CURRENT AFFAIRS — 26 November 2026

Thursday, 26 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Prelims + Mains GS-wise digest

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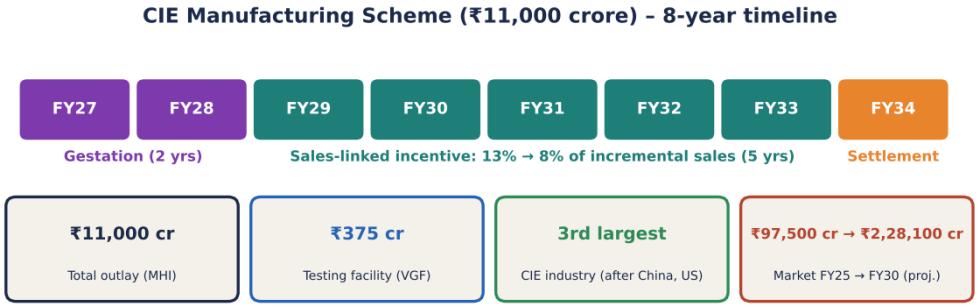
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UPSC CSE

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Cabinet: **₹11,000 cr** CIE manufacturing scheme (Ministry of Heavy Industries), **8 years** from FY2026-27.
- **Six urea plants** of **12.7 LMT** each (~**₹54,000 cr**) approved under **NIPU-2026**.
- Kamarajar Port 2nd container terminal: **₹4,288.26 cr**, **2.0 mn TEU**/yr, **DBFOT** PPP.
- Greenfield airport at **Doloo, Silchar (Assam)**: **₹2,014 cr**, built by **AAI**.
- Space economy: ~**$9 bn** now → **$40-45 bn** in under a decade; **PSLV-N1** in **Q1 2027**.
- **SURYAKIRAN XX** (India–Nepal): **Saljhandi**, **25 Nov–8 Dec 2026**, 334 troops each.
- Forex reserves **US$ 737.78 bn** (end-Sep 2026); gold held in India **740.13 t**.
- **Constitution Day**: adopted **26 Nov 1949**; observed since **2015**.
- USTR Section 301 proposal: India up to **25%**, or **17%** with a trade deal.
- DoRD–NABARD: extra **₹10 lakh cr** SHG credit targeted in **5 years**.

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



1. Cabinet clears ₹11,000 crore scheme for Construction & Infrastructure Equipment (CIE) manufacturing

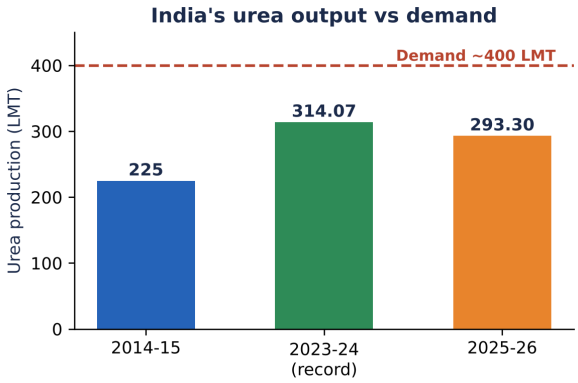
[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: Indian Economy – industrial policy, manufacturing, capital goods. Prelims: outlay, nodal ministry, incentive design.
Context	On **25 November 2026** the **Union Cabinet** approved a **₹11,000 crore** scheme to boost domestic manufacturing of **construction and infrastructure equipment (CIE)** and its components, along with a dedicated **CIE testing facility**.
Key Facts	■ Nodal ministry: **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)**; tenure **8 years from FY2026-27**. ■ **Sales-linked incentive** of **13% tapering to 8%** of incremental sales over **5 years** (FY2028-29 to FY2032-33), after a **2-year gestation** (FY2026-27 and FY2027-28). ■ Grant of up to **₹375 crore** as **Viability Gap Funding** for a CIE testing facility; final settlement in **FY2033-34**. ■ India's CIE industry is the **world's 3rd largest** (after **China** and the **US**): about **₹97,500 crore** (FY2024-25), projected at about **₹2,28,100 crore** by FY2029-30. ■ Priority equipment: **Ship-to-Shore cranes**, **Tunnel Boring Machines**, **hydraulic excavators**, **off-highway trucks**.
Way Fwd	Pair incentives with **component localisation**, testing and certification standards and skilling so that high-end equipment imports fall durably.
Concept	**Sales-linked incentive** schemes reward incremental output, like the **PLI** schemes (launched **2020**). **Viability Gap Funding** is a capital grant that makes a socially desirable but commercially unviable project bankable.

