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CURRENT AFFAIRS (02-11-2026)

FOR

COMPETITIVE EXAMS

(UPSC, APPSC, TGPSC)

[Study material by EKAM IAS Academy]

Articles

- Cyclone Murasu
- Local body elections in AP
- Rashtriya Ekta Diwas
- INS kesari

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):
1. It measures poverty only on the basis of household income.
2. Health, education and standard of living are dimensions considered under MPI.
3. The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index is jointly published by UNDP and OPHI.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Answer: B

Q2. Udayagiri Fort in Andhra Pradesh is historically associated with which of the following rulers?
(a) Krishnadevaraya
(b) Rajaraja Chola
(c) Pulakesin II
(d) Rudrama Devi
Answer: A

A.P. braces for second cyclone within a week

Cyclone Murasu comes at a time when Andhra Pradesh is just beginning to recover from the impact of Cyclone Arnab which killed five people and submerged crops in more than 3.5 lakh hectares of land. It also damaged about 2,425 km of roads and brought down some 15,000 electric poles. The Andhra Pradesh government puts its losses at ₹4,600 crore, and officials now have little time to prepare for the next storm.

As many as 1,688 medical teams and 116 relief camps have been prepared in Andhra Pradesh districts likely to be affected by the latest cyclone, the Chief Minister's office said in a post on X.

The Health Department has also made available 13,165 emergency beds, essential medicines, and 43,672 anti-snake venom injections.

The Chief Minister on Sunday instructed authorities to mobilise adequate manpower and equipment in advance to ensure prompt restoration of essential services. He also directed officials to issue updates on the cyclone situation every four hours and asked telecom service providers to take precautionary measures to maintain uninterrupted mobile connectivity during the storm.

While it was the northern part of Andhra Pradesh that bore the brunt last week, this time, the central and southern coastal parts of the State are likely to be affected, according to the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA). Officials identified 20 mandals that could experience extremely heavy rainfall, including nine mandals in Eluru district, five each in Krishna and NTR districts, and one in Bapatla district.

The IMD has put five districts in the State – SPSR Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, Bapatla, and Krishna – on red alert for November 2. A warning has been issued to coastal districts between West Godavari and SPSR Nellore, as 100-110 kmph winds, gusting to 120 kmph, may prevail from Monday evening. When Cyclone Arnab crossed the coast near Narsapur in West Godavari district on October 28, winds gusted up to 150 kmph.

In Tamil Nadu, for the 24-hour period from 8.30 a.m. on Monday, heavy to very heavy rain is likely at isolated places over Chennai and Tiruvallur districts. The rain could be accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, with gusty wind speeds reaching 40-50 kmph at some places.

In Odisha, the State government has identified 150 landslide-prone locations in Gajapati district alone ahead of Cyclonic Storm Murasu.

The Tamil word "Murasu" is one India's submissions to the rotating list of names for cyclones in the region and means war drums.

(With inputs from Deepa Ramakrishnan in Chennai and Satyasundar Barik in Bhubaneswar)

Context:

Barely a week after being battered by "very severe" Cyclone Arnab, Andhra Pradesh is bracing for Cyclone Murasu,expected to make landfall on Tuesday, with five districts put on red alert

About Cyclone Murasu

- Cyclone Murasu is a tropical cyclone that developed over the Southwest and adjoining West-Central Bay of Bengal.
- It was named by India under the regional tropical cyclone naming system.
- Meaning of Murasu: War drum.
- It developed from a well-marked low-pressure area over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Andaman Sea.
- It intensified into a cyclonic storm on 1 November 2026.

Cyclone naming system

- Tropical cyclones in the North Indian Ocean are named under the regional naming system coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
- The Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC), New Delhi, operated by IMD, is responsible for naming cyclones in the North Indian Ocean.
- The naming list is contributed by 13 countries.

The 13 countries are:

India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Maldives, Oman, Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Yemen.

Polls conclude peacefully across 3 Rayalaseema districts

The urban local body elections across Chittoor, Annamayya and Sri Sathya Sai districts witnessed contrasting voting trends on Sunday. Chittoor recorded an enthusiastic response, Annamayya a moderate turnout, and Sri Sathya Sai district saw varied participation as polling concluded peacefully at 5 p.m. under tight security. Polling was held in 12 urban local bodies across the three districts, covering four in Chittoor, Madanapalle and Punganur municipalities in Annamayya, and six in Sri Sathya Sai district. The combined electorate stood at 8,25,981, including 4,21,314 women, 4,04,555 men, and 112 voters belonging to other categories.MLA and actor Nandamuri Balakrishna and his wife Vasundara registered their votes at around 9 a.m. in Hindupur.

