CURRENT AFFAIRS — 4 NOV 2026

Wednesday, 4 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Prelims + Mains GS-wise digest

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UPSC CSE

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **IndiaAI** released **EKA-1** (**26.3 bn** parameters, **22** languages) and **Dhīr 2B/5B**.
- Cabinet agenda: **₹2,800 crore** lithium-nickel processing scheme with **30%** capex support.
- RBI: freelancers **deemed** to have filed **EDF**; **₹10 lakh** threshold for others.
- **Tiger Triumph 2026** (5th edition) opens at **Visakhapatnam**; **NDRF** joins first time.
- **COP31**, **Antalya** (**9–20 Nov**): India seeks **Article 9.1** climate finance.
- Draft **Drugs Rules** change: **qualified person** must sign off each **batch release**.
- US FDA tentative nod to **Dr. Reddy's** generic **lenacapavir** at **US$40/year**.
- October **GST**: **₹2.31 lakh crore**, up **22.9%**; import GST up **42.2%**.
- **Ganga Water Treaty** (1996) expires on **12 Dec 2026**; talks via **JRC**.
- US midterms: **Democrats** win control of both **House** and **Senate**.

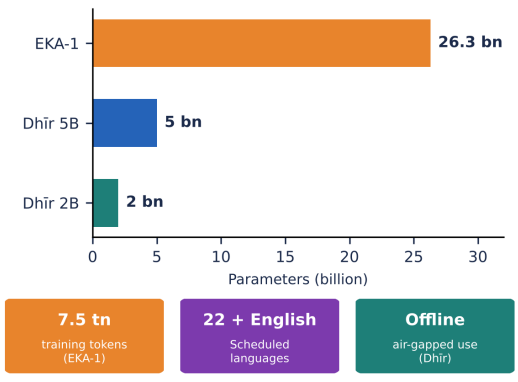
SECTION A — GS-III: SCIENCE & TECH • ECONOMY • SECURITY • ENVIRONMENT • HEALTH

IndiaAI Mission releases indigenous foundation models EKA-1 and Dhīr

[SCI-TECH] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS3: Sci-Tech — AI, indigenisation of technology | Prelims: **IndiaAI Mission**, LLM terms (parameters, tokens)
Context	On **3 Nov 2026**, the **IndiaAI Mission** released three home-grown foundation models — **EKA-1** by **Soket Labs** and **Dhīr 2B** and **Dhīr 5B** by **ZenteiQ** — a step towards **sovereign AI**.
Key Facts	■ **EKA-1**: **26.3 billion parameters**, trained on about **7.5 trillion tokens**; an open, **sparse hybrid** model for maths, code, reasoning and agentic use. ■ Supports all **22 Scheduled languages** (**8th Schedule**) plus **English**. ■ **Dhīr 2B/5B**: compact, **offline-capable** models for document-grounded automation; deployable in **air-gapped** settings (defence, government, industry, education). ■ MeitY Secretary **S. Krishnan** called it a step towards a **strong and strategic AI ecosystem**, with uses in **cybersecurity**. ■ IndiaAI Mission: approved **March 2024**, outlay **₹10,371.92 crore**, **7 pillars** incl. Compute, Innovation Centre, AIKosh datasets.
Way Fwd	Scale GPU access and Indic datasets via **AIKosh**, set safety benchmarks, and drive public-sector adoption so sovereign models become commercially viable.
Concept	**Foundation model**: a large AI model pre-trained on broad data and adaptable to many tasks. **Parameters** = learned weights; **tokens** = text units used in training. **Sparse** models (e.g., Mixture-of-Experts) activate only part of the network per query, cutting compute cost.

