UPSC Current Affairs

Monday, 16 November 2026 · Sources: PIB and The Hindu · 52 items

Paper	Items	Top headlines
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GS2	31	Forest Rights Act; Prime Minister’s Departure Statement Ahead of His Visit to t
GS3	9	Forest officials sound alert after tiger spotted in Jeelugum; Carney says Canada could turn to Chinese automakers if Trump
Prelims	2	Mumbai to host sixth Earthshot Prize Awards on November 17; ; Leading Through the Storm

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

TDB-DST Signs Agreement with NeoSeeker Metals under RDI Fund to Advance Indigenous Critical Minerals Recovery Technology

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, Economy

• As India expands its footprint in electric mobility, clean energy, electronics and advanced manufacturing, the demand for critical minerals is set to grow significantly.
• This growing demand also brings into focus an important national challenge—securing access to these strategic resources sustainably while addressing the increasing volume of electronic and end-of-life battery waste.

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: TDB-DST Signs Agreement, NeoSeeker Metals, RDI Fund, Advance Indigenous Critical Minerals Recovery Technology, As India

Source: PIB, Ministry of Science & Technology, 16 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336782

Nearly 2,200 migrants reach Canary Islands in two days, Spain says

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography, Governance & Social Justice, Indian Society

• Spain declared a migration emergency on the islands on November 11 following a rise in arrivals in recent weeks, particularly from sub-Saharan Africa

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Nearly, Canary Islands, Spain, November, Saharan Africa

Source: The Hindu, National, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nearly-2200-migrants-reach-canary-islands-in-two-da

Depression likely to become cyclone, move towards A.P.; Tamil Nadu, Odisha to get rain: IMD

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Geography

• If Cyclone Akvan, as the storm is being called, makes landfall in Andhra Pradesh, it will be the third cyclone within a month to hit the State

Why it matters for India and UPSC

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

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Depression, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, IMD, If Cyclone Akvan

Source: The Hindu, National, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/depression-to-turn-severe-cyclonic-storm-over-bay-o

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

India, Bangladesh leaderships should support temporary renewal of Ganga Water Treaty, says expert

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

• Full revision of the Ganga Water Treaty is not possible in the four weeks left before it expires, says Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, former Chairman of the National River Conservation Commission of Bangladesh, but ‘having a bad treaty is better than not having any treaty at all’

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: Bangladesh, Ganga Water Treaty, Full, Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman

Source: The Hindu, National, 15 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-bangladesh-leaderships-should-support-tempora

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

Fascists are cowards; those who fight against them are brave: Chief Minister

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, Indian Society, Reports & Indices

• Speaking at the MSM State conference in Kozhikode, V.D.
• Satheesan urges young people to join the fight against fascism and defend democracy, secularism and fundamental rights.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Fascists, Chief Minister, Speaking, MSM State, Kozhikode

Source: The Hindu, National, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/fascists-are-cowards-those-who-fight-against

REPORTS & INDICES

Ram temple donation theft: Congress seeks new SIT reporting exclusively to Supreme Court

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

• Congress said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "silence" on the issue is "deeply troubling" to the nation and asserted that those who have betrayed people's faith must be held accountable

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:** Judicial review and the separation of powers; such rulings often clarify fundamental rights or federal relations and become Mains examples.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Ram, Congress, SIT, Supreme Court, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Source: The Hindu, National, 16 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ram-temple-donation-theft-congress-seeks-new-sit-re

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Kutch Earthquake 2001 (PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 16 Nov 2026)
• Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival 2026: Nelly, Khalid, and Swae Lee headline two days of music (The Hindu, National, 15 Nov 2026)
• Beginning of the end of MAGA: Neera Tanden (The Hindu, International, 16 Nov 2026)
• Prime Minister extends greetings on the conclusion of the four-day Chhath Mahaparv (PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 16 Nov 2026)

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

GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Forest Rights Act

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Agriculture

• The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 recognises the rights of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers on forest land.
• Individual and community rights are recognised through titles which are official documents that record forest rights.

