UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 04-11-2026

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Geography

Ancient Elephant Fossil

Scientists reconstructed a nearly 700,000-year-old prehistoric ecosystem using an ancient elephant tooth and other fossil evidence.

• **Key Archaeological Findings**

• **Location –** Gesher Benot Ya'aqov (Daughters of Jacob Bridge), Jordan Rift Valley, northern Israel, south of the present-day Hula Valley.

*The Hula Valley lies within the **Levantine Corridor**, a natural passage connecting Africa and Eurasia.*

• Elephant remains were discovered alongside:
  - Basalt handaxes.
  - Cleavers.

• These stone tools belong to the *Acheulian tradition*, one of the earliest and most widespread stone-tool technologies.




Straight-Tusked Elephant (Palaeoloxodon antiquus)

• An enormous prehistoric elephant and one of the largest land mammals of the ***Pleistocene epoch.***

• Fossils studied included a large molar (tooth) and tusk fragments.

• The tooth provided chemical and microscopic evidence about its diet and surrounding environment.

• It highlights the role of *stable water and vegetation resources in early human survival and migration.*

International Relations and Issues

Dubai Access Club – Tourism Loyalty Programme

Dubai launched Dubai Access Club, claimed to be the ***world's first city-led,*** *invitation-only tourism loyalty programme.*

• **Announced by –** Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.
• **Implemented under –** Shared Digital Channels Initiative from November 2026.
• **Visitors can apply for:**
  - Single-entry tourist visas.
  - Multiple-entry tourist visas.
• **Aim –** To strengthen Dubai's global tourism competitiveness and attract repeat visitors.
• **Key Features**
• **Eligibility –** Invitation-only membership for repeat visitors through selected corporate, tourism and hospitality partners.
• **Visa –** Five-year multiple-entry visa.
• **Stay –** Up to 90 days at a time within a one-year period.
• **Benefits**
  - Free SIM card.
  - AED 2,000 spending credit for selected hotels, attractions and retail outlets.
• **Application fee –** AED 4,032.50 (including membership and visa fees).
• **Visa authority –** General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA), Dubai.
• It will assess applications and issue visas.

Dubai Economic Agenda (D33) *– Long-term economic agenda aimed at strengthening Dubai's global economic position.*

Economy

Annual Star Rating Programme for Coal Mines (FY 2024–25)

• **Held in** – Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
• **Organized by** – Ministry of Coal.
• **Objectives –** To recognised outstanding performance of coal and lignite mines under the Star Rating Programme.
• **It promotes:**
  - Mine safety and worker welfare.
  - Environmental management and land restoration.
  - Scientific mining practices.
  - Productivity and operational efficiency.
  - Community welfare.
  - Encourages healthy competition, transparency and adoption of best practices.
• **Key Highlights**
• 50 mines secured Five-Star Ratings.
• 10 mines secured first, second and third positions in their respective categories, scoring above 93%.
• **Category-wise First Prize:**
  - Opencast – Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) and NTPC.
  - Underground – Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) – *Highest number of Five-Star Rated mines among Coal India subsidiaries.*

NCL and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) *recognised for consistent performance in production and star ratings.*

Hackathon on R&D 2026

• It is a recognised innovative AI-based solutions for the coal sector.
• **Theme** – "NextGen AI for Smart Mining".
• **Focus areas**
  - Operational efficiency.
  - Mine safety.
  - Environmental sustainability.

Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)

• It is a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL).
• It plays an important role in strengthening India's coal production and energy security.
• **Significance**
  - Strengthens India's energy security.
  - Supports the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat & Viksit Bharat through improved domestic coal production.

