UPSC Current Affairs

Sunday, 15 November 2026 · Sources: PIB and The Hindu · 50 items

Paper	Items	Top headlines
GS1	10	Sacred Relics of Shakyamuni Buddha Arrive at Golden Pagoda, ; Quad Summit likely to be held in Manila on November 17, sour
GS2	32	President of India, Vice President, Prime Minister And Lok S; COAS GENERAL DHIRAJ SETH DEPARTS ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CZE
GS3	8	‘Abki baar, AQI 400-paar’: Congress takes a swipe at Modi ov; Opening Up India’s Space Economy

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

Quad Summit likely to be held in Manila on November 17, sources say

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, International Relations

• The Summit between leaders of India, U.S., Australia, and Japan is being held in a non-Quad country for the first time, expected to address critical minerals and energy supply chains and safety of seafarers

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: Quad Summit, Manila, November, Summit, Australia

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, 14 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/quad-summit-likely-to-be-held-in-manila-on-nov

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

COP31: Experts flag extreme heat risks to pregnant women, call for targeted adaptation

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

• Studies show that exposure to extreme heat can affect pregnant women's health, pregnancy outcomes and the health of newborns

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:** 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: COP31, Studies

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, Health, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/cop31-experts-flag-extreme-heat-risks-to-pregnant

HISTORY & ART AND CULTURE

Sacred Relics of Shakyamuni Buddha Arrive at Golden Pagoda, Namsai, Marking the Final Phase of Exposition in Arunachal Pradesh

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

• The Sacred Relics of Shakyamuni Buddha arrived at Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh, on 14 November 2026, marking the commencement of the third and final phase of their exposition in the State.
• The Sacred Relics were ceremonially received and enshrined at the Golden Pagoda (Kongmu Kham), one of the prominent centres of Buddhist faith and heritage in eastern Arunachal Pradesh.

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.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Sacred Relics of Shakyamuni Buddha Arrive, Golden Pagoda, Namsai, Marking the Final Phase of Exposition, Arunachal Pradesh

Source: PIB, Ministry of Culture, 15 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336418

Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · History & Art and Culture

• India's civilisational heritage, spanning over 5,000 years, reflects a rich legacy of art, architecture, knowledge systems, traditions and cultural practices that have evolved over centuries.
• To preserve and present this heritage, the Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum is being developed as a landmark national cultural institution at the historic North and South Block Complex in New Delhi .

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum, North and South Block Complex, New Delhi, Envisaged

Source: PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 15 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336426

Chaya Literature Festival brings together writers and artistes from across languages

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

• Chaya Literature Festival brings together writers and artistes from across languages

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Chaya Literature Festival

Source: The Hindu, National, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/chaya-literature-festival-brings-together

From a rustic tradition to world recognition, Meghalaya's Wangala festival marks a flourishing heritage

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · History & Art and Culture, Agriculture

• Wangala, a harvest festival of the Garo community, went from a small tradition with less than 10 drummers to an organised event with 100 drums in 1976; fifty years later, the farmers' event saw 1,500 dancers and 1,000 drummers celebrating the end of the period of toil in a record-breaking performance

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** Agriculture employs about 45% of workers; MSP, procurement and input prices affect farm incomes, food inflation and the subsidy bill.
• **Governance & polity:** Debates on MSP legal guarantee, crop diversification away from water-intensive paddy, and agricultural marketing reforms.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: From, Meghalaya, Wangala, Garo

Source: The Hindu, National, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/meghalaya/from-a-rustic-tradition-to-world-recognit

INDIAN SOCIETY

Drought-stricken Beed: Land of parched fields and broken promises

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Indian Society, Economy, Agriculture

• Drought has devastated Maharashtra's Beed district, pushing women farmers and labourers towards distress migration.
• Despite repeated pleas for employment, villagers say government job guarantees have failed them, even as the State announces a ■6,728-crore package

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** Agriculture employs about 45% of workers; MSP, procurement and input prices affect farm incomes, food inflation and the subsidy bill.
• **Governance & polity:** Debates on MSP legal guarantee, crop diversification away from water-intensive paddy, and agricultural marketing reforms.
• **Society:** Women's safety, workforce participation and representation (Women's Reservation Act 2023, one-third seats after delimitation).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Drought-stricken Beed, Land, Drought, Maharashtra, Beed

Source: The Hindu, National, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/maharashtra/drought-stricken-beed-land-of-parched-f

