DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 10-11-2025

GS-1

1. **150 Years Celebration of Vande Mataram**

GS-2

2. **Parliament Winter Session**

GS-3

3. **AI adoption accelerates, tech layoffs continue globally**
4. **Black-Headed Ibis**
5. **Delhi in 'red zone' as AQI at 335**

150 Years Celebration of Vande Mataram

Syllabus: GS-1; Modern Indian History

Context

- The **Prime Minister of India** inaugurated the **year-long commemoration of 150 years** of the National Song **"Vande Mataram"** in **New Delhi**.

About Vande Mataram

- **Author:** *Bankim Chandra Chatterjee*
- **Language:** Blend of **Sanskrit and Bengali**
- **First Featured:** In the novel *Anandamath* (1882)
- **Tune Composed By:** *Yadunath Bhattacharya*
- **Significance:** Became a **symbol of patriotism** during India's **freedom struggle**.

Historical Background

- **Composition:** Initially composed as an independent poem; later included in *Anandamath* (1882).
- **First Sung:** By *Rabindranath Tagore* at the **1896 Congress Session** in Calcutta.
- **Political Usage:** First used as a **slogan on 7 August 1905** (Anti-Partition movement).
- **1907 Stuttgart Conference:** *Madam Bhikaji Cama* unfurled the **first Indian tricolour** with the words *"Vande Mataram."*

- **Constitutional Recognition:** On **24 January 1950**, the **Constituent Assembly** adopted *Vande Mataram* as the **National Song** of India.

Constitutional Status

- **Equal Respect:** The *National Song* is accorded **equal status and reverence** to the *National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana)*.
- **Not Mandatory:** Singing *Vande Mataram* is **not mandatory** at official events.

Parliament Winter Session

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – Parliament.

Context:

- The **Winter Session of Parliament** will be held from **1st December to 19th December 2025**.
- The session was approved by the **President of India** on the recommendation of the government.

Significance

- The session is being held soon after the **Bihar Assembly elections**, making it politically significant.
- It provides a platform to debate **key national issues**, including electoral reforms, governance, and policy priorities.
- The government aims for a **constructive and meaningful session** to strengthen democratic functioning.

Likely Legislative Agenda

- Several important Bills are expected to be introduced or discussed:
    - Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025
    - Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025
    - Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- **Electoral reforms** and **voter list revisions** are expected to feature prominently, especially after allegations of voter fraud in certain states.

- **Economic and social policy measures** related to employment, welfare schemes, and Centre–State relations may also be discussed.

Challenges & Expectations

- The short duration may **limit the number of Bills** that can be taken up for discussion.
- Previous sessions have seen **frequent disruptions**, raising concerns about parliamentary productivity.
- The government will aim to ensure **smooth legislative business** and effective debate despite political tensions.
- The session will test the **coordination between the government and the opposition** ahead of upcoming state elections.

Broader Implications

- The session reflects the **functioning efficiency of Indian democracy** and parliamentary institutions.
- It provides insights into **executive-legislative relations** and the handling of contentious political issues.
- Discussions during this session will likely shape **legislative priorities for 2026**.
- The proceedings will also serve as a **barometer of political climate** post the Bihar elections.

Conclusion

- The **Winter Session (1–19 December 2025)** is expected to be compact yet politically charged.
- It offers an opportunity for the government to advance key legislative measures while balancing opposition concerns.
- For UPSC aspirants, it is essential to track the **Bills introduced, debates held, and productivity achieved** during the session to understand the evolving nature of **India's parliamentary democracy**.

Parliamentary Sessions – Overview

Constitutional Basis

- **Article 85 (1)** – The President summons each House of Parliament **from time to time**, ensuring that **no more than six months** elapse between two sessions.

- This ensures **at least two sessions per year** (though usually three are held).

Types of Sessions

1. Budget Session (Feb–May)

- **Most important session.**
- Divided into **two parts**:
  - **Part I**: President's Address, Motion of Thanks, and General Discussion on Budget.
  - **Part II**: Detailed discussion and voting on **Demand for Grants** and passing of **Finance Bill**.
- **Longest** session of the year.

