DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS - 16.11.2026

Highlights of the Day

TamilNadu Highlights 1
4,000-Year-Old Rock Paintings Discovered at Karadimalai, Villupuram District 1
Topic: Economy 2
India's Export Performance, April–October 2026–27 2
Topic: Polity 4
First All India Conference on Official Language 2026 4
Topic: Science & Technology 6
ISRO Successfully Conducts Ground Static Test of PSLV Third Stage (PS3) 6
Microsoft 365 Outage 2026 8
Topic: Sports 9
National Sports and Adventure Awards 9
Topic: Defence 11
Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2026 – India–Sri Lanka 11
Topic: Art and Culture 12
Hampi's Islamic Heritage 12
100 Drums Wangala Festival (Meghalaya) – Guinness World Record 13
Topic: Important Days 14
World Pneumonia Day – 12 November 2026 14
International Highlights 15
The Challenge of Holding the Quad Together – Manila Summit 15

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Director,
Department of Employment and Training.

TamilNadu Highlights

4,000-Year-Old Rock Paintings Discovered at Karadimalai, Villupuram District

Context

- **Red ochre rock paintings**, believed to be about **4,000 years old**, were discovered at **Karadimalai, Ottampattu Thandari village**, near **Kandachipuram, Villupuram district**.
- On the **underside of a rock overhang** near the **foothills of Karadimalai**.

Key Findings

- **1. Plant and Animal Scene**
  - A plant said to resemble the **Peruvian Apple Cactus**, used as a **live fence** around fields in villages (see the note at the end).
  - Similar plant images are found in rock paintings at **Alampadi** and **Kollur**.
  - **Deer-like figures** on either side of the plant:
  - **Left deer:** Hindquarters hidden behind the **thorny plant**.
  - **Right animal: Long neck**, with an unclear head.
  - A **wild boar** above the right figure.
  - All paintings are in **outline form**.
- **2. Geometric Panel**
  - Near the lower centre, a **geometric square pattern** inside **rectangular borders**, with **parallel vertical strokes** and **symbols**.
  - Such motifs are common in **Megalithic** and **prehistoric rock shelters** of **South India**. They may show **enclosures** or **settlement maps**.
  - **Bovids (cattle-like animals)** on both sides, with **stylised or partitioned bodies**, typical of **indigenous rock art**.
  - **Expert view:** Art historian **K.T. Gandhirajan** called them **prehistoric** and **protohistoric paintings**.
- **3. Rock Depressions (Grinding Grooves)**
  - **Three rock depressions** found at nearby **Karadichunai**.
  - They are believed to have formed when **Neolithic people** sharpened or polished **stone tools**.

