CURRENT AFFAIRS — 13 NOVEMBER 2026

Friday, 13 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

- CPI inflation Oct 2026: **6.09%** (Sept **5.54%**); food **8.94%**
- Rural CPI **6.63%** vs urban **5.41%**; CPI base year **2024=100**
- PLI audit: jobs **8.49 lakh** = **28%** of **30 lakh** target
- PLI investment **76%**, production **64%** of target till FY26
- NBS Rabi 2026-27: **₹62,370 crore**, up **64%**; N subsidy **₹94.21/kg**
- ACC battery PLI: **22 bids** for **10 GWh** grid-scale storage
- ICBR-III: **26 roads** along LAC in **Arunachal Pradesh**
- WHO TB Report 2026: India TB deaths down **38%** (global **35%**)
- COP31 at **Antalya, Türkiye**, **9-20 Nov 2026**; COP32 in **Addis Ababa**
- Lok Sabha may expand to **850** seats via delimitation special session

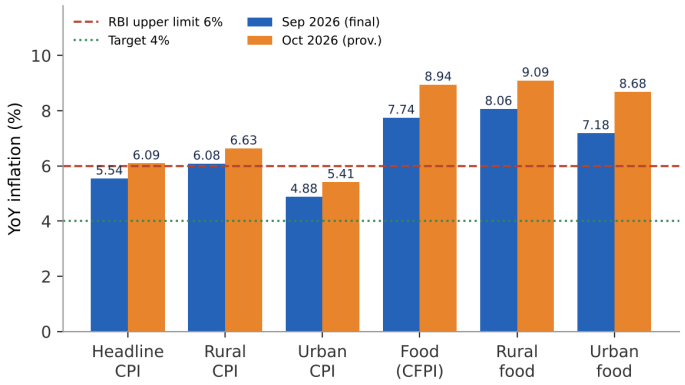
SECTION A | GS-III: Economy • Science & Tech • Security • Health • Environment

Retail inflation crosses RBI's upper limit at 6.09%

[ECONOMY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (Economy)**

Syllabus Linkage	GS3: Inflation, monetary policy, food management. Prelims: CPI, CFPI, MPC, inflation targeting.
Context	Provisional CPI data released on **12 November 2026** put October retail inflation at **6.09%**, above the RBI's **6%** upper tolerance limit for the first time in about two years, led by food prices.
Key Facts	■ Headline CPI **6.09%** in Oct vs **5.54%** in Sept 2026. ■ Food inflation (CFPI) jumped to **8.94%** from **7.74%**. ■ Rural CPI **6.63%** stayed above urban **5.41%**; rural food **9.09%**. ■ Series uses new base year **2024=100**; released by **NSO, MoSPI**. ■ Next **MPC** review in **December**; pressure for tighter policy.
Way Fwd	Supply-side steps (buffer stock release, import duty tweaks on edibles) plus calibrated MPC action to anchor expectations without hurting growth.
Concept	**Flexible Inflation Targeting** (Section **45ZA**, RBI Act): CPI target **4% ± 2%**. If inflation stays outside the band for **3 consecutive quarters**, the RBI must report reasons to the Government.

Retail inflation, Oct 2026 (CPI base 2024=100)

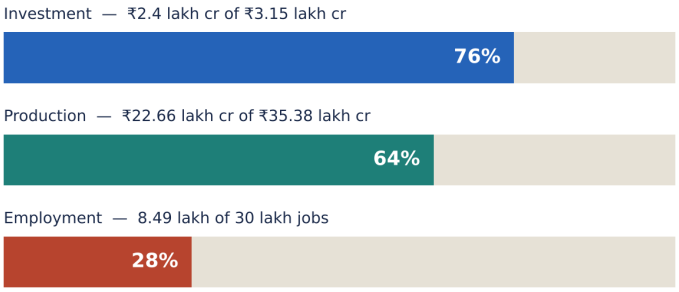


NITI Aayog's PLI impact assessment: investment ahead, jobs lag

[ECONOMY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (Industry)**

Syllabus Linkage	GS3: Industrial policy, employment, Make in India. Prelims: PLI sectors, NITI Aayog.
Context	NITI Aayog released its first comprehensive report, **"Impact Assessment of PLI Schemes"**, on **12 November 2026**, prepared with **IIM Ahmedabad**, reviewing all **14 sectors** at mid-course.
Key Facts	■ Jobs: **8,49,069** created by FY26 vs target **30 lakh** (**28%**). ■ Investment **~₹2.4 lakh crore** of **₹3.15 lakh crore** (**76%**). ■ Production **₹22.66 lakh crore** of **₹35.38 lakh crore** (**64%**). ■ On track: **large-scale electronics, pharma drugs, telecom, food products**. ■ Weak/partial: **bulk drugs** (exports), **medical devices** (jobs), **IT Hardware 2.0** (investment).
Way Fwd	Refine scheme design: link a share of incentives to jobs and domestic value addition, speed up disbursal and add demand-side support.
Concept	**PLI**: incentive of a percentage of **incremental sales** over a base year, for **14 sectors** notified in **2020-21**. Report notes investment comes first; production, exports and jobs follow with a **gestation lag**.

