CURRENT AFFAIRS — 9 NOVEMBER 2026

Monday, 9 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

- **COP31**: 9-20 Nov 2026, **Antalya (Türkiye)**; Türkiye hosts, **Australia** presides over negotiations.
- Delhi AQI **368** (9 Nov, 7 am); **15 of 54** stations 'severe'; **GRAP-III** since 6 Nov.
- Energy storage VGF: **₹14,500 cr** for **92 GWh** (60 PSP + 30 BESS + 2 others), FY27-FY31.
- BESS bids must meet a **40% Domestic Content Requirement**.
- ECMS: **12** new projects; total **118**, cumulative investment **~₹77,000 cr**.
- **Pralay** quasi-ballistic missile flight-tested from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island** (user trials).
- **MALABAR 2026** began at **Yokosuka**, Japan, on 5 Nov; **INS Sahyadri** represents India.
- Rice: retail inflation **8.25%** (Sept) vs **5.89%** (Aug); weekly stock disclosure ordered.
- India concludes talks to join **Horizon Europe** (**€93.5 bn**, 2021-27); signing likely **Jan 2027**.
- **Rajatarangini, Mahabharata, Arthashastra** manuscripts enter UNESCO **MOWCAP** regional register.

SECTION A | GS-III: ENVIRONMENT • ECONOMY • SECURITY • S&T

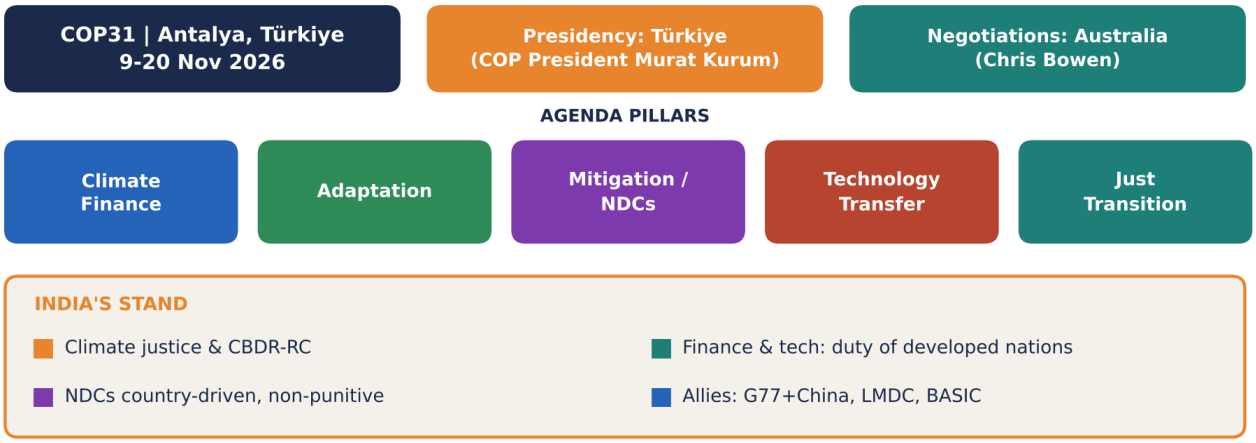


Fig. COP31 at a glance — structure, agenda pillars and India's stand

COP31 opens in Antalya: India to push climate justice and finance

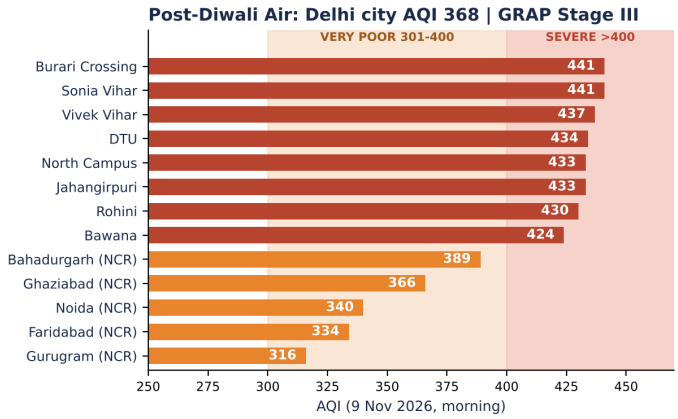
[ENVIRONMENT] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3**: Environment, conservation, climate change; **GS2**: International institutions. Prelims: **UNFCCC, COP, NDC, BASIC, LMDC**.
Context	The **31st Conference of Parties (COP31)** to the **UNFCCC** opened on **9 November 2026** at **Antalya, Türkiye**, and runs till **20 November**. It is billed as a **'COP of action'** focused on implementation.
Key Facts	■ Unique split: **Türkiye** holds the presidency (**COP President Murat Kurum**); **Australia** (**Chris Bowen**) presides over negotiations. ■ **World Leaders' Summit** on **11-12 Nov**; agenda: **climate finance, adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer, just transition**. ■ Türkiye proposes voluntary goals: **35% global electrification** and **25% cut in building energy intensity** by **2035**. ■ India's delegation led by **Bhupender Yadav**; India wants NDCs **country-driven, non-punitive**, works with **G77+China, LMDC, BASIC**. ■ Backdrop: **2026** virtually certain to exceed **1.5°C**, amid a strong **El Niño**; prep for **2nd Global Stocktake (2028)**.
