

Current Edge: Daily Brief

11th November 2025

Table of Contents

THE BIG PICTURE

- 1) TH News: High-intensity explosion in capital kills at least 9
- 2) IE Opinion: C Raja Mohan writes: India-Bhutan ties show how to get it right in a challenging neighbourhood (C. Raja Mohan)
- 3) TH Science: Textbook update due? Altermagnetism emerges as new class of magnetic order (Vasudevan Mukunth)

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"Kingdoms rise and fall. Just don't burn the paintings in the Louvre, that's all." – **ANNE RICE**

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"West Bank violence isn't mere 'friction' but one-sided settler pogroms against Palestinians." – **HAARETZ, ISRAEL**

High-intensity explosion in capital kills at least 9

The impact of the blast was so severe that bodies were charred beyond recognition, with the explosion being heard around 3 km away; 'all possibilities' being explored, says Amit Shah

TH News;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Security [Link](#)



Why in News?

→ High-intensity blast in Hyundai i20 car near Red Fort Metro Gate 1, Delhi (10 Nov 2025, ~6:52 pm) → 9+ killed, 20+ injured; now probed as terror attack under UAPA.

Incident & Modus

- **Time-Place** → 10 Nov 2025, ~6:52 pm IST → traffic signal near Gate 1, Red Fort Metro, Old Delhi.

- **Fatalities/Injured** → 9 confirmed dead (figures vary: 9–12); ≈20–24 injured incl. women; many critical.
- **Blast Nature** → High-intensity car explosion → bodies charred, windows shattered, blast heard hundreds of metres away.
- **Vehicle** → White Hyundai i20 with Haryana no. HR26 CE 7674 → slowed at red light → exploded from rear within seconds.
- **Cascade Damage** → ~6+ cars + e-rickshaws + auto-rickshaw gutted; 10–12 vehicles affected; fire controlled in ~30–40 min (7 tenders).

- **Occupant** → Suspected suicide bomber inside car; presumed dead, body badly charred (ID via forensics/CCTV).
- **Immediate Response** → Multiple DFS calls 6:50–7:05 pm → area cordoned; traffic diverted; injured shifted mainly to LNJP Hospital.

Investigation, Terror Links & Response

- **Legal Framework** → FIR under UAPA §§16, 18 (terror acts, conspiracy) + Explosives Act provisions → blast treated as suspected terror attack.
- **Lead Suspect** → Dr Umar Mohammed / Umar Nabi (Pulwama-based doctor) → linked to “white-collar” JeM–AGuH terror module busted in Faridabad.
- **Custody Actions** → Mother + 2 brothers of suspected bomber detained in Pulwama; earlier, car’s original owner Mohd Salman held in Gurugram; intermediaries like Devender, Aamir, Tariq questioned.
- **Car Trail** → i20 sold multiple times (Salman → Devender → Aamir → Umar/Tariq) → last buyer traced to Pulwama → strong JK–Haryana–UP terror logistics linkage.
- **Faridabad Seizure Link** → Same broader module earlier caught with ≈2,900 kg explosive-making material (incl. ~350 kg ammonium nitrate) + weapons cache in Faridabad safehouses.
- **Modus Timeline** → CCTV: car parked near Sunehri Masjid parking ~3:19–6:48 pm → then driven to signal and exploded → suggests planned timing + possible suicide trigger.
- **Agencies on Case** → Delhi Police Special Cell + FSL + NSG + NIA (set to take over fully) → samples with FSL; explosive type yet to be officially disclosed.
- **Wider Security Measures** → Pan-India high alert → key cities (Delhi, Mumbai, J&K, UP, major temples & stations) with stepped-up checks; Railways heightens security at major stations.
- **Political & Diplomatic Reactions** →
 - PM, HM, President + Oppn leaders (Rahul Gandhi, Kejriwal etc.) → condolences + demand thorough probe, zero tolerance on security lapses.
 - Foreign missions (US, Canada, EU etc.) → condemn blast, issue advisories to avoid Red Fort/Chandni Chowk area, stress vigilance for their nationals.
- **Misinformation Angle** → Viral “mushroom-cloud” photo debunked by PIB Fact-Check →

actually image from 2024 Beirut strike; flagged as propaganda.