IndiaAI foundation models — size

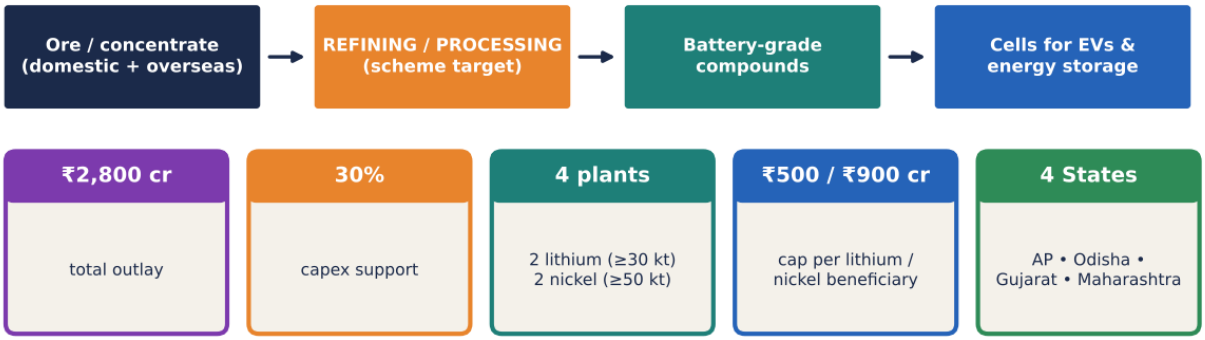


₹2,800-crore capex scheme for lithium and nickel processing on Cabinet agenda

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS3: Economy — industrial policy, mineral security, energy transition | Prelims: **NCMM**, critical minerals list
Context	The Union Cabinet was slated to consider on **4 Nov 2026** a **₹2,800 crore** scheme of **capital-expenditure support** for domestic plants that turn **lithium** and **nickel** ores into **battery-grade** compounds; India has very limited processing capacity today.
Key Facts	■ **30%** capex subsidy on eligible investment; caps of **₹500 crore** per lithium and **₹900 crore** per nickel beneficiary. ■ Up to **4 plants**: **2 lithium** (min **30 kt** each) + **2 nickel** (min **50 kt** each); **cobalt** as a nickel by-product. ■ Processing parks in **Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra** (Maharashtra–lithium, Odisha–nickel focus). ■ Builds on **National Critical Mineral Mission** (**Jan 2025**, govt outlay **₹16,300 crore**) and the **₹1,500 crore** recycling incentive scheme. ■ India is **fully import-dependent** for several inputs incl. **lithium, nickel, cobalt**.
Way Fwd	Pair capex support with assured feedstock (**KABIL** overseas assets), offtake from EV and storage makers, and strict environmental norms for refining.
Concept	**Critical minerals**: minerals vital for the economy and security whose supply is at risk; India's **2023** list has **30** minerals. **Mid-stream processing** (refining) — dominated by China — is the key bottleneck between mining and battery-cell making.

Critical-mineral value chain & the ₹2,800-crore processing capex scheme



RBI eases forex reporting for freelancers and small service exporters

[ECONOMY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

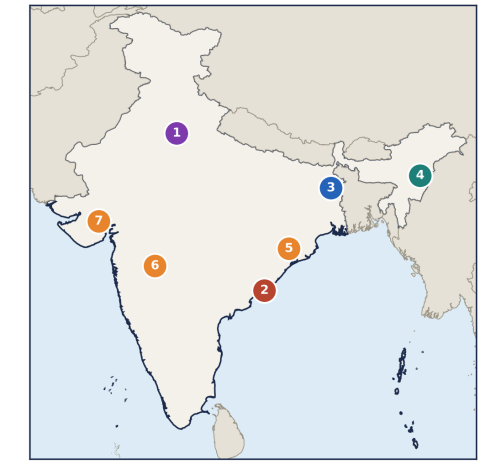
Syllabus Linkage	GS3: Economy — external sector, ease of doing business | Prelims: **FEMA**, **EDF**, **IDPMS**
Context	Via the **FEMA (Export and Import of Goods and Services) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026**, notified on **2 Nov 2026** (effective **1 Oct 2026**), RBI cut paperwork for individual and small service exporters and importers.
Key Facts	■ New definition: **'resident individual'** = a resident natural person. ■ Resident individuals exporting services are **deemed to have filed the EDF** once they give the bank payment details — relief for **freelancers and consultants**. ■ Other service exporters: deemed EDF filing for inward remittance up to **₹10 lakh**. ■ Service imports: bank reporting in **IDPMS** (within **5 working days**) only for non-individual importers above **₹10 lakh**. ■ Amends the principal regulations notified on **13 Jan 2026**.
Way Fwd	Extend single-window digital reporting to goods-exporting MSMEs and align it with GST and customs data to end duplication.
Concept	**FEMA, 1999** replaced **FERA, 1973** — a shift from 'regulation' to 'management' of forex; violations are **civil**, not criminal. **IDPMS/EDPMS** = import/export data monitoring systems; **AD** = Authorised Dealer bank.