Way Fwd	India should convert **CBDR-RC** principles into concrete finance and technology flows while showcasing domestic action (**500 GW non-fossil, storage push**) as credible leadership of the Global South.
Concept	**UNFCCC** (adopted **1992**, Rio) - COP is its supreme body. **NDCs** under the **Paris Agreement (2015)**; **Global Stocktake** every **5 years**. **CBDR-RC** = Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.

Post-Diwali smog: Delhi AQI 'very poor', GRAP Stage III in force

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

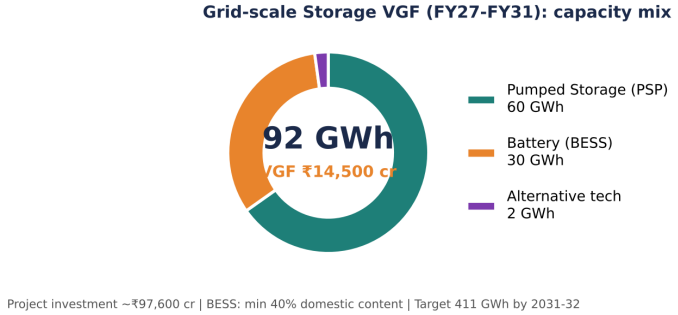
Syllabus Linkage	**GS3**: Environmental pollution and degradation; **GS2**: Judiciary's role. Prelims: **AQI categories, GRAP, CAQM, PM2.5**.
Context	A day after **Diwali (8 Nov)**, Delhi's average AQI was **368 ('very poor')** at **7 am on 9 November**, with **PM2.5** as the lead pollutant; forecasts warn of **'severe'** air for the next few days.
Key Facts	■ Of **54** stations, **50** above 300 and **15** 'severe' (>400); worst: **Burari Crossing & Sonia Vihar (441)**. ■ **Supreme Court** allowed only **certified green crackers** in fixed slots (**6-7 am, 8-10 pm**) on **7-8 Nov**; violations reported. ■ **CAQM** invoked **GRAP Stage III** on **6 Nov**: ban on non-essential construction, curbs on certain diesel vehicles and industry. ■ NCR: **Bahadurgarh 389**, Ghaziabad 366, Noida 340; nationally **Aizawl (19)** cleanest among **288** cities.
Way Fwd	Shift from episodic bans to **airshed-level** planning: year-round dust and vehicle control, **crop-residue** alternatives and strict enforcement with real-time public data.
Concept	**National AQI (2014)**: 6 categories - Good (0-50) to **Severe (401-500)**; 8 pollutants. **CAQM** created under the **CAQM Act, 2021**. **GRAP** has **4 stages** (Poor / Very Poor / Severe / Severe+).



