

# The Lukmaan Newslines

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## Adani Group Denies US Bribery Allegations

The Adani Group has refuted allegations in a US indictment claiming Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani, and others concealed knowledge of a bribery probe involving payments to Indian officials. The FBI seized Sagar Adani's devices in March 2023, but the group called the charges baseless and vowed legal action. The case highlights global anti-corruption laws impacting Indian firms.

Source: The Indian Express



Polity, Social Justice

## J&K Reservation Policy Review

The J&K government announced a committee to review reservation policies following demands from open category aspirants, aiming to balance rights across groups.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper



International Relations, Economy

## India-U.S. Relations Amid Adani Charges

The White House acknowledged bribery charges against Adani but emphasized strong India-U.S. ties, expressing confidence in managing such issues diplomatically.

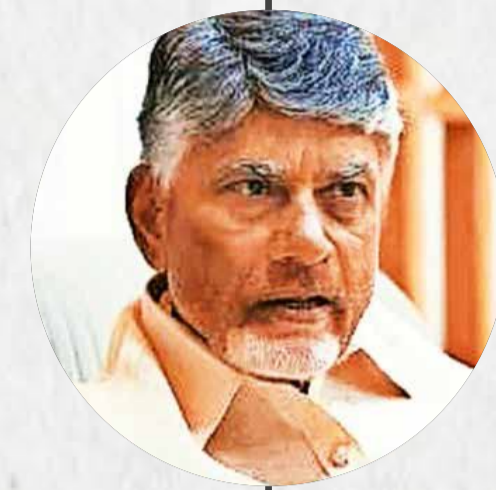
Source: The Hindu Newspaper

## Manipur Deploys Additional Security

The Centre sent 90 additional companies of CAPFs to Manipur amid ongoing violence. A total of 29,000 personnel are deployed, highlighting ongoing challenges in the region.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

## Adani Indictment Sparks Political Reactions



### Andhra Pradesh

CM Chandrababu Naidu assured action if irregularities are found, while YSRCP denied direct ties with Adani Group in power deals.



### Odisha

BJD rejected bribery allegations, stating contracts were between SECI and state entities.



### Chhattisgarh

Ex-CM Baghel demanded a CBI/ED probe, accusing BJP of shielding Adani.

Source: The Indian Express

## Western Oil Firms Accused of Favoring Russia Pre-Ukraine War



### Key Findings:

- **Before the** Russia-Ukraine war, Chevron, Shell, ExxonMobil, and others allegedly inflated budgets, rigged bids, and awarded lucrative contracts to Russian and Kazakh elites through the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC).
- **CPC transported** oil from Kazakhstan and Russia to global markets, paying \$816M to Russian shareholders and \$321M in taxes since the war began.
- **Whistleblowers** revealed improper payments violating anti-bribery laws and safety compromises, including a 2021 oil spill cover-up.

### India's Role:

- **Post-2022**, India became the largest buyer of CPC-Russian oil due to significant discounts.
- **Between March** 2022 and 2024, 67% of CPC-R crude was shipped to India, with Reliance and state refiners among the biggest buyers.
- **Indian refiners** clarified they are customers, not stakeholders, prioritizing clean deals.

Source: The Indian Express

## SC Pushes New Criminal Laws

The Supreme Court advocated giving the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita a chance, arguing these laws aim to address organized crime. Critics cite concerns over potential misuse and erosion of citizen safeguards.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

## Chhattisgarh Maoist Encounter

Security forces killed 10 Maoists, including senior leaders, in an operation in Sukma. Weapons like AK-47s and grenades were seized, showcasing the state's efforts against insurgency.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

## Kerala's AI-Powered Teacher

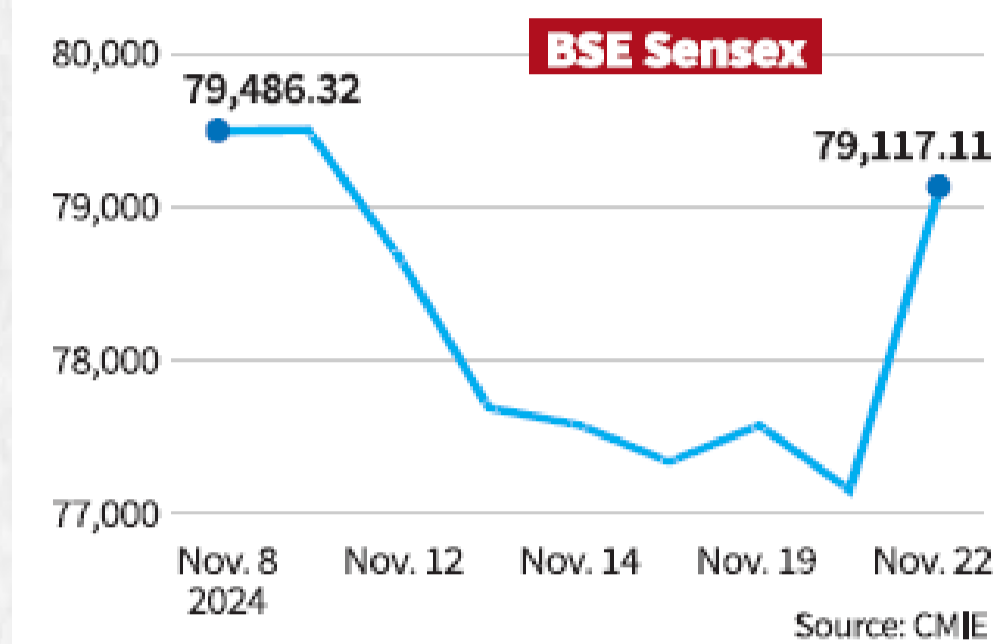
A government school in Kerala introduced Nova, an AI humanoid teacher, to improve communication skills and interest in technology among primary students.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

## Adani Group's Market Setback

### Surprise rebound

After Thursday's selloff, led by Adani group shares, the stock markets bounced back on Friday



Nifty 50 rose 2.4%, its biggest single day spike in over five months

Some Adani stocks see mild recovery after the drubbing



A woman walks past a digital broadcast screen at the Bombay Stock Exchange on Friday. AFP

Adani Group stocks, particularly energy firms, faced significant declines following U.S. bribery allegations. Adani Green Energy fell 8.2%, adding to a 19% drop earlier, while energy firms like Adani Power and Energy Solutions also saw sharp falls. S&P downgraded the outlook for some Adani entities to "negative."

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

## Climate Finance Deadlock in Baku

Climate talks in Azerbaijan extended as developing nations rejected a \$250 billion proposal from developed nations against a needed \$700 billion by 2030. Activists criticized the lack of affordable financing for climate action.



Environment, International Relations

Source: The Hindu Newspaper



EXPRESS explained.

## India-China Relations: Steps Toward Repair

India and China are cautiously working to mend ties strained since the 2020 Ladakh border standoff and the Galwan clashes.

- **Progress:** Modi and Xi's recent meeting signaled a potential restart, with resumed patrols along the LAC and talks on easing visa curbs, direct flights, and media exchanges.
- **Challenges:** India prioritizes troop de-escalation along the LAC, while China pushes for broader engagement, including commemorating 75 years of diplomatic ties.
- **Outlook:** India remains cautious, linking future steps to tangible border improvements.

Efforts continue to balance cooperation and public sentiment shaped by recent tensions.

Source: The Indian Express

Note:- The Lukmaan Newslines provides curated UPSC-relevant current affairs from trusted sources like The Hindu, The Indian Express, and PIB. Our concise summaries align with the syllabus, helping you stay informed and focused.