Exercise Tiger Triumph 2026: India–US tri-service HADR drill at Visakhapatnam

[DEFENCE] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	GS3: Security; GS2: India–US ties | Prelims: **military exercises**, HADR
Context	The **5th edition** of India–US tri-service exercise **Tiger Triumph** opened on **2 Nov 2026** at the **Maritime Warfare Centre, Visakhapatnam**, held this year as a **Tabletop Exercise (TTX)** focused on **HADR**.
Key Facts	■ Series began in **2019** as the first India–US **tri-service** exercise. ■ Indian side: **Army, Navy, Air Force**, Special Forces of all three services and **NDRF** (joining for the **first time**). ■ US side: Army, Navy, **Marine Corps**, Air Force plus space, cyber, medical and **EOD** specialists. ■ Opened by **R Adm Vishal Bishnoi** (FOC, Eastern Fleet) and **R Adm Joaquin Martinez de Pinillos** (Vice Cdr, US Pacific Fleet). ■ Focus: joint planning, **Combined Joint All-Domain Operations**, cyber and space synchronisation.
Way Fwd	Institutionalise civil-military HADR coordination (with NDRF) for Bay of Bengal cyclones and deepen interoperability under **LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA**.
Concept	**HADR** = Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. Other India–US exercises: **Yudh Abhyas** (Army), **Vajra Prahar** (Special Forces), **Cope India** (Air Force), **Malabar** (Navy, with Japan and Australia).

INDIA IN NEWS — 4 Nov 2026



COP31 (Antalya): India to push predictable climate finance and equitable transition

[ENVIRONMENT] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	GS3: Environment — climate negotiations; GS2: international bodies | Prelims: **UNFCCC**, Paris Agreement articles
Context	Ahead of **COP31** (**9–20 Nov 2026**, **Antalya, Türkiye**), Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** on **3 Nov** set out India's priorities: finance, technology, adaptation and a Party-driven process.
Key Facts	■ Seeks a decision launching a **Climate Finance Work Programme**; developed nations must honour **Article 9.1** — finance **predictable, largely public, concessional**, not debt-creating. ■ Opposes new **top-down targets**; NDCs stay nationally determined; **Global Stocktake** to be **non-punitive**. ■ **Global Goal on Adaptation** indicators to be voluntary, not a condition for finance; continue the **Just Transition Work Programme**. ■ **'Technology transfer is an obligation of developed countries'** — Yadav; India to work via **G77+China, LMDC, BASIC**. ■ Split presidency: **Türkiye** (**Murat Kurum**) hosts; **Australia** (**Chris Bowen**) leads negotiations; Leaders' Summit **11–12 Nov**.

Way Fwd	Build Global South coalitions to operationalise the finance goal, and showcase domestic action (**LiFE, ISA, IBCA**) to strengthen India's negotiating credibility.
Concept	**CBDR-RC** — UNFCCC (**1992**) principle. **Article 9.1**: developed countries 'shall provide' finance. **NCQG** (COP29, Baku): **USD 300 bn/yr by 2035**. **GGA** is under **Article 7** of the Paris Agreement.

