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## Current Affairs - 11 November 2025

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### EXERCISE MITRA SHAKTI-2025



#### Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2025

The “Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2025” is being conducted at Foreign Training Node, Belagavi, Karnataka.

- It is the eleventh edition of joint military exercise between **India and Sri Lanka**.
- **Aim:** To jointly rehearse conduct of **Sub Conventional Operations** under Chapter VII of United Nations Mandate.

**Participating Forces from India:** The Indian contingent is being represented **mainly by troops from the RAJPUT Regiment and personnel from the Indian Air Force** are also participating in the exercise.

#### **Key Highlights of Exercise MITRA SHAKTI – 2025**

- The scope of the exercise includes **synergising joint responses** during counter-terrorist operations.
- Both sides will practice tactical actions such as **raid, search and destroy missions**, heliborne operations, etc.
- It will also involve **employment of Drones** and Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems besides helicopters.
- It also involves drills to **secure helipads** and undertake casualty **evacuation during counter-terrorist operations** will also be rehearsed jointly by both sides.
- Both sides will exchange views and practices of joint drills on a wide spectrum of combat skills.

**Significance:** Sharing of best practices will further enhance the level of defence cooperation between Indian Army and Sri Lankan Army.

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### SC SEEKS IMPLEMENTATION OF WOMEN'S RESERVATION LAW

- Women constitute **48.4% of India's population** (Census 2011), yet their political representation remains disproportionately low.
- In the **18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha (2024)**, women hold **74 out of 543 seats**, i.e., **13.6%**, slightly down from **14.4%** in the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha (2019).
- In **State Legislative Assemblies**, women occupy only **9.2%** of total seats on average.
- At the **local governance level**, women's representation is significantly higher, about **46%** in Panchayati Raj Institutions, owing to the **73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments (1993)** mandating one-third reservation for women.
- According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, India ranks **143<sup>rd</sup> out of 187 countries** in women's representation in national parliaments.

### The Women's Reservation Act, 2023

- The **Women's Reservation Act** received **Presidential assent** in 2023, thereby becoming the **Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023**.
- The amendment inserted **Article 334A** into the Constitution, which provides for **33% reservation of seats** for women in the **Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies**, and the **Delhi Assembly**.
- However, the implementation of this reservation is tied to the **completion of the next Census** and the subsequent **delimitation process**, the redrawing of constituencies based on updated population data.
- The petitioner has challenged this condition, calling it "**unjustified and dilatory.**"
- She contends that the Act should be implemented immediately, arguing that other constitutional amendments, such as the **73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments**, which introduced one-third reservation for women in **Panchayati Raj and urban local bodies**, were enforced without linking them to Census data.



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### Representation Gap and Constitutional Context

- Currently, women hold only **14.94% of seats in the Lok Sabha** and **13% in State Assemblies**, a figure far below the global average of 26.5%.
- India ranks **141<sup>st</sup> out of 186 countries** in the **Inter-Parliamentary Union's 2024 ranking** on women's representation in national parliaments.
- Justice Nagarathna underscored that **Article 15(3)** and **Article 39(a)** of the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs)** empower the State to ensure equal participation of women in public life.
- Political representation, she noted, is **integral to women's empowerment** and a precondition for achieving genuine democracy.
- She further emphasised that **political justice**, as envisioned by the framers of the Constitution, is incomplete without **equal representation for women** in lawmaking bodies.

### Way Ahead

- While the Supreme Court refrained from issuing directions that could override the executive's domain, it urged the Centre to clarify its stance and timeline for implementation.
  - The Union government has maintained that the **reservation will take effect only after the next Census and delimitation exercise**, which have been pending since 2021.
  - However, no definitive schedule has been announced for these processes, leading to concerns that the law could be **indefinitely delayed**.
  - Experts suggest that an **interim framework**, such as the **temporary allocation of reserved constituencies**, could be introduced to operationalise the law before the next general election.
  - Political analysts also note that early implementation would not only enhance women's participation but could also **reshape the political landscape**, fostering more inclusive policymaking.
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## Current Affairs - 11 November 2025

