UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 13-11-2026

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Polity & Governance

1st All India Conference on Official Language 2026

• **Organized by –** Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
• **Held at –** Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
• **Key Objectives**
  - Promote the progressive use of **Hindi as the Official Language** in government functioning and administration.
  - Strengthen the implementation of Rajbhasha Hindi in official communication.
  - Provide a platform to exchange ideas on the use and enrichment of Hindi.
• **Constitutional Provisions**
  - **Article 343 –** Hindi in Devanagari script is the Official Language of the Union; numerals follow the international form of Indian numerals.
  - **Article 344 –** Provides for a Commission and Parliamentary Committee on Official Language.
  - **Article 351 –** Directs the Union to promote the spread and development of Hindi.
• **Institutional Framework**
  - **Department of Official Language –** Functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs; organises All India and Regional Official Language Conferences.
  - **Parliamentary Committee on Official Language –** Reviews the progress of the use of Hindi for official purposes.

International Relations and Issues

Karakoram-2026: China-Pakistan Military Cooperation

China and Pakistan conducted their 1st joint army-level military exercise, Karakoram-2026, from 14–22 October 2026.

• **Key Features**

• **Participants –** People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China and Pakistan Army.

• **Location –** Xinjiang, bordering India's Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.

• **Objective –** To enhance high-altitude warfare capabilities, counterterrorism operations and military interoperability.

• **Two Phases**

- **Phase I –** Specialised tactics, close-quarter combat and UAV operations.
- **Phase II –** Joint command, mixed formations, counterterrorism clearance, coordinated fire drills and joint manoeuvres.

• **Equipment –** Chinese small arms, armoured vehicles, artillery, drones and support systems.



Historical Background – *1963 Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement, under which Pakistan ceded the Shaksgam Valley to China.*

Economy

India’s Foreign Trade - October 2026

India's overall exports (merchandise + services) increased 29.9% year-on-year to $89.99 billion in October 2026, recording strong export growth.



• **Major Highlights**
  - **Highest-ever monthly merchandise exports –** $49.47 billion.
  - **Overall trade deficit –** Narrowed to $20.09 billion from $25.15 billion in October 2025.
  - **Merchandise trade deficit –** Widened to $39.88 billion, the highest in one year.
  - **Services trade surplus –** Helped offset the merchandise trade deficit.
  - October 2026 services figures are estimates; latest actual RBI data was for September 2026.

• **Factors Affecting Trade**
  - Higher crude oil import costs due to disruptions in global energy markets.
  - India imports nearly **85% of its crude oil requirements**.
  - Brent crude prices falling to around $92/barrel offered some relief.
  - Export-market diversification and trade agreements with the UK and New Zealand supported export growth.
  - India–EU trade deal is expected to be implemented early next year.