- **Overall Significance** → Rare major car bombing in heavily guarded national capital → exposes urban terror vulnerabilities, interstate “white-collar” modules, need for tighter vehicle, explosive & intel integration.

C Raja Mohan writes: India-Bhutan ties show how to get it right in a challenging neighbourhood

In a region often defined by mistrust and imbalance, India's relationship with Bhutan shows that asymmetry need not produce antagonism

IE Opinion; By C Raja Mohan;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – International Relations [Link](#)

Why in News?

PM Modi’s Bhutan visit (Nov 2025) → marks reaffirmation of India-Bhutan partnership amid regional flux.



Evolution of India–Bhutan Ties

- **1949 Treaty of Friendship** → Bhutan “guided by India” in foreign affairs; India non-interference clause.
- **Colonial legacy** → continuation of British-era protectorate model.
- **Bhutan’s unique path** → avoided confrontation (Nepal) or absorption (Sikkim).
- **Leadership maturity** → Nehru–Jigme Dorji → trust, stability, gradual autonomy.

Modernisation of Partnership (2007 Treaty)

- **Key shift** → deletion of “guided by India” clause → emphasis on *sovereign equality*.
- **Mutual respect** → sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-use of territory against each other.
- **Context** → post-Cold War geopolitics, Bhutan’s democracy (2008), global outreach.
- **Symbolic restraint** → India’s strategic confidence, Bhutan’s political prudence.

Pillars of Cooperation

- **Hydropower (since 1960s)** → mainstay of Bhutan’s economy; India major buyer.
- **Security** → joint vigilance along China border; mutual strategic stakes (Doklam 2017).
- **Developmental ties** → admin & military training, infrastructure, education, digital linkages.
- **Cultural-spiritual bonds** → Buddha relics exhibition (Piprahwa) → soft power depth.

Bhutan’s External Outlook

- **China factor** → no diplomatic ties; regular boundary talks; cautious sovereignty stance.
- **Diversification** → outreach to Japan, S. Korea, EU, multilaterals.
- **Balancing act** → autonomy with India as principal partner.

Key Takeaways for Indian Neighbourhood Policy

- **Lesson 1** → Respect & equality ↑ → asymmetry ≠ antagonism.
- **Lesson 2** → Development cooperation → local priorities, transparency → goodwill.
- **Lesson 3** → Security cooperation → mutual benefit, not imposition.
- **Lesson 4** → Disputes → resolve/manage calmly to avoid hostility.
- **Lesson 5** → Cultural diplomacy → strengthens people-to-people trust.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. In the context of India–Bhutan relations, what was the most consequential change introduced in the 2007 India–Bhutan Friendship Treaty?

- (a) Establishment of a joint Indo–Bhutan Defence Council
(b) Abolition of the clause requiring Bhutan to be “guided” by India in foreign affairs

- (c) Creation of a free movement regime across the border
(d) Inclusion of Bhutan in India’s federal trade framework

Hint:

The 2007 revised treaty removed the 1949 clause that required Bhutan to be “guided by India” in external affairs, replacing it with mutual respect for sovereignty, equality, and territorial integrity — marking Bhutan’s full diplomatic autonomy.

Textbook update due? Altermagnetism emerges as new class of magnetic order

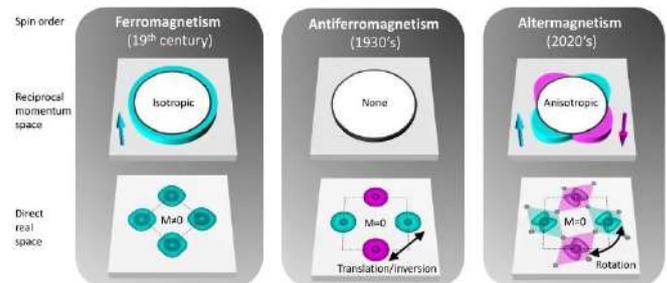
The discovery of altermagnetism as a distinct form of magnetism represents a step forward in physicists’ understanding of the magnetic world; it adds an option to ferromagnetism and antiferromagnetism, introducing a well-defined magnetic phase with a distinctive combination of properties

TH Science; By Vasudevan Mukunth;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Science & Tech [Link](#)

Why in News?