Draft Drugs Rules amendment: a qualified person must sign off every drug batch

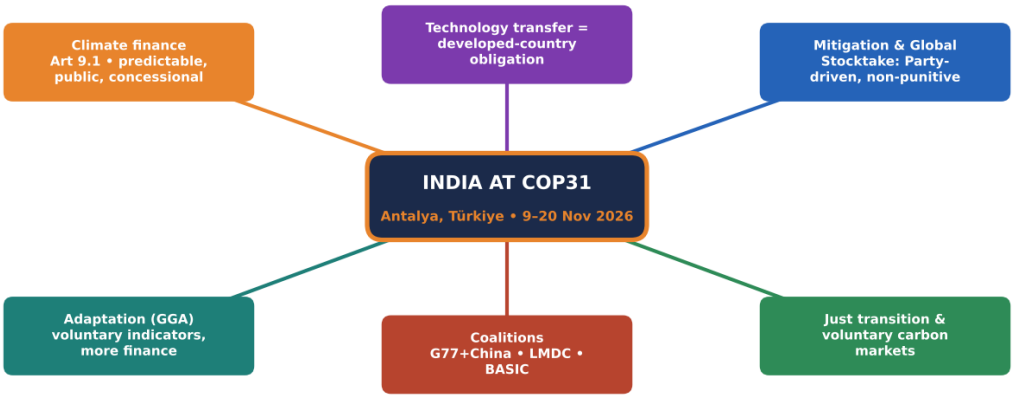
[HEALTH] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	GS2: Health — regulation of pharmaceuticals; GS3: industry quality | Prelims: **Drugs Rules, 1945**, GMP
Context	On **3 Nov 2026**, the **Union Health Ministry** proposed amendments to the **Drugs Rules, 1945**, requiring manufacturers to formally authorise a **'suitably qualified and experienced person'** for **batch release**.
Key Facts	■ **Batch release** = final check of quality parameters and documents before a batch reaches the market. ■ Prescribed **batch-release records** for every batch and a standard **Batch Release Certificate** format. ■ Licence applicants must designate the authorised person — ensuring **accountability and traceability**. ■ Current licences list technical staff for manufacture/testing but **not who authorises release**. ■ Objections and suggestions invited before final notification.
Way Fwd	Back it with digital track-and-trace, more drug inspectors and time-bound enforcement of **revised Schedule M** for MSME pharma units.
Concept	**Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** and **Drugs Rules, 1945** govern drug import, manufacture and sale; **CDSCO**, headed by the **DCGI**, is the central regulator. **Revised Schedule M** (**2023**) aligns Indian GMP with WHO-GMP.

US FDA tentatively clears Dr. Reddy's generic lenacapavir — a US$40-a-year HIV prevention shot

[HEALTH] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	GS2: Health — access to medicines; GS3: pharma, IPR | Prelims: **PrEP**, voluntary licence
Context	On **2 Nov 2026**, the **US FDA** granted **tentative approval** to Indian firm **Dr. Reddy's Laboratories** for the **first generic injectable lenacapavir**, a **twice-yearly** HIV prevention (**PrEP**) shot.
Key Facts	■ Price: **US$40 per person per year** for **120** low- and middle-income countries under **Gilead's voluntary licence**. ■ Originator approved for prevention in **June 2025**; generic cleared about **16 months** later via the **505(b)(2)** route with priority review. ■ First generic supplies expected by **end-2026**, wider access in **2027**. ■ India: a **CDSCO** expert panel (**Aug 2026**) recommended **waiving local Phase-3 trials** for generic PrEP use. ■ India has about **2.54 million** people living with HIV (**2023**).
Way Fwd	Fast-track domestic approval, add long-acting PrEP to **NACP** for high-risk groups and scale testing to confirm HIV-negative status before use.
Concept	**PrEP** = Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. **Tentative approval** is given while patents still bar US sale but permits procurement by US programmes such as **PEPFAR**. **Voluntary licence** (by patent holder) vs **compulsory licence** (**Sec 84, Patents Act 1970**; TRIPS).



