UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 21-11-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Balaramapuram Kasavu Textile – Kerala

• Recently, Kerala unveiled a *6,000-foot-long Kasavu textile*, created by around **2,500 weavers** under the Balaramapuram Kasavu Project.

• **Location –** Balaramapuram, Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala.

• **Objective –** Promote India's traditional handloom heritage, weaving communities and indigenous craftsmanship.

• **Key Features**

- Balaramapuram handloom sarees and fine cotton fabrics are known for their distinctive **golden Kasavu borders**.

- They were the **1st handloom products from Kerala to receive a Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.

• **Significance –** Showcases Kerala's generations-old weaving tradition and promotes traditional handloom craftsmanship.



Environment

Wayanad – India's 1st E-Waste-Free District

• Recently, Wayanad district, Kerala, is set to become ***India's first e-waste-free district,*** with the official declaration scheduled for November 27, 2026.
• **Implementing Agencies –** Suchitwa Mission and Clean Kerala Company, with participation of Haritha Karma Sena and local self-government institutions.



• **Campaign –** Launched in September 2026.
• **Implemented in** – 3 phases: government offices, local bodies and re-verification of missed locations.
• **Approach**
  - Household collection by Haritha Karma Sena;
  - Collection from government institutions by *Clean Kerala Company.*
• **Significance –** It promotes scientific e-waste disposal, prevents environmental contamination and strengthens decentralised waste management.
• **Future Measures –** Monthly waste-management protocol for local bodies and government offices; blueprint for a plastic-free district.

International Relations and Issues

1st SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum

Recently, PM of India inaugurated the 1st Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum on 20 November 2026.
• **Held at –** Purana Qila, New Delhi.
• **Duration –** 20-22 November 2026 (3 days).
• **Objective –** Celebrate shared civilisational heritage, strengthen people-to-people ties and promote cross-cultural dialogue and cooperation among SCO countries.
• **Origin –** Proposed by India at the **SCO Summit, Tianjin (China), 2025**; welcomed in the **Bishkek Declaration**.
• **Inaugural Cultural Show –** *Civilisations in Conversation* – music, dance, visual storytelling and narration; theme **"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – The World Is One Family"**.

India–Japan Year of Shared Horizons – 2027

• India and Japan will celebrate **2027 as the India–Japan Year of Shared Horizons**, marking the **75th anniversary of diplomatic relations**
• **Established in** – 1952.
• **Objective –** To strengthen the Special Strategic and Global Partnership through youth engagement, cultural exchanges, economic cooperation, sports and technological collaboration.
• **Major Initiatives**
• **India–Japan Week –** Week of **28 April 2027** to commemorate the establishment of diplomatic relations.
• **75th Anniversary Logo and Theme Competition –** Public participation to envision the future of bilateral relations.



• **IMAGE-75 –** Cooperation in **Manga, Anime, Gaming, animation, comics and immersive creative technologies**.
• **Shared Future-75 –** Policy recommendations involving academics, experts, industry and youth; 2nd edition of the India–Japan Ideathon.
• **RASA-75 (Rang, Sur and Sakura) –** Year-long collaboration in performing, visual and traditional arts.
• **Buddhist Pilgrimage Initiative –** Japanese Buddhist delegation to visit important Buddhist sites in India, promoting spiritual ties and Buddhist tourism.
• **SPORT-75 –** Sports cooperation; includes:
  - India–Japan Friendship Cricket Match during the **2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games**.
  - **Cricket Kizuna-75:** Two Indian coaches to conduct a cricket bootcamp in Japan.
  - India–Japan Sports Week in February 2027, including an **Ekiden (team relay running)** event.
• **Business Connect-75 –** Direct linkages between Indian business clusters and Japanese regional banks and enterprises.
• **MIRAI-VIGYAN-75 –** Science, technology and academic cooperation, including *LUPEX Mission*, IIT-H Japan Day and India–Japan Universities Forum.
• **Empower Regional Linkage-75 –** Strengthening State–Prefecture partnerships and the India–Japan Governors' Network for Friendship and Exchange.

Economy

Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) 2020-21 Series II – Premature Redemption

Recently, RBI fixed the premature redemption price of SGB 2020–21 Series II at Rs.13,345 per gram, effective 19 November 2026.

• **Issuer –** Government of India; SGBs are issued by RBI on behalf of the Government.
• **Eligibility for Premature Redemption –** After completion of 5 years from the date of issue, on an interest payment date.
• **Redemption Price Calculation –** Simple average of the closing prices of **999-purity gold** for the preceding 3 business days, published by **India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA)**.
• **Issue Price (May 2020):**
  - Offline subscription – Rs.4,590/gram.
  - Online subscription – Rs.4,540/gram (Rs.50 discount).
• **Capital Gain at Premature Redemption (Rs.13,345/gram)**
  - Offline – Rs.8,755/gram (**190.74% gain**).
  - Online – Rs.8,805/gram (**193.94% gain**).
• **Interest Rate –** 2.5% per annum on the nominal value, payable semi-annually.
• **Annual Interest per Gram –** Rs.114.75 (offline issue price basis).
• **Investment Period –** 19 May 2020 - 19 November 2026 (6.5 years).

Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB)

• A **Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB)** is a government security that allows people to invest in gold **without physically buying or storing gold**.
• In simple words, instead of purchasing a gold coin or jewellery, you invest money in a bond whose value is linked to the market price of gold.
• **Issued by –** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on behalf of the Government of India.
• **Introduced in –** November 2015.
• **Denomination –** Grams of gold (minimum unit: 1 gram).
• **Tenure –** 8 years, with premature redemption permitted after 5 years on interest payment dates.
• **Interest –** 2.5% per annum on the original investment amount, payable semi-annually under the relevant scheme terms

Environment

World Children's Day – UNICEF

• **Observed on –** 20 November annually.
• **Organiser –** United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
• **Significance –** It marks the adoption of the ***Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 20 November 1989.***
• **Theme / Campaign 2026 –** *"My day, my rights, my future"*.
• **Objective –** Promote children's rights, amplify children's voices and encourage their participation in decisions affecting their lives.
• **Key Focus Areas –**
  - Right to protection, education, participation and freedom of expression.
  - Address challenges arising from conflicts, climate change and inequality.
  - Encourage governments, parents, teachers and businesses to protect and fulfil children's rights.
  - Promote child rights in Artificial Intelligence (AI), focusing on privacy, safety and inclusion.
• **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC):**
  - Adopted by the UN General Assembly on ***20 November 1989.***
  - It establishes children's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Most widely ratified human rights treaty in history.

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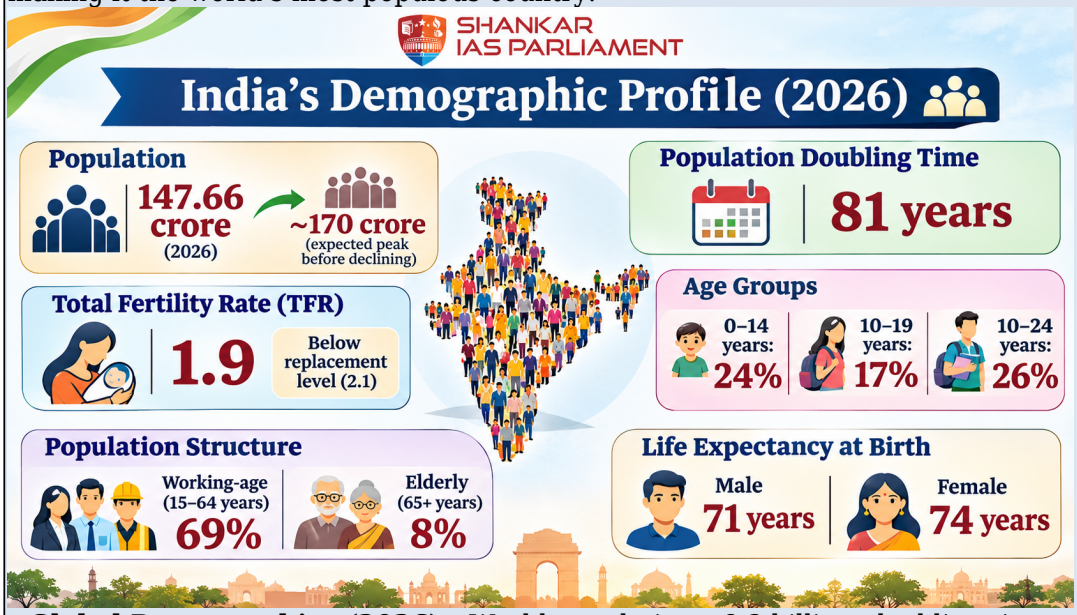
UNFPA – State of the World Population Report 2026

• UNFPA's *State of the World Population Report 2026* estimates India's population at **147.66 crore**, making it the world's most populous country.



• **Global Demographics (2026) -** World population – 8.3 billion; doubling time – 84 years.
• **China (2026) -** Population – 141.29 crore; TFR – 1.0.
• **UNFPA Survey -** Covered 108,000+ adults across 73 countries; 83% of Indian respondents were optimistic about the future.
• **Significance -** It highlights India's demographic dividend and the need for investment in youth, education, employment, reproductive health and youth-responsive healthcare.

Awards

Children's Earthshot Awards – Tamil Nadu

• **In News –** Two Tamil Nadu schools won the inaugural **I CAN Earthshot Challenge (2026)** for innovative student-led environmental solutions.
• **Organisers –** The Earthshot Prize, in partnership with Brazil-based philanthropic organisation **Alana** and global youth movement **Design for Change**.
• **Winning Schools**
1. **Kaligi Ranganathan Montford Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Perambur (Chennai):**
   - Category – *Protect and Restore Nature*.
   - Initiative – *Tiny Action, Mighty Impact*.
   - Focus – Carbon emission reduction, plastic recycling, water conservation and food-waste management.
   - Recycled 50,000+ milk packets into plant grow bags and reused AC wastewater.
2. **SSATN Panchayat Union Middle School, Ammaiyappan (Thiruvarur):**
   - Category – *Build a Waste-Free World*.
   - Initiative – *Decom POSSIBLE*.
   - Focus – Newspaper-based waste bags, waste segregation and organic composting.
• **Significance –** Selected among 15 finalists from **974 submissions**, recognising children-led grassroots environmental action.

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development – 2025



• Mozambican politician and women's rights advocate **Graca Machel** was conferred the 2025 Indira Gandhi Prize on November 19, 2026.
• **Awarded by –** Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust; presented by Sonia Gandhi.
• **Award Components –** Citation and cash prize of **Rs.1 crore**.
• **Key Contributions of Graca Machel:**
  - Mozambique's 1st Minister of Education and Culture after independence (1975).
  - Promoted education, women's rights and children's welfare.
  - Her 1996 UN report on the *Impact of Armed Conflict on Children* influenced international action to protect children in conflict zones.
• **Significance –** It recognises contributions to social justice, human dignity, equality and peace.
• **India–Africa Relations –** Emphasised shared historical legacy, humanity and cooperation beyond trade and diplomacy.

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