CURRENT AFFAIRS — 23 November 2026

Monday, 23 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Prelims + Mains GS-wise digest

StudyForGS.com

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UPSC CSE

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **COP31** (Antalya, Türkiye) closed on **22 Nov** without adopting a cover decision; **COP32** goes to **Addis Ababa**.
- Draft **Antalya Pact** named **35% electrification by 2035** but dropped explicit fossil-fuel transition language.
- Government survey of **51,303 households**: **13.2%** of PMGKAY beneficiaries ineligible.
- Highest inclusion error: **West Bengal 39.5%**, **Tripura 39.2%**, **Tamil Nadu 38.7%**.
- **NCS ONE** portal + **Occupational Shortage Index** launched at Labour Chintan Shivir, **Gandhinagar**.
- **Labour Codes** completed one year of implementation (in force since **21 Nov 2025**).
- India–China second round of **Corps Commander** talks on Arunachal frontier began **8 Nov**, lasted nearly **10 days**.
- Shah: reverse migration in **40 villages** on China border under **Vibrant Villages Programme**.
- Nepal PM **Balendra Shah** in Delhi on first bilateral visit; **Saryu-Kamala Express** (Ayodhya–Janakpur) on agenda.
- First **SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum** at **Purana Qila** adopted the **Indraprastha Communiqué**.

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

COP31 at Antalya ends without a climate pact

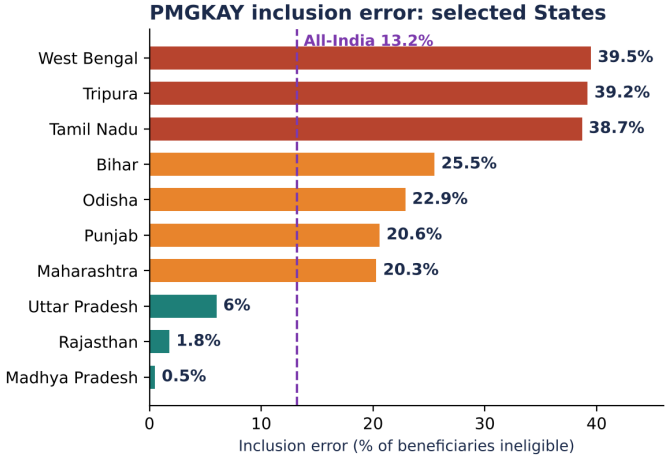
[ENVIRONMENT] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Environment, climate change negotiations; **Prelims** – UNFCCC, COPs, Paris Agreement.
Context	The **31st Conference of Parties (COP31)** of the UNFCCC at **Antalya, Türkiye**, scheduled for **9–20 November**, ran two extra days and closed on **22 November 2026** without adopting its cover decision, as members split over language on **fossil fuels**.
Key Facts	■ Presided by Türkiye's minister **Murat Kurum**; Australia's **Chris Bowen** led negotiations — a host-sharing compromise. ■ Draft cover decision (**Antalya Pact**) set **35% share of electricity in final energy by 2035** but had **no explicit call to transition away from fossil fuels**. ■ The **EU formally objected**; the UN said Antalya became the **longest-running UN climate summit on record**. ■ Progress noted by the UN: agreement on a **just transition** and Action Agenda initiatives on **electrification, resilience and investment**. ■ India stressed **equity, historical responsibility** and support from developed countries; **COP32** will be at **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**.
Way Fwd	Unresolved issues — **fossil-fuel transition, adaptation finance, loss and damage** — move to **COP32**; India should push **finance and technology transfer** alongside clean-energy partnerships.
Concept	**UNFCCC** adopted **1992** (Rio), in force **1994**; COP is its supreme body and decides by **consensus**. **Paris Agreement (2015)** aims to keep warming well below **2°C**, pursuing **1.5°C**. **COP28 (Dubai, 2023)** first called for **transitioning away from fossil fuels**.

