UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 19-11-2026

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Polity

Bihar Minister's Assistant Professor Appointment Put on Hold

*Appointment of Bihar Minister and JD(U) leader **Ashok Choudhary** as Assistant Professor in Political Science at **Patliputra University** has been withheld pending a UGC inquiry.*

• **Reason –** Discrepancy in names: educational certificates mention *Ashok Kumar*, while his Election Commission affidavit mentions *Ashok Choudhary*.

• **UGC Inquiry –** The matter was referred to the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** for examination; posting of candidates will begin after its inquiry report.

• **Political Background –** Joined JD(U) in 2018 after leaving Congress; currently a member of the Bihar Legislative Council.

• **UGC –** A statutory body established under the **UGC Act, 1956**, responsible for coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education in India.

Office of Profit

• **Meaning –** Government position providing financial benefits or other advantages to its holder.

• **Article 102(1)(a) –** Disqualification of MPs for holding an office of profit under Central/State Government, unless exempted by Parliament.

• **Article 191(1)(a) –** Similar disqualification for MLAs and MLCs, unless exempted by State Legislature.

• **Decision Authority –** President (Article 103) for MPs and Governor (Article 192) for State Legislators, based on the Election Commission's opinion.

• **Determining Factors –** Appointment/removal authority, government control, remuneration and nature of duties.

• **Key Fact –** Constitution does not define *Office of Profit*; Parliament and State Legislatures can exempt specified offices by law.

• **Objective –** Prevent conflict of interest and protect legislative independence.

International Relations and Issues

Seafarers' Safety Initiative – East Asia Summit (EAS)

• **Announced by –** Prime Minister of India, at the *21st East Asia Summit (EAS)* held in Manila, Philippines, on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit.
• **Objective** – To strengthen maritime security, safety of seafarers and freedom of navigation.
• **Key Features**
  - It promotes joint training and emergency response cooperation among EAS nations.
  - It ensures the safety of commercial ships and seafarers amid attacks on international waterways.
• **Other Indian Initiatives Announced:**
  - **EAS Cyber Crime Conference –** To address cross-border cybercrimes and online fraud.
  - **EAS Maritime Heritage Festival –** To be organised at Lothal, Gujarat.
  - **EAS University Heads Conclave –** To be hosted at Nalanda, Bihar, next year.
• **India's Position**
  - Supports a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific.
  - Emphasises ASEAN unity and centrality under its **Act East Policy**.
  - Supports peaceful resolution of conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia.

East Asia Summit

• It is the premier regional forum for dialogue on strategic, geopolitical, economic, security and defence issues in the Indo-Pacific.
• **Established –** 2005.
• **Membership –** 19 countries - 11 ASEAN members + 8 partners (India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, USA and Russia).

Economy

Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT 3.0)

• *India and Sweden* launched the 3rd phase of the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT 3.0) at ***COP31, Antalya, Türkiye.***
• **Period –** 2027–2030.
• **Established –** LeadIT was jointly launched by India and Sweden in **2019**.
• **Objective –** To accelerate low-carbon transition in hard-to-abate industrial sectors.
• **New Member –** Brazil joined as the latest country member.
• **Membership –** 20 countries and 33 companies.
• **Three Priorities**
  - **Technology Development –** Promote industrial projects and technology diffusion.
  - **Capital Mobilisation –** Mobilise finance and reduce investment risks (de-risking).
  - **Capacity Building –** Policy support, carbon markets and workforce transition.
  - **Focus Sectors –** Steel, cement and transport; open to additional sectors and technologies.
• **LeadIT 2.0 Achievements –** Facilitated 11 pre-pilot projects in steel and cement under the India–Sweden Industry Transition Partnership.
• **Key Technologies –** Hydrogen-based ironmaking, industrial heat electrification, carbon capture and utilisation (CCU), clinker substitution, industrial circularity and AI-based cement demand reduction.
• **India's Climate Achievements (Highlighted at COP31):**
  - 37.38% reduction in emissions intensity (2005–2022).
  - 50% non-fossil fuel-based installed electricity capacity achieved in 2025, five years ahead of target.
  - Additional forest carbon sink: approximately 2.44 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent.

Health

Measles Elimination Status – United States

The United States lost its measles elimination status after 26 years due to continuous transmission of the same measles virus strain for over 12 months.

