CURRENT AFFAIRS — 9 NOVEMBER 2026

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Monday, 9 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Bihar + National • BPSC Prelims & Mains digest

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TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **125 units/month** free power scheme: voluntary opt-out drive from **1 Dec 2026**
- Scheme name: **Mukhyamantri Vidyut Upbhokta Sahayata Yojana** (effective **1 Aug 2025**)
- **Vikramshila Setu** (Bhagalpur–Naugachhia, Ganga): slab casting deadline **15 Dec 2026**
- **Chhath 2026**: Nahay-Khay **13 Nov**, Sandhya Arghya **15 Nov**, Usha Arghya **16 Nov**
- Power supply monitored 24x7 at **10,599 Chhath ghats** across Bihar
- Bihar got **₹10,845 cr** of **₹1,09,019 cr** advance tax devolution (2nd after UP)
- **21st International Tipitaka Chanting Ceremony**, Bodh Gaya, from **2 Dec**
- **COP31**: Antalya, Turkiye, **9–20 Nov 2026**; President **Murat Kurum**
- Cabinet: **₹14,500 cr** VGF for **92 GWh** grid-scale energy storage
- IAF **IL-76MD** lands at **Nyoma** (**13,629 ft**) – world's highest IL-76 landing

SECTION A | BIHAR SPECIAL — State Schemes, Policy, Administration & Culture

Bihar in Focus: Vikramshila Setu (Ganga) & Bodh Gaya



KEY NUMBERS

- **~4.7 km** — Bridge length (opened 2001)
- **4 May 2026** — Span collapse near pillar 133
- **15 Dec 2026** — Slab-casting deadline
- **+30 years** — Expected extra service life
- **2 Dec** — Tipitaka Chanting, Bodh Gaya

1. Free-power opt-out drive: Bihar asks well-off households to give up 125-unit subsidy

BIHAR — BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	Mains **GS-II**: Bihar economy – subsidies, state finances, energy sector. Prelims: **state welfare schemes**.
Context	On Diwali (**8 Nov**), CM **Samrat Choudhary** said the state will start a special campaign from **1 December 2026** so that domestic consumers who can afford it may **voluntarily opt out** of the free electricity benefit.
Key Facts	● Scheme: **Mukhyamantri Vidyut Upbhokta Sahayata Yojana** – up to **125 units/month free** for domestic consumers. ● Announced **17 July 2025**, Cabinet nod **18 July 2025**, effective **1 August 2025**. ● Expected beneficiaries at launch: about **1.67 crore** domestic consumers. ● Consumption above **125 units** is billed normally; opt-out is **voluntary**, not means-tested.
Way Fwd	Model it on the **'Give It Up'** LPG campaign; redirect savings to **DISCOM health** and rural feeder upgrades.
Concept	**Subsidy targeting**: universal subsidies raise the **fiscal deficit**; self-selection (voluntary exit) is a low-cost targeting tool. Bihar's power is distributed by **NBPDCL** and **SBPDCL**.

Bihar's 125-Unit Free Power Scheme



Above 125 units → normal tariff | Opt-out is self-selection

2. Vikramshila Setu restoration reaches third damaged section; slab casting by 15 December

BIHAR — BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Geography & Infra)

Syllabus Linkage	Mains **GS-II**: Bihar geography (Ganga), infrastructure, disaster management. Prelims: **bridges of Bihar**.
Context	Weakened concrete girders of the **Bhagalpur–Naugachhia** bridge over the **Ganga** are being replaced with **steel girders** in all four damaged sections; work in **two sections is complete** and the first girder of the third was placed on **7 Nov**.
Key Facts	● Span near **pillar 133** collapsed on the night of **4–5 May 2026**, splitting the bridge. ● Bridge opened in **2001**; length about **4.7 km**; links **NH-31** (north) and **NH-33** (south) banks. ● Deadline: slab casting by **15 Dec 2026**; then mandatory **load test** before full traffic. ● Repairs expected to extend service life by about **30 years**.
Way Fwd	Institutionalise **structural health monitoring** sensors on all major Ganga bridges and annual third-party audits.