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

• Entering titles into revenue records makes it easier for the owners to get benefits under PM-KISAN and other agriculture, fisheries and livelihood schemes.
• Key terms: Forest Rights Act, FRA, Scheduled Tribes, Individual, Entering

Source: PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 16 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336824

Direct Recruitment to various posts in Government of India

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

• UPSC invites applications from eligible candidates for direct recruitment to various posts in Government of India.
• The detailed Advertisement No.

Prelims pointers

• 13/2026 , along-with instructions to the candidates has been uploaded on the Commission's website https://upsc.gov.in .
• Interested candidates can apply through the Online Application Portal https://upsconline.nic.in from 14th November, 2026 to 4th December, 2026.

Source: PIB, UPSC, 16 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336754

MoD & MoSJE ink MoU to strengthen welfare of senior citizens in Cantonment areas

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

• The Ministry of Defence, through the Directorate General of Defence Estates (DGDE), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) to strengthen the welfare of senior citizens residing in Cantonment areas.
• Inked in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar in New Delhi on November…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: MoD, MoSJE, MoU, Cantonment, Ministry of Defence

Source: PIB, Ministry of Defence, 16 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336804

'Escaping extreme poverty and Naxalism has improved tribal lives', says PM Modi

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

• PM cites World Bank report to claim that 50 crore Indians have escaped extreme poverty over last 12 to 13 years; says 125 districts were Naxal-affected in 2014, as previous regimes closed their eyes to the problem

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** The Centre set March 2026 as its deadline to end LWE; security operations plus surrender-and-rehabilitation policies; number of affected districts has fallen sharply.
• **Governance & polity:** Root causes are governance deficits: land alienation, forest rights (FRA 2006, PESA 1996), lack of roads, schools and mobile connectivity in tribal areas.
• **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).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Escaping, Naxalism, PM Modi, World Bank, Indians

Static connect: IMF & World Bank

• Both created at the Bretton Woods conference (1944).
• IMF: World Economic Outlook, SDRs; World Bank: development lending (IBRD, IDA).

UPSC angle: Which body publishes which report; Prelims staple.

Source: The Hindu, National, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tribals-suffered-most-due-to-maoist-violence-even-d

Tamil Nadu government introduces planning permission system based on third-party certification

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Governance & Social Justice, Economy

• Many registered engineers in areas such as Chennai Corporation have requested the government to include grade II and grade III registered engineers in the third-party certification-based planning permission system as they have better experience in planning permission applications

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Tamil Nadu, Many, Chennai Corporation, III

Source: The Hindu, National, 16 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tn-government-introduces-planning-permis

Rebalancing India’s Rice economy: exports, virtual water, emissions and the groundwater challenge

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

• India has proved its competitiveness in global rice markets and the next challenge is to make that competitiveness sustainable; the country’s rice policy needs a more differentiated production strategy that moves from volume to value: more crop per drop, more income per tonne, and less energy use per unit exported

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.
• **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: Rebalancing India, Rice

Source: The Hindu, National, 16 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rebalancing-indias-rice-economy-exports-virtual-wat

As diabetes spikes in Kashmir, the health lens turns to the fabled wazwan

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

• Subsistence agriculture and labour-intensive living has been replaced by urbanisation and declining physical activity, while traditional dietary patterns persist largely unchanged, the doctor-authors of Diabetes Simplified for Kashmir say

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** Infiltration, hybrid terrorists and narco-terror links; normalcy indicators such as tourism and voter turnout.
• **Governance & polity:** After the abrogation of Article 370 (2019, upheld by the Supreme Court in 2023), questions of statehood restoration and Sixth Schedule demands in Ladakh.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Kashmir, Subsistence, Diabetes Simplified for Kashmir