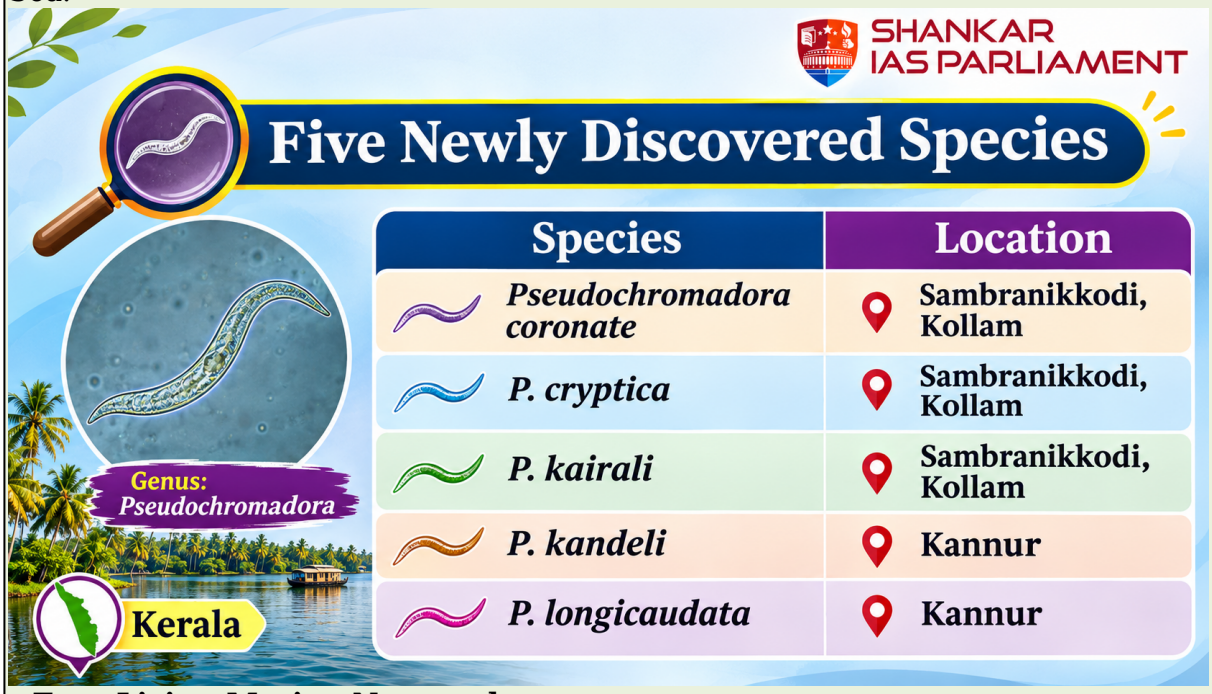
Agriculture

5 New Species of Free-Living Nematodes Discovered Along Kerala Coast

Researchers from the University of Kerala discovered 5 new species of free-living nematodes in mangrove sediments along the Kerala coast.

• **Scientific Journal –** Marine Biodiversity (Springer Nature).

• **Significance –** 1st confirmed record of the genus Pseudochromadora from the Arabian Sea.



• **Free-Living Marine Nematodes**

• Microscopic, non-parasitic roundworms, generally a few millimetres long.

• Inhabit marine and estuarine sediments.

• It play important roles in organic matter decomposition and nutrient cycling.

Plant Genome Saviour Awards 2026

• Two farmers from Wayanad, Kerala, received national-level recognition under the Plant Genome Saviour Awards of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA).
• Awards were presented on 12 November 2026 in New Delhi.
• **Award Winners**
• **Babu N.K. – Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Reward (2023–24)**
- Prize – Rs.1.50 lakh, citation and memento.
- Conserves traditional and underutilised crop varieties on his four-acre farm.
- Collection includes 39 banana, 11 root tuber, 9 colocasia, 6 ginger and 4 turmeric varieties.
- Shared greater yam germplasm with ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute and seed material with Kerala Agricultural University's Seed Gene Bank.

• **Sooraj C.S. – Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Recognition (2024–25)**
- Prize – Rs.1 lakh, citation and memento.
- Conserves 670 genetic resources, including 104 tomato, 23 brinjal, 36 chilli and 32 banana varieties.
- Shares germplasm with Kerala Agricultural University for research and characterisation.

Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA)

• **Established under** – Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.
• **Functions under –** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
• **Objectives –** It protects plant varieties and recognises farmers' and plant breeders' rights.
• It promotes conservation of agro-biodiversity and farmers' contribution to preserving genetic resources.

Security

12th edition of Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2026

*A **170-member Indian contingent** departed for Sri Lanka to participate in the **Exercise Mitra Shakti 2026**.*

• It is an annual bilateral military exercise conducted alternately in India and Sri Lanka.
• **Participating Countries –** India and Sri Lanka.
• **Duration –** 13–26 November 2026 (14 days).
• **Venue –** Army Training School, Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka.
• **Indian Contingent –** Primarily troops from a battalion of the **Rajputana Rifles**, along with personnel from other arms, services and the Indian Air Force.
• **Objectives**
- To enhance interoperability and joint operational capabilities of both armies.
- To improve counter-terrorism operations in a **semi-urban environment under a UN mandate**.
- To exchange operational experiences and best practices.

• **Major Training Activities**
- Joint operational planning and tactical rehearsals.
- Urban patrolling and roadblock operations.
- Vehicle convoy protection and area ambushes.
- Crowd dispersal operations.
- Combined arms operations against fortified positions.
- Culminates in a joint validation exercise.

• **Significance**
- It strengthens India–Sri Lanka defence cooperation.
- It promotes mutual trust, professional camaraderie and regional security.

6th Edition of Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI 2026

• It is bilateral joint military exercise.
• **Participating Countries –** India and Malaysia.
• **Duration –** 13 days from 18–30 November 2026.
• **Previous Edition –** 5th edition, held at Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan, in December 2025.
• **Objectives**
  - It enhances interoperability and operational coordination between the two armies.
  - It strengthens professional military cooperation and mutual understanding.
  - It improves capabilities for counter-terrorism and sub-conventional operations.
• **Major Training Areas (Previous Edition)**
  - Joint tactical drills under a UN mandate.
  - Counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban and urban terrain.
  - Joint patrolling, ambush theory and operational planning.
  - Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (IED) familiarisation.
  - Army Martial Arts Routine (AMAR) drills.
  - Helicopter slithering and low-hover jumps from MI-17 helicopters.
  - Command Post Exercise for tactical planning and battlefield management.
• **Significance**
  - It strengthens India–Malaysia defence relations.
  - It promotes regional peace, stability and military-to-military cooperation.

