UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 03-11-2026

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Geography

Cyclone Murasu – First Tamil Name for a Tropical Cyclone

• Murasu became the first Tamil name assigned to a tropical cyclone since cyclone naming over the North Indian Ocean began in September 2004.
• It is a severe cyclonic storm over the Bay of Bengal.
• **Suggested by –** Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai.
• **Meaning –** Murasu is a traditional Tamil percussion instrument.
• Historically used to:
  - Disseminate information.
  - Alert people about natural disasters.
  - Produce thunderous sounds as warning signals.

Murasu was the third Indian-suggested name after Gati and Tej in the second list.

• **Cyclone Naming Mechanism.** Click here

International Relations and Issues

Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2026

Prime Minister inaugurated ESTIC 2026.



- **Held at –** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- **Theme –** "Creative Minds, Catalyzing Science, Empowering Technologies"
- **Participation of –** 300+ invited delegates from India and abroad.
- **Major Thematic Areas –** It covers 12 thematic areas, including:
  - Artificial Intelligence (AI).
  - Biotechnology.
  - Advanced Materials.
  - Advanced Manufacturing.
  - Healthcare.
  - Energy.
  - Climate Science.
  - Ocean Sciences.

UN Ends Political Mission in Somalia (2026)

UN ended its political mission in Somalia on 31 October 2026, following a two-year transition, concluding over three decades of UN political operations.



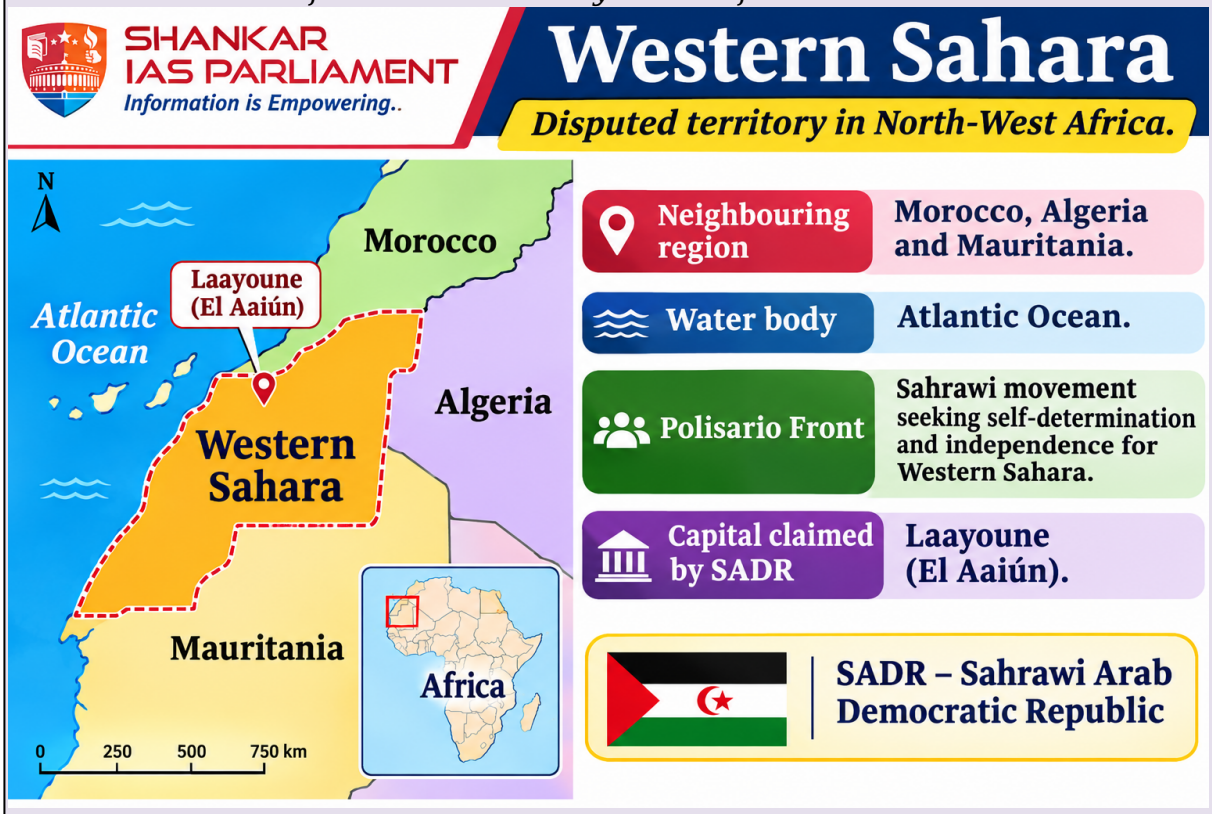
• **Evolution of Mission:**
  - 1995 – UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) established.
  - 2013 – UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) established by UN Security Council.
  - 2024 – Renamed UN Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS) for a two-year transition.
  - 2026 – UNTMIS closed; responsibilities transferred to Somali institutions and UN Country Team.