Concept	**Vikramshila Mahavihara** (Antichak, Bhagalpur) was founded by Pala king **Dharmapala** (8th–9th c.). Other Ganga bridges: **Mahatma Gandhi Setu** (Patna–Hajipur, 1982), **Rajendra Setu** (Mokama, 1959).

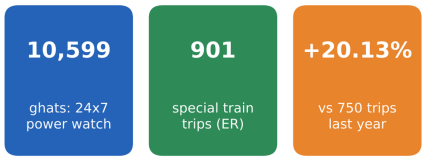
3. Chhath Mahaparv 2026: 10,599 ghats under round-the-clock power watch; 901 special train trips

BIHAR **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Bihar Culture)**

Syllabus Linkage	Mains **GS-I**: Indian culture with Bihar's role – folk festivals. Prelims: **fairs & festivals of Bihar**.
Context	After Diwali (**8 Nov**), Bihar is preparing for the four-day **Chhath** festival of **Surya** and **Chhathi Maiya**; power utilities will monitor supply **24 hours** at **10,599 ghats**.
Key Facts	● Dates: **Nahay-Khay 13 Nov**, **Kharna 14 Nov**, **Sandhya Arghya 15 Nov**, **Usha Arghya 16 Nov**. ● Eastern Railway: **901 special trips** for Diwali–Chhath, up **20.13%** from **750** last year. ● **150 extra personnel** and a dog squad deployed at **Patna Junction**. ● Celebrated on **Kartik Shukla Shashthi**; no priest or idol – direct worship of the Sun.
Way Fwd	Crowd-safety SOPs at ghats (**NDRF/SDRF** boats, barricades) and **plastic-free ghats** to protect the Ganga.
Concept	Famous Sun temples of Bihar: **Deo** (Aurangabad), **Ulaar** (Patna), **Aungari** (Nalanda). Chhath is also observed in **Chaitra** (Chaiti Chhath).

Chhath Mahaparv 2026





4. Bihar Police: Economic Offences Unit gets 143 new posts; four-zone structure in place

BIHAR **BPSC: Mains GS-II (Bihar Administration)**

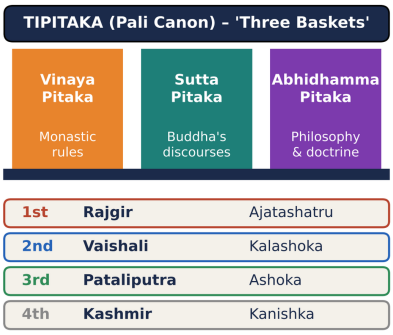
Syllabus Linkage	Mains **GS-II**: Bihar administration, law & order, police reforms. Prelims: **state institutions**.
Context	The state government approved **143 posts** for the **Economic Offences Unit (EOU)** at an estimated annual cost of **₹12.14 crore**, strengthening probes into financial fraud, cyber crime and disproportionate assets.
Key Facts	● EOU posts: **143**; annual cost **₹12.14 crore**. ● Zonal policing restored from **29 July 2026**: **4 zones** (Patna, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur), **12 ranges**. ● Each zone headed by an **IG**; ranges by **DIGs**. ● The zonal system had been **abolished in August 2019**.
Way Fwd	Fill posts with **forensic accountants** and cyber specialists; link EOU to the **I4C** national cyber-crime grid.
Concept	**Police** and **public order** are **State List** subjects (**Seventh Schedule**, entries 1–2). **Prakash Singh case (2006)**: SC directions on police reforms.

5. Bodh Gaya to host 21st International Tipitaka Chanting Ceremony from 2 December

BIHAR **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Culture & Heritage)**