2. Monsoon Session (July–September)

- Mainly for:
  - Discussion and passage of **legislations**.
  - Addressing pending **bills** and **policy debates**.
- Sometimes called the **"Legislative Session."**

3. Winter Session (November–December)

- Shortest and last session of the year.
- Focuses on **urgent legislative business** and **supplementary grants**.
- Often used for political and policy reviews.

Special Sessions

- The **President** can summon a special session at any time.
- Examples:
  - **1947** – Constituent Assembly met as Parliament after independence.
  - **1992** – Special session to commemorate 50 years of Quit India Movement.
  - **2017** – Special midnight session to launch GST.

Joint Sitting (Article 108)

- Convened by the **President** when there is a **deadlock** between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on a bill (except money and constitutional amendment bills).

- **Presided over by the Speaker of Lok Sabha.**

Adjournment vs Prorogation vs Dissolution

Term	Meaning
Adjournment	Temporary suspension of sitting; same session continues later.
Prorogation	End of a session by President; next session begins later.
Dissolution	Applies only to **Lok Sabha**; ends the House's term, requiring new elections.

Key Facts

- **Minimum sessions per year:** 2 (as per Article 85).
- **Typical number of sessions:** 3.
- **Who summons Parliament?** President (on Cabinet's advice).
- **Quorum:** 1/10th of total members.

AI adoption accelerates, tech layoffs continue globally

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – Employment.

Context:

Recently, online retail giant Amazon announced that it would reduce its global corporate workforce by about 14,000 people.

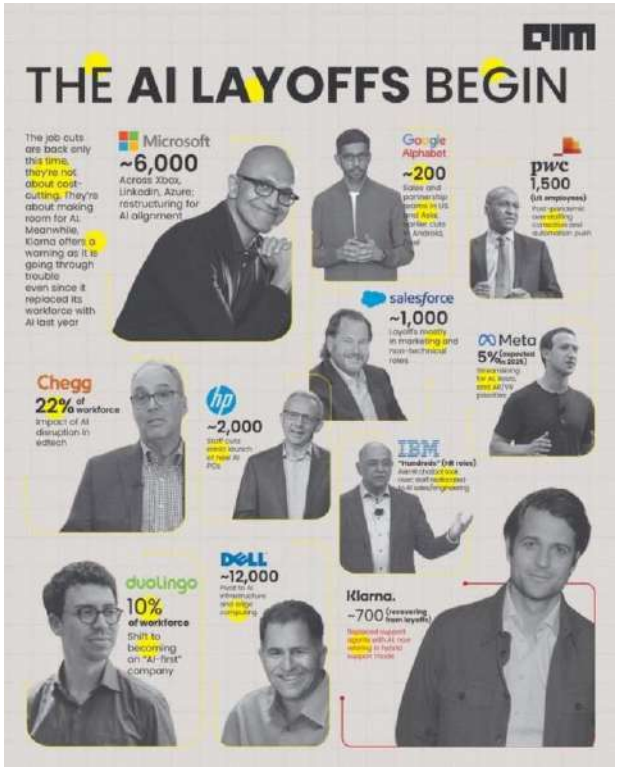
Introduction

- Global industries are witnessing accelerated **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** adoption.
- Simultaneously, major **tech layoffs** are continuing worldwide.
- This indicates a **structural transformation** in the nature of work and labour demand.

Key Trends & Data

- The global **outsourcing sector** (worth about **US $283 billion**) is undergoing massive disruption due to AI integration.
- Major firms such as **TCS** have announced layoffs of **over 12,000 employees** (~2 % of workforce) — signalling an AI-driven restructuring.

- By mid-2025, **over 61,000 tech jobs** were cut across 130+ companies globally.
- AI is driving **~20 % productivity gains** in certain operations.
- Workers with **AI-related skills** earn on average **56 % higher wages** than others.
- India's IT and outsourcing industry employs around **5.67 million people**, contributing over **7 % of GDP** — many of these roles face automation risk.



