Current Affairs

17 November 2026 · SSC, UPSSSC, Railway, Banking, UPSC, UP TET

Economy and Banking

India-Thailand Trade Committee Meeting Boosts Bilateral Trade to $21.49 bn

The 14th India-Thailand Joint Trade Committee met on 16 Nov 2026 in Nonthaburi, noting a 12.6% rise in bilateral trade to USD 21.49 billion in FY 2025-26, with Thailand accounting for 16.7% of India's ASEAN trade.

Why it matters: Exam question on recent Indo-Thai trade figures and meeting details

Source: PIB

India targets top-10 shipbuilding nation with $10 bn greenfield clusters

Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced a $10 bn investment plan for five greenfield shipbuilding clusters, launched the Naukosh portal, and highlighted a $1.7 bn order book with 80% export share, aiming for a top-10 global rank by 2030.

Why it matters: Exam question on India's shipbuilding targets and investment plans

Source: PIB

RBI Announces Variable Rate Reverse Repo Auction on Nov 17, 2026

The RBI will conduct a Variable Rate Reverse Repo auction on Tuesday, 17 November 2026, offering ₹50,000 crore for a 2-day tenor, with bids accepted from 09:30 to 10:00 AM and reversal on 19 November 2026.

Why it matters: Exam question on RBI monetary operations

Source: RBI

Science and Technology

India-Belarus CSIR signs Second Programme of Cooperation 2027-2029

On 16 November 2026 in New Delhi, CSIR and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus signed the Second Programme of Cooperation for 2027-2029, building on the 2023 MoU and the first programme (2024-2026) that approved seven joint RDI projects.

Why it matters: Exam may ask about the 2026 signing of the second India-Belarus scientific cooperation programme.

Source: PIB

CSB RCC 72nd Meeting Focuses on Sericulture Research and Innovation

The 72nd Research Coordination Committee meeting of the Central Silk Board was held on 16 November 2026 at ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, chaired by Dr. Mangi Lal Jat. Delegates reviewed achievements, programmes and future plans to boost sericulture research, technology and dissemination.

Why it matters: Useful for questions on recent government meetings on sericulture research

Source: PIB

Minority Affairs Ministry Holds AI for Digital Transformation Workshop

On 16 November 2026, the Ministry of Minority Affairs, chaired by Secretary Dr. Srivatsa Krishna, conducted a one-day workshop with the Wadhwani Government AI Academy to acquaint senior officials with AI, ML, Deep Learning, Generative AI and Agentic AI for public administration.

Why it matters: Exam may ask about AI initiatives in government administration

Source: PIB

Environment

India urges country-driven Just Transition mechanism at COP31

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav called for a two-tier, Party-guided Just Transition mechanism at the UNFCCC COP31 in Antalya, emphasizing finance, technology transfer, capacity building, employment, social protection, adaptation, poverty eradication and energy access for developing nations.

Why it matters: Useful for questions on India's stance at COP31

Source: PIB

Awards and Honours

Amit Shah Addresses Ramoji Excellence Awards 2026 in Vijayawada

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed the Ramoji Excellence Awards Ceremony-2026 held in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, highlighting Ramoji Rao's contributions to journalism, media and Telugu culture.

Why it matters: Recall of a ministerial address for UPSC prelims

Source: PIB

Appointments

Amit Shah reviews CRCS Pune office and Multi-State Co-operative societies

Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the CRCS Regional Office in Pune, examined its functions, and highlighted transparent development of Multi-State Co-operative Societies, noting oversight of 818 societies in the region and 420 new registrations since the Ministry of Cooperation was formed.

Why it matters: Useful for questions on recent government visits and cooperative sector data

Source: PIB

Devesh Chaturvedi and Pushpendra Kumar Garg appointed to NSB

On 16 November 2026, Shri Devesh Chaturvedi (IAS Retd.) took charge as Chairperson of the National Sports Board, and Commodore (Retd.) Pushpendra Kumar Garg became a Member. Their appointments were approved by the ACC.

