1. International News

12th Edition of Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise 'Mitra Shakti' Begins

- **Details:** The 12th edition of the annual bilateral military exercise **'Mitra Shakti'** between India and Sri Lanka commenced at **Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka**.
- **Objective:** To enhance interoperability, tactical coordination, and joint counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations under the framework of the United Nations (UN) mandate.
- **Exam Takeaway:** Exercise Mitra Shakti highlights defence diplomacy between India and its southern maritime neighbor.

Global Diplomatic Updates & Regional Developments

- **Details:** Diplomatic engagements saw major global developments regarding regional security frameworks, maritime trade route protection in the Strait of Hormuz, and strategic multilateral dialogues across Asia.

2. National News

Ministry of Culture Declares Bihar's 'Raniwas Mound' as a Site of National Importance

- **Details:** In a major boost to preservation of historical heritage, the Ministry of Culture has officially declared the **'Raniwas Mound'** in Bihar as a **Monument of National Importance** under the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958**.
- **Exam Takeaway:** Key for art, culture, and history sections in UPSC/State PSC examinations concerning heritage protection laws.

Dr. P.K. Mishra Addresses 22nd Foundation Day of PPVFRA

- **Details:** Dr. P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, addressed the 22nd Foundation Day of the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA)** and the **Plant Genome Saviour Award Ceremony** in New Delhi.
- **Significance:** Emphasized the pivotal role played by traditional farming communities and indigenous agricultural conservers in protecting plant genetic resources.

3. Economics and Banking

- **MoC&I Releases India's EXIM Trade Estimates for April–October (FY27)**
  - **Details:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry released export-import data indicating that India's total exports (merchandise and services combined) grew by **16.66% to reach USD 568.84 billion** during the April–October period of the Financial Year 2026–27.

RBI's In-Principle Approval to Paytm Payments Services Ltd (PPSL)

- **Details:** Paytm Payments Services Ltd (a wholly-owned subsidiary of One 97 Communications) secured in-principle authorization from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to issue and operate **Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)**, including digital wallets.

DEA Notifies Commodity Trading as a Financial Service under IFSCA Act, 2019

- **Details:** The Department of Economic Affairs (Ministry of Finance) notified commodity trading contracts as financial products and commodity trading as a financial service under the **International Financial Services Centres Authority**

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(IFSCA) Act, 2019, streamlining regulations for international financial hubs like GIFT City.

4. Sports News

India Concludes Campaign at the 4th Summer Youth Olympic Games (Dakar 2026)

- **Details:** India wrapped up its impressive campaign at the **4th Summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG 2026)** held in **Dakar, Senegal**, securing a total of **10 medals (2 gold, 3 silver, and 5 bronze)** across seven disciplines, marking the nation's second-best performance in Youth Olympic history.

India Regains Under-19 Asia Cup Crown

- **Details:** In a thrilling final match at Al Amerat, the Indian Under-19 cricket team clinched the **Under-19 Asia Cup** with a dramatic last-ball victory against arch-rivals Pakistan.

5. Appointments

Key Administrative and Institutional Updates

- Recent high-level appointments across national bodies, public sector undertakings, and autonomous institutions continue to prioritize administrative efficiency and specialized regulatory oversight. (Refer to key national registry heads such as CAG Shri K. Sanjay Murthy, CEC Shri Gyanesh Kumar, and judicial/commission leads for static revisions).

6. Awards and Honors

Plant Genome Saviour Awards 2026

- **Details:** Distributed during the 22nd PPVFRA Foundation Day event in New Delhi, honoring farming communities and individual farmers dedicated to the conservation of plant genetic biodiversity.

7. Defense News

Indo-Sri Lanka Bilateral Exercise 'Mitra Shakti' (Covered under International/Defense cross-overlap): Focuses on tactical drills, jungle warfare, and counter-terrorism protocols.

Strategic Maritime Security Focus: Ongoing assessments by security ministries regarding seafarer safety and regional trade corridor protocols in vital global checkpoints.

8. Government Schemes & Policies

- **Himachal Pradesh Approves 'CM Apna Parivar Sukhi Parivar Yojana'**
  - **Details:** The HP Cabinet approved this welfare scheme to provide **₹1,500 per month** in direct financial assistance to eligible women aged 18 to 59 years.
- **Odisha Launches Robotics Labs and NIPUN Application**
  - **Details:** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated robotics laboratories across **807 schools** and rolled out the **NIPUN App** to advance tech-enabled foundational learning and literacy numerary goals.