2. Six brownfield urea plants worth about ₹54,000 crore approved under NIPU-2026

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: Agricultural inputs, fertiliser subsidy, food security. Prelims: plant locations, policy names.
Context	On **25 November 2026** the Centre approved **six urea plants** of **12.7 LMT** per year each under the **National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU-2026)**, involving about **₹54,000 crore**, to cut import dependence.
Key Facts	■ Sites: **MFL Chennai (TN)**, **NFL Nangal (Punjab)**, **KRIBHCO Fertilizers Shahjahanpur (UP)**, **Indian Potash Jagdishpur (UP)**, **Matix Panagarh (WB)**, **CFCL Gadepan, Kota (Rajasthan)**. ■ Chennai and Nangal **replace ageing plants**; the other four are **brownfield expansions**. ■ Annual urea demand about **400 LMT**; domestic output **225 LMT (2014-15)** → record **314.07 LMT (2023-24)** → **293.30 LMT (2025-26)**. ■ Reassessed indigenous capacity: **207.54 LMT/yr (2014-15)** → **269.42 LMT/yr (2026-27)**.
Way Fwd	Secure long-term **natural gas** supply and promote **Nano Urea** and balanced NPK use to cut both imports and soil degradation.
Concept	**Urea** contains **46% nitrogen**; its MRP is **statutorily controlled** by the Centre, while P&K fertilisers fall under the **Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS)** scheme (**2010**). **NIPU-2026** was cleared by the Cabinet in **July 2026**; the earlier framework was the **New Investment Policy-2012**.

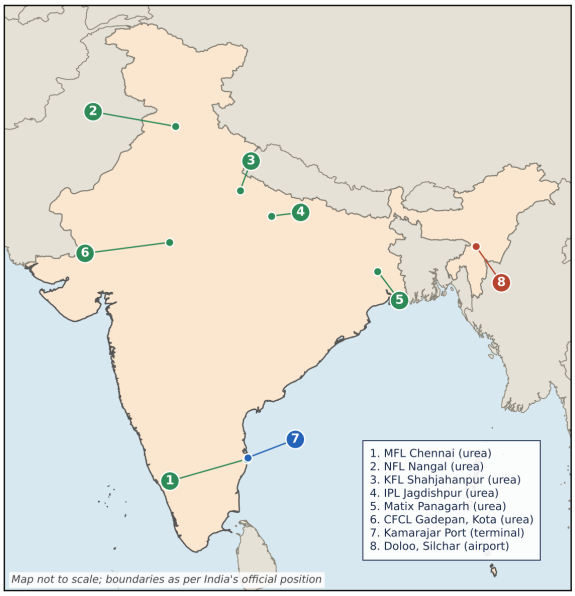


3. CCEA approves Kamarajar Port's second container terminal and greenfield Doloo airport at Silchar

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: Infrastructure – ports, airports, PPP models. Prelims: locations, capacities, DBFOT.
Context	On **25 November 2026** the **CCEA** approved a **₹4,288.26 crore** second container terminal at **Kamarajar Port (Ennore, Tamil Nadu)** and a **₹2,014 crore** greenfield airport at **Doloo, Silchar (Assam)**.
Key Facts	■ Terminal on **PPP – DBFOT** with a **40-year concession**: **Phase I ₹2,429.32 cr** (1.1 mn TEU) + **Phase II ₹1,858.94 cr** (0.9 mn TEU) = **2.0 million TEU/yr**. ■ The port separately bears **dredging** of about **₹450 crore**; the terminal can handle ships of up to **24,346 TEU**. ■ Doloo airport by the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**: terminal **12,351 sq m**, **800 peak-hour passengers**, runway **2,705 m × 45 m**. ■ It will replace the constrained **civil enclave** at the Silchar defence airfield, improving **Barak Valley** connectivity.
Way Fwd	Timely land, rail-road evacuation links and **Act East** cargo planning can turn both assets into regional logistics drivers.
Concept	**Kamarajar Port** (formerly **Ennore Port**) was India's **first corporatised major port**. **DBFOT** = Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer. **AAI** was constituted on **1 April 1995** under the **AAI Act, 1994**.