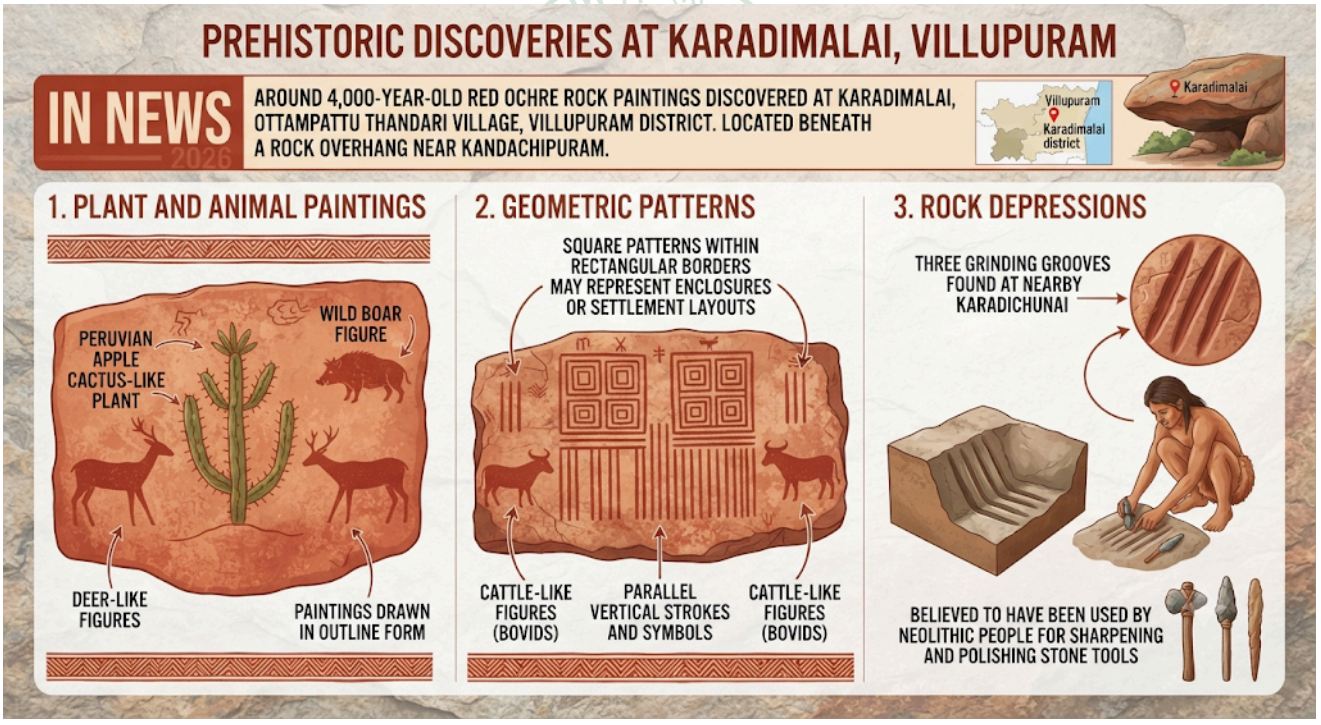
Significance

- Shows the presence and activities of **ancient hunter-gatherer communities** in the region.
- Adds to the rich **rock art heritage** of **northern Tamil Nadu**.

Do You Know?

- **Red Ochre** – a **natural pigment** from **iron oxide (haematite)**, widely used in **prehistoric art**.

- **Rock Art Sites in Villupuram District:**
  - **Kilvalai** – famous for **red ochre paintings** of **human figures** and **animals**.
  - **Alampadi**.
  - **Kollur**.
- **Recent Tamil Nadu Discoveries:**
  - **Gudiyam (Tiruvallur)** – **Early Iron Age paintings** and a **14th-century inscription** (covered on **13 November**).
  - **Keeladi** – **dairy and plant evidence** from **pottery** (covered on **13 November**).
- **Stone Age Tools:**
  - **Palaeolithic** – rough **hand-axes**.
  - **Mesolithic** – **microliths**.
  - **Neolithic** – **polished tools**, made on **grinding grooves** like those at **Karadichunai**.
- **Bhimbetka (Madhya Pradesh)** – India's most famous **rock art site**; **UNESCO World Heritage Site (2003)**.



Topic: Economy

India's Export Performance, April–October 2026–27

Context

- India's **total exports** rose **16.66%** to **$568.84 billion** in **April–October 2026–27**.
- This marks **seven consecutive months** of growth in both **goods** and **services**.

Key Statistics

- **Merchandise Exports:** Up **21.96%**.
- **Services Exports:** Up **10.93%**.
- **October 2026:** Exports of **$89.99 billion**, up **29.90%**.

Fastest-Growing Destinations

Country	Growth
Singapore	107.50%
Malaysia	106.87%
Spain	88.38%
South Africa	62.20%
Sri Lanka	60.42%

Fastest-Growing Products

Product	Growth
Other Cereals	109.74%
Petroleum Products	47.71%
Electronic Goods	46.92%
Meat, Dairy and Poultry	40.81%
Handicrafts	36.05%

Other Highlights

- **Non-Petroleum Exports:** Up **18.01%** to **$259.22 billion**.
- **Services Share:** About **45.7%** of total exports.
- **Diversification: $622.1 million** earned from **1,985 new product–market combinations (April–September)**.
- **Net Foreign Direct Investment: $8.8 billion (April–September)**.
- **Forex Reserves: $719.55 billion (6 November 2026)**.

Policy Support

- **Export Promotion Mission: ₹25,060 crore** for **small firms** and **new exporters**.
- **RELIEF: ₹497 crore** to offset **freight and insurance costs**.
- **Duty Relief Schemes:**

- **RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products)** and **RoSCTL** – until **December 2026**.
- **Advance Authorisation**, **DFIA** and **EPCG** – **duty-free inputs** and **capital goods**.

- **Grassroots Infrastructure:**
  - **Districts as Export Hubs** in **249 districts**.
  - **1,013 Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras**.
  - **E-commerce export hubs**.
  - **8 new Special Economic Zones**.
- **Digital Logistics:**
  - **Unified Logistics Interface Platform** (integrates **46 systems**).
  - **Logistics Data Bank**.
  - **ICEGATE**.
  - **Trade Connect**.

