CURRENT AFFAIRS — 11 November 2026

Wednesday, 11 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

- PLFS Jul–Sep 2026: unemployment **5.1%** (rural **4.3%**, urban **6.8%**); LFPR **55.5%**.
- Coal gasification scheme (**₹37,500 crore**): Round 3 open till **11 Jan 2027**; target **100 MT by 2030**.
- Lakshadweep = **Seaweed Cluster**; Andaman & Nicobar = **Tuna Cluster** under **PMMSY**.
- CPCB AQI data capped PM at **1,000 µg/m³** — Deepavali-night readings dropped out; cap to be revised.
- COP31 World Leaders' Summit, **Antalya (Türkiye)**, **11–12 Nov**; India stresses **Article 9.1** finance.
- SC: OBC creamy layer **cannot rest on parental salary alone**; binds **CSE-2025** allocation.
- Ladakh: polls to **8 Hill Councils** on **4 Dec 2026**; elected seats up from **52 to 100**.
- Tamil Nadu winds up the **Justice Kurian Joseph** panel on Union–State relations (G.O. of **6 Nov 2026**).
- SC asks UP to free undertrials stuck despite bail — exercise in all **75 districts** with **DLSAs**.
- **Naseem Al Bahr** (India–Oman navies), 15th edition at **Muscat**, 8–11 Nov; **INS Surat** took part.

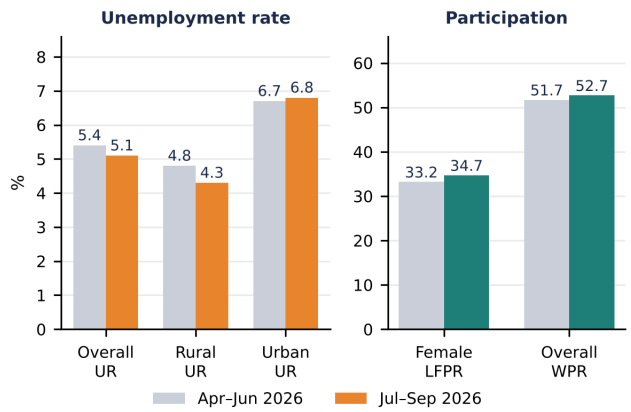
SECTION A | GS-III: SCIENCE & TECH • ECONOMY • ENVIRONMENT • SECURITY

1. PLFS Jul–Sep 2026: unemployment eases to 5.1% as participation rises

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-III**: Indian Economy — growth, development & **employment**. Prelims: **PLFS, CWS, LFPR, WPR, NSO (MoSPI)**.
Context	The **National Statistics Office (MoSPI)** released the **PLFS Quarterly Bulletin for July–September 2026** on **10 November 2026**. Joblessness fell and labour-force participation rose, led by rural India.
Key Facts	• Overall **unemployment rate (UR)** for persons **15+ years** (Current Weekly Status) fell to **5.1%** from **5.4%** in Apr–Jun 2026. • **Rural UR** dropped to **4.3%** (from 4.8%); **urban UR** was broadly stable at **6.8%** (from 6.7%). • **LFPR** rose to **55.5%** (from 54.6%); **WPR** rose to **52.7%** (from 51.7%). • **Female LFPR** improved to **34.7%** from **33.2%**; agriculture's share of rural jobs rose to **56.7%**. • Revamped PLFS (since **January 2025**) gives **monthly and quarterly** estimates for rural and urban India.
Way Fwd	Convert rising rural participation into **non-farm, formal jobs** through MSME credit, skilling and **labour-code** implementation; watch for distress-driven farm employment.
Concept	**CWS** = activity status in the **last 7 days** (vs **Usual Status** = last 365 days). **LFPR** = labour force ÷ population; **WPR** = employed ÷ population; **UR** = unemployed ÷ labour force.

