FORTUNE IAS ACADEMY
KERALA'S NO.1 IAS ACADEMY

13 NOVEMBER | 2026

FINDER
FORTUNE IAS NEWS DAILY EXPLAINER

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THE HINDU

Why is the Siang project contentious?

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 3

Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Why in Focus?

- The **Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP)** in Arunachal Pradesh has sparked protests from the **Adi community** due to potential impacts on villages and the environment.

Key Highlights:

- The SUMP is a proposed dam on the **Siang River**, known as the Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh, to be built by the **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)**.
- The estimated power capacity of the project is between **11,000 and 11,200 MW**, with a dam height of **280 to 300 metres**.
- The **Adi community** claims that at least **40 villages** would be affected, with **27 villages submerged**, impacting paddy fields, orchards, and cultural sites.
- They allege that consent for the **Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR)** study **was obtained through pressure and threats of withholding welfare benefits**.

Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR): A preliminary study that assesses whether a proposed project is technically, economically and environmentally feasible.

- The **government argues that the SUMP will reduce flood risks, create jobs,** and strengthen water and energy security.
- China's proposed **60,000 MW Medog Dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo** has **raised India's strategic concerns**, making the **SUMP** as a counter measure with greater water storage capacity.

Implications:

- The **project may submerge villages** and affect the **Adi community's** agriculture, cultural sites and religious practices.
- It highlights the **conflict between development and environmental protection**.
- **Protests and allegations of forced consent** raise **concerns about transparency and public participation**.
- The project **may alter natural river flows** and **affect downstream ecosystems**

Way Forward:

- **Conduct environmental, social and cultural impact assessments** before project approval.

- Consult the **Adi community** and **ensure their informed consent**.
- **Explore smaller dams** to reduce environmental and cultural impacts.
- **Strengthen cooperation with China** on **transboundary water management**.

Mains Question:

Examine the environmental and socio-cultural implications of the proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh and discuss the concerns raised by the local communities. (250 Words,15marks)

India and U.K. are turning climate ambition into action

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 3

Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Why in Focus?

- The largest-ever **Earthshot Prize** edition will be held in Mumbai next week.
- It comes alongside **COP31** in Antalya, Türkiye, and highlights the **India-U.K. climate partnership** and India's growing role in clean growth.

Key Highlights:

- The **Earthshot Prize**, worth **£1 million for each winner**, was launched in **2020 by the Prince of Wales** to **recognise innovative solutions** to major environmental challenges.
- Since **2020**, India has had nine Earthshot finalists, including four winners.
- **Non-fossil sources** account for over **50% of India's installed power capacity**, achieving its **2030 target five years early**, with a goal of reaching **500 GW** by 2030.
- India plays a leading role in global climate efforts through the **International Solar Alliance** and the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure**.

International Solar Alliance: Launched in 2015 by India and France to promote solar energy and accelerate its global adoption.

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure: Launched in 2019 by India at the UN Climate Action Summit to promote climate-resilient infrastructure and reduce disaster risks.

- **Climate and clean energy** are key pillars of the **UK-India Vision 2035**, with cooperation on **electricity market reforms and offshore wind energy.**
- The **India-UK Climate Finance Initiative** supports climate investments, with the UK committing **$1.1 billion** since 2022.

India-UK Climate Finance Initiative: Launched in 2021 by the Indian and UK governments to mobilise private investment for sustainable infrastructure and climate projects.

- India's **National Disaster Management Authority** and the U.K.'s **Centre for Disaster Protection** are working together on disaster risk financing.

Implications:

- **Clean energy projects require large investments** and affordable climate finance.
- **Limited access** to advanced technologies **can slow the clean energy transition**.
- **Unstable policies may discourage private investment** and business participation.
- **Differences in priorities and regulations** can affect cooperation between the two countries.

Way Forward:

- Strengthen the **India-UK Climate Finance Initiative** to fund more green projects.
- Expand cooperation in **offshore wind and solar energy**.
- **Provide clear policies to encourage businesses** and innovation in climate solutions.
- **Promote global climate action** through the **India-UK partnership**.
- **Work together to limit global warming** to **1.5°C** through clean energy and climate finance.

Mains Question:

Discuss the role of the India-U.K. climate partnership, innovation and climate finance in addressing global climate challenges and achieving sustainable development goals. (150 Words, 10 marks)

Deepavali pollution and how it affects lung function and respiratory health

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 3

Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Why in Focus?