Challenges

- **Geopolitical Shocks: West Asia** and **Eastern Europe** conflicts raise **freight and insurance costs** (**Red Sea**, **Persian Gulf**).
- **Non-Tariff Barriers:** The **European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism** and strict **food safety norms**.
- **High Import Content: Electronics** still depend on **imported chips and displays**.
- **Small Exporters:** High **credit costs** and **certification expenses**.

Do You Know?

- **Foreign Trade Policy 2023** – targets **$2 trillion in exports by 2030**.
- **Directorate General of Foreign Trade** – under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- **Tamil Nadu link:**
  - **Tamil Nadu** is **India's top electronics exporter**, worth **$14.65 billion** (covered in **October**).
  - **Tamil Nadu** targets **$72 billion** in **merchandise exports (2026–27)**.

Topic: Polity

First All India Conference on Official Language 2026

Context

- The **Department of Telecommunications** held its **First All India Conference on Official Language** in **New Delhi**.
- **Aim:** Promote the **progressive use of Hindi (Rajbhasha)** in **official work**.

Key Details

- **Organised by:** The **Department of Telecommunications**, **Ministry of Communications**.
- **Venue: Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi**.
- **Features:**
  - **National participation** of officials, attached offices, autonomous bodies and non-official members.
  - **Expert talks** by **language scholars**.
  - Review of **Rajbhasha policies** and **constitutional provisions**.
  - Sharing of **best practices**.

Significance

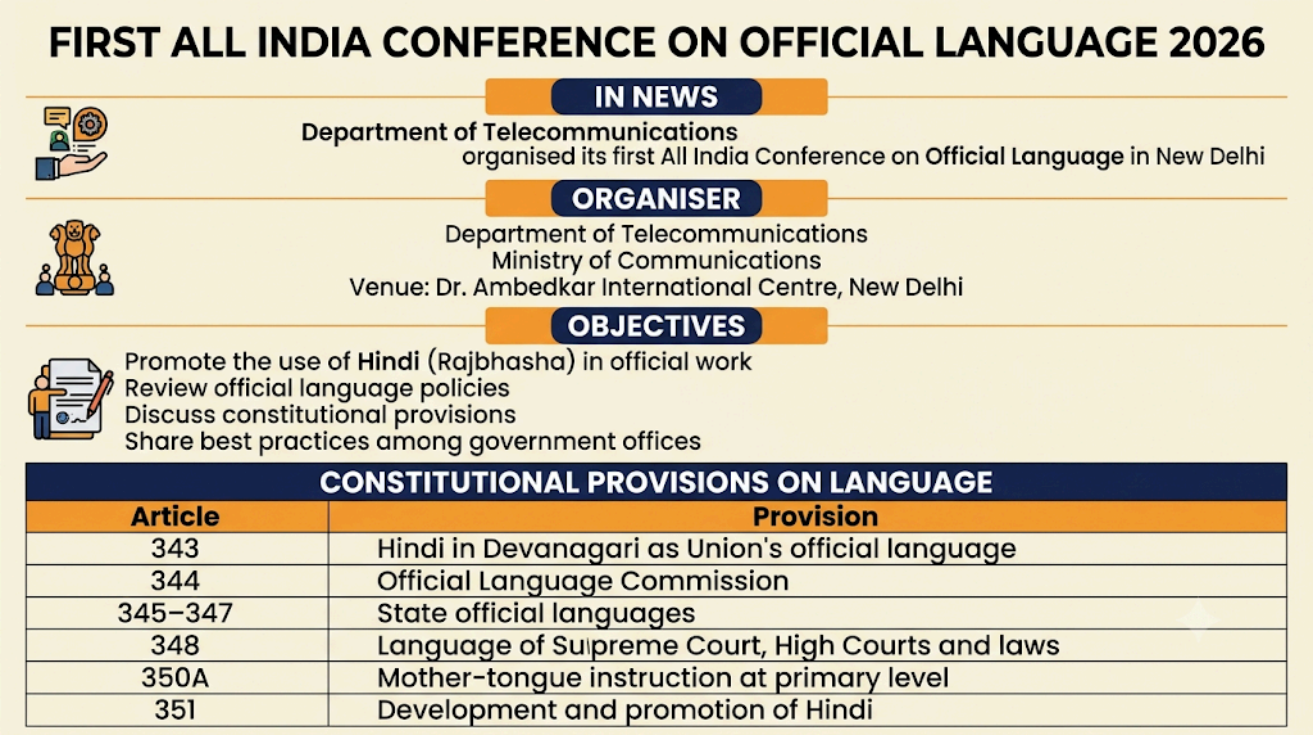
- Advances the spirit of **Article 351**: the **Union's duty to promote Hindi**.

