UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 20-11-2026

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Defence

India-Canada Bilateral Naval Exercise

• **Recently,** Indian Navy's **INS Sahyadri** conducted a bilateral naval engagement with Canada's **HMCS Regina** on **15 November 2026**.
• **Participating Navies**
  - **INS Sahyadri** – Indian Navy.
  - **HMCS Regina** – Royal Canadian Navy.
• **Key Activities**
  - **Cross-deck landings** – Landing of helicopters on another navy's ship.
  - **Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP)** – Transfer of supplies between ships using helicopters.
  - **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** – Naval exercise conducted during the passage of ships.
• **Objective –** To strengthen bilateral maritime cooperation, operational interoperability, communication and coordinated naval operations.
• **Significance –** It enhances India–Canada defence engagement and maritime partnership.

Social Issues

World Toilet Day 2026

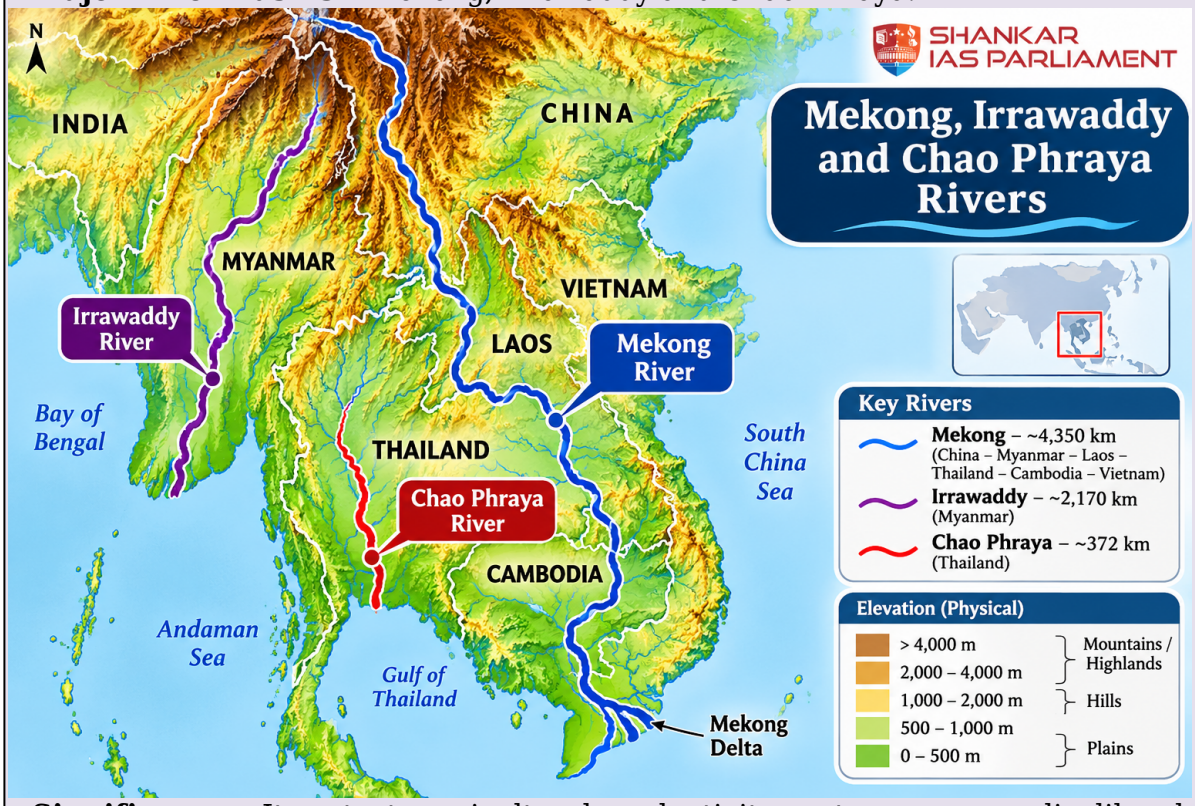
• **Annually observed on –** 19th November.
• **Background**
  - **Founded by – World Toilet Organization (2001).**
  - Recognised as an official UN observance in **2013**.
• **Theme 2026 –** *"Safe toilets. Equal futures."*
• **Coordinated by –** UN-Water.
• **Objective – To promote** safe sanitation, gender equality and awareness of sanitation-related challenges under **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)**.
• **Significance –** Safe sanitation ensures women's and girls' health, safety, dignity, menstrual hygiene and access to education and employment.
• **Gender Dimension –** Unsafe sanitation facilities increase health risks, school absenteeism and vulnerability to gender-based violence.



