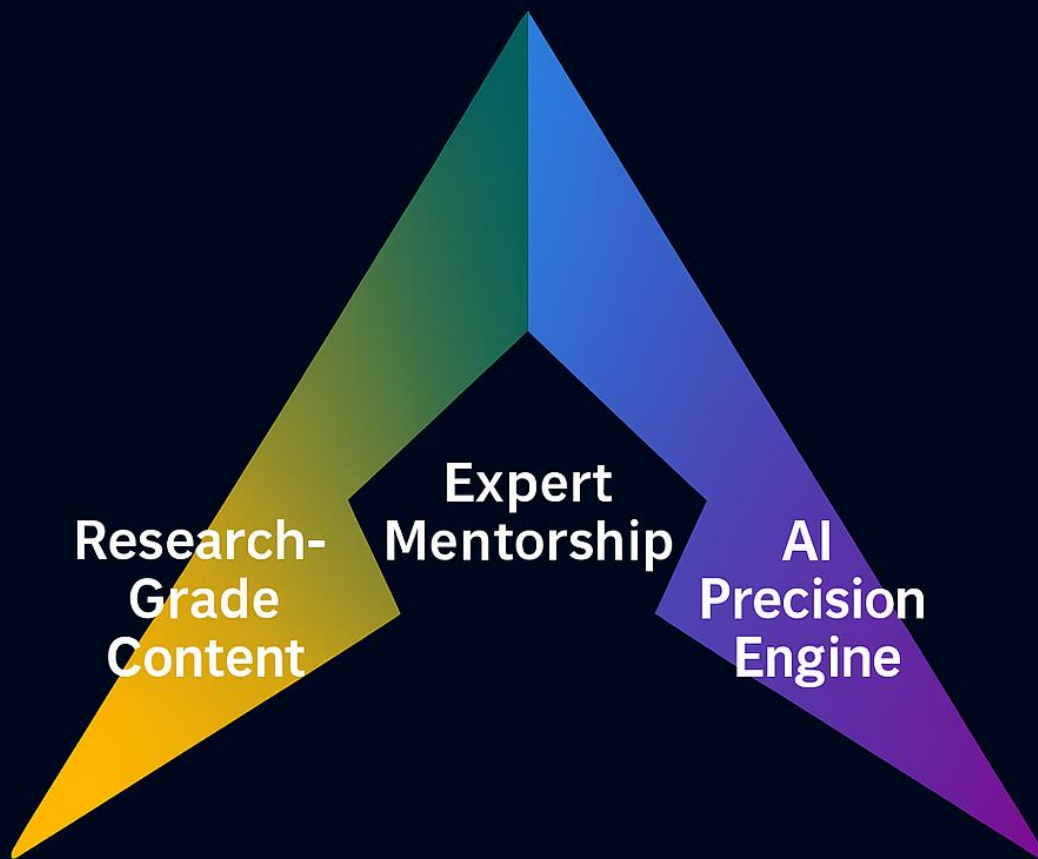


# PrepAlpine

**The Next-Generation UPSC Institution**

Where Research Meets Mentorship & Precision



**Preparation Meets Precision**

A Next-Generation Learning Institution

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## **PrepAlpine — Where Research-Grade Content Meets Mentorship, and AI Makes It Personal**

PrepAlpine is India's next-generation UPSC institution — built by educationists, retired bureaucrats, IITians, and experienced educators, and powered by a 500+-member technology firm specialising in AI-driven education infrastructure.

We're not another coaching platform — we're a complete preparation ecosystem that unites:

- **Research-Grade Content:**

Every content is crafted and reviewed by civil servants, educators, and scholars, and follows UPSC's Intro–Body–Conclusion format. Content is built from official reports, verified data, and visual pedagogy — flowcharts, frameworks, maps, and comparative tables.

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We're reimagining UPSC preparation as a research-led, mentor-guided, AI-personalised journey that adapts to every aspirant.

PrepAlpine — From Aspirant to Authority. Lead the State, Not the Struggle.