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

Keralam Speaker's absence from endosulfan victims' memorial event triggers row

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

• Thiruvanchoor blames 'communication lapse' for not attending the unveiling of the 40-foot-tall sculpture created by sculptor Kanayi Kunhiraman; Kasaragod district panchayat maintains that he was informed through proper channels

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Keralam Speaker, Thiruvanchoor, Kanayi Kunhiraman, Kasaragod

Source: The Hindu, National, 14 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/keralam-speakers-absence-from-endosulfan-vic

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Adi Vaani (PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 15 Nov 2026)
• The Lakhpati Didi Initiative (PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 15 Nov 2026)

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

ECONOMY

Andhra Pradesh attracted ■9.89 lakh crore in investments after CII summit, says MP

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

• P4 model seeks to channel corporate CSR funds into education, village development and employment, says Kalisetti Appalanaidu

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Andhra Pradesh, CII, CSR, Kalisetti Appalanaidu

Source: The Hindu, National, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/andhra-pradesh-attracts-989-lakh-cro

Investment promotion panel holds first meeting, targets $72 billion in exports

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

• Discussions also focused on the proposed new industrial policy, single-window clearances, and MoUs inked since the TVK-led government came to power

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: Investment, Discussions, MoUs, TVK-led

Source: The Hindu, National, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/investment-promotion-panel-holds-first-m

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Delhi air pollution: Outdoor workers report breathing difficulties, cough and burning eyes as AQI worsens

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

• An analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) found that Delhi’s average PM2.5 concentration in the week preceding Deepavali reached 236 micrograms per cubic metre, the highest in three years

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:** 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, Outdoor, AQI, Centre for Science and Environment, CSE

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, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/delhi-air-pollution-outdoor-workers-report-brea

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

NIELIT to organize 3rd National Conference on Cyber Security, Digital Forensics & Intelligence (NCCDFI 2026) to be held in New Delhi on November 16–17, 2026

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

• The National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, is organising the 3rd National Conference on Cyber Security, Digital Forensics & Intelligence (NCCDFI 2026) on November 16-17, 2026, at the Dr.
• Ambedkar International Centre, 15 Janpath, New Delhi, centered around the theme “Cyber Secure Bharat: Fortifying…

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Source: PIB, Ministry of Electronics & IT, 15 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336431

SCoR, Central Bank of India ink pact to extend welfare facilities for railway staff

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

• SCoR, Central Bank of India ink pact to extend welfare facilities for railway staff

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: SCoR, Central Bank of India

Source: The Hindu, National, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/scor-central-bank-of-india-ink-pact-

Why LED lights feel blinding, and what they mean for eye health

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

• Constant exposure can cause mild to extreme visual discomfort, glare, eye strain, headaches and sleep disturbances for some people, doctors say, emphasising the importance of reducing exposure where possible, and taking breaks during prolonged screen time

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Why LED, Constant

Source: The Hindu, Health, 13 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/why-led-lights-feel-blinding-and-what-they-mean-f

91% of studies in India in last 5 decades linked air pollution to health effects: Analysis

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

• Studies examined a range of air pollutants, with 45 investigating both particulate matter and gaseous pollutants.
• PM2.5 was examined in 32 studies, PM10 alone in four, and both PM10 and PM2.5 in 16

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: Analysis, Studies, PM2, PM10, PM10 and PM2

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, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/91-of-studies-in-india-in-last-5-decades-linked-a

Cyber fraud reporting rises amid faster police interventions

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

• Police officers involved in cybercrime investigations say the growing number of complaints is an indication of the public response to awareness campaigns and the grievance redressal measures; use of advanced cyber technologies and track fraudsters has further strengthened the investigation process, encouraging victims to report incidents at the earliest, they point out

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Cyber attacks on critical infrastructure and fraud like 'digital arrest' scams; CERT-In, NCIIPC and I4C are the response agencies.
• **Governance & polity:** IT Act 2000, Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, and the need for cyber hygiene and capacity in state police.
• **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: Cyber, Police

Source: The Hindu, National, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kozhikode/cyber-fraud-reporting-rises-amid-faster-pol

Coalition to move away from fossil fuels presses ahead without Colombia, its original champion

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

• The coalition, launched in the Colombian coastal city of Santa Marta in April, is expected to release a progress report this week outlining steps taken by participating countries, including additional national plans to reduce dependence on coal, oil and gas