• **Declared by –** Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), a specialised agency of the WHO.
• **Other Countries –** Mexico and Bolivia also lost their measles elimination status; Canada lost it in 2025.
• **Reported Cases (US) –** 5,400 cases and 10 deaths in 2026 (as reported in the article).
• **Major Cause –** Declining vaccination coverage and gaps in immunisation.
• **MMR Vaccine –** Protects against Measles, Mumps and Rubella; two doses provide approximately 97% protection against measles.
• **Vaccination Coverage –** US MMR vaccination rate declined to 92.4%, below the 95% threshold required for herd immunity.
• **Health Impacts –** Measles can cause pneumonia, encephalitis and immune amnesia (weakening immune memory).

Environment

Australia's Fossil Fuel Exports

• **Report –** *"Past its Fossil Fuel Export Date: Australia's Fossil Fuel Export Carbon Footprint"*, highlighting the conflict between Australia's fossil fuel export plans and the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C goal.
• **Released by –** Climate Analytics
• **Global Position –** Australia is the *world's 2nd-largest coal exporter and 3rd-largest LNG exporter.*
• **Export Status (2025)**
  - Coal – 352 million tonnes (Mt), accounting for 25% of global exports.
  - LNG – 79 Mt.
• **Future Projections**
  - Coal exports expected to remain around 350 Mt annually until 2030.
  - LNG exports projected at around 80 Mt annually until 2035.
• **Carbon Emissions**
  - Australia's domestic emissions + emissions from burning its fossil fuel exports accounted for 4.3% of global fossil fuel CO_2 emissions in 2025.
  - Export-related emissions were around 1.2 $GtCO_2$ in 2025.
  - Current policies may generate cumulative export-related emissions of 17.9 $GtCO_2$ (2025–2040).
• **Climate Target –** Paris-aligned pathways require Australian coal production to decline by 32–50% below 2025 levels by 2030 and 72–86% by 2035.
• **Recent Development –** Australia serves as *President of Negotiations at COP31 (Türkiye holds the COP Presidency).*

35-by-35 Global Electrification Pledge

• **Launched by** – Türkiye at COP31.
• **Aim** – To increase electricity's share of global final energy consumption to 35% by 2035.
• **Significance –** It highlights the gap between fossil fuel export policies and global climate commitments.
• It emphasises the need for renewable energy, electrification and a fossil fuel phase-out roadmap.

Infrastructure

GIFT City – India's First MCR2030 Resilience Hub

• Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (**GIFT City**), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, became India's *1st Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) Resilience Hub.*
• **Recognised by –** UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
• **Significance –** 1st such hub in India and a new Resilience Hub in the Asia-Pacific region; promotes knowledge-sharing on urban resilience.

MCR2030

• **Launched by –** UNDRR in October 2020.
• It supports cities in strengthening disaster risk reduction and climate resilience through technical assistance, partnerships and knowledge exchange.
• **GIFT City's Progress**
  - Joined MCR2030 in **July 2022**, with support from Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM).
  - Completed Stages A and B; progressing through Stage C (implementation).
  - Resilience Action Plan finalised in **March 2024**.
• **Preparedness Measures –** City/building/utility-level disaster plans, crisis management group, incident response system, 15+ mock drills and emergency equipment.
• **Early Warning –** Uses IMD forecasts, NDMA's **SACHET** platform, earthquake reports and local weather-station inputs.
• UNDRR works to promote disaster risk reduction and implementation of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030**.

Science

High-Resolution Indian Human Settlement Layers (IHSL)

• IN-SPACe selected 3 Indian space companies under its *Seed Fund Scheme for Use Case Demonstration by Non-Government Entities (NGEi)* to develop High-Resolution Indian Human Settlement Layers (IHSL).
• **Selected Companies**
  - SpacePixxel Technologies Pvt. Ltd.,
  - KaleidEO Space Systems Pvt. Ltd. and
  - Azista Industries Pvt. Ltd.
• **Funding –** Rs.1.46 crore collectively for developing an indigenous satellite-based 3D reconstruction system using monocular imagery.
• **Technology –** It uses *Indian Earth Observation (EO) satellite* data to generate:
  - Built-up surface and building type.
  - Building height.
  - Built-up volume.
• **Objective –** To address NITI Aayog's requirement for detailed geospatial data for urban planning, infrastructure development, disaster risk assessment and population assessment.
• **Pilot Cities –** Bengaluru (metropolitan city) and Shimla (hill city).
• **Significance –** It enables monitoring of horizontal and vertical urban expansion, settlement patterns and changes in built-up density over time.
• **IHSL –** It is an indigenous satellite-based geospatial mapping initiative that generates detailed 2D and 3D data on India's built environment and human settlements.
• It is spearheaded by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) to address geospatial data requirements set by NITI Aayog.