Polling peaceful across eight civic bodies in North Andhra

Barring a few stray incidents, polling in eight civic bodies across three North Andhra districts – Vizianagaram, Srikakulam and Parvatipuram– was held peacefully on Sunday. Vizianagaram recorded a turnout of 62.73%, while Nellimarla, an adjacent town registered 80.31%. Bobbili, the historic town, recorded a turnout of 71.30%. The State Election Commission allowed voters who were in the queue by 5 p.m to cast their votes. Concerned over the low voter turnout, the Vizianagaram district administration repeatedly requested people, particularly employees, to cast their votes and participate in the democratic process.Ichchapuram, which was badly affected by Cyclone Arnab, recorded a poll percentage of 64.9% . The voter turnout in Palasa-Kasibugga municipality was 68.33%.

Voters prioritise candidates over development in local polls

Few voters belonging to economically weaker sections from Gunadala, who arrived at the polling stations set up at Andhra Loyola College, know only party symbols and do not even know the name of the candidates contesting from their division

Nellore Sravani
VIJAYAWADA

Candidates and parties, not development of the city, have become the main deciding factor for voters in Vijayawada in the second ordinary elections to urban local bodies, which was held on Sunday.

At the polling stations set up at the Andhra Loyola College in the city on Sunday, a few voters belonging to the economically weaker sections from Gunadala, did not even know the name of the candidates contesting from their division. They said they only knew the symbols. While they said mentioned about drainage issues in their area, they did not expect any improvement in the situation after the elections.

A similar response came from voters at the polling station set up at Montessori College of Physiotheraphy.

At Ranigari Thota, which comprises a large number of Yadavs and SCs, some residents had to shift to the area due to the construction of the Pandit Nehru Bus Station in the 1980s. This section swears by NDA mayoral candidate Vangaveeti Radha Krishna, claiming that it was he who ensured they received pattas (title deeds).

One of the beneficiaries, Nagaraju, said that it was their way of expressing gratitude to Mr. Radha Krishna. Another woman said she wanted to vote for a candidate because she found him good-natured.

Only two or three persons said they would vote for a candidate because they wanted to see development. One of them is Ravi Ramesh, founder of Amaravati Runners, who had come to the Andhra Loyola College to cast his vote. He expressed disappointment that political parties were putting most of their efforts and attention on ensuring the party survives, and putting little efforts into addressing the issues.

"There are no children's parks in the city. Basic facilities need to be improved, but no one talks about that," he said, adding that he hopes the situation would improve with the new set of corporators.



People wait in queue to cast their vote during the municipal elections at Andhra Loyola College in Vijayawada on Sunday.K.V.S. GIRI

SEC orders repolling in four wards across 3 ULBs

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

The State Election Commission (SEC) on Sunday announced repolling in four wards in three Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)- Anantapur, Macherla, and Chimakurthy municipalities - on Monday under Article 2432A of the Constitution read with 59A (2) (a) of Municipal Corporations Act of 1955.

The decision comes after taking material circumstance into account and on the basis of the respective District Collectors following complaints of booth capturing, as per separate orders issued by the SEC. Polling will be conducted from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in accordance with A.P. Municipal Corporations Rules, and AP Municipalities/Nagar Panchayats Rules.

Context of the news

Municipal elections were held in Vijayawada and other urban local bodies in Andhra Pradesh.

The newspaper report highlights that voters prioritised individual candidates and political party symbols over local development issues.

Some economically weaker voters from Gunadala reportedly recognised party symbols but did not know the names of candidates contesting from their divisions.

Basic civic issues such as drainage, roads, parks and sanitation received comparatively less attention during campaigning.

Major observations from the article

- Candidate-centric voting: Voters showed greater interest in candidates than development agendas.
- Importance of party symbols: Some voters identified candidates through party symbols rather than names.
- Lack of political awareness: Limited awareness about candidates and their local development plans.
- Local issues neglected: Drainage, roads, sanitation and civic infrastructure were not adequately discussed.
- Influence of social factors: Caste and community considerations were also visible in voter preferences.
- Accountability concerns: Voters may not adequately assess the performance of elected representatives.

Way Forward

- Strengthen voter awareness: Promote informed voting through voter education programmes.
- Performance-based voting: Encourage voters to evaluate candidates based on their work and development agenda.
- Strengthen Ward Committees: Increase citizen participation in local governance.
- Social audits: Ensure transparency in municipal expenditure.
- Improve urban planning: Prioritise sanitation, drainage, drinking water and waste management.
- Strengthen local democracy: Implement the 74th Constitutional Amendment in letter and spirit.

Water ingress onboard INS Kesari reported at Vizag Naval Dockyard

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

An incident of water ingress was reported on board the Indian Navy's amphibious warfare ship, INS Kesari, while the vessel was berthed at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam on Saturday.

Emergency protocols were activated immediately after naval personnel detected water accumulation in one of the compartments beneath the waterline.

The naval authorities deployed high-capacity dewatering equipment and specialised salvage teams to manage the situation, prevent further inflows, and ensure the safety of all the personnel on board.

Water ingress–the unintentional entry of seawater into internal ship compartments–can jeopardise hull stability and critical machinery if unmitigated.

