CURRENT AFFAIRS — 17 NOV 2026

Tuesday, 17 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Prelims + Mains GS-wise digest

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UPSC CSE

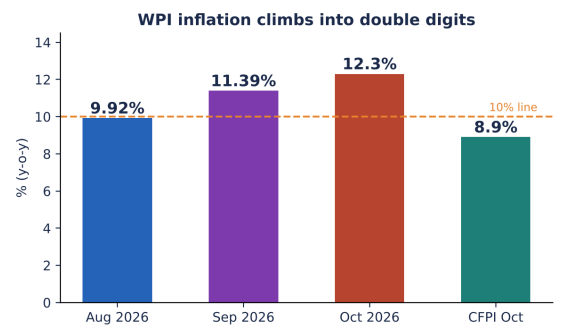
TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **WPI** inflation **12.3%** (Oct 2026) — 2nd straight double-digit month; Sept was **11.39%**.
- Food inflation (**CFPI**) at **8.9%** — a **23-month high**; El Nino classed **'very strong'**.
- **23rd ASEAN-India Summit** + **21st EAS** in **Manila**; Philippines is **ASEAN Chair 2026**.
- Quad leaders meet in **Manila (17 Nov)** — first Quad leaders' meeting of **Trump 2.0**.
- **SURYASTRA** URLS (NIBE Ltd) hits **300 km** at **ITR Chandipur**; CEP **under 5 m**.
- **Global Carbon Budget 2026**: fossil CO2 **38.2 Gt** (-0.4%); India **+4.4%**.
- **COP31** at **Antalya, Turkiye** (9-20 Nov): draft eyes **35% electrification by 2035**.
- Census 2027 self-enumeration portal: **287** 'Others' religion entries listed, then removed.
- SC: States/UTs/districts where **Yamuna** quality worsens will be **held accountable**.
- **FRA, 2006**: **25.42 lakh** titles; **National FRA Digital Platform** launched.

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

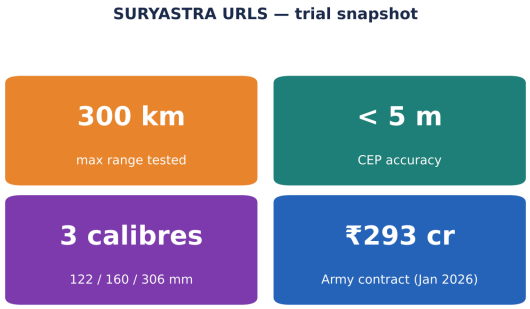
Wholesale inflation stays in double digits at 12.3%

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Inflation, monetary policy, food security | Prelims: **WPI vs CPI**, base year, **El Nino**, OMSS
Context	**WPI** inflation rose to **12.3%** in **October 2026**, the **second straight month** in double digits, as costlier energy and a **'very strong' El Nino** squeezed supply.
Key Facts	■ Trend: **9.92%** (Aug) → **11.39%** (Sep) → **12.3%** (Oct). ■ Crude petroleum & natural gas up **over 70%**; manufactured products **9.5%**. ■ Food inflation (**CFPI**) **8.9%**, a **23-month high**; NE monsoon **33.6% below normal**. ■ Rabi sowing down: **wheat -15.3%**, **chana -21.6%**, mustard **-8.4%**. ■ Cushion: central pool cereals **101.79 MT** (~**3.3x** buffer norm) on 1 Oct.
Visual	
Way Fwd	Release cereals via **OMSS**, use the **Price Stabilisation Fund** for pulses/onion, trim fuel taxes and align RBI tightening with supply-side steps.
Concept	**WPI** is compiled by the **Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT** (new base **2022-23**); it covers **goods only**. RBI targets **CPI** at **4% ±2%** (Sec **45ZA**, RBI Act).