TOP500 List of World's Most Powerful Supercomputers – 2026

• China's **LineShine** retained the No. 1 position in the TOP500 list, released at the *SC26 conference, Chicago (November 2026).*

LineShine



• **Developed by** – Shenzhen Cloud Computing Centre.
• **Installed at –** National Supercomputing Centre, Shenzhen, China.
• **Computing performance –** 2.198 exaFLOPS (2.198 quintillion calculations per second).
1 exaFLOP = *\ (10^ {18} \) floating-point operations per second.*
• **Power consumption –** Approximately 42 MW.
• It uses Chinese-made processors and the *Kylin operating system.*
• It designed for atmospheric and ocean research.
• **Top-ranked Supercomputers**
  - LineShine – China
  - El Capitan – USA
  - Frontier – USA
  - Aurora – USA
  - JUPITER Booster – Germany
• **India's Position – *Shakti Cloud ranked 35th*,** the highest-ranked Indian supercomputer.
• **TOP500 –** A biannual ranking (June and November) of the world's 500 most powerful supercomputers, based on the **LINPACK benchmark**.

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UNESCO–UCL Report: AI Reliability on Climate Change (2026)

• **Report –** *"Can We Trust AI on Climate Information?"*
• **Released by –** UNESCO and University College London (UCL), on 16 November 2026 during COP31, Antalya, Türkiye.
• **Objective –** To assess the reliability of AI models in climate science communication, scientific reasoning and climate policymaking.
• **Key Findings**
  - **Factual Accuracy –** AI models answered 88–96% of established climate knowledge questions correctly.
  - **Sycophancy –** Around 80% of AI models' concessions to incorrect user claims occurred at the first sign of disagreement.
  - **Accuracy Decline –** Accuracy dropped by 31–35 percentage points under sustained user pressure.
• **Policy Assessment**
  - Up to 94.5% accuracy in identifying individual climate policy effects.
  - Only 33.8% accuracy in assessing interactions between policies (near the 33.3% random-guessing level).
• **Scientific Reasoning –** Only 71-77% accuracy in evaluating whether new evidence supports or contradicts scientific claims.
• **Language Divide:** Accuracy across 13 languages:
  - English – 88.6%.
  - Hindi and Bengali – 83.6%.
  - Urdu – 81.4%.
  - Swahili – 78.3%.
• **Research Methodology:**
  - Tested up to 33 AI models across 9 climate and environmental datasets, 13 languages and 656 climate-policy questions.
  - Used **En-ROADS**, a climate and energy simulator developed by Climate Interactive and MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative, to assess policy interactions.

Sycophancy – *AI tendency to agree with users, even when their claims contradict established scientific facts.*

• **Recommendations**
  - Greater transparency in AI performance across languages.
  - Independent verification before AI deployment in public services and education.
  - Stronger testing against climate misinformation and user pressure.
• **Related Initiative –** Global Initiative for Information Integrity on Climate Change, launched in November 2024 by UNESCO, UN and Brazil.

Miscellaneous

6th edition of the Earthshot Prize 2026

• **Held in** – Mumbai, India, on 16–17 November 2026.
• **Objective –** To recognise and accelerate innovative solutions to global environmental challenges.
• **2026 Winners (5)**
  1. **Bhutan** – Environmental conservation.
  2. **Mahindra Last Mile Mobility (India)** – Sustainable electric mobility.
  3. **Niue Ocean Wide Trust** – Ocean conservation.
  4. **PFAS-Free France** – Reducing harmful PFAS chemicals.
  5. **Ørsted (Denmark)** – Renewable energy.
• **Prize Money –** Each winner receives **£1 million** to scale up their environmental solutions.
• **Principal Sponsor –** Serum Institute of India.



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