UPSC Relevance

- **General Studies II: Constitutional provisions**, **governance**.
- **General Studies I: Linguistic diversity**.
- **General Studies IV: Inclusiveness** and **linguistic sensitivity**.

Do You Know?

- **Constitutional Provisions on Language:**
  - **Article 343 – Hindi in Devanagari** is the **official language of the Union**; **English** continues alongside it.
  - **Article 344 – Official Language Commission** and **Committee of Parliament**.
  - **Articles 345–347 – official languages of States**.
  - **Article 348 – language of courts and laws** (**English** in the **Supreme Court** and **High Courts**).
  - **Article 350A – mother-tongue instruction** at the **primary stage**.
  - **Article 351 – directive to develop Hindi**.
- **Official Languages Act, 1963** – allows **continued use of English**.
- **Eighth Schedule – 22 languages**.
- **Tamil Nadu link:**
  - The **anti-Hindi agitations (1937–40, 1965)** led to the continued use of **English** as an **associate official language**.
  - **Tamil** was the **first language declared "Classical" (2004)**.
  - **Tamil Nadu** follows a **two-language policy (Tamil and English)**.
- **Hindi Diwas: 14 September**.



CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ON LANGUAGE

Article	Provision
343	Hindi in Devanagari as Union's official language
344	Official Language Commission
345–347	State official languages
348	Language of Supreme Court, High Courts and laws
350A	Mother-tongue instruction at primary level
351	Development and promotion of Hindi

Topic: Science & Technology

ISRO Successfully Conducts Ground Static Test of PSLV Third Stage (PS3)

Context

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** successfully carried out the **ground static test** of the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle's third stage (PS3)**.
- **Date: 12 November 2026**.
- **Venue: Static Test Facility, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.
- **Aim:** Get its **"workhorse" launcher** back on track after **recent failures**.

Background – Why the Test?

- **Anomalies** were observed in the **third stage** during two missions:
  - **PSLV-C61 / EOS-09**.
  - **PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1**.
- After these, the **PS3 configuration** was comprehensively reviewed for:
  - **Design margins**.
  - **Raw material acceptance criteria**.
  - **Assembly procedures**.
  - **Quality checks**.

Improvements Made

- **Nozzle configuration** improved to increase **design margins**.
- Updated procedures for **raw material acceptance**, **assembly** and **quality checks**.
- **Mechanical interfaces** strengthened with **redundancy in sealing systems**.
- **Design margins** verified.
- Updated **assembly** and **non-destructive testing** during **integration and transport**.
- The new version of the **PS3 solid motor** was built and tested successfully.

Next Steps

- Further tests are planned after **detailed analysis of test data**.

Significance

- Restores confidence in the **PSLV**, **India's most reliable launch vehicle**.
- Important for upcoming **Earth observation**, **navigation** and **commercial launches**.
- Shows **ISRO's failure analysis** and **quality-improvement culture**.