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED 13.11.2025

## GS Paper II: International Relations

### 1. The Trump–Xi G2 Moment and India’s Strategic Imperative

#### a. Introduction

The meeting between the Presidents of the United States and China at the APEC Summit created a rare moment of calm in their usually competitive relationship. This brief phase, described as a G2 moment, suggested that the world’s two largest powers might temporarily steer global affairs through mutual understanding. For India, this development is a strategic reminder that global alignments shift rapidly and that no great power’s opposition to China can be assumed to be permanent.

India’s foreign policy thinking has often rested on the belief that the United States would consistently rely on India as a counterweight to China. The G2 moment challenges this assumption and compels India to reflect on its own vulnerabilities and the need to build independent strategic leverage.

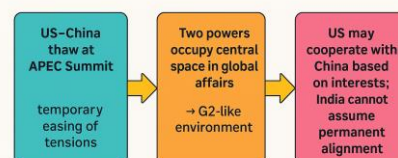
#### b. Understanding the G2 Moment

A G2 moment refers to a phase in which the United States and China appear to occupy central space in shaping global affairs. The APEC meeting hinted at such a possibility by signalling a temporary easing of tensions.

For India, the core message is clear: the United States may choose cooperation with China whenever it suits American interests. This does not indicate a distancing from India, but it does weaken the belief that India’s strategic relevance automatically guarantees Washington’s support.

In essence, India cannot base its China strategy on the expectation of consistent, unconditional backing from the United States.

#### What is a G2 Moment?



#### c. Why the G2 Moment Matters for India

##### i. India’s Economic Dependence on China

India’s dependence on China spans pharmaceutical ingredients, electronics, solar modules, telecom equipment, and several critical minerals. This dependence gives Beijing economic leverage that is difficult to offset in the short term.

##### ii. India’s Strategic Dependence on the United States

India relies on the United States for advanced defence platforms, critical technologies, investment flows, and market access. If Washington recalibrates its China policy, India’s influence over American decisions remains limited. This weakens the assumption that India’s geopolitical utility guarantees unwavering support.

##### iii. India’s Limited Economic Leverage

China wields immense bargaining power through its manufacturing scale, supply chain dominance, and rare earth monopoly. India does not yet command similar economic weight. Without strong economic leverage, strategic autonomy remains incomplete.

#### d. What the Situation Really Reveals

The fundamental insight is that nations act based on interests, not sentiment or ideological proximity. If cooperation with China serves American objectives at a particular moment, Washington will pursue

it regardless of India's preferences. The lesson is simple yet profound: India must strengthen itself rather than rely on another nation's rivalry with China to secure its strategic goals.

## **e. What India Must Do**

### **i. Reduce Dependence on China**

India must diversify supply chains, expand domestic manufacturing, and build capabilities in semiconductors, electronics, pharmaceutical inputs, and green technologies. Economic resilience is the foundation of strategic autonomy.

### **ii. Avoid Over-Dependence on the United States**

India's foreign policy must continue to follow multi-alignment. This involves strengthening ties with the United States while simultaneously deepening relations with Europe, the Gulf, Africa, Southeast Asia, Japan, Australia, and—where possible—engaging China with prudence. Strategic options must be widened, not narrowed.

### **iii. Accelerate High-Technology Capabilities**

Future power will rest on advances in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductor fabrication, next-generation telecommunications, cybersecurity, and defence manufacturing. These areas provide long-term leverage and reduce vulnerability.

### **iv. Strengthen the Domestic Economic Base**

A competitive domestic economy requires predictable regulations, efficient logistics, stable taxation, and strong encouragement of private innovation. Such reforms help India scale up manufacturing, and scale translates into bargaining power.

### **v. Manage Competition with China Carefully**

India must maintain firm military vigilance along the border while keeping diplomatic channels functional. A strategy of managed competition reduces the risk of escalation. Multilateral platforms like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation provide useful spaces for structured engagement.

## **Conclusion**

India cannot rely on the United States to offset China's rise. Instead, it must build economic strength, technological depth, and diplomatic flexibility to emerge as an autonomous and influential actor. Power in the modern world flows from domestic capability, not external expectations. The G2 moment is not a threat but a timely reminder that India's strategic future depends primarily on the strength it chooses to build for itself.