PLFS (CWS, 15+): Jul–Sep vs Apr–Jun 2026



2. Coal gasification push: Round 3 opens under the ₹37,500 crore scheme

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-III**: Infrastructure — energy; mobilisation of resources. Prelims: **syngas, DME, methanol, coal gasification target**.
Context	The **Ministry of Coal** said on **10 November 2026** that **Round 2** of the Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects closed with **two bids, both from NTPC**, and **Round 3** opened the same day.
Key Facts	• Scheme outlay: **₹37,500 crore**, approved by the Union Cabinet in **May 2026**. • Round 2 bids by **NTPC**: one for **urea**, another for **methanol and dimethyl ether (DME)**. • **Round 3** applications are open from **10 Nov 2026** to **11 Jan 2027**. • National target: **100 million tonnes (MT)** of coal gasification by **2030**. • Aim: replace imported **LNG, urea, ammonia and methanol** with products from domestic coal.
Way Fwd	Pair incentives with **carbon capture (CCUS)** pilots, water-efficient gasifiers and long-term offtake contracts so projects stay viable and climate-compatible.
Concept	**Coal gasification** = partial oxidation of coal with oxygen and steam to form **syngas (CO + H2)** — a feedstock for fertilisers, fuels and chemicals; cleaner at point of use than burning coal.

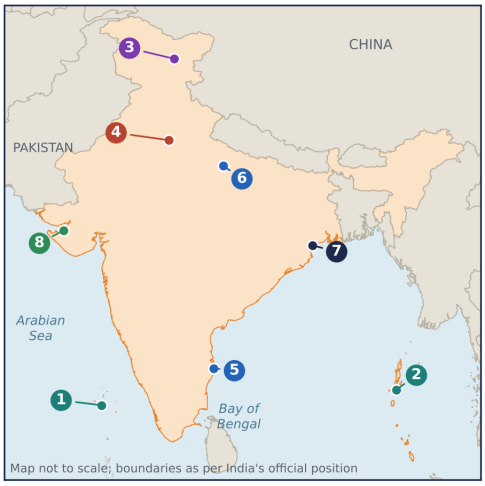
3. Blue Economy: island fisheries put at the centre of India's marine push

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-III**: Agriculture — fisheries; **Blue Economy**. GS-I: island geography. Prelims: **PMMSY, EEZ, tuna & seaweed clusters**.
Context	On **10 November 2026**, the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** highlighted **Lakshadweep** and the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** as growth engines for marine fisheries — tuna, seaweed and ornamental fish.
Key Facts	• The two island groups hold **nearly 40%** of India's **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**, with under-used stocks of **yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye tuna**. • Under **PMMSY**, investments of **₹218 crore** (A&N) and **₹175 crore** (Lakshadweep) are envisaged. • **Lakshadweep** is a notified **Seaweed Cluster**; **Andaman & Nicobar** is a notified **Tuna Cluster**. • A five-year plan aims to **double Lakshadweep's tuna output to 50,000 tonnes**. • India's **seafood exports** were about **₹73,890 crore** in **2025-26**.

Way Fwd	Build **cold chains, processing units and port links** on the islands, keep pole-and-line tuna fishing **sustainable**, and protect fragile **coral ecosystems**.
Concept	**PMMSY** (2020) — flagship fisheries scheme with an outlay of **₹20,050 crore**. The **EEZ** extends up to **200 nautical miles** under **UNCLOS**; India's EEZ is about **2.37 million sq km**.

INDIA IN NEWS — 11 November 2026



1. Lakshadweep — tuna, seaweed cluster
2. Andaman & Nicobar — tuna cluster
3. Leh, Ladakh — LAHDC polls 4 Dec
4. Delhi — AQI cap, vehicle emissions
5. Chennai, TN — Kurian panel wound up
6. Lucknow, UP — undertrials on bail
7. Chandipur, Odisha — DRDO test window
8. Jamnagar, Gujarat — Joint HADR Ex.