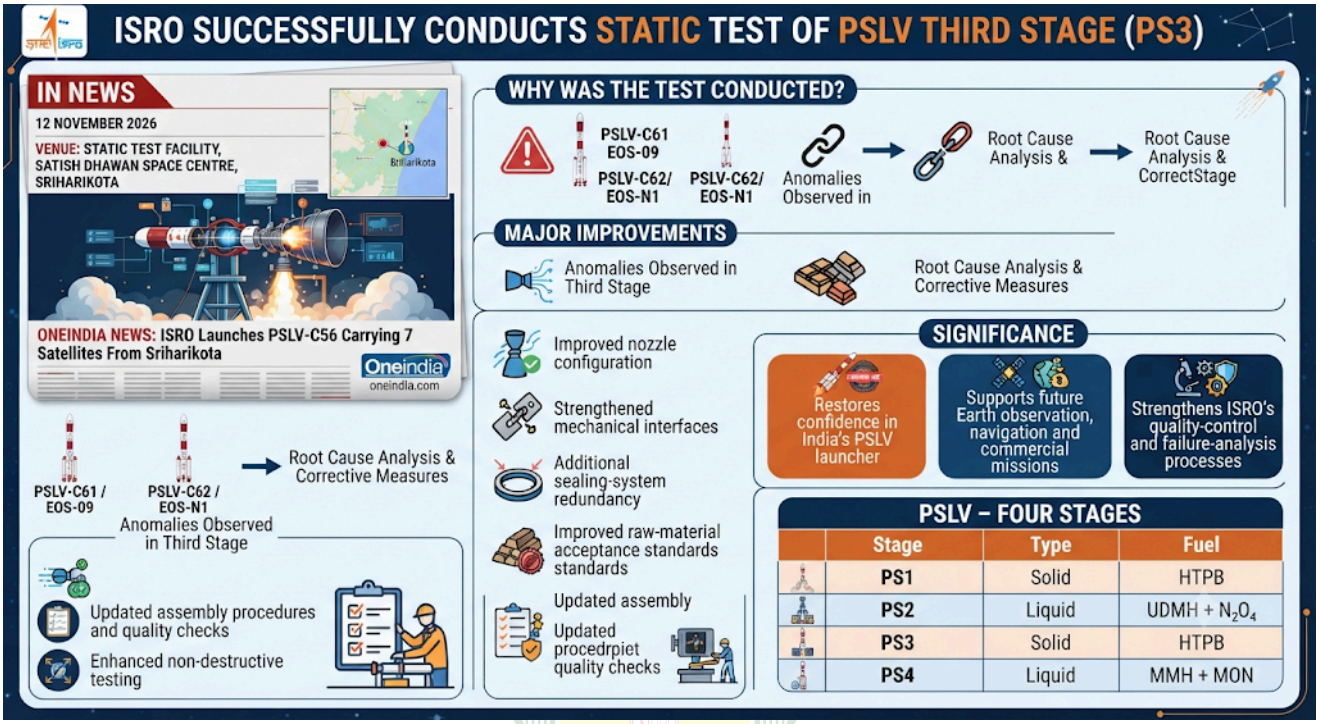
Do You Know?

- **PSLV – Four Stages:**

Stage	Type	Fuel
PS1	**Solid** (with strap-on boosters)	**HTPB-based**
PS2	**Liquid – Vikas engine**	**UDMH + N_2O_4**
PS3	**Solid**	**HTPB-based**
PS4	**Liquid – twin engines**	**MMH + MON**

- **History:**
  - **First Launch (1993): Failed**.
  - **First Success: PSLV-D2 (1994)**.
- **Famous PSLV Missions:**
  - **Chandrayaan-1 (2008)**.
  - **Mangalyaan / Mars Orbiter Mission (2013)**.
  - **104 satellites in one launch – PSLV-C37 (2017)**, a **world record** at the time.
  - **Aditya-L1 (2023)**.
- **Variants: PSLV-G**, **PSLV-CA (Core Alone)**, **PSLV-XL**, **PSLV-DL**, **PSLV-QL**.
- **Static Test:** The **engine/motor** is fired while **fixed to the ground** to check its performance.
- **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR), Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh) – India's main spaceport**.

- **Tamil Nadu link:**
  - **ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri (Tirunelveli)** tests **liquid engines** and **stages**, including **Vikas (PS2)** and **cryogenic engines**.
  - **Kulasekarapattinam (Thoothukudi)** – **India's second spaceport** for the **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle** (covered in **October**).
- **ISRO Chairman: V. Narayanan** – said **ISRO** will have **four launch pads by 2029**.



Microsoft 365 Outage 2026

Context

- A major **Microsoft 365 outage** on **12–13 November 2026** disrupted **Outlook**, **Teams** and other **cloud services** in **74 countries and territories**, including **India**.
- **Businesses**, **government offices** and **airlines** were affected.
- Disruption to **Outlook**, **Teams**, **OneDrive**, **SharePoint**, **Word**, **Excel** and **Copilot**.

Reasons

- **Configuration Failure:** A suspected **configuration change** disrupted **servers**.
- **Cascading Overload:** Traffic shifted to working servers, **overloading** them.
- **Hard Recovery:** Restored servers became **unresponsive** again when traffic returned.
- **No sign of a cyberattack**; the exact **root cause** was not yet confirmed.

Implications

- **Essential Services Hit: SpiceJet** flight cancellations and delays at **Delhi Airport**.
- **Over-Dependence** on **One Cloud Provider**.

- **Cascading Risks** to **third-party apps** and **artificial intelligence services**.

Do You Know?