₹14,500-crore VGF to build 92 GWh grid-scale energy storage

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3**: Infrastructure - energy; Indian economy and investment models. Prelims: **VGF, BESS, Pumped Storage, DCR**.
Context	The **Union Cabinet** (4 Nov) approved a **Viability Gap Funding** scheme of **₹14,500 crore** for **92 GWh** of new grid-scale storage, to firm up intermittent solar and wind power for **24x7** supply.
Key Facts	■ Mix: **60 GWh pumped storage (PSP)**, **30 GWh BESS**, **2 GWh** alternative technologies. ■ Period **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**; expected project investment **₹97,600 crore**. ■ Allocation via **tariff-based competitive bidding**; BESS needs **min. 40% Domestic Content**. ■ Linked targets: **411 GWh** storage by **2031-32**; **500 GW** non-fossil capacity by **2030**.
Way Fwd	Pair VGF with **battery-cell PLI**, ancillary-services markets and faster **PSP** clearances to avoid stranded renewable capacity.
Concept	**VGF**: a one-time capital grant that bridges the gap between project cost and commercial viability (used in **PPP** projects). **Pumped storage** pumps water uphill in surplus hours and generates in peak hours.

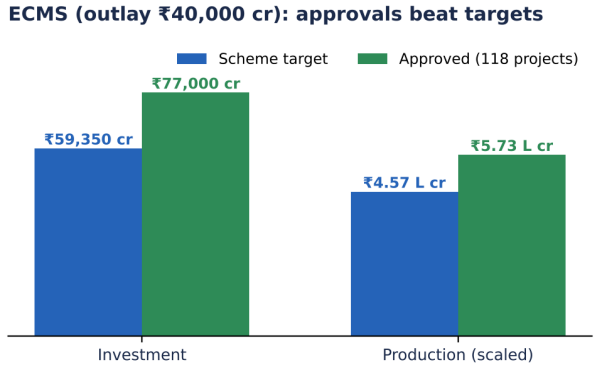


Project investment ~₹97,600 cr | BESS: min 40% domestic content | Target 411 GWh by 2031-32

ECMS: 12 more electronics component projects cleared

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3**: Industrial policy, Make in India, effects of liberalisation. Prelims: **ECMS, PLI, MeitY schemes**.
Context	The Centre approved **12 new projects** worth over **₹7,500 crore** under the **₹40,000-crore Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)**, deepening the component base beyond assembly.
Key Facts	■ Projected production **₹39,045 crore** across **7 states** incl. Gujarat, MP, UP, Maharashtra, TN. ■ Biggest: **Indo Asia Copper (₹3,546 cr, Gujarat)** - copper foil; **TACC (₹2,438 cr, MP)**. ■ Cumulative: **118 projects**, investment **~₹77,000 cr** vs target **₹59,350 cr**. ■ Cumulative production **₹5.73 lakh cr** vs target **₹4.565 lakh cr** - targets already exceeded.
Way Fwd	Build **design and R&D** capacity, secure **critical-mineral** inputs and cluster-based supplier ecosystems to raise domestic value addition.
Concept	**ECMS** (notified **2025**, **MeitY**) offers turnover-linked, capex and hybrid incentives for components like **PCBs, Li-ion cells, passive components**. Complements **PLI** for mobile phones and **ISM** for semiconductors.



Latest round: 12 projects, >₹7,500 cr investment, ₹39,045 cr production, 7 states

Pralay quasi-ballistic missile clears user evaluation trial

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3**: Security; indigenisation of technology. Prelims: **missile types, DRDO labs, test ranges**.
Context	**DRDO** successfully flight-tested the indigenous **Pralay** missile on **5 November** from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island**, off Odisha, as part of **user evaluation trials**; induction is now 'imminent'.
Key Facts	■ **Quasi-ballistic** surface-to-surface missile - flies a low, manoeuvrable trajectory that is hard to intercept. ■ Developed by **Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad** with other DRDO labs. ■ Data tracked by the **Integrated Test Range, Chandipur**; test attended by user Services and industry. ■ Strengthens **conventional precision-strike** capability; Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** called it a milestone.
Way Fwd	Speed up induction into a dedicated **rocket-missile force** structure and integrate with theatre commands for credible conventional deterrence.
Concept	**Ballistic** missiles follow a parabolic, mostly unpowered path; **cruise** missiles fly powered, low and level (e.g. **BrahMos**). **Quasi-ballistic** = ballistic path with in-flight manoeuvre. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island was earlier **Wheeler Island**.