• **Objectives –** To support democracy, rule of law, political reconciliation, institution-building and peacebuilding.

• **Continuing Challenges**
  - Al-Shabaab, an Al-Qaeda-linked terrorist organisation, controls parts of central Somalia.
  - International funding cuts threaten counter-terrorism operations.
  - Political disputes and insecurity threaten elections scheduled for May 2027.

UN Peacekeeping Mission in Western Sahara Ends (2026)

UN Secretary-General António Guterres announced the closure of the 35-year-old MINURSO mission after the UN Security Council failed to renew its mandate.



MINURSO

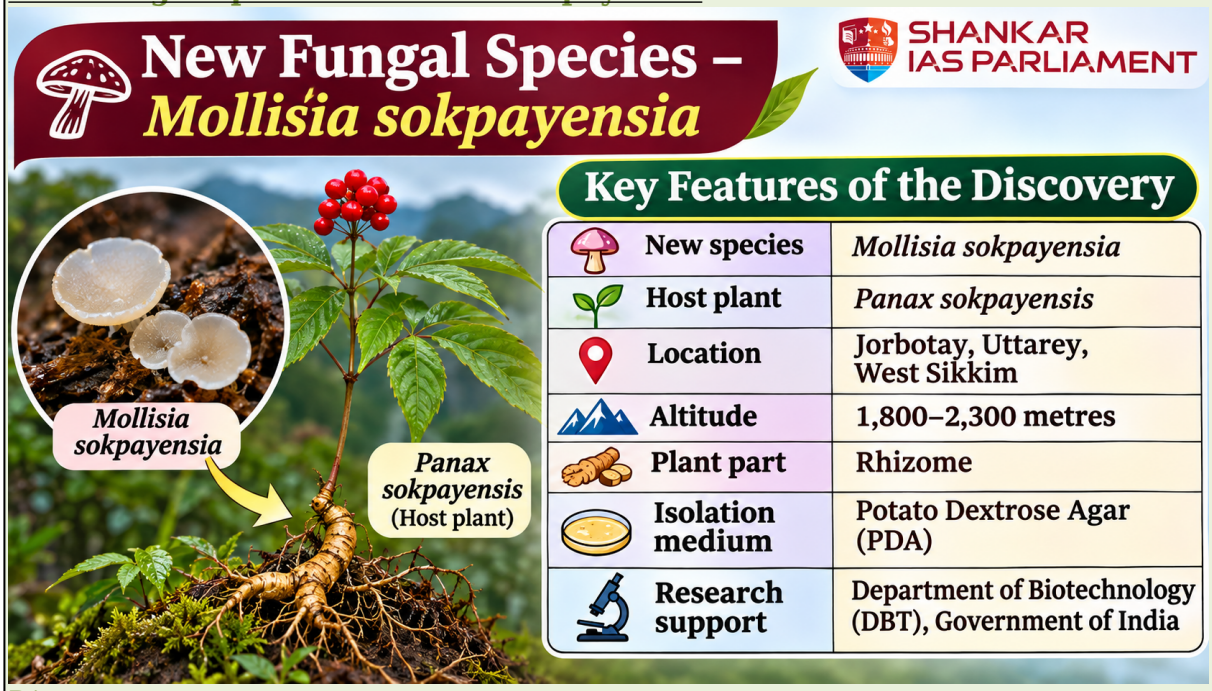
- **Full Form –** UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.
- **Established in –** 1991 by the UN Security Council.
- **Objectives**
  - Monitor ceasefire between Morocco and Polisario Front.
  - Organise a referendum on self-determination.
  - Referendum remained unheld due to disagreements over voter eligibility.