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: Coalition, Colombia, Colombian, Santa Marta, April

Source: The Hindu, International, 15 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/coalition-to-move-away-from-fossil-fuels-press

Myanmar airstrike on displaced persons camp kills 12, say witnesses

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

• An airstrike by Myanmar's military on a camp for internally displaced persons killed 12 people.
• Myanmar remains gripped by civil war following the military coup five years ago, facing resistance from democratic and ethnic armed groups.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Escalating civil conflict in Myanmar directly drives refugee flows, cross-border ethnic friction, and security vulnerabilities into India's border states.
• **Internal security:** Civilian displacement and clashes near the border heighten infiltration risks and supply routes for northeastern insurgent outfits.
• **International relations:** Complicates India's diplomatic balancing between engagement with the ruling junta and regional humanitarian responsibilities.

Prelims pointers

• Myanmar shares land borders with four Indian states: Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram.

Static connect: India–Myanmar Border Dynamics

• India shares an approximately 1,643 km long international border with Myanmar.
• The Free Movement Regime (FMR), which permitted border residents to travel 16 km into each other's territory without visas, was decided to be scrapped by India due to security concerns.
UPSC angle: Frequently tested under border management, insurgency, and Act East Policy.

Mains angle

Assesses the security and humanitarian spillovers of Myanmar's instability on India's North-Eastern border (GS Paper II and III).

Source: The Hindu, International, 14 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/myanmar-airstrike-on-displaced-persons-camp-ki

Indian Railways to connect Nepal’s Janakpur Dham with Ayodhya through weekly train service

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

• Indian Railways is introducing a weekly train service connecting Nepal’s Janakpur Dham with Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.
• The designated route will pass through multiple regional stations including Jaynagar, Sitamarhi, Raxaul, and Gorakhpur.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Strengthening transit links reinforces India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy while deepening people-to-people and economic ties with landlocked Nepal.
• **International relations:** Bolsters the Ramayana Circuit connectivity and acts as soft-power leverage amid growing external influence in Nepal.
• **Economy:** Promotes regional tourism, local trade, and services sector growth across Bihar and Uttar Pradesh border corridors.

Prelims pointers

• Janakpur Dham is a major cultural and religious site located in the Mithila region of Nepal.
• Jaynagar (Bihar) serves as a key cross-border railway junction connecting India to Nepal's railway network.

Static connect: India-Nepal Connectivity

• Cross-border broad-gauge passenger rail services between India (Jaynagar) and Nepal (Kurtha/Bijalpura) were revived under Indian grant assistance.
• India and Nepal share an open border under the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship.
UPSC angle: Pertains to neighborhood connectivity, cultural diplomacy, and bilateral infrastructure projects.

Mains angle

Analyzes the role of cross-border infrastructure and religious-cultural diplomacy in India-Nepal bilateral relations (GS Paper II).

Source: The Hindu, International, 14 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indian-railways-to-connect-nepals-janakpur-dham-wit

Fear of diagnosis keeping people away from diabetes screening, finds IDF survey

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

• An International Diabetes Federation (IDF) survey showed that fear of diagnosis deters individuals from routine diabetes screening.
• While 84% of surveyed adults in India acknowledged the value of screening, only 14% considered themselves at risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

India hosts one of the world's largest diabetic populations, making early detection and health literacy critical for preventing long-term public health strain.
• **Society:** Psychological aversion and low personal risk perception impede health-seeking behavior, compounding the non-communicable disease burden.
• **Economy:** Undiagnosed diabetes leads to chronic complications, raising out-of-pocket health expenditures and decreasing workforce productivity.

Prelims pointers

• Type 2 diabetes is a non-communicable lifestyle disease characterized by insulin resistance and relative lack of insulin.
• The International Diabetes Federation publishes the global Diabetes Atlas.

Static connect: Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in India

• The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) targets early screening for diabetes, hypertension, and common cancers.
• India signed up for WHO's global target to halt the rise in diabetes and obesity by 2025.
UPSC angle: Relevant for issues related to health infrastructure, disease burdens, and preventative healthcare.

Mains angle

Discusses non-communicable disease burden and public health behavioral barriers in India under social sector initiatives (GS Paper II).

Source: The Hindu, Health, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/fear-of-diagnosis-keeping-people-away-fro

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COAS GENERAL DHIRAJ SETH DEPARTS ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CZECH REPUBLIC

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Internal Security, Science & Technology

• General Dhiraj Seth, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), proceeded on an official visit to the Czech Republic from 16 to 19 November 2026.
• The visit aims to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, enhance military-to-military engagement and explore opportunities for collaboration in defence technology and industry.