Study flags 13.2% inclusion error in PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2/GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Public Distribution System, food security, subsidies; **GS2** – welfare schemes and targeting.
Context	A study by the **Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD)** for **FY 2025-26** found that **13.2%** of households getting free foodgrains under **PMGKAY** do not meet eligibility criteria — including car or AC owners and families with **government employees**.
Key Facts	■ Sample: **51,303 households** across all **36 States/UTs**, rural and urban. ■ Highest error: **West Bengal 39.5%**, **Tripura 39.2%**, **Tamil Nadu 38.7%**; lowest among listed: **Madhya Pradesh 0.5%**, **Rajasthan 1.8%**. ■ Error higher in **urban (15.6%)** than **rural (12.5%)** areas; **PHH 13.4%** vs **AAY 12.2%**. ■ Food subsidy stood at **₹2.28 lakh crore** in 2025-26 (**Revised Estimate**). ■ Report recommends **periodic database validation**, better verification and **Aadhaar seeding**.
Way Fwd	Uniform, periodically updated **eligibility criteria**, linking ration databases with **asset and tax records**, while guarding against **exclusion** of genuinely poor households.
Concept	**Inclusion error** = ineligible people get benefits; **exclusion error** = eligible people left out. **NFSA 2013** covers up to **75% rural** and **50% urban** population; **AAY** gets **35 kg** per household per month, **PHH 5 kg** per person. Free grain under PMGKAY since **1 January 2023**.



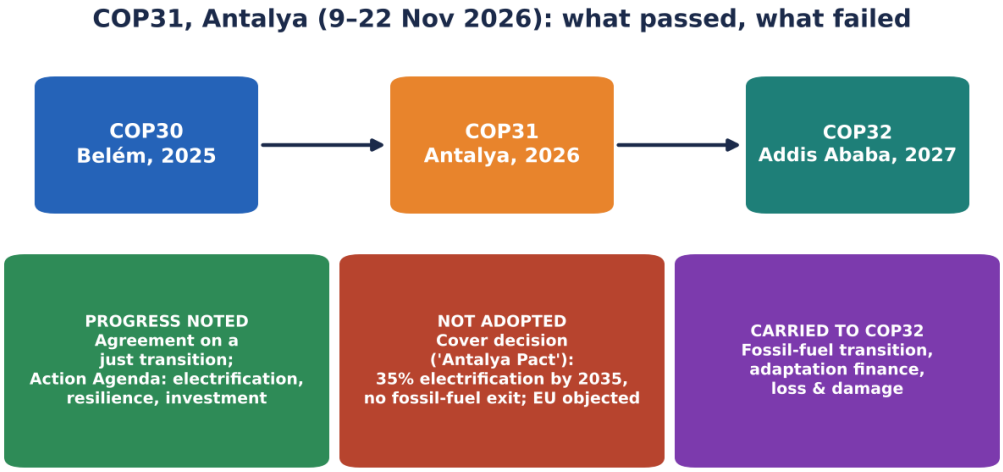


Fig: COP31 Antalya — outcome at a glance (linked to item: COP31 ends without a climate pact)