4. Delhi air: CPCB to fix 1,000 µg/m³ data cap; SC flags vehicular emissions

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-III**: Environment — pollution & degradation. GS-II: role of judiciary. Prelims: **AQI, CPCB, CAQM, GRAP, PM2.5**.
Context	The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** said readings went missing on **Deepavali night** because particulate matter is recorded only **up to 1,000 µg/m³** for AQI calculation, and that the cap will be fixed. Separately, the **Supreme Court** sought answers on NCR **vehicular emissions**.
Key Facts	● SC bench led by **CJI Surya Kant** (order of **9 Nov 2026**) noted **stubble-burning incidents fell** while problems from **vehicular emissions rose sharply**. ● **Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh** (plus MCD and Delhi Police) must reply in **two weeks**; next hearing **23 Nov**. ● Issues raised: entry of vehicles from neighbouring States, **PUC enforcement**, **end-of-life vehicles** and enforcement data. ● Delhi's AQI improved to **299 ('poor')** on **10 Nov**. ● AQI is computed from **8 pollutants**: PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3 and Pb.
Way Fwd	Remove artificial **data caps**, add monitors in hotspots, and build an **NCR-wide vehicle-entry and PUC regime** coordinated by **CAQM**.
Concept	**CAQM** — statutory body under the **CAQM Act, 2021** for the NCR and adjoining areas; **GRAP** is its four-stage emergency plan. The case continues the **M.C. Mehta** line of 'continuing mandamus'.

CPCB AQI scale & the 1,000 µg/m³ data cap



Why data went missing

- PM recorded only up to 1,000 µg/m³ for AQI calc
- Deepavali-night readings above it dropped out
- CPCB to revise the cap

SC on vehicles (9 Nov)

- Stubble fires down; vehicular share up
- Delhi + HR, RJ, UP: reply in 2 weeks
- Next hearing: 23 Nov

5. COP31 leaders' summit opens in Antalya; India presses for climate finance

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-III**: Climate change & conservation. **GS-II**: international groupings. Prelims: **UNFCCC, Paris Agreement Art. 9.1, CBDR-RC, BASIC, LMDC**.
Context	**COP31** (9–20 Nov 2026) at the **Antalya Expo Center, Türkiye**, holds its **World Leaders' Summit on 11–12 November**. In its opening statement, India sought a **fair and equitable** outcome grounded in **CBDR-RC**.
Key Facts	● **Türkiye hosts** COP31; **Australia** leads the negotiations (**Chris Bowen**, President of Negotiations) under a compromise deal. ● India's delegation is led by Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav**; the opening statement was delivered by Environment Secretary **Narendra Bhooshan**. ● India underlined **Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement** — the **obligation** of developed countries to provide climate finance. ● India aligned with **G77 & China, LMDC and BASIC**; wants **voluntary** adaptation indicators and a non-punitive stocktake process. ● UN adaptation-gap estimates put developing-country needs at about **$305 billion a year by 2035**.
Way Fwd	Push a **Climate Finance Work Programme** with predictable, largely public and concessional money, and link adaptation to **agriculture and food security**.
Concept	**CBDR-RC** (UNFCCC, 1992) — all countries share responsibility but developed nations must lead. The **NCQG** agreed at **COP29 (Baku)**: at least **$300 billion a year by 2035**.

6. Starlink debate: strategic autonomy must guide satellite-internet policy

[SCI-TECH] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-III**: Science & Tech — space, IT; security of communication networks. Prelims: **LEO constellations, IN-SPACe, satcom spectrum**.
Context	Commentary today argues that India's approach to **SpaceX's Starlink** and other foreign **low-earth-orbit (LEO)** satcom operators must be shaped by **strategic autonomy**, not just telecom licensing.