Prelims pointers

• During the visit, the COAS will hold discussions with senior military leaders of the Czech Armed Forces…
• Key terms: COAS GENERAL DHIRAJ SETH DEPARTS ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CZECH REPUBLIC, General Dhiraj Seth, Chief, Army Staff, COAS

Source: PIB, Ministry of Defence, 15 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336427

Amidst Indus water tensions, Pakistan to send vocal critic to SCO Civilisational Dialogue; first Ministerial visit in three years

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Malik, the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, had earlier this year said that Pakistan would ‘cut off those hands’ that are trying to control the Indus waters

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.
• **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: Amidst Indus, Pakistan, SCO Civilisational Dialogue, Ministerial, Malik

Static connect: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

• Founded in 2001; India and Pakistan became full members in 2017.
• Secretariat in Beijing; Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent.
UPSC angle: India's engagement with Central Asia, China and Russia (GS2).

Source: The Hindu, National, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/pakistan-climate-minister-sco-summit-india-vis

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal arrives in Cairo, Egypt, on an official visit to strengthen bilateral economic and commercial ties

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Economy

• Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal arrived in Cairo, Egypt, on 14 November 2026, for an official visit aimed at strengthening the India–Egypt Strategic Partnership, deepening bilateral trade and investment relations, and exploring new opportunities for industrial and commercial cooperation between the two countries.
• India and Egypt share a longstanding relationship rooted in historical…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, Cairo, Egypt, November, Egypt Strategic Partnership

Source: PIB, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, 15 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336423

China border has become 'more alive,' India enhancing frontier infrastructure: Jaishankar

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Economy

• The External Affairs Minister said India's capability to "deploy" its troops on that border has seen "a very marked" improvement

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.
• **Governance & polity:** Debate on UAPA's stringent bail provisions, low conviction rate and civil liberties versus security.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: China, Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

Source: The Hindu, National, 15 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/china-border-has-become-more-alive-india-enhancing-

A.P. attracts major investments at CII summit in Visakhapatnam

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

• HSL-Cyient DLM pact to boost indigenous marine electronics; MEIL and fabrIQ commit ■43,700 crore to projects expected to generate over 1.06 lakh jobs

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: CII, Visakhapatnam, HSL-Cyient DLM, MEIL

Source: The Hindu, National, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/ap-attracts-major-investments-at-cii

U.S. proposes Ukraine cede territory in exchange for joining NATO: Zelensky

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Volodymyr Zelensky said Russia had rejected a ceasefire on energy targets at talks in Abu Dhabi, as Moscow was “betting everything” on this winter’s campaign

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, NATO, Zelensky, Volodymyr Zelensky, Russia

Source: The Hindu, International, 14 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/us-proposes-ukraine-cede-territory-in-exchange

Nations grapple with loss of 1.5°C target at UN climate summit

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Environment & Ecology

• The world has already warmed about 1.4°C above pre-industrial times and the UN declared in September that crossing 1.5°C — the most ambitious target threshold of the Paris accord — was imminent and unavoidable

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: Nations, September, Paris

Source: The Hindu, International, 15 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/nations-grapple-with-loss-of-15c-

NATO to skip a leaders' summit in Albania next year as high-level meetings are scaled back

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Science & Technology, Internal Security

• NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte played down the issue.
• “We are flexible with NATO summits,” he said

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: NATO, Albania, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte

Source: The Hindu, International, 15 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/nato-to-skip-a-leaders-summit-in-albania-next-

Sirens sound in Bahrain as Iran’s Guards claim drone attack

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Science & Technology, Internal Security

• Bahrain, ■home to ■the U.S.
• Navy’s Fifth Fleet, urged citizens and ■residents to ■remain calm and proceed to the nearest safe location, ■its Interior Ministry ■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.
• **Internal security:** Narco-terror links across the Punjab border (Golden Crescent) and in the North-East (Golden Triangle); drones are used to drop drugs and arms.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Sirens, Bahrain, Iran, Guards, Navy

Source: The Hindu, International, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/bahrain-interior-ministry-potential-threats-us

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

President of India, Vice President, Prime Minister And Lok Sabha Speaker Pay Floral Tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda in Parliament Premises