### WHAT IS CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE (CAD)?



#### Coronary Artery Disease

- It is a **common type of heart disease**. CAD also may be called **coronary heart disease**.
- It affects the **main blood vessels that supply blood to the heart**, called the **coronary arteries**.
- In CAD, there is **reduced blood flow to the heart muscle**.
- **What Causes CAD?**
  - A **buildup of fats, cholesterol and other substances in and on the artery walls**, a condition called **atherosclerosis**, usually causes CAD.
  - The **buildup, called plaque, makes the arteries narrow**.
  - CAD often **develops over many years**.
- **Symptoms:**
  - Symptoms are **from the lack of blood flow** to the heart.
  - They may include **chest pain and shortness of breath**.
  - A **complete blockage of blood flow can cause a heart attack**.
  - **Common heart attack symptoms include:**
    - **Chest pain** that may feel like pressure, tightness, squeezing or aching.
    - **Pain or discomfort** that spreads to the shoulder, arm, back, neck, jaw, teeth or sometimes the upper belly.
    - **Cold sweats**.
    - **Fatigue**.
    - **Shortness of breath**.
    - **Lightheadedness or sudden dizziness**.
  - **Treatment:**
    - Treatment for CAD may include **medicines and surgery**.
    - **Eating a nutritious diet, getting regular exercise and not smoking can help prevent CAD and the conditions that can cause it**.



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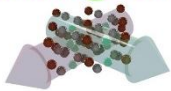


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## Current Affairs - 11 November 2025

### WHAT IS ALTERMAGNETISM?

#### Altermagnetism



- Magnetism has long been categorised into two primary types: ferromagnetism and antiferromagnetism.
- **Ferromagnetism** is responsible for the behaviour of materials like iron and nickel, where all magnetic moments align in the same direction, producing strong magnetisation – such as the force that makes fridge magnets stick.
- **Antiferromagnetism** occurs when magnetic moments align in a regular pattern but point in opposite directions, cancelling each other out and resulting in no external magnetic field.

#### About Altermagnetism:

- Altermagnetism is a type of magnetism where **magnetic moments** (tiny magnetic fields created by electrons) **align in opposite directions but follow a distinct rotated pattern**.
- This **unique arrangement** creates properties that **combine key elements of both ferromagnets and antiferromagnets**.
- **Like antiferromagnets, altermagnets have magnetic moments that align in opposite directions, cancelling out any overall magnetisation.**
- However, **like ferromagnets, altermagnets still allow spin-polarised currents**. In ferromagnets, spin-polarised currents can only occur because all electron spins or moments align in one direction (producing a magnetic field).
- **The key distinction in altermagnets is that the larger, crystal-like structures holding these magnetic moments are rotated relative to each other.**
- **It is the rotation of these larger structures that allows for spin-polarised currents to still occur in altermagnets.**
- This makes **altermagnets** potentially valuable for a **variety of applications, particularly in electronics and data storage.**
- They **eliminate the possibility of stray magnetic fields while still allowing for a spin-polarised current** – a highly useful combination for modern electronics.



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### WHAT IS CORNEA?

- The cornea is the **clear outer layer at the front of the eye.**
- It covers the **pupil** (the opening at the center of the eye), **iris** (the colored part of the eye), and **anterior chamber** (the fluid-filled inside of the eye).
- Viewed from the front of the eye, the cornea **appears slightly wider than it is tall.** This is because the **sclera** (the "white" of the eye) slightly overlaps the top and bottom of the anterior cornea.
- The cornea's **main function is to refract, or bend light.** The cornea is **responsible for focusing most of the light that enters the eye.**
- The **curvature of the cornea**, which is spherical in infancy but **changes with age**, gives it its focusing power.
- The cornea **provides approximately 65 to 75 percent of the focusing power** of the eye.
  - The **remainder** of the focusing power of the eye is **provided by the crystalline lens**, located directly **behind the pupil.**
- Cornea's specific shape plays a key role in how your eyesight works and filters some ultraviolet (UV) rays.
- **Except at its margins**, the cornea contains **no blood vessels**, but it does contain many nerves and is **very sensitive** to pain or touch.
- Since there are no nutrient-supplying blood vessels in the cornea, **tears and the aqueous humor** (a watery fluid) in the anterior chamber **provide the cornea with nutrients.**
- **Most refractive errors** — **nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism** — are due to a **less-than-optimal curvature or symmetry of the cornea.**
- The cornea is **incredibly sensitive**, helping you instinctively and immediately **react to stop anything from harming your eyes further.**
- Because corneas are the first line of defense for the surface of your eye, they're also **prone to injuries and damage.**
- The cornea **tends to repair itself quickly** from minor abrasions.



