1. International News

COP31 Climate Summit Opens in Antalya, Türkiye

- **Details:** The 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (**COP31**) officially commenced in **Antalya, Türkiye**, with Australia leading the formal negotiations.
- **Key Highlights:** A major breakthrough at the opening plenary was the adoption of an **India-backed Climate Finance Work Programme (CFWP)**. This dedicated agenda item aims to track developed nations' Article 9.1 obligations, focusing on predictable, grant-based public finance.
- **Exam Relevance:** Understand the significance of COP31, the role of Türkiye/Australia, and the framework of the Climate Finance Work Programme for UPSC Mains (GS Paper 3: Environment).

India and Saudi Arabia Set Haj 2027 Quota

- **Details:** India and Saudi Arabia signed the bilateral Haj Agreement for **2027** in Jeddah.
- **Key Figures:** The pilgrimage quota for Indian nationals has been formally confirmed at **1,75,025 pilgrims**. The agreement was signed by Union Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Kiren Rijiju** and Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah **Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah**.

2. National News

Launch of Semicon India 2.0 Portal & ECMS Approvals

- **Details:** Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology **Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched the **Semicon 2.0 Web Application Portal** in New Delhi under the second phase of the Semicon India Programme.
- **Approvals:** During the launch, 12 additional applications were approved under the **Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)**, involving an estimated investment of ₹7,503 crore.

Delhi Yamuna River Cruise Service Inaugurated

- **Details:** Delhi's first-ever **Yamuna river cruise service** was launched on the Sonia Vihar-Jagatpur stretch.
- dignitaries: Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the service alongside Delhi Lieutenant Governor Tarnjit Singh Sandhu and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

3. Economy & Banking

RBI Final CoR to MobiKwik

- **Details:** MobiKwik Financial Services Private Limited (MFSPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of One MobiKwik Systems Limited, received the final Certificate of Registration (**CoR**) from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to officially operate as a Non-Banking Financial Company (**NBFC**).

SEBI Eases Norms and Frameworks

- **Details:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) eased accredited investor norms by permitting fund managers to certify eligibility. Additionally, SEBI lowered the Indian Rupee (INR) currency derivatives limit without underlying exposure to **USD 5 million** for domestic clients and Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).

SBI Expands Footprint in the USA

- **Details:** The **State Bank of India (SBI)** inaugurated a new branch of its wholly-owned subsidiary, **State Bank of India (California) (SBIC Bank)**, in Frisco, North Dallas, Texas. This marks SBI's first physical expansion outside California, bringing its total locations in the USA to eight.

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4. Sports News

Anuj Shrivatri Becomes India's 100th Chess Grandmaster

- **Details:** 22-year-old International Master (IM) **Anuj Shrivatri** from Madhya Pradesh made history by becoming **India's 100th Grandmaster (GM)**.
- **Milestone:** He achieved this feat after winning the **7th ASEAN+ Individual Open Chess Championship** held in Ozamiz City, Philippines, scoring seven points. He is also the first-ever Grandmaster from the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Mohammed Shami Retires from Test Cricket

- **Details:** Veteran Indian fast bowler and Arjuna Awardee **Mohammed Shami** announced his retirement from Test cricket after an illustrious 13-year career. He finishes his red-ball journey with **229 wickets in 64 Tests** while confirming his continued availability for India's white-ball (ODI and T20I) squads.

5. Appointments

- **Justice Rajesh Bindal:** Appointed as the Chairperson of the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** by the Central Government for a five-year tenure (2026–2031). He is a former Supreme Court Judge.
- **Shivani Gupta:** Indian diplomat Shivani Gupta was elected unopposed to the **United Nations (UN) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)** for the 2027–2029 term.

6. Defense News

Inaugural Tri-Services Exercise 'Rahat Mitra'

- **Participants:** India and Myanmar conducted their first bilateral Tri-Services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise **'Rahat Mitra'** in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- **Objective:** Brought together over 300 personnel from the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Myanmar Defence Forces under the core theme: "Together for Humanity, Stronger through Partnership."