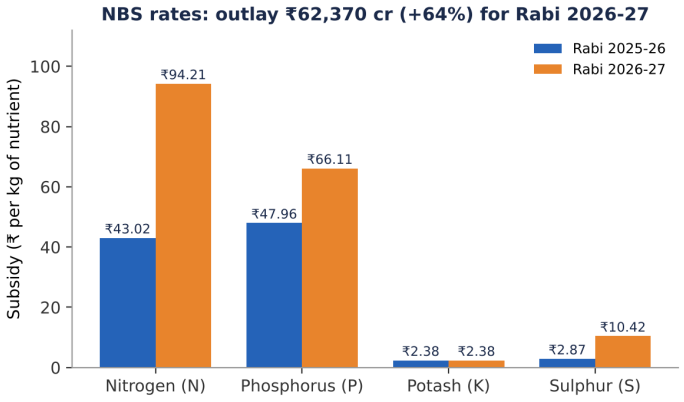
PLI schemes (14 sectors): achievement vs target till FY26



Cabinet hikes NBS subsidy for Rabi 2026-27 to ₹62,370 crore

[ECONOMY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (Agriculture)**

Syllabus Linkage	GS3: Farm subsidies, input management, soil health. Prelims: NBS, P&K fertilisers, DAP.
Context	The Union Cabinet on **11 November 2026** approved NBS rates on phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for **Rabi 2026-27** (**1 Oct 2026 - 31 Mar 2027**) to shield farmers from high global prices.
Key Facts	■ Tentative outlay **₹62,370.02 crore**, up **~64%** from **₹37,952.29 crore**. ■ Nitrogen **₹94.21/kg** (was **₹43.02**); Phosphorus **₹66.11/kg** (was **₹47.96**). ■ Sulphur **₹10.42/kg**; Potash unchanged at **₹2.38/kg**. ■ Covers **28 grades** incl. **DAP** and **NPKS**; Dept of **Fertilizers**. ■ Driver: global price spike after **Gulf** supply disruption.
Way Fwd	Diversify import sources, long-term offtake deals for rock phosphate and potash, and push nano and bio-fertilisers to cut the subsidy bill.
Concept	**NBS** (since **1 April 2010**): fixed subsidy per kg of **N, P, K, S** for P&K fertilisers; **urea** is outside NBS with a statutorily fixed MRP. Ideal NPK ratio **4:2:1**.



22 bids for 10 GWh grid-scale ACC battery capacity under PLI

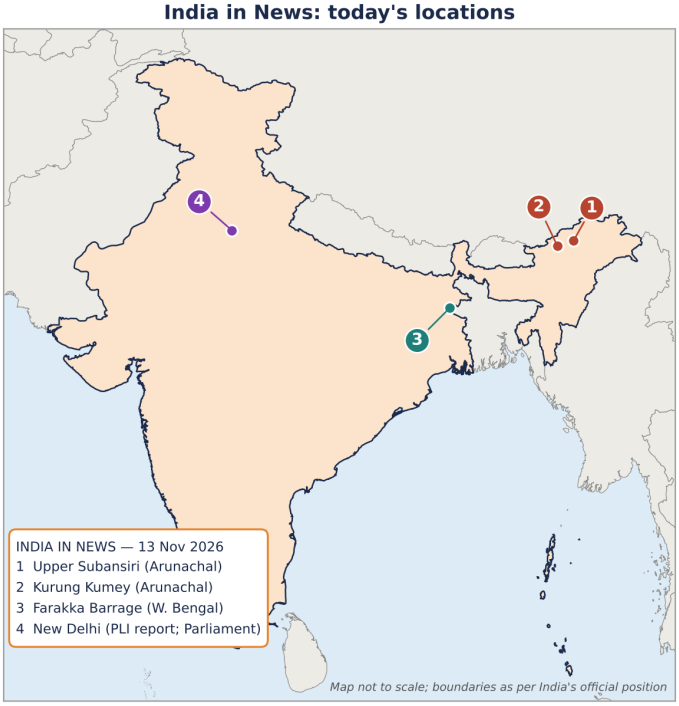
[SCI-TECH] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (Energy)**

