THE CAVALIER

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Week of 16 – 22 November 2026 · Current affairs for your SSB board

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THE WEEK

Five stories the board may ask about

1 DEFENCE · JAPAN

Japan's forces may soon fire live missiles on Indian soil

At the fourth **India–Japan 2+2** dialogue in Tokyo (19 Nov), the two sides welcomed a **Letter of Intent** for Japan's Self-Defense Forces to hold live-fire training in India for the first time, including **surface-to-ship missiles**. An LOI only records intent, so the firing itself has not happened. They also agreed on a working group for air-domain awareness and talks on mine countermeasures and naval shipbuilding. The next 2+2 will be in India.

WHY IT MATTERS

Training space is scarce, and hosting a partner's live firings means showing it your ranges, procedures and results. That is real trust between two Indo-Pacific democracies.

YOUR BALANCED VIEW

A strong sign of trust, and good for both navies. But an LOI is a first step, so judge it by what is actually signed and fired.

IO MAY ASK

Is India right to open its ranges to a foreign force, or does that cost some strategic autonomy?

Source: Cavalier daily, 19 Nov (PIB, MoD)

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2 DEFENCE · NAVY

₹1,976 crore to keep the Navy's ship-defence missiles current

On 18 Nov the Defence Ministry signed a **₹1,976.40 cr** contract with **Israel Aerospace Industries** to upgrade the **Barak** point defence missile system on Navy ships. It covers a full hardware and software upgrade plus **obsolescence management**, meaning replacing parts that are no longer made. A point defence missile is a ship's last-ditch shield against incoming missiles and aircraft. The Ministry has not named the ships.

WHY IT MATTERS

A warship is only as safe as its last layer of defence. Old electronics become unsupportable long before the hull wears out, so upgrades keep ships useful.

YOUR BALANCED VIEW

Upgrading is cheaper and faster than replacing every ship. Yet the long-term answer is home-grown systems, which keep spares and updates in our own hands.

IO MAY ASK

If we upgrade a foreign system, are we still dependent on its maker? How would you reduce that risk?

Source: Cavalier daily, 18 Nov (PIB, MoD)

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3 INTERNATIONAL · ASEAN

India offers ASEAN a long-term plan for the sea

At the 23rd **India–ASEAN Summit** in Manila (17 Nov), the PM proposed a long-term **ASEAN–India Maritime Cooperation Plan**, covering Coast Guard cooperation, maritime domain awareness, disaster management and seafarers' security. He also offered a joint cyber forensics training programme, a free e-visa for ASEAN tourists and a space hackathon. Leaders adopted a joint statement on **disaster management**. The same day he spoke at the 21st East Asia Summit.

WHY IT MATTERS

India and ASEAN share the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman Sea and the shipping lanes near Malacca. A common plan makes India a partner in the region's security, not a distant visitor.

YOUR BALANCED VIEW

Sensible, since India gains friends by offering practical help. But proposals only count once they turn into ships, training and funds.

IO MAY ASK

ASEAN members differ over how to deal with China. How can India be a partner to them without taking sides?

Source: Cavalier daily, 17 Nov (PIB)

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4 NATIONAL · CONSTITUTION

"Duties as important as rights": do we know our own?

Inaugurating Constitution Week on 20 Nov, Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan called the Constitution "the moral compass of our Republic" and said duties are as important as rights. **Article 51A** lists **eleven Fundamental Duties**, added by the **42nd Amendment, 1976**; the eleventh, on schooling for children aged 6–14, came in 2002. They are **non-justiciable**: no court can directly force anyone to perform them. Constitution Day is on 26 Nov.

WHY IT MATTERS

Duties include defending the country, protecting the environment and safeguarding public property. They are the citizen's side of the bargain, but no law enforces them directly.

YOUR BALANCED VIEW

Rights without duties turn into demands, and duties without rights turn into orders. A good citizen holds both, starting with small acts.

IO MAY ASK

Duty (d) says to "defend the country and render national service when called upon". What does that mean for you personally?

Source: Cavalier daily, 20 Nov (VP Secretariat)

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5 SPORT · GOVERNANCE

India's sport gets a regulator with a head

On 16 Nov Devesh Chaturvedi, a retired IAS officer, took charge as Chairperson of the **National Sports Board**, with Commodore (Retd) Pushpendra Kumar Garg as a Member. The Board is the apex authority to recognise **national sports bodies** and check their governance. It works under the **National Sports Governance Act, 2025**, passed in August 2025. The Act also sets up a **Sports Tribunal** to settle disputes quickly.