Syllabus Linkage	Mains **GS-I**: ancient Indian culture – Buddhism and Bihar's role. Prelims: **Buddhist sites & councils**.
Context	The **21st edition** of the ceremony, where monks from many Asian countries recite the **Pali Tipitaka**, will begin on **2 December** at the **Mahabodhi Mahavihara**; over **25,000** visitors are expected.
Key Facts	● **Mahabodhi Temple Complex** – UNESCO **World Heritage Site** since **2002**. ● **Tipitaka** = **Vinaya**, **Sutta** and **Abhidhamma Pitaka** (in **Pali**). ● **First Buddhist Council**: **Rajgir** (Saptaparni cave), patron **Ajatashatru**, presided by **Mahakassapa**. ● **Third Council**: **Pataliputra**, under **Ashoka**, presided by **Moggaliputta Tissa**.
Way Fwd	Package Bodh Gaya–Rajgir–Nalanda–Vaishali as a **Buddhist Circuit** with better air links for **Buddhist diplomacy**.
Concept	**Second Council**: **Vaishali** (under **Kalashoka**). **Fourth**: **Kashmir** (Kanishka) – Mahayana split. Bodh Gaya lies on the **Niranjana (Phalgu)** river.

Tipitaka & the Buddhist Councils



3 of 4 councils held in present-day Bihar

SECTION B | DATA POINT OF THE DAY

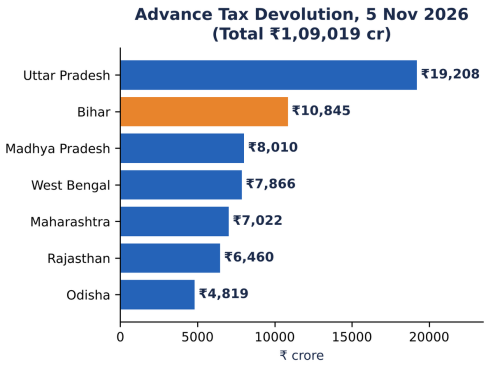
DATA POINT OF THE DAY

Bihar's share in the Centre's advance tax devolution (released 5 Nov 2026)

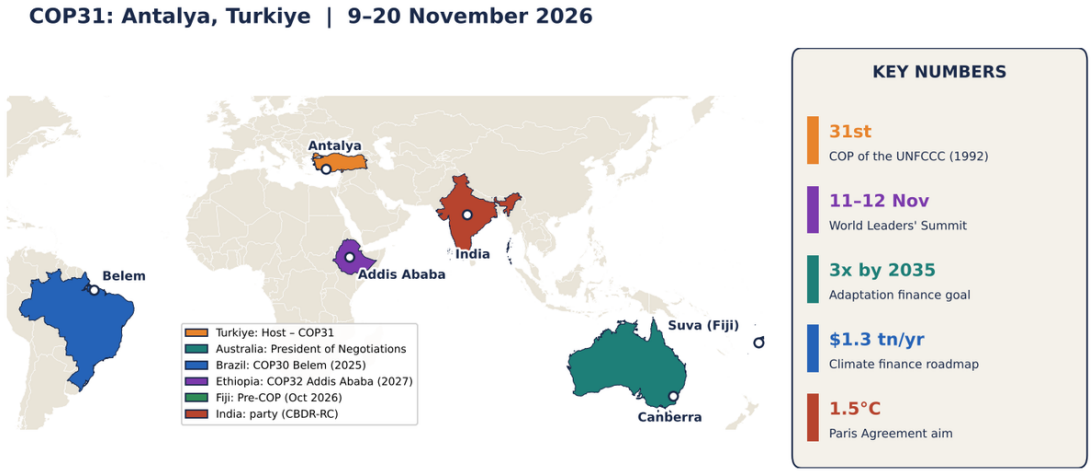
₹10,845 crore

Out of **₹1,09,019 crore** released to all states five days before the **10 Nov** due date – about **9.9%**, second only to **Uttar Pradesh (₹19,208 cr)**. Divisible-pool shares are fixed by the **Finance Commission (Art. 280)**.

Exam angle: Bihar depends on central transfers for a large part of its revenue receipts – link with **fiscal federalism**, **Art. 270** (sharing of taxes) and **Art. 275** (grants-in-aid).