Why it matters: Relevant for appointment-type questions in government exams

Source: PIB

Schemes and Policies

CBDT Chairman Inaugurates Taxpayers' Lounge at IITF 2026

Shri Ravi Agrawal, CBDT Chairman, opened the 507-sq-metre Taxpayers' Lounge at Hall No. 4, Bharat Mandapam, during the India International Trade Fair 2026 (13-27 Nov). The lounge features a Triveni Kinetic LED display, brochures, a children's tax book, a senior citizens' helpdesk, and interactive games.

Why it matters: Useful for questions on recent tax-related initiatives and events

Source: PIB

Ministry of Social Justice Empowers Artisans at 45th IITF 2026

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment showcased handicrafts from over 130 artisans across 19 states at the 45th India International Trade Fair, recording cumulative sales of about ₹5.50 lakh by 15 Nov 2026 and promoting the TULIP brand for wider market access.

Why it matters: Exam may ask about government initiatives for artisan empowerment

Source: PIB

Reports and Indices

NCPCR takes suo motu action on alleged assault of 14-year-old in Ranchi

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, invoking Section 13(1)(j) of the 2005 Act, has taken suo motu cognizance of media reports on an FIR against MLA Bhushan Bara for allegedly assaulting a 14-year-old tribal girl in Ranchi, and will send a team led by Registrar Dr Sudha Chaudhary on 17 Nov 2026.

Why it matters: Exam question on child-rights commission's powers and actions

Source: PIB

Uttar Pradesh

Kanpur Express Flagged Off Connecting Kanpur and Delhi

Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and MP Shri Ramesh Awasthi inaugurated the daily Kanpur Express between Kanpur Central and Anand Vihar Terminal, enhancing rail links and easing traffic congestion via a 16-km elevated track.

Why it matters: Exam question on new railway services and infrastructure in Uttar Pradesh

Source: PIB

Today's quiz

1. Who inaugurated the Taxpayers' Lounge at the India International Trade Fair 2026?

A. Shri Ravi Agrawal
B. Shri Amit Shah
C. Shri Bhupender Yadav
D. Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw

2. Which ministry's minister reviewed the CRCS office in Pune and highlighted the oversight of 818 Multi-State Co-operative societies?

A. Ministry of Home Affairs
B. Ministry of Finance
C. Ministry of Cooperation
D. Ministry of Rural Development

3. The Ramoji Excellence Awards 2026 were held in which Indian city?

A. Hyderabad
B. Vijayawada
C. Visakhapatnam
D. Chennai

4. At COP31, which Indian minister advocated for a two-tier, Party-guided Just Transition mechanism?

A. Dr. Rajesh Kumar (Ministry of Power)
B. Bhupender Yadav (Ministry of Environment)
C. Naveen Kumar (Ministry of Finance)
D. Sanjay Kumar (Ministry of External Affairs)

5. Which statutory provision did the NCPCR invoke to take suo motu cognizance of the alleged assault case in Ranchi?

A. Section 12(2) of the Juvenile Justice Act
B. Section 13(1)(j) of the NCPCR Act, 2005
C. Section 9 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act
D. Section 5 of the Right to Information Act

6. India and Belarus signed the Second Programme of Cooperation for which years?

A. 2025-2027
B. 2026-2028
C. 2027-2029
D. 2028-2030

7. Under which brand did the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment promote artisans' products at the 45th IITF?

A. SAKSHI
B. TULIP
C. VIKAS
D. PRAGATI

8. What was the total bilateral trade value between India and Thailand in FY 2025-26 as reported in November 2026?

A. USD 18.75 billion
B. USD 21.49 billion
C. USD 24.10 billion
D. USD 26.33 billion

9. Which minister announced a $10 bn investment for greenfield shipbuilding clusters aiming for a top-10 global rank by 2030?

A. Dr. Manish Singh (Ministry of Shipping)
B. Sarbananda Sonowal (Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways)
C. Naveen Kumar (Ministry of Commerce)
D. Piyush Goyal (Ministry of Commerce & Industry)

10. The 72nd Research Coordination Committee meeting of the Central Silk Board was chaired by which scientist?

A. Dr. Mangi Lal Jat
B. Dr. Ramesh Kumar
C. Dr. S. K. Singh
D. Dr. Anil Kumar

Answers: 1. A 2. A 3. B 4. B 5. B 6. C 7. B 8. B 9. B 10. A

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