India in News – 26 Nov 2026

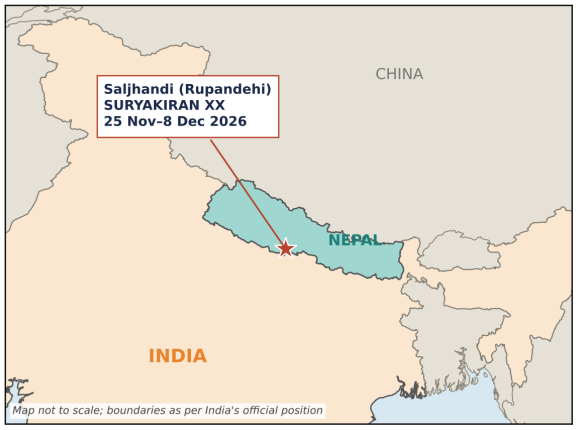


4. India–Nepal Exercise SURYAKIRAN XX begins at Saljhandi, Nepal

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: India and its neighbourhood; GS-III: Security. Prelims: exercises and partner countries.
Context	The **20th edition** of the India–Nepal joint military exercise **SURYAKIRAN** began on **25 November 2026** at the **Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Rupandehi district)** and will run till **8 December 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Total **668** troops: **334** from India's **Kumaon Regiment** and **334** from the Nepal Army's **Shri Jawla Dal Battalion**. ■ Focus: **counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism** in difficult terrain, **jungle warfare**, **heliborne operations**, **disaster response** and medical training. ■ Annual bilateral exercise held **alternately in India and Nepal**; the **19th edition** was held in **Uttarakhand** (2025). ■ Opened in the presence of **Maj Gen Purna Bahadur Khatri**, GOC of the Nepal Army's Mid-Western Division.
Way Fwd	Build on the shared **Gorkha** military bond with joint HADR planning for Himalayan disasters and closer border-security cooperation.
Concept	Nepal borders **5 Indian states**: **Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim**. The **1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship** underpins ties. Other exercises: **Mitra Shakti** (Sri Lanka), **Sampriti** (Bangladesh), **Nomadic Elephant** (Mongolia).

India–Nepal: Exercise SURYAKIRAN XX

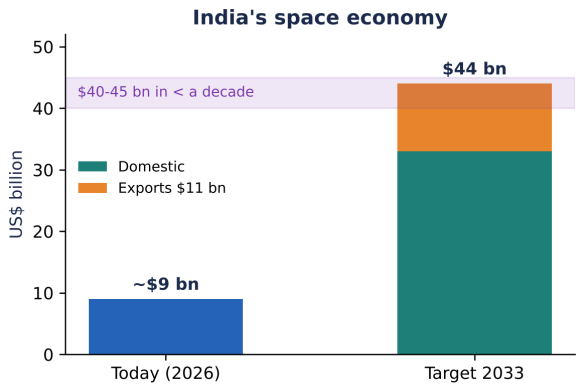


5. India's space economy to grow from about $9 bn to $40-45 bn; first industry-built PSLV targeted for Q1 2027

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: Science & Technology – space, private sector participation. Prelims: IN-SPACe, NSIL, PSLV.
Context	At the **5th India International Space Conclave** in New Delhi (from **24 November 2026**), organised by the **Indian Space Association (ISpA)** with ISRO and IN-SPACe, the report '**Space Economy 2036: The India Blueprint**' was released.
Key Facts	■ India's space economy is about **$9 billion** today and is projected at **$40-45 billion** in under a decade. ■ Target: a **$44 billion** space economy by **2033**, including **$11 billion** of exports. ■ Ecosystem of about **400-500 companies**; about **440 registered space start-ups** (August 2026). ■ **PSLV-N1**, built by the **HAL–L&T** consortium, is the first **industry-built** PSLV; its maiden launch is targeted for **Q1 2027**.
Way Fwd	Faster authorisations, assured anchor demand and clear liability and insurance rules through a **space activities law** can scale private launches.

Concept	**IN-SPACe** (June **2020**) authorises private space activity; **NSIL** (March **2019**) is ISRO's commercial arm. The **Indian Space Policy 2023** opened all space segments to non-government entities. PSLV's first successful flight was in **1994**.