Science

COSMOS-Mysuru Planetarium

*Prime Minister inaugurated **COSMOS-Mysuru Planetarium** in Mysuru, Karnataka, on 13 November 2026.*

• It is *India's 1st LED dome planetarium.*

• **Aim –** It promotes astronomy education, scientific curiosity and innovation among students.

• **Associated institutions –** Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) and University of Mysore.

• It highlights the integration of India's scientific heritage with modern astronomy.

• **Recent Indian Space Achievements**

- **Chandrayaan-3** – India became the 1st country to land near the Moon's south polar region.
- **Aditya-L1** – India's first space-based solar observatory.
- **Space docking** – India became the fourth country to demonstrate space docking and undocking capability.
- **Gaganyaan** – India's human spaceflight programme; experience from the recent Indian astronaut's ISS mission supports its development.

• **Applications**

- Satellite-based communication and weather alerts for fishermen.
- **Real-Time Train Tracking System –** Indian Railways and ISRO.
- **PM Fasal Bima Yojana –** satellite data supports crop-yield estimation and insurance claims.

• **Other Research Initiatives**

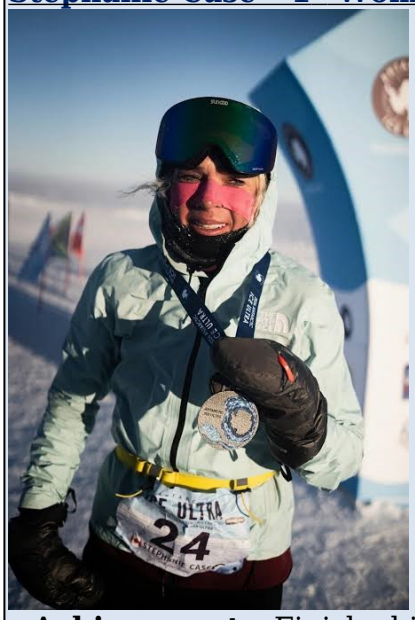
- **Atal Tinkering Labs –** Over 10,000 labs; benefited more than one crore students.
- **One Nation One Subscription –** Access to leading global research journals for domestic institutions.
- **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) –** Promotes research and innovation.
- **Research, Development and Innovation Scheme –** Rs.1 lakh crore funding initiative to support research and technology development.

• **India's Scientific Heritage**

- **Aryabhata, Varahamihira, Bhaskaracharya and Nilakantha Somayaji** – notable ancient Indian astronomers.
- Ancient contributions included planetary movements, calendars and calculations of solar and lunar eclipses.

Personality

Stephanie Case – 1st Woman to Complete Antarctic Ice Ultra 100-Mile Race



• **Achievement** – Finished in 17 hours, 31 minutes and 39 seconds, securing second place overall.
• **Location –** Schirmacher Oasis, Queen Maud Land, East Antarctica.
• **Race Details**
  - **Distance –** 100 miles (approximately 160.9 km).
  - **Course** – 38 laps of a 4.2-km circuit.
  - **Temperature –** As low as –35°C.
  - Only 4 of the 8 participants completed the race.
• **Challenges –** Extreme cold, strong winds, risk of frostbite, dehydration and maintaining body temperature.
• **Significance –** n1st-ever female finisher of the Antarctic Ice Ultra 100-mile race.
• Stephanie was the only woman among three female starters to finish.

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Impact Assessment of PLI Schemes – NITI Aayog

• **Released by –** NITI Aayog
• **Collaboration with – IIM Ahmedabad** as the knowledge partner.
• **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme**
• **Launched by** – Government of India to boost domestic manufacturing and global competitiveness.
  - It provides incentives linked to incremental production/sales by eligible manufacturers.
  - It aims to attract investment, promote exports, create employment and integrate India into global value chains.
• It covers **14 sectors** across different Ministries and Departments.
• **Key Findings**
• Nearly **70% of targeted segments are on track**.
• Encouraging progress in:
  - Pharmaceuticals
  - Mobile manufacturing (Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing)
  - Food processing
  - Telecom
  - White goods
  - Automobiles
  - Drones
• **Drones sector –** Emerging as an early implementation success.
• **High-efficiency Solar PV modules –** Significant expansion in domestic manufacturing capacity.
• **ACC batteries, specialty steel and technical textiles –** Gradual capacity creation and ecosystem development.
• **Assessment Parameters**
  - Investment
  - Additional production
  - Exports
  - Employment generation
• **Sectoral Performance Categories**
  - On-Track
  - Partial Impact
  - Insignificant Evidence of Impact
  - Data Unavailable

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering