Highlights of 17 November 2026 Current Affairs

- British Prince William and Princess Kate visited India for a three-day trip, landing in Mumbai. Their visit was aimed at promoting the Earthshot Prize and attending its ceremony. Along with this, they also played street cricket with local people and attended fashion and cinema events.
    - Prince William is the son of King Charles III, who is the current monarch of the United Kingdom (UK) and 14 other sovereign nations, which are also known as Commonwealth realms.
    - The Earthshot Prize is an environmental award founded by Prince William in 2020. It is awarded to recognise and scale innovations aimed at repairing the planet Earth.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's largest underground cavern (a deep hole inside a cave beneath the ground) in Mangaluru on 13 November 2026. The cavern is now used to store about 80,000 metric tonnes of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). It was developed for Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) at a cost of Rs 850 crore by Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited.
    - India's first underground LPG cavern was developed in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. It has a storage capacity of 60,000 metric tonnes of LPG and is owned by South Asia LPG Company (SALPG).
- India, along with nine other countries, including the United States of America (USA), signed the San Francisco Declaration on 15 November 2026 on the secure foundations of enduring prosperity. The declaration is very important for promoting international cooperation in the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly in ensuring the security of supply chains for critical minerals and semiconductors.
    - The ten participating nations are India, the USA, Australia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Qatar, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom (UK). All ten countries have agreed to cooperate in protecting the technological and industrial requirements for AI development.
    - The San Francisco Declaration was signed at the Pax Silica Founders' Retreat in San Francisco by Jacob Helberg, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs.
- Vadnagar's Archaeological Experiential Museum (Anant Anadi Vadnagar Archaeological Experiential Museum), located in Vadnagar, Gujarat, has won the Red Dot: Best of the Best Award for 2026 in Germany under the Exhibition Design category. The award recognises the museum's presentation of India's archaeological heritage through storytelling, interactive exhibitions and design.
- Türkiye has recognised Pakistan's Basmati Rice and granted it Geographical Indication (GI) recognition, which is a setback for India, as both India and Pakistan produce and export Basmati Rice. Both countries seek intellectual property protection for the name Basmati Rice in the international market.
    - Basmati Rice is a premium-quality, aromatic and long-grain rice variety that is traditionally cultivated in both India and Pakistan.
    - Geographical Indication (GI) is a form of intellectual property protection used to identify a particular product or good as originating from a specific region, where its quality, reputation or other characteristics are associated with that region. Examples include Darjeeling Tea and Kanchipuram Silk Sarees.

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), a not-for-profit organisation owned by the Government of India, which operates the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in India, has introduced the UPI Vyapaar Saksham Scheme for small businesses in Tier III and Tier IV cities, especially in the northeastern states, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.
    - Under this scheme, acquiring banks will receive incentives of Rs 300 per physical QR code and Rs 750 per soundbox provided to small merchants whose annual turnover in the previous financial year was less than Rs 40 lakh.
- Jay Shah, the son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has been unanimously re-elected as the Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) unopposed for a second term. He was first elected as ICC Chairman on 1 December 2024, succeeding Greg Barclay.
    - His reappointment ensures continuity in leadership as cricket prepares to return to the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028. He was the youngest-ever Chairman of the ICC. Before becoming ICC Chairman, he served as the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).