Syllabus Linkage	GS3: Energy storage, renewables integration, manufacturing. Prelims: ACC, PLI-ACC, BESS.
Context	The **Ministry of Heavy Industries** received **22 bids** for **10 GWh** of Advanced Chemistry Cell capacity earmarked for **Grid-Scale Stationary Storage (GSSS)**; technical bids were opened on **11 November 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Global tender floated **15 July 2026**; bid deadline **10 Nov 2026**. ■ Part of **50 GWh** target under the **National Programme on ACC Battery Storage**. ■ Scheme approved **May 2021**; outlay **₹18,100 crore**. ■ **40 GWh** already awarded to four firms earlier. ■ Bidders include **Reliance, Amara Raja, Exide, JSW Neo Energy, Vikram Solar**.
Way Fwd	Pair cell capacity with secure critical-mineral supply (lithium, graphite), recycling rules and storage tenders that create assured demand.
Concept	**ACC**: new-generation storage tech storing electricity as electrochemical energy; **technology-agnostic** PLI with domestic value-addition conditions. GSSS smooths **solar/wind intermittency**.

ICBR-III: new border roads and bridges sanctioned along LAC in Arunachal

[DEFENCE] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (Border Security)**

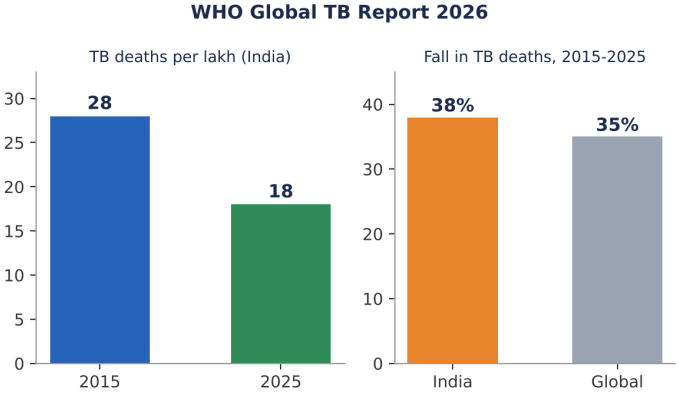
Syllabus Linkage	GS3: Security challenges in border areas. GS2: India-China relations. Prelims: ITBP, LAC, McMahon Line.
Context	Amid face-offs with Chinese troops in Arunachal Pradesh since **late July**, the Centre has sanctioned new border infrastructure; the **Cabinet Committee on Security** had cleared **ICBR-III** in **February 2026**.
Key Facts	■ ICBR-III: **26 roads** along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh. ■ ICBR-I (**2005**): **27 roads, 608 km**; ICBR-II (**21 Sept 2020**): **32 roads, 683 km**. ■ ITBP has authorised **15 pedestrian suspension bridges** and **18 log bridges** since September. ■ Bridges in **Upper Subansiri** and **Kurung Kumey** districts. ■ Only the second ICBR phase after the **2020 Galwan** clash.
Way Fwd	"Talk and build": pursue dialogue on border peace while closing the infrastructure gap and linking roads with the **Vibrant Villages Programme**.
Concept	**ITBP**: Central Armed Police Force under **MHA**, raised in **1962**, guards the **3,488 km** India-China border. **McMahon Line** (Simla Convention, **1914**) is India's boundary in the east.



WHO Global TB Report 2026: India's TB deaths fall 38% since 2015

[HEALTH] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 (Health)**

Syllabus Linkage	GS2: Health, communicable diseases. Prelims: WHO reports, NTEP, SDG 3.3.
Context	The WHO's **Global Tuberculosis Report 2026**, released on **12 November**, records a **38%** reduction in India's TB mortality since **2015**, faster than the global decline of **35%**.
Key Facts	■ Mortality fell from **28 per lakh** (2015) to **18 per lakh** (2025). ■ Treatment success **94%** for drug-susceptible TB. ■ India still has the highest burden: **~25%** of global TB cases. ■ Mortality estimates used **SRS**, verbal autopsy and **Ni-kshay** data. ■ India's incidence estimates are **under review** by WHO.
Way Fwd	Scale up active case-finding, AI-enabled screening and nutrition support (Ni-kshay Poshan) to cut incidence, not just deaths.
Concept	**SDG 3.3**: end TB epidemic by **2030**. WHO **End TB Strategy** milestone (2025): **75%** fewer deaths and **50%** lower incidence vs 2015. TB is caused by **Mycobacterium tuberculosis** (bacterium).