Drivers / Underlying Causes

- **Productivity and Cost Efficiency**
  - Firms adopt AI to **reduce workforce size** while maintaining or increasing output.
  - AI tools automate repetitive tasks and enhance speed and accuracy.
- **Skill Mismatch**
  - Many employees lack **AI-relevant skills** such as data analytics, machine learning, or prompt engineering.
  - Firms often justify layoffs by citing a **mismatch between existing and emerging skill sets**.
- **Technological Inflection Point**

- AI has shifted from a support tool to a **core business enabler**, influencing decision-making, design, and service delivery.

- **Shift in Industry Model**
  - The traditional **labour-intensive outsourcing model** is being replaced by a **technology-intensive, automation-driven model**.

Implications for India & Developing Economies

- **Vulnerability:** A significant share of the Indian workforce is in **routine IT roles** prone to automation.
- **Ripple Effects:** Job losses may affect consumption demand, real estate, and dependent service sectors.
- **Reskilling Imperative:** Workers must transition to **AI-complementary roles** in analysis, innovation, and oversight.
- **Policy Challenge:** The government must create frameworks for **re-employment, retraining, and labour flexibility**.

Challenges & Risks

- **Job Displacement:** Mid-career professionals in coding, testing, and support functions are at high risk.
- **Uncertain Job Creation:** While AI creates new roles, the **net employment impact** remains uncertain.
- **Widening Inequality:** AI-skilled workers benefit, while others face **wage stagnation or unemployment**.
- **Skill Transition Lag:** Education and corporate training may not keep pace with AI evolution.
- **Worker Morale:** Frequent layoffs can reduce **employee trust and organisational stability**.

Strategic Way Forward

- **For Workers:**
  - Invest in **continuous learning** and AI-related upskilling.
  - Focus on **creative, analytical, and human-centric** roles that complement automation.
- **For Companies:**

- Build **human + AI** hybrid workforce models.
- Prioritise **internal reskilling** over mass layoffs.

➢ **For Government:**

- Strengthen **digital skilling initiatives** like PM-KVY and Digital India.
- Introduce **social safety nets** and employment transition schemes.
- Encourage growth in **AI startups and innovation ecosystems**.

➢ **For Society:**

- Prepare for **labour market restructuring** and shifts in middle-class employment patterns.
- Promote **ethical AI adoption** that safeguards human dignity and inclusion.

Conclusion

➢ Rapid AI adoption is reshaping the **global employment landscape**.

➢ Layoffs reflect not a temporary downturn but a **structural realignment** in production and service models.

➢ For India, the challenge lies in **managing displacement** while **leveraging AI for productivity and innovation**.

➢ The future of work depends on proactive **reskilling, policy adaptation, and inclusive growth strategies**.

Black-Headed Ibis

Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity Conservation

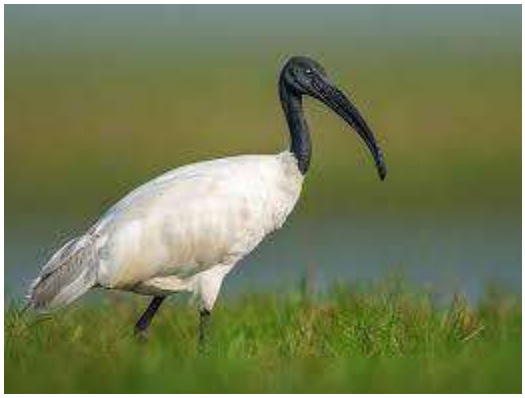
Context

➢ A flock of **rare White Ibis**, commonly known as **Black-headed Ibis**, was recently sighted in the **salt pan regions of Thoothukudi district**, **Tamil Nadu**, marking an encouraging sign for the species' wetland habitat recovery in the region.