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution

• Droupadi Murmu; Vice President of India and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shri C.
• Radhakrishnan; Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi; Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal; Members of Parliament and other distinguished…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: President of India, Vice President, Prime Minister And Lok Sabha Speaker Pay Floral Tributes, Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Parliament Premises

Source: PIB, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, 15 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336442

To strengthen the Supreme Court, divide it

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

• Highlights structural problems in the Supreme Court where expanding judge strength without categorizing work exacerbates judicial pendency.
• Argues for dividing the Supreme Court into distinct constitutional and appellate divisions to address structural backlog effectively.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Judicial delay affects governance, rule of law, and economic productivity. Structural division of the top court is a recurrent theme in constitutional reform debates.
• **Governance & polity:** Separating constitutional interpretation from ordinary statutory appeals preserves the apex court's core role and decongests the docket.
• **Economy:** A predictable and swift dispute resolution mechanism lowers the cost of doing business and enhances investor confidence.

Prelims pointers

• Article 130 allows the Chief Justice of India to appoint other places or seats for the Supreme Court with the President's approval.
• The Law Commission of India (229th Report) recommended dividing the Supreme Court into a Constitution Bench and Cassation Benches.

Static connect: Structure of the Supreme Court of India

• Established under Article 124 of the Constitution of India.
• Functions both as the apex constitutional court and a final court of appeal under civil, criminal, and special leave jurisdictions (Article 136).
• Parliament possesses the legislative power to regulate the number of Supreme Court judges.
UPSC angle: Relevant for questions on judicial reforms, separation of powers, and institutional pendency under GS Paper II.

Mains angle

Examines judicial reforms, specifically restructuring the Supreme Court into constitutional and appellate divisions to improve judicial efficiency (GS Paper II).

Practice question

Bifurcating the Supreme Court into a Constitutional Division and a National Court of Appeal has long been suggested to tackle chronic pendency. Analyze the merits and constitutional challenges associated with this reform.

Source: The Hindu, Lead (Op-Ed), 14 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/to-strengthen-the-supreme-court-divide-it/article716

What are the legal compulsions and political hurdles in Sheikh Hasina’s return to Bangladesh? | Explained

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, International Relations

• Ousted Bangladeshi leader Sheikh Hasina seeks to return to domestic politics, but faces a death sentence issued by Dhaka's International Crimes Tribunal over crackdowns in July-August 2024.
• Her presence in India creates complex diplomatic pressures and legal extradition issues between New Delhi and Dhaka.

Why it matters for India and UPSC

Bangladesh is central to India's Act East strategy, internal security in the Northeast, and Bay of Bengal maritime cooperation; regime hostility complicates all three.
• **International relations:** Creates a diplomatic impasse between honouring formal extradition pacts and safeguarding long-term strategic relationships.
• **Internal security:** Political turmoil in Bangladesh poses risks of border instability, undocumented migration, and potential regrouping of anti-India elements.
• **Governance & polity:** Invokes interpretation of the Extradition Act, 1962 and treaty clauses governing political crimes and human rights guarantees.

Prelims pointers

• India and Bangladesh signed an Extradition Treaty in 2013, amended in 2016 to simplify cross-border extraditions.

Static connect: India's Extradition Framework

• Extraditions from India are governed by the Extradition Act, 1962.
• Most bilateral extradition treaties, including India's, include a 'political offence' clause exempting political asylum seekers, with exceptions for violent or terrorist acts.
UPSC angle: Directly links to GS Paper II topics on India and its neighborhood and bilateral legal mechanisms.

Mains angle

Evaluates the legal, diplomatic, and security repercussions of extradition demands and regime change in Bangladesh on bilateral ties (GS Paper II).

Practice question

The ongoing political transition in Bangladesh poses multifaceted diplomatic and strategic challenges for India. Discuss the legal hurdles and diplomatic dilemmas India faces regarding extradition demands and neighborhood stability.