SURYASTRA rocket launcher strikes at 300 km in trials

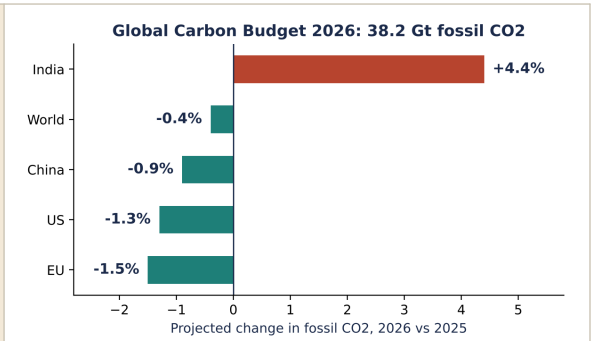
[DEFENCE] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Defence technology, indigenisation | Prelims: **URLS**, CEP, **ITR Chandipur**
Context	**SURYASTRA**, India's first indigenous **Universal Rocket Launcher System (URLS)** built by Pune-based **NIBE Limited**, completed fresh live-fire trials at **ITR Chandipur, Odisha**.
Key Facts	■ Hit targets at **30, 50, 150 and 300 km**; accuracy **CEP under 5 m**. ■ Multi-calibre: fires **122 mm, 160 mm and 306 mm** rockets from one launcher. ■ Based on Israel's **Elbit PULS** architecture (tech pact **July 2025**). ■ Builds on a **₹293 crore** Army emergency-procurement contract (**Jan 2026**).
Visual	
Way Fwd	Scale private-sector production, secure ammunition supply chains and pursue **exports** under defence self-reliance goals.
Concept	**CEP (Circular Error Probable)**: radius within which **50%** of rounds land. **'Shoot-and-scoot'**: fire and relocate fast to escape counter-battery fire.

Global Carbon Budget 2026: fossil CO2 dips, India rises

[ENVIRONMENT] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Climate change, emissions | Prelims: **Global Carbon Project**, carbon budget, land-use emissions
Context	The **Global Carbon Project** projects fossil CO2 emissions to **fall 0.4%** to **38.2 Gt** in 2026, but total CO2 rises because of land-use change.
Key Facts	■ Total CO2 incl. land use: **43.3 Gt** (2025: **42.8 Gt**). ■ Change in 2026: **China -0.9%**, **US -1.3%**, **EU -1.5%**, **India +4.4%**. ■ Remaining **1.5°C** budget ~**150 Gt** — **less than 4 years** at current rates. ■ Oil emissions **-1.9%**; coal still **+0.57%**; India per-capita only ~**2.2 t**.

Visual	
Way Fwd	India should stress **per-capita equity** and **CBDR-RC**, while speeding up renewables and coal-plant efficiency.
Concept	**Carbon budget**: cumulative CO2 that can still be emitted to keep warming below a threshold (e.g. **1.5°C**). India's net-zero target: **2070**.

COP31 Antalya draft keeps 1.5°C goal, splits North and South

[ENVIRONMENT] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – International climate agreements | **GS2** – Global groupings | Prelims: **UNFCCC**, **CBAM**, NCQG
Context	A **draft cover decision** at **COP31, Antalya (Turkiye)** urges bringing warming back to **1.5°C** 'as early as possible' and backs a global **electrification goal**.
Key Facts	■ COP31: **9-20 Nov 2026**; **Turkiye** holds Presidency, **Australia** leads negotiations. ■ Electrification: raise electricity's share of final energy from **23% to 35% by 2035**. ■ Developing nations want **CBAM** and unilateral trade measures ended by **end-2027**. ■ India (**Bhupender Yadav**): a **Just Transition Mechanism** must create **no new obligations**.
Way Fwd	A binding **finance roadmap** under **Article 9.1** of Paris Agreement and resolving **CBAM** through WTO-UNFCCC dialogue.
Concept	**NCQG** (COP29, Baku 2024): **$300 bn/year by 2035**. **CBAM**: EU levy on carbon-intensive imports (steel, aluminium, cement).

