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UPSC DAILY BRIEF

Current Affairs · 9 November 2026

16 min	8	6	5 + 1	GS2 · 6 GS3 · 8
READING TIME	KEY STORIES	IN BRIEF	MCQS + MAINS	PAPER MIX

01 — TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip

1 **Trump to discuss denuclearisation with Xi and Putin at APEC summit**

Why it matters: Trilateral diplomacy and nuclear non-proliferation: a key GS2 International Relations topic.

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS M

2 **Department of Pharmaceuticals caps prices for 1,364 anti-cancer formulations**

Why it matters: Drug price regulation and public health affordability: a relevant GS2 Social Justice and Public Health Policy topic.

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE P M

3 **CAQM invokes Stage III GRAP as Delhi AQI hits 404**

Why it matters: Environmental governance and pollution management: a GS3 case study on GRAP effectiveness.

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY P

4 **APSCHE proposes restructuring 28 state universities into specialized regional knowledge hubs**

Why it matters: The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) proposed restructuring 28 state universities into specialized regional knowledge hubs to align academic output with regional economic priorities.

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE M

5 **IMO records 25 seafarer deaths in Strait of Hormuz including 16 Indians**

Why it matters: Maritime security and geopolitical risks in chokepoints: a GS2 International Relations and Blue Economy case study.

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P

NUMBER OF THE DAY

₹3,540.38 crore

Projected annual consumer savings from revised price caps.

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

P = PRELIMS · M = MAINS

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 14 notes · picked for exam value

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS M

Trump to discuss denuclearisation with Xi and Putin at APEC summit

Why in news: US President Donald Trump announced his intention to meet Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin at the APEC summit in Shenzhen to discuss denuclearisation and ending the war in Iran.

REMEMBER

- Shenzhen — Host city for the APEC leaders' summit in November 2026
- Trilateral arms control framework — Proposed three-way talks focusing on denuclearisation
- APEC leaders' summit — Scheduled for November 18-19

MAINS ANGLE *Analyze the implications of a trilateral security framework between the US, Russia, and China on the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.*

USE: denuclearisation | trilateral diplomacy | non-proliferation | geopolitical realignment

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149869

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE P M

Department of Pharmaceuticals caps prices for 1,364 anti-cancer formulations

Why in news: The Department of Pharmaceuticals implemented revised Maximum Retail Prices (MRP) for 1,364 anti-cancer formulations to reduce consumer costs.

REMEMBER

- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority — Body responsible for capping trade margins on drugs.
- Maximum Retail Price (MRP) — The price cap implemented for 1,364 anti-cancer formulations.
- ₹3,540.38 crore — Projected annual consumer savings from revised price caps.

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the balance between ensuring the affordability of life-saving drugs and maintaining the viability of the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector in India.*

USE: Maximum Retail Price | Affordability | Pharmaceutical Regulation | Public Health Policy

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149827

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY P

CAQM invokes Stage III GRAP as Delhi AQI hits 404

Why in news: The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) reported Delhi's AQI hitting 404 on November 9, 2026, leading the CAQM to invoke Stage III GRAP restrictions.

REMEMBER

- GRAP — Graded Response Action Plan invoked to mitigate seasonal air pollution.
- CAQM — Commission for Air Quality Management responsible for invoking GRAP restrictions.
- CPCB — Central Pollution Control Board reported the AQI levels.

MAINS ANGLE *Critically analyze the effectiveness of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in mitigating seasonal air pollution in the National Capital Region.*

USE: Air Quality Index | Graded Response Action Plan | Atmospheric pollution | Meteorological factors

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149800

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE M

APSCHE proposes restructuring 28 state universities into specialized regional knowledge hubs

Why in news: The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) proposed restructuring 28 state universities into specialized regional knowledge hubs to align academic output with regional economic priorities.

REMEMBER

- APSCHE: Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education
- The proposal covers the restructuring of 28 state universities
- The framework focuses on three pillars: employability, research, and entrepreneurship

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss how restructuring state universities into specialized regional knowledge hubs can bridge the gap between academic curricula and regional economic requirements in India.*

USE: Regional Knowledge Hubs | Employability | Academic Framework | Economic Alignment

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149831

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P

IMO records 25 seafarer deaths in Strait of Hormuz including 16 Indians

Why in news: The International Maritime Organization recorded at least 25 seafarer deaths, including 16 Indian nationals, due to reported incidents in the Strait of Hormuz following the start of the US-Israeli war on Iran.

REMEMBER

- International Maritime Organization (IMO) — recorded 129 incidents including explosions and fires on commercial vessels.
- Maritime insecurity — impacts global energy supply chains and India's maritime trade interests.
- 25 seafarer deaths — at least 16 of whom are Indian nationals.