MALABAR 2026 under way at Yokosuka; INS Sahyadri joins Quad navies

[DEFENCE] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2/GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2**: Groupings involving India (**Quad**); **GS3**: Security. Prelims: **military exercises, ship classes**.
Context	The multilateral naval exercise **MALABAR 2026**, hosted by **Japan**, began at **Yokosuka** on **5 November** with **India, the US, Japan and Australia**, and runs till **12 November**.
Key Facts	■ India: **INS Sahyadri**, a **Shivalik-class** stealth frigate of the **Eastern Fleet**; came via a bilateral drill with **South Korea at Busan**. ■ Drills: **anti-submarine** and **anti-surface warfare**, harbour and sea phases. ■ Australia fielded **HMAS Stuart** and a **P-8A Poseidon** aircraft. ■ Visit also covers **JAIMEX-2026**, marking **75 years** of India-Japan diplomatic ties.
Way Fwd	Use MALABAR to build **interoperability** and maritime domain awareness for a **free, open Indo-Pacific**, while keeping India's strategic autonomy.

Concept	**MALABAR** began in **1992** as an **India-US** bilateral drill; **Japan** became permanent in **2015**, **Australia** rejoined in **2020**. Other India-Japan drills: **JIMEX/JAIMEX** (navy), **Dharma Guardian** (army).

NITI Aayog launches India S&T Scoreboard for States/UTs

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3**: Science & technology developments; **GS2**: Cooperative federalism. Prelims: **GII rank, NITI indices**.
Context	**NITI Aayog** launched the interactive **India Science & Technology Scoreboard** (3 Nov) to map research, patents, start-ups and funding across all **36 States/UTs**.
Key Facts	■ Covers **11 priority areas** incl. **AI, semiconductors, clean energy, critical minerals**, agriculture. ■ Tracks academia, **government R&D labs** and industry; allows side-by-side comparison of any two States. ■ India: **38th** in **Global Innovation Index** (from **81st in 2015**); **3rd** in publications, **6th** in patent filings. ■ Resident share of patent filings rose from **25.5% to 56%**.
Way Fwd	States must raise their own **R&D spending** and link universities with industry; the Centre alone cannot lift India's low **GERD**.
Concept	**GERD** = Gross Expenditure on R&D (India **below 1% of GDP**). **GII** is published by **WIPO**. Related: **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Act, 2023**.

MALABAR 2026 - Quad navies (India | Japan | USA | Australia)