Source: The Hindu, International, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/sheikh-hasinas-return-to-bangladesh-the-hurdle

India, Egypt look to strengthen trade, investment ties, Piyush Goyal says

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

• Addressing a community event organised by the Indian Community Association in Egypt in Cairo, Piyush Goyal said the bilateral trade between the countries stood at about $6.5 billion

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Egypt, Piyush Goyal, Addressing, Indian Community Association, Cairo

Source: The Hindu, National, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/piyush-goyal-in-egypt-talks-to-strengthen-india-egy

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Trump tells advisers he may hold off on Iran attacks barring new provocations, sources say (The Hindu, International, 14 Nov 2026)
• Riots in France: How anti-Government protests spiralled out of control (The Hindu, International, 14 Nov 2026)
• U.S. suggested Kyiv cede land to Russia in exchange for joining NATO, says Zelenskyy (The Hindu, International, 15 Nov 2026)
• Israeli military says it struck senior armed Hamas commander (The Hindu, International, 15 Nov 2026)
• Diabetes linked with 53% higher risk of Alzheimer's, review finds (The Hindu, Health, 15 Nov 2026)
• CM promises govt. support to India’s newest public health university coming up in Hyderabad (The Hindu, Health, 14 Nov 2026)
• Health Wrap Episode 59 discusses living with diabetes, approaches to diabetes care and more (The Hindu, Health, 15 Nov 2026)

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

ECONOMY

Three arrested in Bhopal for duping Delhi woman of ■71 lakh in ‘digital arrest’ scam

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy

• The accused impersonated an IPS officer and threatened the victim with arrest in a fake ■6.5-crore money laundering case; IFSO uncovers a network of mule bank accounts used to route the cheated money

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Cyber attacks on critical infrastructure and fraud like 'digital arrest' scams; CERT-In, NCIIPC and I4C are the response agencies.
• **Governance & polity:** IT Act 2000, Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, and the need for cyber hygiene and capacity in state police.
• **Ethics:** Probity in public life, accountability and transparency (GS4 case-study material).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Three, Bhopal, Delhi, IPS, IFSO

Source: The Hindu, National, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/three-arrested-in-bhopal-for-duping-delhi-woman

Maharashtra government urges drought-hit farmers to complete e-KYC, obtain Farmer IDs to access benefits

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy, Agriculture, Disaster Management

• According to the department, completing the necessary registration and verification procedures is essential for eligible beneficiaries to receive funds directly in their bank accounts

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Economy:** Agriculture employs about 45% of workers; MSP, procurement and input prices affect farm incomes, food inflation and the subsidy bill.
• **Governance & polity:** Debates on MSP legal guarantee, crop diversification away from water-intensive paddy, and agricultural marketing reforms.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Maharashtra, KYC, Farmer IDs

Source: The Hindu, National, 15 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/maharashtra/maharashtra-government-urges-drought-hi

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

‘Abki baar, AQI 400-paar’: Congress takes a swipe at Modi over Delhi pollution

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology

• Referring to reports of worsening air quality in Delhi, Jairam Ramesh said the city had become the most polluted in the world, with toxic air making breathing difficult

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.
• **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: Abki, AQI, Congress, Modi, Delhi

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, 14 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/abki-baar-aqi-400-paar-says-congress-takes-a-sw

India must become a developer, innovator & global leader in advanced technologies: Raksha Mantri

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology, Internal Security, Reports & Indices

• Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has called for making India not merely a user of advanced technologies, but also a developer, innovator and global leader in critical domains, emphasising the need to strengthen the country’s Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) ecosystem to enhance defence preparedness and self-reliance.
• Virtually addressing the 36th Annual Conference on Non-Destructive Evaluation & Enabling Technologies…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Raksha Mantri, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, Non-Destructive Testing, NDT, Virtually

Source: PIB, Ministry of Defence, 15 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336449

Air pollution does not recognise State boundaries, coordinated action required: Union Minister

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology

• Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav directed all agencies to move beyond planning and ensure rigorous, time-bound, and coordinated enforcement on the ground

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: Air, Union Minister, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav

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, 14 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/air-pollution-does-not-recognise-

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Opening Up India’s Space Economy

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Science & Technology, Economy

• India’s space journey began with a strong, government-led institutional base built around ISRO and the Department of Space.
• As capabilities matured, the Government adopted a more facilitative approach that kept public-sector leadership while encouraging private innovation, investment and entrepreneurship.

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

• Policy reforms opened the entire space value chain to Non-Government Entities, with IN-SPACe as the…
• Key terms: Opening Up India, Space Economy, ISRO, Department of Space, Policy

Source: PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 15 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336430

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• NITI Aayog to launch National Workshop Series drawing lessons for the nation from 25 years of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as Head of Government (PIB, NITI Aayog, 15 Nov 2026)
• SpaceX pulls off first-ever spaceship ‘catch’ (The Hindu, International, 15 Nov 2026)