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the implications of maritime insecurity in the Strait of Hormuz on global energy supply chains and India's maritime trade interests.*

USE: maritime security | chokepoint | supply chain resilience | blue economy

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149822

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY P M

Belgian-led study shows 77.2% improvement in personalised bacteriophage therapy

Why in news: A Belgian-led research consortium reported that 77.2% of patients showed improvement using personalised bacteriophage therapy

REMEMBER

- Bacteriophage therapy: Uses viruses (bacteriophages) to target and kill antibiotic-resistant bacteria.
- 77.2% improvement rate reported in patients using personalised bacteriophage therapy.
- German Society for Infectious Diseases: Led the international team to develop the first coordinated clinical guidelines.

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the potential of bacteriophage therapy as a viable solution to the global crisis of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).*

USE: Antimicrobial Resistance | Bacteriophage Therapy | Personalised Medicine | Clinical Guidelines

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149798

GS3 · ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY P M

Punjab records sharpest single-day spike in paddy stubble-burning fires

Why in news: Punjab recorded its sharpest single-day spike of 1,152 paddy stubble-burning fires on November 8, 2026, prompting the Commission for Air Quality Management to intensify enforcement.

REMEMBER

- Commission for Air Quality Management — responsible for monitoring and enforcement against stubble burning
- 1,152 fires — the sharpest single-day spike recorded in Punjab on November 8, 2026
- 4,459 fires — the seasonal total of paddy stubble-burning fires in Punjab by November 8, 2026

MAINS ANGLE *Critically analyze the institutional and logistical hurdles in curbing paddy stubble burning in Punjab despite existing enforcement mechanisms and fines.*

USE: Air Quality Management | Stubble Burning | Environmental Enforcement | In-situ Management

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149814

GS3 · AGRICULTURE P

Maharashtra relaxes borewell drilling restrictions until December 15

Why in news: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced a temporary relaxation of borewell drilling and deepening restrictions until December 15 to assist farmers in preserving trees during drought conditions.

REMEMBER

- December 15 — Deadline for the temporary relaxation of borewell drilling and deepening
- Jal Jeevan Mission — Project for which Zilla Parishads are directed to prioritize funding
- Groundwater management — Balancing agricultural irrigation with ecological conservation in drought-prone regions

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the conflict between groundwater extraction for agricultural irrigation and ecological conservation in drought-prone regions of India.*

USE: Groundwater management | Drought mitigation | Sustainable irrigation | Regulatory relaxation

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/149779

03 — IN BRIEF

Everything else, one line each

6 more notes · full versions online

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

Parliamentary Session: Monsoon session remained unprorogued for 88 days, surpassing the previous record of 87 days set in 2008.

Indian Embassy evacuates 19 seafarers stranded in Hodeidah and Sana'a amid renewed conflict

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Agricultural NPAs: Bank of Baroda's agricultural NPAs rose 11.6% year-on-year to ₹9,128 crore in Q2 2026.

FCNR(B) deposits: Banks must bear currency risks on interest payments to non-resident depositors as RBI hedging facility excludes these deposits.

Photonic chip: Stanford researchers developed a fingernail-sized chip to untangle mixed light into coherence modes with 98% fidelity.

Delhi air pollution: PM2.5 levels reached 767 micrograms per cubic meter in Anand Vihar on November 8, 2026.

04 — TEST YOURSELF

5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 Which city is scheduled to host the APEC leaders' summit in November 2026?

(a) Beijing
(b) Shenzhen
(c) Shanghai
(d) Guangzhou

2 Which body is responsible for capping trade margins on drugs in India?

(a) Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation
(b) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority
(c) National Medical Commission
(d) Drug Controller General of India

3 With reference to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) and air quality in Delhi, consider the following statements:

1. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) did not report the AQI levels.
2. The AQI at Burari Crossing reached 404 on November 9, 2026.
3. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) invoked Stage III GRAP restrictions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

4 With reference to maritime incidents in the Strait of Hormuz, consider the following statements:

1. A total of 25 seafarer deaths were recorded, including at least 16 Indian nationals.
2. The International Maritime Organization recorded 129 reported incidents including explosions and fires.
3. The recorded incidents occurred primarily on naval vessels rather than commercial vessels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

5 With reference to paddy stubble-burning in Punjab, consider the following statements:

1. The seasonal total of fires reached 4,459 by November 8, 2026.
2. Punjab recorded a single-day spike of 1,152 fires on November 8, 2026.
3. The Commission for Air Quality Management is responsible for directing monitoring and enforcement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Analyze the implications of a trilateral security framework between the US, Russia, and China on the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

USE: denuclearisation · trilateral diplomacy · non-proliferation · geopolitical realignment · multilateralism

ANSWERS · 1 (b) 2 (b) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d)

TELEGRAM

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