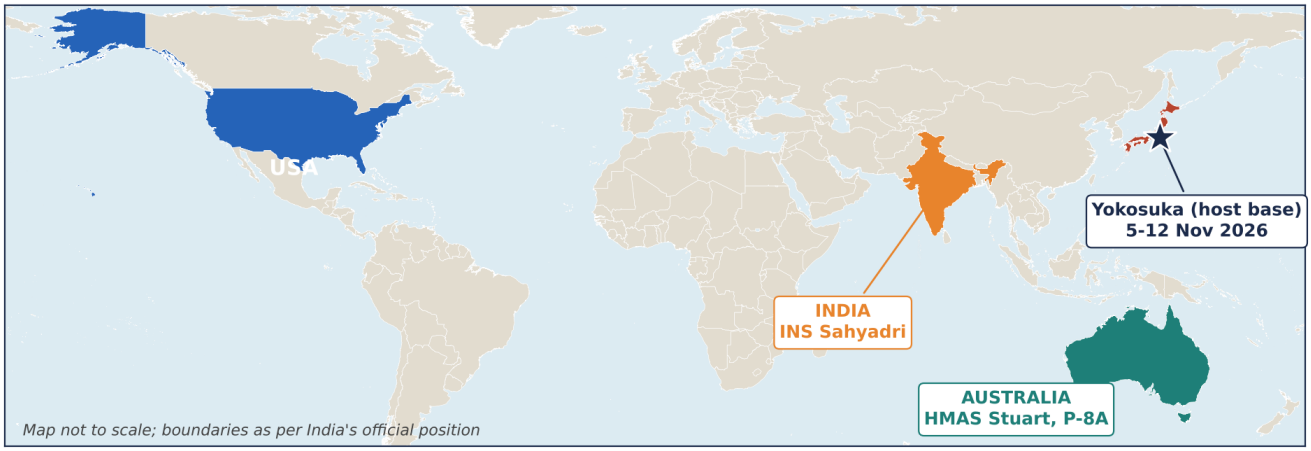


Fig. MALABAR 2026 — participating navies and host base

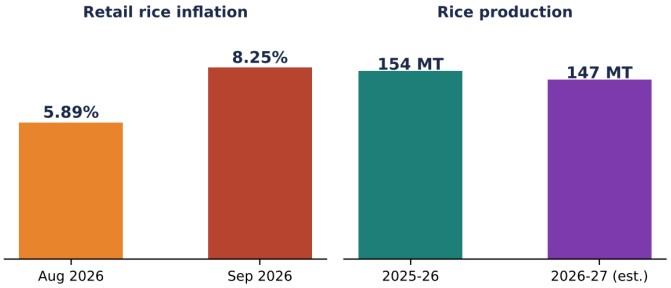
SECTION B | ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

8.25%

Retail rice inflation, September 2026

Up from **5.89%** in August; average retail price **~₹48.23/kg**, about **12%** higher than a year ago, as a deficient, uneven monsoon cut the kharif crop.

Rice: prices up, output down



Rice prices climb: Centre orders weekly stock disclosure

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3**: Food security, PDS, buffer stocks, inflation. Prelims: **Essential Commodities Act, OMSS**.
Context	After a weak, uneven monsoon pushed up prices, the Centre (order of **6 Nov**) asked traders, wholesalers, retailers, big chains, processors and millers to declare **rice and paddy stocks every Friday**.
Key Facts	■ Retail rice inflation **8.25%** (Sept) vs **5.89%** (Aug); average retail price **~₹48.23/kg**. ■ **5 southern states** (AP, Karnataka, Kerala, TN, Telangana) may impose stock limits till **31 Jan 2027**. ■ **OMSS (D)** rice sale target doubled from **25 to 50 lakh tonnes** for 2026-27. ■ Output estimate **~147 MT** (2026-27) vs record **154 MT** (2025-26); kharif area down **~4%**.
Way Fwd	Use **targeted OMSS releases** and data-driven monitoring rather than blanket curbs; invest in **climate-resilient** paddy varieties and irrigation.
Concept	**Essential Commodities Act, 1955** - Centre can regulate production, supply and stock limits; violations under **Sections 6 & 7**. **OMSS** = sale of surplus **FCI** grain in the open market to cool prices.

SECTION C | GS-II: GOVERNANCE • POLITY • IR (+ GS-I CULTURE)

India concludes talks to associate with EU's Horizon Europe

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2**: Bilateral relations, agreements involving India; **GS3**: S&T cooperation. Prelims: **Horizon Europe, EU-India TTC**.
Context	The **European Commission** and India concluded negotiations on India's association with **Horizon Europe**, the EU's **€93.5-billion** research and innovation programme (**2021-27**).
Key Facts	■ Agreement likely to be signed in **January 2027**; Indian entities join on **equal terms**, India contributes financially. ■ Indian researchers can lead projects under **Pillar II - Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness**. ■ Exploratory talks began **Feb 2026**; formal negotiations from **July 2026**. ■ Comes ahead of the **India-EU FTA** (market of **~2 billion people**); supported by **EU-India Trade and Technology Council**.
Way Fwd	Align Horizon calls with **ANRF** priorities, prepare universities for EU-style grant competition and protect **IPR** in joint outputs.
Concept	**Horizon Europe** = 9th EU Framework Programme with **3 pillars** (Excellent Science; Global Challenges; Innovative Europe). India-EU **Strategic Partnership** since **2004**; **TTC** launched **2022**.

National Legal Services Day (9 Nov): free legal aid as a constitutional promise

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2**: Statutory bodies, access to justice, vulnerable sections. Prelims: **Art. 39A, NALSA, Lok Adalat**.
Context	India observes **National Legal Services Day** on **9 November**, marking the day the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** came into force in **1995**, to spread awareness of free legal aid.
Key Facts	■ **Article 39A** (added by **42nd Amendment, 1976**) - DPSP on **equal justice and free legal aid**. ■ **NALSA**: Patron-in-Chief is the **CJI**; Executive Chairman is the **senior-most SC judge** after the CJI. ■ Three-tier set-up: **SLSA** (state), **DLSA** (district), **TLSC** (taluk); **Lok Adalat** awards are final - **no appeal**. ■ Eligible: **women, children, SC/ST**, persons with disability, industrial workmen, people in custody, low-income persons.
Way Fwd	Improve **quality of legal-aid lawyers**, expand **Legal Aid Defence Counsel** offices and use tele-law to reach undertrials and remote areas.
Concept	**Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar (1979)** read free legal aid into **Article 21**. **Art. 14** (equality before law) and **Art. 22(1)** (right to counsel) also underpin access to justice.

