UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 17-11-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Türkiye Grants GI Recognition to Pakistani Basmati Rice

• Türkiye recognised Pakistani Basmati rice as a Geographical Indication (GI), strengthening Pakistan's position in the India–Pakistan basmati trade competition.
• **Registration Authority –** Turkish Patent and Trademark Office.
• **Registration –** February 2026 (application submitted in June 2024).
• **Pakistani GI Coverage** – Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and parts of Balochistan.
• **India's Position** – India has also applied for GI recognition in Türkiye, but equivalent approval was pending at the time of reporting.
• **Significance**
  - It provides Pakistan with legal protection for basmati origin claims in Türkiye.
  - It strengthens its branding and potential premium-market access.
  - It may create future disputes over basmati labelling and geographical origin.
• **Impact on India**
  - Increases competition in premium basmati export markets.
  - India retains advantages in production scale, varietal diversity and competitive export pricing.
• **Price Outlook** – Global rice prices are firming due to tighter supplies and weather-related production risks, including El Niño concerns.
• **Key Risk –** GI-related disputes, origin certification and substitution towards cheaper non-basmati rice.

Red Dot Design Award 2026

• Anant Anadi Vadnagar, an archaeological experiential museum in Vadnagar, Gujarat, won the Red Dot: Best of the Best Design Award 2026 in Berlin, Germany.

• **Significance**
  - *1st museum in India* to receive the Red Dot: Best of the Best award.
  - 2nd Red Dot Design Award recipient in Gujarat after Smriti Van.
  - Received its 2nd international recognition within 2 months, following a Platinum A' Design Award in Italy.

• **Key Features of the Museum**
  - **Location –** Vadnagar, Gujarat.
  - **Historical significance** – Showcases over 2,300 years of history.
  - **Structure** – Four-storey building covering approximately 12,500 sq. m.
  - **Galleries** – Eight thematic galleries.
  - **Collection –** Over 6,000 excavated artefacts, including:
    - Ceramics, coins and weapons.
    - Sculptures and ornaments.
  - **Experiential features**
    - 3D projection of a Buddhist vihara.
    - Recreated Buddhist monastery experience.
    - Interactive excavation experience for children.
    - Spatial storytelling using sound and visuals.



• **Award and Institutions**
  - **Award –** Red Dot: Best of the Best Design Award 2026.
  - **Award ceremony** – 6 November 2026, Konzerthaus, Berlin.
  - **Design firm** – Design Factory India (DFI), Noida.
  - **Client** – Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Gujarat.

Geography

Cyclone Akvan – Bay of Bengal

IMD forecast Cyclone Akvan to intensify into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) over the Bay of Bengal.

• **Location** – Central parts of the South and adjoining West-Central Bay of Bengal.
• **Movement –** Moving north-northwest wards at approximately 3 km/hr.
• **Expected Landfall** – Andhra Pradesh–Yanam coast, between Nellore and Tuni, around Friday noon (as per the provided report).
• **Expected Wind Speed –** 120–130 km/hr, with gusts up to 145 km/hr.
• **Potential Impact –** Andhra Pradesh coast.
• **Atmospheric Features**
  - Cyclones have a wide atmospheric influence beyond their immediate surroundings.
  - Upper-level divergent winds transport moisture and ice crystals, potentially forming high-level clouds over distant regions.
  - Cloud formations may produce spectacular sunset colours due to light scattering.

Environment

Water Rail (Rallus aquaticus)

Migratory Water Rail was sighted at TS Chanakya wetlands, Nerul, Navi Mumbai, after nearly 8 years.



• **Family –** Rail family (Rallidae).
• **Geographical Distribution** – Europe, Asia and North Africa.
• **Breeding Habitat –** Well-vegetated wetlands of the Palearctic region (Eurasia).
• **Migration**
  - Migrates to warmer countries during harsh European winters.
  - Generally, stays from October to February/March.
• **Habitat –** Reeds, marshes and densely vegetated wetlands.
• **Food** – Insects and other invertebrates.
• **Behaviour**
  - Shy and elusive bird; prefers skulking among reeds rather than open areas.
  - Uses dense vegetation for feeding and protection from predators.
• **Identification –** Both sexes look similar during non-breeding plumage.