- **CrowdStrike Outage (July 2024)** – a **faulty update** crashed millions of **Windows systems** worldwide.
- **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team** – the **national nodal agency** for **cyber incidents**, under **Section 70B of the IT Act**.
- **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre** – protects **critical digital infrastructure (Section 70A)**.
- **CERT-In AI Security Auditing Guidelines** were covered on **6–7 November**.

Topic: Sports

National Sports and Adventure Awards

Context

- **President Droupadi Murmu** presented the **National Sports and Adventure Awards** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.

About

- India's **premier annual sports honours**, given by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.
- Recognise excellence in **sports**, **coaching**, **institutional development** and **adventure** on **land, water and air**.

Key Awards

- **Arjuna Award:**
  - Instituted in **1961**.
  - Recognises **outstanding performance** over the **previous four years**, with a **Lifetime** category.
  - Includes a **bronze statuette**, **certificate**, **ceremonial dress** and **₹15 lakh**.
- **Dronacharya Award:**
  - Instituted in **1985**.
  - For **eminent coaches**.
  - Prize of **₹10 lakh (Regular)** or **₹15 lakh (Lifetime)**.
- **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award:**
  - **India's highest adventure honour**, on par with the **Arjuna Award**.
  - **Categories: Land**, **Water**, **Air**, **Lifetime**.
- **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar:** For **organisations** that **promote sports**.

Winners

Award	Winner	Sport
Dronacharya 2025 (Regular)	**Parveer Singh**	Athletics
	Chhote Lal Yadav	Boxing
	Neha Nandkumar Chavan	Shooting
Dronacharya 2025 (Lifetime)	**Virender Kumar**	Wrestling
	Dharmendra Singh Yadav	Boxing
Arjuna 2025	**Tejaswin Shankar, Muhammed Ajmal V., Priyanka Goswami**	Athletics
	Treesa Jolly, Pullela Gayatri Gopichand	Badminton
	Narender	Boxing
	Vidit Santosh Gujrathi, Divya Jitendra Deshmukh	Chess
	Dhanush Srikanth	Deaf Shooting
	Lalremsiami, Rajkumar Pal	Hockey
	Surjeet, Pooja	Kabaddi
	Rudransh Khandelwal	Para Shooting
	Ekta Bhyan	Para Athletics
	Arvind Singh	Rowing
	Akhil Sheoran	Shooting
Arjuna 2025 (Lifetime)	**Isaiah Arumainayagam**	Football
Tenzing Norgay 2024	**Skalzang Rigzin, Baljeet Kaur**	Land Adventure (Mountaineering)
	Rimo Saha	Water Adventure (Para Open-Water Swimming)
Tenzing Norgay 2024 (Lifetime)	**Shiv Prasad Chamoli**	Mountaineering, Skiing and Rafting
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar 2025	**Army Paralympic Node, Pune**	Para-sports

Do You Know?

- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna:**
  - **India's highest sports honour**, instituted in **1991–92**.
  - Renamed after **Dhyan Chand** in **2021**.
  - Prize of **₹25 lakh**.
- **National Sports Day: 29 August**, the birth anniversary of **Major Dhyan Chand**.
- **Divya Deshmukh** won the **FIDE Women's World Cup (2025)**.

Topic: Defence

Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2026 – India–Sri Lanka

Context

- A **170-member Indian contingent** left for **Sri Lanka** for the **12th edition** of **MITRA SHAKTI**.

About

- An **annual bilateral military exercise**, held **alternately** in **India** and **Sri Lanka**.
- **2026 Host: Army Training School, Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka**.
- **Aim: Joint counter-terrorism** and **counter-insurgency** operations in a **semi-urban setting** under a **United Nations mandate**.

Key Features

- **Semi-Urban Counter-Terrorism Drills:**
  - **Patrolling**.
  - **Roadblocks**.
  - **Crowd dispersal**.
- **Convoy Protection**, **Ambushes** and **combined assaults**.
- **Indian Air Force personnel** for **air–land coordination**.
- **Duration: 14 days**, ending with a **joint validation exercise**.

Significance

- Builds **trust** and **interoperability** under the **Neighbourhood First** policy.
- Prepares both armies for **United Nations peacekeeping**.
- Strengthens **Indian Ocean security**.

Do You Know?

- **Other India–Sri Lanka Exercises:**
  - **SLINEX – Navy**.
  - **Mitra Shakti – Army**.