Rajatarangini, Mahabharata and Arthashastra enter UNESCO's Asia-Pacific register

[SOCIETY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS1**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS1**: Indian culture - literature, ancient history; **GS2**: International institutions. Prelims: **Memory of the World, MOWCAP**.
Context	Manuscripts of three classical works were inscribed on UNESCO's **Memory of the World Regional Register for Asia and the Pacific** at the **11th MOWCAP session** in **Jakarta, Indonesia**; dossiers prepared by **IGNCA**.
Key Facts	■ **Rajatarangini** by **Kalhana** (c. **1148-50 CE**), Sanskrit, **Sharada script on birch bark**, **8 Tarangas**; held at **Oriental Research Library, Srinagar**. ■ **Mahabharata**: old Kashmiri recension acquired by **Georg Bühler (1875)**; held at **BORI, Pune**. ■ **Arthashastra** of **Kautilya**: 16th-century **palm-leaf, Grantha script**, **15 books**; held at **ORI, Mysuru**; edited by **R. Shamasastry**. ■ Earlier (**April 2025**): **Bhagavad Gita** and **Natyashastra** entered the **international** MoW register.
Way Fwd	Digitise and conserve manuscript repositories under **Gyan Bharatam Mission**, and push more nominations to the international register.
Concept	**Memory of the World Programme** - UNESCO, **1992**, for documentary heritage; has **international, regional and national** registers. Distinct from **World Heritage (1972 Convention)** and **Intangible Heritage (2003 Convention)**.



SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **Bahamas** became the **116th member** of the **International Solar Alliance** (launched by India & France at **COP21, 2015**; HQ **Gurugram**).

2. New herb species **Disporum kamakhasiense** (family **Colchicaceae**) described from **Assam & Meghalaya**.

3. **Muthuswami Dikshitar** (Carnatic trinity) - **₹250 commemorative coin** released for his **250th birth anniversary**.

4. **Vayo Samman Rashtriya Abhiyan** launched by MoSJE under **AVYAY** for senior citizens, with volunteer wing **Vayo SAATHI**.

5. **Asteroid 2026 QQ8**: a **~1 m** 'mini-moon' temporarily captured by **Earth's gravity**, expected to stay till **Dec 2026**.

6. **9 November** is also **Uttarakhand Foundation Day** - created in **2000** as India's **27th state**.

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to COP31 of the UNFCCC, consider the following statements: 1. It is being held in Antalya, Türkiye. 2. Australia presides over the formal negotiations while Türkiye holds the presidency. 3. It is the first COP to be held after the conclusion of the Second Global Stocktake. 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) — Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong: the **Second Global Stocktake** is due to conclude only in **2028**.

Q2. Which one of the following manuscripts recently inscribed on UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Memory of the World register is written in Sharada script on birch bark?

(a) Arthashastra **(b)** Rajatarangini **(c)** Natyashastra **(d)** Bhagavad Gita

Answer: (b) — Kalhana's **Rajatarangini** (Srinagar manuscript) is in **Sharada script on birch bark**; the Arthashastra copy is **palm-leaf in Grantha**.

MAINS PRACTICE (GS-III)

Grid-scale energy storage is the missing link in India's renewable energy transition. Examine in the light of the recently approved Viability Gap Funding scheme. (150 words, 10 marks)

Hint: Intro: **500 GW** goal and intermittency. Body: VGF **₹14,500 cr / 92 GWh** mix, **40% DCR**, PSP vs BESS trade-offs, challenges (cell imports, land/water for PSP, market design). Conclude: storage + markets + manufacturing for **24x7 clean power**.

ONE-LINE REVISION: **COP31 Antalya** (9-20 Nov) | **AQI 368 + GRAP-III** | **₹14,500 cr VGF = 92 GWh** | **ECMS 118 projects** | **Pralay** test | **MALABAR at Yokosuka** | **Horizon Europe** | **Art. 39A** | **MOWCAP: 3 manuscripts**.

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