Key Facts	● Satellite spectrum is assigned **administratively**, not auctioned, under the **Telecommunications Act, 2023**. ● Security conditions sought: **Indian gateways**, **data stored in India**, **lawful interception** and a domestic **'kill switch'** in emergencies. ● Starlink operates in roughly **160 countries and territories**; its commercial launch in India still awaits final clearances. ● Lessons from **Ukraine and Iran**: foreign-controlled networks can be switched off, throttled or jammed in a crisis. ● Other players: **Eutelsat OneWeb** and **Jio-SES**; calls are growing for an **indigenous constellation**.
Way Fwd	Apply **technology-neutral** rules to all operators, mandate local control of network operations, and fund an **Indian LEO constellation** for border and disaster connectivity.
Concept	**LEO** satellites orbit at roughly **500–2,000 km**, giving low latency. **IN-SPACe** (2020) authorises private space activity; satcom services also need a **DoT** licence and security clearance.

Surface Coal / Lignite Gasification — from mine to products (₹37,500 crore incentive scheme)

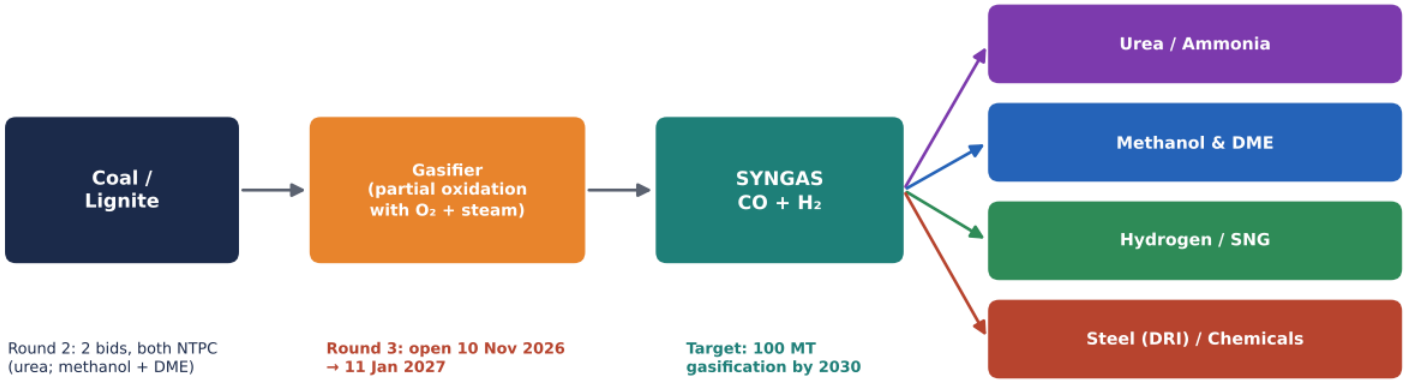


Fig. — linked to item 2: Coal gasification scheme

SECTION B | KEY ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

5.1%

DATA POINT OF THE DAY

Unemployment rate (CWS, 15+ years), July–September 2026

Down from **5.4%** in Apr–Jun 2026; rural **4.3%**, urban **6.8%**; LFPR **55.5%**, female LFPR **34.7%**, WPR **52.7%**.