SECTION C | NATIONAL & WORLD — Polity, Economy, Environment, Culture, Defence



6. COP31 opens in Antalya: Turkiye presides, Australia leads negotiations

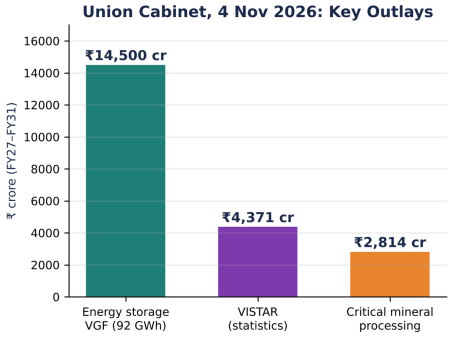
ENVIRONMENT BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Sci-Tech & Environment)

Syllabus Linkage	Mains **GS-II**: role of S&T, climate change; Prelims: **international conventions & summits**.
Context	The **31st Conference of the Parties** to the **UNFCCC** runs **9–20 Nov 2026** at the **Antalya Expo Center**, under a unique deal where **Turkiye hosts** and **Australia's Chris Bowen** is President of Negotiations.
Key Facts	● COP President: **Murat Kurum** (Turkiye's environment minister). ● **World Leaders' Summit**: **11–12 Nov**; **Pre-COP** held in **Fiji** (5–8 Oct). ● Agenda: tripling **adaptation finance** by **2035**, **$1.3 trillion/yr** roadmap, loss & damage fund. ● Previous: **COP30 Belem (Brazil)**; next: **COP32 Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)**, 2027.
Way Fwd	India should press for **CBDR-RC**, predictable **adaptation finance** and cheaper clean-tech transfer for the Global South.
Concept	**UNFCCC** adopted at **Rio Earth Summit (1992)**; **Kyoto Protocol (1997)**; **Paris Agreement (2015)** – limit warming to **well below 2°C**, aim **1.5°C**, via **NDCs**.

7. Cabinet clears ₹14,500 cr VGF for 92 GWh energy storage and ₹2,814 cr critical-mineral processing scheme

ECONOMY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Indian Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	Mains **GS-II**: Indian economy – energy, industrial policy. Prelims: **schemes & outlays**.
Context	The Union Cabinet (**4 Nov**) approved a **viability gap funding** scheme for **92 GWh** of grid-scale storage, plus capital support for processing **critical minerals**, both for **FY27–FY31**.
Key Facts	● Energy storage VGF: **₹14,500 crore**, **92 GWh**, covering **battery (BESS)** and **pumped-hydro** storage. ● Critical-mineral processing: **₹2,814 crore** capex support over **5 years**. ● Storage helps integrate **solar & wind**, which are intermittent. ● Implemented with **state governments**; Bihar can benefit as a large power importer.
Way Fwd	Bihar can bid for **pumped storage** in the **Kaimur** plateau and BESS at solar parks to cut peak-power purchase costs.
Concept	**VGF**: one-time grant to make socially needed but financially unviable projects bankable. **National Critical Mineral Mission** (2025): **₹16,300 cr** + PSU spend.



8. VISTAR: ₹4,371 cr scheme to modernise India's statistical system; 8th Economic Census planned

REPORT BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Statistics)

Syllabus Linkage	Mains **GS-I**: **statistical analysis** & data interpretation; GS-II economy. Prelims: **MoSPI surveys**.
Context	**Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research (VISTAR)**, a central sector scheme worth **₹4,371.10 crore** for **2026-27 to 2030-31**, will use **AI** and digital tools for faster, finer data.
Key Facts	● **59 surveys** planned in the 16th Finance Commission cycle (up from **43**). ● New indicators: **Index of Services Production**, **Index of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises**. ● **8th Economic Census** down to **gram panchayat/ward** level; a **National Statistical Business Register**. ● Supports **state & district** statistical systems – useful for Bihar's district GDP estimates.
Way Fwd	Bihar's **Directorate of Economics & Statistics** should align district data with VISTAR for evidence-based budgeting.
Concept	**P.C. Mahalanobis** – father of Indian statistics; **Statistics Day: 29 June**. **NSO** formed (2019) by merging **CSO** and **NSSO** under **MoSPI**.