Five New Diminutive Horned Frog Species

Five new species of diminutive horned frogs discovered in Arunachal Pradesh after five years of field exploration.

• **Genus –** Jingophrys (Diminutive Horned Frogs).
• **Research Institutions** – University of Delhi and Harvard University (USA).
• **Published in –** Royal Society Open Science (November 2026).
• **Newly Discovered Species**
  - Jingophrys taniitatii – Tanii Horned Frog.
    ▪ Tanii tribe – The name Jingophrys taniitatii honours the Tanii tribe of Ziro Valley, Arunachal Pradesh.
    ▪ In the Apatani language, "Tatii" means frogs/toads.
  - Jingophrys tanogogo – Snail-eating Horned Frog.
  - Jingophrys siangensis – Siang Horned Frog.
  - Jingophrys hrdy – Hrdy's Horned Frog.
  - Jingophrys wularsoni – WuLarson's Horned Frog.

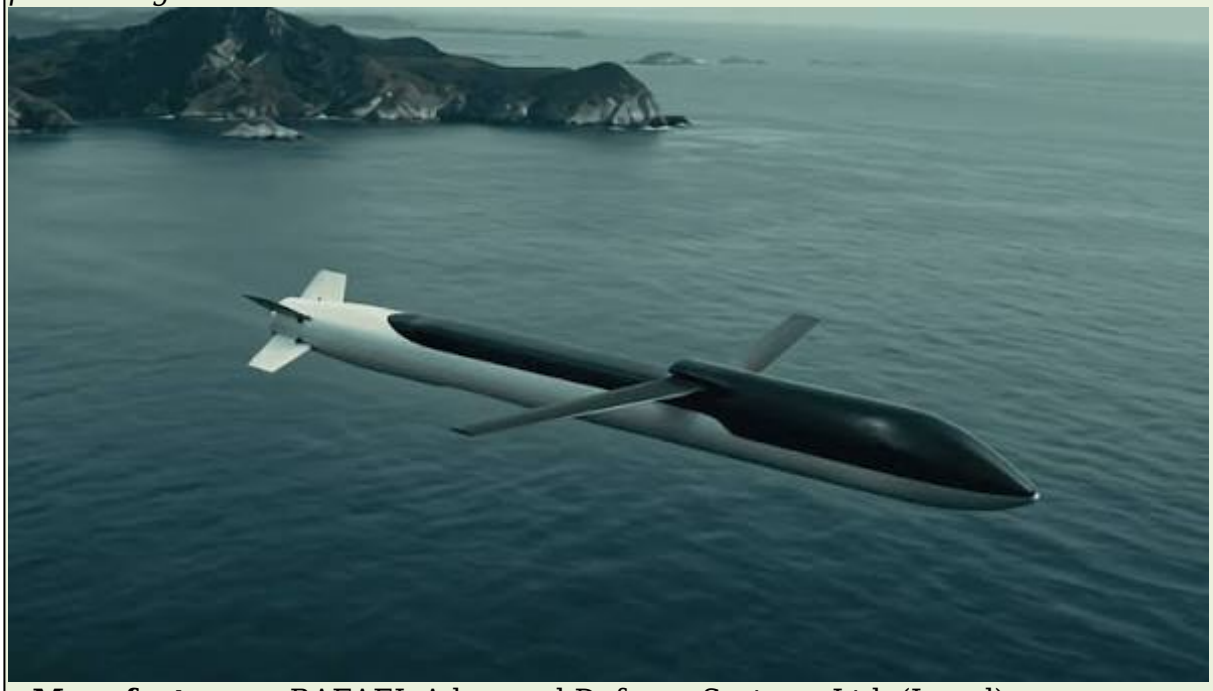


• **Unique Feature –** J. tanogogo is the first snail-eating frog recorded in India.
• It is the 1st member of the family Megophryidae reported to exhibit snail-eating behaviour (entire snail shells found in its gut).
• **Identification Methods –** DNA-based molecular phylogeny, external morphology and male mating calls.
• **Significance**
  - More than doubled the known global diversity of Jingophrys from 6 to 11 species.
  - Two new country records for India were also reported.
  - Highlights the Eastern Himalayas as a centre of hidden biodiversity and evolutionary diversification.
  - Recognises indigenous communities and local ecological knowledge.

