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UPSC DAILY BRIEF

Current Affairs · 7 November 2026

14 min	8	24	1	GS1 · 3 GS2 · 8 GS3 · 29
READING TIME	KEY STORIES	IN BRIEF	MAINS QUESTION	PAPER MIX

01 — TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip

1

CAQM invokes Stage 3 action plan as Delhi AQI hits 364

Why it matters: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) invoked Stage 3 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) as Delhi's AQI reached 364.

GS3 · ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY P M

2

Karnataka High Court rules ED is not a "super cop" for money-laundering probes

Why it matters: The Karnataka High Court ruled that the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) cannot act as a 'super cop' by filing private complaints to initiate money-laundering probes.

GS3 · INTERNAL SECURITY P M

3

Supreme Court terms vehicle and construction bans as "old, tried and failed tools"

Why it matters: The Supreme Court questioned the Union government and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on the efficacy of vehicle and construction bans, calling them 'old

GS3 · ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY M

4

US bombs Iran after 11 ships attacked and three sank in Strait of Hormuz

Why it matters: The United States conducted air strikes on Iran's Qeshm island following a week of attacks on 11 ships in the Strait of Hormuz, leading to concerns over a large-scale escalation.

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P

5

Supreme Court permits certified green firecrackers in Delhi-NCR for Deepavali 2026

Why it matters: The Supreme Court permitted the use of certified green firecrackers in Delhi-NCR for Deepavali 2026 while mandating specific time slots and proximity restrictions.

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY P M

P.2 KEY STORIES » IN BRIEF + PLACES » TEST YOURSELF

P = PRELIMS · M = MAINS

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 40 notes · picked for exam value

GS3 · ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY P M

CAQM invokes Stage 3 action plan as Delhi AQI hits 364

Why in news: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) invoked Stage 3 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) as Delhi's AQI reached 364.

REMEMBER

- CAQM: Commission for Air Quality Management responsible for air quality management in Delhi-NCR
- Delhi AQI reached 364 at 8 am on Saturday
- Delhi-NCR: Region covered by the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

MAINS ANGLE *Critically analyze the effectiveness of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in managing seasonal air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region.*

USE: Air Quality Index | Graded Response Action Plan | Delhi-NCR pollution | Commission for Air Quality Management

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149073

GS3 · INTERNAL SECURITY P M

Karnataka High Court rules ED is not a "super cop" for money-laundering probes

Why in news: The Karnataka High Court ruled that the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) cannot act as a 'super cop' by filing private complaints to initiate money-laundering probes.

REMEMBER

- PMLA: Prevention of Money-Laundering Act governs the ED's investigative powers
- The court ruled that ED's powers are derivative, requiring information sharing with competent agencies

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the constitutional and legal implications of the 'derivative' nature of the ED's powers under the PMLA in ensuring a balanced investigative framework.*

USE: Derivative powers | Predicate offence | Judicial oversight | Institutional autonomy

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149186

GS3 · ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY M

Supreme Court terms vehicle and construction bans as “old, tried and failed tools”

Why in news: The Supreme Court questioned the Union government and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on the efficacy of vehicle and construction bans, calling them 'old

REMEMBER

- Air Quality Index (AQI) reached 400 in the national capital as of November 6, 2026.
- Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) is the body responsible for coordinating air quality measures.
- Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is the emergency and pre-emptive measure used to arrest air pollution.

MAINS ANGLE *Critically analyze the limitations of reactive measures like GRAP in managing urban air pollution and suggest scientific alternatives for sustainable air quality management.*

USE: Graded Response Action Plan | Air Quality Index | Commission for Air Quality Management | Sustainable Management

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149331

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P

US bombs Iran after 11 ships attacked and three sank in Strait of Hormuz

Why in news: The United States conducted air strikes on Iran's Qeshm island following a week of attacks on 11 ships in the Strait of Hormuz, leading to concerns over a large-scale escalation.

REMEMBER

- UKMTO reported 11 ships attacked and 3 sank in the Strait of Hormuz in the week ending November 6.
- MQ-1 and MQ-9 are types of drones used in the conflict.
- Qeshm island is a southern Iranian island targeted in the air strikes.

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the significance of the Strait of Hormuz in global energy security and the implications of maritime insecurity on international trade routes.*

USE: Strait of Hormuz | Maritime Security | Energy Security | Geopolitical Escalation

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149233

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY P M

Supreme Court permits certified green firecrackers in Delhi-NCR for Deepavali 2026

Why in news: The Supreme Court permitted the use of certified green firecrackers in Delhi-NCR for Deepavali 2026 while mandating specific time slots and proximity restrictions.

