Highlights of 18 November 2026 Current Affairs

- The Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026 began in Bengaluru with the theme 'AI & Beyond'. The summit is being organised by the Department of Electronics, IT and BT, Government of Karnataka, from 17 November to 19 November 2026, with the aim of making Karnataka a global technology and AI hub. More than 10,000 delegates, over 700 speakers, and 1,000 startups from India and more than 65 countries are participating in the summit.
- Belgian footballer Romelu Lukaku has announced his retirement from international football. With 94 goals in his international career, he ranks fifth on the all-time list of highest goal scorers in international football. He also represented Belgium in four FIFA World Cups.
- Russian tennis player Mirra Andreeva, currently ranked World No. 2, defeated Svitolina in the WTA Finals to claim her first major tournament title of the year.
- The Indian and Myanmar navies conducted the 8th edition of the IMNEX-26 exercise at Visakhapatnam, with the participation of Indian naval ships INS Rana and INS Sumedha, along with the Myanmar Navy ship UMS King Sin Phyu Shin. The exercise focused on professional interaction, joint seamanship, and naval exercises between the two countries.
    - Myanmar Capital- Naypyidaw
      Myanmar Currency- Myanmar Kyat
- According to the latest PLFS report published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India's Female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) increased by 35% in October 2026. Along with this, the overall unemployment rate also fell to 4.9% in October.
- According to the latest inflation data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation rate rose to 12.29% in October 2026, compared with 11.39% in the previous month of September.
- NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft, which was launched 49 years ago, has reached the landmark distance of one light-day, approximately 26 billion kilometres from Earth. A light-day is the distance that light travels in 24 hours. Voyager 1 is the first human-made object to travel this far from Earth.
- Former Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who led India to victory in the 2007 T20 World Cup and the 2011 ODI World Cup, and captained Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to five Indian Premier League (IPL) titles, has announced his retirement from the IPL. CSK has also retired his jersey number 7 as a mark of respect. He will now be associated with the team as a mentor, alongside bowling coach Zaheer Khan.
- Amazon, an e-commerce company, has announced plans to invest approximately $7 billion in renewable energy projects in India by 2030. This investment aims to meet the country's growing electricity demand and reduce the carbon intensity of the electricity used across its operations.
- The Indian Navy has achieved another milestone by completing 50 years of Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR) on 18 November 2026. Indian Naval Air Squadron 312 (INAS 312), known as 'The Albatross', was commissioned on 18 November 1976. This milestone follows the Indian Navy's decision to acquire aircraft capable of long-range maritime reconnaissance after the 1971 India-Pakistan War.

- GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City), located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, has been designated India's first MCR2030 (Making Cities Resilient 2030) Resilience Hub by the UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. This initiative aims to improve disaster preparedness, reduce urban risks, and ensure the continuity of critical services.
- The Cambridge Dictionary has named the word **'Human'** as its Word of the Year 2026. The selection reflects growing concerns about increasing dependence on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on human identity, creativity, thinking, and relationships.