International Relations and Issues

ASEAN Resilient Rivers Initiative

• **Launched by –** Asian Development Bank (ADB) in partnership with ASEAN.
• **Objective** – To mobilise up to **US$8 billion by 2030** through public and private financing to strengthen water and food security and reduce flood and drought risks in Southeast Asia.
• **Key Features**
- **Infrastructure Development –** Modernise irrigation systems, strengthen flood defences and improve water management.
- **Transboundary River Basin Management –** Promote coordinated planning and investments across shared river basins.
- **Private Capital Mobilisation –** Identify bankable water-infrastructure projects and attract private-sector investments.
• **Major River Basins –** Mekong, Irrawaddy and Chao Phraya.



• **Significance –** It protects agricultural productivity, water resources, livelihoods and ecosystems against climate risks.



4th India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue

• **Held in –** Tokyo.
• **Aim –** To strengthen maritime security cooperation and expand joint defence manufacturing cooperation.



• **Key Outcomes**
  - **UNICORN Project –** Fast-track defence agreements for the **Unified Complex Radio Antenna (UNICORN)**, a joint stealth naval mast development initiative.
  - **Maritime Security –** Implement the Memorandum of Arrangement through maritime and air domain awareness, search and rescue, and information sharing.
  - **Ship Repair –** Early conclusion of an agreement for reciprocal access to ship repair facilities.
  - **Mine Countermeasures –** Enhance cooperation in mine countermeasure capabilities.
  - **Defence Manufacturing –** Promote joint production under the **'Design with Japan, Make in India'** framework, including niche, underwater and missile technologies.
  - **Air and Space Cooperation –** Advance cooperation in air and space domain awareness.
  - **Veer Guardian 2026 –** First-ever participation of Japanese Air Self-Defense Force fighter aircraft in this bilateral air exercise in India.

• **Strategic Significance**
  - Strengthens the **India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership**.
  - Supports a **free and open Indo-Pacific** alongside Quad partners.
  - Promotes a multipolar Asia and world.
  - Enhances resilience against vulnerabilities in maritime chokepoints, connectivity and global supply chains.

• **Key Facts**
  - **Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation –** Signed in August 2025.
  - **75 years of India-Japan diplomatic relations –** To be commemorated in 2027.
  - **India-Japan Defence Industry Forum –** 3rd edition held in Tokyo on 13 October 2026.

Economy

BSE BANKEX

• It is *1st Indian Sectoral Index Futures Contract.*
• **Approved by –** US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) for offer and sale in the US.
• **Approval –** Granted after successful completion of the CFTC's ***45-day expedited review process.***
• **BANKEX Index**
  - Tracks the performance of leading banking sector stocks listed on BSE.
  - BANKEX Futures enable investors to gain exposure to or hedge against fluctuations in the Indian banking sector through a single derivative instrument.
• **Significance**
  - Provides US investors, including institutional investors, access to India's banking sector through BSE.
  - Expected to enhance market participation, trading depth and liquidity.
  - Trading remains subject to Indian securities market laws and regulations.
• **BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange):**
  - **Established in –** 1875.
  - **Headquarters –** Mumbai, Maharashtra.
  - **Benchmark Index –** Sensex.
  - **Significance –** Asia's oldest stock exchange.

Health

World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) 2026

• **Annually observed –** From 18th to 24th November.
• **Aim –** To raise awareness about Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and promote global action to prevent the emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.
• **2026 Theme –** "One Health, one action: Prevent AMR now"
• **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) –** It occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to medicines, making infections difficult or impossible to treat.
• **Impact of AMR**
  - Bacterial AMR is associated with **over 4.7 million deaths annually**.
  - Could cause up to **39 million deaths by 2050**.
  - May cost the global economy **over US$3.4 trillion annually**.
• **Global Action Plan on AMR (2026–2036) –** It promotes a *One Health approach* to reduce AMR-associated deaths, antimicrobial use (particularly in agrifood systems) and environmental pollution from resistant microbes and antimicrobial residues.
One Health *– It integrates the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment.*

India's H5N1 Bird Flu Vaccine for Chickens

• India developed its *1st indigenous vaccine* against **H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)** to protect poultry from bird flu.
• **Developed by –** Indian Council of Agricultural Research – **National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (ICAR-NIHSAD), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**
• **Vaccine Type –** Inactivated H5N1 vaccine targeting **Clade 2.3.2.1a**, the strain circulating in India.

