PSIR & GS 1,2,3 & 4

Daily Brief

Issue 184 · 24 November 2026

Five readings from the day's newspapers, journals and think tanks, read in full and marked up: context, facts, the author's argument and the UPSC questions.



Amit Pratap Singh
PSIR Optional · ForumIAS

1

The Indian EXPRESS
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

Yogendra Yadav writes | On delimitation, Opposition must now prepare to respond to BJP's Plan B

2

THE HINDU

The Bilkis Bano order — justice deferred again

3

The Indian EXPRESS
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

What COP31 collapse means for India – and the future of climate change policy

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THE | DIPLOMAT
READ THE DIPLOMAT, KNOW THE ASIA-PACIFIC

Why is Tarique Rahman Blaming India For His Domestic Troubles?

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

It's Time to Settle With Russia

What America Should Give to Make Peace in Ukraine

ON YOUTUBE TODAY
POLITICS & GEOPOLITICS
CLASSROOM



← the sources we sweep every morning

1 **Delimitation's Plan B** *The Indian Express*

2 **Bilkis Bano: justice deferred again** *The Hindu*

3 **What COP31's collapse means for India** *The Indian Express*

4 **Why Rahman blames India** *The Diplomat* ▶ video today

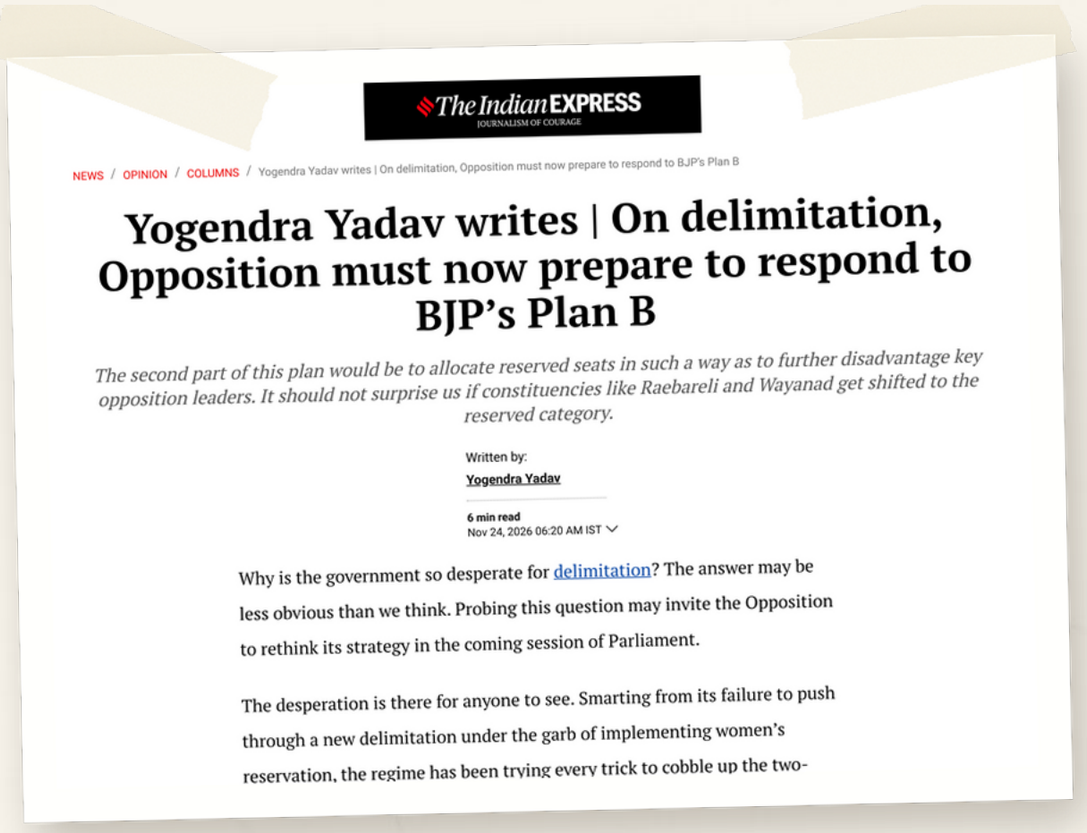
5 **Time to settle with Russia** *Foreign Affairs*