SECTION B — KEY ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

GROSS GST COLLECTION, OCTOBER 2026

₹2.31 lakh crore (+22.9% YoY)

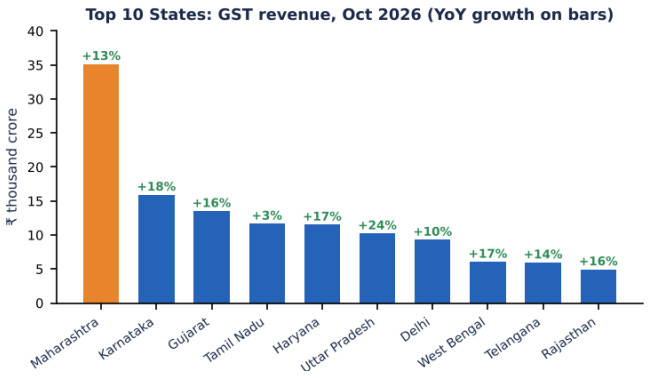
Second-highest month since July 2017; import GST grew **42.2%** against **15.8%** for domestic revenue.

Data point: Gross GST mop-up at ₹2.31 lakh crore in October 2026 (+22.9%)

[ECONOMY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	GS3: Economy — taxation, fiscal federalism | Prelims: GST structure (**CGST/SGST/IGST**)
Context	Provisional official data released on **1 Nov 2026** show **gross GST** of **₹2,31,290 crore** in **October 2026**, up **22.9%** year-on-year — the **second-highest** monthly collection since GST began in **July 2017**.
Key Facts	■ **Net GST** (after refunds of **₹27,934 crore**): **₹2,03,356 crore**, up **25.6%**. ■ Domestic revenue **₹1,59,044 crore** (+**15.8%**); import revenue **₹72,246 crore** (+**42.2%**). ■ Components: **CGST ₹42,935 crore**, **SGST ₹51,340 crore**, **IGST ₹1,37,015 crore**. ■ April–October 2026 gross: **₹14,77,569 crore** (+**13.2%**). ■ Top state **Maharashtra ₹35,150 crore**; fastest large-state growth **Assam +47%**.
Way Fwd	Sustain buoyancy through compliance tools (e-invoicing, analytics) while watching that import-led growth does not mask softer domestic demand.

Concept	**GST**: **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016**; **Article 279A** — **GST Council** chaired by the Union Finance Minister. **IGST** is levied on inter-state supplies and imports and apportioned between Centre and States.





SECTION C — GS-II: GOVERNANCE • POLITY • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Ganga Water Treaty nears 12 December expiry; MEA says talks run through a 'structured mechanism'

[IR] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	GS2: India–Bangladesh, trans-boundary rivers; GS1: drainage | Prelims: **Farakka**, **JRC**
Context	With the **1996 Ganga Water Treaty** expiring on **12 Dec 2026**, MEA spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal** said talks continue through the **Joint Rivers Commission (JRC)**, a 'structured mechanism', with no update on renewal.
Key Facts	■ Signed **12 Dec 1996** by PMs **H.D. Deve Gowda** and **Sheikh Hasina**; **30-year** term; renewal by mutual consent (**Article XII**). ■ Governs sharing of lean-season Ganga flows at the **Farakka Barrage** (West Bengal). ■ India and Bangladesh share **54 rivers**; the **JRC** (set up **1972**) handles them all. ■ Bangladesh's Water Resources Minister wants a **new or revised treaty before 12 Dec** with a guaranteed share. ■ A parliamentary panel (**Aug 2026**) urged early talks; **Teesta** sharing pact remains unsigned.
Way Fwd	Agree an interim extension to avoid a legal vacuum, then move to a basin-wide, data-sharing framework that factors climate-driven flow changes and West Bengal's concerns.
Concept	Lean season = **1 Jan–31 May** (shared in 10-day periods). **Farakka Barrage** (**1975**) diverts water into the **Bhagirathi-Hooghly** to keep **Kolkata port** navigable. The Ganga is called **Padma** in Bangladesh.