5.1%	4.3%	6.8%	55.5%	34.7%
Overall UR	Rural UR	Urban UR	LFPR	Female LFPR

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

7. OBC creamy layer: SC says salary alone can't decide; rule binds CSE-2025

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

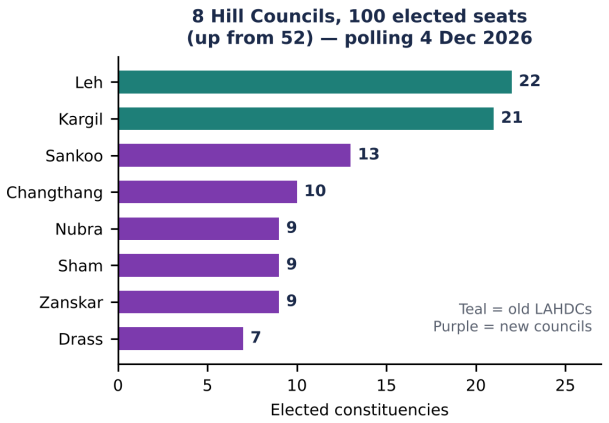
Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Polity — **Articles 14, 15(4), 16(4)**; welfare of vulnerable sections. Prelims: **Indra Sawhney, creamy layer, DoPT OM 1993**.
Context	In an order of **6 November 2026**, the **Supreme Court** refused the Centre's plea to apply its **11 March 2026** verdict in **Union of India v. Rohith Nathan** only prospectively. Today's commentary stresses applying the creamy-layer exclusion **consistently**.
Key Facts	● Bench: Justices **P.S. Narasimha** and **R. Mahadevan**. ● Creamy-layer status **cannot be decided on parental salary alone**; the **status and post of parents** must be weighed. ● No artificial distinction between children of **Government** and **PSU** employees — it violates **Articles 14 and 16**. ● Pending **CSE-2025** service allocations must follow the corrected test; time extended by **2 months** (not the 2 years sought), to about **6 January 2027**. ● The Centre had argued that over **6.69 lakh** reserved posts filled in a decade could be affected.
Way Fwd	DoPT should frame clear **post-equivalence norms** for PSU, bank and private jobs and revise the income ceiling periodically to keep the exclusion fair and predictable.
Concept	**Indra Sawhney (1992)**, a **nine-judge bench**, upheld **27% OBC reservation** but excluded the **creamy layer**; the **DoPT OM of 8 September 1993** set the criteria. The income ceiling is **₹8 lakh a year** (since 2017).

8. Ladakh sets 4 December polls for 8 hill councils amid Sixth Schedule demand

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Federalism & local governance — UTs, special provisions. Prelims: **LAHDC, Sixth Schedule, Article 244(2), Article 371**.
Context	On **10 November 2026**, the Ladakh administration announced polls to **all eight Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs)** on **4 December 2026**, with the process to end by **8 December**.
Key Facts	● Schedule: nominations till **17 Nov**, scrutiny **18 Nov**, withdrawal till **20 Nov**, polling **4 Dec**. ● Councils expanded from **2 (Leh, Kargil) to 8** — adding **Drass, Sankoo, Sham, Changthang, Nubra and Zanskar**; elected seats up from **52 to 100**. ● Done through the **LAHDC (Amendment) Regulation, 2026**, promulgated by the **President**. ● **Kargil and Sankoo** observed a shutdown on **10 Nov** against **winter polls**; panchayat polls are due on **21 Nov**. ● The **Leh Apex Body (LAB)** and **Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA)** seek **Statehood** and **Sixth Schedule** status.

Way Fwd	Hold the polls with **weather-proof logistics** and resume **MHA–LAB–KDA talks** on land, jobs and cultural safeguards (Sixth Schedule or Article 371-type provisions).
Concept	The **Sixth Schedule (Arts 244(2), 275(1))** covers tribal areas of **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram** through law-making **Autonomous District Councils**; Ladakh's hill councils are statutory bodies **without law-making power**.