9. Important Days

World Diabetes Day – November 14

- **Theme/Focus:** Raising global awareness regarding diabetes prevention, care, and management of health complications.

Children's Day (Bal Diwas) – November 14

- **Significance:** Marks the birth anniversary of independent India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, celebrating child rights, education, and welfare.

- **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas – November 15**

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Significance: Celebrated nationwide to honor the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter **Birsa Munda** and recognize the cultural heritage and sacrifices of tribal communities in India's freedom struggle.

10. Art, Culture, Festivals & Birth/Death Anniversaries

Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda (15 November):

- Commemorated across India as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas. Birsa Munda led the historic Ulgulan (Revolts) against British land policies and exploitative feudal systems in the Chota Nagpur region.

Cultural Heritage Conservation: Inclusion of structural historical landmarks like Bihar's Raniwas Mound under national protection status highlights ongoing archaeological preservation efforts.

Section 1: National & International News / Schemes / Governance

Q1. Which day is officially celebrated across India on 15th November to honor the contributions of tribal communities and freedom fighters?

A) Tribal Pride Day (Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas)

Press Release: Press Information Bureau

B) National Unity Day

C) National Panchayati Raj Day

D) National Youth Day

Answer: A) Tribal Pride Day (Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas)

Explanation: Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas is celebrated annually on 15th November to mark the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, celebrating the rich heritage, culture, and valor of India's tribal communities.

Q2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrations and launched tribal development projects worth approximately ₹3,000 crore from which location?

A) Ranchi, Jharkhand

B) Gadchiroli, Maharashtra

C) Raipur, Chhattisgarh

D) Mayurbhanj, Odisha

Answer: B) Gadchiroli, Maharashtra

Explanation: PM Modi launched/laid foundation stones for 246 tribal development projects worth ~₹3,000 crore, including Eklavya Model Residential Schools and PM-JANMAN multi-purpose centres from Gadchiroli, Maharashtra.

Q3. Which country is hosting the 49th ASEAN Summit starting from November 15, 2026?

A) Indonesia

B) Philippines (Manila)

C) Vietnam

D) Thailand

Answer: B) Philippines (Manila)

Explanation: Manila, the capital of the Philippines, is hosting the 49th ASEAN Summit, addressing regional security, maritime disputes in the South China Sea, and the crisis in Myanmar.

Q4. What is the name of the tropical disturbance forecast by the IMD in November 2026 over the southeast Bay of Bengal, proposed to be named by Iran?

A) Cyclone Montha

B) Cyclone Akwan

C) Cyclone Ditwah

D) Cyclone Senyar

Answer: B) Cyclone Akwan

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Explanation: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued coastal alerts for southern states as a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal intensified into Cyclonic Storm Akwan, a name proposed by Iran.

Q5. Which country participated as the "Country Guest of Honour" at the 8th National Festival of Tolerance and Coexistence held in Abu Dhabi in November 2026?

A) France

B) India

C) Japan

D) Singapore

Answer: B) India

Explanation: India participated as the Country Guest of Honour at the UAE's 8th National Festival of Tolerance and Coexistence under the theme "Growing in Unity".

Q6. The Ministry of Culture has declared 'Raniwas Mound' as a site of national importance under the AMASR Act, 1958. Where is it located?

A) Bihar

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Gujarat

D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: A) Bihar

Explanation: The Ministry of Culture officially declared the historical Raniwas Mound in Bihar as a monument of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958.

Q7. Which state cabinet approved the 'Chief Minister Apna Parivar Sukhi Parivar Yojana', offering ₹1,500 per month to eligible women aged 18–59?

A) Punjab

B) Himachal Pradesh

C) Uttarakhand

D) Rajasthan

Answer: B) Himachal Pradesh

Explanation: The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet chaired by CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu approved the financial assistance scheme alongside the Khelo Himachal Chitta Mukt Abhiyan-2026 anti-drug campaign.

Section 2: Economy, Banking & Corporate News

Q8. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's EXIM trade updates released in November 2026, India's total exports grew by what percentage during April–October of FY27?

A) 10.25%

B) 16.66%

C) 21.40%

D) 8.50%

Answer: B) 16.66%

Explanation: India's total exports (merchandise and services combined) surged by 16.66% to reach USD 568.84 billion during the April–October period of Financial Year 2026–27.

