

The Lukmaan Newsline

All You Need for UPSC in One Page.



Polity

Logjam ends, Parliament to debate Constitution

After a week-long Parliament logjam, consensus was reached to debate the Constitution. The Lok Sabha will deliberate on December 13-14, and the Rajya Sabha on December 16-17. Opposition protests over the Adani issue will occur outside Parliament.

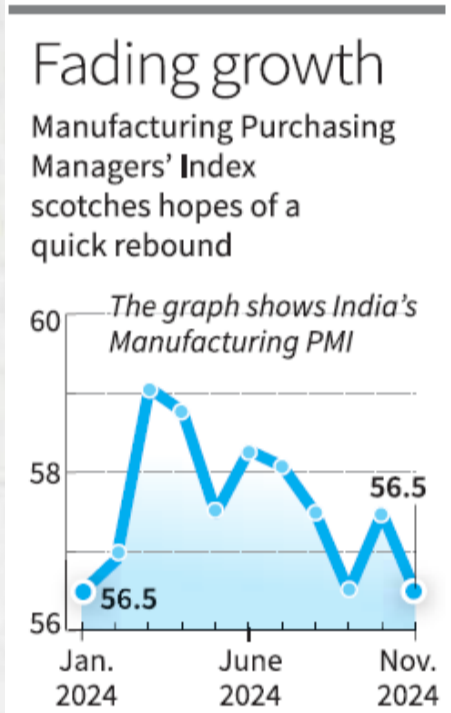
Source: The Hindu Newspaper

GDP Growth Falls Amid Manufacturing Slump

India's private sector industrial activity remained weak in Q3 of FY25, with manufacturing growth at 2.2% and GDP growth at 5.4%. HSBC's PMI index hit an 11-month low, signaling sluggish recovery.

Economy

Source: The Hindu Newspaper



Polity

SC Criticizes EC Over Voter Limit Increase

The SC questioned the Election Commission's move to increase polling station voter limits from 1,200 to 1,500, emphasizing that no voter should be disenfranchised.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper



Disaster Management

Cyclone Fengal Leaves Tamil Nadu Devastated

Cyclone Fengal led to 12 deaths and flooded 2.11 lakh hectares of farmland in Tamil Nadu. CM Stalin requested ₹2,000 crore in Central aid for restoration.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

India's 'One Nation, One Subscription' Plan

The Union Cabinet approved the "One Nation, One Subscription" plan, enabling public institutions nationwide to access scholarly journals and publications without individual subscriptions. The initiative aims to democratize knowledge access and boost research output in India.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper



Economy

GoM Proposes GST Hike on Sin Goods to 35%

The Group of Ministers (GoM) has proposed raising GST on sin goods like aerated drinks, cigarettes, and tobacco to 35%, up from 28%. This move aims to offset revenue losses from cuts on common-use items. Rate tweaks for over 148 goods, including luxury items, are also recommended. The GST Council will review these proposals, along with GST exemptions for health and life insurance, on December 21.

Source: The Indian Express

How Land Degradation Threatens Sustainability



Environment

What is it?

Land degradation is the loss of land productivity due to unsustainable practices like deforestation, overuse of chemicals, and urbanization.

Why a Concern?

- Reduces food production, causing malnutrition.
- Triggers health issues like water-borne diseases and respiratory problems.
- Harms ecosystems and worsens climate change by reducing carbon absorption.

Worst-hit Areas

Dry regions like South Asia, Africa, and the Mediterranean.

Source: The Indian Express



Economy

Home Price Index Rises by 4.3% Amid High Rates: RBI

The RBI's Home Price Index rose 4.34% YoY in September 2024, reflecting strong housing demand despite high rates. Bengaluru saw the highest growth (+8.76%), while Kanpur declined (-2%). Prices rose across major cities, with Delhi NCR leading a 32% annual increase. Unsold inventory dropped for the third quarter, signaling positive buyer sentiment.

Source: The Indian Express

Putin Invited to India for Summit

Prime Minister Modi invited Russian President Putin for a bilateral summit in early 2025, marking his first visit to India since the Ukraine conflict began. Talks may include peace efforts in Ukraine.



Source: The Hindu Newspaper

What is Nafithromycin?



Nafithromycin, marketed as "Miqnaf," is India's first indigenously developed antibiotic to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR). It addresses drug-resistant Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia (CABP), a leading global health concern causing over two million deaths annually.

Why in News?

- The government recently announced the soft launch of Nafithromycin, providing hope against community-acquired bacterial pneumonia (CABP), a global health concern causing over two million deaths annually.

Key Highlights:

1. Purpose:

- Treats CABP, particularly in vulnerable populations like children, the elderly, and immunocompromised patients. India bears 23% of global pneumonia cases.

2. Potency:

- **10x more effective** than Azithromycin.
- Short, **3-day regimen** validated by trials.

3. Development:

- Supported by **BIRAC** under the Department of Biotechnology.
- First antibiotic in its class globally in 30+ years.

4. Safety:

- Minimal side effects, food tolerance, and no drug interactions.

Understanding Pneumonia:

- Infects lung alveoli, causing difficulty breathing and oxygen intake.
- **Types:** Bacterial, Viral, Aspiration, and Fungal.
- **Walking Pneumonia:** Milder infection caused by atypical bacteria.

Tackling AMR

- AMR makes infections harder to treat and caused **4.95 million deaths globally** in 2019.
- India's **National Programme on AMR Containment** and **National Action Plan (2017)** focus on surveillance, infection control, and antimicrobial stewardship.

Why Nafithromycin Matters

Nafithromycin marks a major leap in India's fight against AMR and showcases its growing biotech capabilities, providing an effective solution to a critical global health challenge.

Source: The Indian Express

Bihar Cancels Health Officer Exam Over Irregularities

Irregularities in Bihar's recruitment exam for 4,500 community health officer posts led to its cancellation. 36 people, including an exam-conducting firm's employee, were detained.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

India's First Designed-in-India 5G Chip Faces Challenges

India's first designed-in-India 5G NB-IoT chip by WiSig Networks faces mass production delays due to funding shortages and low commercial adoption. Despite ₹45 crore in government support and successful testing, production hurdles persist. The chip is key to India's semiconductor self-reliance under the DLI scheme, aiding national security and innovation.

Source: The Indian Express