Article (1) of 5

Delimitation's Plan B

The Indian Express · *Yogendra Yadav*
24 November 2026

PSIR Paper I, Part B
Federalism; Salient Features of the Indian Constitution
GS Paper II


The Indian EXPRESS
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

NEWS / OPINION / COLUMNS / Yogendra Yadav writes | On delimitation, Opposition must now prepare to respond to BJP's Plan B

Yogendra Yadav writes | On delimitation, Opposition must now prepare to respond to BJP's Plan B

The second part of this plan would be to allocate reserved seats in such a way as to further disadvantage key opposition leaders. It should not surprise us if constituencies like Raebareli and Wayanad get shifted to the reserved category.

Written by:
Yogendra Yadav

6 min read
Nov 24, 2026 06:20 AM IST

Why is the government so desperate for delimitation? The answer may be less obvious than we think. Probing this question may invite the Opposition to rethink its strategy in the coming session of Parliament.

The desperation is there for anyone to see. Smarting from its failure to push through a new delimitation under the garb of implementing women's reservation, the regime has been trying every trick to cobble up the two-

Context

Delimitation redraws electoral constituencies and, after a census, can reallocate Lok Sabha seats among states. The current freeze on that reallocation ends once Census 2027 figures are published, and the government's attempt in April 2026 to change the seat formula by constitutional amendment failed. Yogendra Yadav, a member of Swaraj India, argues that the government is now turning to a 'Plan B': keep each state's share of seats, but redraw every constituency and reassign reserved seats through an ordinary Delimitation Act before the 2029 election.

Fact

1. **131st Constitution Amendment Bill (tabled April 2026):** Proposed raising the Lok Sabha's strength to about 850 seats; it failed to pass.

Article (1) of 5

Delimitation's Plan B

Analytical crux

So far, our delimitation debate has focused on the reapportioning of seats for different states in the Lok Sabha. But delimitation includes two other components as well: redrawing constituency boundaries and reassigning reserved constituencies. Plan B would preserve the share of each state but allow a fresh drawing of the entire electoral map, and the government does not need a constitutional amendment to go for a fresh delimitation.

Worth quoting

> *"In future, the government would be able to change the regional balance in the Lok Sabha through an ordinary law."*
>
> — Yogendra Yadav

Asked in UPSC

PSIR Paper I, 2025: The decision to conduct Population Census-2027 has reopened the debate on delimitation in India. Discuss its various aspects.