9. Rajatarangini, Mahabharata and Arthashastra manuscripts enter UNESCO's Asia-Pacific memory register

SOCIETY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Indian Culture)

Syllabus Linkage	Mains **GS-I**: ancient Indian literature & culture. Prelims: **texts, authors, UNESCO lists**.
Context	At the **11th session** of the **MOWCAP** committee in **Jakarta**, three Indian manuscripts were inscribed, taking India's tally on the regional register to **six**.
Key Facts	● **Mahabharata** birch-bark manuscript – **BORI, Pune**. ● **Kautilya's Arthashastra** palm-leaf manuscript – **Oriental Research Institute, Mysuru**. ● **Kalhana's Rajatarangini** (12th-c. chronicle of Kashmir) – Sri Pratap Singh Library, **Srinagar**. ● Dossiers prepared by **IGNCA**; 2024 entries: **Ramcharitmanas**, **Panchatantra**, **Sahrdayaloka-Locana**.

Way Fwd	Use the **Gyan Bharatam** mission to digitise Bihar's manuscript wealth (e.g., **Khuda Bakhsh Library**, Patna) for future nominations.
Concept	**Kautilya (Chanakya)** – minister of **Chandragupta Maurya** at **Pataliputra**; Arthashastra rediscovered by **R. Shamasastry (1905)**. Saptanga theory of state.

10. IAF's IL-76MD makes world's highest IL-76 landing at Nyoma, 13,629 ft

DEFENCE **BPSC: Prelims (Defence & Security)**

Syllabus Linkage	Prelims: **defence developments, places in news**; Mains **GS-II**: role of technology in security.
Context	The **Indian Air Force** landed an **IL-76MD** heavy-lift transport at **Nyoma airbase** in eastern **Ladakh** at **13,629 ft** – the highest-altitude landing ever by this aircraft type (announced **7 Nov**).
Key Facts	● Nyoma is about **35 km** from the **LAC** with China. ● Developed by **BRO**; now fighter-capable – among the **world's highest** airbases. ● **IL-76MD**: Russian-origin four-engine strategic airlifter. ● **Daulat Beg Oldie** (~16,600 ft) remains India's highest landing ground.
Way Fwd	Faster heavy-lift to the LAC cuts troop build-up time; pair it with **all-weather roads** and the **Vibrant Villages** programme.
Concept	**LAC** sectors: Western (Ladakh), Middle (HP–Uttarakhand), Eastern (Sikkim–Arunachal). **Bihar Regiment** (raised 1941) fought at **Galwan (2020)**.

SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE (Bihar + National)

1. **Malabar 2026** (30th edition): hosted by **Japan** at Yokosuka, **5–12 Nov**; India sent **INS Sahyadri** – Quad navies.

2. Union Cabinet extended **850 Fast Track Special Courts** for rape and **POCSO** cases.

3. Patna one-day tour packages launched by **Bihar Tourism**, fares from **₹1,500**.

4. Men's **Asian Champions Trophy** hockey: India beat Japan **4–1**; **6th title**, Harmanpreet Singh top scorer (**10 goals**).

5. **Anuj Shrivatri** became India's **100th Grandmaster** (first from Madhya Pradesh).

6. Munger **Deepotsav** aimed to light **11.11 lakh diyas** on the Ganga ghats.

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER — BPSC Pattern

Q1. With reference to Bihar's Mukhyamantri Vidyut Upbhokta Sahayata Yojana, consider the following statements: 1. It provides up to 125 units of free electricity per month to domestic consumers. 2. It came into effect on 1 August 2025. 3. Only BPL households are eligible. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) – The scheme covers **all domestic consumers** (about **1.67 crore**), not only BPL households; hence statement 3 is wrong. It gives **125 units/month** free and took effect on **1 Aug 2025**.

Q2. Match the Buddhist Councils with their venues: (a) First Council – (b) Second Council – (c) Third Council. Venues: 1. Pataliputra 2. Rajgir 3. Vaishali. Select the correct code:

(a) a-2, b-3, c-1
(b) a-1, b-2, c-3
(c) a-3, b-1, c-2
(d) a-2, b-1, c-3

Answer: (a) – **First** – **Rajgir** (Ajatashatru); **Second** – **Vaishali** (Kalashoka); **Third** – **Pataliputra** (Ashoka). All three were held in present-day **Bihar**.