Recent Developments

- **November 1, 2026 –** Liquidation phase began.
- Mission assets to be returned to contributing countries.
- Morocco's autonomy proposal under its sovereignty was recognised by a 2025 Security Council resolution as the most feasible solution.
- Morocco welcomed the decision; Polisario Front expressed concern.

Environment

New Fungal Species – Mollisia sokpayensia



Discovery

• A team led by a Manipur microbiologist discovered a new fungal species, Mollisia sokpayensia.
• **Location –** Sikkim Himalaya – Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot.
• **Research significance** – Associated with the rhizome of a rare medicinal plant.

Host Plant – Panax sokpayensis

• A rare and high-value medicinal plant native to the Sikkim Himalaya.
• Its rhizomes are traditionally used for medicinal purposes.
• Species belonging to the genus Panax are commonly known as Ginseng.

Fungal Endophytes

• Microorganisms that inhabit the internal tissues of healthy plants without causing visible disease symptoms.
• They may produce bioactive compounds with potential applications in:
  - Medicine and drug discovery.
  - Agriculture.
  - Biotechnology.

Characteristics of Mollisia sokpayensia

• Exhibited slow growth under laboratory conditions at 28°C.
• Its colonies changed colour from brown to blackish-brown.

Important Caveat

• Its medicinal properties and potential applications have not yet been scientifically investigated.

Security

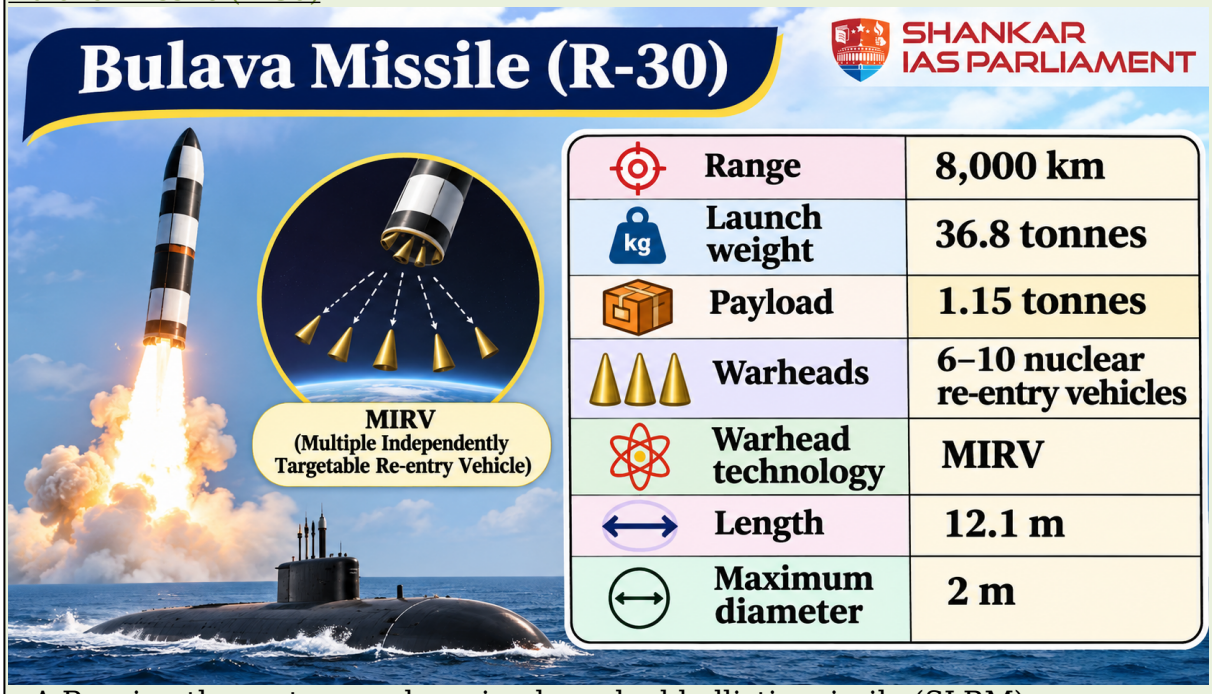
Sample Russian Submarine Generalissimus Suvorov – Bulava ICBM Launch

• Russia's nuclear-powered submarine Generalissimus Suvorov launched a Bulava Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) as part of combat training.
• **Target** – Chizha test range, Arkhangelsk region, Russia.
• **Fleet** – Russian Pacific Fleet.
• **Significance –** Demonstrates the readiness of Russia's nuclear forces and its strategic deterrence capabilities.