Ganga Water Treaty (1996) — expires 12 Dec 2026



30-yr treaty • lean season 1 Jan–31 May • 54 shared rivers via JRC

Map not to scale; boundaries as per India's official position

US midterms: Democrats win control of both House and Senate

[IR] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

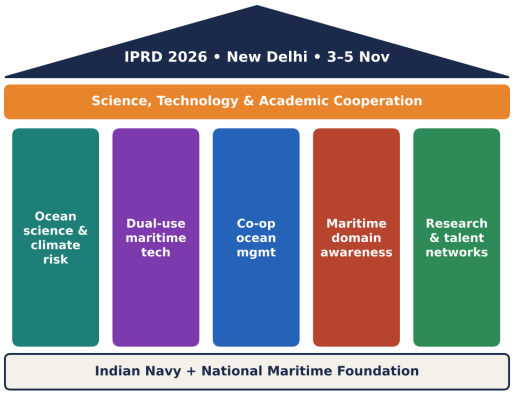
Syllabus Linkage	GS2: Effect of policies of developed countries on India | Prelims: **US Congress** structure
Context	In the **3 Nov 2026** US midterm elections, Democrats won the **House of Representatives** and flipped the **Senate** — a setback for President **Donald Trump**, who acknowledged the **Iran conflict** played a part.
Key Facts	■ Midterms elect all **435 House** seats and about **one-third** of the **100-member Senate**. ■ Trump said he would **veto** bills he finds unacceptable — signalling **divided government**. ■ Election-day poll: about **6 in 10** voters called military action against Iran the 'wrong decision'. ■ Congress controls **appropriations** and trade law; the Senate ratifies treaties by a **two-thirds** majority. ■ For India: oversight of **tariffs**, the **India–US interim trade agreement**, defence sales and **H-1B** rules may shift.
Way Fwd	Broaden bipartisan engagement with Congress (India Caucus) to insulate trade, technology and defence ties from US domestic churn.
Concept	**US Congress** is bicameral; the **Senate** approves **treaties** (2/3) and confirms appointments; the **House** originates **revenue bills**. A presidential **veto** can be overridden by **two-thirds** of both Houses.

Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2026 under way in New Delhi (3–5 November)

[IR] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	GS2: Indo-Pacific; GS3: maritime security | Prelims: **IPRD**, **IPOI**, **MAHASAGAR**
Context	The Indian Navy's apex international conference, **IPRD 2026**, organised with the **National Maritime Foundation (NMF)**, is being held in **New Delhi** on **3–5 Nov** on the theme '**Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific**'.
Key Facts	■ Five focus areas: **ocean science and climate-risk preparedness**; **dual-use maritime technologies**; cooperative ocean management; **maritime domain awareness** and critical-infrastructure protection; research and talent networks. ■ IPRD first held in **2018**; NMF is the Navy's knowledge partner. ■ Links to India's **IPOI** (**2019**, 7 pillars) and the **MAHASAGAR** vision (**2025**). ■ Complements regional MDA through the **IFC-IOR**, Gurugram (**2018**).
Way Fwd	Turn dialogue into joint ocean-research projects, shared MDA data and capacity-building for Indian Ocean littoral states.

Concept	**IPOI** (Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative) was launched at the **East Asia Summit, Bangkok, 2019**. **MAHASAGAR** = Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (**March 2025**, Mauritius), extending **SAGAR** (**2015**).