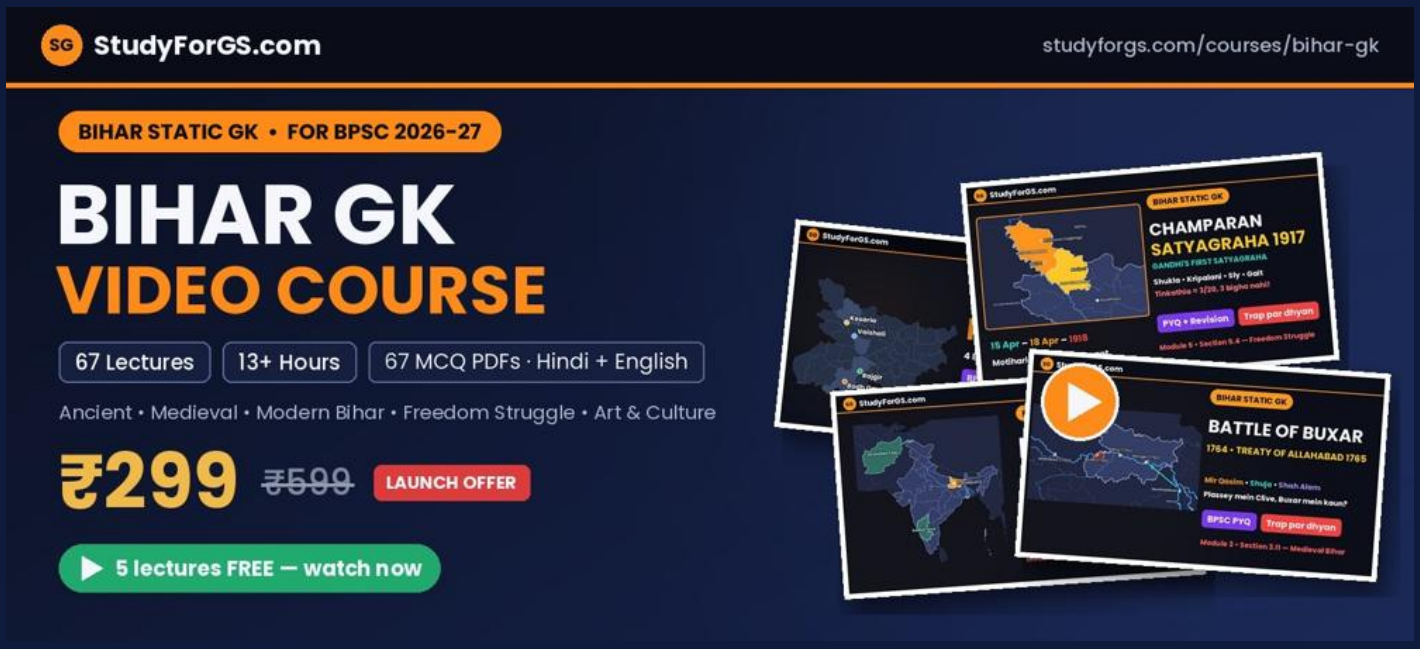
MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Universal power subsidies improve welfare but strain state finances. Examine Bihar's 125-unit free electricity scheme in this light and suggest ways to make it fiscally sustainable. (BPSC Mains GS-II, 38 marks)

Hint: Intro: scheme facts (**125 units**, **1.67 crore** consumers). Body: benefits (energy access, women & students), costs (subsidy bill, **DISCOM** losses), the **1 Dec** opt-out drive, targeting, rooftop solar (**PM Surya Ghar**), storage VGF. Conclude with **targeted, transparent subsidy** via DBT.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Bihar: **125-unit** opt-out from **1 Dec** | Vikramshila Setu slabs by **15 Dec** | Chhath **13–16 Nov** | **₹10,845 cr** devolution | National: **COP31 Antalya 9–20 Nov** | **92 GWh** storage | Nyoma **13,629 ft**

Compiled & simplified by the **StudyForGS.com Research Team** • ▶ **YouTube: @Study_ForGS** • ➤ **Telegram: t.me/studyforgeneralstudies**



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