Space sector reforms and Gaganyaan crew training in focus

[SCI-TECH] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Space technology, investment models | Prelims: **IN-SPACe**, **NSIL**, FDI limits, Karman line
Context	An official note reviewed how reforms since **June 2020** opened space to private players, as details emerged on how **ISRO and the IAF** picked and trained **Gaganyaan** astronauts.
Key Facts	■ Space economy ~**US$9 bn**; start-ups grew from **1 (2014)** to ~**440**. ■ FDI (automatic route): **74%** satellites, **49%** launch vehicles, **100%** components. ■ Crew evaluated by the **Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Bengaluru**. ■ Astronaut-designates: **P. B. Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap, Shubhanshu Shukla**.
Way Fwd	Enact a **Space Activities law** giving statutory backing to IN-SPACe, liability and insurance rules.
Concept	**Karman line**: **100 km** above sea level, the conventional edge of space. **IN-SPACe** = single-window authoriser for non-government space entities.

SECTION B — ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

12.3%

WPI inflation, October 2026

Second straight double-digit month (Sept **11.39%**); energy up **70%+**, food (CFPI) at **8.9%** — a cost-push, supply-side shock.

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

Census 2027 — first digital census: phased schedule

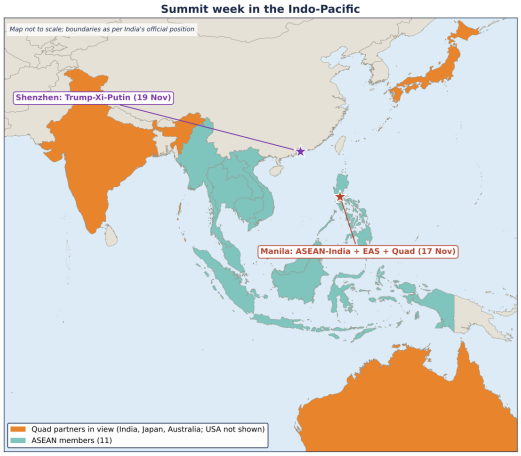
Snow-bound areas	4 poll-bound States	Rest of India
Enumeration: Sept 2026	UP, Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand	Self-enum: from 10 Jan 2027
Reference: 1 Oct 2026	Self-enum: 16-30 Nov 2026	Enum: 25 Jan-28 Feb 2027
	Enum: 1 Dec 2026-4 Jan 2027	Reference: 1 Mar 2027

Diagram for the Census 2027 item below.

Quad leaders meet in Manila amid ASEAN-India and East Asia Summits

[IR] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Bilateral/regional groupings | Prelims: **Quad, ASEAN, EAS, APEC**, Act East, **MAHASAGAR**
Context	PM Modi is in **Manila (16-18 Nov)** for the **23rd ASEAN-India Summit** and **21st East Asia Summit**; Quad leaders meet two days before a **Trump-Xi-Putin** trilateral in **Shenzhen (19 Nov)**.

Key Facts	■ First Quad leaders' meeting of **Trump's second term**; last summit **Wilmington, Sept 2024**. ■ **2026** = **ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation**; Philippines chairs ASEAN. ■ India-ASEAN trade **$128.37 bn** (2025-26); India seeks **AITIGA** review. ■ Summit to review **ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2026-2030**. ■ India is **not** an **APEC** member (21 economies, founded **Canberra 1989**).
Visual	
Way Fwd	Push practical Quad deliverables (**IPMDA**, health, critical minerals), conclude the **AITIGA** review and speed up the **Kaladan** and Trilateral Highway projects.
Concept	**Quad**: India, US, Japan, Australia; leaders' level since **2021**. **EAS** (2005): ASEAN + 8 incl. **US and Russia**. **MAHASAGAR** announced in **Mauritius, March 2025**.