Generalissimus Suvorov Submarine

• **Project –** Project 955A Borei-A.
• **Type –** Nuclear-powered strategic missile submarine (SSBN).
• **Built at –** Sevmash shipyard, based on a design developed by Rubin Design Bureau.
• **Construction began –** 26 December 2014.
• **Naval flag raised –** 29 December 2022.
• Belongs to the fourth generation of Russian nuclear-powered submarines.

Bulava Missile (R-30)



• A Russian three-stage, submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).
• **Designed for –** Project 955 Borei-class nuclear-powered submarines.
• **Development began –** 1995; entered service around 2017–18.
• **Key Features**
  - Propulsion:
    ■ First and second stages – Solid propellant.
    ■ Third stage – Liquid propellant.
• It can be launched at an inclined angle while the submarine is underway.
• **Guidance –** Hybrid system combining celestial navigation and GLONASS satellite navigation.
• **Equipped with –** Decoys and manoeuvrable re-entry vehicles to penetrate missile defence systems.

Science

India's First Public Sector Proton Beam Therapy Centre – Assam

Assam government signed an MoU with Ion Beam Applications (IBA) Particles, Belgium, to establish India's first public-sector proton beam therapy centre



Proton Beam Therapy (PBT)

• Advanced form of radiation therapy used for cancer treatment.
• Uses positively charged particles (protons) to destroy cancer cells.
• Delivers radiation with high precision to tumours.
• Minimises damage to surrounding healthy tissues.
• Particularly beneficial for suitable cases involving children and tumours near critical organs.

Significance

• Reduces dependence on expensive private healthcare.
• Improves access to advanced cancer treatment.
• Strengthens public healthcare infrastructure.

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National Organ Transplant Games 2026

• **Organised by –** Renal Care Foundation
Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.
• **Associated with –**
  - National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO),
  - Government of India,
  - Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Technical Partner).
• **Theme –** Promoting organ donation as 'Mahadaan' (greatest gift).
• **Key highlights**
  - 570 transplant recipients and donors performed Tadasana, setting a world record.
  - Felicitated medal winners of World Transplant Games 2025 (Dresden, Germany).
  - Released Zindagi Dobara Calendar and administered the organ donation pledge.

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO)

• A national-level organisation coordinating organ and tissue donation and transplantation activities in India.
• **Nodal Ministry –** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
• **Aim –** To promotes awareness, coordination and transparency in organ transplantation.

Miscellaneous

World Vegan Day 2026

• **Celebrated annually on –** 1st November.
• **Key objectives**
- To promote awareness of veganism and encourage people to adopt plant-based food choices.
- To promote animal welfare and protection.
- To encourage people to understand the origin of their food and consider sustainable dietary choices.
• **History and Origin**
- 1944 – The Vegan Society was founded by Donald Watson (the world's oldest vegan charity).
- 1944 – The term 'vegan' was coined.
- 1994 – World Vegan Day was established by Louise Wallis, former chair of The Vegan Society.
- 1994 – First celebration marked the 50th anniversary of The Vegan Society.

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

• **Observed annually on –** 2nd November
• **First proclaimed in –** 2013, commemorates the assassination of two French journalists in Mali on 2 November 2013
• **Declared by** – UN General Assembly
• **Aim –** To highlight violence against journalists and emphasise the need for accountability for crimes committed against them.
• **Key facts**
- UNESCO's 2026 report identifies the Arab States as having the highest number of journalist murders.
- Since 1993, over 1,700 journalists have been killed worldwide.
- In 9 out of 10 cases, perpetrators go unpunished.
- 73% of women journalists surveyed reported online threats, intimidation, and insults related to their work.
- These attacks include murder, kidnapping, torture, physical violence, harassment, and online threats.

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