- **Deepavali** pollution causes toxic smog that affects lung function and respiratory health.
- **Many cities struggle to recover from pollution effects** days after the festival.

Key Highlights:

- **Firecrackers** release harmful pollutants such as **sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and particulate matter**.
- **PM10** particles enter the nose and larger airways, while **PM2.5** can travel deep into the lungs.
- **PM2.5** can reach the **alveoli**, where oxygen exchange occurs, while **ultrafine particles may enter the bloodstream**.
- Firecracker smoke can **cause coughing, wheezing and breathlessness**, especially in people with **asthma**
- **Low wind speeds** and **temperature inversion** trap pollutants near the ground, prolonging air pollution.

Temperature Inversion: A condition in which temperature increases with altitude instead of decreasing, trapping cold air and pollutants near the Earth's surface.

Implications:

- **Firecracker pollution reduces lung function and affects respiratory health**, particularly among vulnerable groups.
- **Long-term exposure** can lead to **chronic respiratory diseases and declining lung function**.
- **Pregnant women may face adverse birth outcomes** due to prolonged exposure to air pollution.

Way Forward:

- **Reduce exposure by avoiding firecracker smoke and limiting outdoor activities** during high pollution levels.
- **Strictly enforce government regulations on firecracker use**, including **guidelines on permitted timings, types and noise levels**.
- **Avoid indoor pollution sources** such as smoking, incense sticks and mosquito coils.

Mains Question:

Examine the impact of Deepavali pollution on lung function and respiratory health, and suggest measures to mitigate its adverse effects on vulnerable populations. (250 Words,15 marks)

The SIR exercise is also a technology failure In a dilemma

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2

Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Why in Focus?

- The **2025–26 Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls has **faced criticism not only over legal and political issues but also over problems with its digital platform.**
- For the first time, **an electoral roll revision of this scale is being conducted through a centralised digital platform called ERONet** (Election Commission of India's electoral roll management platform).
- The article argues that **poor software design,**

inadequate testing and frequent changes in the system have created difficulties for voters and election officials.

- As a result, **technology intended to improve electoral roll management** has itself **become a source of exclusion.**

Key Highlights:

- **ERONet uses automated rules to identify voters with logical discrepancies**, such as unusual age differences between parents and children or too many children linked to one parent.
- **However, ages in older electoral records are often approximate**, leading to genuine voters being incorrectly flagged.
- The system **tries to match voters with their parents in old electoral rolls**, such as the 2002 rolls.
- **Names digitised from old records and translated from regional languages into English** may contain **spelling errors and creates incorrect mismatches**.
- **Features and algorithms were repeatedly changed** while SIR was underway.
- **Some features were introduced or reactivated in different States**, forcing Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to repeat completed work.
- **Important software changes and procedures were communicated** through videos, video conferences and WhatsApp groups instead of **proper written guidelines**.
- This **created confusion among BLOs and Electoral Registration Officers**.
- The **online Form 6 included additional declarations about parents and grandparents** that were not part of the legally prescribed form.
- In **Delhi, some existing voters were asked to submit Form 6**, which is meant for new voter registration.
- In some States, the **revision was completed under tight deadlines before elections**, even though **many voter cases were still pending**.

Implications:

- **Wrong flags** can lead to **notices and deletion of genuine voters**.
- **Hidden software rules** leave citizens **with nothing to cite on appeal**.
- **Frequent changes during live use of the site** add stress and errors for officials.
- **Tight deadlines** set by the election calendar leave **no time to fix problems**.

Way Forward:

- **Test name-matching rules in a few constituencies** before applying them nationwide.
- **Avoid changing the system during elections**; test new features beforehand.
- **Provide clear written instructions** to officials before training.
- **Ensure online forms match legal forms** and set deadlines based on system readiness.

Mains Question:

Critically examine how the use of digital technology in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls has affected electoral inclusion and due process. (250 words, 15 marks)

KEYWORDS

Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL)

- **Why in News?:** Concerns over the **protection of the Kurumba language** have raised questions about the implementation of the **Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages**.
- The **Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL)** was initiated by the **Ministry of Education in 2013** to identify and protect endangered languages.
- It aims to **document, archive and revitalise endangered and lesser-known mother tongues**, particularly those spoken by fewer than **10,000 people**.
- The scheme is implemented by the **Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru**.
- In its initial phase, **117 languages** across six geographical zones of India were prioritised for documentation.
- It helps prepare **language guides, dictionaries, picture-based word lists and profiles** to document and preserve endangered languages.