## **GS Paper III: Economics**

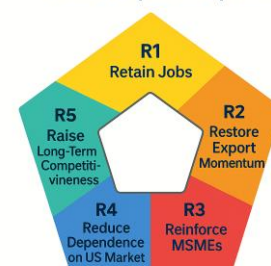
## **2. Export Promotion Mission and India's Response to the United States Tariff Shock**

### **a. Introduction**

India's external sector has faced a sharp setback after the United States imposed steep tariffs of about fifty percent on several Indian products. These duties significantly eroded the competitiveness of exports in engineering goods, textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, and marine products. Since many of these industries rely heavily on the United States market, the tariff shock immediately threatened export orders, cash flows and employment, especially in labour-intensive clusters.

In response, the Government announced two major interventions: a six-year Export Promotion Mission with an outlay of over twenty-five thousand crore rupees, and a collateral-free credit initiative worth twenty thousand crore rupees aimed particularly at small and medium exporters. Together, these measures attempt to stabilise vulnerable sectors while building durable long-term capacity.

**The 5R Framework of India's Export Response**



## **b. Why the Tariff Shock Matters for India**

The United States is India's single largest export destination. Many labour-intensive sectors depend on steady American demand to maintain production, wages and investment. When tariffs rise sharply, buyers naturally shift towards lower-cost competitors such as Vietnam, Bangladesh or Mexico. This shift can be rapid, leaving Indian firms with unsold inventories and inadequate revenue.

The tariff shock thus exposed the risks of depending too heavily on one major market. It also underscored the need for both immediate relief to affected industries and structural reforms that strengthen resilience against future global disruptions.

## **c. The Export Promotion Mission: Main Focus Areas**

### **i. Building Long-Term Competitiveness**

The mission aims to upgrade technological capabilities, improve product quality and modernise logistics. By aligning Indian industry with global standards, it seeks to ensure that exporters remain competitive even during periods of international uncertainty.

### **ii. Supporting Vulnerable Sectors**

Sectors most affected by the tariff hike, such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering goods and marine products, receive targeted support. These industries employ millions of workers, including large numbers of women, and stabilising them helps protect livelihoods.

### **iii. Diversifying Export Markets**

Reducing dependence on the United States is central to the mission. India aims to deepen its presence in the Gulf, Africa, Southeast Asia, Latin America and Europe. As trade negotiations with Europe advance, these markets could provide substantial new opportunities.

### **iv. Lowering the Cost of Export Credit**

Indian exporters often borrow at higher interest rates than global competitors. The mission seeks to ease credit costs so that Indian products can be priced more competitively. Affordable finance is especially crucial for MSME exporters.

## **d. The Collateral-Free Credit Initiative and Its Significance**

The separate twenty-thousand-crore-rupee credit window caters to small and medium exporters who are most vulnerable to external shocks. Many of them deal with high input prices, delayed payments and sudden cancellations of orders. Collateral-free credit provides essential working capital, prevents layoffs and helps firms meet delivery commitments even when demand is uncertain. For numerous MSMEs, this support acts as a financial lifeline that keeps them connected to global value chains.

## **e. Why These Measures Matter**

### **i. Safeguarding Employment**

Labour-intensive sectors depend heavily on exports, and even small disruptions can lead to large job losses. The mission helps stabilise employment for millions of workers.

#### **ii. Sustaining Export Momentum**

At a time of global demand slowdown and trade tensions, the measures help prevent a sharp decline in India's export performance.

#### **iii. Strengthening the MSME Ecosystem**

MSMEs contribute significantly to India's exports but often struggle with technology and credit. Government support cushions them during periods of uncertainty.

#### **iv. Reducing Overdependence on a Single Market**

Diversification reduces vulnerability to policy changes in any one country and creates a more balanced export profile.

#### **v. Enhancing Long-Term Competitiveness**

By addressing structural constraints such as high credit costs and limited technological capability, the mission lays the foundation for sustained growth.