NCS ONE portal and Occupational Shortage Index launched

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

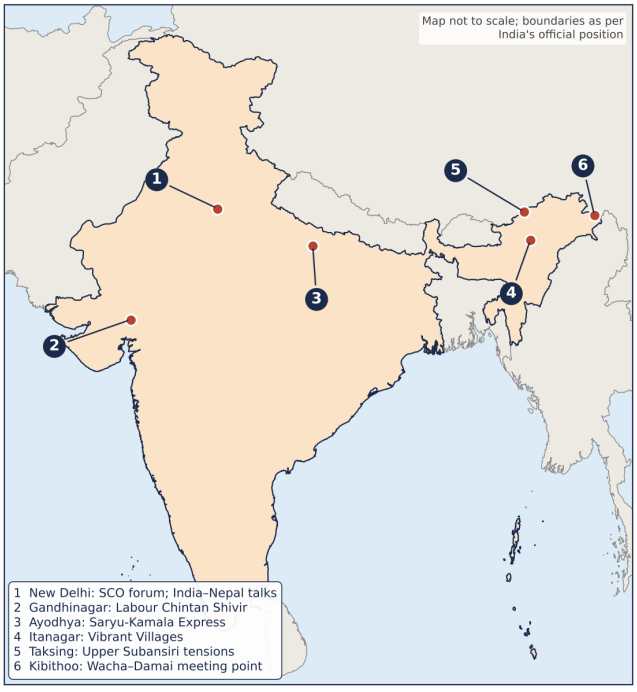
Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – employment, labour reforms; **GS2** – e-governance; **Prelims** – NCS, e-Shram, Labour Codes.
Context	At the two-day **Chintan Shivir** of State and UT labour ministers in **Gandhinagar** (21–22 Nov), Union Labour Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** launched the **NCS ONE** portal and other tools; the conclave marked **one year of the Labour Codes**.
Key Facts	■ **NCS ONE** = National Career Service **Open Network for Employment**, with **Voice Bot** and **Chat Bot**, linking jobseekers, employers, State portals, private job platforms and campuses. ■ **Occupational Shortage Index (OSI)** measures gaps between labour **demand and supply** to guide careers, skilling and policy. ■ **e-Shram Livelihood Profile Module** tracks five protections (**Panch Suraksha**): food, health, life insurance, accident/disability and pension. ■ **8 Career Lounges** launched (incl. **Kanpur, Varanasi, Guwahati**); **200** planned, mainly in Tier-II/III cities. ■ Released an **Addendum to NCO-2015** and a compilation of **green occupations**.
Way Fwd	Make OSI data **district-level and public**, integrate it with **Skill India** curricula, and ensure gig and unorganised workers actually receive the **Panch Suraksha** benefits.
Concept	**NCS portal** launched in **2015** by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The **four Labour Codes** (Wages 2019; Industrial Relations, Social Security, OSH 2020) came into force on **21 November 2025**. Labour is in the **Concurrent List**.

India–China hold nearly 10-day Corps Commander talks on Arunachal frontier

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – security challenges in border areas; **GS2** – India–China relations; **Prelims** – LAC sectors, places in Arunachal.
Context	India and China concluded the **second round of Corps Commander-level talks** on tensions along the **Arunachal Pradesh** frontier. The talks began on **8 November** and ran for nearly **10 days** with a short break, ahead of winter.
Key Facts	■ Indian side led by **Lt Gen Girish Kalia**, GOC **III Corps** (Spear Corps), with an **MEA** official present. ■ Focus: **rules of engagement**, open communication channels and preventing friction between troops. ■ First round was held on **6–7 September** at **Wacha–Damai** meeting point in the **Kibithoo** sector. ■ It followed reported tensions in the **Taksing** area of **Upper Subansiri** district. ■ Earlier, NSA **Ajit Doval** met Chinese FM **Wang Yi** in Beijing in August as **Special Representatives** on the boundary.
Way Fwd	Lock in **patrolling protocols** before winter, keep the **Special Representatives** and WMCC channels active, and speed up **border infrastructure** on the Indian side.
Concept	The **LAC** (about **3,488 km**) has **Western (Ladakh)**, **Middle (HP–Uttarakhand)** and **Eastern (Sikkim–Arunachal)** sectors. In the east, India follows the **McMahon Line** (Simla, **1914**), which China does not accept. The SR mechanism dates to **2003**.

India in News — 23 Nov 2026



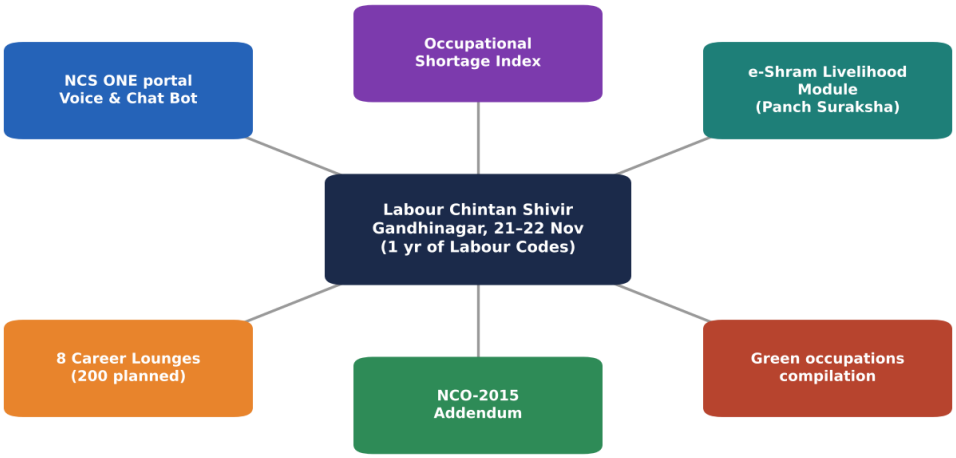


Fig: Initiatives launched at the Labour Chintan Shivir, Gandhinagar (linked to item: NCS ONE portal)