Source: The Hindu, Health, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jammu-and-kashmir/as-diabetes-spikes-in-kashmir-the

INTERNAL SECURITY

Estonia to close Russian border crossings after attempted arson attack

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

• Estonian authorities detained ■eight people overnight on suspicion of an attempted arson attack on ■drone maker Threod Systems that they ■said ■had been ordered by Russia’s ■GRU military intelligence service

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).
• **Society:** Drug abuse among youth; NDPS Act, 1985 and Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Estonia, Russian, Estonian, Threod Systems, Russia

Source: The Hindu, International, 16 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/estonia-to-close-russian-border-crossings-afte

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Prime Minister’s Departure Statement Ahead of His Visit to the Philippines

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Today, I am embarking on a visit to Manila to participate in the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit on 17 November 2026, at the invitation of President Ferdinand R.
• Our relationship with ASEAN countries is at the heart of India's Act East Policy and occupies a central place in our MAHASAGAR vision.

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).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Prime Minister, Departure Statement Ahead of His Visit, Philippines, Manila, ASEAN-India Summit

Source: PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 16 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336707

Yemeni government forces retreat from strait in major setback in war against Houthis

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Houthi gains in Yemen and attacks on Saudi Arabia and ■Red Sea shipping in recent months have strengthened the position of Iran in the wider West Asia conflict ■launched by the United States and Israel in February

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: Yemeni, Houthis, Houthi, Yemen, Saudi Arabia

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, 15 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/yemeni-government-forces-retreat-from-strait-i

India’s relation with ASEAN at heart of Act East Policy, says PM Modi

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting Manila on November 16-17 to participate in the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit at the invitation of Philippine President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr.

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).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: ASEAN, Act East Policy, PM Modi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Manila

Source: The Hindu, National, 16 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/prime-minister-narendra-modi-manila-asean-india-sum

India and Egypt Hold Ministerial-Level 7th Joint Trade Committee Meeting to Strengthen Bilateral Economic Ties

HIGH IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Economy

• Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and H.E.
• Mohamed Farid Saleh, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Egypt, co-chaired the 7th session of the India–Egypt Joint Trade Committee (JTC) in Egypt's New Administrative Capital today.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: India and Egypt Hold Ministerial-Level, Joint Trade Committee Meeting, Strengthen Bilateral Economic Ties, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, Mohamed Farid Saleh

Source: PIB, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, 16 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336726

Pakistan's participation in SCO Civilisational Forum | Explained

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• The Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, will organise the first SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum from November 20-22 at the Purana Qila (Old Fort) in New Delhi

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: Pakistan, SCO Civilisational Forum, Explained, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of External Affairs

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, 16 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/pakistans-participation-in-sco-civilisational-

Southeast Asian leaders denounce violence in Myanmar, extend ban on its leader

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• ASEAN leaders proposed the plan in April 2021 to try to ease the violence that erupted after the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi

Why it matters for India and UPSC

• **Internal security:** 1,643 km border with the North-East; Free Movement Regime (the Centre decided in 2024 to end it and fence the border), refugee inflows into Mizoram and Manipur, insurgent camps and drug trafficking (Golden Triangle).
• **International relations:** Act East connectivity: Kaladan Multi-modal project (Sittwe port) and the India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway depend on stability in Rakhine and Chin areas.
• **Economy:** A large share of India's trade passes through the Malacca Strait and South China Sea; disruption hits supply chains (semiconductors from Taiwan).