Ahead of Hornbill Festival, Nagaland renews push to scrap the Protected Area Permit regime

[POLITY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	GS2: Centre–State relations, North-East; GS3: border security | Prelims: **PAP/RAP**, **ILP**
Context	With the **Hornbill Festival** (**1–10 Dec**) approaching, Nagaland is pressing the Centre to withdraw the **Protected Area Permit (PAP)** regime that requires foreigners to obtain special permission to visit, citing its impact on **tourism**.
Key Facts	■ PAP is issued under the **Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958**. ■ PAP relaxation for **Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland** (in force since **2011**) was withdrawn by the MHA in **Dec 2024**, citing security. ■ The **Nagaland Assembly** unanimously urged the Centre to withdraw PAP (**Sept 2026**). ■ Festival-only relaxations still exclude nationals of **Afghanistan, China, Pakistan**, who need MHA clearance. ■ Festival venue: **Kisama Heritage Village** near **Kohima**; opens on **Statehood Day (1 Dec)**.
Way Fwd	Replace the blanket PAP with a risk-based e-permit or registration system that balances border security with tourism and local livelihoods.
Concept	**Inner Line Permit (ILP)** — for Indian citizens, under the **Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873**. **PAP/RAP** — for foreigners. Nagaland became a State on **1 Dec 1963** (**13th Amendment**, **Article 371A**).

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Topic	Quick fact
IPRD 2026	**IPRD 2026** theme: '**Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific**'.
NCMM	**NCMM** approved in **Jan 2025** with a government outlay of **₹16,300 crore**.
UNCCD COP17	**UNCCD COP17** (**Ulaanbaatar**): India reiterated restoring **26 million ha** of degraded land by **2030**.
CBD COP17	**CBD COP17** venue: **Yerevan, Armenia**; India backed the **Cali Fund** for DSI benefit-sharing.
Hornbill Festival	**Hornbill Festival** — 'Festival of Festivals' — held at **Kisama**, Nagaland.
Farakka Barrage	**Farakka Barrage** lies on the Ganga in **Murshidabad** district, West Bengal.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the India–Bangladesh Ganga Water Treaty, consider the following statements:
1. It was signed in 1996 for a period of 30 years.
2. It governs the sharing of Ganga waters at the Farakka Barrage during the lean season.
3. The Teesta water-sharing agreement was signed as a protocol to this treaty.
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) — The treaty was signed on **12 Dec 1996** for **30 years** and covers lean-season (**1 Jan–31 May**) flows at **Farakka**. The **Teesta** agreement has **never been signed**, so statement 3 is wrong.

Q2. Consider the following pairs:
1. EKA-1 — foundation model supporting all 22 Scheduled languages.
2. Tiger Triumph — India–US tri-service exercise.
3. COP31 — Belém, Brazil.
How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one **(b)** Only two **(c)** All three **(d)** None

Answer: (b) — Pairs 1 and 2 are correct. **COP31** is in **Antalya, Türkiye** (**9–20 Nov 2026**); **Belém, Brazil** hosted **COP30** in 2025.

MAINS PRACTICE (GS3)

India's energy transition depends as much on mineral processing as on mining. Examine the significance of capital-expenditure support for critical-mineral refining and the challenges in building a domestic mid-stream value chain. (250 words, 15 marks)

Hint: Intro: China's dominance of refining, India's import dependence. Body: ₹2,800 crore scheme (30% capex, 4 plants), NCMM, recycling scheme; challenges — feedstock security, technology, water and pollution, cost competitiveness, skilled workforce. Way forward: KABIL assets, offtake deals, R&D, green refining norms.

ONE-LINE REVISION: AI: **EKA-1** (26.3B, 22 languages) | Minerals: **₹2,800 crore**, 30% capex | GST Oct: **₹2.31 lakh crore** | Ganga Treaty ends **12 Dec 2026** | **COP31** Antalya 9–20 Nov | **Tiger Triumph**: 5th, Vizag.

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