H5N1 (Bird Flu)

•
- A highly pathogenic avian influenza virus affecting birds and capable of infecting mammals and humans.
- Can cause nearly ***100% mortality among infected birds.***

• **Outbreaks in India (2006–2021) –** 341 outbreaks across 24 states:
- H5N1 – 284 outbreaks.
- H5N8 – 57 outbreaks.

• **Significance**
- It reduces poultry mortality and economic losses due to culling and trade restrictions.
- It strengthens veterinary healthcare and Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- It supports poultry farmers' livelihoods and India's biosecurity.

Security

AI Kavach – AI Cybersecurity Lab

• **AI Kavach –** It is an AI cybersecurity and assurance laboratory to address emerging cybersecurity risks in India's financial services sector.
• **Established by –** IIT Kanpur's ***Wadhwani School of AI and Intelligent Systems (WSAIS)*** in partnership with Bharat1.ai (Intellineuro Private Limited).
• **Objective –** To secure AI systems deployed in banking, payments, lending, insurance and other digital financial services.



• **Key Functions**
  - Conduct security testing and adversarial red-teaming of financial AI systems.
  - Develop technologies to contain and sandbox autonomous AI agents.
  - Research AI assurance, traceability and responsible vulnerability disclosure.
  - Promote secure and responsible AI deployment.
• **Capacity Building –** Aims to train **over 300 students and professionals annually** through fellowships and industry programmes.
• **Infrastructure –** It utilises computing resources supported by the **IndiaAI Mission**.
• **Significance –** It strengthens India's AI cybersecurity ecosystem and safeguards sensitive financial data and digital transactions.

Awards

World Sailing Impact Award 2026

• Recently, The **Yacht Club of Hyderabad (YCH)** was shortlisted for the **2026 World Sailing Impact Award**, becoming the *1st Indian organisation to receive this recognition*.
• **Award –** It recognises organisations using sailing to promote community development and empower disadvantaged communities.
• **Shortlist –** 4 organisations worldwide, from *India, South Africa, the USA and Germany.*
• **Founded in –** 2009 by **Suheim Sheikh**.
• **Key Achievements**
  - Trained **3,000 children**.
  - Produced **96 national champions**.
  - Enabled **178 international participations**.
  - Currently trains around **100 young sailors** at a time.
• **Support –** It provides equipment, nutrition and educational assistance free of cost to children from economically weaker backgrounds.
• **Award Ceremony –** 18th November 2026, **Qingdao, China**.
• **Significance –** It promotes inclusive sports, youth empowerment and equal access to sporting opportunities irrespective of economic background.

Miscellaneous

TIME100 Next India List 2026

• Recently, TIME magazine released its inaugural TIME100 Next India list, recognising 100 emerging leaders shaping India's future.
• **Significance –** 1st-ever international/regional extension of the global TIME100 Next series.
• **Selection by –** T IME journalists in India and worldwide.
• **Fields Covered –** Business, entertainment, science, technology, sports, advocacy, arts and media.
• **Key Personalities**
  - **Alia Bhatt** – Actor.
  - **Pawan Kumar Chandana** – Co-founder, CEO and CTO of Skyroot Aerospace.
  - **Aryan Khan, Payal Kapadia and Theja Rio** – Filmmakers/directors.
  - **Harmanpreet Kaur, Lovlina Borgohain and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** – Sports.
  - **Anirudh Ravichander, A.R. Rahman and Diljit Dosanjh** – Music.
  - **Shubhanshu Shukla** – Science and space.
• **Gala –** 12 December 2026, Mumbai; presented by **Reliance**.

Shubhanshu Shukla

• **Profile**
  - Group Captain, Indian Air Force (IAF);
  - 1st Indian to visit the **International Space Station (ISS)** and
  - 2nd Indian in space after Rakesh Sharma (1984).
• **Gaganyaan Programme –** Selected in 2019 as one of four astronauts; trained at Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre, Russia (2020–21).
• **Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)**
  - Launched on **25 June 2025** from Kennedy Space Center, USA.
  - Collaboration between **ISRO, NASA and SpaceX**.
  - Served as mission pilot; conducted around 60 experiments aboard the ISS.
• **Award –** *Ashoka Chakra (2026)* - India's highest peacetime gallantry award.
• **Significance –** His spaceflight experience will contribute to India's indigenous human spaceflight programme, particularly *Gaganyaan.*

TIME – *Global media brand founded in 1923; headquartered in New York, USA.*



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