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Southeast Asian, Myanmar, ASEAN, April, Aung San Suu Kyi

Source: The Hindu, International, 15 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/southeast-asian-leaders-denounce-violence-in-m

Respiratory illnesses rise in Gaza with worst to come as winter floods arrive, WHO says

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

• Respiratory infections currently make up 11% of all consultations, with the WHO ■expecting cold weather, flooding, overcrowded shelters and poor ventilation to push these numbers higher

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.
• **Geography & disasters:** India is exposed to cyclones, floods and heatwaves; the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (amended 2025), NDMA and NDRF/SDRF lead the response.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Respiratory, Gaza, WHO

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, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/respiratory-illnesses-rise-in-gaza-with-worst-

NICDC Showcases Andhra Pradeshs Industrial Progress and Investment Opportunities at 31st CII Partnership Summit 2026 in Visakhapatnam

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations, Economy

• The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised the 31st edition of the CII Partnership Summit 2026 on 12–13 November 2026 in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, under the theme “Navigating the New World Order: Trade | Technology | Trust | Thought Leadership.” Organised in association with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, and…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: NICDC Showcases Andhra Pradeshs Industrial Progress and Investment Opportunities, CII Partnership Summit, Visakhapatnam, Confederation of Indian Industry, CII

Source: PIB, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, 16 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336751

A step back: On Trump’s no-war, no-deal approach against Iran

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · International Relations

• Trump must accept the realities of the war if he wants a deal

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

Source: The Hindu, Editorial, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-step-back-on-trumps-no-war-no-deal-approach-a

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

LOK SABHA SPEAKER TO PARTICIPATE IN VISHWA SHANTI MAHAYAGYA IN VADNAGAR, GUJARAT

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

• Honble Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla, will participate in the ongoing 10-day Vishwa Shanti Mahayagya at the historic Shri Hatkeshwar Mahadev Mandir in Vadnagar, Gujarat, on 18 November 2026.
• ■The grand Mahayagya, which commenced on 11 November 2026, and will conclude on 20 November 2026, is being held under the divine guidance and presence of Kanchi Kamakoti Peethadhipati Jagadguru Sri Shankara Vijayendra…

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: LOK SABHA SPEAKER TO PARTICIPATE IN VISHWA SHANTI MAHAYAGYA IN VADNAGAR, GUJARAT, Honble Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla, Vishwa Shanti Mahayagya, Shri Hatkeshwar Mahadev Mandir

Source: PIB, Lok Sabha Secretariat, 16 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336708

Drone ownership ban comes into force in Beijing over security concerns

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, Economy, Science & Technology

• The ban applies to both urbanised and rural areas in the municipality of around 16,400 square kilometres (6,300 square miles) — an area roughly half the size of Belgium

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.
• **Society:** Drug abuse among youth; NDPS Act, 1985 and Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Drone, Beijing, Belgium

Source: The Hindu, International, 15 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/drone-ownership-ban-comes-into-force-in-beijin

Zelenskyy says Russia’s energy attacks helped by Starshield restrictions

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

• The Ukrainian President said Russia struck energy and railway infrastructure in eight regions overnight, with many strikes getting through because of limits on Starshield terminals

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: Zelenskyy, Russia, Starshield, Ukrainian President

Source: The Hindu, International, 15 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/zelenskyy-says-russias-energy-attacks-helped-b

Supreme Court asks Centre, States to file status reports on setting up of special courts to hear NDPS Act cases

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

• Supreme Court took note of the submissions of Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, that not much progress has been made in pursuance of the orders passed by the apex court recently on setting up of special courts

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:** Judicial review and the separation of powers; such rulings often clarify fundamental rights or federal relations and become Mains examples.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Supreme Court, NDPS Act, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati

Source: The Hindu, National, 16 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/supreme-court-asks-centre-states-to-file-status-rep

Vice-President addresses Orientation Programme for Members of the 17th Odisha Legislative Assembly in Bhubaneswar

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Polity & Constitution, Economy

• The Vice-President of India, Shri C.
• Radhakrishnan, today addressed the Orientation Programme for the Members of the 17th Odisha Legislative Assembly in Bhubaneswar.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Vice-President, Orientation Programme for Members, Odisha Legislative Assembly, Bhubaneswar, Vice-President of India

Source: PIB, Vice President's Secretariat, 16 Nov 2026 · https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336781