Q9. Which regulatory body recently granted in-principle authorization to Paytm Payments Services Ltd (PPSL) to issue and operate Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)?

A) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

B) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

C) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)

D) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

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Answer: B) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Explanation: PPSL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of One 97 Communications, received in-principle approval from the RBI to issue and manage digital wallets and PPIs.

Q10. The Ministry of Finance notified commodity trading contracts and services under which regulatory framework's Act of 2019?

A) SEBI Act, 1992

B) International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) Act, 2019

C) Banking Regulation Act, 1949

D) FEMA, 1999

Answer: B) International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) Act, 2019

Explanation: The Department of Economic Affairs notified commodity trading contracts as financial products under the IFSCA Act, 2019 to boost global financial services integration.

Q11. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cleared Pratap Singh's appointment for which financial institution?

A) Paytm Payments Bank

B) Fino Payments Bank

C) Airtel Payments Bank

D) India Post Payments Bank

Answer: B) Fino Payments Bank

Explanation: The RBI cleared the appointment of Pratap Singh to key leadership capacity within Fino Payments Bank.

Section 3: Science, Environment & Defense News

Q12. Medical institutions in India achieved a major milestone by successfully performing India's first open fetal surgery at 25 weeks' gestation. Which hospital achieved this feat?

A) AIIMS Delhi

B) PGIMER Chandigarh

C) CMC Vellore

D) King George's Medical University, Lucknow

Answer: A) AIIMS Delhi

Explanation: Doctors at AIIMS New Delhi successfully performed India's pioneer open fetal surgery on an unborn fetus to correct a severe lumbosacral myelomeningocele (spinal defect).

Q13. Researchers from the University of Delhi and Harvard University discovered five new species of diminutive horned frogs in which Indian state?

A) Sikkim

B) Arunachal Pradesh

C) Meghalaya

D) Uttarakhand

Answer: B) Arunachal Pradesh

Explanation: Scientists discovered five new species of horned frogs belonging to the genus Jingophrys in the Eastern Himalayas of Arunachal Pradesh.

Q14. According to the WHO Global TB Report released in late 2026, what percentage decline in TB mortality has India recorded?

A) 22%

B) 38%

C) 50%

D) 65%

Answer: B) 38%

Explanation: The WHO Global TB Report highlighted a commendable 38% decline in TB

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mortality in India alongside a 94% treatment success rate.

Q15. The 12th edition of the Indo-Sri Lanka joint military exercise 'Mitra Shakti' commenced at which location?

A) Pune, India

B) Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka

C) Trincomalee, Sri Lanka

D) Belgaum, India

Answer: B) Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka

Explanation: The 12th edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti, aimed at enhancing counter-terrorism cooperation between India and Sri Lanka, kicked off in Maduru Oya.

Section 4: Sports, Awards & Honours

Q16. India concluded its impressive campaign at the 4th Summer Youth Olympic Games (Dakar 2026), winning how many total medals?

A) 5 Medals

B) 10 Medals

C) 14 Medals

D) 18 Medals

Answer: B) 10 Medals

Explanation: India finished its campaign at Dakar Youth Olympic Games 2026 with 10 medals (2 gold, 3 silver, 5 bronze), marking its second-best performance in Youth Olympics history.

Q17. Who became the first Indian woman to win a Youth Olympic medal in badminton at the 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games?

A) Unnati Hooda

B) Tanvi Patri

C) Anmol Kharb

D) Tasnim Mir

Answer: B) Tanvi Patri

Explanation: Tanvi Patri scripted history by securing India's maiden Youth Olympic medal in badminton during the Dakar 2026 Games.

Q18. Who was honored with the Plant Genome Saviour Award at the 22nd Foundation Day of PPVFRA in New Delhi?

A) Agricultural research institutes and pioneering farming communities conserving native varieties

B) Corporate seed conglomerates

C) State Agricultural Universities exclusively

D) International botanists

Answer: A) Agricultural research institutes and pioneering farming communities conserving native varieties

Explanation: Dr. P.K. Mishra addressed the Plant Genome Saviour Award ceremony, honoring farmers and conservators for preserving plant genetic resources.

Q19. Under the Swachh Survekshan awards framework, what is the name of the new initiative where 70 mentor cities are paired with 191 mentee cities?

A) Swachh Shehar Jodi initiative

B) Nirmal Bharat Partnership

C) Smart City Clean Connect

D) Urban Clean Network

Answer: A) Swachh Shehar Jodi initiative

Explanation: The Swachh Shehar Jodi initiative was launched as a new category under Swachh Survekshan to promote peer learning and sanitation optimization between cities.