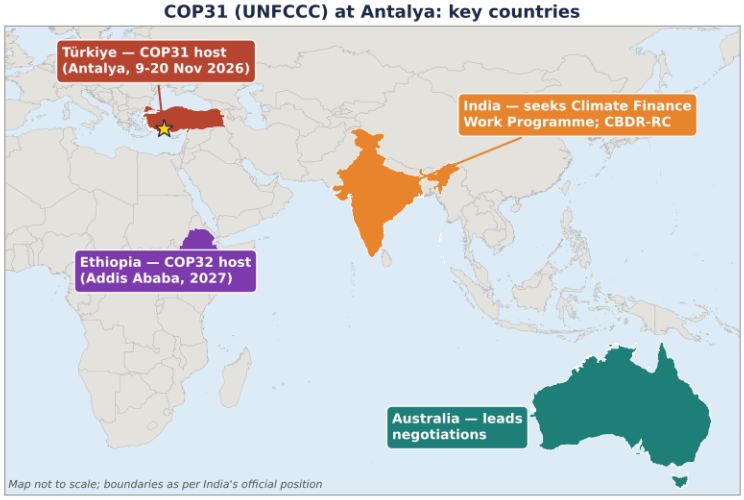


COP31 at Antalya: India pushes climate finance, rejects new top-down targets

[ENVIRONMENT] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (Climate Change)

Syllabus Linkage	GS3: Climate change, international agreements. GS2: Global groupings. Prelims: UNFCCC, COP venues, CBDR-RC.
Context	The **31st Conference of the Parties (COP31)** to the UNFCCC is under way at **Antalya, Türkiye** (**9-20 November 2026**), billed by the presidency as a "COP of Implementation".
Key Facts	■ Türkiye holds the presidency; **Australia** leads negotiations. ■ World Leaders Summit held on **11-12 November**. ■ India seeks a decision launching a **Climate Finance Work Programme**. ■ India declined a pledge to raise electricity's share of final energy from **23%** to **35% by 2035**. ■ **COP32** will be hosted by **Ethiopia** (**Addis Ababa**) in **2027**.
Way Fwd	Hold developed countries to past finance promises, predictable funding and technology transfer before adding new emission targets.
Concept	**CBDR-RC** (Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities) is a core UNFCCC (**1992**) principle; **NDCs** under the Paris Agreement (**2015**) are nationally determined, bottom-up pledges.

COP31 (UNFCCC) at Antalya: key countries



SECTION B | KEY ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

6.09%

CPI (Combined) inflation, October 2026

Up from **5.54%** in September; food (CFPI) at **8.94%**; rural **6.63%**, urban **5.41%**. Above the RBI's **2-6%** tolerance band around the **4%** target; next MPC review due in **December**.

SECTION C | GS-II: Polity • Governance • International Relations

Centre mulls special session to pass delimitation-linked Constitution amendment

[POLITY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 (Polity)

Syllabus Linkage	GS2: Parliament, federalism, constitutional amendments. Prelims: Art. 81, 82, 368, 334A.
Context	The Government is weighing a **special session of Parliament** to pass a Constitution amendment and the **Delimitation Bill, 2026**, to operationalise **33%** women's reservation before the **2029** polls; the Opposition has sought an all-party meeting.
Key Facts	■ Lok Sabha strength to rise from **543** to a maximum of **850**. ■ Seats of every State to rise by about **50%** to address southern concerns. ■ Delimitation proposed on **2011 Census** figures. ■ Govt sources claim a margin of **15-18 votes** over the required majority. ■ Earlier **131st Amendment Bill** failed in Lok Sabha on **17 April 2026** (**298-230**).
Way Fwd	Build consensus through an all-party meeting and protect federal balance so that gender justice is not held hostage to the seat-share debate.
Concept	**Art. 368** special majority: **2/3 of members present and voting** + majority of total membership. **Art. 82**: readjustment after each Census; **84th Amendment** froze seats till the first Census after **2026**. Women's quota: **106th Amendment** (**2023**).

India-Bangladesh talks postponed as Ganga Water Treaty nears expiry

[IR] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 (IR)

Syllabus Linkage	GS2: India and its neighbourhood, transboundary rivers. Prelims: Farakka, Ganga Water Treaty, JRC.
Context	An India-Bangladesh consular dialogue has been postponed amid a rift over former PM **Sheikh Hasina**, whose extradition Dhaka seeks, even as the **Ganga Water Treaty** expires next month with renewal talks stalled.
Key Facts	■ Treaty signed **12 December 1996** for **30 years**. ■ It shares Ganga flows at **Farakka Barrage** in the lean season (**1 Jan - 31 May**). ■ India and Bangladesh share **54** rivers. ■ **Joint Rivers Commission** set up in **1972**. ■ India must balance humanitarian hosting with vital ties to Dhaka.
Way Fwd	Delink water diplomacy from political frictions; seek an interim extension and a basin-wide approach, including the pending Teesta issue.