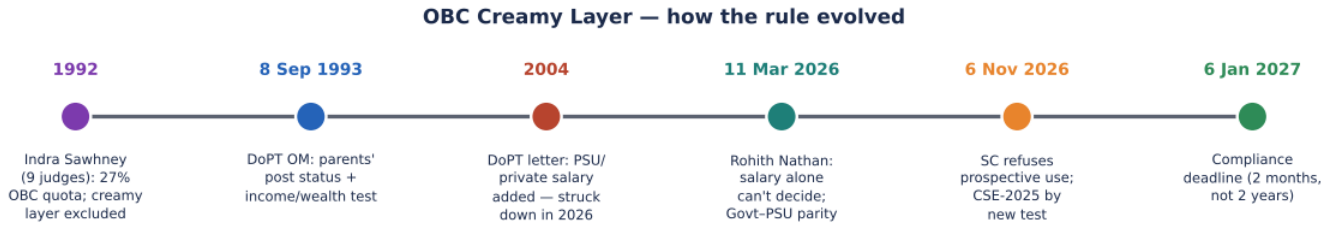


Fig. — linked to item 7: OBC creamy layer

9. Tamil Nadu winds up the Kurian Joseph panel on Union–State relations

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Federalism — Centre–State relations, Governor's role. Prelims: **Rajamannar, Sarkaria and Punchhi commissions; Article 263**.
Context	By a **Government Order of 6 November 2026**, Tamil Nadu discontinued the **High-Level Committee on Union–State Relations** headed by former SC judge **Justice Kurian Joseph**, about six months before its final report was due.
Key Facts	● Panel set up in **April 2025**; members **K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty** and economist **M. Naganathan**. ● Its **interim report** (**16 Feb 2026**) covered the **Governor's powers**, delays in **assent to Bills**, **delimitation**, **GST**, education and health. ● The final report was due by **31 May 2027**, on financial relations, river disputes, emergency provisions and more. ● Reason given: its mandate **overlaps** with the reconstituted **Tamil Nadu State Law Commission**, which takes over its records. ● Several parties criticised the move as a retreat on **State autonomy**; others welcomed it.
Way Fwd	Federal reform needs **continuity**: the Law Commission should publish the panel's work, and issues should be pursued through the **Inter-State Council** and constitutional dialogue.
Concept	**Rajamannar Committee (1969)** — Tamil Nadu's first State-autonomy review. Union-level reviews: **Sarkaria (1983–88)** and **Punchhi (2007–10)** Commissions. **Inter-State Council** — **Article 263**.

10. SC to UP: undertrials granted bail must actually be released

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Judiciary; criminal-justice reform; rights issues. Prelims: **Article 21, Article 39A, Section 479 BNSS, NALSA/DLSA**.
Context	On reports that prisoners stay jailed despite bail because they cannot meet **surety conditions**, the **Supreme Court** (order of **4 Nov**, uploaded **6 Nov 2026**) directed Uttar Pradesh to extend an identify-and-release exercise to **all 75 districts**.
Key Facts	● Bench: Justices **M.M. Sundresh** and **Prasanna B. Varale**, in the suo motu bail-policy case (**SMWP (Crl) 4/2021**). ● The exercise is to be done with **District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs)**; courts asked to **modify bail conditions** where needed. ● UP reported **158** such prisoners released and a decision pending on **106** others — data covered only **20 districts**. ● Separately (**3 Nov**), the SC ordered the immediate release of a man held over a month after bail and asked UP why **compensation** should not be paid. ● Earlier SC directions require release **the same day or the next day** after a bail order.
Way Fwd	Use **e-prisons** alerts, accept personal bonds instead of cash sureties for the poor, and fix accountability of officials for **illegal detention**.
Concept	**Article 21** (personal liberty) and **Article 39A** (free legal aid). **Section 479 of the BNSS, 2023** — release of undertrials after **half** the maximum sentence (**one-third** for first-time offenders).

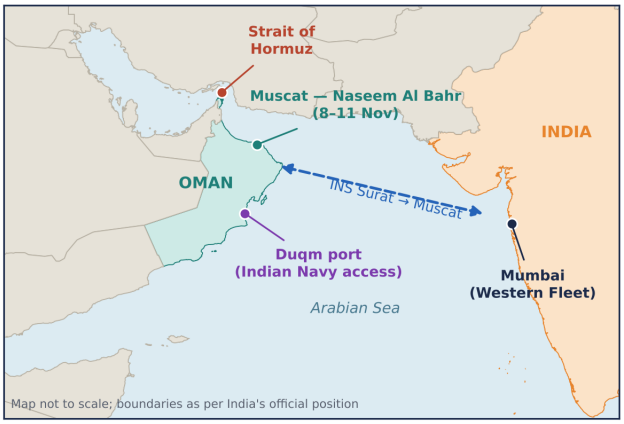
11. India–Oman Exercise Naseem Al Bahr 2026 held off Muscat

[IR] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 & GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: India and West Asia; bilateral relations. **GS-III**: maritime security. Prelims: **Naseem Al Bahr, Duqm, Strait of Hormuz, CORPAT**.
Context	The **15th edition** of the **India–Oman maritime exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr' (Sea Breeze)** is being held at **Muscat, Oman, from 8 to 11 November 2026**, with **INS Surat** representing the Indian Navy; a **Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)** follows.