Security

SUPER ICE – Long-Range Cruise Missile

Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems unveiled SUPER ICE, a new long-range precision-guided cruise missile.



• **Manufacturer –** RAFAEL Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. (Israel).
• **Warhead** – 1,000-pound warhead (MK83 compatible).
• **Launch Platforms –** Air-, land- and sea-based platforms.
• **Key Features**
  - Autonomous navigation and low-altitude terrain-following flight.
  - All-weather operational capability.
  - Advanced electro-optical guidance using image-matching technology.
  - High-precision engagement of strategic targets.
  - Stand-off strike capability.
• **Technology** – Builds on the technological foundation of ICE BREAKER missile.
• **Significance**
  - Expands Rafael's long-range precision-strike missile portfolio.
  - Shares launch systems, mission-planning infrastructure and logistics with the ICE BREAKER family.
  - Aims to reduce life-cycle costs (LCC) through common architecture.

Miscellaneous

International Day for Tolerance

• **Annually observed on –** 16th November.
• **Proclaimed by –** UN General Assembly through Resolution 51/95 (1996).
• **Background –** Follows UNESCO's adoption of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance on 16 November 1995.
• **Meaning of Tolerance**
  - It is not indulgence or indifference, but respect and appreciation of cultural diversity, different forms of expression and ways of life.
  - It recognises the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of others.
  - It promotes peaceful coexistence and survival of diverse communities worldwide.
• **UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize –** Awarded *once every two years.*
  - **Aim –** To recognise outstanding contributions in *science, arts, culture or communication* that promote tolerance and non-violence.
• **Significance –** It encourages mutual respect, acceptance of diversity and peaceful coexistence among different communities.

International Day of the Mediterranean Diet 2026

• **Annually observed on –** 16th November.
• **Established by** – UN General Assembly through Resolution A/RES/80/174.
• **1st official celebration** – 16 November 2026.
• **Organised by** – Permanent Representations of Greece, Italy and Lebanon to the UN.
• **Theme (2026) –** Science, Sustainability, and Cultural Heritage.
• **Mediterranean Diet – Key Features**
  - High consumption of whole cereals, legumes, fruits, vegetables, nuts and olive oil.
  - Low to moderate consumption of dairy products and low consumption of meat and poultry.
• **UNESCO Recognition** – Inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010.
• **Significance**
  - It helps prevent non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
  - It promotes sustainable agrifood systems, biodiversity and local economies.
  - It preserves traditional food knowledge, culinary practices and cultural heritage.
  - It encourages seasonal, local food production and social cohesion.

National Press Day

• **Annually observed in India on –** 16th November.
• **2026 Theme –** "Journalism: Populist or Responsible."
• **Aim –** To highlight the importance of a free, independent and responsible press.
• **Significance –** It commemorates the day the Press Council of India (PCI) began functioning in 1966.



Press Council of India (PCI)

• It is an independent statutory, quasi-judicial body.
• **Established in** – 16 November 1966.
• **Mandate**
  - Safeguard freedom of the press.
  - Maintain and improve standards of journalism.
  - Prescribe professional conduct and ethics for newspapers and news agencies.
  - Examine complaints relating to violations of journalistic standards.

National Epilepsy Day

• **Annually observed in India on –** 17th November.
• **Aim –** To raise awareness about epilepsy, promote timely diagnosis and treatment, and address the stigma associated with seizures.

Epilepsy

• It is a chronic neurological disorder characterised by a tendency to experience recurrent, unprovoked seizures.
• Seizures occur due to sudden, abnormal electrical activity in the brain, temporarily affecting movement, awareness, sensations, emotions or behaviour.
• **Types**
  - **Generalised Epilepsy** – Seizures involve networks on both sides of the brain.
  - **Focal Epilepsy** – Seizures originate in a specific area or network on one side of the brain; they may spread to both sides.
  - **Unknown-Onset Epilepsy** – The beginning of the seizure is not witnessed or cannot be determined.

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