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• PROVISIONAL WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX, OUTPUT PRODUCER PRICE INDEX, AND TRIAL INPUT PRODUCER PRICE INDEX FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2026, AND FINAL INDEX FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2026 (PIB, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, 16 Nov 2026)
• Jordan sentences three men to death over church attack (The Hindu, International, 15 Nov 2026)
• Fading tetanus and diphtheria immunity: experts explain why the Td shot is important (The Hindu, Health, 15 Nov 2026)
• Karnataka High Court asks security, police organisations to review mental health policies for armed personnel (The Hindu, Health, 15 Nov 2026)
• Karnataka mandates gynaecological check-ups for girls, sex education in schools (The Hindu, Health, 15 Nov 2026)
• China confirms first Xi-Trump-Putin summit on November 19 (The Hindu, International, 16 Nov 2026)
• U.S. Treasury chief Scott Bessent wants answers soon from Nvidia (The Hindu, International, 16 Nov 2026)
• Wholesale inflation surges to 12.29% in October, fuel and power prices lead rise (The Hindu, Economy, 16 Nov 2026)
• Hashimoto’s thyroiditis: why symptoms can persist even after thyroid levels normalise (The Hindu, Health, 15 Nov 2026)

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

ECONOMY

Carney says Canada could turn to Chinese automakers if Trump trade talks fail

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Economy

• Carney said any Chinese investment would have to involve substantial manufacturing in Canada rather than simply assembling imported parts

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:** Pro-Khalistan extremism abroad and its links to violence in Punjab; India seeks action against designated terrorists.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: Carney, Canada, Chinese, Trump

Source: The Hindu, International, 16 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/carney-says-canada-could-turn-to-chinese-autom

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Forest officials sound alert after tiger spotted in Jeelugumilli

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology, Agriculture

• Officials caution villagers not to go into forest to collect firewood or for agriculture works

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: Forest, Jeelugumilli

Source: The Hindu, National, 15 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/forest-officials-sound-alert-after-t

AQI ‘poor’ in parts of Kolkata, outskirts amid Chhath celebrations

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Environment & Ecology

• Barrackpore on the northern fringes of Kolkata recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 230, placing it in the 'poor' category, according to air monitoring 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: AQI, Kolkata, Chhath, Barrackpore, Air Quality Index

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, 16 Nov 2026 · https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/aqi-poor-in-parts-of-kolkata-outskirts-amid-c

REPORTS & INDICES

India votes against UNGA resolution calling for global moratorium on death penalty

MEDIUM IMPORTANCE · Both · Reports & Indices, Economy

• The resolution expressed deep concern that, despite the global trend towards limiting the application of the death penalty, there was a significant surge in reported executions 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.

Prelims pointers

• Key terms: UNGA

Source: The Hindu, International, 15 Nov 2026 ·
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/india-votes-against-unga-resolution-calling-fo

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ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Equity vs bonds (The Hindu, Economy, 15 Nov 2026)
• At least two injured as passenger, cargo planes collide at U.S. airport (The Hindu, International, 15 Nov 2026)
• Jensen Huang | AI rainmaker meets his Waterloo (The Hindu, International, 15 Nov 2026)
• Prime Minister shares a Sanskrit Subhashitam, highlighting the importance of always performing noble and positive actions (PIB, Prime Minister's Office, 16 Nov 2026)
• Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology has successfully concluded Special Campaign 6 conducted from October 2 - 31, 2026 (PIB, Ministry of Science & Technology, 16 Nov 2026)

Prelims Facts: Reports, Indices, Awards

ALSO IN THE NEWS (LOWER PRIORITY)

• Mumbai to host sixth Earthshot Prize Awards on November 17; organisers promise biggest edition yet (The Hindu, Environment, 15 Nov 2026)
• Leading Through the Storm (PIB, PIB Backgrounder, 16 Nov 2026)