Section 5: Important Days, Art, Culture & Books

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Q20. When is World Usability Day (also known as Make Things Easier Day) celebrated globally?

A) First Monday of November

B) Second Thursday of November

C) November 14

D) November 15

Answer: B) Second Thursday of November

Explanation: World Usability Day highlights user-centered design, accessibility, and user experience globally on the second Thursday of November.

Q21. The four-day National Tribal Film Festival titled 'Tribal-Frames Manipur 2026' was inaugurated in which city?

A) Guwahati

B) Imphal

C) Shillong

D) Aizawl

Answer: B) Imphal

Explanation: The National Tribal Film Festival kicked off at the Manipur State Film Development Society in Imphal to showcase indigenous culture and cinematic narratives.

Q22. The four-day traditional Chhath Puja festival involves offering 'Sandhya Arghya' and 'Usha Arghya' to which deity?

A) Lord Shiva

B) Sun God (Bhagwan Soorya)

C) Lord Vishnu

D) Goddess Durga

Answer: B) Sun God (Bhagwan Soorya)

Explanation: Chhath Puja is an ancient Hindu festival dedicated to the worship of the Sun God and Chhathi Maiya for life sustenance on earth.

Q23. Where did the sacred relics of Shakyamuni Buddha arrive in November 2026, marking the final phase of their exposition in India's Northeast?

A) Tawang Monastery, Arunachal Pradesh

B) Golden Pagoda, Namsai (Arunachal Pradesh)

C) Rumtek Monastery, Sikkim

D) Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: B) Golden Pagoda, Namsai (Arunachal Pradesh)

Explanation: The sacred relics of Shakyamuni Buddha reached the Golden Pagoda in Namsai, marking the concluding leg of their holy exposition tour.

Section 6: Education, State Schemes & Miscellaneous Current Affairs

Q24. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated robotics laboratories in how many government-run schools across the state?

A) 500 schools

B) 807 schools

C) 1,000 schools

D) 250 schools

Answer: B) 807 schools

Explanation: To boost tech-based modern education, Odisha launched robotics labs across 807 schools alongside the NIPUN Odisha application.

Q25. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) rolled out a registration framework for which entities under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act?

A) Consent Managers

B) Cloud Service Providers

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C) AI Model Developers

D) Telecom Operators

Answer: A) Consent Managers

Explanation: MeitY formalized the operational ecosystem for Consent Managers under the landmark DPDP Act framework.

Q26. Which city is scheduled to host the 3rd National Conference on Cyber Security, Digital Forensics & Intelligence (NCCDFI 2026)?

A) Mumbai

B) New Delhi

C) Bengaluru

D) Hyderabad

Answer: B) New Delhi

Explanation: NIELIT is organizing the 3rd NCCDFI 2026 conference in New Delhi to address emerging security and digital forensics challenges.

Q27. India promoted "Sundays on Cycle" as a prominent mass climate action movement at which global climate conference in November 2026?

A) COP29 in Baku

B) COP30 in Belém

C) COP31 in Antalya

D) COP28 in Dubai

Answer: C) COP31 in Antalya

Explanation: Partnering with the Turkish Cycling Federation, the Fit India initiative showcased "Sundays on Cycle" as active green mobility at the COP31 host city of Antalya.

Q28. Which nation's government announced that it has completed all internal legal procedures required to seek the extradition of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from India?

A) Pakistan

B) Bangladesh

C) Myanmar

D) Sri Lanka

Answer: B) Bangladesh

Explanation: Bangladesh Law Minister Md. Asaduzzaman confirmed the completion of documentation protocols to formally request extradition.

Q29. Which federal minister was designated by Pakistan to represent the country at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue in New Delhi?

A) Ishaq Dar

B) Musadik Masood Malik

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C) Khawaja Asif

D) Ahsan Iqbal

Answer: B) Musadik Masood Malik

Explanation: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Musadik Masood Malik represents Pakistan at the SCO Civilisational Dialogue hosted in New Delhi.

Q30. Shourya Ambure, who won a medal for India at the 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games, excelled in which sports discipline?

A) Athletics

B) Weightlifting

C) Shooting

D) Archery

Answer: A) Athletics

Explanation: Shourya Ambure made headlines by winning a historic medal for India in athletics at the 2026 Summer Youth Olympics in Dakar.

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