Vibrant Villages: reverse migration in 40 Arunachal border villages, says Shah

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – border area management, internal security; **GS2** – government schemes; **Prelims** – Vibrant Villages Programme.
Context	Speaking at a cooperative conference in **Itanagar** on **22 November**, Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Amit Shah** said migration has stopped and population has risen in **40 villages** along the China border, crediting the **Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)**.
Key Facts	■ MHA has directed the **ITBP and Army** to buy provisions from border villages via **local cooperatives**, instead of from Tezpur or Guwahati. ■ **Women's cooperatives** supply dairy, eggs, vegetables, millets and flour. ■ **Mobile medical units** deployed for villages in **11 border districts** of Arunachal. ■ Amenities credited: **power, schools, health care, drinking water, solar panels** and jobs.
Way Fwd	Independent **population and livelihood surveys** to verify reverse migration; linking VVP with **tourism, connectivity and cooperatives** to make border villages self-sustaining.
Concept	**VVP-I** (approved **2023**, launched at **Kibithoo**) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for villages on the **northern border** (Arunachal, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, HP, Ladakh). **VVP-II** (approved **2025**) covers villages on other international land borders.

AI-assisted proof of the Riemann hypothesis claimed; verification pending

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – developments in AI and their applications; **Prelims** – famous mathematical problems, proof assistants.
Context	Mathematician **Levent Alpöge**, a researcher at the AI firm **Anthropic**, has claimed that work with its AI model **Claude** produced a proof of the **Riemann hypothesis** and its generalised form. Mathematicians say it has **not yet been independently verified**.
Key Facts	■ The proof materials were released in **Lean**, a language that lets computers **check mathematical proofs**. ■ The AI-assisted output reportedly runs to **more than 2,50,000 pages**. ■ The hypothesis was proposed by **Bernhard Riemann** in **1859**; 2026 marks his **200th birth anniversary**. ■ It is one of the **seven Millennium Prize Problems** (2000) of the **Clay Mathematics Institute**, each carrying **$1 million**.
Way Fwd	Rigorous **peer review** and checking of the formal proof; for India, investment in **AI-for-science** and formal-verification skills under the **IndiaAI Mission**.
Concept	The **Riemann hypothesis** states that all non-trivial zeros of the **Riemann zeta function** have real part **1/2**; it governs the distribution of **prime numbers**. Of the seven Millennium problems, only the **Poincaré conjecture** is solved (**Grigori Perelman**).

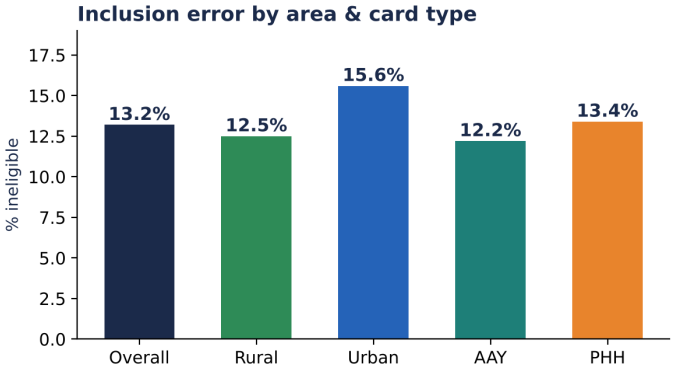
SECTION B — ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

13.2%

PMGKAY inclusion error (DFPD survey, FY 2025-26)

Survey of **51,303 households** in **36 States/UTs**: error **15.6% urban** vs **12.5% rural**; **PHH 13.4%**, **AAY 12.2%**.