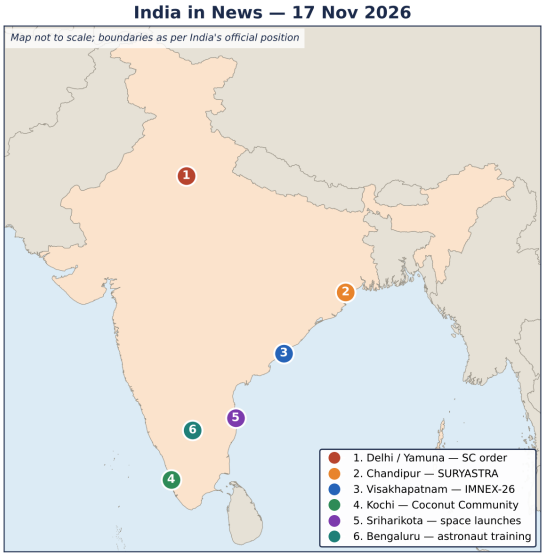
Census 2027 portal lists 287 'other' religions, then drops them

[POLITY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS1/GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Government policies, data governance | **GS1** – Population | Prelims: **Census Act 1948**, Entry **69** Union List
Context	The **self-enumeration portal** for **Census 2027** opened for four poll-bound States; its 'Others' religion field showed a **drop-down of 287 entries** mixing sects and deities, later **removed**.
Key Facts	■ Officials called it **'predictive text'**; respondents remain **free to write any religion**. ■ Self-enumeration **16-30 Nov 2026** in **UP, Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand** (non-snow-bound). ■ Reference date for most of India: **00:00 hrs, 1 March 2027**. ■ First **digital census**; first full **caste count** since **1931** (approved **30 April 2025**). ■ **16th** census overall, **8th** since Independence; **Manipur** deferred.
Visual	*See the full-width diagram above this section.*
Way Fwd	Publish **religion and caste code lists**, consult tribal groups on **Sarna** code demand and enforce **DPDP Act, 2023** safeguards.
Concept	Census is a **Union subject** (Entry **69**, Seventh Schedule) run by the **Registrar General & Census Commissioner** (MHA). **106th Amendment**: women's reservation follows **delimitation** after this census.

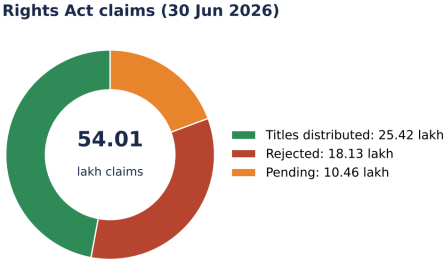
SC: authorities liable if Yamuna water quality worsens

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Judiciary, governance | **GS3** – Pollution | Prelims: **Water Act 1974**, CPCB, environmental compensation
Context	A bench of **Justices Manoj Misra and Manmohan** warned **Yamuna basin States/UTs** of penalties, noting pollution keeps rising despite heavy spending.
Key Facts	■ Worsening quality in any **State, UT or district** makes that authority **liable for penalty**. ■ **Two-week** deadline to nominate accountable **nodal officers**. ■ **CPCB** to conduct **quarterly surprise inspections**. ■ **Environmental compensation** recoverable for **every day** of non-compliance.
Visual	
Way Fwd	Close **sewage treatment gaps**, tie funding to measured water-quality outcomes and publish basin-wide monitoring data.
Concept	Clean water is part of the **Right to Life (Art. 21)**. **Polluter Pays** principle; PCBs may levy compensation under **Sec 33A Water Act** / **Sec 31A Air Act**.