SECTION B — KEY ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

India's forex reserves, end-September 2026

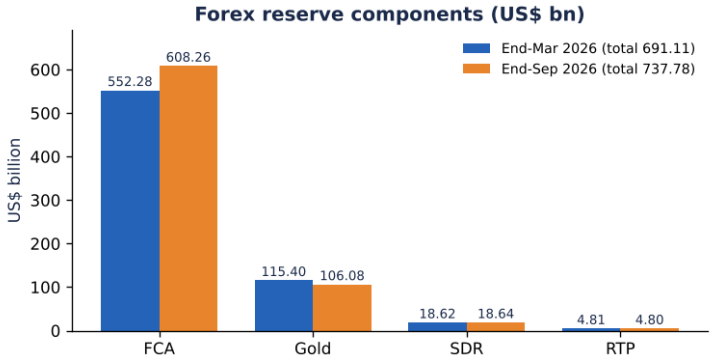
Up by **US$ 46,676 million** from **US$ 691.11 bn** at end-March 2026; **FCA** at **US$ 608.26 bn**; gold's share down to about **14.38%**.

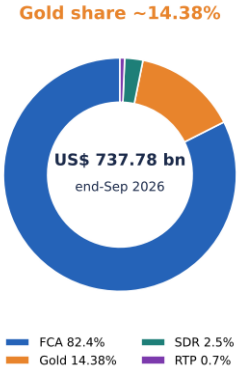
US$ 737.78 bn

6. RBI's 47th half-yearly report: forex reserves rise to US$ 737.78 bn; more gold brought home

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: External sector, balance of payments, monetary management. Prelims: reserve components, SDR, RTP.
Context	The **RBI**'s **47th Half-Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves (April–September 2026)**, released on **25 November 2026**, shows reserves rising from **US$ 691.11 bn** (end-March) to **US$ 737.78 bn** (end-September 2026).
Key Facts	■ **FCA**: US$ **552.28 bn → 608.26 bn**; **Gold**: US$ **115.40 bn → 106.08 bn**; **SDR**: US$ **18.62 bn → 18.64 bn**; **RTP**: US$ **4.81 bn → 4.80 bn**. ■ Gold's share in reserves fell from **16.70%** to about **14.38%** – a valuation effect, as holdings stayed at **880.52 tonnes**. ■ Gold held **within India** rose to **740.13 tonnes**; **140.39 tonnes** are held abroad (Bank of England and BIS). ■ Import cover: **9.8 months** (end-June 2026), down from **10.6 months** (end-March 2026).
Way Fwd	Keep reserves adequate against volatile capital flows while diversifying assets and avoiding excessive rupee intervention.
Concept	Reserve components: **FCA, Gold, SDRs and Reserve Tranche Position in the IMF**. RBI manages reserves under the **RBI Act, 1934** and **FEMA, 1999**. The **SDR** was created by the **IMF in 1969**.





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

7. Samvidhan Divas today: 77 years since the Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949

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

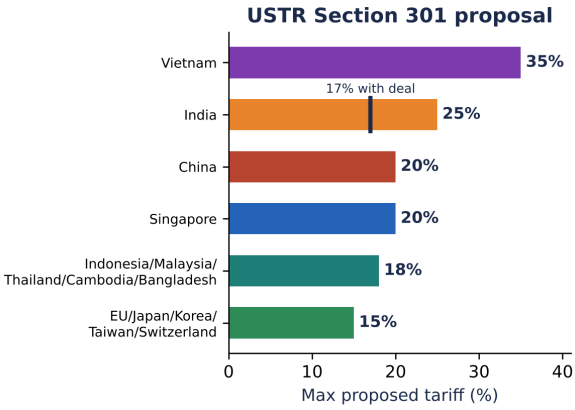
Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: Indian Constitution – historical underpinnings, evolution, features, Preamble. Prelims: dates and Articles.
Context	India observes **Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas)** on **26 November 2026**, marking the day the **Constituent Assembly** adopted the Constitution in **1949**; it came into force on **26 January 1950**.
Key Facts	■ Observed since **2015**, notified by the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** in the **125th birth anniversary** year of **Dr B.R. Ambedkar**; earlier the day was marked as **National Law Day**. ■ Some provisions – **citizenship (Arts 5-9)**, **elections (Art 324)**, the provisional Parliament and the short title (**Art 393**) – came into force on **26 November 1949** itself. ■ Original Constitution: **395 Articles, 22 Parts, 8 Schedules**; it took **2 years, 11 months and 18 days** to frame. ■ The **Preamble** has been amended only once – the **42nd Amendment (1976)** added **Socialist, Secular and Integrity**.
Way Fwd	Use the day for **constitutional literacy** – Preamble values, **Fundamental Duties (Art 51A)** and rights awareness in schools and panchayats.