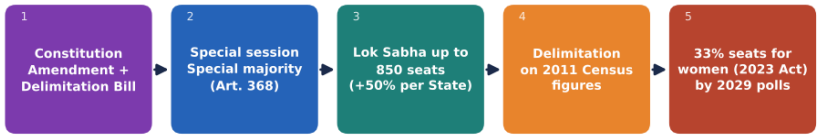
Concept	**Farakka Barrage** (Murshidabad, West Bengal; commissioned **1975**) diverts water into the **Bhagirathi-Hooghly** via a feeder canal to keep **Kolkata port** navigable.

One Nation One Ration Card: portability now routine across all 36 States/UTs

[SOCIETY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 (Governance)**

Syllabus Linkage	GS2: Welfare schemes, e-governance. GS3: Food security, PDS. Prelims: NFSA 2013, ONORC, IM-PDS.
Context	A government status note says **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)** operates in **all 36 States/UTs**, letting NFSA beneficiaries, especially migrants, draw rations from any fair price shop.
Key Facts	■ About **3.27 crore** portability transactions a month. ■ e-KYC done for **71.52 crore** beneficiaries (**91%**) as on **30 Sept 2026**. ■ Covers about **80 crore** NFSA beneficiaries. ■ **Mera Ration** app available in **13 languages**. ■ Launched **August 2019**; **Assam** became the **36th** State/UT (2022).
Way Fwd	Fix biometric authentication failures, improve last-mile connectivity and integrate ONORC data with welfare registries for better targeting.
Concept	**NFSA 2013** covers up to **75% rural** and **50% urban** population; works on **Aadhaar-seeded** ration cards and **ePoS** devices. Food distribution falls under **Entry 33, Concurrent List**.

Delimitation & women's reservation: the proposed route



Earlier attempt: Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill failed in Lok Sabha on 17 April 2026 (298 for, 230 against)

SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. New CPI series uses base year **2024=100**; data released by **NSO, MoSPI**	**4.** ICBR-I (**2005**): **27 roads, 608 km**; ICBR-II (**Sept 2020**): **32 roads, 683 km**
2. NBS scheme for P&K fertilisers in force since **1 April 2010**; covers **28 grades**	**5.** PLI impact report prepared with **IIM Ahmedabad** as knowledge partner
3. PLI-ACC scheme: approved **May 2021**, outlay **₹18,100 crore**, target **50 GWh**	**6.** Ganga Water Treaty with Bangladesh signed **12 Dec 1996** for **30 years**

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER

Prelims MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme:
1. It covers urea along with P&K fertilisers.
2. It has been in force since April 2010.
3. Subsidy is fixed per kg of N, P, K and S nutrients.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) — Urea is outside NBS; its MRP is statutorily fixed and it is subsidised separately. NBS (since **1 April 2010**) fixes a per-kg subsidy on **N, P, K and S** for **28 grades** of P&K fertilisers.

Q2. With reference to border infrastructure in Arunachal Pradesh, consider the following statements:
1. ICBR-III envisages 26 roads along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. The first phase of the India-China Border Roads project began in 2005.
3. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police functions under the Ministry of Defence.
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) — ICBR-III covers **26 roads**; ICBR-I began in **2005** with **27 roads (608 km)**. ITBP is a **Central Armed Police Force** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, not Defence.

Mains Practice (GS3)

"The Production Linked Incentive schemes have mobilised investment far faster than employment." Examine the reasons for this gap and suggest design changes to make the schemes more job-intensive. (15 marks, 250 words)

Hint: Intro with NITI Aayog data (**76%** investment, **64%** production, **28%** jobs). Body: gestation lags, capital-intensive sectors (electronics, ACC), assembly-led low value addition, slow disbursal. Way forward: employment-linked incentive tranches, labour-intensive sectors (textiles, footwear, food), MSME supplier links, skilling. Conclude with Atmanirbhar Bharat and quality jobs.

ONE-LINE REVISION: CPI **6.09%** (food **8.94%**) | PLI jobs **28%** of target | NBS Rabi **₹62,370 cr** | ACC **22 bids** | ICBR-III **26 roads** | TB deaths **-38%** | COP31 **Antalya** | Lok Sabha up to **850**

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