Why it matters: inclusion errors waste scarce subsidy; the fix is better data, not lower coverage of the genuinely poor.



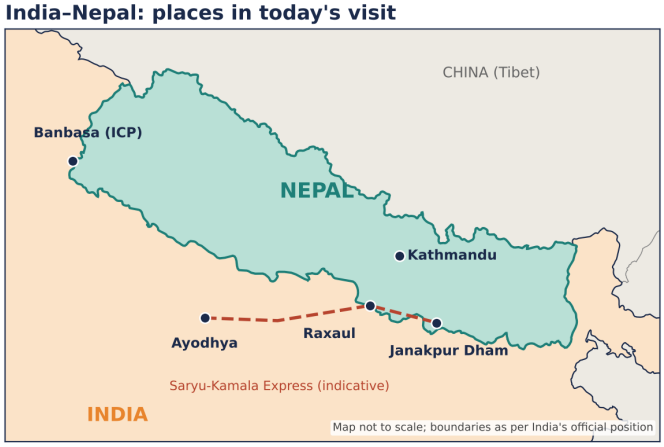
SECTION C — GS-II: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS • POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Nepal PM Balendra Shah on first bilateral visit; talks with PM Modi

[IR] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – India and its neighbourhood, bilateral relations; **Prelims** – India–Nepal border states, connectivity projects.
Context	Nepal PM **Balendra (Balen) Shah**, in office since **March 2026**, arrived on **22 November** for a two-day **State visit** — his first bilateral visit abroad — and holds delegation-level talks with PM **Narendra Modi** at **Hyderabad House** today.
Key Facts	■ Agenda: **energy (hydropower)**, trade, investment, rail-road-air **connectivity**, and **post-flood reconstruction** support. ■ Virtual flag-off of the weekly **Saryu-Kamala Express** linking **Ayodhya** (UP) with **Janakpur Dham** (Nepal) is on the schedule. ■ Other items: proposed **Raxaul–Kathmandu** rail line and an **integrated check post at Banbasa** (Uttarakhand). ■ Shah is accompanied by a **52-member business delegation**; he also calls on President **Droupadi Murmu**.
Way Fwd	Fast-track **cross-border transmission** and hydropower trade, time-bound completion of rail links, and resolve pending issues through **dialogue** under **Neighbourhood First**.
Concept	**1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship** allows an open border; Nepal borders **5 Indian states** — Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim. Under a **2024** long-term agreement, India is to import **10,000 MW** from Nepal over ten years. Janakpur lies in Nepal's **Madhesh Province**.

India–Nepal: places in today's visit



First SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum adopts Indraprastha Communiqué

[IR] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 & GS1

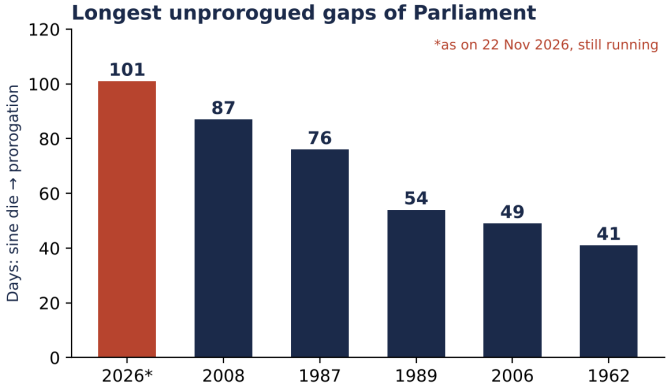
Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – regional groupings, soft power; **GS1** – Indian culture and heritage; **Prelims** – SCO members and bodies.
Context	The **first SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum**, organised by the **Ministry of Culture** at **Purana Qila, New Delhi** (20–22 Nov) and inaugurated by PM **Narendra Modi**, closed with the **Indraprastha Communiqué**.
Key Facts	■ Communiqué: every civilisation an **equal voice**, in the spirit of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**. ■ Proposes **joint UNESCO nominations** of shared heritage and a **digital repository** for manuscripts and oral traditions. ■ Backs **responsible use of AI** in heritage, and action against **illicit trafficking** of cultural property. ■ India proposed holding the Dialogue **every two years**; attended by SCO Secretary-General **Nurlan Yermekbayev**.
Way Fwd	Use the forum to build **people-to-people** trust and repatriate trafficked artefacts, while keeping cultural cooperation separate from **security disputes** within SCO.
Concept	**SCO** founded **2001** (Shanghai); Charter signed **2002**. **10 members**: China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, **Iran (2023)**, **Belarus (2024)**. India full member since **2017**; Secretariat in **Beijing**, **RATS** in **Tashkent**.