Agriculture

1st International Maize Conference

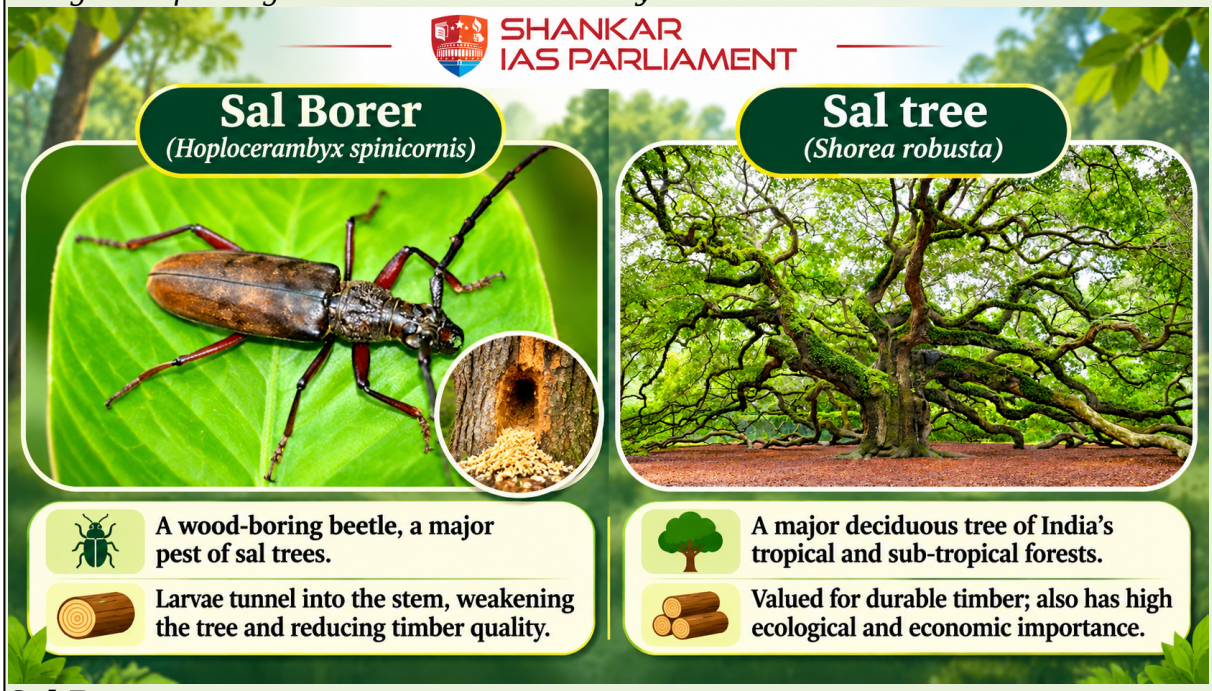


• **Commenced at –** JD Convention Centre, Hyderabad.
• **Jointly organized by –** MTAI, PJTAU, ICAR, TAAS, CIMMYT and ICAR-IIMR.
• **Theme –** "Maize Revolution for Food, Feed, Fodder, Fuel and Sustainability in the Changing World," (M4FS)
• **Objective –** To advance maize research, productivity and value-chain development.
• **Focus on –**
  - High-yielding varieties and hybrids,
  - Improved nutritional quality,
  - Efficient resource utilization & mechanisation,
  - Robust seed systems and maize's growing role in food, feed, fodder and energy security.
• **Current maize production –** India produces about 55 million tonnes of maize and records nearly 6% annual growth.
• **Target –**
  - 75 million tonnes over next decade and 1.5-fold increase in productivity.
  - Expansion of the traditional 4F vision—Food, Feed, Fodder and Fuel—to 5F by placing Farmers at the centre.
  - Stressed on strengthening of All India Coordinated Research Project on Maize (AICRP on Maize).

Environment

Sal borer Infestation in Madhya Pradesh

A fresh sal borer infestation in Madhya Pradesh's Dindori forests has intensified, with villagers reporting it to be worse than last year's outbreak.



Sal Borer

• **Scientific name –** *Hoplocerambyx spinicornis*

• It is a destructive longhorn beetle that attacks sal trees in India

- The insect damages the tree by boring into its trunk and feeding inside the wood.
- Once the infestation spreads, the affected tree can weaken, dry out and eventually die.

• **Damage Mechanism** – Larvae tunnel through sapwood and heartwood, disrupting water and nutrient flow, causing canopy loss, drying, an eventual tree death.

Sal tree

• It is a native Indian forest tree scientifically known as Shorea robusta.

• **Commonly found in –** deciduous forests.

• It stores large amounts of carbon and contributes to climate adaptation through landscape stability.