- **India–Sri Lanka Defence Cooperation Memorandum** – signed in **2025**.
- **Tamil Nadu link: Palk Strait** and **Gulf of Mannar** separate the two countries. The **Ram Setu (Adam's Bridge)** is a chain of **limestone shoals**.



Topic: Art and Culture

Hampi's Islamic Heritage

Context

- Recent surveys of **Hampi**, capital of the **Vijayanagara Empire**, highlight its **mosques**, **Sufi dargahs**, **Muslim quarters** and **Indo-Islamic royal buildings**.

About

- Shows centuries of **military alliance**, **trade** and **cultural integration** between **Vijayanagara rulers** and **Muslim subjects and neighbours**.

Key Monuments

- **Ahmed Khan Mosque (Dharmasala):**
  - Built in **1439 CE** by **Ahmad Khan**, an officer of **King Devaraya II**.
  - Looks like a **pillared granite mandapam**, with a carved **mihrab facing Mecca**.
  - Has a **Kannada inscription**.
- **Kaddirampura Tombs and Dargah:**
  - **Two domed tombs**.
  - A **Kannada inscription** says **Syed Peer Ali** built a dome in **1505 CE** under **Vira Narasimha**.

- **Gori Kelagana Grama (Muslim Quarter):**
  - Named in a **1564 CE Vittala Temple inscription**.
  - Home to **Muslim archers**, **bodyguards**, **horse traders** and **Shia commanders**, given asylum by **Devaraya II** and **Rama Raya**.
- **Indo-Islamic Royal Buildings:**
  - **Lotus Mahal**.
  - **Elephant Stables**.
  - **Guards' Quarters**.
  - **Queen's Bath**.
  - Feature **pointed arches**, **domes** and **stucco**, alongside **tiered Hindu roofs**.
- **Temple Carvings:** The **Hazara Rama Temple** and **Mahanavami Dibba** show **Muslim horse traders** and **cavalry**.
- **Court Tolerance: Ferishta**, **Domingo Paes** and **Abdur Razzak** recorded that **Devaraya II** and **Rama Raya** placed a **Quran on a dais** so **Muslim officers** could pay respects without violating their faith.

Do You Know?

- **Vijayanagara Empire:**
  - Founded in **1336** by **Harihara** and **Bukka (Sangama dynasty)**.
  - Capital **Hampi**, on the **Tungabhadra River**.
  - **Battle of Talikota (1565): Vijayanagara** was defeated by the **Deccan Sultanates**, and **Hampi** was destroyed.
- **Hampi** – a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** since **1986**.
- **Krishnadevaraya (1509–1529)** – the **greatest ruler**; wrote **Amuktamalyada** in **Telugu**.
- **Tamil Nadu link:** The **Nayak rulers** of **Madurai**, **Thanjavur** and **Gingee** began as **Vijayanagara governors**.

100 Drums Wangala Festival (Meghalaya) – Guinness World Record

Context

- **Meghalaya's 100 Drums Wangala Festival** set a **Guinness World Record** for the **Largest Wangala Dance**.
- It featured **1,000 drummers** and **1,500 dancers** at its **golden jubilee** near **Tura**.

About

- The main **post-harvest thanksgiving festival** of the **Garo (A'chik) tribe**.
- **In honour of: Misi Saljong**, the **Sun God** and **giver of fertility**.
- Marks the **end of farm work** and the **start of winter**.

Region

- **Garo Hills** of **western Meghalaya**, and **Garo areas** of **Assam** and **Bangladesh**.
- **Main Venue: Wangala A'dam (Garo Heritage Village), Chibragre**, near **Tura, West Garo Hills**.

Key Features



- **Instruments:**
  - **Dama – wooden drums**.
  - **Rang – brass gongs**.
  - **Adil – buffalo-horn flutes**.
- **Rituals:**
  - **Rugala** – offerings of **rice** and **rice beer** to **Misi Saljong**.
  - **Cha'chat So'a – burning of incense**.
- **Attire:**
  - **Dakmanda** and **Gando** garments.
  - **Feathered Do'me headgear**.
- **Dance:**
  - **Men** play the **dama**.
  - **Women** perform movements imitating **sowing and harvesting**.

Do You Know?

- **Meghalaya's Three Main Tribes:**
  - **Khasi** – festival **Shad Suk Mynsiem**.
  - **Jaintia (Pnar)** – festival **Behdienkhlam**.
  - **Garo** – festival **Wangala**.
- **Nokrek Biosphere Reserve (Garo Hills)** – part of **UNESCO's network** since **2009**.

Topic: Important Days

World Pneumonia Day – 12 November 2026

- **Promotes: Vaccination**, **early diagnosis** and **timely treatment**, especially for **children under five** and **older adults**.
- **2026 Theme: "A New Era of Pneumonia Control"**.

About Pneumonia

- An **infection of the lungs** in which the **air sacs (alveoli)** fill with **fluid or pus**, making **breathing difficult**.
- **Causes:**

- **Bacteria** – most commonly **Streptococcus pneumoniae (pneumococcus)** and **Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)**.
- **Viruses**.
- **Fungi**.

Do You Know?

- **Vaccines in India's Universal Immunisation Programme:**
  - **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine** – added nationwide in **2021**.
  - **Pentavalent vaccine** – includes **Hib**.
  - **Measles-Rubella vaccine**.
- **SAANS (Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully)** – India's campaign launched in **2019** to reduce **child pneumonia deaths**.
- **Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (World Health Organization–UNICEF)** – aims to end **preventable child deaths** from both.
- **Protect, Prevent, Treat** approach:
  - **Protect** – **breastfeeding**, **nutrition**.
  - **Prevent** – **vaccines**, **clean air**.
  - **Treat** – **antibiotics**, **oxygen**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (2016)** – **clean cooking gas** reduces **indoor air pollution**, a key **pneumonia risk**.

International Highlights

The Challenge of Holding the Quad Together – Manila Summit

Context

- **Quad leaders** – **India**, **Australia**, **Japan** and the **United States** – will meet in **Manila** in **November 2026**, on the sidelines of the **49th ASEAN Summit**.

About the Quad

- **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue** – an **informal strategic partnership** of **four maritime democracies**.
- **Goal:** A **"free, open, inclusive and resilient Indo-Pacific"**.
- **No permanent secretariat**, **treaty** or **military alliance**. It works through **summits**, **ministerial meetings** and **working groups**.

Evolution

- **2004–2007:**
  - Emerged from **joint relief** after the **2004 Indian Ocean tsunami**.
  - **First meeting** in **2007**, then went **dormant**.

- **November 2017: Revived** in **Manila** at the **ASEAN Summit**, during **President Trump's first term**.
- **2021–2024:**
  - Raised to **leaders' level** in **2021**.
  - **Wilmington Summit (2024)**.
- A **pause** in **leader-level meetings** in **2025**.

Continuity Despite Turbulence (2025–2026)

- **Foreign Ministers** met **five times**: twice in **Washington**, then **New Delhi**, **Manila** and **Atlanta**.
- **Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration:**
  - Launched at the **May 2026 New Delhi meeting**.
  - Upgrades the **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness**.
  - Integrates **satellite**, **aerial** and **surface tracking** into a **near-real-time Common Operating Picture**.
- **Critical Minerals Initiative Framework**, **undersea cables for Pacific Islands**, and **Open RAN 5G/6G**.
- **Joint Statement on Cooperation with ASEAN (July 2026)**, aligned with the **ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific**.

Challenges

- **Uncertain United States Focus:** Attention on **Russia–Ukraine**, **Europe** and **West Asia**; the **AUKUS review** and **tariffs** strain allies.
- **Different Threat Perceptions:**
  - **India** balances its **Line of Actual Control border** and **multi-alignment**.
  - **Japan** and the **United States** focus on the **East China Sea** and **Taiwan Strait**.
- **Hedging Through Other Groupings:**
  - **Japan–Australia–India trilateral**.
  - **Japan's OCEAN framework**.
  - **France's outreach**.
- **ASEAN Caution: Southeast Asian countries** welcome **Quad projects** but avoid **formally endorsing** the grouping.

Significance of the Manila Summit

- **Philippines** – a **frontline State** in **South China Sea disputes**, so hosting there signals **opposition to coercion**.
- Reaffirms **ASEAN Centrality**.
- Resets **United States Indo-Pacific engagement** under **Trump's second term**.

Do You Know?

- **Quad initiatives:**
  - **Quad Vaccine Partnership**.
  - **Quad Cancer Moonshot**.
  - **Quad Fellowship**.
- **Malabar naval exercise**, which includes **all four countries**.
- **India's Pillar:** The **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (2019)** (covered on **16 November**).
- **ASEAN** – **10 members** (plus **Timor-Leste** as the **11th**, admitted in **2025**); HQ **Jakarta**.