REMEMBER

- Prohibited zone: Firecrackers are banned within 300 metres of hospitals and schools
- Delhi-NCR: Region where the court permitted certified green firecrackers for Deepavali 2026

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the balance between exercising religious freedom and the state's obligation to ensure the right to a clean environment in urban centers.*

USE: Right to Life | Environmental Governance | Regulatory Compliance | Sustainable Development

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149021

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P M

India and EU conclude negotiations for Indian researchers to receive Horizon Europe funding

Why in news: India and the European Union concluded negotiations for Indian researchers to receive direct funding from the Horizon Europe programme.

REMEMBER

- Horizon Europe is a research initiative with a budget of Euro 93.5 billion
- Horizon Europe is a European Union research programme
- The agreement allows Indian researchers to receive direct funding for multi-national projects

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss how scientific cooperation and research funding frameworks can serve as catalysts for strengthening India's strategic partnership with the European Union.*

USE: Scientific Cooperation | Strategic Partnership | Research Funding | Technology Transfer

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/148984

GS3 · AGRICULTURE P M

Supreme Court grants Himachal Pradesh 11,973 MU of electricity from Punjab and Haryana

Why in news: The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Himachal Pradesh, granting the state 11,973 MU of electricity from Punjab and Haryana over 20 years to settle BBMB arrears.

REMEMBER

- Himachal Pradesh was granted 11,973 MU of electricity from Punjab and Haryana over a 20-year period.
- The power dues were settled at a rate of 7.19% based on a 2011 Supreme Court verdict.
- BBMB (Bhakra Beas Management Board) manages the Bhakra Nangal and Beas hydro projects.

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the significance of inter-state power sharing agreements and the role of judicial intervention in resolving long-pending hydro-electric arrears between Indian states.*

USE: Inter-state dispute | Hydro-electric power | Federalism | Resource allocation

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149380

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE P

NMC approves 424 additional postgraduate medical seats in Andhra Pradesh for 2026-27 academic year

Why in news: The National Medical Commission (NMC) approved 424 additional postgraduate medical seats in Andhra Pradesh for the 2026-27 academic year to expand medical training opportunities.

REMEMBER

- National Medical Commission (NMC) is the body responsible for approving medical seats.
- Andhra Pradesh total postgraduate medical seats increased to 4,196 for the 2026-27 academic year.
- The seat expansion applies to both government and private colleges in Andhra Pradesh.

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the challenges in expanding postgraduate medical infrastructure in India and its implications for improving rural healthcare delivery.*

USE: Healthcare Infrastructure | Medical Education | Human Resource Development | Public Health Policy

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149274

03 — IN BRIEF

Everything else, one line each

24 more notes · full versions online

GS1 · HISTORY · SOCIETY · GEOGRAPHY

Ministry of Culture declares Ranivas Mound in Bihar an archaeological site of national importance

Karnataka approves Sannati Development Authority Bill to transform sites into international heritage destinations

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

Kerala to provide Risdiplam for spinal muscular atrophy patients across all districts

Tamil Nadu CM orders ₹2,000 crore for Vetri Laptop Scheme to enhance student skills

West Bengal to verify 1.1 lakh doctors' credentials following fake degree allegations

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Rajasthan receives national award for performance under Renewable Energy State Assessment Framework

NGT issues notice to Tirunelveli Collector over threats to Tamirabharani River fish species

University of Calicut Botanical Garden designated as Keralam's second biodiversity heritage site

Telangana to build scientific silos network at 20 locations to protect farmers

Rajnath Singh urges armed forces to counter cyber threats and social media vulnerabilities

KLDB to establish CALPR at Mattupetty to boost farmers' income and research

Ministry defends 20% ethanol-blended petrol after Karnataka claims of 31% levels

INCOIS launches FISH app for fishermen to upload geotagged catch photographs

Dr Sadhana Rayalu and scientists at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

IAF IL-76MD achieves world record highest-altitude landing at Nyoma airbase

Indian Railways "war room" tracks crowds as 18,000 additional trains ease New Delhi rush

West Bengal announced its new Industrial Policy 2026 to revive industrial growth through investment

Pakistan astronaut to become first foreign national to visit China's space station

Tamil Nadu sanctions ₹2,842.77 crore for revised crop loan waiver scheme

NSE to extend equity derivatives trading until 3:45 pm starting December 7, 2026

Madras High Court closes PIL seeking to regulate non-banking financial institutions auctioning gold jewellery

"Alien-cortical mice" with 4 million human neurons show improved maze navigation

Maharashtra to lease reservoir land in 304 drought-declared talukas for fodder crops

VP Radhakrishnan confers Dr. Rajendra Prasad Award for Academic Excellence on K. Chockalingam

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS3 · ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Critically analyze the effectiveness of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in managing seasonal air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region.

USE: Air Quality Index | Graded Response Action Plan | Delhi-NCR pollution | Commission for Air Quality Management | Environmental Governance

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