Concept	**Dr B.R. Ambedkar** chaired the **Drafting Committee** (set up on **29 August 1947**); **Dr Rajendra Prasad** was President of the Constituent Assembly, which first met on **9 December 1946**.

8. US proposes Section 301 'excess capacity' tariffs on 14 economies – up to 25% on India

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: India–US relations, effect of policies of developed countries on India; GS-III: external trade. Prelims: Section 301, WTO principles.
Context	On **25 November 2026** the **USTR** determined, under **Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974**, that 'structural excess capacity' practices of **14 economies** burden US commerce, and proposed new tariffs.
Key Facts	■ **India**: up to **25%** (net of existing Section 301 tariffs), or **17%** if India concludes a responsive **Agreement on Reciprocal Trade**. ■ Others: **Vietnam** up to **35%**; **China** and **Singapore** up to **20%**; **Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Bangladesh** up to **18%**; **EU, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Switzerland** up to **15%**. ■ Written comments due by **5 January 2027**; public hearing on **25 January 2027**; final action expected in **early 2027**. ■ India has maintained that it has **no structural excess manufacturing capacity** and seeks to address concerns through **bilateral trade talks**.
Way Fwd	Fast-track the India–US trade agreement, document market-driven capacity, and diversify exports towards FTA partners.
Concept	**Section 301** lets the US act unilaterally against 'unfair' foreign trade practices; critics call it inconsistent with **WTO dispute settlement** and the **Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN)** principle (**Article I, GATT**).



9. DoRD–NABARD pact for cheaper credit to women SHGs; Interest Subvention Portal launched

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections, SHGs; GS-III: inclusive growth, rural credit.
Context	On **25 November 2026** the **Department of Rural Development (DoRD)** and **NABARD** signed an agreement for management and technical support of the **Interest Subvention Scheme for women SHGs** and the **Women Enterprise Acceleration Fund (WEAF)** under **DAY-NRLM**.
Key Facts	■ **NABARD** becomes the **single nodal agency** across public, private, small finance, regional rural and cooperative banks. ■ **Interest Subvention Portal** launched jointly by Rural Development Secretary **Rohit Kansal** and NABARD Chairman **Dr Shaji Krishnan V**. ■ Over **₹14 lakh crore** of formal credit has been mobilised for SHGs so far. ■ Five-year target: an additional **₹10 lakh crore** for SHGs and **₹1 lakh crore** for individual women's enterprises; **guarantee fees** to be reimbursed to make **collateral-free** loans safer.
Way Fwd	Help SHG women move 'from livelihoods to enterprises' with market linkages, digital records and financial literacy, keeping NPAs low.
Concept	**DAY-NRLM** began in **2011** as **Aajeevika** (Ministry of Rural Development). **NABARD** was set up on **12 July 1982** under the **NABARD Act, 1981**, on the recommendation of the **CRAFICARD (B. Sivaraman) Committee**.

10. SAMAVESH and new e-Anudaan portals launched for social justice schemes

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: Governance – e-governance, welfare delivery. Prelims: portal names and schemes.
Context	On **25 November 2026** Union Minister **Dr Virendra Kumar** launched **SAMAVESH** and a new **e-Anudaan** portal of the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
Key Facts	■ **SAMAVESH** = **Single Access Mechanism for All Verticals of Empowerment and Social Harmony** – a common digital platform for organisations working with the Ministry. ■ AI chatbot **'Samajik Sahayak'** supports **more than 22 languages** through an MoU with **BHASHINI**. ■ Supports schemes on **drug de-addiction**, **senior citizens**, **SMILE** and **SHRESHTA**; aims to cut paperwork and ease doing business for partner organisations.
Way Fwd	Integrate with DBT and social registries, and add grievance redress and offline help for low-literacy users.
Concept	**SMILE** (**2022**): livelihood and rehabilitation of **transgender persons** and persons engaged in **begging**. **SHRESHTA**: residential education for meritorious **SC** students in reputed private schools. **BHASHINI** is MeitY's AI language-translation mission (**2022**).