Kurumbas of Kerala

- **Why in News?:** With only **2,719 individuals (2024)**, Kurumba may not meet the **10,000-speaker threshold** required to be counted as a separate language in the recent Census data.
- The **Kurumbas** are an **Adivasi community** residing in the hilly forest regions of **Attappady, Palakkad district, Kerala**.
- They are classified as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** and are among the **five PVTGs in Kerala**.
- The community speaks **Kurumba**, an **oral language without a script**, which is its primary language of communication.
- **Migration for education and employment** has increased the influence of **Malayalam** on Kurumba, contributing to changes in its vocabulary and usage.
- The **Kurumba language** faces the **risk of becoming endangered** due to declining use among younger generations and inadequate documentation.

Global City Sampling Day

- **Why in News?:** Global City Sampling Day has been in the news for **its role in studying urban microbial diversity and monitoring the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** across cities.
- **Global City Sampling Day** is an annual international initiative held on **June 21** to **study microorganisms present in urban environments**.
- It was launched in **2016** by the **Metagenomics and Metadesign of Subways and Urban Biomes, a global research consortium in USA**.
- Researchers **collect samples from public spaces** such as subways, buses, airports and other high-traffic areas.
- The initiative helps study **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**, track urban microbial diversity and identify potentially useful microorganisms for drug discovery.

Global Tuberculosis Report 2026

- **Why in News?:** The **World Health Organization (WHO)** recently released its **Global Tuberculosis Report 2026**, highlighting progress in India's TB control efforts
- India recorded a **38% reduction in TB mortality since 2015**, compared to the global average decline of **35%**.
- India achieved a **94% treatment success rate** among patients with drug-susceptible TB.
- In 2025, the **South-East Asia Region** accounted for **the highest share of new TB cases (35%)**, followed by the **Western Pacific Region (27%)** and the **African Region (25%)**.
- Around **88% of new TB cases** occurred in 30 high-burden countries and

globally, **1.13 million people died from TB in 2025**

Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)

- **Why in News?:** The **Indian Space Research Organisation** successfully tested the modified third stage (PS3) of the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle** at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**
- **PSLV** is a **third-generation launch vehicle** operational **since october 1994**, it is known as the **Workhorse of ISRO** due to its high reliability and success rate.
- It is a **four-stage launch vehicle** with alternating solid and liquid propulsion stages (Solid–Liquid–Solid–Liquid).
- Its four stages are designated **PS1, PS2, PS3 and PS4**, with the third stage (PS3) using a **solid propellant motor**.
- It can launch satellites into **Low Earth Orbit (LEO), Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO), and can place satellites into** Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO)
- It has been used for important missions such as **Chandrayaan-1** and the **Mars Orbiter Mission**



Places in News

Taiwan

- **Why in News?:** Chinese President **Xi Jinping** stated that **Taiwan's reunification with China is inevitable** and described it as an important goal of the **Communist Party of China**.
- **Taiwan** is an island in East Asia, located off the southeastern coast of **China** and its capital is **Taipei**.
- It has its own **Constitution, democratically elected government and armed forces** and functions as a self-governing territory.
- Taiwan has **no land borders** and is separated from **China** by the **Taiwan Strait**, from **Japan** by the **East China Sea**, and from the **Philippines** by the **Luzon Strait**.
- **China considers Taiwan part of its territory**, while **Taiwan rejects Beijing's claim**.
- The **two have remained politically separate** since **1949**, following the Chinese Civil War.



Antalya

- **Why in News?:** Antalya, a city in southwestern **Turkey**, is hosting the **31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31)** from **9 to 20 November 2026**.
- **Antalya** is a city and province located in **southwestern Türkiye**, along the **Mediterranean coast**.
- It lies along the **Turkish Riviera**, a major tourist region known for its beaches and historical sites.
- The city is situated near the **Taurus Mountains**, which extend parallel to parts of Türkiye's Mediterranean coastline.
- Antalya is an important centre for **tourism and agriculture**, particularly citrus fruit cultivation.
- It is located on the **Mediterranean Sea**, which connects it to countries in

Southern Europe, North Africa and West Asia.