Monsoon Session left unprorogued for a record 100+ days

[POLITY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Parliament: functioning, sessions, powers of the President; **Prelims** – Articles 85 and 123.
Context	Both Houses were **adjourned sine die on 13 August 2026**, but the Monsoon Session has not been **prorogued**; the gap crossed **100 days** on 21 November — beyond the previous longest gap of **87 days (2008)** — as the Winter Session date awaits.
Key Facts	■ Monsoon Session ended with **12 Bills** passed before sine die adjournment. ■ Without prorogation, the Speaker/Chairman can **reconvene** the House on short notice; a **fresh session** needs a new presidential summons. ■ No constitutional **deadline** exists for proroguing after sine die adjournment. ■ Earlier long gaps: **87 days (2008)**, **76 days (1987)**, **54 days (1989)**.
Way Fwd	A fixed **parliamentary calendar** and minimum sitting days would add predictability; prompt prorogation or summons avoids doubts on **ordinance** and question procedures.
Concept	**Article 85**: the **President** summons and prorogues the Houses; gap between two sessions cannot exceed **six months**. **Adjournment sine die** (by Presiding Officer) ends a sitting; **prorogation** ends the session. Pending **Bills do not lapse** on prorogation. **Article 123** ordinances can be issued only when **at least one House is not in session**.

Longest unprorogued gaps of Parliament



SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Saryu-Kamala Express: weekly train between **Ayodhya** (UP) and **Janakpur Dham** (Nepal).	**III Corps** (Spear Corps) is headquartered at **Rangapahar**, near Dimapur (Nagaland).
COP32 host city: **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**.	**Wacha–Damai** border meeting point lies in the **Kibithoo** sector, Arunachal Pradesh.
SCO Secretary-General: **Nurlan Yermekbayev**.	**Lean**: a computer language used to formally **verify mathematical proofs**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements: 1. The President prorogues the Houses of Parliament under Article 85. 2. Bills pending in the Lok Sabha lapse when the House is prorogued. 3. An ordinance under Article 123 can be promulgated only when both Houses are not in session. Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) — Statement 1 is correct (Article 85(2)(a)). Statement 2 is wrong: pending Bills do not lapse on prorogation; Bills pending in the Lok Sabha lapse only on its dissolution. Statement 3 is wrong: Article 123 allows an ordinance except when both Houses are in session, so it can be issued even when only one House is not in session.

Q2. Which of the following countries are full members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)? 1. Iran 2. Belarus 3. Türkiye 4. Mongolia. Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (a) — Iran joined the SCO as a full member in 2023 and Belarus in 2024. Türkiye is a dialogue partner and Mongolia an observer, so only 1 and 2 are full members.

MAINS PRACTICE (GS3)
The failure of COP31 at Antalya to adopt a cover decision exposes the limits of consensus-based climate multilateralism. Critically examine, and suggest how India should position itself ahead of COP32. (250 words, 15 marks)
Hint: Explain UNFCCC consensus rule and the fossil-fuel split (EU vs exporters); note partial gains (just transition agreement, Action Agenda initiatives); India's stand on equity and CBDR-RC; suggest finance, technology transfer, clean-energy partnerships and coalition-building with the Global South.

ONE-LINE REVISION: **COP31** ended without a pact (**COP32 – Addis Ababa**); **PMGKAY** inclusion error **13.2%**; **NCS ONE** launched; India–China Corps Commander talks on Arunachal; Nepal PM **Balendra Shah** in Delhi; SCO's **Indraprastha Communiqué**; Parliament unprorogued **100+ days** (Art. **85**).

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