7. Government Schemes & Policies

- **AVYAY Scheme:** The Government of India released **₹77.98 crore** for 755 Senior Citizen Welfare Projects under the **Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)** for Q2FY27.
- **PMMSY Fishery Milestone:** Soreng district in **Sikkim** was officially notified as India's first **Organic Fisheries Cluster** under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

8. Important Days & Events

- **National Legal Services Day:** Observed annually on **9th November** across India to commemorate the enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, aimed at providing free and competent legal aid to weaker sections of society.

9. Science, Technology & Environment

- **Samudrayaan Project (MATSYA-6000):** India successfully wrapped up unmanned trials of the **MATSYA-6000** Human Submersible under the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM), validating structural flotation, submerged stability, and ballast systems.
- **CSIR-CCMB TB Study:** Researchers at the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad identified potential novel drug targets by mapping genetic weaknesses in Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

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- **Wildlife Sighting:** A **Royal Bengal Tiger** entered Odisha's **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary** via the Dechuan-Lakhanpur corridor, marking a rare and important ecological movement monitored by conservationists.

30 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Which portal was launched by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw under the second phase of the Semicon India Programme in November 2026?

A) Semicon Connect Portal

B) Semicon 2.0 Web Application Portal

C) India Semiconductor Grid Portal

D) MeitY Chip Design Portal

Answer: **B) Semicon 2.0 Web Application Portal**

Q2. How much funding was released by the Government of India for 755 senior citizen welfare projects under the AVYAY scheme for Q2FY27?

A) ₹50.20 crore

B) ₹65.40 crore

C) ₹77.98 crore

D) ₹100.50 crore

Answer: **C) ₹77.98 crore**

Q3. Which district in Sikkim has been notified as India's first Organic Fisheries Cluster under the PMMSY scheme?

A) Gangtok

B) Namchi

C) Mangan

D) Soreng

Answer: **D) Soreng**

Q4. India and Saudi Arabia finalized the bilateral Haj quota for the year 2027 at how many pilgrims?

A) 1,25,000

B) 1,50,050

C) 1,75,025

D) 2,00,000

Answer: **C) 1,75,025**

Q5. Where was the COP31 Climate Change Conference hosted?

A) Antalya, Türkiye

B) Sydney, Australia

C) New Delhi, India

D) Dubai, UAE

Answer: **A) Antalya, Türkiye**

Q6. The inaugural bilateral Tri-Services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise 'Rahat Mitra' was conducted between India and which country?

A) Sri Lanka

B) Myanmar

C) Vietnam

D) Bangladesh

Answer: **B) Myanmar**

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Q7. Under the Deep Ocean Mission, which human submersible completed successful unmanned trials for the Samudrayaan Project?
A) MATSYA-6000

B) SAMUDRA-500

C) VARUNA-1000

D) GANGES-3000

Answer: **A) MATSYA-6000**

Q8. What is the currency derivatives limit without underlying exposure introduced by SEBI for domestic clients and FPIs?
A) USD 1 million

B) USD 5 million

C) USD 10 million

D) USD 50 million

Answer: **B) USD 5 million**

Q9. Which financial services firm secured the final Certificate of Registration (CoR) from the RBI to operate as an NBFC?
A) Paytm Payments

B) PhonePe Financial Services

C) MobiKwik Financial Services Private Limited

D) Pine Labs

Answer: **C) MobiKwik Financial Services Private Limited**

Q10. According to RBI data released a decade after demonetisation, what is the approximate currency held by the public in India?
A) ₹20.10 lakh crore

B) ₹30.45 lakh crore

C) ₹42.55 lakh crore

D) ₹55.80 lakh crore

Answer: **C) ₹42.55 lakh crore**

Q11. Who was appointed as the Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in November 2026?
A) Justice Sanjiv Khanna

B) Justice Rajesh Bindal

C) Justice Hima Kohli

D) Justice Surya Kant

Answer: **B) Justice Rajesh Bindal**

Q12. Which Indian diplomat was elected unopposed to the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for 2027–2029?
A) Shivani Gupta