WHY IT MATTERS

Federations pick national teams and receive public money, yet long-serving office-bearers, disputed elections and court fights have dogged them. A statute replaces the old 2011 code.

YOUR BALANCED VIEW

Clean governance helps athletes most. But a regulator must be independent and fair, and should not become another layer of control.

IO MAY ASK

You captained a team. Would you want the government or the federation to decide who plays?

Source: Cavalier daily, 16 Nov (PIB, Sports)

QUICK-FIRE

Know these cold

INAS 312 at 50	18 Nov · Navy's long-range maritime reconnaissance turns 50 · INAS 312 'Albatross' commissioned 18 Nov 1976 at INS Hansa, Goa, with five Super Constellations from the IAF · P-8I flies today
INA Ezhimala parade	28 Nov · President to review the Autumn Term passing out parade · 400+ officer trainees, foreign trainees too · announced 21 Nov
Operation Monsoon Thunder	NCB with US DEA, announced 21 Nov · 6 arrested in 4 Indian cities · about 3,000 parcels, nearly 5 lakh tablets, shipped within the USA

Counter-terrorism conference	19 Nov, Delhi · Home Minister released an NIA publication, 'Fail-Safe Investigation' · his claim: 303 fugitives brought back from 36 countries since 2019
SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum	First edition, Purana Qila, Delhi · 20–22 Nov · PM to inaugurate · idea proposed by India at the SCO summit in Tianjin, 2025
India–Canada CEPA	Sixth round in New Delhi, 11–20 Nov · progress reported, but no chapter announced as closed
NDRF 12th Battalion	Campus opened in Itanagar, 22 Nov · will train State Disaster Response Forces of all eight North-East States
Defence Estates centenary	20 Nov · Lok Sabha Speaker gave the centenary lecture · the organisation looks after over 1.7 million acres of defence land

TALKING POINT

Partners, not just platforms. Japan may train on Indian ranges, India offers ASEAN a shared sea plan, and a ship-defence upgrade keeps old hulls safe. Meanwhile the week reminds us that national strength also rests on **duty** and **fair play** at home.

PRACTICE

Speak it

LECTURETTE OF THE WEEK

Act East Policy and India–ASEAN Ties

Why now: This week the PM attended the India–ASEAN Summit in Manila and proposed a maritime cooperation plan, while India and

Japan met in Tokyo for their 2+2 dialogue.

OPEN · 30S

"Nearly one in every four people on Earth lives in India or ASEAN." Today I will speak on India's Act East Policy and its ties with ASEAN.

POINT 1 · 40S

Why it matters. India and ASEAN together hold nearly a quarter of the world's population and share the sea lanes of the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. ASEAN became a dialogue partner in 1992, and the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership dates from 2022.

POINT 2 · 40S

What is on the table. At Manila the PM proposed a maritime cooperation plan, cyber forensics training, a free e-visa for tourists and more scholarships at Nalanda University. India says it backs ASEAN unity and centrality.

POINT 3 · 40S

What is needed. Delivery on promises, better connectivity and trade, and respect for the differing views of ASEAN members. Partners like Japan add weight through defence and maritime cooperation.

CLOSE · 30S

Act East is about neighbours who choose to walk together. Its test is how much of the plan reaches the people.

Use the numbers once: 1992, 2022 and one-fourth of humanity. Keep China out of your main line, and mention it only if asked. Practise aloud for 3 minutes.

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GROUP DISCUSSION OF THE WEEK

"A government-backed regulator is the best way to clean up Indian sports federations"

The **National Sports Board** got its Chairperson and a Member on 16 Nov under the **National Sports Governance Act, 2025**. Rules require every national sports body to have at least four outstanding sportspersons in its General Body, half of them women, and to amend its bye-laws within six months.

FOR

- Federations have faced long tenures, disputed elections and selection fights that reached courts.
- A statute is harder to ignore than the old 2011 code.
- Athletes get a place in decision-making and a tribunal to settle disputes quickly.
- Federations take public money, so public rules on accounts and ethics are fair.

AGAINST

- Government control can mean politics in selection and funding.
- The Olympic movement values the independence of sports bodies from government.
- A new regulator and tribunal add paperwork that small federations may struggle with.
- Real change needs honest and active athletes, not only rules.

HOW TO CONCLUDE

A regulator can set the rules, but sport improves only when athletes have a real voice. Independence of the Board and transparency are the key tests.

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Facts from PIB press releases of the week. Views are framed for discussion practice.