11. Cabinet continues Postal Operations and Estates Management schemes for 2026-31

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: Government policies and interventions; service delivery. Prelims: outlays, Union List entries.
Context	On **25 November 2026** the **Union Cabinet** approved continuation of two **Department of Posts** schemes for **FY2026-27 to FY2030-31**, in line with the **16th Finance Commission** cycle.
Key Facts	■ **Postal Operations Scheme**: **₹1,141 crore** – mail network **₹575 cr**, parcels **₹278 cr**, rural access **₹120 cr**, marketing **₹100 cr**, philately **₹60 cr**, international mail **₹8 cr**. ■ **Estates Management Scheme**: **₹1,491 crore** for building and maintaining postal infrastructure. ■ India Post has about **1.65 lakh post offices**, the largest postal network in the world.
Way Fwd	Turn post offices into **last-mile logistics and financial hubs** – IPPB, e-commerce parcels and Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras.
Concept	**Posts and telegraphs** is a **Union List** subject (**Entry 31**, Seventh Schedule). The **16th Finance Commission** (Chairman: **Arvind Panagariya**) covers the award period **2026-31**.

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0: **28 November–12 December 2026**, theme centred on the **Thirukkural**; about **1,400** delegates from Tamil Nadu.	**2. Aero India 2027** (16th edition): **8–12 February 2027** at **Air Force Station Yelahanka, Bengaluru**.
3. National Milk Day (26 November) marks the birth anniversary of **Dr Verghese Kurien**, architect of the **White Revolution** (**Operation Flood**, 1970).	**4.** Cabinet approved an **India–Singapore MoU** on aviation **MRO** (maintenance, repair and overhaul) skills and industry development.
5. Exercise partners: **Mitra Shakti** – Sri Lanka; **Sampriti** – Bangladesh; **Nomadic Elephant** – Mongolia; **SURYAKIRAN** – Nepal.	**6. AAI** builds Doloo airport; runway **2,705 m × 45 m**, terminal for **800 peak-hour passengers**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to RBI's half-yearly report on forex reserves (April–September 2026), consider the following statements:
1. The share of gold in total reserves rose during the half-year.
2. More than four-fifths of RBI's gold is now held within India.
3. The Reserve Tranche Position is held with the World Bank.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) — Gold's share fell from **16.70%** to about **14.38%**, so 1 is wrong. **740.13 t** of **880.52 t** (about 84%) is held in India, so 2 is right. The Reserve Tranche Position is held with the **IMF**, not the World Bank, so 3 is wrong.

Q2. Consider the following pairs (Exercise – Partner country with India):
1. SURYAKIRAN – Nepal
2. Mitra Shakti – Sri Lanka
3. Sampriti – Bangladesh
4. Nomadic Elephant – Mongolia.
How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Answer: (d) — All four are correct: **SURYAKIRAN** (Nepal; 20th edition began **25 November 2026** at Saljhandi), **Mitra Shakti** (Sri Lanka), **Sampriti** (Bangladesh) and **Nomadic Elephant** (Mongolia).

Mains Practice (GS-III): The ₹11,000 crore CIE manufacturing scheme and the six new urea plants under NIPU-2026 signal a push to cut import dependence in capital goods and critical farm inputs. Examine the potential and the challenges of such incentive-led industrial policy for India. (15 marks, 250 words)

Hint: Intro: CIE scheme (**₹11,000 cr**, 13%→8% sales-linked incentive) and urea plants (**~₹54,000 cr**). Potential: import substitution, infrastructure supply chains, jobs, fertiliser security. Challenges: fiscal cost, gas import dependence, technology gaps, trade-rule scrutiny, lessons from PLI uptake. Conclude: time-bound, outcome-linked incentives with R&D and standards.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Today in one line: **₹11,000 cr CIE scheme + 6 urea plants + Kamarajar and Doloo** for self-reliance, **forex at US$ 737.78 bn**, **SURYAKIRAN XX** with Nepal, and **Samvidhan Divas** – 26 November 1949.

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