About Black-headed Ibis

➢ **Scientific Name:** *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

- **Other Names:** Oriental White Ibis / Indian White Ibis / Black-necked Ibis
- **Family:** Threskiornithidae
- **Type:** Wading bird (adapted to a wide variety of aquatic environments)



Habitat & Distribution

- Found across **South and Southeast Asia** — from **India** in the west to **Japan** in the east.
- Prefers **wetlands**, **agricultural fields**, and **coastal areas**, but also forages in **dry fields** and **human-modified landscapes**.

Key Features

- Large wader bird measuring **65–76 cm** in length.
- Distinct **white plumage** with **black neck and head**.
- **Males and females** look similar.
- **Tail feathers**: light grey, turning **jet black** during the **breeding season**.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** *Least Concern*
- However, the species faces **habitat degradation**, **wetland loss**, and **pollution threats** in several parts of its range.

Delhi in 'red zone' as AQI at 335

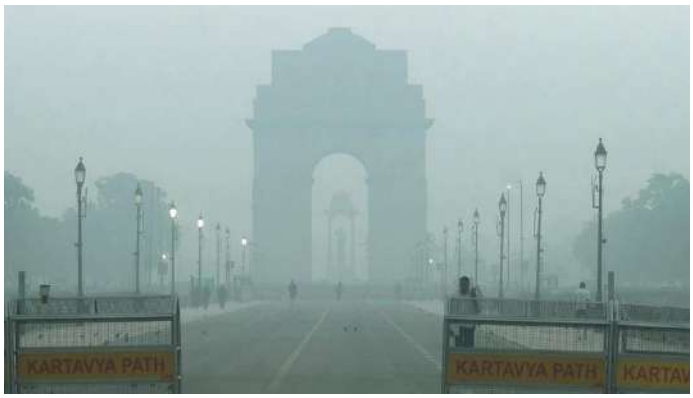
Syllabus: GS-3: Environment – Air Pollution.

Context:

- Delhi's air quality deteriorated sharply, recording an **Air Quality Index (AQI) of around 335**, placing it in the **"red zone" (very poor category)**.
- The city's **minimum temperature fell to about 11°C**, roughly **3°C below the seasonal average**.

Reasons for the Pollution Spike

- **Meteorological factors:** Calm winds, low temperatures, and temperature inversion trap pollutants near the surface.
- **Anthropogenic sources:** Vehicular emissions, industrial smoke, construction dust, and regional stubble burning.
- **Post-festival effect:** Diwali fireworks and increased winter heating further aggravate particulate matter concentration.



Impacts

- **Health:** Elevated PM2.5 levels increase risks of respiratory and cardiovascular ailments, especially in children and the elderly.
- **Environment:** Poor visibility, smog formation, and potential disruption to transportation and outdoor activities.
- **Social:** Reduced productivity and higher health expenditures during prolonged exposure periods.

Trend and Comparison

- Delhi's AQI has remained in the **"poor" to "severe" range** for several days.
- The temperature dip to 11°C signals the **onset of winter**, which typically coincides with worsening pollution due to stagnant air.
- This pattern is a recurring **annual phenomenon** in the Delhi-NCR region.

Policy Implications and Measures

- **Short-term:**
  - Enforce construction and vehicular emission restrictions during high pollution episodes.
  - Encourage public transport and restrict entry of polluting vehicles.
  - Disseminate health advisories for vulnerable groups.
- **Long-term:**
  - Expand green cover and promote cleaner fuels.
  - Strengthen regional coordination with neighbouring states to curb crop residue burning.
  - Invest in renewable energy and sustainable urban planning to mitigate long-term emissions.

Case Study

- In previous years, Delhi's AQI has reached "severe plus" levels (>480) during November, leading to **school closures and construction bans**.
- The current AQI (~335) shows a continuing trend of winter air quality deterioration despite policy efforts.

Conclusion

The current air pollution episode in Delhi highlights the persistent **urban-environmental governance challenge** of balancing growth, energy use, and public health.

While policy frameworks such as **NCAP** have improved monitoring and awareness, **implementation gaps**, **regional coordination failures**, and **meteorological constraints** continue to make Delhi's winter air crisis a recurring issue.