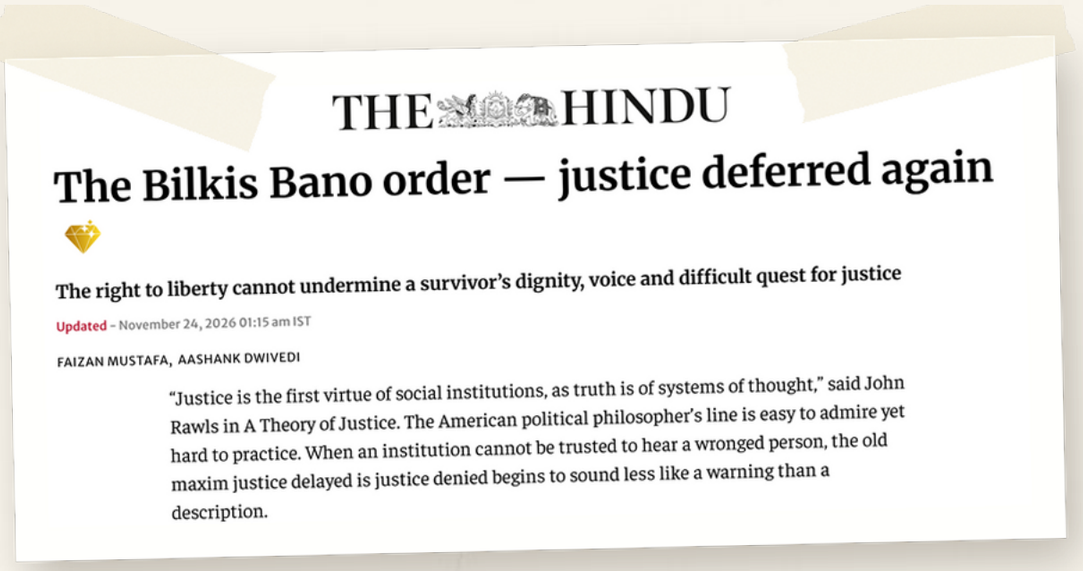
— APS

Article (2) of 5

Bilkis Bano: justice deferred again

The Hindu · *Faizan Mustafa and Aashank Dwivedi*
24 November 2026

PSIR Paper I, Part B
Salient Features of the Indian Constitution; Principal Organs of the Union Government
GS Paper II



THE HINDU

The Bilkis Bano order — justice deferred again

The right to liberty cannot undermine a survivor's dignity, voice and difficult quest for justice

Updated – November 24, 2026 01:15 am IST

FAIZAN MUSTAFA, AASHANK DWIVEDI

"Justice is the first virtue of social institutions, as truth is of systems of thought," said John Rawls in A Theory of Justice. The American political philosopher's line is easy to admire yet hard to practice. When an institution cannot be trusted to hear a wronged person, the old maxim justice delayed is justice denied begins to sound less like a warning than a description.

Context

On 28 October 2026 a Supreme Court Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Prasanna B. Varale suspended the life sentences of two of the 11 men convicted of the 2002 gang-rape of Bilkis Bano and the murder of her family members, granting them bail pending appeal because they had spent over 17 years in jail. Ms. Bano says she was neither informed nor heard. Faizan Mustafa and Aashank Dwivedi argue that the Court weighed the convicts' liberty but forgot the survivor's dignity and her right to be heard.

Facts

1. **Jagjeet Singh v. Ashish Mishra (2022):** The Supreme Court held that a victim has a right to be heard at every stage of criminal proceedings, bail included.
2. **Section 389, CrPC (now Section 430, BNSS 2023):** An appellate court may suspend a sentence pending appeal; its proviso names the Public Prosecutor, not the victim.

Article (2) of 5

Bilkis Bano: justice deferred again

Analytical crux

Three constitutional ideas collide in this order: Article 21 protects the liberty of a convict, later extended to a reasonably prompt appeal; Article 21 also protects the dignity of the survivor; and Article 14 bars the state from treating one side of a case with more care than the other. Suspension of a life sentence for rape and murder in a case involving mass violence is not bail in a routine matter.

Worth quoting

> *"Seventeen years in custody is a long time. But so is 24 years, of waiting for finality."*
>
> — Faizan Mustafa and Aashank Dwivedi

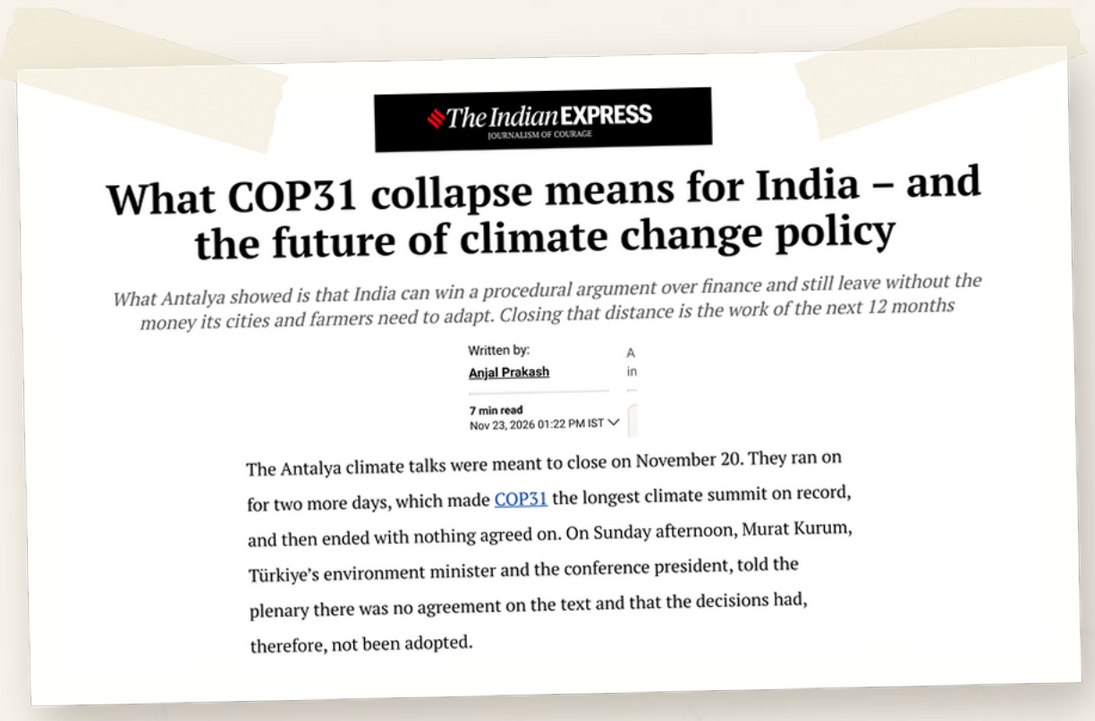
— APS

Article (3) of 5

What COP31's collapse means for India

The Indian Express · *Anjal Prakash*
23 November 2026

PSIR Paper II, Part A
Contemporary Global Concerns
GS Paper III; GS Paper II


The Indian EXPRESS
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

What COP31 collapse means for India – and the future of climate change policy

What Antalya showed is that India can win a procedural argument over finance and still leave without the money its cities and farmers need to adapt. Closing that distance is the work of the next 12 months

Written by: Anjal Prakash

7 min read
Nov 23, 2026 01:22 PM IST

The Antalya climate talks were meant to close on November 20. They ran on for two more days, which made COP31 the longest climate summit on record, and then ended with nothing agreed on. On Sunday afternoon, Murat Kurum, Türkiye's environment minister and the conference president, told the plenary there was no agreement on the text and that the decisions had, therefore, not been adopted.

Context

COP31, the UN climate conference at Antalya, Türkiye, ran two days past its 20 November close and ended on 22 November without a cover decision. The EU, the UK and small island states rejected a text silent on moving away from fossil fuels; the Arab Group and Russia had objected to any language naming energy sources. A proposed figure of 120 billion US dollars a year for adaptation finance was dropped. Anjal Prakash weighs what India gained and lost, and what it should carry to COP32 in Addis Ababa.

Facts

1. **UNEP Adaptation Gap Report:** Developing countries need about 305 billion US dollars a year for adaptation by 2035; international public adaptation finance was 28.2–31.7 billion US dollars in 2024.
2. **COP31's '35 by 35' goal:** Raise electricity's share of final energy use to 35% by 2035 from 23%. About 90 countries signed the Global Electrification Pledge; India did not.

Article (3) of 5

What COP31's collapse means for India

Analytical crux

India's most concrete gain was procedural: parties agreed to include the Climate Finance Work Programme as a standalone agenda item, which allows developing countries to ask about the predictability of resources. But the adaptation figure disappeared, and joining Saudi Arabia and Russia in opposing a sectoral goal risks marking India as part of a hindering bloc. India can win a procedural argument over finance and still leave without the money.

Worth quoting

> *"For a nation that spends every summer battling heat waves and every monsoon battling floods, the adaptation result is the biggest failure."*
>
> — Anjal Prakash

Asked in UPSC

PSIR Paper II, 2020: Examine the role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other major efforts by the UN to address the global environmental crisis.

PSIR Paper II, 2018: Would you agree that the on-going debates on international environmental politics continue to be marred by a new North-South ideological divide over historical responsibility and developmental model? Illustrate your answer with suitable examples.

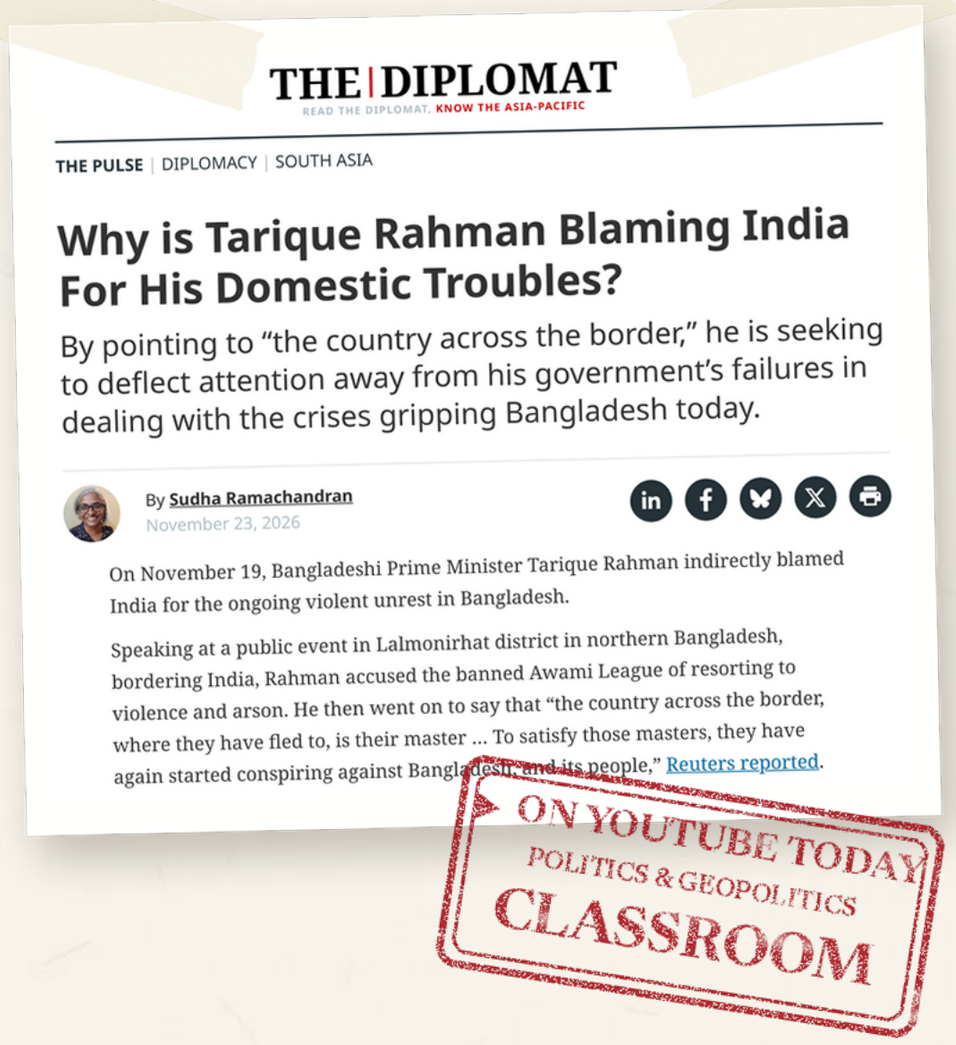
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Why Rahman blames India

The Diplomat · *Sudha Ramachandran*
23 November 2026

PSIR Paper II, Part B
India and South Asia
GS Paper II


THE | DIPLOMAT
READ THE DIPLOMAT, KNOW THE ASIA-PACIFIC

THE PULSE | DIPLOMACY | SOUTH ASIA

Why is Tarique Rahman Blaming India For His Domestic Troubles?

By pointing to "the country across the border," he is seeking to deflect attention away from his government's failures in dealing with the crises gripping Bangladesh today.

By Sudha Ramachandran
November 23, 2026

On November 19, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Tarique Rahman indirectly blamed India for the ongoing violent unrest in Bangladesh.

