitics; India defends policy space at the WTO on food security (public stockholding) and agriculture.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: October

Source: The Hindu, Economy, 13 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/india-exports-october-26-trade-deficit-numbers/a

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

‘Jeevadhara’ takes root in Kannur, seeks to conserve 100 rare Western Ghats tree species

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology

• Three-year conservation initiative targets restoration of 250 acres across five landscapes; Neeralam campaign links biodiversity protection with water security

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: Jeevadhara, Kannur, Western Ghats, Three-year, Neeralam

Source: The Hindu, National, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/jeevadhara-takes-root-in-kannur-seeks-to-con

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Consent Manager Registration Framework Comes into Effect; MeitY Secretary Launches Online Registration Portal

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology

• The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the online registration portal (dpbi.gov.in) for Consent Managers under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023.
• Consent Managers will act as registered interoperable intermediaries through which data principals can give, manage, review, and withdraw consent for data processing.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Operationalizing Consent Managers marks the transition of the DPDP Act from legislation to regulatory practice, structurally changing how Indian citizens and corporations interact with digital data.
• **Governance & polity:** Operationalizes the fundamental Right to Privacy (Puttaswamy judgment) by granting citizens verifiable, revocation-friendly control over their personal data.
• **Economy:** Standardizes compliance for fintech and digital platforms, paving the way for a trusted consent-based data economy akin to the Account Aggregator framework.
• **Science & tech:** Demands secure, interoperable technical architecture to manage consent tokens at scale without exposing personal data to leaks or unauthorized access.

Prelims pointers

• Consent Managers are statutory entities introduced under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023.
• The registration framework is administered under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) via the Data Protection Board portal infrastructure.

Static connect: Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023

• Defines 'Data Principal' as the individual to whom personal data relates and 'Data Fiduciary' as the entity determining the purpose and means of data processing.
• Establishes the Data Protection Board of India as an adjudicatory body for data breaches and non-compliance.
• Introduces the concept of 'Consent Managers' registered with the Board to facilitate consent management by Data Principals.
UPSC angle: Directly mapped to GS-2 (Government policies, right to privacy) and GS-3 (Data governance and cybersecurity).

Mains angle

Critical development in India's digital governance and data sovereignty framework, establishing institutional mechanisms to empower citizens over personal data under the DPDP Act (GS Paper 2: Governance & GS Paper 3: Science & Technology).

Practice question

What is the role of 'Consent Managers' under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023? Discuss how this institutional mechanism balances digital economic innovation with individual privacy rights.

Source: PIB, Ministry of Electronics & IT, 14 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336151

SpaceX launches 15th Starship flight with hopes of achieving first round trip

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology, Economy

• Starship expected to descend from space after completing 14 orbits around Earth, setting up its debut catch landing for ■Saturday afternoon; the Super Heavy booster was diverted from its return flight path to a fixed point over the Gulf of Mexico before exploding a short distance ■over the sea surface

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: SpaceX, Starship, Earth, Saturday, Super Heavy

Source: The Hindu, Science, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/spacex-launches-15th-starship-flight-with-hopes-

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• U.S. flights resume after hours-long outage as FAA lifts nationwide ground stop (The Hindu, International, 14 Nov 2026)