B) Sneha Dubey

C) Vidisha Maitra

D) Ruchira Kamboj

Answer: **A) Shivani Gupta**

Q13. Who became India's 100th Chess Grandmaster by winning the 7th ASEAN+ Individual Open Chess Championship?
A) V. Pranav

B) Pranesh M

C) Anuj Shrivatri

D) Aditya Mittal

Answer: **C) Anuj Shrivatri**

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Q14. Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami, who announced his retirement from Test cricket in November 2026, finished his career with how many Test wickets?
A) 150 wickets

B) 200 wickets

C) 229 wickets

D) 310 wickets

Answer: **C) 229 wickets**

Q15. Which sanctuary in Odisha recently witnessed the rare movement of a Royal Bengal Tiger through the Dechuan-Lakhanpur corridor?
A) Similipal Tiger Reserve

B) Satkosia Tiger Reserve

C) Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary

D) Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary

Answer: **C) Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary**

Q16. CSIR-CCMB, which identified potential new drug targets for tuberculosis, is located in which city?
A) New Delhi

B) Hyderabad

C) Bengaluru

D) Pune

Answer: **B) Hyderabad**

Q17. Which country launched the CERES-2 Y3 carrier rocket to place four satellites into sun-synchronous orbit?
A) Japan

B) China

C) South Korea

D) Israel

Answer: **B) China**

Q18. State Bank of India (SBI) expanded its physical presence in the USA by opening a new branch of SBIC Bank in which city?
A) New York, NY

B) Frisco, Texas

C) Chicago, Illinois

D) San Francisco, California

Answer: **B) Frisco, Texas**

Q19. National Entrepreneurship Day in India is celebrated annually on which date?
A) November 7

B) November 9

C) November 11

D) November 14

Answer: **B) November 9**

Q20. Which country's youth athlete Khushbu Rajakbhai Darjada won a silver medal in judo at the Youth Olympics in Dakar?
A) India

B) South Africa

C) Kenya

D) Mauritius

Answer: **A) India** *(Note: Siddi community member representing India)*

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Q21. What was India's official Air Quality Index (AQI) reading in Delhi following post-Diwali pollution spikes?
A) 210

B) 370

C) 450

D) 500+

Answer: **B) 370**

Q22. Under which ministry is the Semicon India Programme primarily implemented?
A) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

B) Ministry of Science and Technology

C) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

D) Ministry of Heavy Industries

Answer: **C) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**

Q23. The 'Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)' scheme is designed for the welfare of which demographic group?
A) Children

B) Women Entrepreneurs

C) Senior Citizens

D) Artisans

Answer: **C) Senior Citizens**

Q24. What is the total coastline length of India including Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands, as highlighted in recent fisheries statistics?
A) 6,100.5 km

B) 7,516.6 km

C) 11,098.81 km

D) 15,200.0 km

Answer: **C) 11,098.81 km**

Q25. Which international organization raised India's GDP growth forecast to 7%?
A) World Bank

B) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

C) Asian Development Bank (ADB)

D) OECD

Answer: **B) International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

Q26. Demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes in India was announced in which year?
A) 2014

B) 2015

C) 2016

D) 2017

Answer: **C) 2016**

Q27. The 7th ASEAN+ Individual Open Chess Championship 2026 was hosted in which country?
A) Vietnam

B) Indonesia

C) Philippines

D) Thailand

Answer: **C) Philippines** *(Ozamiz City)*

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Q28. What thematic name was given to the India-Myanmar Tri-Services HADR Exercise?

A) Sampriti Mitra

B) Rahat Mitra

C) Sahyog Kaizen

D) Disaster Shield

Answer: **B) Rahat Mitra**

Q29. What is the primary focus of the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) approved projects worth over ₹7,500 crore?

A) Boosting domestic electric vehicle battery production

B) Scaling up local electronics component ecosystems and investments

C) Exporting raw silicon wafers exclusively

D) Developing quantum computing hardware

Answer: **B) Scaling up local electronics component ecosystems and investments**

Q30. Who serves as the Head of the Commonwealth, formally inaugurating summits like CHOGM?

A) The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

B) King Charles III

C) The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

D) The rotating Prime Minister of host nations

Answer: **B) King Charles III**

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