→ Discovery of *Altermagnetism* (2019 theory, 2024 experimental proof) adds a **3rd class of magnetic order** distinct from ferromagnetism & antiferromagnetism.

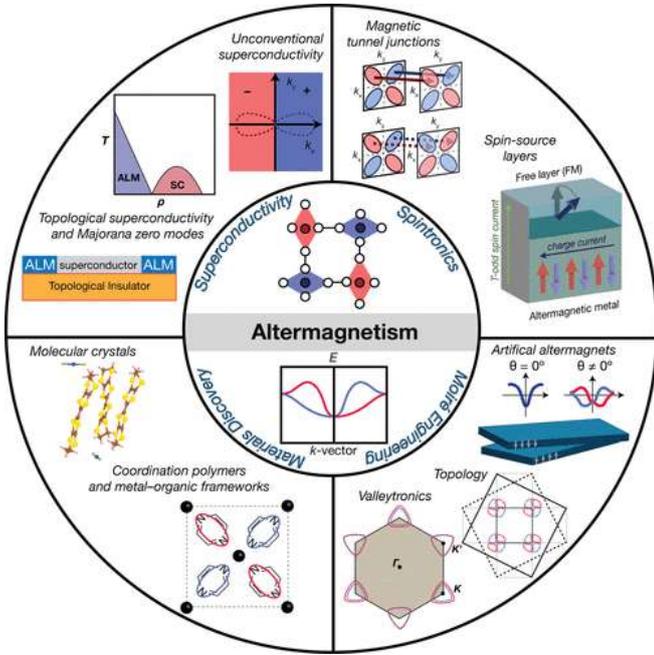


1 Magnetic Classification → New Paradigm

- Ferromagnetism → Spins ↑↑ (parallel) → strong net field.
- Antiferromagnetism → Spins ↑↓ (alternate) → net field = 0.
- **Altermagnetism** → Spins alternate via rotation/mirror symmetry (not translation) → net field = 0 but internal spin-splitting ✦

2 Core Properties

- Spin arrangement → antiparallel, related by rotation/mirror → magnetic neutrality.
- Exhibits **band spin-splitting** → like ferromagnets but w/out stray fields.



- Produces **spin-polarised currents** → usable in spintronics.
- Internal duality → magnetic silence externally
♦ ferromagnetic-like internally.

3 Experimental Evidence (2024↑)

- Material → **MnTe (Manganese Telluride)** → ARPES showed spin-split bands.
- X-ray magnetic dichroism → imaged spin pattern in thin films.
- New probes (Nov 2024) → circularly polarised X-rays → detect opposite-spin atom groups.
- Other example → **RuO₂** shows altermagnetic effects.

4 Functional Implications

Spintronics →

- Zero stray fields → dense integration ↑
- Spin switching speed → THz range (↑1000× ferromagnetic GHz).
- Energy-efficient, smaller, faster memory/logic designs possible.

Quantum Tech →

- ↓ Magnetic noise → better qubit environments.
- Compatibility with superconductors under study.

Electronic Detection →

- Shows **Anomalous Hall Effect (AHE)** → enables electrical ‘reading’ of magnetic state (unlike antiferromagnets).

5 Material & Research Frontiers

- Appears in → metals, semiconductors, insulators, organic crystals (exploratory).

- Computational screening → large pool of candidates.
- Challenges →
 - Single-domain synthesis (avoid multi-domain interference).
 - Scalable, low-cost fabrication for devices.

6 Significance ♦

- Expands magnetic taxonomy → Ferromagnetism + Antiferromagnetism + **Altermagnetism**.
- Combines benefits → **zero magnetisation + spin-splitting**.
- Potential game-changer for → **spintronics, memory tech, quantum computing**.

Test Your Knowledge

Q. With reference to altermagnetism, recently seen in news, consider the following statements:

- 1) It represents a new class of magnetic order distinct from ferromagnetism and antiferromagnetism.
- 2) In altermagnets, the spins are aligned parallel, resulting in a strong net magnetic field.
- 3) Altermagnetic materials exhibit spin-splitting of electronic bands without producing external magnetisation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Hint:

Spins are antiparallel (like antiferromagnets), but connected by rotational/mirror symmetry → zero net magnetisation + spin-splitting.