### **f. Persistent Challenges**

India still struggles with high logistics costs, slow customs processes and dependence on imported inputs in many sectors. The country has limited free trade agreements with major markets, and its export basket remains concentrated in a few product categories. These issues will require deeper reforms in trade facilitation, industrial policy and global market access.

### **Conclusion**

The Export Promotion Mission and the collateral-free credit initiative represent India's effort to stabilise its export economy after the United States tariff shock. They aim to protect employment, strengthen the MSME sector and build long-term competitiveness. The broader lesson is that India must diversify export markets, strengthen domestic capabilities and create a resilient export ecosystem that can withstand future disruptions in global trade.

## **GS Paper III: Economics**

### **3. Japan's Strategy to Counter China's Rare Earth Dominance – Lessons for India**

#### **a. Introduction**

Rare earth elements are central to the functioning of the modern economy. They power electric vehicles, wind turbines, advanced electronics, radar systems, precision-guided missiles and a wide spectrum of industrial machinery. China dominates this sector, carrying out most of the world's mining and almost all refining and processing. Such concentration gives China significant strategic leverage because it can restrict supplies to countries that depend heavily on these minerals.

Japan experienced this vulnerability firsthand in 2010 when China briefly halted rare earth exports after a diplomatic confrontation. At the time, Japan relied almost entirely on China for these minerals. The crisis compelled Japan to rethink its approach, diversify sources and build long-term mineral security. Over the next decade, Japan successfully reduced its dependence to less than half, becoming the strongest global example of how to counter a concentrated and potentially coercive supply chain.

## **b. Japan's Strategic Response**

Japan adopted a layered, long-term approach combining diversification, innovation and coordinated institutional action. Each component strengthened resilience and reduced the likelihood of future supply disruptions.

### **i. Diversifying Sources of Supply**

Japan secured new suppliers in Australia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Africa and India. It invested directly in overseas mining projects, most notably in Australia's Lynas Corporation, which became the world's largest rare earth producer outside China. This ensured a steady and geographically varied supply base.

### **ii. Building Strategic Stockpiles**

Recognising the strategic importance of rare earths, Japan created national reserves similar to its crude oil stockpiles. These reserves act as a cushion during crises, giving industries time to adjust and preventing immediate operational disruptions.

### **iii. Reducing Domestic Demand through Technology**

Japan encouraged industries to redesign motors, magnets and components to use fewer rare earth elements. Firms developed alternative magnet technologies and experimented with substitute materials. These innovations reduced demand without compromising industrial output.

### **iv. Recycling and Urban Mining**

Japan built efficient systems to recover rare earths from discarded electronics, industrial magnets and other forms of waste. By extracting valuable minerals from the domestic waste stream, Japan reduced the need for imports and strengthened a sustainable supply chain.

### **v. Strong Government-Industry Partnerships**

Institutions such as the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation worked closely with trading houses and automobile manufacturers to finance mines, expand processing capacity and coordinate long-term supply planning. This alignment ensured consistent investment and effective implementation.

### **vi. Commitment to Long-Term Planning**

Japan continued its diversification and innovation efforts even after the immediate crisis passed. This policy consistency allowed projects to mature and ensured that mineral security remained a national priority.

## **c. Why Japan's Experience Matters for India**

India's rare earth import dependence on China is substantial and is likely to increase with the rapid growth of renewable energy, defence manufacturing, electronics production and electric mobility. Without early and coordinated action, India may encounter vulnerabilities similar to Japan's earlier crisis. Japan's experience therefore offers a clear roadmap for building mineral resilience and reducing strategic risks.

## **d. Lessons for India**

### **i. Diversifying Suppliers**

India should cultivate long-term mineral partnerships with Australia, Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia. Direct investments in overseas mining projects, as Japan did, will provide stable access to critical materials.



## **ii. Developing Domestic Refining Capabilities**

Despite possessing modest rare earth reserves, India lacks processing and refining strength. Strengthening institutions such as Indian Rare Earths Limited, establishing mineral processing clusters and acquiring modern extraction technologies are essential steps.

## **iii. Creating Strategic Mineral Reserves**

Building national stockpiles of elements like neodymium, dysprosium, praseodymium and terbium will enhance resilience, especially for electric mobility and advanced defence applications.