Forest Rights Act: National FRA Digital Platform launched

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Welfare of vulnerable sections, tribal rights | Prelims: **FRA 2006**, Gram Sabha, IFR/CFR
Context	The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** launched a **National FRA Digital Platform** during **Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada (1-15 Nov 2026)** to run the full claim cycle online.
Key Facts	■ Claims received **54.01 lakh**; titles **25.42 lakh** over ~**238 lakh acres** (30 Jun 2026). ■ Pending **10.46 lakh**; rejected **18.13 lakh**; CFR titles ~**1.24 lakh**. ■ **Gram Sabha** is the first authority; IFR ceiling **4 hectares**. ■ Titles in revenue records unlock **PM-KISAN**, crop loans, **KCC**.
Visual	

Way Fwd	Re-examine **rejected claims**, geotag titles and expand **Community Forest Rights** recognition.
Concept	**FRA, 2006** corrects 'historical injustice' to forest dwellers. **Forest (Conservation) Act 1980** renamed **Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam** in **2023**.

India signs San Francisco Declaration on secure tech supply chains

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Groupings involving India | **GS3** – Semiconductors, AI | Prelims: **Pax Silica**, signatories
Context	India, the US and eight others signed the **San Francisco Declaration on the Secure Foundations of Enduring Prosperity** on **15 Nov 2026** at the **Pax Silica Founders Retreat**.
Key Facts	■ **10 signatories**: US, Australia, India, Israel, Japan, S. Korea, Qatar, Singapore, UAE, UK. ■ Covers **critical minerals, semiconductors**, energy and **AI compute** supply chains. ■ India formally joined **Pax Silica** on **20 Feb 2026**. ■ Links **economic security** with **national security**.
Way Fwd	Use the platform to attract **fabs and mineral processing** under the **India Semiconductor Mission** while keeping strategic autonomy.
Concept	**Friend-shoring**: shifting supply chains to trusted partners. Complements India-US **TRUST** initiative and the **Minerals Security Partnership**.

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **IMNEX-26** (8th India-Myanmar naval exercise) ended at **Visakhapatnam** (14 Nov); **INS Rana & INS Sumedha** took part.	**2.** India hosts the **62nd Session of the International Coconut Community** at **Kochi**, **17-20 Nov 2026**.
3. **AMCA** developer to be picked soon from **TASL**, **L&T**-led and **Bharat Forge**-led bids.	**4.** MoD (**DGDE**) & MoSJE MoU: senior citizen homes in **8 Cantonments** under **AVYAY**; DGDE centenary (est. **1926**).
5. SC: **Punjab & Haryana** to pay **Himachal Pradesh** its **13,066 MU** Bhakra-Beas power arrears.	**6.** Global **GCAP** fighter programme partners: **UK, Italy, Japan**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

PRELIMS Q1. With reference to inflation measurement in India, consider: 1. WPI is compiled by the National Statistics Office. 2. WPI does not cover services. 3. RBI's inflation target is defined in terms of CPI. Which are correct?

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

Answer: (b) — WPI is compiled by the **Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT**, not NSO. It covers **goods only**. The **4% ±2%** target under **Sec 45ZA** is for **CPI**.

PRELIMS Q2. Consider: 1. India is a member of APEC. 2. The East Asia Summit includes both the US and Russia. 3. The Quad was elevated to leaders' level in 2021. Which are correct?

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

Answer: (b) — India is **not** an **APEC** member. **US and Russia** joined the **EAS** in **2011**. Quad leaders first met in **2021** (virtual, March).

MAINS PRACTICE

Double-digit wholesale inflation in 2026 is largely a supply-side shock. Examine the limits of monetary policy in such episodes and suggest a coordinated policy response. (GS3, 15 marks, 250 words)

Hint: Intro with **12.3% WPI** and **CFPI 8.9%**; body: cost-push drivers (energy **70%+**, **El Nino**), why rate hikes only anchor expectations; remedies — **OMSS**, **PSF**, duty cuts, fuel taxes, climate-resilient farming; conclude on **monetary-fiscal coordination**.

ONE-LINE REVISION: **WPI 12.3%** + **CFPI 8.9%** | **Manila**: 23rd ASEAN-India + 21st EAS + Quad | **SURYASTRA 300 km** | **GCB: India +4.4%** | **FRA 25.42 lakh titles**.

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