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### WHAT IS AN IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE (IED)?



- An IED is a type of **unconventional explosive weapon** that can take any form and be activated in a variety of ways.
- IEDs are **used by criminals, vandals, terrorists, suicide bombers, and insurgents.**
- Because they are improvised, IEDs can **come in many forms**, ranging from a small pipe bomb to a sophisticated device **capable of causing massive damage and loss of life.**
- The **extent of damage** caused by an IED **depends on its size, construction, and placement** and whether it incorporates a high explosive or propellant.
- IEDs can be carried or **delivered in a vehicle; carried, placed, or thrown by a person; delivered in a package; or concealed on the roadside.**
- The **term IED came into common usage during the Iraq War** that began in 2003.
- IEDs are **inexpensive** and can be **easily manufactured**, concealed and detonated.
- Further, IEDs can be **manufactured by using commonly available material or chemicals.**
- **Elements of an IED:**
  - It consists of a variety of components that include an **initiator, switch, main charge, power source, and container.**
  - IEDs may be surrounded by or **packed with additional materials** or “**enhancements**” such as **nails, glass, or metal fragments** designed to increase the amount of shrapnel propelled by the explosion.
  - An IED can be initiated by a variety of methods depending on the intended target.
- **Materials Used as Explosives in IEDs:**
  - Many commonly available materials, such as **fertilizer, gunpowder, and hydrogen peroxide**, are used as explosive materials in IEDs.



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### NEW FUND TO PROTECT WORLD'S TROPICAL FORESTS

At the COP30 climate summit in Belém, Brazil unveiled the **Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)** — a new **\$125 billion fund** to reward developing countries for **conserving tropical forests**.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva called it an “**unprecedented initiative**”, emphasising that it gives **Global South nations a leading role** in forest conservation efforts.

While the TFFF is expected to reshape global environmental policy, experts remain uncertain about its implementation mechanisms and how funds will be distributed and managed in practice.

#### **Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF): A Global Investment for Conservation**

- TFFF is a self-sustaining investment fund aimed at rewarding up to 74 developing countries for preserving old-growth tropical forests.
- The fund seeks to raise \$125 billion — including \$25 billion from governments and philanthropists and \$100 billion in private investments.
- The money will be invested in public and corporate bonds, with the annual returns distributed as payments to forest nations based on satellite-tracked canopy data.
- Initial contributions include \$1 billion each from Brazil and Indonesia, \$250 million from Colombia, \$3 billion over a decade from Norway, \$5 million from the Netherlands, and €1 million from Portugal.

#### **TFFF Aims to Make Forest Conservation More Valuable**

- TFFF was launched to reverse the economic incentives driving deforestation.
- By rewarding countries and landowners for keeping forests intact, the fund seeks to make conservation financially competitive with deforestation-based activities like soy and timber production.
- The TFFF marks a turning point in tropical forest protection, as it creates a global, permanent incentive mechanism recognising the true value of forest ecosystem services, including carbon storage and climate regulation.



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### BOOKER PRIZE



Recently, David Szalay won the 2025 Booker Prize for his novel 'Flesh' becoming the first Hungarian-British author to win one of top awards in the English-speaking world.

- It is the world's leading literary award for a **single work of fiction**.
- It was **founded in the UK in 1969**, the Booker Prize initially rewarded Commonwealth writers and now spans the globe: it is **open to anyone regardless of origin**.
- It aims to promote the **finest in fiction** by rewarding the best novel of the year written in English.
- **Eligibility for Booker Prize**
  - The Booker Prize awards any **novel originally written in English** and **published in the UK and Ireland** in the year of the prize, regardless of the nationality of their author.
  - The novel must be an **original work in English** (not a translation)
  - It must be published by a registered UK or Irish imprint; self-published novels are not eligible.
  - The **winner receives £50,000** and each of the shortlisted authors will be given **£2,500**.

### **Booker Prize Laureates from India and Indian-origin writers**

- **VS Naipaul** for Free State
  - **Salman Rushdie** for Midnight's Children
  - **Arundhati Roy** for The God of Small Things
  - **Kiran Desai** for The Inheritance of Loss (2006),
  - **Aravind Adiga** for The White Tiger (2008).
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