Key Facts	● Participants: the **Indian Navy** and the **Royal Navy of Oman (RNO)**; sea phase in the **Al Batinah** maritime area. ● The series began in **1993** — one of India's **oldest** naval exercises with a Gulf partner. ● **INS Surat** is the fourth and last **Project-15B (Visakhapatnam-class)** guided-missile destroyer. ● Oman sits at the mouth of the **Strait of Hormuz**, the chokepoint for a large share of India's crude imports. ● India has access to **Duqm port** for naval logistics and maintenance (arrangement of **2018**).
Way Fwd	Deepen **maritime domain awareness**, joint anti-piracy patrols and energy-route security as **West Asian tensions** threaten Hormuz shipping.
Concept	Other India–Oman exercises: **Al Najah** (Army) and **Eastern Bridge** (Air Force). Oman is a key defence partner of India within the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**.

India–Oman: Naseem Al Bahr 2026 (15th edition)



SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

#	Topic	Quick fact
1	**Haj-2027 agreement**	India–Saudi Arabia Bilateral Haj Agreement signed at **Jeddah** (9 Nov); India's quota **1,75,025** pilgrims.
2	**Namo Yamuna River Safari**	Delhi's first recreational cruise on the **Yamuna (National Waterway-110)**, **Sonia Vihar–Jagatpur**, 6 km.
3	**Joint HADR Exercise 2026**	Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and **NDMA** with friendly nations at **AFS Jamnagar** from **17 Nov**.
4	**Abu Dhabi talks**	First **US-mediated Russia–Ukraine** talks in nine months held on **10 Nov**; both sides agreed to continue.
5	**IIT Jodhpur alloy**	Niobium-rich refractory alloy, density **~7.6 g/cm³**, resists oxidation at **1,000°C** — for aerospace and hypersonics.
6	**DRDO test window**	NOTAM for missile flight trials off **Chandipur (Integrated Test Range), Odisha**, **11–13 Nov**.

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), consider the following statements: 1. The Current Weekly Status (CWS) approach uses a reference period of seven days. 2. In July–September 2026, the urban unemployment rate was lower than the rural unemployment rate. 3. The PLFS is released by the National Statistics Office under MoSPI. Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) — Statement 2 is wrong: urban UR (**6.8%**) was higher than rural UR (**4.3%**). CWS uses a **7-day** reference week and PLFS is released by the **NSO (MoSPI)**.

Q2. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India applies to the tribal areas of which of the following States? 1. Assam 2. Manipur 3. Meghalaya 4. Mizoram 5. Tripura. Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: (b) — Under **Article 244(2)**, the Sixth Schedule covers **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**. Manipur's hill areas are dealt with under **Article 371C**, not the Sixth Schedule. Ladakh is seeking inclusion.

MAINS PRACTICE (GS-II)

Excluding the 'creamy layer' is essential to keep OBC reservation targeted at the genuinely backward. In the light of the Supreme Court's 2026 rulings, discuss the challenges in determining creamy-layer status and suggest reforms. (15 marks, 250 words)

Hint: Intro: **Indra Sawhney (1992)** and the **DoPT OM of 1993**. Body: income test vs **status test**; Government–PSU parity under **Arts 14 and 16**; missing post-equivalence norms; outdated **₹8 lakh** ceiling; impact on **CSE-2025**. Way forward: equivalence rules, periodic revision, better data, sub-categorisation. Conclude with **substantive equality**.

ONE-LINE REVISION: PLFS UR **5.1%** • Coal gasification Round 3 till **11 Jan 2027** • Ladakh's **8 LAHDCs** vote on **4 Dec** • Creamy layer ≠ salary alone • COP31 leaders meet in **Antalya, 11–12 Nov**.

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