## **iv. Promoting Recycling and Urban Mining**

Extracting rare earths from used batteries, motors and electronic waste can reduce dependence on imports while promoting sustainable industry. India must develop institutional mechanisms and technologies to scale these activities.

## **v. Investing in Rare-Earth-Free Technologies**

Research into alternative magnet designs, substitutes for heavy rare earths and new extraction methods such as bio-leaching can curb demand and build technological independence.

## **vi. Strengthening International Partnerships**

Collaborating with countries such as Japan, the United States, the European Union and Australia will help India access technology, share best practices and build more resilient global supply networks.

## **vii. Mapping Critical Mineral Risks**

A comprehensive assessment of all critical minerals—including lithium, cobalt, nickel and phosphorus—is essential. A national mineral security strategy will support India's long-term industrial and energy transitions.

## **Conclusion**

Japan's experience shows that dependence on China's rare earth industry is not inevitable. Through diversification, recycling, technological innovation and consistent long-term planning, Japan created a secure and resilient supply chain. India, which is now entering a phase of rapid industrial expansion, must adopt a similar approach to protect its economic and strategic future. Building mineral security today will determine India's technological strength and geopolitical autonomy in the decades ahead.

## **GS Paper III: Disaster Management**

### **4. India's High Vulnerability in the Climate Risk Index**

#### **a. Introduction**

India's position in the Climate Risk Index (CRI), prepared by Germanwatch, highlights the severe human and economic impacts of climate-linked disasters it faces. The index tracks long-term exposure to extreme events such as floods, cyclones, heatwaves, droughts and landslides. India consistently appears among the world's most vulnerable nations, reflecting both the scale of hazards and the structural stresses that magnify their impact.

#### **b. Understanding the Climate Risk Index**

The Climate Risk Index evaluates the effect of extreme weather on countries using two primary dimensions:

- Human impact, including deaths, injuries, displacement and affected population.
- Economic loss, covering damage to infrastructure, agriculture, property and livelihoods.

Because the CRI relies on multi-decadal data, it highlights structural vulnerabilities rather than short-lived events, helping governments understand where long-term climate resilience is inadequate.

### c. India's Position in the Index

Over the past thirty years, India has ranked ninth among the world's most climate-affected countries.

#### i. Scale of Events

1. India experienced more than 430 major extreme weather events.
2. These included floods, cyclones, heatwaves, droughts and landslides across multiple states.

#### ii. Human Losses

1. Approximately 80,000 people lost their lives.
2. High population density and rapid urban growth intensified these impacts.

#### iii. Economic Losses

1. Total losses are estimated at USD 170 billion.
2. Damage spans agriculture, transport networks, coastal infrastructure and housing.



### d. Why India Is So Vulnerable

#### i. Geographic Exposure

1. India faces nearly every major climate hazard—cyclones on the east coast, floods in major river basins, droughts in semi-arid regions, heatwaves across northern plains and landslides in the Himalayas.
2. The sheer diversity and frequency of hazards create a nationwide vulnerability challenge.

#### ii. Population in High-Risk Zones

1. Large populations reside in fragile coastal cities like Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.
2. Floodplains, drought-prone belts and Himalayan towns have seen rapid settlement, amplifying exposure.

#### iii. Dependence on Monsoon Agriculture

1. Nearly half of India's workforce relies on climate-sensitive agriculture.
2. Variability in monsoon rainfall directly affects food security, incomes and rural stability.

#### iv. Rapid and Unplanned Urbanisation

1. Poor drainage, shrinking wetlands and heat island effects undermine resilience.
2. Urban flooding and extreme heat episodes are now frequent, especially in large metropolitan centres.

### e. Major Disasters Shaping India's Ranking

#### i. High-Impact Cyclones

1. Gujarat Cyclone (1998), Odisha Super Cyclone (1999), Cyclone Hudhud (2014), Cyclone Amphan (2020).
2. These events caused large-scale casualties and heavy infrastructure losses.

#### ii. Devastating Floods

1. Uttarakhand floods (2013), Kerala floods (2018).
2. Increasingly intense rainfall events have made floods more destructive.

#### iii. Extreme Heatwaves

1. Temperatures nearing 50°C have occurred in several northern states.
2. Heatwaves now occur earlier, last longer and affect wider regions.

## **f. Implications of India's Ranking**

### **i. Progress and Remaining Gaps**

1. India has improved early warning systems, forecasting and disaster response mechanisms.
2. Casualty numbers from cyclones have declined dramatically in recent years.

### **ii. Persistent Vulnerabilities**

1. Economic losses continue to rise despite better preparedness.
2. Climate extremes are becoming more frequent and severe due to global warming.

### **iii. Development Pressures**

1. Infrastructure, agriculture, health systems and urban planning all face rising climate stress.
2. Long-term adaptation is now as important as immediate disaster response.

## **g. What India Needs to Do**

### **i. Build Climate-Resilient Infrastructure**

1. Roads, bridges, buildings and drainage must be designed to withstand extreme rainfall, floods and heat.
2. Coastal protection—mangrove restoration, beach nourishment, sea walls—is essential for vulnerable regions.

### **ii. Strengthen Early Warning and Community Preparedness**

1. Expand hyper-local weather forecasting and digital communication systems.
2. Train communities for evacuation, response and basic risk awareness.

### **iii. Promote Climate-Resilient Agriculture**

1. Use drought-tolerant seeds, micro-irrigation and crop diversification.
2. Strengthen crop insurance and weather-indexed coverage.

### **iv. Adopt Nature-Based Solutions**

1. Protect wetlands, rejuvenate river floodplains and restore mangroves.
2. These natural buffers reduce flood peaks, stabilise coastlines and regulate microclimates.

### **v. Expand Climate Finance and Institutional Capacity**

1. States need dedicated funds for adaptation and green infrastructure.
2. Climate-proofing urban missions and rural development schemes must become standard practice.

## **Conclusion**

India's ninth position in the Climate Risk Index reveals the depth of its exposure to climate extremes. While improvements in early warning and disaster response have reduced casualties, structural vulnerabilities remain high. A proactive shift towards adaptation, resilient infrastructure, nature-based solutions and climate-sensitive planning is essential for protecting both development gains and human well-being. Strengthening these foundations will enable India to navigate an era of intensifying climate risks with greater security and stability.

## Reader's Note — About This Current Affairs Compilation

Dear Aspirant,

This document is part of the PrepAlpine Current Affairs Series — designed to bring clarity, structure, and precision to your daily UPSC learning.

While every effort has been made to balance depth with brevity, please keep the following in mind:

### 1. Orientation & Purpose

This compilation is curated primarily from the UPSC Mains perspective — with emphasis on conceptual clarity, analytical depth, and interlinkages across GS papers.

However, the PrepAlpine team is simultaneously developing a dedicated Prelims-focused Current Affairs Series, designed for:

- factual coverage
- data recall
- Prelims-style MCQs
- objective pattern analysis

This Prelims Edition will be released separately as a standalone publication.

### 2. Content Length

Some sections may feel shorter or longer depending on topic relevance and news density. To fit your personal preference, you may freely resize or summarize sections using any LLM tool (ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, etc.) at your convenience.

### 3. Format Flexibility

The formatting combines:

- paragraphs
- lists
- tables
- visual cues

—all optimised for retention.

If you prefer a specific style (lists → paras, paras → tables, etc.), feel free to convert using any free LLM.

### 4. Monthly Current Affairs Release

The complete Monthly Current Affairs Module will be released soon, optimized to a compact 100–150 pages — comprehensive yet concise, exam-ready, and revision-efficient.

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“From Isolation to Interaction — Learn the UPSC Way, the Smart Way.”

## 6. Suggest Topics for Coverage

If you feel any important theme is missing or under-covered, simply post it in the “Suggestions” channel on our Discord server.

Our content team regularly reviews inputs and includes relevant suggestions in upcoming Monthly Current Affairs Modules.

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Together, these resources embody the PrepAlpine vision:

Better Content. Smarter Mentorship. Intelligent Preparation.

PrepAlpine