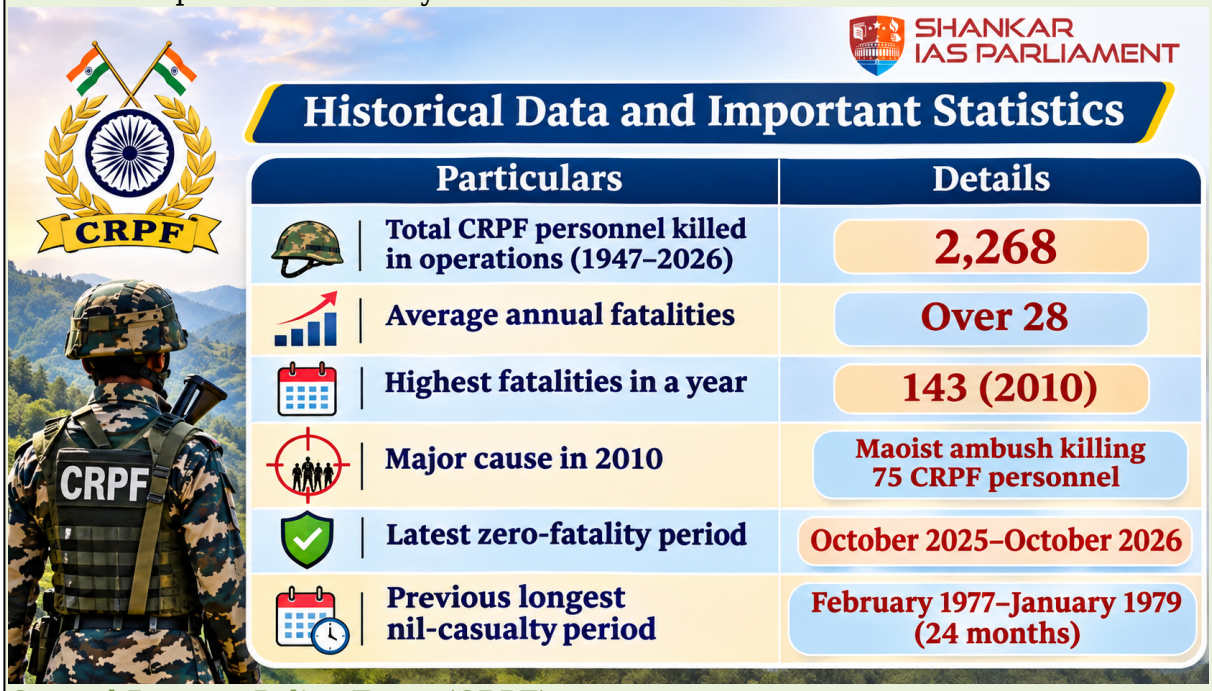
• **Spread across** – Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, and West Bengal, etc.

Security

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) – Zero Operational Fatalities

For the first time in 47 years, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) completed 12 consecutive months without a single operational fatality.

• The last operational fatality was recorded on 30 October 2025.



Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

• It is an India's largest Central Armed Police Force (CAPF).
• **Headquarters –** New Delhi.
• **Established in** – 1939 as the Crown Representative's Police.
• **Renamed** – Central Reserve Police Force in 1949.
• **Parent Ministry** – Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
• **Major Areas of Deployment –** It plays a significant role in maintaining internal security:
  - Jammu and Kashmir – Counter-terrorism operations.
  - Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas – Anti-Naxal operations.
  - Manipur – Management of ethnic violence and internal security.
  - Other responsibilities – Election security, riot control and assistance to state police forces.
• **Reasons Behind Zero Operational Fatalities**
  - Improved operational preparedness
  - Improved Medical Response
  - Lessons from Past Operations
• **Significant Operations**
  - **Operation Black Forest –** Conducted in the Kareguttalu Hills against Maoists; 21 Naxalites were killed without any CRPF casualty.
  - **March 2026 –** India was declared Naxal-free.

Next Generation Corvettes (NGCs) – Indian Navy

• The Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth Rs.53,866.50 crore with Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

• **Contract –** Construction of eight indigenously designed Next Generation Corvettes (NGCs) for the Indian Navy.



• Shipbuilding Agencies Involved

• **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**
  - A Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU).
  - Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal.
  - Will construct 5 Next Generation Corvettes.

• **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**
  - A Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU).
  - Headquarters: Vasco da Gama, Goa.
  - Will construct 3 Next Generation Corvettes.

• **Capabilities –** The warships will be equipped with advanced:
  - Missiles and weapon systems.
  - Modern sensors and surveillance systems.
  - Integrated combat systems.

• **Operational capabilities:**
  - **Air –** Air defence operations
  - **Surface –** Anti-surface warfare
  - **Sub-surface –** Anti-submarine warfare

• **Major roles:**
  - Anti-surface warfare.
  - Anti-submarine warfare.
  - Coastal defence.
  - Littoral combat (operations in coastal and near-shore waters).
  - Maritime surveillance.
  - Protection of vital maritime trade routes.

Sports

Commonwealth Kabbadi Championship -2026

• **Venue –** Veer Savarkar sports complex, Ahmedabad, from Oct 23-31, 2026.
• **Aim –** To promote Kabbadi and its future inclusion in Common wealth games.
• **Historic achievement –** India's men's and women's teams won the inaugural championship on home soil.



Youth Olympics 2026

• The first-ever Olympic sports event hosted on African soil.
• **Venue –** Dakar, Senegal from 31st October to 13th November.
• **Motto –** "Africa Welcomes, Dakar Celebrates", highlights the unique nature of the continent's first Summer YOG.
• **India's achievement**
  - **Dhindhi Desinghu -** She is 1st Indian female swimmer to win bronze medal.
  - **Khushbu Rajakbhai Darjada –** She secured India's second judo medal at the Youth Olympics, following Tababi Devi's silver medal in the girls' 44 kg event in 2018.

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