Confirming the incident, an official spokesperson of the Indian Navy from the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) issued a statement.

"An incident of water ingress occurred onboard INS Kesari this afternoon while the ship was berthed at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam. No injuries or loss of life have been reported. Operations to pump out the water are currently underway," the statement from the Eastern Naval Command said.

INS Kesari is a Shardul-class Landing Ship Tank (Large) attached to the ENC.

Context:
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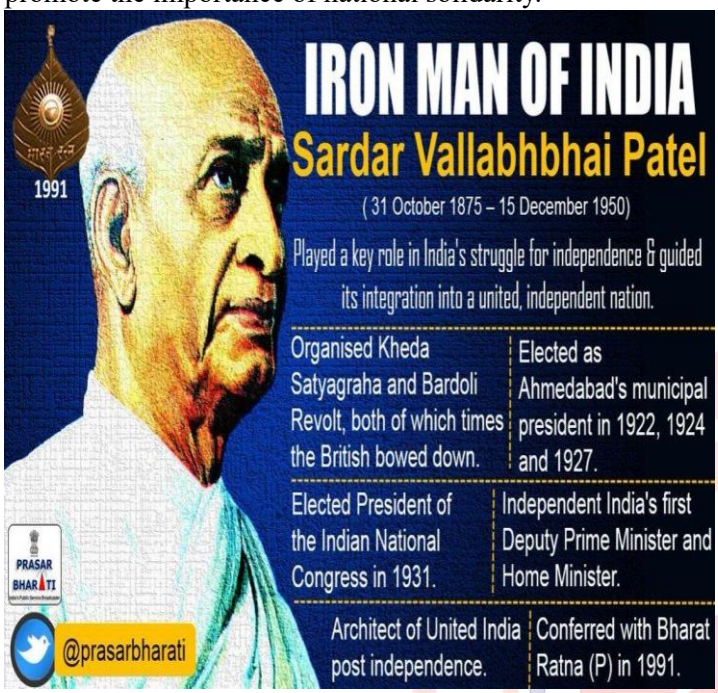
About INS Kesari

- INS Kesari (L15) is a Shardul Class Landing Ship Tank (LST) of the Indian Navy.
- The ship was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- It was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 5 April 2008.
- It is the second ship of the Shardul class after INS Shardul, with INS Airavat completing the three-ship class.
- The ship is designed for amphibious operations, including the transportation of troops and equipment.
- It can carry tanks, armoured vehicles, stores, and around 500 personnel and can put them ashore directly on a beach.
- Their large cargo decks also make them a regular choice for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions.
- It displaces around 5,650 tonnes and is about 125 metres long.

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding INS Kesari:
1. INS Kesari is a Shardul-class Landing Ship Tank (Large) of the Indian Navy.
2. It was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
3. It played an important role in Mission Sagar during the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. It belongs to the Western Naval Command.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas 2026
Rashtriya Ekta Diwas 2026, also known as National Unity Day, will be observed on 31 October to mark Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Birth Anniversary 2026 and honour his lasting contribution to national integration.

Purpose of the Day: The occasion recognises Patel's efforts to unite princely states and strengthen India's political unity after independence.
Beginning of the Observance: National Unity Day was established in 2014 to commemorate Patel's birth anniversary and promote the importance of national solidarity.



- National Integration: The day encourages citizens to respect India's diversity while maintaining a shared commitment to national unity, integrity and collective progress.
- Unity Pledge: Official observances include pledges that reinforce citizens' commitment to preserving the country's unity and protecting its integrity.
- National Significance: Rashtriya Ekta Diwas highlights Patel's role in nation building and reminds citizens of the importance of a united and stable India.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Contributions
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel made lasting contributions to India's freedom struggle, political integration, constitutional development and the establishment of an effective administrative structure.

- Integration of Princely States: Patel led efforts to integrate more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union through negotiation, diplomacy and decisive action, preventing the fragmentation of the newly independent country.
- Leadership in Farmers' Movements: Through the Kheda and Bardoli agitations, Patel mobilised farmers against unjust revenue demands. His leadership in Bardoli earned him the title Sardar, meaning leader or chief.
- Establishment of All India Services: Patel supported the creation of the All India Services, regarding them as the steel frame of India. He emphasised impartiality, discipline and integrity in public administration.
- Administrative and Constitutional Development: Patel contributed to the formation of India's administrative institutions and constitutional framework, helping establish stable governance during the challenging early years after independence.
- **Restoration of Somnath Temple**: Patel supported the reconstruction of the Somnath Temple in Gujarat in 1948, reflecting his commitment to restoring the historic monument through a public initiative.
- **Promotion of National Unity**: Patel worked to strengthen national integrity during independence and Partition, focusing on political consolidation, public order and the establishment of a stable Union.

Q2. With reference to Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, consider the following statements:
1. It is celebrated every year on 31 October.
2. It commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
3. The Statue of Unity is located in Gujarat.
4. The first Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was observed in 2014.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(d) 2 and 4 only

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