Speaking at a public event in Lalmonirhat district in northern Bangladesh, bordering India, Rahman accused the banned Awami League of resorting to violence and arson. He then went on to say that "the country across the border, where they have fled to, is their master ... To satisfy those masters, they have again started conspiring against Bangladesh and its people," Reuters reported.

Context

Tarique Rahman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party became Bangladesh's Prime Minister in February 2026. On 19 November, amid violence after Dhaka refused a passport to former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has lived in India since August 2024 and was sentenced to death in absentia, he blamed 'the country across the border' for Awami League conspiracies. Hasina has announced plans to return by December. Sudha Ramachandran explains why Dhaka–Delhi ties remain frayed nine months into Rahman's term.

Fact

1. Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal sentenced former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to death in absentia in November 2025 for crimes against humanity during the 2024 crackdown on protesting students.

Article (4) of 5

Why Rahman blames India

Analytical crux

Hasina puts India in a dilemma. Keeping her in India provides permanent fuel for anti-India sentiment; sending her back, where she would be jailed and possibly hanged, will send a message to India's friends that it is not a reliable ally. Hasina puts the Rahman government in a bind, as her return could galvanize the Awami League. Leaders have blamed a foreign hand; it's an old refuge to deflect attention from their own shortcomings.

Worth quoting

> *"The Rahman government has made Hasina the core factor determining its relations with New Delhi."*
>
> — Smruti Pattanaik

Asked in UPSC

PSIR Paper II, 2025: China's growing footprint and a tangible shift in power dynamics in Bangladesh has weakened India's leverage in Dhaka. Comment.

— APS

Article (5) of 5

Time to settle with Russia

Foreign Affairs · *Michael C. Desch*
23 November 2026

PSIR Paper II, Part A
Approaches to the Study of International Relations; Key concepts in International Relations
GS Paper II



FOREIGN AFFAIRS

It's Time to Settle With Russia

What America Should Give to Make Peace in Ukraine

MICHAEL C. DESCH

November 23, 2026

In October, U.S. President Donald Trump sold his eleventh-hour deal to secure diesel from Russian President Vladimir Putin—pausing sanctions that his own administration had imposed—as a boon for the negotiations to end the war in Ukraine. The arrangement, he wrote on Truth Social, was intended to keep Russia at "the bargaining table." Of course, it was always obvious to observers that the gambit had as much or more to do with bolstering the U.S. economy and stemming a massive victory for the Democrats in this month's midterm elections, and in that, it failed.

Context

Russia's war in Ukraine is in its fifth year. US-led talks continue, Washington has eased some sanctions on Russian diesel, and European governments fear a deal on Moscow's terms. Michael C. Desch, a realist scholar of international relations at the University of Notre Dame, argues that the West's policy of pressure alone has failed, and that the United States should now offer concessions: encourage Ukraine to give up territory, freeze NATO's expansion and offer Russia sanctions relief.

Fact

1. **EU sanctions on Russia (Kaja Kallas, EU foreign policy chief):** More than 25,000 sanctions imposed after the 2022 invasion had cost Russia's economy almost 1.5 trillion US dollars by June 2026.

Article (5) of 5

Time to settle with Russia

Analytical crux

Ukraine and its backers have long maintained that Russia only responds to sticks, but since 2014 Moscow has been subjected to nothing but sticks, and these coercive measures have proved insufficient. The Kremlin's war aims are narrower than many analysts allege: NATO expansion has long been Putin's idée fixe. Negotiations will not progress by targeting Russia exclusively with sticks. A more enduring peace is desperately needed in Ukraine, however unfair the price may seem.

Worth quoting

"But tactical wins do not necessarily add up to strategic victory."

— Michael C. Desch

Asked in UPSC

PSIR Paper II, 2024: The expansionist tendencies of the current Russian regime indicate its intentions for the realisation of a Greater Russia on the lines of the Soviet era. Comment.

PSIR Paper II, 2014: "Ukraine crisis is a product of power politics and geo-politics." Comment.

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